



Source: Argus (Brighton) {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Saturday 23, June 2012
Page: 35
Area: 511 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 29007 Daily
BRAD info: page rate £1,585.00, scc rate £10.30
Phone: 01273 544 544
Keyword: Jolyon Palmer

durrants
Gorkana Group

Palmer targets a strong second half to season

**MOTORSPORT by
HOWARD GRIGGS**

JOLYON PALMER wants to start moving up the GP2 championship table as he heads to Spain.

The 21-year-old from Southwater claimed his maiden win in the Formula One feeder series in Monaco last month.

In doing so he added his name to a prestigious list of former GP2 winners at the track including Lewis Hamilton and Pastor Maldonado.

Now Palmer is looking to build on that as the series resumes at the Valencia street circuit this weekend.

Racing alongside the Formula One World Championship, this weekend marks the halfway point in the series.

Having seen the early part of his season blighted by a recurring mechanical problem, Palmer is now hoping to put these issues behind him and enjoy a strong second half to the season, spurred on by his recent win.

He said: "I'm looking forward to Valencia. It was one of my better results last year and I hope to keep the momentum going after Monaco.

"Unlike Monaco, it's a street circuit with plenty of overtaking opportunities and big run offs.

"As always, the most important thing for us will be a good qualifying and start as our race pace has been good everywhere so far.

"My target is another podium but at least a good haul of points to move up a few places in the championship."

Brighton's Kelvin Hassell claimed his first podium finishes in the UK Sprint Car Championship at Lydden Hill last weekend.

The meeting was Hassell's second outing in the Roots V8 Racing sprint car after an unsuccessful debut at Arena Essex last month.

A lack of power hampered Hassell at the high-speed Lydden oval but some deft work behind the wheel ensured he finished the weekend with better results than anyone would have expected.

Duncan Panton was the class of the field, winning all three races on Saturday, but Hassell stole a third position in the first race and finished fourth in the next two. On the Sunday, he repeated the pattern with third in the opening race and two more fourth places.

Hassell said: "This is excellent for us. We still have some unknowns to deal with this season. We have our first chalk surface race and our first shale surface race still to come. But this race has filled our confidence."

Hassell is hoping to be racing in the European championship for sprint cars in Belgium in two weeks' time.

● Sussex race team Gbmoto Racing got some invaluable testing time in ahead of this weekend's British Superbikes meeting at Knockhill.

GBmoto took part in the Silverstone MotoGP meeting last weekend, racing in a

recently launched support class called Silverstone 200.

The entry was designed to provide testing time ahead of this weekend's trip to Scotland and, in particular, the British Superbike rounds at Silverstone later in the season.

Although the weekend was affected by rain and wind,

team principal Mark Smith-Halvorsen declared it a successful exercise.

Luke Quigley was ninth and team-mate Tristan Palmer 12th when Saturday's race was red flagged due to the deteriorating conditions.

On Sunday, Palmer finished sixth while Quigley failed to last the distance due to a fuelling issue.

Smith-Halvorsen, from Felbridge, said: "The weekend gave us another chance to

evaluate where we are strong and where we can improve.

"We were slightly disappointed that Saturday's race was affected so badly by the weather conditions but Sunday's dry run proved invaluable for us moving forward.

"Ahead of Knockhill we will be working hard on the power delivery of the bikes to improve our performance there."

howard.griggs@theargus.co.uk