



Clint Derric Egbert

## SAILING TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

"We gave our maximum for one month and it has paid off, we are really happy to have come fifth. A month-long race is a huge challenge, especially with the ever changing winds. At the start we had little (wind), but once (we were) in the Mediterranean we had up to 35 knots (65kmh). We have learnt so much here in France and we now want to keep learning and get even stronger," said crew member Nawaf Al Gheedani after Oman Sail's Renaissance battled to a respectable fifth place in the 33rd Tour de France à la Voile 2010.

Going up against the best in the world is no easy feat, but Renaissance's 10-man crew – both Omani and international – are no less than the best in the world; and this they have proved by giving some of the most talented sailors in the world some very stiff competition. Considering that this is the first time they have competed in such a race, fifth place is obviously a sign that in the coming years Oman will prove to be a force to be reckoned with.

Yassir Al Rahbi, another crew member onboard, said, "One of Oman Sail's objectives is to promote Oman in international regattas. Today, everyone is asking about us and about Oman, especially as they understand how difficult this race is and to finish where we did the very first time we participated. We are very proud to be representing Oman in this race. We thank God for this win and hope to continue to represent our country well into the future."



The event had sailors tirelessly working for as long as a month, testing their capability and skills more and more as the race progressed, throwing challenges at every turn. However, with expert skipper Rob Greenhalgh in command and a determined crew with wills of steel and guts of metal, every hurdle was passed, taking Oman closer to their dream of rekindling the maritime heritage of the country.

"We are more than pleased with this performance, especially when we consider the level of the other crews. This is promising for us because we will be back on this race with a new boat (next year), the M34." Nasser, Nawaf, Abdhullah, Ali and Yasser told me that they had learned a lot about this race. They had highs and lows, because a month is long, and at times tedious, yet they had to remain focused. "For Oman Sail, it is a total success. This result is going to be a source of inspiration for all members of the Oman Sail School in Oman, but also for all the children we teach," said the ecstatic Oman Sail CEO, David Graham, after the race.



It was a beautiful Friday and the waters off Shatti Al Qurum appeared calm and cool, the perfect conditions for a swimming competition. Seventeen swimmers geared up to compete in the Tempest or Teapot Swim where 800m, 400m, 1600m, and 200m swims took place in consecution. Swimmers took to the water at 7:30am till 10:30am on the 23rd of July, after which the Park Inn Muscat rejuvenated competitors with a discounted delicious breakfast buffet and also gave away complementary vouchers to the hotel. It's nice to see that swimming is gaining popularity in Oman and is being given the support the sport truly deserves. Red Bull generously provided the umbrellas and course markers, along with the Park Inn's support of the event. Hopefully, in time, more companies will step up to promote sporting events such as this. We at Y would like to encourage people to participate in such activities; it is not only a healthy recreation but a great way to utilise holidays. Congratulations Muscat Amateur Swimming Association on a job well done.



## RESULTS

### 200m

1st place – Mark Elliot (3:50)  
2nd place – Peye Ulot (4:12)  
3rd place – Aalap Deepak Valia (4:13)

### 400m

1st place – Vigneshwar Madhan (9:44)  
2nd place – Aalap Deepak Valia (9:56)  
3rd place – Chris Bartlett (11:49)

### 800m

1st place – Andrew Malinak (17:08)  
2nd place – Vigneshwar Madhan (18:18)  
3rd place – Aalap Deepak Valia (18:21)

### 1600m

1st place – Andrew Malinak (34:53)  
2nd place – Peye Ulot (39:47)  
3rd place – Aalap Deepak Valia (42:55)

