Miracle Insurance

Cover and premium for:

Sum insured	£5m Third Party only	£5m Third Party + Fully Comprehensive	Including
n/a	£24.00	n/a	
£100	a/a	£26.00	Racing
£500	a/a	£34.00	12 months use
£800	a/a	£37.00	Fire
£1,000	a/a	£39.00	Theft
£1,500	a/a	£41.00	Collision
£2,000	a/a	£44.00	Transit Damage
£2,500	a/a	£47.00	Launching
£3,000	a/a	£50.00	U.K. + C.I.
£3,500	a/a	£57.00	Trips to E.U.
£4,000	a/a	£62.00	
£4,500	a/a	£67.00	
£5,000	a/a	£72.00	

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Newton Crum Insurance, 839 London Road, Westcliff, Essex, SSO 9TE

"All the people involved in my claim were extremely helpful and speedy in their responses. This is our second claim in our sailing history and it is so good to see standards as high now as they were years ago. Many, many thanks".

For over 57 years insuring Britain's sailors, better.

To the Miracle Association - Happy 40th Birthday

The Halo

Miracle Association Magazine Spring 2015



The Friendly, Family, Dinghy Class"

The Halo. Miracle Association Magazine

Spring 2015

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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.

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Items for the next issue to the Editor by 1st June 2015.

Editor's Corner

As well as celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Miracle Association this issue has two proposals by the Committee, following on from last year's AGM, to revise the Rules of the



Association and the Rules of Measurement and Construction. These are put forward for the AGM with the aim of keeping Miracle sailing up to date. Though generally a "tidy up" there are one or two changes proposed and these are outlined in the *Notes* following the formal proposals in this *Halo*. It is not practical to send copies of the full documents out with the Halo so they will be available on the Miracle website (www.miracledinghy.org/) or you can email for copies. So members can see the old and the new together coloured text has been used to show what is to stay the same (black), what is to be removed (blue) and what is to be moved (green) and what has been added (red).

Going sailing is probably more on sailors' minds and there is an excellent open meeting programme. Note a sea venue for the first time in a few years as we go to Tynemouth in July. And of course



there are the Nationals at Rutland, a venue a number of members have wanted to go to for a while. All that is required now is the right weather! Gillan Gibson, Miracle 3670





Ally Pally. Friday Morning. massive panic! Gillan and Kenneth in A & E. Dorri and I are in London, having set off at 4.00 am with the new Miracle.

Stand and equipment in Newcastle. Well, the carpet was down so we set too and rigged the boats). Eleven o'clock, panic over, Ken's got flu and has to stay at home, but Gillan is on her way to London. Well done Ken and Gillan for a super stand eventually erected in a superb position opposite the entrance to the hall where everyone could have an uninterrupted view. Martin Bathe and Gillan completed the stand.

Saturday and Sunday went really

well with much interest in both boats. Dave Butler's beautiful composite (thanks Dave) and Woodwind's beautiful state of the art epoxy **GRP Miracle** (Louis's new boat named "Lilly Grace" after our new great

granddaughter). Thanks also to Gibson Sails who lent us Brian Jones's new sails.

The Association gave a free year's membership to anyone who had a Miracle dinghy but was not a member (existing members will be getting a £10 voucher with their renewal letters).

A massive thank you to all who helped, in particular Martin, Simon, Wayne, Brian, John, Renee and Gillan and Ken for the organisation. Simon. Wavne. Dorri and I got half drowned packing the boat away during a thunderstorm, then the M6 was closed, so back to Bolton at 2.00 am!

Looking forward to the new season we hope to see you at some open meetings and.....a plug for Delph's Miracle open, 16th to 17th May - free camping, plus a barbeque on Saturday night!

Finally, please get your entries in for the Nationals at Rutland A.S.A.P. Louis Moulden, Miracle 4036



Race Organiser

It's hard to believe that the new sailing season has arrived, albeit a little wet and windy. 3131 should be in full race training mode by the time you read this. The calendar kicks off again at Broadwater (25/26th April) with a nice local fleet providing a warm welcome.

