

## Riva Cup Races 3 and 4 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday saw the second of our trips away, to compete in one of our long distance races, this time to Hartlepool. It was a combination of events with both visiting boats and Whitby boats competing in the North East Cruising Association (NECRA) series of races and the Whitby boats competing for the Riva Cup, a trophy dating back to the days when the Club was created. The boats gathered on the start line and assessed their sail plans, some going for shortened sail with stronger winds being forecast and others going for full sail. However they would all be hard on the wind with a north-westerly moderate wind. *Icon* made the best start and hit the front, a position she wouldn't lose throughout the race. A variety of routes, some offshore and others inshore were chosen by the competitors with varying degrees of success. This made assessment of lead or trailing boats very difficult but as the boats entered Tees Bay, *Icon* maintained her lead over *Cold Steel*, *Mad Hatter*, *Runaway*, *Spot On*, *Samaki*, *Bamboozle*, *Rampage* and *Minty* and this order was kept until the end. The Whitby Yacht Club results were:

**Result:** Class A, 1<sup>st</sup> *Icon* (Neil & Lorraine Williamson), 2<sup>nd</sup> *Cold Steel*, (Colin Dey, Keith Gowland & Nigel Jarvis), 3<sup>rd</sup> *Samaki* (Nigel Robinson). Class B, *Bamboozle* (Mike Ellis), 2<sup>nd</sup> *Rampage* (Derek Wright & Paul Scaife).

A strong wind forecast for the Sunday saw the boats out nice and early and keen to get away, most with reduced sail. The wind had switched to a sou-souwesterly making the course close to the wind. The boats turned a few marks in Hartlepool Approaches before picking up their south-easterly heading for home. They all maintained a fast speed especially considering they were sailing against a strong spring tide. The forecast strong winds materialised and sail was reduced. The boats were quickly in to Whitby Bay but then had to combat extremely gusty winds at times and no wind at other times but the boats all completed the course in around 4 hours. *Icon* led the fleet in and the boats finished in the same order as the first race.

**Result:** Class A, 1<sup>st</sup> *Icon*, 2<sup>nd</sup> *Cold Steel*, 3<sup>rd</sup> *Samaki*. Class B, 1<sup>st</sup> *Bamboozle*, 2<sup>nd</sup> *Rampage*.