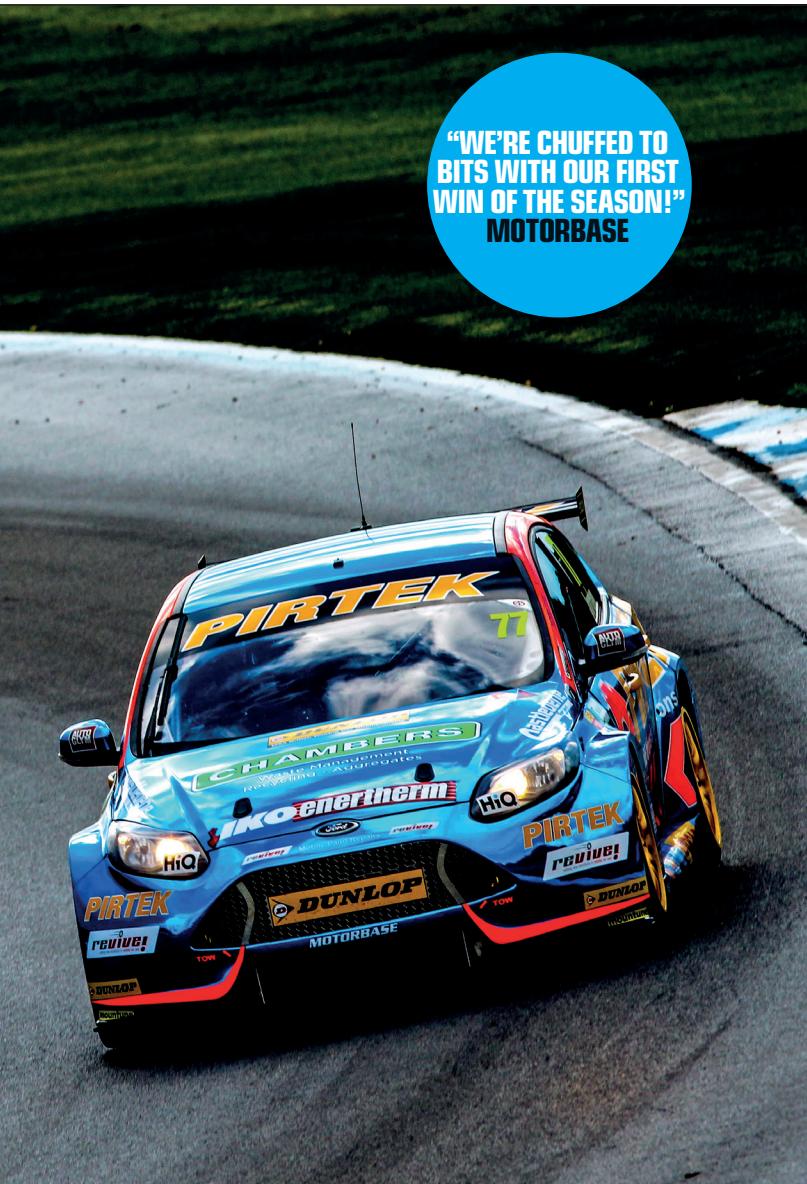


Mat Jackson claimed first and second place finishes in the first two races!



"WE'RE CHUFFED TO BITS WITH OUR FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON!"
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BACK TO THE FRONT!

Mat Jackson claims the first win of the season for the Focus!

Photos: Matt Sayle



We headed to Donington in a buoyant mood after a such a successful first outing of the season at Brands Hatch. We learned a lot at the first meeting of the year, and one thing we were pleased to learn is that both the Focuses of Mat Jackson and Andrew Jordan were immediately competitive. So we knew it wouldn't be too much longer before we were challenging for outright race wins.

And our first came in Race 1 at

Donington in the second meeting of the season! Mat qualified in P3 after a fantastic lap in the closing minutes of the session, and promptly made all that hard work pay off when a flying start in Race 1 saw his Focus storm past the manufacturer-backed MGs to lead the way. He then drove a defensive master class to keep everyone behind him for the duration of the race, coming home to earn the team's first race win of the season!

Andrew didn't enjoy such success in the first race, and after a disappointing qualifying saw him starting P25 we knew it would be a hard-fought race to even finish in the points. But Andrew is definitely a fighter, and fight he did, as he cut his

way through the pack (despite being loaded with 39kg of ballast), making up an incredible 11 places before a red flag put an end to his charge, and ultimately the race. Still, a P14 finish ensured he claimed more valuable points.

Race 2 was another great watch, although we were looking on nervously as the faster BMW of Rob Collard was hunting down Mat's fully-ballasted Focus for the lead. The BMW eventually found a way past to take the win, but Mat held on for a P2 finish to claim a second visit to the podium! After Race 2 Mat was actually leading the overall driver standings too! Unfortunately Andrew endured

another eventful race, which saw the Red Bull athlete sustain damage following contact in the opening lap. Despite this Andrew battled on to claim another points finish, crossing the line in P12.

The third and final race of the day was a little more subdued after all the highs and lows of the first two races. Both cars were running the soft tyre, and it soon became clear that the cooler temperatures for Race 3 suited the medium tyre much better than the softer compound.

The pair did well as the tyres suffered degradation to bring the Focuses home in P10 (Jordan) and P14 (Jackson).

Mat was even leading the Drivers' Championship halfway through the day!



Although the final race was something of an anti-climax compared to the first we still had a fantastic weekend, and left Donington with yet more silverware for the trophy cabinet. Furthermore we're now leading the Independents Championship and are placed third in the overall Championship too, with Mat sitting 2nd in the Independent Drivers' Standings, closely followed by teammate Andrew placed 3rd in the table!

We head to Thruxton with high spirits, as this is a track both drivers really love and rate as one of their favourite circuits on the calendar. Fingers crossed we'll be coming away with some more trophies!



Andrew's weekend was little more difficult, but he fought hard to earn valuable points in all three races