My home club (Welton) hosts the fleet on 9th/10th May. It's earlier this year with the aim of avoiding the weed issues that tested the crews last year. A good local fleet of varying abilities will guarantee competitive racing for all. Please be advised that there is no camping at Welton Sailing Club.

The very next weekend Delph welcomes the fleet on 16th/17th of May. Of course the usual excellent catering and bar facilities will be available to be sampled. Some top boats and a good fleet will provide some excellent racing.

Girton (6th/7th June) is a favorite for many, and there's always a real holiday feel at this club. It boasts an interesting lake to sail and a sandy beach to launch off. TV and pool table compliment the bar facilities. A good turnout is guaranteed with robust racing to boot.

I shall leave it at that, just a taster for those boats that may not have ventured out on the open scene.

If you are aiming to attend any meeting this season please email the relevant club to indicate your intentions. This really helps the host clubs prepare for any catering needs. It's also advisable to check the Miracle website before you depart – just to check for any last minute changes.

I hope to see you there! Richard Brameld



BAG YOURSELF SOME FIVERS

££

During the 2015 season any member who travels to and enters any of our scheduled meetings, other than the 2015 Nationals, will be rewarded with a £5 discount for each event against the entry fee for the 2016 Nationals. This incentive will allow members to maximise the benefit throughout the whole season and enjoy up to £55 discount (Based on 11 events).

Nationals 2015 Hunstanton



Youth Trophy presented to Dan Ryder-Davies Lea

Race meeting calendar 2015

Broadwater Southern Are	(UB9 6PD) ea Championshi	25th &26th April ps	www.broadwatersc.org.uk	
Welton North East C	(HU15 1PT) hampionship	9th & 10th May	www.weltonsc.org	,
Delph Northern Ch	(BL7 9TS) ampionships	16th & 17th May	delphsailingclub.co.uk	
Girton Puddleduck	(NG23 7HX)	6th & 7th June	www.girtonsc.org.uk	0
Redoubt	(CT21 4ND)	20th June	www.redoubtsc.org.uk/	0
Burton Inland Cham	(DE65 6EG) pionship	27th & 28th June	www.burtonsailingclub.co.uk	
Leigh & Lowton (WA3 1BQ) Midland Championships		11th & 12th July	http://leighandlowton.wordpress.com/	
Tynemouth Summer Reg	atta	18th & 19th July	http://tynemouthsc.co.uk/	
Shotwick	(CH5 2LL)	25th or 26th July	http://www.shotwicksailing.org/	
Rutland National Cha	(LE15 8HJ) mpionships	9th to 14th Aug	www.rutlandsc.co.uk/	
Thornton Steward (HG4 4BQ) 2 End of Season Championships		·	www.thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk	
Draycote	(CV23 8AB)	10th October	www.draycotewater.co.uk	



Going to an open meeting: Give it a go

If you've wondered about going to an open meeting but were not sure what was involved there was an article in the Spring 2010 issue of *Halo*. Along with other articles from the

magazine it can be found on the website. Clicking on "members" will bring up a page with a list of articles at the bottom right, one of which is on going to open meetings.



2015 Nationals Rutland SC 9th to 14th August



An inland venue in the middle of England you should have had a copy of the tourist guide and seen how much there is to do in the area, including a lake cruise. Whilst accommodation close to the water can be costly, go a little distance away and it can quickly cost much less, and there are still rooms in the clubhouse. Though the biggest way to save is to get your entry in early.

Save £50 Enter by 30th April

£125 per boat if entered by 30th April 2013, £175 after this date.

Note - Electronic Payment available - See Entry Form

Entry fee includes:

- Racing
- Boat space parking
- Car parking
- Commodore's Reception for all
- 2 tickets for Prizegiving, for helm and crew (Additional tickets Adults £15, children £7.50)

Midweek meal

Everyone: £7.50 from Reception, Rutland Sailing Club

Entering

Forms are available from the Secretary and can be downloaded from the website.

