



MOTORBASE / FOCUS BTCC

# WE'RE BACK!

The Focuses are ready to hit the track... and they look quick!



After sitting out the first half of the BTCC season, we're glad to announce we'll be back on the grid for rounds 16, 17, and 18 of the Championship at Snetterton. By the time you read this the race weekend of 8-9 August would have been and

gone (full report to follow next month) but at the time of writing the whole team is very excited about going racing again!

And we've got very good reason to be. All our pre-season testing showed that the car, now with its new mountune-powered engine, showed real promise, but you can only really gauge the cars' performance when you put it up directly against your closest rivals.

So with an official Dunlop tyre test taking place at Snetterton we booked

our spot, loaded up both cars, and headed off to the Norfolk circuit. With a busy testing schedule planned the day began bright and early at 9am, with both drivers taking to the track to work through a raft of setup changes and simulations during the morning. Mat Jackson concentrated mainly on outright qualifying pace, while James Cole played around with various race distance setups, but both Focuses spent the majority of the session at the top end of the time sheets.

Work continued in the afternoon sessions, again with Mat working on qualifying times and James improving the overall race pace. All was going well, and after a late change to the setup on Mat's car we were all pleased to see the number 4 car top the time sheets overall – going 0.152 seconds faster than anyone else!

We always knew we had a good car, but until you directly go up against your rivals you're never really sure how much everyone else has moved on, and just how good the car actually is. But topping the time sheets just proves that all the hard work over the winter is paying off, and we head to Snetterton full of confidence!

We'll have a full report of our first race of the season in the next issue, and fingers crossed we'll be reporting some good results!