

## Whitby Yacht Club Open Regatta May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Spring Bank Holiday weekend is the traditional weekend for the Whitby Yacht Club Annual Regatta where racing is open to all sailors from up and down the north east coast of England. Unfortunately, there was only one visiting boat this year, *Phoenix II*, which came all the way from Hartlepool but it proved to be a worthwhile trip for her. Six races were scheduled to take place during the two days and the fleet was divided into 3 classes, fast cruisers, slow cruisers and a "white sail" class. The boats in this last class were boats which had declared that they were racing without flying spinnakers.

There was a strong easterly wind on Saturday and small sails were the order of the day. It was hard work for the crews as winches were overworked. The skippers were also challenged as they were sailing in low water conditions and two crews were caught out as their boats came to abrupt halts when they discovered how hard the Upgang Rocks actually are! Assistance from the inshore lifeboat was required in order to transfer one injured crew member ashore for medical attention. At the end of the day, *Antix* and *Samaki* came away with unbeaten records in classes 1 and 3, and *Phoenix II* gained a 2-1 lead in class 2.

Conditions had not improved for the racing on Sunday and if anything the wind was a little stronger. Some boats chanced sailing over the rocks off Upgang again and this time got away with it. However, lobster pots were a hazard this time as more than one boat picked up the lines on their keels and lost valuable time in releasing themselves. The leading boats in the first race had finished when "someone turned off that big fan in the sky" and the slower boats struggled to reach and cross the finish line without that essential motive power, the wind! Very light winds then set in and crews changed their sails for larger and lighter ones. The enthusiasm, however, had not waned for the next race and a highly competitive start, saw boats cross the line before the starting signal and have to return for a legal start. Although the wind was light, the tide was strong and a large allowance had to be made in order to get around the marks cleanly. There were miscalculations which resulted in some boats being carried well past the marks, including the Bell Buoy and others having to complete penalty turns because they had hit the marks. One crew made the classic error of hoisting her spinnaker sideways while in the middle of the fleet and received a rousing roar of sympathy! Only *Antix* and *Samaki* came through the ordeal unscathed and finished the regatta with six wins each. *Phoenix II* was victorious in class 2 despite forgoing the last two races in order to return to Hartlepool.

**Result:** Class 1 *Antix* (John Allen and Sandy Ransom), Class 2 *Phoenix II* (Colin Jackson), Class 3 *Samaki* (Nigel Robinson)