

Ford Fair 2015

AJ Racing had the pleasure of attending the Ford Fair for the second year running. Our friends at the ST Owners Club invited the team to display on their stand so we took along the race car, the ST170 which we use for testing and Jay's (the team mechanic) 200bhp track prepared Ford Fiesta ST150. Our Ford Focus race car was in great demand from our sponsors who wanted the car to make appearances on their stands – of course we obliged.

One of our sponsors **Peron Automotive** had their stand on the main strip within the show and as they have supplied the side exit exhaust and exhaust manifold system which we think is a work of art, we all agreed it was a good opportunity to display their work in the flesh. **Titan Motorsport** also attended the show with a very impressive display which presented both **Titan Motorsport** and AJ Racing with a perfect backdrop for a few publicity photographs. The team would like to say a huge thank you for the amazing equipment they have developed for the race car, we are always happy to give feedback to our brilliant sponsors and potential clients anytime. We would like to add that it was a true pleasure to be on both of their stands at such an iconic event.

One of AJ Racing's more recent sponsors **Steeda UK** have rushed through from the USA some exquisite looking engine mounting hardware for us which the team set about fitting to the car in the morning. Unfortunately the previous heavy duty race gearbox mount had failed during the Time Attack Championship race meeting at Brands Hatch in June. With the new mount on the engine it looked stunning and complemented the rest of the engine instillation. The new mount also did a fantastic job of keeping everything in place during the test sessions on the circuit.



The gearbox mount provided by **Steeda UK**. Photograph reproduced with permission from Alison Kozary.

Peron Automotive had organised for the Ford Focus to have some time on the track and due to the new vehicle setup there was considerable excitement in the air; In addition to the new setup we had the opportunity to try out the new TOYO R888r tyres. As with all race tracks, before drivers can go out on the circuit they have to attend a drivers briefing. Once this briefing was concluded Jon's session came about quite quickly and it wasn't long before he was on the circuit. He did a few laps just to put some heat into the tyres and brakes before increasing the pace. As Jon was about to start a swift lap he radioed in that he felt a similar sensation to a puncture; as he was breaking from a reasonably impressive speed, the back of the car felt like it was breaking loose, the driver then tried to over steer as he was turning left and it became unstable. As the car entered a right hand bend the back end just felt like it did not want to go any further, as such Jon brought the car back into the pits quickly but under control to investigate what had happened. It turned out the nearside rear bearing had collapsed at high speed, in doing so it had also broken the brake disc into 2 separate pieces and bent the stub axle. It was impossible to get the car fixed that day therefore the team had no choice other than to pack the car up on the transport as the team called it a day. Jon reported that prior to the mechanical malfunction the car needed setting up. It showed hot pace around the circuit, demonstrating that the car had a lot more potential underneath waiting to be unleashed. For the team, it was great to be out amongst the folds on a circuit along with some friends. AJ Racing hopes to be invited to attend Ford Fair 2016 where Jon can be out on the track once again demonstrating the full potential of the car, hopefully with no breakages.

We wish to thank all of our sponsors, supporters, friends and picture takers. We look forward to seeing you next year.

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