

Family cheer as Palmer powers to double victory

by **HOWARD GRIGGS**

Motorsport reporter

howard.griggs@theargus.co.uk

WILL PALMER was toasted by a familiar face after opening up a lead in the BRDC **Formula 4** Championship.

The 18-year-old from Southwater enjoyed an excellent weekend with two commanding wins in the latest round at Silverstone.

And as he stood on the podium at the end of the meeting, Palmer was presented with his trophy by elder brother Jolyon, the Lotus F1 reserve driver.

Having been in Monaco the previous weekend and then Montreal this weekend, Palmer fitted in a visit to the British Grand Prix circuit to cheer on his younger sibling.

Will did not disappear with another hugely impressive performance to move 12 points clear at the top of the standings ahead of next month's visit to Snetterton.

The Sussex teenager tweeted: "Awesome weekend at Silverstone – pole, two wins, two fastest laps and the championship lead!"

Palmer immediately displayed a strong pace in qualifying, which would serve him well all weekend, by posting a lap time of 2m03.552s, 1.887s clear of Tom Jackson, who was the fastest at this stage.

His HHC Motorsport team-mate Harri Newey, son of legendary For-

mula One designer Adrian, moved up to second but was still 0.975s slower than Palmer.

Palmer got a clean getaway in race one and never looked back, pulling clear of the field and setting a new BRDC F4 lap record with a time of 2m04.517s on his way to victory 5.800s clear of Ciaran Haggerty.

By virtue of his win, Palmer lined up in eighth for the start of the second race on Sunday morning. The circuit was damp following overnight and early morning rain and Palmer used his wet weather experience to move through the field to finish fourth.

Palmer was back on pole for the final race of the weekend and again made a strong start, setting a number

of final laps throughout the race before eventually winning by a massive 8.292s clear of Newey.

He now tops the championship with 193 points after nine races, with Mexican racer Rodrigo Fonseca second on 12 points and Manxman Chris Mealin back in third on 162.

Jack Bartholomew, from Kingston near Lewes, continued to bright start to racing in the BRDC **Formula 4** Championship.

The former karting champion, who has stepped up this season, was sixth in race one for Lanar Racing, then eighth in race two before slipping back to 15th in race three.

Bartholomew has slipped one place in the standings to sixth ahead of the

next round at Snetterton on July 11/12.

After an eventful few weeks for two of Sussex's National Banger teams

The Bears and Team Sowter faced off against each other in the Michael 'Bandit' Bailey Memorial meeting at King's Lynn.

While both teams will race on any tract surface, Team Sowter have taken to shale in a big way in the past season, especially at the Mildenhall Stadium.

Bears captain Nigel Riley was in the thick of the action throughout the meeting which ended with Team Sowter's Tom Filmer finishing runner-up in the Demolition Derby to Ben Harrison.