



Sixth Dun Laoghaire Regatta sails into town

Neil Fetherstonhaugh

IRELAND'S biggest sailing event, the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta, is breezing into town from Thursday, July 9 to 12.

There will be a fantastic festival atmosphere across the waterfront and Dun Laoghaire as four sailing clubs, 400 boats and 2,500 competitors come together for the biennial event.

The Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club, the Royal Irish Yacht Club, the Royal St George Yacht Club and the National Yacht Club Set will be hosting an exciting four days of racing in Dublin Bay over the course of the event.

The bay and surrounding area will be a hive of activity for the sixth staging of this regatta and there will be plenty of action out on the water across 29 different classes racing on eight different race course areas.

The quality of sailing will be extremely high with some of the country's top class sailors taking part, including Olympian Annalise Murphy and Dave Cullen who will skipper CheckMate XV in the IRC II class, which was the overall winner in the 2013 Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta.

There are boats travelling from all over the country as well as a large number from overseas and they will be fighting it out for the top position in their classes across the four days.

There will also be lots of entertainment for those on land including live music from the Hit Machine Drummers, St Maur's Pipe Band and one of Ireland's best family entertainers, the Great Gazpacho.

Organisers say the entertainment will be spread out along the waterfront to ensure everyone is kept amused at all times.

There will also be great days out for all the family with the delicious People's Park Market

offering some of the best market food available in Dublin while the addition of the popular FunFair Euroshow on Harbour Road will be sure to entertain the children.

Tim Goodbody, 2015 Volvo Dún Laoghaire Regatta Chairman, said: "We are really looking forward to kicking off our festivities on July 9 and welcoming all our 2,500 participants, both Irish and international.

"We have been working towards this event ever since the last one finished in 2013 and we have no doubt that this year will be just as successful."

Adrian Yeates, Managing Director, Volvo Car Ireland, added: "It is wonderful to see Dun Laoghaire and Dublin Bay light up over an exciting four days of racing.

"We wish all participants the very best of luck."



Boats taking part in a previous Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta that will feature Annalise Murphy (left) this year. Photo by David Branigan/Oceansport