

Jolyon in the points for the first time at Bahrain

Motorsport

JOLYON Palmer produced a brilliant drive during the second GP2 race in Bahrain last weekend, gaining 18 places from his start position to finish seventh and collect his first points finish of the season.

The 21-year-old iSport driver from Southwater cruelly suffered an engine failure and subsequent retirement before the start of race one, having qualified in 12th place. The grid for the second race is determined by the finishing order in race one, so Palmer was forced to start from the back of the field at a circuit where overtaking is notoriously difficult.

As the second race got underway on Sunday, Palmer made a remarkable charge through the 26-car field, and soon found himself in 16th. By the halfway stage he was lying inside the top ten with 12 laps left to go.

The Southwater racer continued to push in the closing stages of the race to gain a further three positions, including a superb overtake on Caterham driver Giedo Van Der Garde into turn one to claim his first points finish of the 2012 campaign.

Jolyon said: "It is slightly frustrating knowing that with the pace we had we could have been on the podium if we had started where we should have but at least we know we are in a good position for next weekend."

Jolyon is eager to continue his strong pace when the GP2 series returns to Bahrain next weekend for rounds five and six.

Full coverage of both races, including live timing will be available on his official website www.jolyonpalmer.com, as well as live TV coverage of all sessions on Sky's new F1 channel.

Meanwhile Jolyon's brother, Will Palmer endured a tough weekend at Donington Park in rounds three and four of the Ginetta Junior Championship, retiring from both races, one in



Back in the points. **Jolyon Palmer** finished seventh at the second GP2 race in Bahrain.

dramatic circumstances, writes Kingslea Newman.

The weekend started promisingly for Will, who showed good pace in the earlier practice sessions, and put his HHC Motorsport G40J car on the fifth row of the grid for qualifying.

"Qualifying was both pleasing yet disappointing," said Palmer. "I was pleased with being just

half a second off pole, but the field was so tight, it left me in tenth place."

The first of the two races began well for Palmer, getting a good start off the line before being put into a spin by another driver. Afterwards he began making progress through the field, but when a safety car was brought out Palmer struggled to maintain sufficient heat in

his tyres and as a result had another spin.

After recovering from his second spin, he was eager to work his way up the pack, but a serious accident involving multiple cars ended his race and effectively, his weekend.

Coming onto the back straight, Palmer was surprised to see another car sat in the middle of the track. Unable to avoid it, he hit the car at high speed and as a result the race was red flagged and not restarted.

The damage to the Ginetta G40J car was terminal and the car was written off, though luckily Palmer and the other drivers were all OK.

The HHC Motorsport team had put out a spare car for the second race but technical problems saw the car lose all power after the first corner, putting an end to a fairly miserable weekend. "Overall, this weekend has been very unlucky for me and I've had a bad couple of races," Palmer said. "I'm now looking forward to Thruxton." The next round of races is in two weeks' time.



Tough time. Will Palmer's weekend did not go to plan.

