



Victory at the start of the International GT Open in Portimão.

A great return to the International GT Open in Portimão with the conquest of the AM Class Pole-position (13th overall) on Saturday morning and victory in the Sunday afternoon race.

27th April 2025

An auspicious return for Miguel Ramos to the International GT Open. The 2015 and 2020 Champion secured Pole on Saturday and finished 2nd in the race. Sunday was reserved for the best, with 1st place in the AM Class race.

The Pole-position secured on Saturday in the AM Class indicated that the McLaren #188 duo would be very strong in the race. Right after the start, Miguel Ramos took the lead in the AM Class and tried to open up as much of a gap as possible to the second-placed Ferrari #21. However, almost midway through Ramos' stint, the Safety Car's entry bunched up the field, and the advantage vanished. After the restart, Ramos pushed the pace again to try to hand the car over to Mark Sansom with some comfort. In the second half of the race, with Sansom at the wheel, the McLaren #188 began to be threatened by the Ferrari #21. With Rugolo driving, the Ferrari managed to overtake and secure the victory in the AM Class, relegating the Ramos/Sansom duo to 2nd place.

In qualifying for Sunday's Race 2, Sansom placed the McLaren #188 in 3rd place in the AM Class. During his stint, Sansom kept the McLaren well-positioned to hand it over to Ramos to make the final part of the race and attempt a recovery. If that was the strategy, the result was even better, as Ramos went on the attack for the second part of the race, taking the lead with approximately 15 minutes remaining. The team had a slight setback when penalised by 5 seconds for not complying with the Handicap during the pit stop, but Ramos' pace was very strong. Even with this setback, he finished more than 18 seconds ahead of the Team Thor Porsche #86.





It was an excellent weekend for Miguel Ramos, as he himself stated, "It was really an excellent decision to return to the GT Open. Racing again on a circuit in Portugal was also very gratifying. Garage 59 was at a high level all weekend, and both Mark and I did our part. We fought hard yesterday and today, but in the end, we got our reward. It was an excellent start to the Championship, and we showed that we have the pace to try for the title in the AM Class."

