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Miracle Association Magazine Autumn 2013



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Contents

Editor's Corner	2
Chairman's Desk	3
Miracle's 40th Birthday	4
Race Organiser	5
RYA Dinghy show 2014	7
Nationals at Hunstanton 2014	7
Laser cut hull kit	9
Building <i>Etty Ketty II</i> , part 3	10
Committee members & meeting	14
Weymouth Nationals reports & results	18
Other reports and results	29

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Disclaimer: Much of the information within this publication is gathered from individuals, clubs, etc. The Miracle Class Association and its Officers and Committee accept no responsibility for the correctness of such information and opinion. Members are always advised to check with clubs before travelling to events.

Photo credits: Cover and p 18 Gillan Gibson; p2 of Gillan and p3 Sue Atherton; p2 Miracle no 3 Phil Gamlen; p5 Kenneth Gibson; p7 Colleen Butler; p10-13 John Topliss; p19-25 fotoboat; p28 Jean Reed; and p29 Val Reddecliffe

Items for the next issue should be with the Editor by 1st December 2013

Editor's Corner

An issue imbued with the 2013 Nationals at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy. Quite an event and memorable for all the right reasons. The buzz was "when are we coming back again?", as just so much was right at the same time - but I'll leave you to have a read for yourselves.

Looking forward, next year is the Miracle's 40th birthday. It took some checking, but newspaper reports and adverts, plus some important measurement certificates made this the year the Miracle was launched. That the Association now has number 3

which Dave and Jean Reed are looking after and sailing adds some extra spice. There are already some plans to celebrate (see page 4), but your Committee would love to hear if you have any ideas, plus any thoughts on how to celebrate the Association's 40th in 2015. As for next years open meeting calendar Jon



Willars and your Committee are already looking into this. The fleet always enjoys new venues so if you have any ideas let Jon have details and they can be investigated.

*Gillan Gibson
Miracle 3670*

Chairman's Desk

What a year for weather! We at last have had a summer that we have been hoping and wishing for for several years, the downside is that writing this at the end of September, apart from a few more promised days of sun, it is all too soon over.

Still we have had some good sailing weather, especially at our National Championships at Weymouth. What an experience! Something which will last in our memories for many years to come.

You can read the full report in this issue so I will say nothing further other than to thank all the members who did there bit to help organise such a prestigious event, especially Sam Mettam who shouldered the main burden of liaising with the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy (WPNSA) and ensuring the smooth running of the Regatta.

So what happens next! Well first we have the RYA Dinghy Show. to be held as usual at Alexandra Palace on the weekend of 1st and 2nd of March 2014. 2014 is a special year for us as we are to celebrate the Miracle's 40th anniversary. We will have an larger stand at the show with at least two Miracles on display and suitably decorated to announce our 40th year. You may have never been to the show, it is an experience worth having and this would be the perfect year for you to make the effort and of course come and see us on the stand.

We have already booked to have our 40th Anniversary Nationals at Hunstanton Sailing Club. For those who are not sure where that is just "google" it or look at your road map book, find the right hand side of the Wash and you are there. It is a popular seaside resort so if you need accommodation start looking now. The club itself is in the process of being rebuilt and we will be the first major event in the new premises.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to welcome our new Secretary Margaret Mettam. Margaret has been a member of the Association for many years and was instrumental in introducing our National Champion Sam to dinghy sailing many moons ago. She has kindly agreed to take over from John for a period of two years and we look forward to her joining us.

The next issue will be in early January 2014 when I will again be plugging the Dinghy Show, so put the date on next year's calendar and try your best to be there.

*Ken Gibson
Miracle 3670*





Miracle's 40th Birthday in 2014



So far we're:

Having a bigger stand at the Dinghy Show

Promoting the building 40 Miracles in 2014

Registration fee during 2014 £50 (£100 discount)

Celebrating at the Hunstanton Nationals

What ideas do you have?

Race Organiser's report

As the cold dark nights draw in and the racing calendar concludes we can look back on a generally bright and warm year which saw some interesting, enjoyable and also memorable times out on the water in our fleet.

The Nationals at the exceptional Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy was a very special event for us this year and it is only hoped we can return there again some time in the future.

As well as some welcome new faces in the fleet we have also seen several previous members attending events which is encouraging for future numbers.

Changes to the boat this year have kept us all busy comparing and debating the benefits in between racing and it has been a good year to properly review the new sheeting angle which seems to be becoming a standard feature on many boats.

With only 1 of the planned events being missed it has generally been a successful year although it would be good to get above 20 boats entered in some of our events in 2014.

Thanks go out to all of you who made an effort to travel to any event and you can



see the total travel bonus you gained throughout the year on the class website, which will be redeemed against your entry to the Nationals next year at Hunstanton.

We have potentially got some exciting new venues to look forward to next season so keep an eye on the website for updates and news on those.

I look forward to seeing you all at the boat show on our 40th anniversary stand!
Jon Willars

Miracle Association clothing

Would you like some clothing with an embroidered Miracle Association logo? For the Nationals the Association collaborated with Wave Clothing who produced a wide range, with polo shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies for in an assortment of colours and sizes. They also have a range with a general logo which is available year round. A good Christmas present for the keen Miracle sailor?



