



Pakistan not to host World Cup cricket in 2011

Pakistan has been stripped of hosting rights for the 2011 World Cup because of the 'uncertain security situation' in the country, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said last week. "It is a regrettable decision but our number one priority is to create certainty and deliver a safe, secure and successful event," David Morgan, ICC president, said in Dubai. "The uncertainty created by events in Pakistan created a huge question mark over our ability to do just that." The ICC will look into possible compensation for Pakistan Cricket Board as a result of being stripped off the mega event.

Yankees notch first win in new stadium

Derek Jeter snapped a 5-5 tie with a homer in the eighth innings to lift the New York Yankees to a 6-5 victory over the Cleveland Indians last week, the team's first win at their new US\$1.5bn stadium. Cleveland had won Thursday's opener 10-2 at the new park. "Sometimes the first one is the hardest one to get," Jeter told reporters.

Cyclist Hamilton tests positive, retires

Olympic gold medal winner Tyler Hamilton has tested positive for a banned substance and retired from cycling, the American said last week. Hamilton said he is battling depression and admitted taking an over-the-counter homeopathic anti-depressant containing the steroid DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone), which is a banned substance.



Photo: Rodolfo Altorsio

SAIL TIME

Competitors tame tough winds at the recent Oman national laser event

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For two entertaining days of the weekend, the sea was abuzz with activities as 22 participants from the sultanate chased tough winds at the Ras al Hamra Boat Club (RAHBC) in Muscat for the Volvo 2009 Oman National Laser Championship.

Thursday saw winds of 17-18 knots, which became difficult to manoeuvre for many sailors during the scheduled five races. In the end only eight participants were left in the fray.

The remaining three races on Friday were more competitive with the conditions being perfect for sailing. "It's shame when winners are decided in non-existent winds but

this year the weather was ideal to have a good competition," said Fred Rourke, the racing officer. Douwe Sickler, who bagged first places in five of the eight races, was the undisputed winner with Tony Van Thiel breathing down his neck in the second position. The third place went to Stephen Rice. Of the five Omani participants, four of them were from Royal Navy of Oman. Rashid Khalfan al Yahji took the first position while second and third places went to Abdulhakeem al Kiyumi and Mafoud al Zarafi respectively.

The championship had a distinct flavour due to its varied participation as sailors (mostly in their 40s)

had a chance to fight it out with a couple of teenagers in the fray. In fact, four youngsters aged (14-16) did pose a serious challenge to veterans, some with over 40 years of sailing experience. Alexander Rice, 14, was placed seventh on the overall list, while Paul-Henry Van Thiel, 15, stood ninth. The prize distribution ceremony was like a family gathering as sailors knew each other and have been maintaining close ties.

The winners got trophies from Oman's sailing hero, Mohsin al Busaidi, amidst cheers and encouraging words of 'bravo' and 'way to go' from their fellow sailors.

Organised by the RAHBC Sailing



Section and Oman Laser Sailing Committee since 1983, the championship, with the backing of its main sponsor Volvo, has plans to involve sailors from the neighbouring regions. "For two years, we have

been associated with this championship and we want to extend the reach of this event to sailors from the UAE and other Arab countries," said David Aziz, director, Mohsin Haider Darwish, distributor of Volvo.



CHAMPION: David Aziz from Volvo-MHD and Mohsin Al Busaidi from Oman Sail presenting the Rolling Trophy to Douwe Sickler with Tony Van Thiel, looking on. Right, an action from the National championship.

Douwe is national laser champion

24 sailors participated in the event sponsored by Volvo-MHD

Times News Service

MUSCAT — Douwe Sickler topped with nine points in the MHD LLC Sponsored Volvo 2009 Oman National Championship for Lasers (one man Olympic class sailing dinghies) from the beach off the Ras al Hamra Recreation Centre last weekend.

24 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.

Second place was for Tony van Thiel (16 points) with Stephen Rice following closely as third with 19 points.

Rashid Khalfan al Yahyai from RNO-Wudum was the best Omani sailor with an 11th place overall. It is the third time he takes this place. Abdulhakeem Al-Keyumi from Castaways came second. Last year they scored the opposite

with Hakim on first and Rashid on 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.

Strong winds

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.

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 power full 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 position 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.

Prices 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. The RAHBC sailing captain, Cees van Eden congratulated Tony with the excellent organisation of the championship.

Good support

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 for further support next year.

The Oman Sail Academy has started training young Omanies 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.

Douwe Sickler rules the waves



Results

No	Name	Points	Comment
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3	Stephen Rice	19	Overall 3rd Place
4	Dave Clark	25	
5	Tony Miles	44	
6	Gordon Whitley	51	
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8	Victoria Granger	85	Best Lady
9	Paul Henri van Thiel	92	Youth: (15)
10	Joset Boemarts	94	
11	Rashid Khalfan al Yahy	95	Best Omani 1st Place
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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.

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



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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.

Volvo 2009 Oman National Laser Championship attracts strong turnout



David Aziz from Volvo-MHD and Mohsin al Busaidy from Oman Sail presenting the Rolling Trophy to new National Champion Douwe Sickler with Tony Van Theil, RAHBC Commodore and Laser Captain looking on



The fleet just after the start sailing towards the windward buoy in very strong wind

Douwe Sickler new national champion; Rashid Khalfan al Yahyai named best Omani sailor in one-man Olympic class sailing dinghy event

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The Laser is a small single sail boat sailed by one person. It is an Olympic single design class which is very popular around the world. Laser sailing is a fantastic sport which can be practised in Oman throughout the year. In strong winds the sailing is very physical; the boat gives you a great workout. With Oman's strong history of sailing, good winds, beautiful beaches and deep blue sea, Laser sailing has the prospective to become a true national sport with the potential of Omani participation in world class events such as the Asian and Olympic Games.



