



A repeat victory for The Dog's...! in this year's BNP Paribas Classic

JERSEY yacht The Dog's...! (right) took overall victory in this year's BNP Paribas Classic race to Guernsey.

Sarnian rival Kaya had led the 19-strong fleet into the wind to the east as far as the Violet Channel Buoy before turning north and setting a spinnaker for the fast run around St Catherine's Breakwater and up to Sark.

There, some three nautical miles off the island's east coast, sits the Blanchard Buoy and the skippers had to decide if, having gone around that mark, they would pass to the north or south of Sark.

Kaya (below, right), a J122 skippered by Roger Martel, decided to head south as did last year's victor, The Dog's...!, while Abracadabra, the Jersey yacht lying in third place at that point, decided to go north.

Kaya enjoyed the pleasure of crossing the finish line at St Peter Port first but the The Dog's...! (a Melges 24 skippered by Allen Brown) took a closer course to the west side of Herm and beat her by just over five minutes on overall handicap. Abracadabra (a Archambault 35 skippered by Bob de la Haye) also beat Kaya on corrected time – by just 41 seconds!

Recently revived, thanks to sponsorship by BNP Paribas, the 40-mile event was first run in 1978 when it was known as the Borsalino Race.

Saturday's start (below) was delayed slightly, race officer Ben Jones having to allow for ferry movements at St Helier, but once under way the fleet enjoyed wonderful sailing conditions with a strong northwards tide putting an extra 3-4 knots under their keels.

Marie-Martine Myatt, the wife of BNP Paribas' Cl



Country Head David Myatt (who came fifth in his vintage yacht Erica), presented the prizes at Guernsey Yacht Club on Saturday evening.

RESULTS: 1, The Dog's...! (J/Allen Brown) 6hr.33min. 15sec; 2, Abracadabra (J/Bob de la Haye) 6.37.42; 3, Kaya (G/Roger Martel) 6.38.23; 4, Arctic Tern (J/Philip Burton) 6.39.28; 5, Erica (J/David Myatt) 6.41.47.



Photos by LOUISE BENNETT-JONES



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