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Nationals 2021 at Rutland

## The Halo

Miracle Association Magazine Autumn 2020



© Gillian Gibson

2015 Nationals at Rutland Sailing Club

"The Friendly, Family, Dinghy Class"

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Disclaimer: Much of the information within this publication is gathered from individuals, clubs, etc. The Miracle 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 Gillan Gibson; p2 Sue Atherton; p3 Ian Brown; p Helen Jacks; p5 Chris Jones; p7 Alex Brown; p9 picnic Jack Frodsham, Miracles Sandra Allman; and p14 & 15 Gurit.

## Editor's Corner

Sailors are an optimistic bunch which is just as well in these challenging times. Despite everyone's best efforts one event after another has been cancelled or changed, but it is quite amazing what has been possible. The Miracle Association's first online AGM worked thanks to Ian Brown. We've also heard that the RYA Dinghy Show is to become an online event in 2021. It's going to be interesting to see how it works once details become available.

My call for articles and photos for the *Halo* has produced a variety of fascinating responses which we continue to publish. Do you have something?

We've also taken the opportunity to include some information on where the fleet has gone over the years for the Nationals which makes interesting reading.

A common enquiry is how old is a Miracle with a given boat number? Bell Woodworking was a commercial builder who built Miracles from the start and compiled a list giving the boat number of last Miracle they sold in a given year. It can only be a guide for an assortment of reasons, but it is a good start.

So, what other information is there out there of interest to Miracle sailors. It would be great to hear from you and I'm asking for items for the next issue by 1st December 2020 please.

*Gillan Gibson,  
Miracle 3670*



## Chairman's Desk

### Back to boating!

It was good to be back on the water this summer if not fully as we had planned for this season. Many clubs have re-opened for social sailing sessions, limited club racing series and some trophy days. The virus has challenged many of our sailing club executive committees but has generally also brought the sailing community together with guidance from the RYA.

As a family we still used our original accommodation booking near Netley for a week's break in August. On a day trip to the Isle of Wight we could see the new clubhouse at Netley Sailing Club from the Red Funnel ferry on Southampton water. Instead of sailing this year we undertook cycling and walking in the New Forest. We also tried our hand at kayaking on the river Hamble amongst the expensive yachts.

I especially enjoyed the trophy days at Whitefriars as they provide the opportunity for an overall position at the end of a day's club racing. We have experienced a range of windy and quiet conditions on different weekends in a relatively short sailing window this year, some of which suit the Miracle PY of 1194 in handicap fleets and always raise some comments amongst other competitors when we do well in heavy winds or single handed in light conditions. A particular highlight was winning a pursuit race this year.

The AGM took place for the first time successfully online. Thank you to Ian Brown for guiding us through the technology. The Miracle Association now



© Ian Brown

has a Zoom account to facilitate future committee meetings and reduce travelling costs and associated expenditure.

Your Committee will be meeting in the autumn to plan next year's Miracle sailing events. We look forward to an open meeting programme and the nationals at Rutland Sailing Club Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021. More details to follow in due course. We are looking for support and a good turn-out of boats next summer to ensure the viability of future events and ensure that event expenditure is matched by income. I would recommend that competitors start to think about booking accommodation for that week.

Discussions are progressing with Beaumaris RAYC as a potential venue for the 2022 nationals.

The RYA Dinghy Show was moved to Farnborough for 2021, but has had to be cancelled and will be a "virtual" event.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the sailing season.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon.  
*Paul Robinson, Chairman  
Miracle 4110*



© Helen Jacks

## Meeting the challenges *Ian Brown*

In a normal year, visiting other clubs is a highlight of our year. Myself and Lilly have won the Traveller's Trophy two years on the bounce which took us to Staunton Harold, Welton, Whitefriars, Port Dinorwic, Leigh and Lowton and Girton. We've been to Rutland, Pwllheli, Bala and Netley too, alongside our yearly visits to Abersoch for Dinghy Week. This year we have sailed nowhere but Delph but we have been lucky that we can still sail together.

