

42
years
motoracing
career



MANUEL GIÃO SPORTS CURRICULUM



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MANUEL GIÃO

Born in Lisbon, on June 1971.

Gião, son of the well known champion M. Gião (a former rally and touring National Champion), the youngest sibling of the Gião family soon followed his own path in motorsports.

Long before he was even allowed to take part on official races, young "Manel", with the help of his father, started racing in specially fitted go-karts. By the time he turned 10, Gião was already a reference in the Portuguese racing scene, and everyone predicted that his debut in competition would be a success, as it turned out to be.

In 1983, Manuel Gião, aged 12, started racing officially in the newly created category in Portugal - Junior Class, which enabled him and many other young drivers at the time making their racing dreams come true. Gião couldn't have started his racing life in a better way, taking home two junior titles in his first two entries, which set him up for a notorious karting career in Portugal.

He clinched the National Champion title on four different occasions, and also won a Portuguese Cup.

1989 was his entry milestone on proper car racing, when he took a seat in the Formula Ford class. Gião won his maiden race, and took many other top spots in the three seasons during which he drove these single-seaters.

After claiming the Formula Ford National Championship for himself in 1992, winning five of the eight races in the series, he took off for an international career, along with all-time adversaries: Castro Santos, Lamy and Couceiro.

In 1992, 1993 and 1995, he raced the Formula Ford European Championship, and became one of the national drivers who achieved top-rank results abroad. In 1995, Gião became the runner up in European Championship, and took the first spot in the Nations Cup that same year.

His determination in achieving a place for himself in Formula One, motorsports' top racing class, took him to assorted championships, such as Super Formula, Formula

Nissan or Formula 3000 in Italy. Gião became champion in the Super Formula class, and one of the top drivers in the Italian F3000 scene. However, it was at his seat in the

Nissan Formula that he would deliver his best international performance, taking the runner up position after a battle for the first spot that lasted until the last race with Fernando Alonso, the Formula One Drivers' Champion

In 2004, Manuel Gião switched to GT racing, entering the 24h of Daytona. In 2005 and 2006,

in the Spanish GT Championship. In 2007 he celebrated 25 years in motorsports racing, and joined Pedro Couceiro to fight once more for the Spanish GT Championship, where they both successfully drove to the Championship title.

In 2008, Gião teamed up once again with Pedro Couceiro in the International GT Open, where they fought for the lead until the last race. The team grabbed a third place, and for being the best national drivers racing abroad they were awarded the Golden Helmet Trophy by Auto Hoje Magazine.

In 2011, Manuel Gião took on the Porsche Spain challenge to race the Spanish GT Championship, and again the Portuguese struck gold, adding yet another title to his career. That same year he delivered 6 wins during the season, and became the most successful racing driver in this championship, with 21 victories.

In 2014, Manuel Gião received an invitation from Seat's sports director Jaime Puig and the marketing director in Portugal, Dr. Teresa Lameiras, to be the brand's Portuguese Ambassador at the European Championship, where he was crowned Vice Champion.

2018 was hired by Kia Motorsport in Portugal for the TCR project,

2019 developed the Kia Picanto Troféu, and in 2021 The Kia Ceed.

In 2022 he was crowned Iberian GT4 Champion with a Mercedes.

2024 was crowned Iberian Speed Vice Champion.

Driver Manuel Gião was also a sports and defensive driving instructor at the Portimão Circuit school from 2010 to 2012 and continues to do so today for various events.

The Gião family has bred two generations of racing drivers, and is the longest standing and one of the most successful clans in the national motorsports scene.

Speaks Italian, English and Spanish.





SUPER CARS

2024 VICE-CHAMPION

NATIONAL SPEED CHAMP.

2022 IBERIAN CHAMPION

KIA CEED TROPHY

2021 PORTUGUESE CHAMPION

KIA CEED TROPHY

2020 3rd PLACE

KIA PICANTO TROPHY

2019 VICE-CHAMPION

PORTUGUES TCR

2016 PORTUGUESE VICE-CHAMPION

SEAT CUP RACER

2014 VICE EUROPEAN CHAMPION
SEAT EURO CUP

GT CHAMPIONSHIP

2011 SPANISH GT CHAMPION

**PERMEATED IN 7TH PLACE IN THE
AWARDS CEREMONY PORSCHE**

2010 SPANISH GT VICE-CHAMPION
WINER SUPER GT

2008 3rd PLACE OPEN GT

2007 SPANISH GT VICE-CHAMPION
GT CUP CHAMPION IBERIAN

2006 SPANISH GT VICE-CHAMPION

2005 SPANISH GT VICE-CHAMPION

FÓRMULA 3

2004 SPANISH VICE-CHAMPION

NATIONAL TROPHIES

2003 3rd PLACE TROPHY MG ROVER

2002 WINNER TROPHY MG ROVER

2001 WINNER TROPHY DATSUN

WORD SERIES BY NISSAN

1999 EURO NISSAN OPEN VICE-CHAMPION

1998 3rd PLACE OPEN EURO NISSAN

SUPER FÓRMULA

1997 ITALIAN SUPER FÓRMULA CHAMPION

FÓRMULA OPEL-LOTUS

1995 VICE EUROPEAN CHAMPION

CHAMPION OF NATIONS CUP

1992 VICE-CHAMPION OF NATIONS CUP

FÓRMULA FORD

1991 NATIONAL CHAMPION

1990 3rd PLACE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

KARTING

1988 PORTUGAL CUP CHAMPION INTER A

1987 NATIONAL CHAMPION - FORMULA K

1986 NATIONAL VICE-CHAMPION - A INTER
NATIONAL VICE-CHAMPION - FORMULA K

1985 GREEN HELMET TROPHY WINNER

1984 NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPION

1983 NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPION





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