

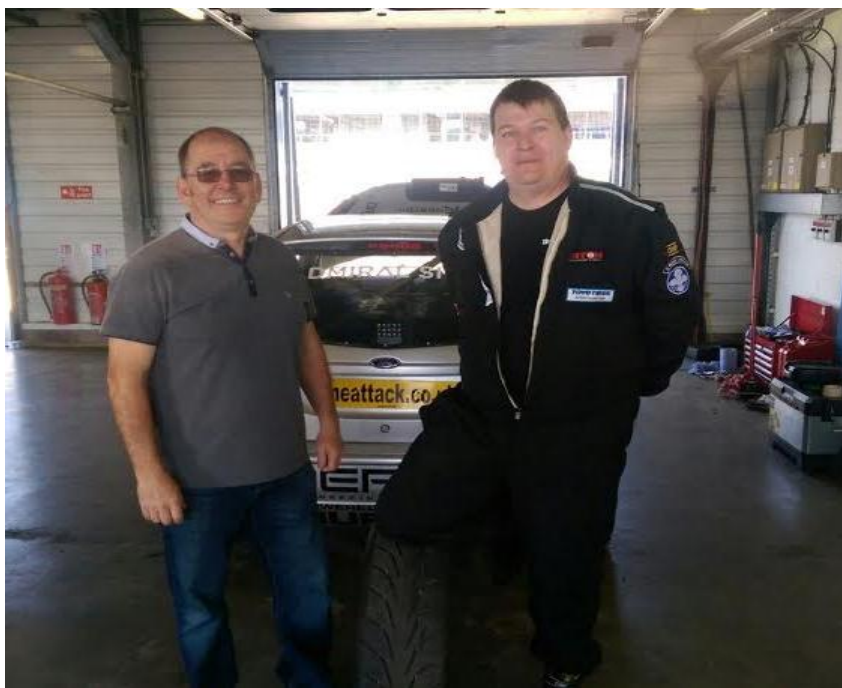
## Time Attack Round 6: Rockingham 2015

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

The team arrived at Rockingham Motor Speedway; Northamptonshire on what was a lovely dry and bright September day. The international super sportscar long circuit was used for this round of the Time Attack Championship; the circuit is 2.05 miles in length.

After eventually getting access to our garage, getting the car unloaded and the garage set up the team were running close to being behind but they managed to get the car to scrutineering which closed for the car's Front Wheel Drive (FWD) class at 08.55. The car passed the entire scrutineering tests without a problem, it was then back into the garage to put oil in the gearbox. Due to the time this took, Jon unfortunately only managed to get out on the circuit for 1 lap which was considered an out lap and no time was recorded but can we just say thank you to race control for allowing us to do this. With the car back in the garage again, the team checked the car over, tyre pressures were set and the car was then refuelled. The car was ready for the practice session

AJ Racing always welcomes visitors to the garage, fans, supporters or sponsors, Jon is happy to chat to anyone during the intervals.



Alan Meaker of **TOYO TIRES** and Jon (Photograph courtesy of A Kozary)

At 11.15 the pit lane opened for the practice session, with both Jon and the car fully prepared for this session Jon put in a series of comparable lap times with the best lap recorded as 1:49:025 on lap 4 which place the team in 7<sup>th</sup> in FWD class. Once again with the car back in the garage it was time to do the usual checks, a few adjustments were made to the tyre pressures and the wheel nuts tightened. Then it was time to relax as it was the lunch break, during the lunch break Jon dressed in full race wear decided to entertain other competitors and spectators and set off up the pit lane on the PR Officers scooter (permission was sought and granted prior to him embarking on his voyage); Jon is now known to some as ASBO Stig.



Jon as ASBO Stig (Photograph courtesy of A Kozary)

Qualifying soon began at 13.30 and Jon took very little time to set his best lap time of 1:44:202 achieved on lap 3. On lap 5 Jon came into the pits to have the tyre pressures checked again, adjustments were made and the tyre temperatures were taken. Unfortunately these adjustments did not enable Jon to improve his lap times any further. That left the team in exactly the same position they achieved during the practice session of 7<sup>th</sup> even though Jon had managed to reduce his best lap time by 4.823 seconds. The car had pace but was struggling at times with grip, this forced Jon to drop corner speed to stay on line but having to sacrifice speed and come off the power band on the exit was possibly preventing a faster lap time.



(Photograph courtesy of Flat Out Motorsport Photography)

At 15.10 the final began with Jon and the rest of the team in a buoyant mood as their dream was about to come true – they had competed in a full season of the Time Attack Championship. Jon managed to set consistent lap times again with the best of those times recorded as 1:44:243 achieved on lap 6. Unfortunately the team did not take the chequered flag as on lap 8 Jon came into the pits complaining of a noisy wheel bearing, Jay dove under the car and came back out with grease over his fingers, the team suspected the CV joint boot had split so the car was retired. An unfortunate end to what had been a great first full season with lessons to be learnt and carried forward into next season the team will return in 2016 stronger and wiser.

None of this would have been possible without our wonderful sponsors and supporters may we take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for your continued belief in AJ Racing.

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