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RYA Volvo Dinghy Show

In association with SUZUKI and YACHTS & YACHTING

Alexandra Place

1st-2nd March 2014

The Association is taking a stand again and needs volunteers to help man it, especially since we are taking a larger stand and celebrating the Miracle's 40th Birthday. If you can give an hour or two to have more people available to speak with visitors, or cover whilst others go for breaks, or to have their turn to look around, it would be

great. If you feel you could offer a day that would be brilliant and it may be you can have one of the exhibitors passes we will be issued with so would get in for free! If you think you can help please let me know.

Kenneth Gibson, Chairman

<http://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/news/Pages/RYAVolvoDinghyShow.aspx>



**2014 Nationals
Hunstanton Sailing Club
Norfolk**

17th to 22nd August

www.hunstantonsc.co.uk

If you are thinking of going to Hunstanton consider deciding early as it is understood

there is a tennis tournament on the same week so accommodation could go quickly.

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Laser cut hull kit

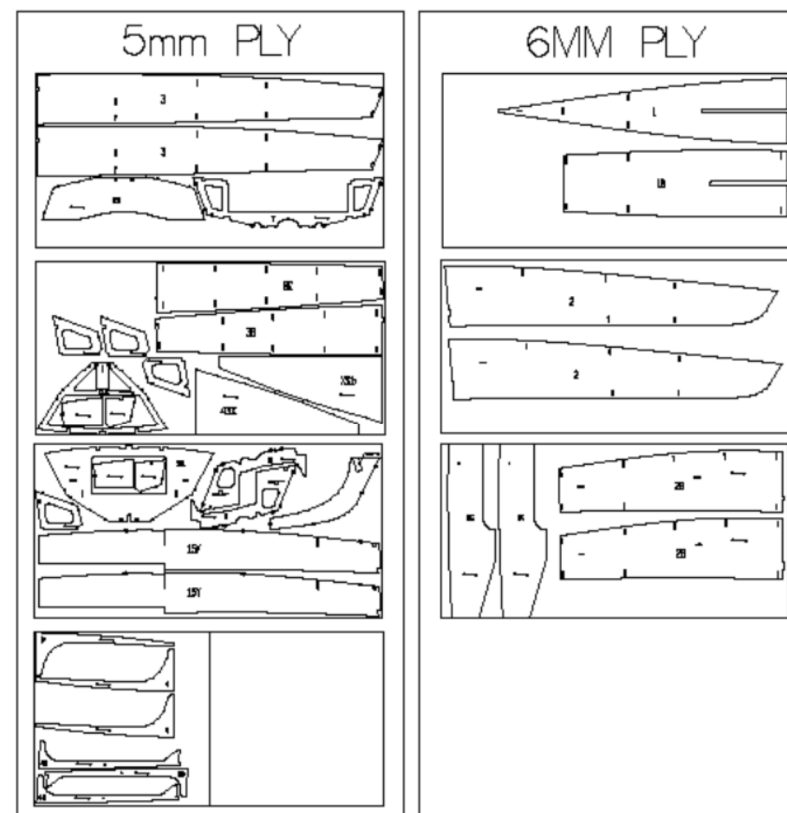


Aim : build 40 Miracles in 2014

Registration fee for 2014 only £50
(£100 discount)

Laser cut kit of wooden hull parts:
Details from Brian Jones

Full details in the next *Halo*.



Building ETTY KETTY II - part 3

When John Topliss ordered his boat from Dave Butler he became involved in the build, calling in to see how she was progressing and taking lots of photos.

In the last of 3 parts we finish the sequence showing the build with John's comments.



I asked the builders, Dave and Andy, to sign the boat inside the side tank before the deck was fitted. I know it's daft, and nobody will see it, but I think it adds a personal touch.

The team at Butler Boats are justly proud of their craftsmanship, and are happy to take the time to make the boat just that little bit more special. It's this kind of individuality that makes the Miracle dinghy different from a "manufactured" boat.

Just prior to decking, this photograph shows the anatomy of the boat. The gunwales give an impression of solidity. Note also that, despite the new inboard sheeting rules, the fairlead fixing reinforcement is still fitted above the seat area. (At this time I had not decided what sheeting arrangement I wanted)

The foredeck is only laid in position in this shot. A fair amount of lamination had to be completed before the final fitting.



Most of the construction work is now complete, the woodwork has been protected with many coats of epoxy, and all is ready for a final flattening down before spray coating with gloss UV protection.

This is done in another location to avoid the inevitable dust of a busy workshop. The seat is not fixed at this stage to make things easier in the spraying process.



Nautical Sayings "To hail from"

Hail was almost exclusively a nautical term until the mid 18th century. It was customary for passing ships to "hail" each other. The information swapped usually included the name of the ports from

which the ships were sailing. They were said to 'hail from' there. Eventually the term passed into everyday language to mean where a person was born or grew up.

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And finally..... Here we are at the Dinghy Show. Even here some details were deliberately incomplete. To enable discussion about the changes to jib sheeting arrangements, Dave did not fit any at this stage. (I now have short tracks fitted to the seat combings)

Note the sails supplied are part traditional cross cut, part radial cut. Will

that make a difference?..... Who knows! ..If I go faster it will be down to my skill, if I go slower it will be the sails. Well, that's my story anyway.

I hope that the boat was a good advert for the Miracle Dinghy. I, for one, am very proud of her.



I have to say thank you to everyone at Butler Boats for being so patient and making me feel so welcome throughout the build. Seeing the boat develop has given me immense pleasure.