Social Events Diary

Sat 8th August
Informal evening

Sun 9th August Commodore's Reception 7.00 pm

> Mon 10th August Free evening

Tues 11th August Free evening

Wed 12th August Meal and Quiz 7.00 pm

Thurs 13th August Association AGM 7.30 pm

Fri 14th August Prizegiving and Meal 7.00 pm

Bar open in evenings

Websites

Rutland Sailing Club http://www.rutlandsc.co.uk/

Rutland Tourist Information www.discover-rutland.co.uk/

Race Timings

For the Nationals at Rutland, to make more time for the non points races, it has been decided to reduce the number of Points Races back to 8 races.

The times will be:

Warning signal

Sun 9th Aug

Practice Race 10:25 hrs 1st Points Race (PR) 13:25 hrs

Mon 10th Aug

2nd Points Race 10:25 hrs

1st Youth Race (YR) ASAP after 2nd PR Crews Race ASAP after 1st YR

Tues 11th Aug

3rd Points Race 10:25 hrs

4th Points Race ASAP after 3rd PR 2nd Youth Race ASAP after 4th PR

Wed 12th Aug

5th Points Race 10:25 hrs

3rd Youth Race ASAP after 5th PR

Singlehanded/non spinnaker
ASAP after 3rd YR

Thurs 13th Aug

6th Points Race 10:25 hrs

7th Points Race ASAP after 7th PR

Fri 14th Aug

8th Points Race 10:25 hrs

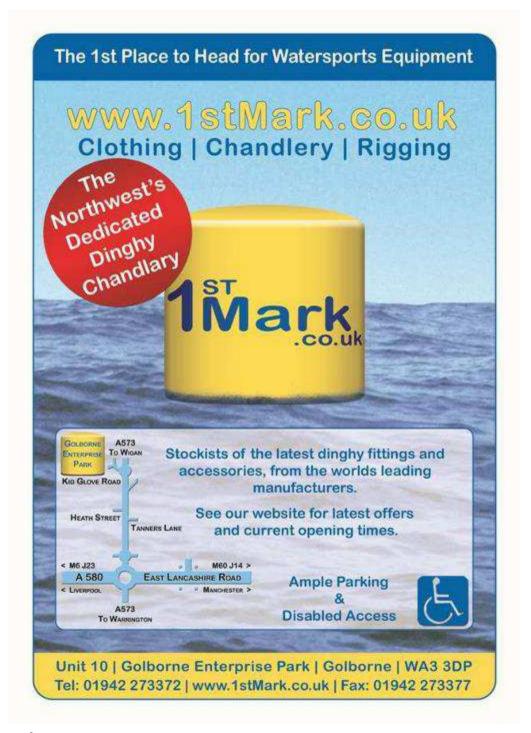












1st Nationals to 40th Nationals

Same boat, same helm, same crew Miracle 124 "Hot Dog"



Some Memories of the early vears. I was asked when chatting to Gillan at the Dinghy Show to iot down a

few

notes on my memories of the early days of the Miracle. In 1975 my mother bought MM124 "Hot Dog". We commenced racing her at ICI (Slough) SC and quickly progressed to entering open meetings. It is amazing to think that within less than a year of the Miracle Association being formed we were holding our first National Championship at Datchet with an amazing 59 entries! I remember lining up on the start of the very first race. It was very hot (yes it was "that" summer). There was also very little wind. This meant a lot of place swapping as the zephyrs came and went. It was a weekend event in those days so only four races were sailed. Derek Beere became our first National Champion proving to be a master of the flukey

conditions.

The next year
we headed to
Eastbourne and had
the opposite
conditions - Very
strong and gusty winds. Most boats
retired from the Practice race - yes we had
them in those days. In a rising wind the
first race started. It was carnage. Out of
54 boats only 15 survived to the finish.
Somehow we fought our way round. I'll
never forget that race!!

Hot Dog sailed on in another 10 Nationals comfortably in the middle of the fleet building memories and making many friends in what is a very friendly fleet. I had a variety of crews including my brother, my mother and my wife, so truly a family affair. After a very windy week in the Nationals at Brixham when the centreboard casing made a bid for freedom and the mast developed a distinctive "S" shape, I decided to retire her. By then I had a young family and other priorities. But I never sold her.

