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**MOTORSPORT**

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Jolyon Palmer on the podium at Silverstone

## Jolyon's following in Hamilton's footsteps

Jolyon Palmer remains on course to emulate Lewis Hamilton in becoming GP2 champion, after taking second place in front of his home fans at Silverstone on Saturday.

The Southwater driver's sixth podium finish of the season allowed him to extend his championship lead over Felipe Nasr to 45 points.

Palmer, Raffaele Marciello and Mitch Evans all held pole throughout the race with the latter just holding off a late Palmer attack to clinch the victory, denying the British driver his first win at Silverstone.

Palmer said: "To be honest, I'm gutted not to win, because I really thought that was in the bag. But I'm pleased, with the French DAMS squad we did a good job, maybe we should have won the race but in the end I'm happy with second."

Palmer started from second position on the prime tyres, and was able to hold his position into the first corner, despite having to start from the damp side of the grid following rain showers earlier in the day.

He lost track position to Evans into the second cor-

ner, but quickly got back on line to maintain third place. When Nasr launched an attack in the latter half of the opening lap; Palmer was able to stay ahead with some late braking into Stowe corner and a staunch defence into Club Corner.

Fastest times in the opening two sectors of the next lap allowed Palmer to draw clear of Nasr and apply pressure on second-placed Evans. By the end of the following lap, Palmer was only three-tenths of a second behind the Kiwi, before pulling off an opportunist move to reclaim second at the start of lap four.

Putting in a string of fastest laps, Palmer closed the gap to race leader Raffaele Marciello to just 0.7s by lap nine. Marciello pitted at the end of lap ten, freeing Palmer to set the pace at the front.

He pitted from the lead at the end of lap 19, and, at the end of the next lap, Evans emerged from the pits just ahead, and, despite an attack, Evans held his position, with Palmer finishing less than five seconds behind Evans, and more than 20 seconds ahead of the chasing pack.

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