**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

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| **Extreme Sailing Series**  This high profile, global event attracts international teams of the highest calibre, with Olympic medallists and America’s Cup winners among the crew. Oman Sail’s two Extreme 40 teams, The Wave, Muscat and Oman Air are among the top-ranked boats, with Omani sailors competing on both teams.  The Sultanate has also hosted the opening act of the world’s most exciting sailing event for two years running. The events were a tremendous success, most importantly the universal comment from these world-renowned sailors was that the sailing conditions in Oman were perfect and provided some of the best sailing in the world.  Quote: “Oman has proven to be one of our best venues on the Extreme Sailing Series circuit. It’s great to see the positive effects of taking a major event there - inspiring more kids to get into the sport.”  Mark Turner – CEO, OC Group  **Laser World Championships 2013**  At its first attempt, Oman was selected by the World Council of the International Laser Class Association to host the 2013 Laser Worlds. With a purpose built world-class venue and an established National Dinghy Squad, Oman is looking forward to making these Worlds one of the most memorable and professionally-run championships in the long history of the Laser class. With an ambition to qualify Omani sailors for the 2020 Olympics, hosting this major event offers many local young sailors the opportunity to witness and be inspired by the thrill of Olympic-standard competition.  **Mussanah Race Week**  Successful multiple class regattas are already held internationally and regionally in Qatar, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. We felt it was time to host one in Oman, so in 2011 Mussanah Race Week was established, with events reflecting the popular sailing classes within the Sultanate, such as the Laser and RS Q’Ba dinghies and the Hobie 16 and Nacra Formula 18 catamarans.  By the second event in early 2012, Mussanah Race Week attracted 165 competitors from nine different nations to complete at the three-day regatta.  One of the great attractions is Oman Sail’s commitment to holding coaching sessions for all competitors prior to the regatta.  Each year the sessions are led by a team of respected and talented international sailors who have competed at the very highest levels in the sport. In the first two years, coaches have included multiple World Champion and double Olympic medallist Darren Bundock, double F18 catamaran World Champion Coen de Koning, and British Olympic sailors Leigh McMillan, Will Howden and Hugh Styles. Access to experienced and professional coaching, included in the entry fee, benefits both aspiring sailors in the region and provides a fresh perspective for their own coaches.  Bringing in overseas talent is just one part of the grand plan for Mussanah Race Week. Our short- to medium-term plan is for Mussanah Race Week to become the most recognised dinghy regatta in the region. Our 10-year plan is to make this an ISAF Grade 1 event, and for it to become part of the international sailing calendar. We also have hopes that it will become part of the qualifiers for the Olympics.  “The wind conditions are fantastic and the facility here is great. The Sports City in Musannah offers an ideal destination for sailors around the world to train, race and even prepare for international events such as the Olympics.”  Hugh Styles, former Laser European Champion and British Olympic representative in the multihull  “Mussanah Race Week is a fantastic format with coaching from some of the world’s top sailors including the boys from Oman's own Extreme 40s, followed by intense racing in a very cool venue. The success of the Musannah Race Week is a testament to the strides made by Oman Sail in such a short period. Expert teaching and engaging training and the thirst for knowledge and love of the sport among the locals are impressive. I'm also thrilled that so many young women took part. I'm really looking forward to seeing them in action and working with them to achieve their ambitions in the sport.”  Shirley Robertson, double Olympic Champion and TV presenter  **2nd Asian Beach Games**  The 2nd Asian Beach Games were held in Muscat, Oman in December 2010. The opening ceremony was held in the Al-Mussanah Sports City. The event comprised 52 events across 14 sports, one of which was sailing, with the regatta managed by Oman Sail. An impressive 43 out of 45 Asian countries participated in these Games, the only exceptions being North Korea and Macau.  **Sailing Arabia – The Tour**  In 2011, Oman Sail successfully created an offshore event in the mould of successful European events such as the Tour de France à la Voile. The inaugural event saw an international fleet race from Manama to Muscat – making Oman and the Arabian Peninsula a legitimate winter venue in the world’s sailing calendar.  More than 50% of the sailors competing were from the Arab states, meeting one of Oman Sail’s aims of creating strong, healthy sports competition between the Gulf States, ensuring the continued development of the region’s sailors. During both years, international teams also participated with America’s Cup veterans such as France’s Bertrand Pacé, adding an extra dimension to the event and bringing a wealth of experience.  Oman Sail handles all event logistics, making it possible for international and regional teams to participate from any part of the world.  Quote: “I can speak for the overwhelming majority of my colleagues, friends and opponents when I say, what a magnificent opportunity to visit seven new cities, four countries and over 1000 nautical miles of varied and ever more beautiful landscape. And most importantly, what freshness to experience, first hand, the world-class organisation on the part of Oman Sail, throughout every leg of the journey.”  Vincent Portugal, Team Manager and Skipper, Team New Caledonia – FRANCE  Quote: “We are aiming to develop sailing as one of the fastest growing sports in the region. It is the strategy of the club to provide our support to make sailing events a success and, considering the tour includes ‘Arabia’, we aim to use this as a tool to show the brotherly relationship between other GCC and Arabian countries.”  Ahmad Thani Al Rumaithi, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Sailing and Yacht Club  **Musandam non-stop circumnavigation**  In the winter of 2008/09 Musandam, the 75-foot hi-tech trimaran (formerly sailed by Dame Ellen MacArthur when the boat was known as B&Q / Castorama) completed a non-stop circumnavigation, beginning and ending in Muscat. In so doing Omani crew member, Mohsin Al Busaidi, became the first Arab to circumnavigate the world non-stop.  **Indian Ocean 5 Capes Race**  Majan is the first of a new class of the Arabian 100 (A100) Trimarans. One of the fastest offshore multihulls in the world, Majan has been adapted to the purpose of training young Omani sailors in offshore racing.  The main objective behind the creation of this new class is not to take on the ‘classic’ European events but to help pave the way for a thriving professional racing scene in the Gulf region and around the Indian Ocean.  In February 2010 Majan, led by Whitbread Race veteran Paul Standbridge, joined by Mohsin Al Busaidi , Mohammed Al Ghailani and two other international sailors and a media reporter, tracked a potential new route in the Indian Ocean – the Indian Ocean 5 Capes Race.  The route was successfully completed in May 2010 and ran from Muscat to the Maldives, onto Cape Town and Fremantle before returning to Muscat via Singapore. In total Majan sailed 23,000 nautical miles.  **MOD70 circuit**  Oman Sail has entered a team into the MOD70 trimaran circuit which launched in 2012. Already our multihull, Musandam, has competed in a very windy and challenging five-day transatlantic crossing, the Krys Ocean Race, as well as this autumn’s European Tour. Skippered by Volvo Ocean Race winning sailor Sidney Gavignet, the focus is on teaching and passing on skills to talented young Omani sailors, and to climb up the rankings as the season progresses and the team’s experience grows.  **Tour de France a la Voile**  Oman Sail teams have participated in several editions of the Tour de France à la Voile with a 50% Omani crew. Oman’s Team BAE Systems posted a credible fourth place result at the 2012 Tour de France a la Voile, just one point off the podium. |