

# VOLVO 2011 RAHBC OMAN OPEN LASER CHAMPIONSHIP HELD



The Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD) sponsored Volvo 2011 Ras al Hamra Boat Club (RAHBC) Oman Open Championship for Lasers (one man Olympic class sailing dinghies) was held for the 29th time last weekend from the beach off the Ras al Hamra Recreation Centre.

Fifteen sailors took part in the

event organised by RAHBC and the Oman Laser Association (OLA) with participants from Castaways (Civil Aviation Recreation Club) and RAHBC.

Alex Rice, age 16, won the event with eight points out of seven races (a near repeat of last year when he came third behind two champions

from Qatar). The second place was for RAHBC commodore and event organiser Tony van Thiel (12 points) with sailing captain and best lady Aly Brandenburg in third place (21 points). The fourth place was for John Ambrose, 13. The youth proved again that they can beat the more experienced sailors.

Thursday had started with light easterly winds gradually strengthening throughout the afternoon. This created demanding sailing conditions in the first few races with lots of wind patches and shifts.

For a sailor this means he has to continuously evaluate where he is going to sail for optimum speed. In the first race, Aly went left while Tony and some others thought the right hand side was better. They were wrong as Aly was 300m ahead at the first mark and kept it that way till the end.

The following four races established the pattern similar to the final result. Alex won three races and Tony one. It may be noted that there were two second places of David Boeyinga and a third place of Abdul Hakeem al Kiyumi from Castaways in the third race of the day. Abdul ended lower than expected as he could not return for the races on the second day - his wife had delivered a baby!

Friday saw a completely different wind pattern - westerly, gradually

weakening and turning North West. This combined with a fairly strong westerly current made for some very challenging and exiting racing.

Alex won the first one, Tony the second. Aly came third and John fourth in both races. During the final lap of the last race the wind died completely as if someone had switched it off so the fleet was send back to beach for de-rigging and cleaning .

Prices were awarded to all participants by Volvo MHD's representatives Rakesh Malhotra, Brendan Lopez and Umesh Rao. Volvo has a long history in sailing and MHD has been the title sponsor for this event for the fourth year.

Tony thanked the officers of the day (OOD's) Fred Rourke and Sam Mason assisted by Sam, Olly, Alec and Lucie, for the management of the races. He also thanked all the competitors for taking part, the RAHRC staff and management for the great facilities as well as Volvo MHD for sponsoring them.

Some others thought the right hand side was better. They were wrong as Aly was 300m ahead

# Young Alex new Oman Open Champion

THE Volvo 2011 RAHBC Oman Open Championship for Lasers (one man Olympic class sailing dinghies) was sailed for the 29th time last weekend from the beach off the Ras al Hamra Recreation Centre. Fifteen sailors competed in the event, which was sponsored by Mohsin Haider Darwish and organised by the Ras al Hamra Boat

Club (RAHBC) and the Oman Laser Association (OLA) with participants from Castaways (Civil Aviation Recreation Club) and RAHBC.

Alex Rice, 16, won the event with just 8 points out of 7 races (an almost repeat of last year when he ended 3rd behind 2 champions from Qatar). Second place was for RAHBC Commodore and event organ-

iser Tony van Thiel (12 points) with Sailing Captain and best Lady Aly Brandenburg in third place (21 points). Fourth place was for John Ambrose, 13, did very well in a strong fleet considering his age. The youth showed again that they can easily beat the older and more experienced sailors.

Thursday started with light easterly winds gradually

strengthening throughout the afternoon. This created demanding sailing conditions in the first few races with lots of wind patches and shifts. For the sailor this means he has to continuously evaluate where he is going to sail his boat for optimum speed. In the first race Aly went left whilst Tony and some others thought the right hand side was better. They were wrong. Aly was 300m ahead at the first mark and kept it that way to the end.

The following 4 races established the pattern of the end result. Alex won three of them and Tony 1. To note were two second places of David Boeyinga and a third place of Abdul Hakeem al Kiyumi from Castaways in the 3rd race of the day. Hakeem ended lower than expected as he could not return for the races on the second day — his wife delivered a baby girl — congratulations!

Friday saw a completely



different wind pattern: West-erly gradually weakening and turning North West. This combined with a fairly strong westerly current made for some very challenging and exciting racing. Alex won the first one, Tony the second. Aly followed as 3rd and John as 4th in both races. During the final lap of the last race the wind died completely (as if someone switched it off). The fleet

was sent back to beach for de-rigging and cleaning the boats and the prize giving ceremony that followed.

All the participants were awarded by Volvo MHD representatives Rakesh Malhotra, Brendan Lopez and Umesh Rao. Volvo has long history in their link with sailing in the world and MHD has been the title sponsor for this event for the fourth year.

# Rice wins Volvo 2011 RAHBC sailing event

**MUSCAT** The Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC-sponsored Volvo 2011 RAHBC Oman Open Championship for Lasers (one man Olympic class sailing dinghies) was held for the 29th time from April 14 to 17 at the beach off the Ras Al Hamra Recreation Centre.

Fifteen sailors competed in the event organised by the Ras Al Hamra Boat Club (RAHBC) and the Oman Laser Association (OLA) with participants from Castaways (Civil Aviation Recreation Club) and RAHBC, a press release stated.

16-year-old youngster Alex Rice won the event with eight points out of seven races (an almost repeat of last year when he ended third behind two champions from Qatar). Second place went for RAHBC Commodore and event organiser Tony van Thiel (12 points) with Sailing Captain and best Lady Aly Brandenburg in third place (21 points). The fourth place went to 13-year-old John Ambrose. The youths showed again they can beat the older more experienced sailors!

The event began on Thursday with light easterly winds gradually strengthening throughout the afternoon creating challenging conditions in the first few races with lots of wind



**Participants in action.**

patches and shifts.

Friday saw a completely different wind pattern: Westerly gradually weakening and tuning North West. This combined with a fairly strong westerly current made for some very challenging and exiting racing. Alex won the first one, Tony the second. Aly followed as third and John as fourth in both races. During the final lap of the last race the wind died completely. The fleet was send back to beach for de-rigging and cleaning the boats and the price giving ceremony that followed.

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and Umesh Rao. Volvo has long history in their link with sailing in the world and MHD has been the title sponsor for this event for the fourth year.

Tony thanked the Officers of the Day (OOD's) Fred Rourke and Sam Mason assisted by Sam, Olly, Alec and Lucie, for the excellent management of the races. He also thanked all the competitors for taking part, the RAHRC staff and management for the great facilities and Volvo-MHD for the sponsorship. All-in-all an excellent regatta which highlighted again the excellent potential for sailing in Oman.

23/04/2011 Oman Tribune