

NEWS

See what's going down in the world of fast Fords...



We may be a little biased, but damn the RS BTCC car looks good!

RS IS BACK IN BTCC!

After some 25 years away from the sport, the legendary RS is back in British Touring Car racing! The mighty Sierra Cosworth RS500 dominated the BTCC for years, until the rule-makers basically changed the regulations to outlaw the RS and give some of the other manufacturers a

chance. Since then there's only been a handful of RS Fords compete in the championship – including Robb Gravett's experimental naturally-aspirated Sapphire Cosworth from 1991.

But now the legendary RS badge is back in the BTCC. The Motorbase Performance team, who have been piloting the Mk3

Focus ST in the championship since 2012 have recently unveiled their 2018 car at Autosport International – the Mk3 Focus RS. Unfortunately, BTCC rules don't allow the team to make use of the RS's 2.3-litre engine and AWD transmission, but the update is a lot more involved than just bolting on a new RS-style front bumper – check out the team's project cars update over on page 70.

Driving the new-look Focuses will be long-standing Motorbase stalwart, Mat Jackson, alongside the current WTCC Trophy Champion and BTCC favourite, Tom Chilton.

The new updates do look significantly more aggressive than previously, and with the iconic RS name to live up to, let's hope 2018 is the year the team take the overall championship crown!



Tom Chilton will be joining the Motorbase Performance team for 2018





MUSTANG WATCHES

Ever wondered what happened to your fast Ford after it's been scrapped? Melted down to make baked bean tins? Recycled into the latest eco-friendly SUV? Well, not old Mustangs! Ford have recently started recycling old Mustangs in a much more exciting way; by turning them into highly desirable watches!

Each finished design incorporates the vehicle identification number, year of production and classic Mustang design cues. A power dial designed to look like a fuel gauge shows remaining battery life, and the hands, date, and dial numbers are all influenced by the iconic car's dashboard.

REC Watches will even create an entirely new watch from parts donated by customers including World Champion Drifter Vaughn Gittin Jr., who wears a watch that includes carbon fibre bodywork from his 700-horsepower World Drift Series Ford Mustang RTR!



30 YEARS OF SAPPHIRE COSWORTH DISPLAY

2018 marks an incredible 30 years since the world first saw the Sierra Sapphire Cosworth, so to make sure the model gets the birthday celebrations it deserves we've joined forces with the events teams behind Classic Ford Show, Ford Fair, and Ford Fest to host special '30 years of Sapphire Cosworth' displays at the summer's biggest Blue Oval events. Keep an eye on the relevant show websites for further announcements, but if you like Saph Cossies, you're going to want to see these awesome displays!



SCRAPPAGE EXTENSION

Want to buy a new Ford? Well, now is a great time as Ford have just announced an extension of its scrappage scheme offer for the first quarter of 2018. Buyers can take advantage of great discounts by trading in their old car for a new Ford – as much as £4950 off a new Focus! Or up to £7000 off a new commercial vehicle! Check out Ford's website for more info – www.ford.co.uk.

Entrants will compete in identical 1.0-litre Fiesta R2s for the chance to win a drive in a WRC2-spec R5 next year!



JUNIOR WRC IS GO

The 2018 FIA Junior World Rally Championship is gearing up for the new season, and the first competitors have now been selected. Entries from all over the world (including Italy, Chile, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Sweden, and the UK) will do battle behind the wheel of identical M-Sport-built, 1.0-litre EcoBoost-powered Fiesta R2s for

one of the biggest prizes in world rallying. The Championship will see drivers compete on snow, asphalt, and gravel to really test the drivers' abilities on all surfaces, and the prize on offer is something really worth fighting for – a brand new Fiesta R5 complete with 200 tyres from Pirelli and competition fuel from Panta, ready to contest the 2019 WRC2 Championship!



FOCUS RS RED EDITION

Anounced at the very end of 2017, Ford have confirmed that the new limited 'Edition' version of the Mk3 Focus RS will now be available to UK customers in Race Red. The 'Red Edition' was initially only offered to the overseas markets, but a limited run of 300 cars will be sold to the UK too.

Each car will benefit from a Quaife LSD, part-leather Recaros, grey brake calipers, black alloys, black roof, door mirrors and rear spoiler, and, of course, Race Red paintwork.

Priced at £36,295, production of the Red Edition will begin in February, as production of the Mk3 Focus draws to a close.