We may be known as a family fleet but not all Miracle helms and crews live in the same household or bubbles. Many of you will know Delph members Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney from the circuit. Last winter our former national champion Dave Butler built them a brand new boat ready for the new season. The Association was fortunate enough to have it on the stand at the Dinghy Show and it was admired by all who saw her. Unfortunately due to the COVID restrictions where we live, Wayne and Angela have only managed to take her out racing once on a Wednesday night. This story has sadly been replicated all over the country. The joy of the Miracle fleet is not just the racing but it is the off the water experience, the socialising and the eating and drinking together. I haven't missed travelling to work, but what I have missed most is sailing with my friends across the country.

Of course we have been able to fill the void with things like virtual regattas and it was great to see our National

champion, Ian Fryett, represent the Miracles in the esailing class championships but whilst fun, it is no substitute for the real thing. One thing Delph does as a club each year is sail in West Lancashire Yacht Club's (WLYC) 24 hour race. It is always a great event, but this year it was, like so many other things, cancelled and taken online. Many of you will know me and my family and will be aware that my son Thomas has multiple life limiting conditions. I was lucky enough that Delph Sailing Club allowed me to represent the Club in the virtual 24 hour race and sail the event single handed, 73 races in 24 hours, to raise money for much needed adaptations to our home for him

([justgiving.com/fundraising/24hoursforthomas](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/24hoursforthomas)). I did pretty well considering. Finishing 5th overall and winning both the Sims Mitchell Trophy and the Porter Trophy too. I have used the publicity to continue something I started in private 12 months ago, lobbying the committee at WLYC to allow Miracles to compete in the 24 hour race. As a Jack Holt designed boat, I think they would sit perfectly alongside GP14s and Enterprises. Plus they are much more fun than either of them in my honest opinion. If any of you have power and influence over WLYC, can you please help me turn the screws to make this happen?

Well no-one can say we didn't try?

At the end of August it became obvious that the Northern Championships at Delph in October might become the only chance we all got to come together and race. We were hopeful that with COVID restrictions lifting we would be able to put on an event. I spoke to local company Fully Loaded Pizza and they were going to provide the catering and we were thinking about gazebos and marquees, etc, until they tightened the restrictions for Bolton, including closing all our pubs. That's ok we thought, the club may have a Bolton address but it is actually in Darwen, Lancashire, so we held a sailing committee meeting and agreed to hold it as a one day event subject to approval by the Miracle Association and a risk assessment. Luckily, the next day the Miracles were convening to have a meeting about the Nationals in 2022, so I brought it up and it was unanimously approved. We set about the risk assessment and whilst we began to look at the 132 areas of concern, the restrictions tightened again, but this time to include all of Lancashire except for Blackpool. This was the point where we gave up. Sorry, we desperately wanted to succeed.



© Chris Jones

Ian and Lilly at Delph



### Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/56799327734/>

### Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Miracle-Dinghy-Class-Association/965046153558785>

### Website

<http://www.miracledinghy.org/>  
*Check out the updated website*



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## Miracle stories

### Club racing at Pembrokeshire Yacht Club

*Simon and Vivienne Turnbull*

We have been club racing our Miracle on Friday evenings. We sail from Pembrokeshire Yacht Club and we started our club racing in July this season.


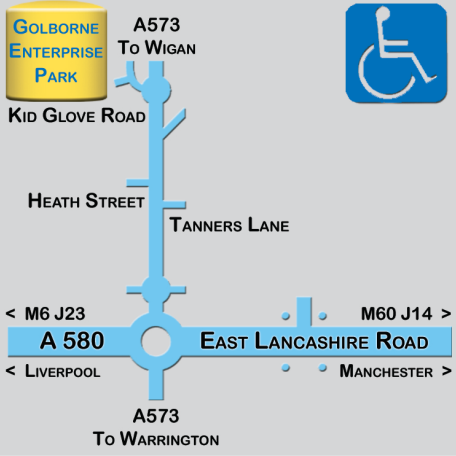
Vivienne is learning the ropes at seven years old, but is very keen and is thoroughly enjoying the racing. We are currently winning Division Two at our club and we have also managed to get out and

practice a capsizing drill during a pleasure sail.

