



## LOTUS ELISE READY FOR ACTION

### Queensland Round – GT Championship – Car 99

Back again this weekend is the hard charging little Lotus Elise of Peter Lucas and the Urban Arrangement race team.

With the introduction of the newer (but heavier) GT3 this weekend driven by Angelo Lazaris, the "little car with a big attitude" has had a facelift and freshen up to ensure it's not outdone in the beauty contest or the performance stakes at this weekend's championship round here in Queensland and will be sporting a new yellow livery and a lightweight

carbon fibre skin.

Looking very (very) bright in it's new livery, the Lotus has undergone quite a deal of work since the last round at Bathurst where it endured a fun but frustrating weekend. The Lotus was making good ground up and across the mountain, with the legendary Lotus handling coming to the fore, only to be left behind lap after lap on mountain straight and on the long, long run down Conrod straight.

Expect some fireworks from the 99 car as Peter Lucas tries to deliver the best of British to his fellow competitors and ensure the 99 car isn't outshone by its new big (or should it be little?) brother. Reliability and consistency have been strong points from this team over the first three rounds and Peter is sitting a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place in the overall championship standings. According to the increasingly professional looking team it's going to be hard to maintain their current position but they are pulling out all stops in an effort to keep the Lotus competitive with the new generation GT3 cars that continue to arrive in the series. Rumour has it that its not just the car that has been on a diet either; the driver hasn't been sighted at McDonalds since Bathurst and has been seen cycling and running on a regular basis in an effort to get down to the benchmark weight. Remembering that 5% of this car's weight is only 40 kgs, little improvements could make a big difference.

### **The Brit Pack are coming.....**

Watch out Germany and Italy, the British are coming. Having single-handedly represented British sports cars in most of this year's Australian GT Championship, Peter Lucas and his Lotus team seemed to have called for reinforcements this weekend, and they're here !.

Two British GT3 cars are making their debut here at Queensland Raceway, with the Aston Martin GT3 and Lotus Exige GT3 joining Peter and his Elise in a "beefed up" British representation. The British GT3 championship is hotly contested and these are well developed cars from that series. Whilst they are new to our shores with new drivers and teams, it won't take long before they are getting serious, and aiming at the point end of the field.

Whilst not in the numbers from their fellow Euro countries as yet, the 200% increase in British sports cars competing is a welcome sight, and certainly helps increase the variety and interest in the cosmopolitan series of the Australian Racing calendar. Expect some excitement from the big fan base that the Lotus and Aston will undoubtedly attract.

*The Lotus Elise is prepared by J and S Automotive and supported by Urban Arrangement and Report Factory*

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