

GBmoto's Ellison will ride through the pain at Oulton

JAMES ELLISON will ride through the pain barrier at Oulton Park this weekend to help keep GBmoto Racing's fine start to the season on track.

The Sussex-based team claimed not just their first podium ever but a trio of top three finishes in the opening round of the MCE British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch last month.

Chris Walker finished second in race one while team-mate Ellison was third in both races.

Ellison crashed in qualifying at Brands but the extent of his pelvic and hip injuries did not emerge until after the meeting.

On the first day of testing at Oulton Park, Ellison was in a lot of pain but has been undergoing treatment this week and hopes to race for the Lloyds British GBmoto Kawasaki team in rounds three and four of the series this weekend.

Ellison, pictured, said: "I was sore for both races at Brands but once the



adrenalin kicked in I was relatively okay. After a few days' rest things stiffened up and I was in some real pain for our test at Oulton.

"I could only complete one session before we decided it was best to go for some scans. But I have been working with the BSB medical team to try to ease some of the pain and be in competitive shape for this weekend."

Team manager Terry Liquorish, from Crawley, said: "It is not an ideal situation given it is so early in the championship and our goal is to get both riders in the Showdown. But James is a fighter and he will definitely be trying this weekend."

Howard Griggs



Jolyon Palmer wants to hold on to the Championship lead he secured in Bahrain, inset,

Palmer determined to stretch early lead

JOLYON PALMER is determined to hold on to his championship lead as he prepares for the second round this year's GP2 series.

The 22-year-old from Southwater will be back on track at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya next weekend.

Palmer leads the Formula One feeder series by ten points heading to the first round of the European season after a fabulous start to the new season in Bahrain last month.

On his debut for French team DAMS, Palmer took his second GP2 career pole position and converted that to a strong third place finish in race one after recovering well from a slow start, scooping the additional bonus points for fastest race lap in the process.

Starting sixth on the grid for race two, the Sussex driver made an excellent start to run second on the opening lap before taking the lead at the start of lap two. He then comfortably held the lead until the flag to claim his fourth GP2 series victory and again take the extra points for fastest race lap.

Palmer said: "After more than a month off I'm itching to get back racing in Barcelona and we've

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been working hard since Bahrain to make sure we can be fighting at the front again. Qualifying will be crucial as overtaking is quite difficult at Barcelona so we need to make sure we are up to speed quickly on Friday."

Worthing's Ben Colburn made it three podiums in four races as he secured a brace of third placed finishes in rounds three and four of the Junior Saloon Car Championship at Anglesey last weekend, writes Kingsley Neuman.

Heading into only his second weekend of racing, the bar was set high to pick up where he left off at Rockingham last month.

The Westbourne Motors-backed teenager qualified sixth and fifth out of a field of 14 cars at a circuit he had never raced at before.

In race one, Colburn was up to third by lap three and held on to the podium place despite a terrific scrap with Tom Stockton.

In the second race, the 14-year-old was third by the end of the first lap and pulled away from the rest

of the field without being able to mount a challenge for second.

Colburn returns to action at Oulton Park on May 17.

He said: "I was quick there in testing and hopefully there will be another podium and maybe even a higher finish than third."

● FORMULA One driver Max Chilton and brother Tom, who competes in World Touring Cars, visited Lets Race, near Gatwick, last weekend to pass on tips and advice for racing enthusiasts.

The pair's visit promoted the Lets Race 2 Reality competition which offers one lucky driver the chance to win a test experience in a Carlin F3 car. Max Chilton said: "Lets Race 2 Reality is a great opportunity for people to get involved in motor racing."

● A BIG crowd is expected for the Spedeworth Motorsports May Day spectacular at Arlington on Bank Holiday Monday.

The popular event will feature three different formulas including the Big Van National Bangers which means plenty of carnage and chaos. The 1300cc Stock Cars will also be in action along with Spedeworth's oldest formula, Superstox. Racing starts at 2pm with turnstiles open from 12.30pm.

Mcintosh is Thunder head coach



SUSSEX Thunder have appointed Paul Mcintosh as their new head coach.

Mcintosh played ten seasons for Thunder, making more than 100 appearances and was part of the division one championship sides in 2008 and 2012.

He will oversee a transitional season for the club following changes in the coaching and playing staff, resulting in a young and

talented roster for the 2014 campaign.

Mcintosh, pictured, said: "I am very excited to be taking over as Thunder head coach at a very important time for the club."

"Sussex Thunder is more than just a team, we are a family and I take the responsibility of leading that family extremely seriously.

Thunder will play a

number of associate games as they work towards re-entering the BAFA National Leagues in 2015. The first of those will be against Hastings Conquerors at Brighton Rugby Club on Sunday June 15 (2.30pm).

Players interested in joining Thunder should email Duncan Workman at recruitment@sussexthunder.com for further details.

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