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“ 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”.

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Join us at the Dinghy Show in March

# The Halo

**Miracle Association Magazine January 2017**



**Laminate mainsail now an option**

Brian Jones and Paul Barnes  
at the Blood Mary

**The Friendly, Family, Dinghy Class”**

Contents

Editor's Corner	2
Chairman's Desk	3
Race meetings 2017	5
RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show	5
2017 Nationals, Netley, Southampton	7
2016 Nationals, Pwllheli,	
Trophies	8
Photo montage	12
City of Plymouth Cup: a history	14
Reports and results	16
Committee and meetings	22

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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, p21, Sportography.tv; p2 Sue Atherton; p3 Jean Reed; p7, p21 "U" flag Gillan Gibson; p8-11 Helen Jacks; p12-13 Andy Green; p16 & 17 Geoff Weir.

Items for the next issue should be with the Editor by 1st March 2017.

## Editor's Corner

Preparations for the Nationals at Netley are well underway. Mind, it's the first time I've sailed somewhere there has been a double High Water. Have a look at the Notice of Race you can download from the Miracle website to see what I mean. The result is that whilst there is some change in race start times over the week it is nowhere near as much as it could be. Kenneth and I visited Netley SC back of last year and the compactness of the camping, parking, clubhouse, patio, launching and sailing area were noticeable and welcome. Entry fee costs are stepped so it's worth getting organised to enter early and reduce your fee, plus have a look at the other reductions available

Note also the much expanded open meeting programme. Michelle Raines has



been working hard on our behalf so all we have to do is go and enjoy the meetings and support the clubs. Happy sailing.  
Gillan Gibson  
Miracle 3670

### Miracle promotional packs

Are there Miracle sailors at your club who are not Association members? The Association has produced packs of information to promote what it does, the Miracle, and to encourage people to join. Ken Gibson can send one direct if you give him an address, or if you can say how many you would like he can send you packs to had out with that personal touch.

## Chairman's Desk



Hi folks, Happy New Year, hope you've all enjoyed the festivities and are getting your Miracles ready for the new season. Our next engagement

will be the Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace on 4th and 5th March. My epoxy GRP Miracle will be on display with the new style of laminate mainsail. Please come and help man the stand (we have some free passes) or, if you're not able to help, come for a chat.

Many congratulations to Neal Gibson & Keith Macey and Brian Jones & Paul Barnes who represented us at the Bloody Mary Pursuit Race. Of 245 boats

Neal & Keith were 9th and Brian & Paul 50th. WELL DONE.

Dorri and I had two weeks in Malta in November and met Joe Morana, a member of Birzebbuga Sailing Club where they have 6 Miracle dinghies. Unfortunately we were not able to take up his offer of a sail because we were in Gozo with friends when the offer came. But we met later for lunch and had a long convivial chat. We asked him if he had ever visited Britain he said he'd been on a dry stone walling course at a place called Entwistle, one mile from our house!

I am very much looking forward to the Nationals at Netley Sailing Club. Everybody I speak to who have sailed there speak well of the sailing and the club. We recently learned that two very good friends from Delph sailing club now sail there. Please do get your entries in early. Here's to a good years sailing.  
Louis Moulden, Miracle 4100



### Miracle Association email list - are you on?

The Association has an email list of members. If you did not receive a recent email on accommodation at Netley you

may not be on so send an email to kengillian2@yahoo.co.uk to be added.

### Website:

<http://www.miracledinghy.org>

### Facebook GROUP:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/56799327734/permalink/10152851737107735/>

### Facebook PAGE:

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

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## Race meeting Calendar 2017

<b>Staunton Harold</b> (DE73 8DL)	8th & 9h April	www.shsc.org.uk
Midland Area Championship		
<b>Broadwater</b> (UB9 6PD)	22nd & 23rd April	www.broadwatersc.org.uk
Southern Area Championship		
<b>Port Dinorwic</b> (LL56 4RQ)	6th & 7th May	www.pdsc.org.uk
Open meeting		
<b>Delph</b> (BL7 9TS)	20th & 21st May	www.delphsailingclub.co.uk
Northern Area Championship		
<b>Welton</b> (HU15 1PT)	10th & 11th June	www.weltonsc.org
North East Area Championship		
<b>Girton</b> (NG23 7HX)	17th & 18th June	www.girtonsc.org.uk
Puddleduck		
<b>Leigh &amp; Lowton</b> (WA3 1BQ)	8th & 9th July	www.llsc.org.uk
Inland Championship		
<b>Netley</b> (SO31 5GA)	6th to 11th Aug	www.netleysc.co.uk/
National Championships		
<b>Shotwick</b> (CH5 2LL)	16th & 17th Sept	www.shotwicksailing.org/home/
Welsh Area Championship		
<b>Shustoke</b> (B46 2BE)	21st & 22nd Oct	www.shustokesailingclub.co.uk/
End of Season Championship		

## RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show

Saturday & Sunday  
4th & 5th March 2017

Alexandra Place  
London

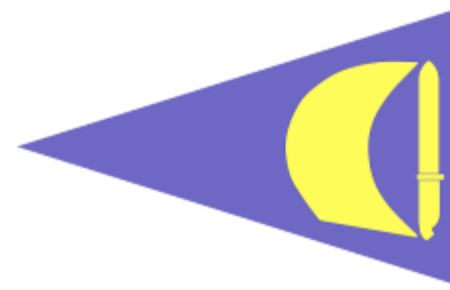
Official RYA website:

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

**Free entry!**

If you could help on the stand  
contact Kenneth Gibson by 7th February 2017 to ask  
about the free entry exhibitors wristbands

Rigging	Clothing	The 1st Place to Head for Watersports Equipment	
Vinyl		Chandlery	Mail Order
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Sail Logos			
	Repairs		Topper Spares
	GRP		Laser Stockist
Plastic Welding		Insurance Approved	
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**6th to 11th August**

**Entries:** A form is enclosed with this *Halo* and is also available on the Miracle website to download and print.

**Entry fee:**

**£170.00 if entered before the end of April**

**£190.00 if entered before the end of June**

**£210.00 if enter in July and August**

**Family Members Two Boat Discount**

For Family Members bringing two or more boats to the 2017 National Championships a **£50.00** discount on their second boat (First, third and subsequent boats pay standard fees)

**First Nationals discount**

For first time entrants to the Nationals a discount of £50.

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 meal, for helm and crew (Additional tickets Adults £17, children £9.00)

**Starts:** 10.30am to 11.30am depending on tide, see Notice of Race on website.

**2017 Nationals  
Netley Sailing Club,  
Southampton Water**

in  
Royal Victoria Country Park

<http://www.netleysc.co.uk/>

**Social programme**

In the evenings there will be a social programme which is being arranged, currently confirmed are:

Sunday	Welcome
Monday	Free evening
Tuesday	To be arranged
Wednesday	Meal and Quiz
Thursday	AGM
Friday	Prizegiving Dinner

**Midweek meal**

Everyone:	Adults	£10.00
	Children	£6.50

Tickets at registration

**Camping**

Camping £20 per head per week  
(Days before and after also available at an additional charge)



Sailing area, launching and patio

# National Championships 2016 Trophies—Part 1

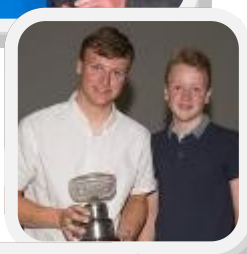
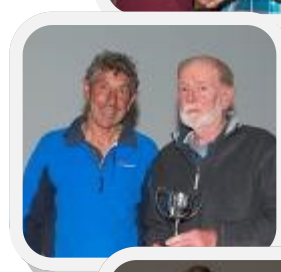
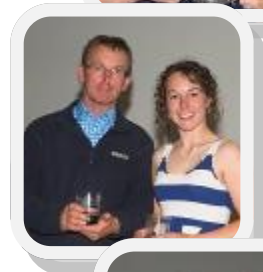
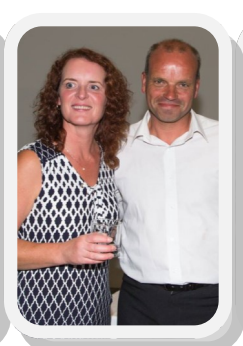
Daily Mirror Cup	Overall Winner	Hannah & Nick Smith
John Bray Trophy	Silver Fleet Winner	Marcel & Gulia Neuteboom
Bob Ferguson Plaque	Bronze Fleet Winner	Ian and Olivia Southwell
Practice Race Shield	Practice Race	Jon & Philip Aldhous
Bell Woodworking Trophy	1st Points Race	Hannah & Nick Smith
Trimnell Trailer Trophy	2nd Points Race	David and Ross Southwell
International Paints Trophy	3rd Points Race	Hannah & Nick Smith
Jack Holt Trophy	4th Points Race	Dave Butler & Ross Flemming
Sovereign Cup	5th Points Race	Hannah & Nick Smith
Charles and Diana Cup	6th Points Race	Brian Jones & John Green
Bala Challenge Cup	7th Points Race	Hannah & Nick Smith
Cornwall Trophy	8th Points Race	David and Ross Southwell
Miracle Association Cup	9th Points Race	David and Ross Southwell
Starboard Cup	10th Points Race	Hannah & Nick Smith