Having bought the Miracle in a fairly basic spec we have also been upgrading the control lines so that kicker and cunningham lead to the thwart on both sides and have also bought a road trailer so that we can broaden our horizons in the future.



© Alex Brown

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**Miracles Memories**

*Geoff Weir*

**Miracle Picnic Bala Lake 1984**

Llangower Peninsular.

*Miracle boat number from right hand*

Brian Farrer	2223
George Griffiths	88
Stuart Kearns	2976
Jack Frodsham	205
Geoff Weir	2881



**Miracle National Championships**

*Roll of Honour*

See website

**Miracle Nationals 2021**

Sunday 8th to Friday 13th August

*Rutland Sailing Club*

**Miracle Association website: <http://www.miracledinghy.org/>**



[www.butlerboats.biz](http://www.butlerboats.biz)

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## RYA Dinghy Cruising Trails

The "RYA Dinghy Trails" is a brand new initiative to encourage dinghy sailors to explore the waters of the British Isles. The trails, available for all ability levels, give details of where to launch, information on the local area as well as top safety tips.

It is hoped that the trails will encourage people out onto the water in new and exciting locations and that the information provided will ensure sailors can safely enjoy their time on the water.

Speaking about this new initiative Michelle Gent, RYA Programmes Manager said "We are really excited about launching this new initiative. There are so many beautiful areas of the country where it is possible to take to the water and

investigate the shoreline, we hope that these Dinghy Trails will encourage more people into their boats. We are though aware that many clubs are not open to visitors at this current time, as such we are putting all of our efforts into creating more trails so that when the time comes we hope to have a trail in each part of the country."

"The trails will be available shortly to download. In preparation sailors may wish to take the RYA Day Sailing Course, more information can be found on the RYA website.

<https://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/Pages/Dinghy-Cruising-Trails.aspx>

## What year is a Miracle with the number...?

This is a common enquiry, particularly from someone who has recently acquired or found a Miracle. Whilst the Measurement Secretary maintains a list of when sail numbers were issued, he understandably is not always available to answer enquiries.

Bell Woodworking built quality wooden Miracles for many years, selling their first in 1975. They kept a log of the last sail number they sold in any given year and it is a good first guide to a boat's age.

It is not definitive as many boats were built by others, particularly self-builds, and these were not always completed straight away, if at all. A few years ago the Association was contacted by someone clearing out who had found a complete early DIY kit still in what looked to be the original packaging!

But as a starter.....

**Bell Woodworking**  
Sail number of the last boat sold in a particular year

Year	Sail number
1975	776
1976	1456
1977	2023
1978	2487
1979	2487
1980	3078
1981	3229
1982	3359
1983	3433
1984	3476
1985	3527
1986	3554
1987	3571
1988	3598
1989	3634
1990	3664
Sept 1991	3684



## RYA Dinghy Show Online virtual show 27th & 28th February 2021

After consulting with exhibitors the organisers have decided to postpone the Dinghy Show a year to 2022.

Instead there will be an online "virtual" show.

Watch out for details

<http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/dinghyshow/Pages/RyADinghyShow.aspx>

# Miracle Association

## Rules of Measurement and Construction: Rule 10 Buoyancy

The only Rule change at the 2020 AGM was to move responsibility from the Association to the owner for the efficiency of a boats buoyancy.

It was done by removing all reference to a Measurer in Rule 10 and adding a comment to delete or ignore all

references to an Annual Buoyancy Inspection on current Measurement Certificates.

It will come into force on 1st January 2021.



## Miracle Association website upgrade

<http://www.miracledinghy.org/>

Over the summer our Webmaster, Mike Smith, has upgraded our website to new software to bring it up to date and compatible with modern ways of working now so much is done by people on their mobile phones and tablets.