To mark the 40 the nationals I have decided to bring the old girl out of retirement. I have persuaded my brother to crew for me again so at the 40th Nationals she will again line up on the start, same boat, same helm, same crew as all those years ago at Datchet. (hope she doesn't sink!). See you there.

Steve Fischer, Miracle 124



Remember to Check, Clean, Dry

Did you know that one adult Quagga Mussel can produce up to one million larvae in a year? And that's just one of the reasons why it's so important for all dinghy sailors follow 'Check Clean Dry' to stop the spread of this and other alien species around the UK's freshwater sailing venues.

The Quagga Mussel comes from the south-east corner of Europe and was discovered in Wraysbury Reservoir and the Wraysbury River in 2014. Along with other species such as the Zebra Mussel and Killer Shrimp, it is highly invasive and can cause immense damage to the environment, from clogging up water treatment equipment and outcompeting native species for food to encrusting sailing equipment and propellers of RIBs and tenders.

Non-native species are species that have established themselves outside of their normal range. The most likely way the species arrive in the UK is in ship ballast water, on hull fouling, through aquaculture escapes or the plant and animal import trade. Once in the UK, recreational boating, including the dinghy racing circuits, can provide a secondary means for a species to spread into new water bodies.

Eradication of most invasive species is extremely difficult which is why The Green Blue - the joint environment project of the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine federation - is urging all boaters to follow the Check Clean Dry routine.

CHECK

Check equipment and clothing for live organisms – particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect before moving to a new location.

CLEAN

Use clean water to thoroughly hose down all parts of the boat, launching trolley, trailer and equipment that come into contact with the water before leaving the site. Remember to get into the nooks and crannies, such as tyre treads.

Drain water from every part of the boat

Drain water from every part of the boat and all equipment that can hold water. Soak equipment and clothing in hot water on site or when you return home as this will improve the chances of killing adults and microscopic larvae which are invisible to the eye.

DRY

When you get home, let the boat and sails dry out for as long as possible. Also dry clothing, footwear and buoyancy aids – some species can survive for up to two weeks in damp conditions!

How to identify a Quagga Mussel

Quagga Mussels are small (no more than 4cm across) with a dark brown and light brown stripy shell. When placed on its front it will roll to one side and it has an undulating (as opposed to a straight, horizontal) seam between the shells.

If you think you may have found a Quagga Mussel, send an email with a photograph and location details to: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

To find out more visit

- www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/ quaggamussel
- www.thegreenblue.org.uk







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How I see Miracles John Topliss

As some might know I have owned and sailed Miracle dinghies for many years, I sailed and enjoyed 3732 Etty Ketty for over twenty years, and for the last two years 4050 Etty Ketty II (the best Miracle ever made in my opinion). I am a Miracle fan!

I sail most weekends from March to November at Welton.

Over the years I have introduced children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, and assorted others to the joys of sailing as well as learning to be a better sailor myself. I expect that many others will have had similar experiences.

You won't see me at open meetings and Nationals because that type of competition has never been what I enjoy, I am, however, a very keen club racer, and whilst not a budding champion, I try to keep those that are, honest.

Why then am I rambling on?
During the last few years or so I
have noticed that, to remain competitive
for racing, Miracles have become more
and more complex, with inboard jib
sheeting, complex spinnaker handling, a
"cats cradle" of control lines for the crew
to trip over. Each season marks the start
of another performance "arms race".

It worries me that, if we try to turn the Miracle into an out and out racing machine, there is a danger that the class may loose sight of Jack Holt's original vision. The strength of the design has always been it's versatility, it's simplicity, it's safety, it's space, together with a responsive sparkling performance. Future developments in the class should reflect this vision.

If the class is to continue to thrive in competition with other newer classes it must play to its strengths. It's fun to sail, it's safe and easy to sail for all the family, it's responsive and agile for sailors of all abilities. Oh yes! You can race it too! And with a PY of1200 it should do very well in handicap events. For class racing, let's try to keep them all the same, or at least vaguely similar.

It's all about balance.

With lots of regret I am changing class this year because I am getting too old to look after a young crew as well as myself. I still love Miracles!

