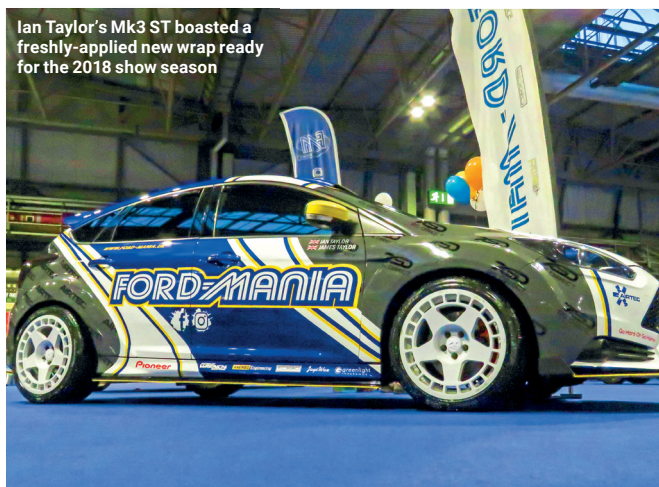




Mark Hudd's  
Cossie-powered 4x4  
Escort van was on the  
Ford-Mania stand



Ian Taylor's Mk3 ST boasted a  
freshly-applied new wrap ready  
for the 2018 show season



Jess Taylor's feisty Fiesta  
certainly isn't shy!



# AUTOSPORT INTERNATIONAL 2018

WHERE NEC, Birmingham WHEN January 2018

Seen as the curtain-raiser to the year ahead, we check out the first show of the season to see what's going to be big in 2018 for the Ford fan...

Words JAMIE / Photos JAMIE, MATT SAYLE, AUTOSPORT INTERNATIONAL, IAN TAYLOR

**C**hristmas has been and gone. The New Year hangover has finally settled down. And now it's the middle of what always seems to be the longest and most cash-strapped month of the year. So, with payday still weeks away and horrid weather putting a stop to any chance of playing around with our cars, what are we to do...? Autosport! That's what.

Autosport International is the first big event on the calendar every year, and after the Christmas break it's seen by many as the curtain-raiser to the year ahead. And for just £35 per ticket (child's ticket - £17), it brightens up an otherwise-gloomy January with all the glitz and glamour of the

motorsport industry, the teams, the drivers, and, perhaps more importantly for *Fast Ford* readers, the tuning and performance products that make the race cars perform so well. Of course, many of which can also be fitted to our fast Fords to improve performance too!

The focus of the show is still heavily motorsport-based – which in itself is exciting for the Blue Oval enthusiast with the likes of M-Sport's Fiesta WRC contender, Motorbase Performance's new BTCC Focus, and plenty of fast Fords ready to battle it out in all manner of different championships up and down the country! – but Autosport is no longer just about race cars. In recent years

it has incorporated the Performance Car Show too, meaning there's a wealth of tuned and performance street cars on show too – like the truly awesome display of tuned Blue Ovals from the guys and gals at Ford-Mania.

It doesn't matter if you're a weekend racer, an avid street car tuner, or just love all things fast and four-wheeled, Autosport International is the place to be! It certainly livens up a dull January and means we can all get excited about our cars again and look forward to the season ahead!

There's plenty to see and do at the show, regardless of your automotive allegiances, but here's what Autosport 2018 meant for the fast Ford fan...



Richard Scott's Mk2 Escort brought plenty of 'motorsport' to the stand!



## FORD MANIA

As well as all the motorsport stands, the show also attracts displays from various enthusiasts' clubs, and one of the most impressive stands at Autosport 2018 was Ford-Mania's awesome line-up of modified Blue Ovals. The stand included a varied selection of new and old, heavily modified and mildly updated, to show the immense depth and breadth of the modified Ford scene.

On the stand you'd find Mark Rogers' S1 RS Turbo, Andy Murray's Stage 2 Mk3 Focus RS, Jess Taylor's highly-tuned Fiesta Zetec S, Andrew Butler's 315bhp Fiesta ST, Frank Talladega's motorsport-inspired Mk2 Focus RS, Ian Taylor's freshly re-wrapped Mk3 Focus ST, Richard Scott's Escort Mk2 rally car, Chris Waig's 530bhp Mk2 Focus RS, Mark Hudd's crazy Cosworth-powered Escort van, and Grant Butler's ex-cover car 1000bhp Focus RS too! Truly an amazing selection, and a display that shows the rest of the world why the Ford scene is the best around! Good work folks!



The Ford-Mania crew even have their own promo girls; Suzanne Butler and Leanne Morris

Oliver Bennett's RallyX Fiesta entertained the crowds in the Live Action Arena



## LIVE ACTION ARENA

As well as the excellent static displays, Autosport does give us an opportunity to see these incredible cars in action too. The aptly named Live Action Arena features stunt displays and demos from some of motorsport's most-impressive machines. Among the selection of drift cars, stock cars, grasstrack racers, and stunt displays, Ford fans were treated to some impressive driving demos from Oliver Bennett in his World Rallycross Fiesta SuperCar!



## TURBOSMART

Turbosmart announced the release of their new range of performance wastegates and blow-off valves at the show. The new 5th Generation wastegates are a direct fit upgrade to all 4th-generation Turbosmart wastegates, and feature a unique collar-locking system, completely variable actuator cap and base, strap-type V-band clamps, liquid-cooling, 1/8 NPT ports, and are provided with a range of springs.

