

Early Bird Trophy Saturday 14th April 2018

Six boats came out to compete in the first sailing race of the season for the Early Bird Trophy on Saturday and had a light easterly wind providing gentle sailing conditions. The choice of courses looked as if it would be limited, as the Trinity House vessel carried out repairs on the Bell Buoy but luckily, she had completed her task before the start of the race. The start was very competitive with all six in a line, with *Icon* getting her bow across the line first but with little momentum. *Antix* had greater speed and quickly hit the front, a position she would not lose throughout the race. *Icon* held on to second place and *Minty* rounded the first mark in 3rd place. Only *Antix* popped her spinnaker for the very shy reach out to the Bell Buoy. More spinnakers appeared at the Bell Buoy and *Minty* did well to catch *Icon* and stay ahead of *Cold Steel*. *Scimitar*, on her maiden race at Whitby, battled it out with *Rampage*.

Cold Steel eventually overtook *Minty* and commenced a struggle with *Icon* that would last throughout the race and at one point actually got ahead of her but her lead was shortlived and *Icon* retained her runner-up place as the Race Officer limited the race to just 3 laps. *Minty* sailed most of her race unchallenged in 4th place and *Scimitar* eventually overcame *Rampage* but ended up losing to her when the handicaps were applied.

Result: 1st *Antix* (John Allen and Sandy Ransom), 2nd *Icon* (Neil and Lorraine Williamson), 3rd *Cold Steel* (Colin Dey, Keith Gowland and Nigel Jarvis).