

## Browning dominates F3 Macau Grand Prix qualification race



Hitech Pulse-Eight's Luke Browning won the qualification race for the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup on Saturday, coming home 2.097 seconds ahead of team-mate Alex Dunne.

Browning, who started from pole position, had to work hard for it though after finding himself threatened twice early on for the lead from front-row starter Gabriele Minì in the SJM Theodore PREMA Racing car.

Off the original start, Browning got away well but Minì perfectly used the slipstream to draft past into the lead on the swoop through Mandarin Bend. However, Browning's car managed to pull him back in front on the run to Lisboa – from where he was able to build up a 1.8 second advantage by the end of the opening lap.

However, Browning's efforts soon went to waste when the safety car was called out on the second lap to help marshals remove the cars of Dan Ticktum (Rodin Carlin) and Uko Ugochukwu (Trident Motorsport) that were in the barriers at Lisboa following a collision.

Following the restart at the beginning of lap five, Browning tried to break free but Minì was able to tuck into his slipstream through Mandarin and looked to go around the outside down into Lisboa.

As Minì ran out of momentum, all eyes switched to Dunne who, having jumped from sixth on the grid to third at the first start, saw a gap down the inside of the two lead cars and briefly looked like he might attempt a dive for the front. But although he decided against attacking Browning for the lead, he was able to snatch second from Minì.

With his lead intact, Browning repeated his early charge to end the lap 1.4 seconds clear, and the two Hitech Pulse-Eight cars then duly pulled clear to take the top two positions at the chequered flag, ahead of Minì.

Reflecting on his win, Browning admitted that being three-wide after the restart had not been easy to deal with, but he was overjoyed he had come out ahead.

"That three-wide moment in T3 [Lisboa] was eye-opening to say the least," he said. "I braked as late as I could, and I put it on the line. It was as much as I was willing to risk, and it was just enough. After that, the car felt amazing, so I'm looking forward to the main race tomorrow."

Minì's team-mate Dino Beganovic finished in fourth, with Dennis Hauger in a lonely fifth for MP Motorsport, coming home 5.5 seconds adrift of the cars in front of him. Mari Boya (MP Motorsport) was sixth with Paul Aron (SJM Theodore PREMA Racing) seventh.

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Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee  
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