

Volvo 2009 Oman National Laser Championship

The MHD LLC sponsored Volvo 2009 Oman National Championship for Lasers (one man Olympic class sailing dinghies) sailed for the 27th time from the beach off the Ras Al Hamra Recreation Centre recently. 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). 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, an excellent performance. 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 two races and would have gone on much stronger but hurt himself during a capsized 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 two wins and was already three 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. Three races were held and Douwe won them all. A clear winner. A fierce battle for second and third and fourth 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 four youngsters aged 14 to 16 years. Alexander Rice (14) took the "Best Youth"

Final results :

No	Name	Points	Comment
1	Douwe Sickler	9	Overall 1st Place
2	Tony van Thiel	16	Overall 2nd Place
3	Stephen Rice	19	Overall 3rd Place
4	Dave Clark	25	
5	Tony Males	44	
6	Gordon Whitley	51	
7	Alexander Rice	82	Best Youth (14)
8	Victoria Grainger	85	Best Lady
9	Paul-Henri van Thiel	92	Youth: (15)
10	Joost Bloemarts	94	
11	Rashid Khalfan al Yahji	95	Best Omani 1st Place
12	Steve Williams	111	
13	Jack Tarr	113	
14	Abdulhakeem Al-Kiyumi	122	Best Omani 2nd Place
15	Tim Street	126	Youth: (16)
16	Aly Brandenburg	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 Habsi	159	
21	David Price	163	
22	Peter Evans	169	Great Grand Master (over 65)
23	Osman Bilal	172	Wooden Spoon
24	Jamil bin Hassan al Hadrami	172	Wooden Spoon

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

