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JOLYON PALMER admits sixth in the GP2 Series standings after four races is okay as he looks ahead to next month's visit to Barcelona.

The 22-year-old Sussex driver claimed another brace of points finishes in Bahrain last weekend.

He was also in the points in both races at the first round of the season in Malaysia.

Palmer, who is competing in his third season of the Formula One feeder series, was hoping for more in Bahrain with his British team Carlin.

However, he endured a tough time in qualifying, finishing 13th although he was promoted to 12th by a rival's grid penalty.

A storming start to the first race saw him immediately up to sixth place as he then overtook Alexander Rossi at the start of lap two to run fifth.

His decision to make an early pit visit paid dividends as he was up to fourth once all the stops had been completed but his tyres lost grip late on in the race and he was forced to concede a point which dropped him down to fifth at the chequered flag.

For Sunday's Sprint Race, Palmer started fourth thanks to the championship's reverse grid system but he was squeezed out at the first corner and then had to take avoiding action when two rivals collided just ahead of his car, which meant he slipped back to eighth at the end of the opening lap.

Palmer, from Southwater, pushed hard for the rest of the race, making up two positions to finish sixth, which is where he is also now in the overall standings.

He said: "Qualifying was a little bit disappointing - the car felt good, I just didn't



Southwater's Will Palmer on the podium

manage to pick up the cleanest of laps. It's a tight field so a small mistake hurt me and it's frustrating not to have qualified as well as I could have done.

"I was really pleased with my start in race one and I'm happy with the result from 12th on the grid.

"In the second race I had (Fabio) Leimer on the inside and Rossi on the outside and

I was just sandwiched between them so lost a lot of places to drop to eighth.

"I managed a move on James Calado and then concentrated on saving my tyres. Towards the end I got a bit stuck behind (Adrian) Quaife-Hobbs which allowed Calado to pass me again.

"I managed then to pass Quaife-Hobbs to take sixth which is a bit disappointing

considering where started but it's an okay result based on where we were at the end of the first lap."

The next rounds of the series are in Barcelona on May 10-12.

Palmer's younger brother Will enjoyed another strong weekend in the Ginetta Junior Championship at Donington Park to leave him second in the overall standing.

Starting from third on the grid, the 16-year-old comfortably held his position to secure a podium place with third place in the first race.

In the second race, Palmer was running second at one stage and looked set for another third place until being edged into fourth at the end.

He said: "Overall it was good to once again score lots of points, keeping me in the championship hunt.

"Race two was quite disappointing, as having run second throughout the race, I was very unlucky to be forced out at the last corner.

"I was strong at Thruxton last year so hopefully I can make some ground up there in two weeks' time."

Jolyon satisfied but brother Will has lots to cheer

Tim takes points lead

TIM WEEVIL JAMES, from Ditchling, came out on top with an overall points lead at the second round of qualifying for the World N&S Banger final at Oval Raceway, Angmering.

Brighton's Phil Jones, who won the final, came second in the standings.

The day began with wins for Maison Waugh and Charlie Ford in the junior groups.

Worthing youngster Harvey Stoner led the way in the hotrod A final, while, in contrast, the hotrod B final was won by pensioner and track owner Jim Stuart.

The day ended with two spectacular demolition derbies which were won by Andy Wolfe and Lee Strudwick. There is more action at Oval Raceway this Sunday with the 2-litre N&S Banger meeting.