

**PENALTY COSTS CHAMPION ROUND 1 WIN**

A post-race penalty today cost current Australian champion Bill Barry-Cotter and his partner Steve Jellick an opening round win at the Hobsons Bay Classic Offshore Race: round one of the Acme Fibreglass Supplies Australian Offshore Powerboat Series.

The defending champions in Maritimo boat AUS1 cut inside the allocated course on the opening lap, resulting in a two and a half minute penalty, handing outright victory to teammates Ross Willaton and Luke Durman.

Brothers Steve and Andrew Searle of ACME Racing took second place, finishing a minute behind the Maritimo winners.

It was a great first-up win for the newly-formed combination, coming out on top of the biggest Class 1 field assembled in Australia since 1980.

“We took our time to ease into it and once Ross and I were happy with our rhythm, we just focussed on running our own race,” winning driver Luke Durman said, in his first ever competitive Class One event.

“Certainly it was ideal that we managed to escape the first corner complications ... we don't like winning races by default, but the team is still glad to have two boats in the top three.”

The smooth conditions of the 110 nautical mile course between Port Melbourne's Station Pier and Brighton failed to help the fancied Class 1 Smorgon Steel boat and third Maritimo Racing entry, both retiring due to mechanical failure.

The Class 3- 4 litre Hog's Breath entry of Paul Gibbs and Paul Fowlds finished fourth outright, and took out line honours for its respective class.

Advantage Racing's Don McClymont and Nick Purvis had a great start to the series taking out National A class honours ahead of Thycon's Antony DeFina and David Slicer.

Matt Humphrey and Wayne Jones took out the Class 3-6 litre honours for the Navman team ahead of Red Bellies racing team's Bruce Sanders and Colin Craven.

Today's opening round of the national championship series was well supported with a large spectator fleet surrounding the course, and on-lookers lining the shore in picture perfect conditions.

Round two of the series heads to Geelong on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February. The six round series then heads north to New South Wales and finishes in Queensland on the Gold Coast.

Acme Fibreglass Supplies Australian Offshore Powerboat Series (round 1): Hobson's Bay Classic

**OUTRIGHT RESULTS (Provisional)**

1) R. Willaton/ L. Durman	SIMRAD Maritimo	57 min 30 secs
2) S. Searle/ A. Searle	ACME Racing	58 min 33 secs
3) B. Barry-Cotter/ S. Jellick	Maritimo Racing	59 min 50 secs
4) P. Gibbs/ P. Fowlds	Hog's Breath	
5) K. Bull/ S. Kelly	Jacksons Marine	
6) D. McClymont/ N. Purvis	Advantage Marine	

**CLASS WINNERS**

Class One:	R. Willaton/ L. Durman	SIMRAD Maritimo
Class Three- 6 Litre:	M. Humphrey/ W. Jones	NAVMAN
Class Three- 4 Litre	P. Gibbs/ P. Fowlds	Hog's Breath
NATIONAL 'A'	D. McClymont/ N. Purvis	Advantage Marine
PRODUCTION	G. Walters/ A. Hardiman	Cyclone 1900