The new Kompact blow-off valves offer a true plug and play upgrade for OE electronic diverter valves. Featuring patent pending pressure control, these units are faster than OE, don't leak and don't interfere with OE control systems. For more details head to [www.turbosmart.com](http://www.turbosmart.com).



The Focus RS BTCC car looks awesome!

## FOCUS RS BTCC

Motorbase Performance have displayed their Focus BTCC contenders at Autosport for the last few years, but this year the team used the show as the perfect platform to announce some big news... an RS is back in the BTCC!

Over the winter months the team had frantically been converting the previous ST-shaped BTCC race cars into full RS spec, complete with an all new bodykit, all new panels, and plenty of revisions under the bonnet too! If it goes half as well as it looks, we're surely looking at the future champions right here!

In the weeks before the show, Motorbase announced that Tom Chilton would be driving the new RS for 2018, and at Autosport the team announced the second driver – Mat Jackson. Let's hope that 2018 is their year!



M-Sport unveiled the new livery on the Fiesta WRC cars for 2018



## M-SPORT

Recently-crowned 2017 World Rally Champions, M-Sport, were out in force at Autosport 2018. As well as showcasing the feisty little 180bhp 1.0-litre Fiesta R2 that will contest the Junior WRC for 2018, and Matt Edwards' British Rally Championship Fiesta R5, the M-Sport stand also included vehicles from their MS-RT 'Road Technology' range, which includes the sporty Transits and monstrous new Ranger models.

If that wasn't enough, the team brought along 2017 WRC Champion, Sebastien Ogier, and fellow 2018 WRC pilot, Elfyn Evans, as well as the new 2018 Fiesta RS WRC, complete in its new livery ready to compete in Monte Carlo in the first round of the 2018 Championship.



## JENVEY

Jenvey have recently released their new high-performance inlet plenum for the highly acclaimed 1.6-litre EcoBoost engine as found in the Mk7 Fiesta ST. The new unit is compatible with the stock MAP sensor and the OE throttle body, and has a volume of 2.0-litres. The lightweight cast aluminium is said to be both better performing and much more durable than the OE plastic item it replaces.

See the full specs at [www.jenvey.co.uk](http://www.jenvey.co.uk).

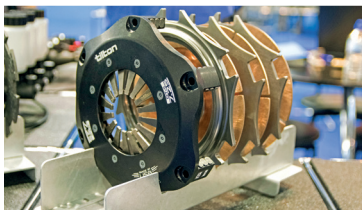
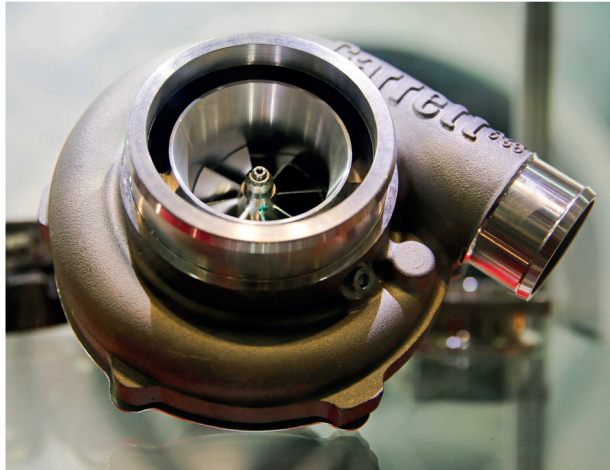


## AIRTEC

You couldn't miss the wide-arch Focus RS demo car on the Airtec stand, and it was the perfect platform to showcase the company's latest offerings for the Ford scene. First up is the huge front-mount intercooler upgrade for the Mk3 RS – at a whopping 100mm thick this 'cooler has been proven to work even on cars up to 750bhp!

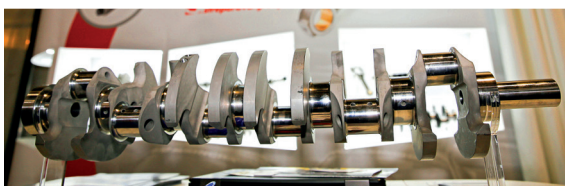
In addition, they have recently launched some neat Airtec-branded recirc valves for most Ford applications too. These feature all the same great benefits you'd expect from Turbosmart's Kompact series but come with the added bonus of the Airtec logo too!

Full details at [www.autospecialists.co.uk](http://www.autospecialists.co.uk).



## ENGINEERING HALL

On the Thursday and Friday of the show, Autosport features the famed 'Engineering Hall'. Here you'll find everything you could ever need to make a car go, stop, and handle better. Anyone who is anyone will have a stand, and you'll be blown away by the vast amounts of performance products on display. The mountune stand even hosted an unveiling for one of the new Focus BTCC racers for the 2018 season too!



Mat Jackson's BTCC Focus RS was unveiled on the mountune stand



## VELGEN WHEELS

Velgen wheels are huge in the American tuning and performance scene, and now, for 2018, they've decided to bring some of that gorgeous alloy goodness to the UK! Unsurprisingly, the car that grabbed the US wheel manufacturer's attention was the S550 Mustang – Velgen already produce a huge range of both cast and forged alloys to fit Ford's latest muscle car – but they've recently addressed the missing models in their line-up too, starting with a new range of designs available in Mk3 Focus RS fitment! Watch this space. For more details head to [www.velgenwheels.com](http://www.velgenwheels.com).