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Legends fighting in 6mR World Cup

One of the highlights this year for Royal Swedish Yacht Club, celebrating 175th anniversary, will be the 6mR World Cup, taking place in Sandhamn the 25th – 30th of July. The race is sailed in two classes: the modern and the classic class.

Today, 65 boats from 17 nations are listed to participate, which makes the regatta the biggest 6mR event ever. Many of the boats and the sailors are living legends and very well known all over the world.

-With this international array of boats and sailors, the World Cup 2005 will be a unique and very exciting sailing event, that everyone with an interest in sailing, will have to follow, says Fredrik Feldreich, CEO of the Yacht Club.

6mR is the wellknown and prestigious sail racing class and it has brought up some of the best Swedish sailors. The race will take place very close to Sandhamn and there will be good chances to follow the race at sea from spectator ships.

The 6metre class has always been international with world famous designers such as Olin Stephens, Ian Howlett, Peter Norlin, Pelle Pettersson, Tore Holm, Paul Elvström, Johan Anker, Bjarne Aas and Doug Peterson. The class is also known for its famous sailors such as Sven Salén, John Kosteki, King Olav from Norway, Henrik Ramsay, Briggs Cunningham and Bruce Owen. Many of the designers have also, very successfully, raced in the 6mR class.

- This is the best and most exciting and also the most demanding racing class after America's Cup, says Peter Norlin, world famous Swedish designer, well known sailor and one of the participants this summer on his yacht Jungfrun.

Doug Peterson and Pelle Pettersson are also, most likely, participants in the World Cup 2005.

Thirty of the listed yachts are built after 1963 and are thus sailing in the modern class, where Carl-Gustaf Piehl and his crew hold the World Championship from Saint Tropez 2003.

They won by beating the German yacht Courage in the very last heat, after having raced side by side all week. Courage is originally Swedish and was designed by Pelle Pettersson.

- For the first time in many years, the classic class seems to be bigger than the modern, says Fredrich Dahlman, manager of the World Cup 2005.

But there is still two months to go, so we expect some more yachts to sign up. Perhaps there will be 70 yachts competing and we have the capacity to take in as many as 75-80 boats, says Fredrich, himself racing on the classic Swedish **Fågel Blå**, built in 1937, designed by Tore Holm and once owned by the famous Swedish sailor Sven Salén.

-Wherever I go with Fågel Blå, people come up and talk to me about having seen her in races all over the world, which is very nice, according to Fredrich.

Sara af Hangö, participating from Finland, is a true copy of **Violet**, built in 1947 and one of the most successful Finnish yachts, designed by Gösta Kyntzell.

The totally renovated **Djinn**, built in 1938, sailing with American sails, will also be racing for Finland. She is a sister boat to the famous American **Goose**, one of the most successful 6metre yachts in the world, designed by Sparkman & Stevens, that won almost every race in the 30's and 40's.

The Danish yacht **Sunray**, also participating in Sandhamn, is a true copy of the Swedish yacht **Sinkadus**, the most successful Swedish yacht in the 30's, designed by Arvid Laurin in 1939 and built by Harry Nyström, a sailing photographer. The oldest yacht arriving this summer is **Mosquito**, from Norway, built in 1914 and designed by Anker & Jensen.

Apart from the 65 yachts competing, five to ten yachts will take place as spectators only. By the bridge in Sandhamn, all the 6metre yachts, competing or not, will have displays with information on the yachts, such as designers, owners, races and so forth.

In 1995, when the Royal Swedish Yacht Club last arranged the World Cup in Sandhamn, the Swedish team won the World Cup modern class and Finland won the classic class.

In the last World Cup in Saint Tropez the Swedes were winners again in the modern class and, believe it or not, the Finns were winners in the classic class.

Let's see how it works out in Sandhamn in 2005!

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