John Topliss 4050 Etty Ketty II (the best Miracle ever made)



To the Miracle Association Happy 40th Anniversary



4064's build continued Part 5

Brian Jones continues building a Miracle using pre-cut ply parts

No it wasn't ready for the Bloody Mary just as well as it may have been destroyed! We nearly were!!!



The decks are fitted using simple plywood clamps and wedges (nice and cheap) plus a few of the real things!



The centre of the foredeck is held in place with small screwed down blocks and a piece of scrap ply to simulate the other half. A 5mm gap will be left between the

two deck halves to insert a whitewood strip in. Its not just decorative but has a very useful function of making a neat join!











The rear decks are clamped and weighted with bricks while the epoxy sets









The centre piece of the thwart is clamped in place





The rear decks have been faired off and grab rails are glued into place neatly hiding the join between deck and side tanks. To avoid screwing or pinning them they are wedged with lengths of scrap wood.

4064's build continued

Brian Jones continues building a Miracle using pre-cut ply parts





The whitewood strip is glued in place and the crew seats have been faired off with an angled cut out to mount the jib cleat tracks on



Rubbing beads are glued and screwed. When set the screws are removed and the holes plugged making a nice row of cannon ports!!! (until faired off)









Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Miracle Dinghy Class
Association will be held at
Rutland Sailing Club
Edith Weston
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 8HJ

On Thursday 13th August 2015 at 7.30 pm (room location to be advised)

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 21st August 2014 at Hunstanton
- 3. Matters Arising
- 4. Chairman and Officers Reports
- 5. Treasurers Report
- 6. Proposals for changes to the Miracle Association Rules of the Association
- 7. Proposals for changes to the Miracle Association Rules of Measurement and Construction
- 8. Election of the Committee
- 9. Any Other Business

According to our Rules of Association any proposal for consideration at the AGM shall be proposed and seconded by full members and submitted to the Association Secretary no later than 21st May 2015

AGM proposal - Agenda item 6 Revised Miracle Association Rules of the Association

Proposal: To accept the revised *Miracle*Association Rules of the Association as circulated, blue wording removed.

Proposed by the Committee.

Copies will be emailed to members on request, they are available from

- the Secretary, John Tippett
 Email: tippett.john@tiscali.co.uk
- The website www.miracledinghy.org/

Notes

Having served us well and been amended on various occasions it was considered a revision to bring the Rules up to date would be appropriate in the Association's 40th year.

Mainly it is a tidying up of the wording, but there are some changes. Ultimately everyone will have to read the proposed *Rules* for themselves. However, to do this it is helpful to know what went before so a version with "tracked changes" is being circulated. This has the

- unchanged text in black,
- text to be added in red; and
- text to be removed in blue.

Particular points to observe are:

- Types of membership streamlined (Rule 4):
- Membership to be open to anyone interested in the Miracle, not just Miracle owners (Rule 4b);
- Members with vested commercial interests relating to the Miracle may not serve on the Committee, but can sit on the technical committee (Rule5e);
- The AGM can co-opt committee members (Rule 5C);
- At the AGM particular officers will be elected, namely: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Measurement Secretary together with up to six committee members (Rule 6). The existing Rules make provision for "at least NINE full members" without defining roles (see Rule 5b in blue text). The original Rule 5e is adjudged to have referred to the very first meeting of the Association in 1975 only.





To the Miracle Association Happy 40th Anniversary



AGM proposal - Agenda item 7 Revised *Miracle Association Rules of Measurement and Construction*

Proposal: To accept the revised Miracle Association Rules of Measurement and Construction as circulated, without the blue wording.

Proposed by the Committee.

Copies will be emailed to members on request, they are available from

- the Secretary, John Tippett
 Email: tippett.john@tiscali.co.uk
- The Measurement Secretary, Brian Jones. Email: brianandjoanie@gmail.com
- The website www.miracledinghy.org/

Notes

Over the years there have been many changes and additions to the Measurement Rules and it was agreed at last years AGM to revise and modernise them.