The opportunity was taken to review the material we had on the website and what we wanted the website to do.

Websites are always a work in progress, but why not go and have a look? One point is when you do, you need to “refresh” your browser. So it can work faster your computer saves the last version of a page it downloaded so it can present it quickly when you ask for it. However, it may be the old page that now comes up so you need to press “F5”, or the equivalent to ask your computer, mobile, etc, to go and find the latest page.



## Nautical Sayings “Fits the bill”

This phrase is used to describe something that is just what is required and is derived from the Bill of Lading. This was an inventory of goods received and a promise

to deliver in the same condition signed by the captain of a merchant ship. When the ship reached its destination the cargo would be confirmed according to the bill.

Courtesy of [www.harbourguides.com](http://www.harbourguides.com)

# Miracle National Championships

## Venues with the year sailed

The Miracles have been to many venues over the years Paul Robinson logged them against the years sailed noting there were 68% of sea venues.

Venue:	Years held:	No. of Events:
Ullswater	1978	7
Bala	1982 1986 1988 1991 1995 1999 2003 2006 2009 2012	5
Plymouth	1979 1983 1987 1993 1997 2001 2005 2008 2011	5
Beaumaris	1981 1985 1989 2007 2010	4
Eastbourne	1977 1981 1984 1989 2002	4
Llandudno	1980 1985 1992 2008	4
Brixham	1987 2005	3
Hunstanton	1998 2014	2
Pwllheli	2016 2019	2
South Shields	1994 2000	2
Weymouth	1996 2013	2
Datchet Water	1976	1
Netley, Southampton Water	2017	1
Rock	1990	1
Rutland	2015 {+2021 to follow}	1
<b>Total number of National events (1976 to 2019):</b>		<b>44</b>
Sea venues		68%



## Miracle stories: Gurit build a Miracle section, Part 2

Last issue we started describing the process when the Gurit technical team built a piece of a Miracle Dinghy to demonstrate the full capability of the Gurit AMPRO™ range which can be used for coating, bonding, filleting, filling, sheathing and laminating. The story now continues...

Gillan Gibson, Halo Editor



Steve Main  
Gurit Senior Technical Support Engineer  
steve.main@gurit.com

Gurit Customer Support  
contact@gurit.com  
www.gurit.com

With a number of elements in place there was still no deck in place so the section could be turned over to fill the external chine. A filler mix of AMPRO™ and microballoons was applied up to the edge of the original rebate for the laminate. A good tip is not to apply more than you need as this will only need sanding off after.



Left: Filler applied  
Right: Excess filler sanded off

Then two of the three deck ribs were fitted, which would still allow access to complete most of the inside fillets. The fillets to the inside of the longitudinal bulkhead were made using a mix of AMPRO™ and Glass Bubbles. More commonly these joints would use microballoons as these are the lightest form of fillet, however since we wanted a piece that demonstrated the full range of fillers available, glass bubbles were used. With the internal fillets completed, all of the inner surfaces of the buoyancy tank were then given a final coat of AMPRO™ SEAL.



Left: Two deck ribs fitted  
Right: All types of fillet used



www.gurit.com

For the deck, an oversized piece of plywood was used to give a nice colour contrast, which was bonded using a mix of AMPRO™ and Microballoons applied to the deck ribs and bulkhead tops. Once cured, the oversized deck section was then planed to achieve a perfect fit.



Left: Adhesive applied to bonding surfaces  
Right: Oversize deck section positioned

With the first section of deck cured, profiled and the internals coated, it was time to fit the deck rib and the last section of deck. As with a real build, the internal surfaces were coated with two coats of AMPRO™ seal and then bonded, without any cleaning of the internals. Creative clamping is often required in these situations, mixing sticks are ideal for packing and wedging!