John Topliss

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Miracle Association Committee

Summary of minutes

Annual General Meeting

15th August 2013

Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy

• Chairman, Ken Gibson:

◇ **Miracle's 40th Anniversary is 2014**

- * Larger stand at Dinghy Show 2014
- * Will celebrate during Nationals at Hunstanton.
- * Aim to achieve a build of 40 boats in 2014.
- * Yachts and Yachting boat report hopefully.

◇ **Class Association's 40th Anniversary is 2015.**

◇ **Miracle number 3** offered to the Association and being looked after by Dave and Jean Reed who are now sailing her.

◇ **Secretary:** Following his resignation thanks were extended to John Tippet for his work as Secretary. A replacement is still to be found.

◇ **Treasurer:** Following the 2012 AGM Jon Aldhous came forward.

◇ **Race Organiser:** Following the 2012 AGM Jon Willars came forward.

• **Measurement, Brian Jones**

◇ **Scrutineering:** No major issues. Thanks to Mike Smailes and John Green for their assistance.

◇ **Boats built:** 9 boats built since last Nationals. Latest sail number 4057.

◇ **Boats 2014:** Proposed to have a target of building 40 boats in 2014. Sail numbers 4060-4099 reserved. Registration fee reduced to £50 for all boats built in 2014. Laser cut set of ply parts being explored and Brian aims to build a boat with them over

the winter.

- ◇ **Inspection hatches:** 2 allowed per tank mounted either horizontally or vertically.
- ◇ **Rudder stocks:** may now be made of glass fibre.
- ◇ **Mast, tang eyes:** small alteration in height.
- ◇ **Measurer's guide:** revised for 2013.
- ◇ **Website:** Measurement section updated.
- ◇ **Reduced sheeting angle:** now installed on a lot of boats. Will need to refine the wording of the permitted exceptions after analysis of the various systems being employed.
- ◇ **Rules of Measurement:** no proposals for changes.
- **Membership, Martin Bathe**
 - ◇ Membership is down compared to last year and is 144 from 156 in 2012.
 - ◇ 20 new members since last AGM, 7 fewer than previous year.
 - ◇ 31 non renewals compared to 48 in previous year.
- **Halo, Gillan Gibson**
 - ◇ Four issues a year continue to be produced and advertising revenue remains strong. Thanks are extended to our advertisers. Thanks also to those who have provided articles, information and photos, more of which are always welcome.
- **Website, Gillan Gibson, Jon Willars**
 - ◇ Jon Willars has taken over co-ordination and the publication of results and reports of events. He has

Miracle Association Committee

Summary of minutes (cont.)

worked effectively with Webmaster Mike Smith to upgrade the site and ensure it is kept up to date.

- **Race Organiser**, Jon Willars

- ◇ 10 open meetings to date in 2013 most of which have been successful.
- ◇ Travellers Scheme giving a discount of £5 per meeting attended off next year's Nationals entry fee to encourage open meeting attendance is working as planned and cost to date to the Association stands at £360. Spreadsheet available on website giving amounts.

- **Treasurer**, Ken Gibson on behalf of Jon Aldhous

- ◇ The Association is in a sound financial position.

- **Proposals for changes to the Miracle Association Rules of the Association**—2 proposals

- ◇ **Proposal 1: Advertising:** Extensive discussion concerned at having a suitable amount of advertising on boats. Following motion passed: "The Committee to investigate suitable revised wording permitting suppliers logos and names on products supplied and fitted to Miracle Dinghies"
- ◇ **Proposal 2: Conduct of Meetings: Amendment of Proposals:** The existing Rules lacked provision for amending motions put to the AGM prior to the meeting. The existing wording reads: "Any motion put to a General Meeting of the Association shall be proposed and seconded by full members and shall be submitted

to the class secretary at least twelve weeks before the date of such a meeting"

The proposal to add the following was passed:

"Before eight weeks of the date of a General Meeting the Committee shall publish the details of any such motion

Before three weeks of the date of the General Meeting any Full Member of the Association can propose and second an amendment to the initial proposal by submission to the Class Secretary

Five days before the date of the General Meeting the Committee shall cause to be published the original proposal together with any amendments received to the original Proposal "

- ◇ **Proposal 3: Singlehanded racing:** the proposal for a trial permitting singlehanded sailing at Association events was defeated. (Clubs can continue to permit it in their own events if they wish)

- **Proposals for changes to the Miracle Association Rules of Measurement and Construction:** None

- **Committee:** The following were appointed:

Chairman	Kenneth Gibson
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Jon Aldhous
Measurement	Brian Jones
Halo Editor	Gillan Gibson
Trophy Officer	Tracy Amos
Member	Sam Mettam
Member	Louis Moulden

In addition Ross Southwell agreed to become advisor to the Committee on Youth and Junior issues.

- **Any other business:**

- ◇ The Committee and Sam Mettam in particular were congratulated on the selection of Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy for our Nationals.
- ◇ A suggestion was made that Sliding Fairleads appeared to have been introduced without approval "via the back" door. Brian Jones had already agreed to examine this issue and tidy up the wording in The Rules of Measurement.

- ◇ **Association boat:** It was suggested the Association purchase a new boat for young people who have done well in other fleets to try for 12 months, participate at our nationals, etc.
- ◇ **Publicity:** It was suggested the Miracle Association should "cash in" with as much publicity as possible following our Nationals being held at WPNSA and the professional photos taken at the event.

Copies of the full minutes of meetings are available from the Secretary on request.

