

## Overnight Race Sunderland to Whitby 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017

It was a weekend when Whitby boats compete against other yachts in the North East Cruiser Racing Association (NECRA), with the added excitement of the race taking place at night. Four Whitby boats, *Cold Steel*, *Double D*, *Icon* and *Samaki* headed up to Sunderland on the Thursday to be in good time for the start on Friday evening. The forecast was for strong winds but the boats had trouble finding enough wind to get them out of Sunderland harbour. However, once outside, they found a little more and spinnakers rapidly sprouted as the fleet picked up speed for the long reach back to Whitby. The Whitby boats, *Icon*, *Cold Steel* and *Samaki* were in close proximity at the front with Tees and Hartlepool Yacht Club boats, *Glory Days*, *Madhatter*, *Phoenix II* and *Cocarelle* and all were maintaining a good speed. The sun set just before 10pm making it difficult to keep track of the boats but all continued to maintain good speed, except for when they were in a “wind-hole” as they approached Whitby. *Glory Days* led the fleet in, just before 3am with all the boats “sweeping” the darkness for sight of the unlit finishing buoy. *Icon* was close behind, followed by *Cold Steel*, *Madhatter*, *Phoenix II*, *Cocarelle* and *Samaki*. The handicap would however rearrange these positions.

**Result: Class 1** 1st *Icon* (Neil and Lorraine Williamson, WYC), 2nd *Madhatter* (T&HYC), 3rd *Cold Steel* (Colin Dey, Keith Gowland and Nigel Jarvis, WYC). **Class 2** 1st *Phoenix II* (T&HYC), 2nd *Runaway* (T&HYC), 3rd *Tarka of Tees* (T&HYC). **Class 3** 1st *Jasmine* (T&HYC), 2nd *Double D* (Dave and Mel Broughton, WYC).