



The team racked up over 1000km of testing at Snetterton recently

MOTORBASE / FOCUS BTCC

TYRE TEST

The Team Shredded Wheat Racing with DUO Focuses clocked up over 1,000km during the annual two-day Dunlop tyre test at Snetterton...

Photos: Jakob Ebrey



We may be in the middle of a 'summer break' at the time of writing this, but in reality there's nothing 'break-ish' at all about our mid-summer schedule! The official term may make it sound like we all disappear off to the Mediterranean to drink cocktails while lounging by the sea, but the cold hard truth is that we're all hard at it back at Motorbase HQ making sure the entire team and the cars are all fully prepared for the rest of the season.

With that in mind, we recently headed to Snet' for the annual two-day Dunlop tyre test, where Mat Jackson topped the time sheets for the first day as we worked through our busy testing schedule.

"To get the chance to have a two day test at the next circuit on the calendar is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss," commented Team Manager, Oly Collins. "Add in the fact that all our competitors are also

present means that you have a perfect testing situation.

"Whilst our competitors are there, we tend to concentrate on our own test program, but you always have half an eye on the time sheets to see where you are. It was nice to be quickest in the first morning session with Mat when everyone had set representative times. It was a good marker."

Much of the two-day session was run under perfect summer conditions, with Wednesday's track temperature reaching over 36°C before heavy rain accompanied by thunder and lightning descended on the circuit for Thursday afternoon – bringing our test running to an end.

"The programme is a great chance to try things which normally you don't get to try in two 40 minute practice sessions on a race weekend," added Oly. "A lot of them don't make the car go any faster, but often that's just as valuable as finding the things which do work."

"We covered over 1,000km over the two days and ran in both wet and dry conditions, so it was ideal for data. The work now continues back at HQ where we'll analyse all of the data and start

preparing for the remaining rounds of the BTCC."

Martin Depper joined Mat for the first day of running, with former Motorbase GT squad driver Rory Butcher standing in for day two while Depper was absent due to business commitments. The 30-year-old Scot made an impressive debut in the Focus ST, breaking into the top 10 by the end of the morning session.

"The summer break may well be

a break from racing, but there is very little rest for the people behind the scenes in the team," concluded Oly.

"We are constantly developing the cars and pushing everything to try and gain an edge over our rivals."

But we don't mind really. It makes those race victories all the sweeter when we know we've worked hard for them. And, fingers crossed, we'll be reaping the rewards in the second half of the season - our next update after the season break will tell us..!