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Harken Miracle Nationals Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy 11th to 16th August 2013



Forty Miracles arrived at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy for their National Championships, sponsored by Harken and Gibson Sails, to be greeted by sunshine and 10-14 knots of wind. Special mention goes to Marcel and Giulia Neuteboom who travelled from the Netherlands to be one of the first international entries to the UK Nationals. (Miracles are sailed in many countries including Australia, Malta and the Netherlands, although they are strongest in the UK).

Day 1 - Sunday - Practice race and Race 1 Sunshine and 10-14 knots of wind

Practice Race

The practice race got away with pre-championship favourites Jeremy Davy and Ethan Plank, sailing their Butler boat, coming out of the starboard end of the line to lead around the windward mark. They were followed by Sam Mettam and Geoff Phillips sailing their new Boatcraft boat and Nick and Indigo Smith in a Kelly boat. The

leading three boats managed to get away from the main pack, and finished in that order, despite some place changing between Mettam/Phillips and the Smiths.

Race 1

In Race 1, with slightly less breeze, Davy and Plank once more led around the first mark followed by Richard and Katy Byne.

Dave Butler sailed an excellent first leg only to arrive at the windward mark at the lead of a group of boats who had gone left on port with the bulk of the fleet arriving on starboard. Slots were few and far between and several front runners got caught out including Dave himself. On the second beat the Smiths got through the Bynes. Further down the top 10 Ally & Harry Jones and Martin & Abby Huett were showing good speed in their new Butler boats.

The competitors retired to the club for a well-attended Quiz, won by the 'Weymouth Wizards'. Some competitors needed to be careful on the race start line the next day though as the Race Officer's Bar team suffered a shocking defeat!

Day 2 – Monday – Races 2 & 3 Shifty north-westerly mixes up the results

Day 2 dawned with a forecast of 10-15 knots from the north west, more sunshine and a photographer, Fotoboot. Hopefully a recipe for some good photos!

Race 2

Race 2 started in around 10 knots of breeze. A big left hand wind shift just before the start gave a big advantage to the boats that started down the port end of the line, but it was followed by a big right hand shift that allowed sister team Tracy Amos and Karen Smailes, who had started at the starboard end and taken advantage of the tide flooding through the harbour entrance, to lead at the windward mark. Hot on their heels were Ally & Harry Jones and Sam Mettam & Geoff Phillips (Sam having had a short swim on the way up to the mark when his 2mm toestraps proved less wear resistant than planned). Unfortunately the Jones tried to squeeze through a gap that wasn't there and ended up actually round the mark in 12th with Mettam and Phillips also caught up in the aftermath. In the meantime, Richard and Katy Byne sailed through into the lead which they held until the 3rd beat, when they were overhauled by Mettam and Phillips in an increasing breeze.

Race 3

After a short postponement to move the race course, race 3 started in 15 knots of wind with Mettam and Phillips taking a narrow lead at the windward mark from series favourites Jeremy Davy and Ethan Plank. The lead 2 boats then extended their lead on the downwind legs. A little further back Dave and Ross Southwell were showing their recent return to form having some excellent racing with the Jones

and Neil Gibson & Keith Macey. On the third lap a large right-hand shift and a wind drop caught out quite a few of the fleet. Mettam & Phillips held their nerve to take the bullet from Davy and Plank, who later found out they had been OCS (On Course Side), and therefore the Southwells took 2nd and Gibson and Macey 3rd.

The sailors retired for an evening video debrief sponsored by Gibson Sails.

Day 3 – Tuesday – Races 4 & 5 Lighter Breeze for the 40 teams at Weymouth

The forecast for Tuesday was lighter breeze and more sunshine. With the class all prepared for better teamwork after last night's coaching session great things were expected!

Race 4

Race 4 started in 6 knots of wind with Brian Jones and John Green taking advantage of the favoured right-hand side of the course to lead by 20 boat lengths at the windward mark from Jeremy Davy & Ethan Plank and Sam Mettam & Geoff Phillips. Down the first reach, Davy and



Harken Miracle Nationals WPNSA 11th to 16th August 2013 (cont.)



through at the gybe mark with Mettam and Phillips once again sailing over the top of Davy and Plank to take the win.

Once again some fantastic race management by Arky Wainwright and his team allowed the fleet to be off the water by half one having had

Plank caught up enough to take water at the wing mark, with Mettam and Phillips getting through on the second reach. Davy and Plank sailed away and extended their lead to the finish with Mettam and Phillips coming under sustained pressure from Richard and Katy Byne, but holding their second place to the finish.

Race 5

The breeze built to around 10 knots between races, suiting Ally and Harry Jones who were sailing very fast upwind to lead to the first mark followed by Davy & Plank and Mettam & Phillips, both of whom managed to sail over the top of the Jones on the first reach. Mettam and Phillips then rolled over the top of Davy and Plank on the second reach. Some very tight tactical racing ensued between the lead 3 boats with the lead changing another 5 or 6 times. By the final windward mark, the Jones were once again in the lead. Davy & Plank and Mettam & Phillips both got

two hour-long races. The afternoon was, therefore, spent with families before the fleet once again retired to the WPNSA bar for the second of 2 days coach debrief sponsored by Gibson Sails.

Day 4 – Wednesday – Races 6 & 7

The first day without sunshine

All good things come to an end, and unfortunately the perfect racing conditions of sunshine and 10-12 knots of breeze gave way to drizzle.

