

MEET THE PROS

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BTCC racing drivers: Aron Smith and Mat Jackson make their debut at Ford Fair thanks to event sponsor MounTune! There will be plenty of opportunities to meet the guys today and maybe even get out on track with them, just head to the MounTune stand to find out more.

ARON SMITH

Most memorable racing moment:

There is nothing like your first win in anything but in the BTCC it's extra special! I can still remember the feeling like it was yesterday, nothing will ever compare to coming out of the last corner and thinking 'I've done it' and seeing everyone from the team climbing over the pit wall!

Favourite Track:

Thruxton! It's the type of track I never get tired of. Every time I go to Thruxton it reminds me of why I love racing... There's nothing out there that quite beats how fast it is around there!

Best part of last year:

The best part about last season was being with Motorbase, everyone made me feel right at home and helped me develop into a real touring car driver. To return for a second season with Motorbase is what I always wanted so fingers crossed I can give them the results that they deserve. I don't think people realise how big a transition it is into the BTCC so it's nice to know I don't have as big a learning curve ahead of me this year and that everyone at Motorbase is behind me.

Most looking forward to:

I think this season will be a great one to be part of as all the major teams have converted to the Next Generation Touring Car regulations which can only mean one thing - some great racing! Before Christmas I got my first taster of the NGTC focus and was blown away by it. Since then the team have been flat out developing it even further so I can't wait to start testing once again.

Above: There's driving Fords fast and then there's these two!

RACING CAREER

2012

Finished in 8th place overall with 1 win and 1 podium in his debut BTCC season with Redstone Racing

2011

Vice Champion of the Renault Clio Cup Championship with 3 race wins and 9 podiums • BTCC race debut with Team 888 at Knockhill, finished 10th out of 28 cars • Motorsport Ireland's Young Driver of the Year 2011 • Winner of the Graduate Cup Award

2010

Finished 4th overall in the Italian Clio Cup Championship with 2 race wins, 3 podiums

2009

Renault Clio Cup Winter Series Championship with 2 race wins and 4 podiums • Finished 4th overall in the Renault Clio Cup Championship.

2008

Finished 9th overall in the Renault Clio Cup Championship

2007

Rookie season of the Renault Clio Cup Championship

2006

Ulster Cup Winter Series & Irish Open Kart Champion

2004 - 2005

Winner of the JICA 'Race of Champions' event. • Champion of the JICA Irish Club Kart Championship • Voted 'best newcomer' by the Ulster Kart

BIO: ARON SMITH

NAME: ARON SMITH **FROM:** RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN, IRELAND
DATE OF BIRTH: 09/11/89 **CAR NO:** 8 **SPONSORS:** AIRWAVES, REDSTONE, TRUPHONE, ADDISON LEE, SMITH'S HIRE CENTRE

MEET THE PROS - MAT JACKSON



MAT JACKSON

Most memorable racing moment:

My first BTCC win for the family run team in 2007. Holding off the works SEAT driven by Jason Plato was truly awesome!

“Holding off the works SEAT driven by Jason Plato was truly awesome!”

Favourite Track:

Oulton Park. It's extremely challenging, the undulations and high corner speeds makes this an exciting and rewarding circuit to drive, the notorious druids corner is not for the faint-hearted with no room for error and is always the highlight of the lap.

Best part of last year:

2012 was a season of two halves for us, with the latter part focused on developing and testing the new Next Generation Touring Car (NGTC) with the

view that 2013 would be a key year for the team and myself. The NGTC programme has been an exciting project to be involved with and what we achieved in 2012 was epic; in the space of 80 days we took the car from the drawing board to race

Above: Mat on the left, Aron on the right, lady in the middle. Quite a sandwich!

wins; and this has given us a great platform to start from.

Most looking forward to:

We know how much more the NGTC could give and the Motorbase boys have worked incredibly hard over the winter to improve the car further, and I believe that together with the passion within the team, we have a car that can compete for the main title in 2013.

RACING CAREER

2012

Finished in 7th place overall with 3 wins and 3 podiums in the BTCC with Redstone Racing

2011

Finished in 4th place overall with 4 wins and 6 podiums in the BTCC with Airwaves Racing

2010

Finished in 7th place overall with 1 win and 6 podiums in the BTCC with Airwaves BMW

2009

Finished in 5th place overall with 4 wins and 8 consecutive podiums in the BTCC with RML/Racing Silverline

2008

Finished in 2nd place overall with 5 wins and 5 podiums in the BTCC with BMW Team Dealer UK

2007

Finished in 7th place over with 2 wins and 4 podiums in the BTCC with family run team Jacksons Motorsport: Debut season

2006

Seat Cupra Champion with an unrivalled 11 wins

2005

Finished in 2nd place overall with 8 wins in the Seat Cupra Championship with family run team, Jacksons Motorsport

BIO: MAT JACKSON

NAME: MAT JACKSON **FROM:** HENLEY-IN-ARDEN, WARWICKSHIRE
DATE OF BIRTH: 10/06/81 **CAR NO:** 7 **SPONSORS:** AIRWAVES, REDSTONE, TRUPHONE, ADDISON LEE, VOLVO TRUCKS, WHALE TANKERS