

# Palmer extends his lead in Hungary



Jolyon Palmer extended his Championship lead

## Motor Sport

*Dave Smith – Sports Editor*

Jolyon Palmer has extended his lead in the GP2 Championship after forcing his way past his main title rival, Brazilian Felipe Nasr, in both races in Hungary last weekend, 25 – 26 July. On the tight and twisting Hungaroring circuit, notorious as a place where overtaking is difficult, Palmer made one bold passing manoeuvre after another to finish fourth in the Feature Race on Saturday and second in the Sprint Race on Sunday. These results increase Palmer's advantage over Nasr in the championship standings to 43 points.

Palmer started from sixth on the grid for Saturday's Feature Race but made a storming start to rise to third at the end of lap one and got by Tom Dillmann for second place on the first turn of lap two.

The safety car was deployed on

lap seven, which handed an immediate advantage to drivers towards the rear of the field who were running to a different strategy. When the safety car pitted on lap nine, Jolyon immediately chased down Nasr, but Nasr pitted for new tyres immediately afterwards. Palmer made his own pit stop for a tyre change on the next lap and rejoined the track ahead of Nasr – but the Brazilian on warmer tyres and was able to regain the lead.

The safety car again interrupted the race, Palmer and Nasr temporarily dropping to 13th and 14th places, but they quickly moved back up when other drivers made pit stops.

As other runners made their pit stops, Jolyon moved up to sixth place but then passed Daniel Abt for fifth on the last lap, and after the race he was promoted to fourth when Stefano Coletti was penalised.

In a repeat of Saturday's con-

test, Sunday saw Palmer and Nasr doing battle. Palmer closed on second-placed Nasr, and forced his way past at turn one on lap seven. Palmer pulled out a small margin over Nasr and closed gradually on race leader Stoffel Vandoorne before finishing second, his eighth podium finish of the season.

Palmer commented: "It was a really good race for me. The start wasn't great but the tyres came in really quickly and I managed to pick my way through into second. I passed a few people very fairly but unfortunately Nasr was the most aggressive of them all. I went up the inside and he squeezed me in the braking zone all the way to the inside and it was really tight."

Palmer now has 192 points in the championship standings with Nasr on 149. After a four-week summer break, the series resumes at Spa Francorchamps in Belgium on 22-24 August.