



## Johnny Mowlem

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### INTERNATIONAL GT OPEN – PORTIMAO. A TOP 10 FINISH FOR LOTUS, BUT A TOP 5 WAS ON!

In the Algarve at the first round of the 2012 International GT Open, the Lotus Evora GTE, was running top five in its class until an accident curtailed the team's race.

Lotus Giudici Racing's Evora GTE qualified 16th and 13th for the two races in the Super GT class. Changeable conditions throughout the weekend made both races challenging. In Race 1 the car crossed the line eighth in class, the Evora working well in the wet. Sunday's Race 2 was damp at the start but the teams went with slicks anyway. Team leader Johnny Mowlem got spun around at Turn 2, dropping to 26th, but his recovery was brilliant. By changeover time in the 37 lap race he was fifth in Super GT and on course for a strong finish. However, team-mate Marcello Puglisi earned a drive-thru penalty for speeding and, as he rejoined the track, clipped a Ferrari and damaged the front-right suspension. This lost

the Italian team four laps, dropping them down the order.

#### **Johnny Mowlem (Lotus Giudici Racing):**

"The International GT Open is probably one of the most competitive GT championships there are, certainly in terms of how many 2012 GT cars are out on the grid! Given this was the first time the team had seen the car, we'd not been to this track before and it was our first time on Dunlops I didn't hold out much hope for a result. I was therefore pleasantly surprised by the car's performance. Starting the second race in the damp and on slicks was great, the Lotus loves those kind of conditions. We were on course for a storming finish, coming from the back up to fifth place. In the wet we were able to match the pace of everyone except the top three. The car handles beautifully, it's just lacking aero and development. We'll work on it, but I left Portugal feeling encouraged."