

## Vernon Dawson Cup 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Nine Whitby boats headed down to Scarborough on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July so as to be in position for the annual competition for the Vernon Dawson Cup, scheduled for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>. This competition dates back to 1934, when nine boats left Scarborough to race to Whitby. In that year only four boats finished the race owing to very calm and still conditions. The race is predominantly between Whitby and Scarborough boats but this year (2017) they were joined by a Bridlington boat and a boat from Hartlepool. A total of 22 boats came to the start line off the Scarborough lighthouse. With a strong wind forecast and flags streaming on higher land, the boats rigged appropriately for strong winds but the wind proved to be fickle at sea level. However, once clear of the Castle the wind was as forecast and the bold skippers flew their spinnakers, although many suffered with frequent wipe-outs. The majority of the skippers were more cautious but boldness paid off. The leading boat crossed the finish line in just over 2 hours 20 minutes, which was an extremely fast time. The rest of the fleet were not far behind and all the boats finished within 3 hours. The highest placed Whitby boat was *Serenade of Parkstone* (Chris Hamlett and Les Franks) who came fourth after application of the handicap and she was closely followed by *Icon* (Neil and Lorraine Williamson).

**Result:** 1<sup>st</sup> *Contessa Juliet* (Royal Yorkshire Yacht Club), 2<sup>nd</sup> *Ruffian* (Scarborough Yacht Club), 3<sup>rd</sup> *Vision* (Scarborough Yacht Club).