Race 6

Race 6 started in around 12 knots of wind with Sam Mettam and Geoff Phillips leading to the windward mark from Martin and Abby Huett (celebrating her 11th birthday) and Richard and Fergus Pye. The order stayed this way for 2 laps, but series contenders Jeremy Davy and Ethan Plank continued to apply pressure and eventually got through the Huetts and the Pyes on the final lap to stay in touch overall with a 2nd.

Race 7

The breeze had built to around 15 knots for race 7. Once again Mettam and Phillips lead to the first mark, this time followed by Nick & Indigo Smith and Davy & Plank. The Smiths applied pressure to Mettam and Phillips but weren't able to break through. By the end of the final beat, Davy and Plank had closed right up to the Smiths and got through on the reaches to take their second 2nd of the day.

With the evening designated a free evening and no official social event, an informal skittles evening was organized, where the odd sail numbers, led by Caroline Noel from Draycote Water, beat the even sail numbers, led by multiple national champion Dave Southwell from Leigh and Lowton.

Day 5 – Thursday – Races 8 & 9

Mettam & Phillips secure the title with a day to spare

The 2013 nationals is the first time an international competitor has entered the event, and therefore before racing a

special presentation was made to Marcel and Giulia Neuteboom as unfortunately they had to leave after racing on Thursday and will miss the prizegiving.

The scene was set for some close racing as Sam Mettam and Geoff Phillips needed either 1 x 1st place or 3 x 2nd places to secure the title, whilst Davy and Plank needed to win the last 3 races and hope they got a boat in between them and Mettam and Phillips.

The day's forecast was for 15-20 knots of wind and sunshine. The first part of the forecast was almost right, and Race 8 started in 22 knots of wind but with grey skies.

Race 8

Mettam and Phillips lead to the first mark followed by Dave Butler & Ross Fleming and Ally & Harry Jones. Mettam and Phillips made the most of the now dropping breeze to extend their lead by the bottom mark. Unfortunately for Butler and Fleming, one of the final gusts before the wind died hit them at the gybe mark and Dave showed the rest of the fleet that he didn't just build boats, but was also an

accomplished swimmer! The race progressed with Mettam and Phillips putting a loose cover on Davy and Plank with the latter battling through to take 2nd place on the final lap, but they couldn't catch



Geoff Phillips and Sam Mettam

Harken Miracle Nationals **WPNSA 11th to 16th August 2013 (cont.)**

Mettam and Phillips who had, therefore, done enough to secure their seventh title.

Race 9

Race 9 started in 12 knots of wind with Davy and Plank leading to the first mark followed by the Jones and Mettam & Phillips. With the welcome return of the sun, a building breeze and some very close racing the term 'champagne sailing' could probably be used. As tends to happen when these 3 boats have got together, the lead changed hands several times but Mettam and Phillips led at the top mark on the final lap and managed to extend down the reaches. Davy and Plank came under sustained pressure from the Jones but



Martin and Mavis Bathe

managed to hang on to secure 2nd overall. This will be Jeremy's second 2nd place at the same venue this year after a good performance at the Flying 15 Nationals.

Day 6 – Friday – Race 10

With the top 2 places already secured, the focus shifted to who would fill out the rest of the top 10.

Race 10

The final points race started in around 20 knots of wind with national champions Sam Mettam and Geoff Phillips leading to the windward mark followed by former national champions David & Michelle Raines and Ally & Harry Jones. Once again second overall Jeremy Davy and Ethan Plank showed their ability to pull through the fleet and managed to catch the Raines and the Jones. Some very tight racing ensued with Davy and Plank taking second from the Raines and the Jones. 3rd place was enough to give the Jones 3rd overall from Martin and Abby Huett.

Days 5 and 6 – Thursday and Friday – Non-spinnaker, Single-handed and Youth races

On Thursday evening, Ross Fleming and Dave Butler won the crews' race and before the final race on Friday a combined Non-spinnaker, Single-handed and Youth race took place, with Ally and Phoebe Jones winning the Non-spinnaker race, Jon Willars winning the Single-handed race and James and Paul Robinson winning the Youth race.

Sam Mettam



Finally

Overall the class has been staggered by the facilities, professionalism and friendliness on the team at WPNSA. Hopefully the class will be back again in the future!

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the fleet and a special Nationals at Hunstanton. The class is aiming for 40 new boats and maybe even 100 at the Nationals with as many former Miracle sailors as possible. If you want to get involved, please contact registration.queries@miracledinghy.org.

One of the strengths of the class is that it allows parent and child teams to compete against lightweight adult teams. Many of the children are reaping the rewards and are found at the top of the junior fleets. However, it is good to see that last year's national champion Martyn Lewis crewing for son 13-year old Daniel (2nd crewing for his Dad at the 2011 Miracle Nationals) put in a top performance at the RS200 Nationals.

Sam Mettam

fotoboot

Photos of the event available from:

<http://fotoboot.photoshelter.com/gallery/Miracle-Nationals-2013-WPNSA/G00008k9IBN1a650/C00005RF9e8ntzU8>

See also the Association's website

Harken Miracle Nationals
Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy
11th to 16th August 2013 (cont.)

Silver fleet report

Jon Willars

Bright sunshine greeted the Miracle fleet to the sailing academy in Portland Harbour for what turned out to be a fiercely contested event right through the fleets in a variation of conditions. Many of the top sailors from each fleet made the journey to Weymouth and the silver fleet particularly looked like it could go to anyone.

