

## **WINDS AND ROUGH SEAS CAUSE CANCELLATION OF MANY EASTER WEEKEND RACES**

Whitby Yacht Club sailors only managed two races over the Easter weekend and 4 others were cancelled. The first race was during the evening of Good Friday. Five boats competed in the first of a series of midweek races and in a close race *Antix* (John Allen and Sandy Ransom) gained 1 point as the winner, *Icon* (Neil and Lorraine Williamson) in 2nd place, 2 points and *Masquerade* (David Miller) in 3rd place, 3 points. There are 9 races scheduled in this series and the boat with the lowest aggregate score after the 9th race will win the Robinson-Swabby Trophy. One of the boats was *Minty* (Shaun Adams) out for the first time for a few years, under new ownership and a new name.

Skippers and their crews were down at the Marina early on Saturday morning ready to compete in the first 2 races of the Spring Series. 3 boats, *Antix*, *Icon* and *Bamboozle* (Mike Ellis) left the harbour and made their way to the start line (opposite to the Spa Pavilion). However, the north westerly wind was Force 5/6 gusting to F 7 and the decision was taken to return to harbour. The sailors were not faint-hearted but safety is always of paramount concern.

Disappointment was again prevalent on Sunday as the strong northerly wind had not abated.

Then Easter Monday dawned fair and sunny and 6 boats ventured out in a gentle breeze (F 2/3) to take part in a pursuit race. This is a race where the boats have staggered time starts, according to their handicaps and past performances in other pursuit races. The aim is to calculate the times so that if the boats are all sailed equally well there should be a close finish. *Icon* and *Antix* were the 5th and 6th boats, respectively, to set off and finished in 2nd and 1st places, respectively. *Tiger Rag* (Nathaniel Drake and George Davey), another new boat in the WYC fleet, was the 1st boat to set off and finished in 3rd place.