Ultimately everyone will have to read the proposed *Rules* for themselves. However, to do this it is helpful to know what went before so a version with "tracked changes" is being circulated. This has the

- unchanged text in black,
- text to be added in red:
- text to be removed in blue
- text in green moved to a different section.

Particular points to observe are:

General

- Some latitude in interior design specified;
- Specific exclusion of the use of carbon fibre in hull construction;
- ♦ All references to "Marks" of Miracle removed. Instead the Jack Holt design is depicted as a diagram and directly referenced to the plans as held by the Association (these now become the defining article). Design variations to the above are specified and then referenced to 6 cross sections representing the alternative profiles largely based on the Mark 4 design. (There is an overall plan view depicting the position of these and defining deck layout);
- Hull thickness is specified as a minimum and a maximum, this enables our Rules to apply to all permitted types of construction and allows for future developments like Resin Infusion (FRP but moulded in a different way) while restricting the possible use of very thick, stiff, but light weight hulls.

• Permitted Exceptions

- ♦ Basically tidied up;
- ♦ Toe straps specific restrictions on attachments removed [r];
- ♦ Epoxy fillets instead of glass tape permitted where possible [z];

- ♦ Thwart information rewritten and condensed to one paragraph [ac]
- Permitted Holes rewritten to include: running control lines; necessary drain holes; and toe strap attachment points.

• Measurement Form - Hull Topside

All references to Mark 4 removed.
 Replaced in 13a, 16a and 18a with words "if false floor fitted"; and in 29 with "if cut down tank fitted;

- ♦ 7: only one minimum measurement to aft side of mast gate;
- ♦ 23: jib fairlead distance to centreline reduced to 350mm to tie in with [zx] in Permitted Exceptions.

Thanks to the Technical Committee for all their hard work and effort.

Brian Jones, Measurement Secretary



Nationals Survey

If you want to influence where the fleet goes for the National Championships complete the survey and let your Committee know *your* views.

- Vote on the Miracle website www.miracledinghy.org/ or
- Send an email to gillan gibson@yahoo.co.uk,

Website

http://www.miracledinghy.org/

Facebook

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

Wanted

Oval boom for a Miracle
Louis Moulden

louis@Imolden.orangehome.co.uk 07977 514776

Nautical Sayings "Fathom"

This was originally a land measuring term derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'fætm' meaning the embracing arms, or to embrace. In those days, most measurements were based on average

sizes of parts of the body. A fathom is the average distance from fingertip to fingertip of the outstretched arms of a six-foot tall man hence six feet

Courtesy of www.see-the-sea.org

Miracle Association Committee

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Kenneth Gibson Dinghy Show Co-ordinator

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Miracle Association meeting

Summary of minutes

Upton - 21st February 2015

- Miracle number 3: The Maritime
 Museum at Falmouth is reviewing its
 floating collection and is considering
 taking Miracle 3 into its fleet.
- **Treasurer:** The Association is in a financially sound position.
- Membership: As a promotion at the RYA Dinghy Show free membership is to be given to the first 10 Miracle owners who were not members of the

Association. Renewing members are to be offered a £10 voucher redeemable at their next membership renewal.

• Open meetings 2015:

- ♦ The programme was confirmed
- There is a Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ groups/56799327734/
- Clubs and fleets are to be encouraged to provide open meeting reports to Yachts and

- Yachting, the *Halo* and the website.
- ♦ A revised list of gold, silver and bronze fleets was presented.

Measurement:

- ♦ In the last 12 months 15 new Miracles have been registered.
- There have been requests for plans from as far away as Hungary, Bali, Canada and the USA.
- There is to be a £50 no frills fee for digital plans only and without measurement certificate, for a 12 month promotional period.
- RYA Dinghy Show 2015: Arrangements for the stand were discussed.

- 2015 Nationals at Rutland Water: Arrangements were discussed.
- Future Nationals: Various venues were discussed and are to be explored.
- Rules of the Miracle Association: A revised wording of the Rules was considered and is to be put forward as a proposal at the 2015 AGM.
- Miracle Rules of Measurement and Construction: A revised wording of the Rules was considered and is to be put forward as a proposal at the 2015 AGM.

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



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