At the onset it was close between Brian Jones with John Green, Ashley Southwell with James Wilkinson, Simon Reddicliffe with Mark Atherton and Jon Willars with Rachel Day, all fighting for positions and even after going to opposite sides of the course on the beat they seemed to keep greeting each other at the windward mark and trading places throughout the reaches and runs.

New additions to the Association this year saw Yvonne and Brian Mumford join the silver fleet which proved to raise the standard further and they began their

nationals campaign by dominating Silver and having several top 10 finishes. As the wind and chop increased later in the week the fleet started to spread out a little more although the conditions appeared to favour the Mumfords and Jon and Rachel, with both teams giving some of the Gold fleet something to think about.

The Mumfords, however, did enough early on to secure the title in the Silver fleet and sailed the remaining two days in comfort while remaining consistent with their results.

The race organisers did a first class job setting some of the best start lines many of us have seen and gave us plenty of room which helped in keeping the black flag from making an appearance. Also, the rescue teams were quickly on hand when any team decided to show off the underside of their hull which created some well needed reassurance when the weather changed.

It was great to see the event organiser Sam Mettam and his crew Geoff Phillips displaying some top class sailing at the front of the fleet and maintaining the standard that was always expected of them in the run up to the event. Sam has put many months of hard work into getting this event organised and together with the staff at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy provided the Miracle fleet with something really special to remember.



Jon Willars and Rachel Day

Bronze fleet report

David Herbstritt & Josie Airns

Wow! What a week at WPNSA for the Miracle Nationals. Everyday full on 'sailing' weather of Force 4 to keep us all on our 'tippy toes straps'! I was delighted to see such a broad age range in both helm and crew competing. Very inspiring indeed.

What a privilege too, sailing on the same waters as the Olympic teams and being led by the same Race Officer too! Start lines spot on and the course, safety RIBs and tally system so well managed. Many thanks to the whole team. Excellent tight reaches, flying the spinnaker for over a kilometre, planning all the way – what an experience, and a luxury we don't get on our puddle at Shotwick lake!

Bronze racers are no less brave than the top guys. The most memorable being a start registering 32 knots and near abandonment. An adjusted line and restart sent us off to sailing a strenuous but exciting 2 races. Only 4 of the 15 Bronze racers stayed ashore. The rest went for it including our eldest helm at 73 (Rene Savelli) and 2 younger crews at 11 and 12 (Giulia Neuteboom and James Robinson).

Young Robinson went on to enter the youth race in even stronger conditions the next day – well done James – a future Gold in the making!



David Herbstritt and Josie Airns

The week saw our first ever international entrants from Holland, father (airline pilot) and daughter 'dubbed' the 'Flying Dutchman' Marcel and Giulia Neuteboom. With our Association's family ethos I hope we will see them again next year. Giulia will be going home to tell the tale of her first capsizel!

Thanks too to Gemma Gibson for the training nights – fun and very valuable. Gems of tips from video footage taken of the racing that we will take away and keep practicing with. We will be back for more!

Having competed in 3 consecutive nationals now, we appreciate the camaraderie and bond, both on and off the water from the Bronze fleet to the top sailors who always make time and space to give you tips or a helping hand. We are now moving up to the silver fleet, but we will be watching our tail and look forward to next year's 40th anniversary nationals.

Hints and tips

Do you have any ideas to help others? Let the editor know so they can be shared.

Watch the Committee Boat as it will give a good indication when things may happen
Gillan Gibson

Spinnaker set-up: Ally Jones has posted a video of his system on You Tube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=impnFhacllQ>

Harken Miracle National Championships 2013 - Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy Results Part 1

Pos	Club	Sail	Fleet	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Pts
1st	Sam Mettam & Geoff Phillips	Hayling Island	4051	G	(4)	1	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	8
2nd	Jeremy Davy & Ethan Plank	Hayling Island	4023	G	1	(4)	(OCS)	1	2	2	2	2	2	14
3rd	Ally & Harry Jones	Draycote Water	4055	G	(5)	(10)	4	5	3	5	5	3	3	32
4th	Martin & Abby Huett	Draycote Water	4056	G	6	(11)	8	4	6	3	(RET)	4	4	40
5th	Nick & Inigo Smith	Thornbury	3805	G	2	4	5	7	4	7	3	(RET)	(DNC)	12
6th	David & Michelle Raines	Leigh & Lowton	3740	G	7	6	7	(8)	7	(10)	6	5	7	48
7th	Richard & Katheryn Byne	Draycote Water	3678	G	3	2	9	3	8	12	4	(RET)	(DNC)	10
8th	David & Ross Southwell	Leigh & Lowton	4010	G	(9)	5	2	(11)	5	8	7	8	9	51
9th	Jack Hopkins & Jake Beckford	Delph	3508	G	11	(12)	11	9	(12)	6	9	7	5	67
10th	Neal Gibsob & Keith Macey	Redoubt	4040	G	8	8	3	12	(13)	(14)	13	6	9	71
11th	David Butler & Ross Fleming	Welton	3900	G	(22)	15	6	16	9	9	8	(RET)	6	80
12th	Yvonne & Brian Mumford	Redoubt	4047	S	10	9	10	(13)	11	13	(DSQ)	10	10	81
13th	Richard & Fergus Pye	Draycote Water	3300	G	13	(14)	(OCS)	6	14	4	12	11	12	86
14th	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph	3383	G	(16)	7	(20)	10	10	11	11	12	11	88
15th	Jon Willars & Rachel Day	Welton	3793	S	15	16	12	15	(18)	(18)	10	9	14	97
16th	Tracy Amos & Karen Smailes	Redoubt	3692	G	(19)	13	14	(20)	15	16	16	14	18	121
17th	John Tippet & Kathy Boulton	Draycote Water	4020	G	14	(21)	17	17	19	(21)	15	13	13	125
18th	Simon Reddicliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph	4007	B	12	18	13	19	(20)	19	18	16	16	(20)
19th	Brian Jones & John Green	Maidenhead/ Broadwater	4021	S	17	(20)	15	14	16	17	(22)	17	19	133
20th	Ashley Southwell & James Wilkinson	Leigh & Lowton	4011	S	22	22	(26)	18	17	15	19	15	17	(25)

