



Press Release RAHBC & Oman Laser Association - 17 April 2011

VOLVO 2011 RAHBC OMAN OPEN LASER CHAMPIONSHIP



Young Alex Rice new Oman Open Champion



The Moshin Haider Darwish LLC sponsored 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. 15 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.

16 year old youngster Alex Rice 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 organiser Tony van Thiel (12 points) with Sailing Captain and best Lady Aly Brandenburg in third place (21 points). 4th place was for John Ambrose who did very well in a strong fleet considering he is only 13 yrs of age. The youth showed again they can beat the older 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 3 of them and Tony 1. To note were two second places of David Boeyinga and a 3rd 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: 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 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.

Prizes were awarded to all participants 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.

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.

For full details and pictures of the event see:

<http://www.rahbc.pdorc.com/Sailing/Sailraces/2011-OLA-Nationals.htm>

Final results:

No	Name	Points	Comment
1.	Alex Rice	8	Oman Open Champion
2.	Tony van Thiel	12	Oman Open 2nd place
3.	Aly Brandenburg	21	Oman Open 3rd place & First Lady
4.	John Ambrose	27	Youngest (13)
5.	David Boeyinga	39	
6.	Fred Park	40	
7.	Paul Frost	43	
8.	Victor Ogg	43	
9.	Jonathan Evans	44	
10.	Peter Thielitz	64	
11.	Richard Williamson	65	
12.	Steve Williams	67	
13.	Abdul Hakeem Al-Kiyumi	68	
14.	Jamie Stewart	68	
15.	Irene Gomez	69	

Pictures of the event



The 3 event winners (Aly, Alex and Tony) with Volvo-MHD representatives.



The fleet towards the up-wind buoy with Al Fahal island in the background



Tight sailing at a start



The new Oman Laser Open Champion Alex Rice



The fleet immediately after starting race 3



The fleet positioning itself prior to a start



All the competitors before the start of the sailing



The 3 event winners (Aly, Alex and Tony) with Volvo-MHD representatives.