

## EDITORIAL

### A chance to shine

**The** 2013 ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship that gets underway in Limassol is one of the biggest sporting events ever hosted in Cyprus.

**As** such, it represents a massive challenge but also an unrivalled opportunity.

**It** is a challenge because it will test the island's ability to host a sporting event of world importance.

**But** it is also the opportunity to shine as the spotlight falls on our little island.

**As** Olympic silver medallist Pavlos Kontides told this newspaper it is of paramount importance that Cyprus runs a successful event and demonstrates it is capable of handling such major competitions. At issue is not just proving we can do it – so that we can therefore hope to host other major events in the not too distant future.

**Success** also means raising Cyprus' image – both abroad and at home.

**Cyprus** is highly dependent on tourist revenue – from holidaymakers who travel here to enjoy the sun, sea and sights, but also athletes who wish to encourage to use the island for their training.

**Bringing** some 300 young athletes from 60 countries to Cyprus to compete in the sport where a young Cypriot made sporting history by clinching our first ever Olympic medal is more than just symbolic.

**It** can have very real, practical results. Beyond promoting Cyprus around the world, it can promote the sport of sailing encouraging other young people to follow in his footsteps.

**For** the youngsters who make up Cyprus' team, participating in such an event in their own country must be particularly exciting.

**Cypriots** have had precious little reason to rejoice recently. Let's make this event a happy one, irrespective of who wins or loses.

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