

brands track day



# PERFORMANCE **FORD**

**@ BRANDS HATCH  
JUNE 2011**

The first of our summer track evenings at Brands Hatch might have been a bit damp, but it was a lot of fun nonetheless. Words: Luke Pics: Chris



Mat Jackson gives it a big dose of opposite lock at Paddock



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It wasn't exactly the summeriest of summer track days, but despite the wet and windy conditions the pit lane was still packed for the *Performance Ford/RetroFord* evening at Brands Hatch. But then, as one of the best circuits in the UK for drivers and spectators alike, Brands' Indy circuit is always a popular choice for track day regulars, and we spotted a number of familiar faces amid the crowded paddock. One of the

star attractions though, had to be BTCC star Mat Jackson, who had come along to treat a number of lucky competition winners to some seriously rapid passenger rides in Mountune's MP350 Mk2 RS demonstrator. Mat showed everyone exactly why he's the driver to beat in this year's Touring Car championship thanks to some very committed cornering, and proved that when in the right hands the already capable Focus RS is as quick as some full-blown track or race cars. It's just a shame that he couldn't treat the spectators to a few demo laps of his actual BTCC racer which, due to testing regulations, was on static display only.

While the Airwaves-liveried Mk2 Focus was certainly one of the most eye-catching cars at Brands, the mix of old and new-skool machines meant that there really was a great mix of metal on display, from Anglias and Mk1 Escorts to Mondeos and Fiestas - with the majority sporting a top level of build quality and preparation as well. Not only were the cars looking particularly smart, but the quality of the driving was also very high for this event, despite the slippery conditions.

Even once the track had started to dry, we were half expecting a few expeditions into the gravel traps, but as it happened, we're happy to report that apart from a one or two very minor excursions, the standard of driving really was top notch. All of which meant less time waiting in the pit lane, and lots more time having fun on track and taking full advantage of the open pit lane format.

For just £119, the *PF/RF* evening track events really are top value for money, but if you missed out this summer and are desperate for a fix of Ford-only track action then we're pleased to announce a fresh date for our annual winter track day at Brands. Make a date in your diary for 17 November... ■