

Dutch sailor carries ULO trophy to the Netherlands



Roel Ballieux from the Dutch sailing club De Doordrijvers convincingly won this year's edition of the Uganda Laser Open sailing regatta held at Kaazi over the weekend. With 12 points out of 10 races (3 discards), he sailed clear ahead of first runner-up Reint Bakema of the Victoria Nyanza Sailing Club (24 points), and second runner-up and last year's winner Don White of the Naivasha Yacht Club (25 points).

The three-day competition was marred by low and shifty winds that put the 43 competitors' sailing skills and the race officer's course design skills to the

ultimate test. Racing during day 1 and day 3 was postponed several hours because of lack of wind. Only the second day saw a fresh breeze in the afternoon which generated occasional planing conditions. Despite these varied conditions Ballieux managed to put in a consistent series of races, finishing all but one race in the top three. With the winner practically decided by the end of day two, White and Bakema were pitted against each other with only a few points between them to fight for the second and third podium place. Unlike last year, when White won the battle, this year Bakema ended ahead after White picked up a OCS during the first and a DNS during the third race of the last day and finished one place behind Bakema during the second race.

The Ladies' winner was Annabel Bowerman (VNSC), while the 1st place in the Senior category went to Gordon Bell (VNSC). Another Dutch visitor, Eric van den Thillart (De Koenen), took the 1st Apprentice position and Gordon Davidson (VNSC) was the best under 18 years sailor. Stephen Luswata (VNSC), who put in some excellent races, eventually dropped to a second Senior position because of gear failure during day 2 and 3.

Prize giving was conducted at the renovated club house of the VNSC at Kaazi. Brussels Airlines generously contributed an airticket to Europe for auctioning to cover the cost of the regatta and the renovation.

The event coincided with the 75th anniversary of the VNSC. Ex-commodores Ray Gibbons and John Wyles, and current commodore Gordon Bell recalled the rich history of the Victoria Nyanza Sailing Club for the competitors and their supporters. In his winner's speech Roel Ballieux mentioned that he was impressed by the high quality of sailing and race organisation in Uganda and that he would promote this annual event amongst European Laser sailors.

Dutch sailor carries ULO trophy to the Netherlands

Final scores:

Overall Rank	First Name	Surname	Prize	Total Points
1	Roel	Ballieux	1st Overall	12
2	Reint	Bakema	2nd Overall	24
3	Don	White	3rd Overall	25
4	Erik	van den Thillart	1st Apprentice	37
5	Gordon	Bell	1st Senior	38
6	Stephen	Luswata	2nd Senior	39
7	Hans	Meijers	2nd Apprentice	48
8	Philip	Betts	3rd Senior	52
9	Tom	Morton	3rd Apprentice	55
10	Mark	Henstridge	1st Sunday	57
11	Dick	Stockley	1st Saturday	59
11	Kim	Bowerman	1st Friday	59
13	Steven	Scott		61
14	Allan	Jones		65
15	Steven	Reynolds		71
16	Keith	Flowers		83
16	Oskar	Rothen		83
18	Jean-Paul	Minet		103
19	Dennis	White		109
20	Stephen	Waldron		124
21	John	Wyles		130
22	Gordon	Davidson	1st Youth	140
23	Annabel	Bowerman	1st Lady	145
24	Robert	Whitwam		150
25	Jonathan	Betts	2nd Youth	156
26	Rosanna	Betts	2nd Lady	172
27	Todd	Benson		174
28	Patricia	Knox	3rd Lady	176
29	Robert	Moodie		178
30	Jeannette	Higham		179
31	Peter	Gudgeon		183
32	Alice	Martineau		194
33	Pedro	Seambelar		203
34	Maike	Joenje		204
35	Esmond	Bowerman	3rd Youth	209
36	Gerard	Bueters		214
37	Dennis	Lapham		221
38	Francisco	Seambelar		229
39	Beatrice	Crahay		236

Dutch sailor carries ULO trophy to the Netherlands

Overall Rank	First Name	Surname	Prize	Total Points
40	Katie	Wakeham	1st Handicap	244
41	Marcela	Seambelar		258
42	Sam	Hodges		259
43	Amanda	Rider		284