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## NGK - HONDA SUCCESS

Motor racing star Matt Neal has paid tribute to his Honda Racing Team - which is sponsored by NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd - after winning the 2011 Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship.

A victory, a second place and an eighth position at Silverstone were enough for Neal to take his two-litre turbocharged Honda Civic to his third BTCC championship, just eight points ahead of his team-mate Gordon Shedden.

NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd supplies spark plugs to the Honda Racing Team, who Neal praised after his title success.

He said: "Winning it is a great reward for all the team and we have had the most consistent car across the season. The engine has been sweet and the chassis has been strong at every circuit we have gone to. I have to thank everyone at Honda (UK) for giving me such a great platform to perform with and that is what has given us this championship."

Neal took his eighth win of the season at the Northamptonshire track and that set him up to clinch the crown for the third time in his career in the final race of the afternoon in front of trackside 30,000 fans. He said that the victory had been the key to his weekend, but also paid further tribute to team-mate 'Flash' Gordon too.

He said: "What an incredible feeling. It has been such a tough fight this season, not only with all the rivals on the grid, but from my team-mate 'Flash' Gordon too. It has been nip-and-tuck all the way between all of us and for the title battle to come down to the final race was so tense.

"I never thought I would win this once, let alone three times. We have the new Honda Civic coming out for next season and we are going to work hard on that, and Flash is improving every step of the way, so the package should be great next year too. We'll both be pushing hard, but I think it would be great for him to get one. He deserves it."



# PRESS RELEASE

Shedden said that he had a taste of the title showdown and is looking forward to another challenge for the title in 2012. He won the second race of the weekend and backed that up with a podium in the opener, but it wasn't quite enough for him to overhaul Neal in the final reckoning.

He said: "Finishing first and second is a reward for the effort we have put in for the whole season. We have worked so hard. I am getting closer to claiming the overall title and I am on Matt Neal's heels now. When you see how happy everyone is in the whole team, it's just mega; you can't be disappointed though even though I didn't take the crown.

"We have had a great car, Honda's support has been monumental and we've taken a clean sweep of all the trophies on offer for success in the British Touring Car Championship this season. How can that be a bad year? All we have to do is go out there and repeat it in 2012."

Gerard Irving, Marketing Manager, NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd, said: "We are proud to be associated with the Honda Racing Team. It has been a tremendous achievement, not only by Matt and Gordon, but also by the whole support group that got them to the top of the table."

The British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) was formed in 1958 and is Britain's most popular motor racing spectacle. Its race season comprises ten events at top circuits across the UK, each contested by professional racing drivers in competition versions of every day road cars, giving it tremendous public appeal.

Some 325,000 watch the BTCC trackside each year. It is also receives widespread UK TV exposure on the ITV network with all ten race events broadcast live on ITV4, ITV4 HD and [www.itv.com](http://www.itv.com)

More information on NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd is available on the company's website [www.ngkntk.co.uk](http://www.ngkntk.co.uk) and you can follow Greg's exploits at [www.greghancock.com](http://www.greghancock.com)

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