Left: Final deck rib fitting  
Right: Top deck curing

The last piece of structure to be added was the rubbing strake. This was bonded on using a AMPRO™ mixed with Microballoons to ensure a similar colour match to the wood. In this instance, no screws were used, which may not be practical on a full size build. With the rubbing strake rounded and faired into the deck, the structure is finished.



Bonding & clamping the rubbing strake

The finished section is now ready to be coated. AMPRO™ CLR will be used for the internal cockpit and deck areas and AMPRO™ for the hull exterior prior to painting and varnishing. The finished section will be used by Gurit and Authorised distributors at trade shows and workshops to demonstrate the versatility of the AMPRO™ range.





# Miracle Association Committee

## Committee Members

### Paul Robinson, Chairman

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### Louis Moulden, Committee member

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### Helen Jacks, Trophy Officer

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Staunton Harold SC

## Miracle Association meetings

### Summary of minutes

#### AGM Sub Committee Meeting

7th July 2020

#### Zoom Meeting

- The meeting was to see demonstrated and to consider an online system for the AGM, both the voting and the following discussion.
- A subscription to Zoom was considered and a monthly subscription is to be

taken out. It was noted the cost of physically bringing members together for physical committee meetings was substantial and is not feasible in the current coronavirus situation.

- It was anticipated there would be an initial online vote followed by an online Zoom meeting and options are to be explored.
- AGM reports will be required before the

AGM to be uploaded to the voting programme.

- The revised Notice for the AGM has been published in the Summer 2020 *Halo*.
- There was one proposal for the AGM, to amend the Rules of Measurement and Construction, Rule 10 relating to Buoyancy to permit self-certification. Details have been circulated to the membership and were published in the Spring and Summer 2020 issues of the *Halo*.



**AGM Sub Committee: 16th July 2020**

**AGM Sub Committee: 23rd July 2020**

**Full Committee: 6th August 2020**

**Zoom Meetings online**

These meetings continued arrangements for the AGM



**Annual General Meeting  
in two parts**

**Part 1: Online voting: 3rd-5th August 20**

**Part 2: Zoom Meeting: 6th August 20**

**Part 1: Online voting: 3rd-5th August 20**

- The online voting was successful, with unanimous decisions in favour of each of the items.

**Part 2: Zoom Meeting: 6th August 20**

Paul Robinson in the Chair.

Chair and officers' reports:

- **Chair**, Paul Robinson
  - ◇ Welcome to the first online Zoom section of the AGM. The whole format is a first for the Association necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic.

◇ Some clubs are running social sailing, but there are no open meetings. Though some members have tried their hand at e-sailing.

◇ RYA Dinghy Show: 2020 at Alexandra Place was very successful. In 2021 it moves to the Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre and is to be held on 27th and 28th February 2021.

◇ Miracle National Championships 2021 confirmed at Rutland Sailing Club Sunday 8th to Friday 13th August 2021.

◇ Miracle National Championships 2022 and beyond: various venues contacted. List of where the fleet has been in past years attached as an appendix to the minutes.

- **Secretary**, Gillan Gibson  
Since the last AGM your Committee has:

◇ Arranged for attendance at the RYA Dinghy Show in 2020 and arrangements for the 2021 Show at Farnborough to be considered.

◇ National Championships 2020: Arranged for the National Championships to be held at Netley. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic Netley Sailing Club considered it prudent to cancel the event.

◇ National Championships 2021 arranged for Rutland Sailing Club, Sunday 8th to Friday 13th August.

◇ National Championships 2022 various options investigated.

◇ General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): a Privacy Policy has been drawn up and made available, with other documentation compiled as required. All to be kept under review and updated as necessary.

