

Saeed Al Tayer and Mohammed Al Marri looked a class apart when their 'Victory 7' swept to its second successive win to secure the overall Class II UAE International Offshore Championship staged in Dubai.

Photo: Photos: Alan Evans



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL OFFSHORE CHAMPIONSHIP

With two second places to add to their wins, 'Victory 7' looked invincible. Powered by twin 4.0-litre BMW inboards, the Victory crew finished well ahead of the chasing pack which was to be decimated by a number of disqualifications. Al Tayer's average speed was 130.07kmh which was enough to see him lap second place Numan Khalaf and Ossama Anabtawi in 'Alamtara', while Italy's Luca Nicolini with Erik Kirkedelen at the wheel filled third place in 'SeaRacer 30'.

After stepping ashore Al Tayer reported, "We had some minor problems earlier in the series but apart from those slight set-backs I am absolutely delighted with the new engine package and the set up of the boat. Today we came not only to compete but also to win, that is the Victory Team philosophy. Conditions were a little rough but once we had burned off a lot of fuel, the boat was much more responsive and I was able to bring her home with no problems. A lot of credit must go to

Mohammed as he is still relatively new to all this, but he is a superb driver and is learning all the time. I am sure what we have achieved in Class II will be of great help as we start our 2001 World Class I campaign."

Al Marri, the softly spoken member of the all-conquering team, was justifiably pleased with his first title in Victory colours, "I'm very, very proud of what we have achieved," he said, despite a ducking at sea, courtesy of his throttleman, "I'm still learning all the time but I could not have asked for a better teacher than Saeed."

While 'Victory 7' basked in the glory there was no such joy in the 'Victory 1' camp. The boat of Mohammed Al Gaith and Ali Al Qamah was forced out with a broken hose and bent rudder while lying in second place and their exit forced them from a top three place in the championship.

Also out of the race went Matteo Nicolini and Kristian Tzanov who crossed the line in second place but were later disqualified for missing a buoy, "I

Today we came not only to compete but also to win, that is the Victory Team philosophy.

Saeed Al Tayer