Harken Miracle National Championships 2013 - Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy Results Part 2

Pos	Club	Sail	Fleet	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Pts
21st	Louis Moulden & Eilidh Campbell	Delph	3835	S	20	17	16	25	24	(30)	17	20	(33)	21
22nd	Richard & Hannah Wharram	Welton	4045	S	21	23	29	(OCS)	(RET)	23	14	18	15	162
23rd	David Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick Lake	3770	B	18	(24)	21	22	(30)	22	23	19	20	167
24th	Paul & James Robinson	Whitefriars	3655	B	(28)	(27)	19	27	26	26	21	22	23	191
25th	Marcel & Giulia Neuteboom	Netherlands	2007	B	25	(RET)	(DNC)	21	21	20	20	24	22	DNC
26th	Joanne Lamb & Joshua Baker	Calshot/ Margate	3786	S	30	(32)	24	(35)	23	24	29	23	21	197
27th	Colin & Maureen Lown	Wilsonian	206	S	24	(33)	22	28	22	27	32	21	25	(DNC)
28th	Robert & Hannah Cocking	Delph	1314	B	29	29	23	(30)	(32)	28	24	26	24	207
29th	Steve & Matthew Bloomfield	RYA	2018	S	27	19	27	26	29	(37)	26	25	(32)	208
30th	David & Jean Reed	Girton	3725	S	26	28	25	23	25	25	28	(RET)	(DNC)	210
31st	Martin & Mavis Bathe	Delph	59	B	31	25	18	(38)	27	34	27	31	26	(DNC)
32nd	Brian & Sharon Worrall	Welton	3679	B	(35)	30	28	24	28	(31)	30	29	27	222
33rd	Michael & Diana Thompson	Crawley	3843	B	32	26	31	32	(35)	(35)	33	27	28	240
34th	Andrew Clarke & Theo De Bie	Wilsonian	201	B	(36)	(36)	34	34	36	32	31	28	29	256
35th	Steven Pettifer & Sarah Cotton	Wilsonian	1506	B	37	38	32	(39)	(39)	33	34	30	31	263
36th	Ian & Geraldine Downs	Killington	3775	B	34	31	(DNC)	31	34	29	25	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)
37th	Gillan & Kenneth Gibson	Thotnton Steward	3670	B	38	34	30	29	37	39	35	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)
38th	Caroline Noel & Christine Silver	Draycote	3839	B	33	37	(DNC)	37	33	38	(RET)	(DNC)	(DNC)	293
39th	Rene Savelli & Deborah Massey	Delph	3414	B	(RET)	(RET)	35	33	31	36	(RET)	(RET)	(DNC)	(DNC)
40th	Barry Mellor & John Finnemore	Broadwater	3333	B	39	35	33	36	38	40	(RET)	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)

WPSA Nationals Prizegiving 2013

On the final evening the class got together for a prizegiving dinner with some excellent food and prizes donated by sponsors Gibson Sails and Butler Boats. Prizes were presented by John Robertson



and Hannah Stodel from the British Paralympic Sailing Team to add to what felt a very special occasion.
Sam Mettam

Ken Gibson, Miracle Association Chairman, and Gillian Gibson, Halo Editor, preparing for the presentation of trophies and prizes,
Jean Reed

The Presentation Dinner, with competitors, friends and relations enjoying a two course meal. Presentation of the trophies and prizes were graciously made by members of the Paralympic sailing Team. A collection was made towards their funding.
Jean Reed



View from the terrace of the clubhouse overlooking the sailing area, Portland Harbour.
Jean Reed

Northern Championships Delph 11th & 12th May 2013

The two day Miracle Northern Championships held at Delph Sailing Club near Bolton saw a return to form of Wayne Atherton sailing in a new partnership with experienced Miracle crew Angela Sweeney. The pair managed to win the event by sailing just the three races on the Sunday of the two-day event.

On Saturday fifteen boats signed on for the two races in a wind made up of, to quote Richard Brameld, "the angry gusts from hell" travelling in an easterly direction across the lake. Jack Hopkins sailing with Jake Beckford coped best with the conditions and Jack's reading of the start lines yielded good starts and led to the pair dominating the racing. In the first race with a pin-end start on port the pair sailed cleanly away from the fleet with Delph's Commodore Graham Clow sailing with Gemma McHugh sailing well to finish second. In the second race the wind eased slightly. With another good start, it looked like Jack and Jake would romp away to a second decisive victory but in the closing stages Jon Willars and

Rachel Day started to hunt them down and might have caught them if the race had been longer. Graham and Gemma, despite a capsized still managed to finish third. The challenging conditions meant the rescue boat had a busy time and two boats failed too badly to be put back on the water for day two.

