

Rolex Fastnet Race 2009:

09th of August 2009

Boris Herrmann successfully starts in the Rolex Fastnet Race 2009

The conditions were nearly perfect: With sunshine and a good breeze coming from the northeast, the Solent was truly on its best behavior, as the starting signal for the Rolex Fastnet Race 2009 was punctually given at 12:00 h. All in all, 300 crews in different boat classes started, including 14 German teams. Among them is Boris Herrmann from Oldenburg, with his new “Beluga Racer”.

In the field of the total of 19 participating yachts of the category Class 40, Herrmann boldly faces up to the high-carat, international competitors, prominently including Giovanni Soldini aboard the “Telecom Italia”, Tanguy de Lamotte aboard the “Initiative Saveurs – Novedia Group” and, not least, the Chilean team headed by Felipe Cubillos aboard the “Cabo de Hornos”.

Herrmann, who won the overall victory in the Portimão Global Ocean Race, together with his co-skipper Felix Oehme, as the first Germans in a race around the world, took Didier le Vourch, Gerald Bibot and Yvon Bereharr as his crew aboard. “For me, the participation in this annual Fastnet Race is, more than anything; a good preparation with respect to the next sailing challenges”, explains Herrmann. Included among these challenges is the Solidaire du Chocolat, a transatlantic race for the Class 40, scheduled to start in the middle of October 2009.

The Fastnet Race is one of the most demanding regattas. It received tragic notoriety 30 years ago, as some 15 sailors died in a hurricane.

The course, being 608 nautical miles long, extends from Cowes on the Isle of Wight, around the famous Fastnet Rock along the Irish coast and back towards Plymouth. Among the participants this year are, to name a few, Vincent Riou, the winner of the Vendée Globe 2004/2005, and Mike Sanderson, winner of the last Volvo Ocean Race. With Dee Caffari and Sam Davies, two female stars of the scene are present as well.

The Rolex Fastnet Race 2009 can be followed via a Race Tracker:

<http://fastnet.rorc.org> or: <http://beluga-racer.com>

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