



EVENT REPORT

1 JULY 2007

### **ACME TAKES OUT GOLD COAST 100 TO SEAL OFFSHORE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Acme racing brothers Steve and Andrew Searle have taken out this afternoon's Gold Coast 100 to seal the 2007 Australian Offshore Powerboat Class One Championship in front of their home crowd on the Gold Coast.

After an incident riddled weekend last week at Airlie Beach where the Acme boat caught fire and jeopardised their title chances, the Acme team were able to pull together and come through with the goods this afternoon, taking a conservative approach that ended up paying dividends and handing them the championship.

Acme needed only to finish this afternoon's race to ensure the title was theirs, and their conservative approach saw them claim the race victory after a few heart stopping moments had them wondering just what they needed to do to catch a break.

"On the fifth lap the port side engine had a temperature warning go off so we stopped the boat and Andrew got out to make sure it was alright," said Steve Searle.

"It was heart in the mouth stuff, I was letting Andrew know the temperature every ten seconds and then we saw that the Maritimo boat had stopped so we were able to make up ground and have a win."

Maritimo father son duo Bill and Tom Barry-Cotter were very unlucky, having lead from the outset they encountered problems on lap ten, eventually retiring and handing the win to Acme after they had lapped the Acme team due to the cautious approach taken by the Searle's to ensure they reached a completion point to secure enough points for the series win.

With their boat being badly damaged in last weekend fire, Acme brokered a deal with Smorgon Steel that gave them a boat to race this weekend and Searle was thankful to his offshore counterpart for the arrangement.

"I would like to personally thank Tony Low and the Smorgon team they have been fantastic, as have my Acme crew who worked around the clock to get us up and running this weekend," said Searle.

2006 champions SIMRAD were forced to retire after a fuel pump shut down after completing eight laps, unfortunate for Luke Durman and Ross Willaton who tried their hearts out to defend their title in 2007.

Saracen and Blade battled it out for the Class Three- six litre line honours, and while Blade had the ascendancy in the first half of the race, Saracen shone through to pass and take the race win, with Blade doing enough to claim their respective class title for 2007.





Class Three- six litre: Saracen Antony DeFina & Simon Thomas

Class Three- four litre: Hogs Breath Paul Gibbs & Paul Fowlds

Production Class: Bullet Racing Chris Webb & Mick Campbell

Haines/Suzuki One make series: Jericho Rodney Walker & Brett Carroll

**2007 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL POINTS TALLY**

**Class One**

ACME Racing	2250 points
Simrad	1775
Maritimo	1445
Smorgon Steel	525

**Class Three- six litre**

Blade	2550 points
Saracen	1800
Infinity	675

**Class Three- four litre**

Hogs Breath Racing	2575 points
Shaken Not Stirred	1913
Ezy Does It	1825
Kwozzy	1544
Pheonix	427

**Haines/ Suzuki One Make Class**

Acme	2300 points
Slam	2100
Jericho	1900