



Palmer dominated again at Brands



BRDC FORMULA 4 BRANDS HATCH, AUGUST 1-2 MSVR

# Palmer stretches out lead with double

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**"I GOT A MASSIVE UNDERSTEER AS** I was still pushing for a fast time. It wasn't a big scare, I just ran a bit wide and could carry on," said an unruffled Will Palmer after taking his second win of the BRDC Formula 4 meeting at Brands Hatch. A puff of lingering dust rising on the exit of Paddock Hill Bend betrayed the only mistake the championship leader had made all weekend – but by that point in race three, it simply didn't matter.

As has become their habit, Palmer and his HHC Motorsport teammate Harrison Newey had topped Saturday's qualifying session, but Palmer was over 0.6s clear. "I think our pace was a combination of the track suiting me with the high speed corners, as well as the car being really strong," Palmer noted.

Races one and two were a tale of two starts. In the first, the plan was simple for Palmer: "I knew we'd have the pace to pull away and win," and after the restart following a

safety car period caused by Jack Bartholomew and Ameya Vaidyanathan crashing out at Druids on lap one, he did just that. For Newey, the start did not go so well: "I was struggling trying to get the car stopped because it was rolling forwards a bit on the hill," he said.

Although Newey managed to get the car stopped in time for the lights, Cianar Haggerty charged by with Tom Jackson "literally pushing Haggerty through that gap," to claim third by Turn 1. Newey tried to recover but the top four remained unchanged to the end.

In race two, Lanar Racing's Chris Mealin squandered the reversed-grid pole position by jumping the lights and earning a 10-second penalty to add to his race time. "I just didn't expect the lights to stay on for so long," explained a sombre Mealin. That meant Jordan Albert inherited the race win, but he lamented having to follow Mealin to the flag, "because I felt he compromised my laptime being in the turbulent air, and my fronts started to go off towards the end."

Nevertheless the Sean Walkinshaw Racing driver held on to become the fourth multiple race winner of the season so far. Behind Albert, contact with Haggerty forced Jack Lang into retirement on lap one and allowed Newey and Jackson to chase Omar Ismail.

Newey relived Ismail of third on lap 11 with a bold move up the inside at Sheene curve. Ismail tried



Race 3 win put Palmer 69 points clear

to hold on around the outside and spun spectacularly, dropping down to seventh, but later described the episode as a "racing incident."

Jackson completed the podium in an "unexpected" third as Palmer rose to fourth place from his P8 starting position thanks to the first corner incident and a brave move down the inside of Rodrigo Fonseca at Druids on lap 11.

Palmer then further extended his championship lead thanks to another dominant lights-to-flag victory in race three. "The gap was getting better until about halfway through and then the tyres started dropping off a little bit", he said afterwards, but despite that hindrance the gap was over 6.5s back to Ismail in second.

Haggerty recorded his second podium of the weekend after a "do or die move" to pass Bartholomew at Druids on lap one and he came

agonisingly close to beating Ismail at the flag, but ended up 0.1s adrift.

Palmer, looking ahead to the next round, said: "It's nice to have a bit of a buffer [in the championship]." But based on this performance it seems unlikely anyone will stop him any time soon.

● Alex Kalinauckas



Palmer took his fifth and sixth wins of 2015

## RESULTS

**RACE 1 (12 LAPS) 1 Will Palmer 20m03.677s (87.33mph); 2 Cianar Haggerty +3.442s; 3 Tom Jackson; 4 Harrison Newey; 5 Jack Lang; 6 Omar Ismail (Chris Dittmann Racing); FL Palmer 1m25.462s (102.49mph); P Palmer, S 19.**  
**RACE 2 (13 LAPS) 1 Jordan Albert 20m33.587s (92.31mph); 2 Newey +0.313s; 3 Jackson; 4 Palmer; 5 Rodrigo Fonseca; 6 Haggerty. FL Palmer 1m25.106s (102.92mph); P Mealin, S 19.**  
**RACE 3 (14 LAPS) 1 Palmer 20m22.164s (100.34mph); (95.40mph); 2 Ismail; 3 Haggerty; 4 Jack Bartholomew; 5 Jackson; 6 Fonseca. FL Palmer 1m26.419s; P Palmer, S 19.**  
**POINTS 1 Palmer, 348; 2 Fonseca, 279; 3 Jackson, 266; 4 Haggerty, 243; 5 Newey, 240; 6 Albert, 230.**