Overnight, competitors took on ballast (steak, salmon, jacket potatoes, etc.) and pain relief (e.g. Bank Top - Port O'Call) at the barbeque. Despite having the option, nobody was silly enough to camp in tents given the conditions. Consequently, there were not as many takers for the bacon butties served up for breakfast.

After Jack and Jake's dominance of the first day's racing it looked like the Sunday was going to turn into a battle royal with Wayne and Angela who were fresh to the fray. However, Sunday's conditions of a lighter more consistent westerly favoured Richard Brameld crewed by son Todd. Also, Ashley Southwell sailing with James Wilkinson found the



conditions more to their liking and got themselves up amongst the action. Increased competition and a more crowded start line of seventeen boats saw Jack and Jake struggle. In the first race of the day, in the argy-bargy on the start-line both Jack's and Wayne's boats ended up over the line and they had to go back and restart. Despite the poor start, Wayne and Angela's experience enabled them to work their way through the fleet to win. However, Jack and Jake could only manage sixth.

Whilst the wind on the Sunday was proving a good sailing wind, it was cold and wet and some boats opted for the warm and dry of the clubhouse and didn't emerge to sail after lunch.

In the next race, Jon and Rachel took a port end flyer to lead round the windward mark to be overtaken first by Wayne and Angela and then by Richard and Todd. In the

final race, Richard and Todd led at the first windward mark. During the race the lead swapped about but Wayne and Angela eventually got ahead and they sailed comfortably up the last beat covering Richard and Todd.

Prizes were awarded for first to fifth, first non-spinnaker boat (Rob Cocking and crews), first married couple (Dave & Jean Reed), first visiting boat outside the top ten (Brian and Sharon Worrall) and first Delph boat outside the top ten (Phil and Anna Belle Worth).

As ever Delph SC would like to thank Angela Sweeney and the Bank Top Brewery, Bolton, for sponsoring the event and Delph members for their toil and trouble in running the event.

Martin Bathe, Delph SC

Northern Area Championship Delph - 11th & 12th May 2013

Pos	Club	Sail No	Pts
1st	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph 3383	3
2nd	Jack Hopkins & Jake Beckford	Delph 3508	6
3rd	Jon Willars & Rachel Day	Welton 3793	7
4th	Richard & Todd Brameld	Beaver 3131	8
5th	Graham Clow & Gemma McHugh	Delph 3796	10
6th	Ashley Southwell & James Wilkinson	Leigh & Lowton 4011	13
7th	Rob Cocking & Ben Nedd & Dave Taylor	Delph 3077	16
8th	Louis Moulden & E Campbell	Delph 4036	18
9th	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph 4007	19
10th	David & Jean Reed	Girton 3725	23
11th	Phil & Anna Belle Worth	Delph 3414	26
12th	Brian & Sharon Worrall	Welton 3679	28
13th	Iain & Lauren Wilkinson	Leigh & Lowton 3480	43
14th	Robin & Hilary Baycroft	Delph 1954	49
15th	Martin & Mavis Bathe	Delph 59	51
=16th	Paul Beckford & Haley Clow	Delph 3493	60
=16th	Jan Sawczuk & Richard Bowman-Hunt	Delph 2003	60
=16th	Phil & Sorrel Harty	Delph 1600	60
=16th	Andy & Sara Baddeley	Delph 758	60

Puddleduck Girton 8th & 9th June 2013

Sun and a nice Force 2 wind greeted the 22 competitors, though it was a bit fluky. The racing was close with much nipping and tucking. Ally and Harry Jones (3847) did not sail the first race, but then went on to win the remaining 4 to take the

series. Behind them the positions varied with Neal and Gemma Gibson (4040) the most consistent and able to take second, followed by Brian and Yvonne Mumford (4047) who took third.

Gillan Gibson

Pos	Club	Sail No	Pts
1st	Ally & Harry Jones	Draycote 3847	3
2nd	Neal & Gemma Gibson	Redoubt 4040	7
3rd	Brian and Yvonne Mmumford	Redoubt 4047	10
4th	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph/Leigh&Lowton 3383	11
5th	David & Michelle Raines	Leigh & Lowton 3740	12
6th	Eamon & Thomas Cuthbert	Leigh & Lowton 4016	13
7th	John Tippett & Kathy Boulton	Draycote 4020	16
8th	Tracy Amos & Karen Smailes	Redoubt 3692	16
9th	Richard & Todd Brameld	Beaver 3131	20
10th	Graham Watts & Brian Jones/Ross Flemming	Staunton Harold 3840	21
11th	Ashley & Ross Southwell	Leigh & Lowton 4011	22
12th	Jon Willars & Rachel Day	Welton 3793	24
13th	Dave Butler & Ross Flemming	Welton 1885	28
14th	Richard Woodhurst (singlehanded)	Girton 3077	36
15th	David & Jean Reed	Girton 3	38
16th	Simon & Eleanor faye	Tynemouth 2857	40
17th	Ian & Geraldine Downs	Killington 3775	43
18th	Gillan & Kenneth Gibson	Thornton Steward 3670	45

Pennine 7th July 2013

Pos	Club	Sail No	Pts
1st	Ally & Harry Jones	Draycote 4055	3
2nd	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph 3383	4
3rd	Jon Willars & Rachel Day	Welton 3793	8
4th	Dave Butler & Ross Flemming	Welton 1885	9
5th	Brian & Sharon Worrall	Welton 3679	12