



Dee Caffari will lead sixth Volvo Ocean Race team

Dee Caffari will lead the sixth Volvo Ocean Race team 'Turn the Tide on Plastic' – a mixed youth focused team with a strong sustainability message.



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Dee Caffari is an experienced round-the-world sailor who will return for a second consecutive edition, having competed on Team SCA in 2014-15.

Caffari's campaign, already backed by the Mirpuri Foundation and Ocean Family Foundation, is dedicated to the issue of ocean health.

The sixth confirmed team out of a possible eight for the upcoming edition will amplify United Nations Environment's 'Clean Seas: Turn the Tide on Plastic' campaign throughout the eight months of the race.

Caffari's ambition is to build a multi-national, 50-50 male/female squad, with the majority under 30 years of age.

As part of the sustainability focus, the messages around diversity in age and gender will be strong themes of a campaign that in sporting terms may not start as a favourite, but could easily surprise on the water.

Caffari's team is already part-funded by the Mirpuri Foundation and Ocean Family Foundation (OFF), who join an increasing number of partners backing Volvo Ocean Race's campaign on ocean health and sustainability.

Paulo Mirpuri recently Skipped the former Green Dragon Volvo Open 70 yacht – renamed Mirpuri Foundation – on a 2,300-mile passage from Cape Verde to Babados.

Caffari will include two Portuguese sailors in the team with a view to building a full Portuguese team in future editions of the iconic race.

Paulo Mirpuri: *"In Portugal, we have long held a rich maritime heritage, and this youth-orientated campaign is a major step towards shaping the world-class future of Portuguese offshore racing."*

"The Mirpuri Foundation looks forward to working closely with the Volvo Ocean Race to achieve that objective over the coming years."

Alongside the Mirpuri Foundation, the aim of the Ocean Family Foundation is to promote awareness of the effects of pollution, the importance of bio diversity and the necessity for conservation of the world's oceans.

Caffari set a landmark record in 2006, becoming the first woman to sail single-handed and non-stop the 'wrong way' around the world.

Then in 2009, she completed the Vendée Globe race and set a new record to become the first woman to sail solo, non-stop, around the world in both directions.

The Turn the Tide on Plastic boat will amplify the Volvo Ocean Race's larger sustainability focus for 2017-18, and joins team AkzoNobel (Simeon Tienpont, Netherlands), Dongfeng Race Team (Charles Caudrelier, France), MAPFRE (Xabi Fernández, Spain), Vestas 11th Hour Racing (Charlie Enright, USA) and Team Sun Hung Kai/Scallywag (David Witt, Australia) in the fleet for the 2017-18 edition.

The Volvo Ocean Race starts from Alicante 22 October and will stop at Lisbon, Cape Town, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Auckland, Itajaí, Newport, Cardiff and Gothenburg before a big finish in The Hague at the end of June 2018.