Excellent sailing conditions made for a very exciting competition



The winners (best Overall 3/2/1 on the left and best Omani 1/2/3 on the right) with David Aziz from Volvo-MHD and Mohsin al Busaidy from Oman Sail in the middle

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أشعة أصغر نصف قطرية
وأشعة ٧ر بدلاً من الأشعة
القياسية الكبيرة. تم تنظيم ٣
سباقات حيث فاز دوي بهم
جميعاً بدون منازع. جرت معركة
شرسة على المركز الثاني والمركز
الثالث والمركز الرابع في كل
سباق بين توني وستيفن وديف
كلارك حيث جاء توني في المركز
الثاني وتبعه ستيفن وديف. وكان
من الجيد رؤية مشاركة ٤ من
الشباب بلغت أعمارهم بين ١٤
إلى ١٦ سنة. الكسندر رايس (١٤)
والذي حصل على لقب أفضل
شاب حيث جاء السابع عموماً.
وكان الإبحار في اليوم الأول
عملاً بطولياً بارزاً. حقق بول
هنري فان شيل (١٥) المركز
التاسع وجاء تيم ستريت (١٦) في
المركز الخامس عشر وروبرت فان
ايدين (١٤) في المركز السابع
عشر أحسنتم يا أولاد!

وتم توزيع الجوائز التي رعتها
كل من فولفو - محسن حيدر
درويش ش.م.م وعمان للإبحار
إلى المشاركين من قبل محسن
البوسعيدى (عمان للإبحار)
وديفيد عزيز من فولفو - محسن
حيدر درويش ش.م.م. وقد تقدم
توني فان نيل (رئيس جمعية ليزر
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فيرداسدوك للإدارة الممتازة
للسباقات. وقد هنا كابتن الإبحار
بنادي رأس الحمراء للقوارب توني
على التنظيم الممتاز للبطولة.
وختم توني بتوجيه الشكر إلى
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■ قارب ليزر يسير بأقصى سرعة



■ لحظة جماعية للفائزين في السباق

في بطولة فولفو - جمعية ليزر عمان لعام ٢٠٠٩

راشد خلفان اليحيائي أفضل بحار عماني ودوي سيكلر في الصدارة

لائقاً بدنياً إلى حد بعيد. وبنهاية
اليوم الأول حقق دوي فوزين وكان
متقدماً بثلاث نقاط عن توني.
وفي اليوم التالي هبت الرياح
قوية مرة أخرى بدرجة أقل قوة من
اليوم السابق مما خلق ظروف
إبحار ممتازة حيث تعامل معها
معظم الأسطول بشكل جيد. قرر
البحارون الأخف بذكاء استخدام

فقط من إكمال الطريق. انخفض
عدد الذين أنهوا السباق في كل
سباق إلى ٧ فقط في الفعالية
الخامسة والنهائية لليوم حيث
وصلت سرعة الرياح إلى ٢٠ عقدة
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الاستمرار في المشاركة.
شهد اليوم الأول للسباق رياحاً
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الماضي حققا نتائج عكسية حيث
جاء حكيم في المركز الأول وجاء
راشد في المركز الثاني. أحرز
محمود الزراني من البحرية
السلطانية العمانية - دمام المركز
الثالث. فقد شارك في سباقين
وكان من الممكن الذهاب لأبعد من
ذلك ولكنه أصيب خلال انقلاب
للقارب وبعد ذلك كان عليه ترك

ثالثاً بـ ١٩ نقطة.
حقق راشد خلفان اليحيائي من
البحرية السلطانية العمانية - دمام
لقب أفضل بحار عماني محققاً
المركز الـ ١١ من الجميع مما يُعد
أداءً ممتازاً. وهذه هي المرة الثالثة
التي يحتل فيها هذا المركز. وجاء
عبدالحكيم الكوي من كاستويس
في المركز الثاني. وفي العام

من البحرية السلطانية العمانية
وكاستويس (نادي الطيران المدني
الترفيهي) وعمان للإبحار ونادي
رأس الحمراء للقوارب.
جاء دوي سيكلر في المركز
الأول محرزاً ٩ نقاط (من ٨
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المركز الثاني من نصيب توني فان
نيل (١٦ نقطة) وتبعه ستيفن رايس

انطلقت بطولة فولفو عمان
الوطنية لعام ٢٠٠٩ لليزر (قوارب
إبحار أولمبية صغيرة بقيادة بحار
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نظّمته جمعية ليزر عمان ونادي
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Volvo 2009 Oman National Laser Championship

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ranking (seventh 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! Prices 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. The RAHBC sailing captain, Cees van Eden congratulated Tony with the excellent organisation

of the championship. Tony finished by thanking Volvo-Mhd and Oman Sail for their sponsorship of the event. Volvo has a long history in their link with sailing and has been the title sponsor for this event for the second year. Check: www.rahbc.pdorc.com/Sailing/Sailraces/2009-OLA-Nationals.htm