# Miracle Association meetings

## Summary of minutes (cont.)

- ◇ Arranged for an online Miracle Association AGM.
- ◇ Miracle website upgraded to new software.
- ◇ Dealt with a variety of correspondence received by various routes.
- **Membership**, Ian Brown
  - ◇ Membership of 158 is a drop compared to the previous year when it was 166.
  - ◇ Membership and joining is online using Membermojo.
- **Measurement**, Brian Jones
  - ◇ Measurers' Guide is up to date both in print and online.
  - ◇ The last sail number is 4123.
  - ◇ 3 boats have been built, or are in the process of being built (One wood, one FRP and one set of plans recently sent to the Czech Republic) .
  - ◇ Modification to the Rules to clarify the definition of "Top Width" of the mainsail, updating the wording to reflect the change in the governing body (IYRU, is now "World Sailing"), and Certified Sailmakers introduced.
- **Treasurer**, Kenneth Gibson
  - ◇ The Association is in a sound financial position
- **Rules of the Association:** There were no proposals for changes.
- **Rules of Measurement:** Rule 10 was amended to move responsibility from the Association to the owner for the efficiency of a boats buoyancy, the new Rule to read:

### *"Rule 10 **BUOYANCY***

*Buoyancy shall consist of three separate tanks, the efficiency of which shall be determined by the owner. FRP boats may have a single tank plus sufficient positive buoyancy to remain afloat if holed.*

*N.B delete or ignore all reference to Annual Buoyancy Inspections on current Measurement certificates"*

### • **Election of the Committee**

The following were voted upon online, en bloc, and elected unanimously:

Chairman: Paul Robinson  
Secretary: Gillan Gibson  
Treasurer: Kenneth Gibson  
Measurement Secretary: Brian Jones  
Membership Secretary: Ian Brown  
Committee Members:  
Race Organiser: Wayne Atherton  
Louis Moulden  
Andrew Robinson

### • Any other business:

- ◇ Composition of the committee:  
There was discussion at the consequences of committee members being limited to a three year term and also the limit to two members from the same club at any one time. In both cases there are pros and cons of the different limitations. In both instances this can be dealt with by co-opting the member involved for a year at the AGM where it was clear for everyone to see and it was voted upon. There was a suggestion Rule 5b of the Rules of the Association

could be reviewed by the Committee and its thoughts presented to the membership for consideration

- ◇ RYA Dinghy Show
- ◇ Nationals: various aspects

### **Full Committee Meeting 8th September 2020 Zoom meeting**

- Miracle Nationals 2022: Approaches to the Royal Anglesey Yacht Club (RAYC), Beaumaris, had proven positive. The Club suggested some possible dates with the tidal implications for each, based on preliminary tide tables. An order of preference was drawn up to sent to the club, but nothing can be finalised until 2021 when accurate tidal

information is available.

- Miracle Northern Championships at Delph 2020: Following cancellation of the two day event in May due to the coronavirus pandemic a one day event had been organised for 11th October. It was decided that, in view of the exceptional circumstances this one day event could still be considered the Northern Championships. The club will make the final decision as to whether the event will be held. [Subsequent to the committee meeting the Delph SC reassessed the situation and decide to cancel the event]

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

## Winter Sailing: the Selden SailJuice series

In previous years a number of Miracles have joined in this series. The organisers are currently advertising this winter's events, with the intention the circuit will stay as similar as possible to previous years with a commitment to have some activity on each of the scheduled dates. Uncertainties created by Covid 19 mean there are likely to be changes along the way. There will be pre-registration and as with all events in the current coronavirus pandemic nothing can be certain.

Enter at: [Selden.SailRacer.org](https://www.selden.sailracer.org)

(Limited entry numbers for many events)

### **Draycote Dash**

21st & 22nd November 2020

### **Datchet Flyer**

5th & 6th December 2020

### **Brass Monkey**, Burghfield SC

Sunday 27th December 2020

### **Grafham Grand Prix**

Sunday 3rd January 2021

### **Bloody Mary**, Queen Mary SC

Saturday 9th January 2021

### **King George Gallop**, King George SC

23rd January 2021

### **John Merricks Tiger Trophy**, Rutland SC

6th & 7th February 2021

### **Oxford Blue**, Oxford Sailing Club

Saturday 13th February 2021

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