



Music in my sails...

DO YOU like music? Check. Do you like sailing? Check. The Rock and Blues Regatta Festival is right for you! Coming off the heels of the 96 races of the 2013 Sail First ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship in Limassol, this festival celebrates not only sailing but also the exciting tunes of jazz, rock and blues.

More and more community sailing clubs, programmes and events are being organised across Cyprus and these open-to-the-public and mostly nonprofit clubs account for the recent resurgence of this once elitist sport whose popularity has waned since its heyday in the 1970s and 80s.

The results of their ISAF Youth World Sailing Championship left the company feeling quite positive. With over 350 sailors from 61 nations across eight different youth events, the championship was a major success not only for the sport but also for the country of Cyprus as hosts. SailFirst wanted to ride the momentum of that championship with another sailing-related event that was open to anyone. When mulling over the idea of creating a sailing and music festival, SailFirst Company, a project that has been designed to create opportunities for recreational sailing to all aspiring sailors, met up with Howard Benton.

Benton was doing marine work when they discovered he was also a talented musician and performer of many

compositions. This is when the project blossomed. Following the interest and support of many people, the festival will start on Thursday and end on Saturday with various performers from different countries taking part at Paphos Harbour.

Once the sun has set and the stars fill the night sky, there will be entertainment and three separate performances every evening for the participants. Local acts included in the festival are the stalwarts on the local live music circuit such as ever-popular Minus One and the Zilla Project. Meanwhile the international lineup will feature Rachele Plas from France as well as The Motives from the UK.

Twenty year-old Plas has captured audiences with her multi-faceted modern blues and strong personality. Originally a student of harmonica virtuoso Greg Zlap, she soon developed her own style between blues, jazz, country and gospel. In 2009 she surprised the global harp scene with her Kesselhaus sessions at the World Harmonica Festival. Since then she has become a champion of the harmonica.

The Motives bring some of the finest talent on the European blues scene, featuring one of the UK's finest contemporary blues guitarists Matt Taylor alongside the cream of the crop of British musicians; Andy Graham, voted bass player of the year 2010 & 2011 in the British





**Harmonica
player Rachelle
Plas from
France will
take part in the
festivities**

blues awards; Jonny Dyke, a stalwart of both the UK blues and session scenes; Roy Martin whose drumming has been heard on countless albums and stages the world over

The Motives sound unlike any other band on the current international blues scene, with inspiration taken from 40s New York, 50s Chicago and 60s London. Last year, they played all over the UK, opening for Robert Cray at Shepherd's Bush Empire as part of London Bluesfest 2012, as well as several gigs in Holland and Germany where the album was well received.

As the organiser and main sponsor of the event, Sail-First will be providing access to stalls and unlimited wine, beer and other drinks to anybody participating in the regatta. People with an interest in sailing and music are strongly encouraged to be a participant in this festival.

Applications are invited from ready crews as well as individual participants.

Rock and Blues Regatta Festival

Yacht-regatta which combines days of sailing with rock and blues music from a various different countries taking part. July 25. Paphos Harbour. 6pm. €19/45. Tel: 70-000240

By Miles Surrey

CYPRUS MAIL

Τετ, 24 Ιούλιος 2013, p.19

Αποδεκτίωση:24/07/2013

