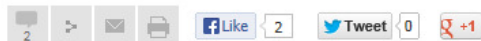


Brit quartet aim for F1



JOLY GOOD SHOW . . . Jolyon Palmer heads for victory in Budapest's GP2 feature race

By **CHRIS HOCKLEY** Published: 7 hrs ago



THE race to be the next Briton to land a Formula One drive hotted up in sizzling Hungary.

Jolyon Palmer, son of former F1 ace Jonathan, won the feature GP2 race supporting the Grand Prix on the winding Hungaroring circuit near Budapest.

It elevated him to eighth place in the F1 feeder series.

And three other Brits — all above Palmer in the championship standings — are also pushing for a breakthrough into motorsport's top echelon.

Sam Bird, in fourth place in the points, was recently named the 'young British driver who most deserves F1 race seat' in an internet poll of motorsport enthusiasts.

Bird, a GP2 winner at Bahrain, Monaco and Silverstone this season, said: "It was just a bit of fun for the fans.

"But it's reassuring to know how much support I have in my quest to reach the next level."

Bird is already a reserve for Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes F1 team but has yet to be given his big break.

James Calado, fifth in the GP2 points race, was tried out by Force India at Silverstone's recent F1 young driver test.

And he is hoping to land a reserve driver role for the squad in 2014.

His performance at Silverstone drew widespread praise. And he said: "It's nice to have a go to prove I have the speed."

Jon Lancaster rose to sixth in the GP2 standings after two recent wins.

But constantly hindered by a lack of funding, he is possibly the outsider of the four to step up to F1.

Palmer drove brilliantly at the Hungaroring to record his second GP2 win following his sprint race victory at Monaco last year.

He started only seventh on the grid but made a demon start and was up to third by the first corner.

Clever tyre strategy by his Carlin team elevated him into a straight battle for the win with Swedish hopeful Marcus Ericsson.

After several abortive attempts to pass, Palmer finally made one stick, shooting up the inside of Ericsson at Turn One on Lap 28.

Thrilled Palmer said: "This means so much to me.

"It feels like the pressure is off now I've got my first feature race win and hopefully we can build on it.

"We've had some bad luck in previous weekends so I'm really happy. Hopefully we can get some more wins during the rest of the season."