

Douwe Sickler rules the waves



Results

No	Name	Points	Comment
1	Douwe Sickler	3	Overall 1st Place
2	Tony van Thiel	16	Overall 2nd Place
3	Stephen Rice	19	Overall 3rd Place
4	Dave Clark	25	
5	Tony Miles	44	
6	Gordon Whitley	51	
7	Alexander Rice	82	Best Youth (14)
8	Victoria Granger	85	Best Lady
9	Paul Henri van Thiel	92	Youth: (15)
10	Joset Boemarts	94	
11	Rashid Khalfan al Yahyi	95	Best Omani 1st Place
12	Shaye Williams	111	
13	Jack Farr	113	
14	Abdulhakeem Al Keyumi	122	Best Omani 2nd Place
15	Tim Street	126	Youth: (16)
16	Aly Branderburg	132	
17	Cees van Eden	134	
18	Mafoud bin Mohd Al Zarafi	145	Best Omani 3rd Place
19	Robert van Eden	155	Youth: (14)
20	Abdullah bin Said Al Habai	159	
21	David Price	163	
22	Peter Evans	169	Great Grand Master (over 60)
23	Daman Bhal	172	Wooden Spoon
24	Jamil bin Hassan Al Hadrami	172	Wooden Spoon

Rashid Khalfan Al Yahyai best Omani sailor

THE MHD LLC-sponsored VOLVO 2009 Oman National Championship for Lasers was sailed for the 27th time last weekend from the beach off the Ras al Hamra Recreation Centre. Twenty-four Sailors competed in the event organised by the Oman Laser Association and Ras Al Hamra Boat Club (RAHBC) with participants from Royal Oman Navy, Castaways (Civil Aviation Recreation Club), Oman Sail and RAHBC.

Douwe Sickler came out on top with 9 points (out of 8 races with one discard), Tony van Thiel (16 points) came second, with Stephen Rice following closely with 19 points.

Rashid Khalfan Al Yahyai from RNO-Wudum was the best Omani sailor with 11th place overall, an excellent performance. It was the third time he had taken this place. Abdulhakeem Al-Keyumi from Castaways came second. Last year they scored the opposite with Hakim in first and Rashid in second place. Mafoud Al Zarafi from RNO-Wudum took the third place. He only sailed 2 races and would have gone on much stronger but hurt himself during a capsize after which he had to abandon further participation.

The first racing day saw very strong easterly winds throughout the day. Wind speeds up to 20 knots (force 5) created very demanding conditions which only part of the fleet could handle. The first

race started with 22 sailors. Only 14 were able to complete the course. The number of finishers reduced in every race to only 7 in the fifth and final event of the day. Those that made that last race came back to the beach totally exhausted. Sailing a Laser in strong winds is physically demanding. One has to be very fit. At the end of day-1 Douwe had 2 wins and was already 3 points clear of Tony.

On Friday the wind was again blowing strong. Just a notch less powerful than the day before, creating excellent sailing conditions which most of the fleet managed well. The lighter sailors wisely decided to use the smaller radial and 4.7 sails instead of the big standard sail. 3 races were held and Douwe won them all. A fierce battle for second, third and fourth places took place in every race between Tony, Stephen and Dave Clark. Tony ended up as second followed by Stephen and Dave.

It was good to see the participation of 4 youngsters aged 14 to 16 years. Alexander Rice (14) took the "Best Youth" ranking (7th overall). A remarkable feat considering he only sailed on the first day. Paul-Henri van Thiel (15) finished 9th, Tim Street (16) on 15th and Robert van Eden (14) on 17th position. Well done boys!

Prizes, sponsored by VOLVO-MHD and Oman Sail, were awarded to all participants



by Mohsin Al Busaidi (Oman Sail) and David Aziz of Volvo-MHD. Tony van Thiel (OLA chair and event organiser) thanked the Officers Of the Day (OOD's) Fred Rourke, Stephen Martin and Mariette Verdaasdonk for the first rate management of the races. RAHBC sailing captain Cees van Eden congratulated Tony on the excellent organisation of the championship. Tony finished by thanking VOLVO-MHD and Oman Sail for their sponsorship of the event.

VOLVO has long history in their link with sailing in the world and has been the title sponsor for this event for the second year. David Aziz thanked the organisation and expressed his commitment to supporting the event next year.

Tony also thanked Oman Sail's Mohsin Al Busaidi for his presence at the ceremony. Mohsin recently became the first Arab sailor to sail non-stop around the world (in 76 days).

Oman Sail is an exciting new initiative, guided and supported by the Ministry of Tourism, whose aim is to rekindle Oman's long and glorious maritime heritage. The Oman Sail Academy has started training young Omanis and it is very likely that a strong National squad of Laser sailors will be competing in the Laser Nationals next year. The 2010 Asian Beach Games which will be held in Oman will also feature Lasers as one of the sailing events. Start training.