FAST FLEET









MOTORBASE/FOCUS BTCC

CHAMPIONS

We're crowned Independent Team winners and Andrew Jordan claims the Independent Driver Championship too!

Photos: Matt Sayle



Wow! What a season 2016 has been! We headed to the last rounds of the season, at Brands Hatch GP circuit, with an unassailable lead in the Independent Team championship, and also knowing that one of our drivers would be crowned the Independent Driver champion. Andrew Jordan led the way in the Independent table, but Mat Jackson was not far behind. Furthermore, Mat was also in the running for the Overall Driver crown, just 21 points off leader Sam Tordoff.

With eight drivers, including both Mat and AJ, in mathematical

contention for the Championship honours, we knew the first race of the weekend would be a bit of a cagey affair – no one wants to have a silly accident and ruin their chances of winning right at the start of the day. Add to this a topsy-turvy grid after qualification (Brands GP circuit really punishes extra weight, so those carrying Championship success ballast were all in the middle of the pack) and we knew Race 1 would be something out of the norm.

Unfortunately for AJ this proved to be true, and an unavoidable collision on lap 2 saw the Red Bull athlete record his first DNF of the season, unfortunately putting an end to his hopes of being crowned Champion for a second time. Teammate, Mat, fought through the field to bring his multicolour Focus home in P11.

The team worked tirelessly to get AJ's Pirtek Focus back out for the second race of the day, and he rewarded their efforts with an epic drive that saw him make up an amazing 18 places, crossing the line in P13. Mat continued his charge and finished Race 2 in P7.

Then it all came down to the final race of the day. Once again Mat was drawn on pole position in the reverse grid draw, and once again he drove a stellar race, in complete control from lights to flag, claiming another race win! But unfortunately for Mat it wasn't quite enough to secure the overall championship, with Gordon Sheddon and Sam Tordoff securing enough points to remain ahead of him in the table.

Further back AJ fought hard to bring his Focus home in P11,

which was enough to secure the Independent Driver title – beating Mat by just 3 points!

Overall 2016 has been a good season for us – 7 outright wins, 7 outright podiums, 15 Independent race wins, and 21 Independent podiums. Mat finished third in Overall Driver standings, just 16 points behind winner Gordon Sheddon. AJ won the Independent Driver championship, we won the Independent team title, and we even secured third in the Overall team standings too – beating the manufacturer-backed Subarus and MGs along the way!

Building on the success of this year, we genuinely can't wait to see what 2017 has in store for the team! We will win that coveted title one day!

66 **FAST FORD**