

JOLYON PALMER described it as the best weekend of his life after winning in Singapore.

The Sussex driver followed up his first ever pole position in GP2 by winning the Feature Race on the Marina Bay Street Circuit.

Palmer, 22, had to do it the hard way after a slow start in this Formula One feeder series.

At the halfway point of the race he was more than 13 seconds behind Carlin team-mate Felipe Nasr.

But after passing the Brazilian with four laps to go, Palmer went on to claim victory by 13 seconds.

He said: "I didn't make it easy for myself. At the start I got anti stall and dropped to fourth or fifth.

"It was crucial to make the early passes so I could chase Felipe.

"I think that was one of the drives of my life and it has definitely been the weekend of my life.

"It was tough with the tyres and the temperatures were really hot so it was always going to be tough.

"We decided to change the rears and did the full 28 laps on the same front tyres.

"I enjoy this style of racing but it is always on your mind to save the tyres. Chasing Felipe down from 13 seconds behind was a real challenge but I was very relieved to pass him.

"It feels awesome to win and it's almost better I did it like that than leading from start to finish.

"I certainly made it hard for myself but after topping both sessions on Friday I was pretty determined.

"The whole weekend was awesome, the pit stop was great, the car felt good. It's a great feeling."

It has been a special two weeks for the Palmer family from Southwater.

Younger brother Will claimed his maiden track victory in the Ginetta Junior Championship the week before - with Jolyon there to watch him.

Jolyon has a long held ambition to race in Formula One, like his father Jonathan did.

The build-up to his second Feature Race victory of the season was fashioned in free practice when he set the fastest lap and then qualifying, when he secured pole.

He got bogged down at the start of the race and was dropped to fourth at the first corner but he immediately

Jolyon Palmer on the podium at Marina Bay



Palmer has best weekend of his life

GP2 ace does it the hard way in Singapore

by HOWARD GRIGGS
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began his fightback to take James Calado for third place at turn ten and then focused his attentions of Fabio Leimer running in second.

Palmer got past on lap four and began to cut the difference on Nasr but a pit stop on lap 12 put him 10.7 seconds behind and the gap extended to 13.4

seconds before the Sussex ace began his charge.

On lap 16 Palmer set the first of a string of three fastest laps and he continued to eat into the difference before passing his team-mate and blasting off into the distance for a stunning win.

Having claimed the victory which lifted him to sixth in the overall GP2 standings, Palmer then finished 17th in Sunday's Sprint Race.

Starting from eighth in a reverse grid for the top eight,

he was running in fifth for the first third of the race.

However, running on super soft tyres after double stinting on the preferable soft tyres on Saturday, he began to battle with tyre degradation.

After being asked to pit for fresh rubber on lap 12, Palmer found himself 22nd but he climbed a further five places.

He said: "I set the fastest lap but couldn't make up enough time.

"Overall I'm still very happy with the weekend."

Eastbourne's Geer works for free

EASTBOURNE boss Trevor Geer has revealed he has worked unpaid for the club for the last five seasons.

Geer and co-promoter Mike Bellerby have been told they can keep any profit from a forthcoming meeting at Arlington.

Eagles stage the Championship of Sussex a week on Sunday (October 6, 3.30pm).

The meeting is an individual event for 12 riders and will be backed up by a junior section and quad bike racing.

Geer and Bellerby helped take some of the pressure off

by BRIAN OWEN
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senior co-promoter Bob Dugard when he feared he might have to close the club.

But it has not been made public until now that they do it for expenses only.

Geer, who works self-employed in the building trade, is team manager while Bellerby takes care of off-track admin.

Their input has allowed

Dugard to take a lower profile role although, ultimately, he makes the big decisions and foots the bills.

Geer said: "The club have arranged the meeting as a thank you for what Mike and I do over the year.

"Mike and I put a lot of time into it for nothing to help keep speedway running at Arlington.

"The only time I've taken a wage out of it was when Bob Brimson came in for a year (2007) but that didn't last long.

"I gave up a good job at the

time to do that and it cost me quite a bit of money.

"I'm out on my own now, getting what I can."

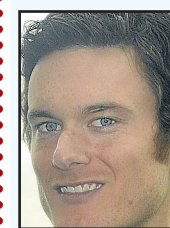
Eastbourne are looking for businesses and fans to support the meeting through sponsorship.

A title sponsor is being sought as well as sponsors for the individual heats.

Contact co-promoters Geer (078765 21421 or email trevorjgeer@gmail.com) or Bellerby (078999 87436 or email mikebellerby@sky.com) to get involved or for more details.

in BRIEF

Brighton and Phoenix qualify



ATHLETICS: Brighton and Hove City and Phoenix have both qualified for the National Road Relay Championships after impressive runs at the South of England

Championship at Aldershot.

Kevin Rojas (tenth quickest lap overall) led Brighton to ninth place with Jon Pepper (13th overall), pictured, helping Phoenix finish 17th. Worthing and District Harriers were 40th and Haywards Heath 57th.

Emma Taylor-Gooby was seventh quickest in the individual rankings as Worthing and District Harriers were 11th in the women's event.

Arena 80 were 14th and also took the masters' title with Brighton and Hove City 16th.

Silver for Sussex

ATHLETICS: Sussex under-17s narrowly failed to defend their title at the English Schools Combined Events Championships at Birmingham.

Beth Crocker was seventh in the individual standings with Katie Garland eighth and Anna Short 17th as the Sussex team claimed a silver medal.

Ryan Spivey just missed out on an individual medal in the senior boys decathlon, finishing fourth with 6,182 points.

THE SEAGULLS

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124

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