Youth Championship Trophy	Youth Championships	Not completed
Junior Championship Trophy	Junior Championships	Not completed
Ullswater Cup	Highest Placed Helm over 16 under 18	None
West Wales Observer Trophy	Highest Placed Helm under 16 Years	None
Michael Robinson Trophy	Youngest Competing Crew	Olivia Southwell
St. Polly Plaque	Highest Placed Lady	Hannah Smith
Casper Cup	Winner Single Handed Race	Marcel Neuteboom
Crews Cup	Winner Crews Race	Nick and Indigo Smith
Newton Crum Trophy	Winner Non Spinnaker Race	Nick and Indigo Smith
Master's Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 40-54 Years	Wayne Atherton
Senior Masters Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 55-64 Years	David Southwell
Ancient Mariner's Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 65 Years and Over	David Raines
Woodwind Trophy	Highest Placed Helm and crew both 70 Years and Over	David & Jean Reed

# National Championships 2016 Trophies—Part 2

Gracie Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 70 years and over and no other prizes	John Tippett
Ton Up Trophy	Highest Placed Helm & Crew 100 Years+	David & Michelle Raines
Endeavour Trophy	Helm or Crew Displaying Endeavour	Andrew & James Robinson
Tom Pearson Trophy	Overall 16th Place	Matthew and Thomas Donaldson
Senior Helm Trophy	Eldest Helm	Rene Savelli
Southwell Cup	Highest Placed Parent & Child (not to have won a race)	David and Zara Turtle
Bailey Family Trophy	Highest Place Helm & Crew Siblings	Andrew & James Robinson
Bay of Colwyn Trophy	Highest Placed Non Spinnaker Overall	Ian and Olivia Southwell
G.R.I.D. Spoon	Highest Non Placed Husband & Wife	Yvonne & Brian Mumford
Club Trophy	Club with the Highest Placed 3 Boats Outside The Top 10	Delph
Travellers Trophy	Travellers Trophy	Graham Watts



## The Travellers Trophy 2016

Pos	Name	Boat	Miles	Events	Total
1	Graham Watts	3813	678	4	2712
2	Hannah Smith	3805	890	3	2670
3	Dave Reed	4052	550	3	1650
4	Louis Moulden	4100	450	3	1350
5	Tracy Amos	3692	600	2	1200
6	Simon Reddecliffe	4007	420	2	840
7	Dave Butler	39	408	2	816
8	John Tippett	4020	322	2	644
9	David Raines	3740	258	2	516
10	Brian Jones	4064	200	2	400
11	Eamon Cuthbert	4016	228	1	228
12	Wayne Atherton	3383	222	1	222
12	Hayley Ramadhar	4026	218	1	218
12	Neal Gibson	4040	204	1	204
15	Yvonne Mumford	4099	204	1	204
16	Brian Worrall	4063	198	1	198
17	Cathy Goodwin	662	188	1	188
18	David Turtle	4026	162	1	162
18	Richard Brameld	3131	114	1	114
20	Jon Aldhous	3794	48	1	48
21	Ashley Southwell	4011	30	1	30
22	Ian Brown	4098	30	1	30
23	Steve Fischer	124	18	1	18

The objective of this Trophy is to encourage members to attend Open Meetings and to reward the member who travels the furthest in support of Open Meetings. The formulae used is based on the distance travelled between home sailing club and venues multiplied by the number of events attended. All Open Meetings qualify, except National Championships and Regattas. The qualification period runs from one National Championships to the next. Presentation of the Trophy and any prizes are awarded at the National Championships. These results cover 6 meetings. *David Reed, Miracle 4052*

Miracle Nationals  
Pwllheli 2016



Photos Andy Green

# City of Plymouth Cup

## The Youngest Crews trophy

At our 2016 Nationals Prize Giving at WNSA, Pwllheli, this year we were presented with a magnificent brand spanking new trophy by Paul and Karen, and their children Andrew, James and Nathan Robinson in fond and happy memory of their Dad and Granddad, Michael Robinson from the Whitefriars Sailing Club.

Some of us with long memories can remember wee Paul crewing for his Dad in Miracle 2798 until, I think about 1991/2 when they swapped places in their boat. Others will surely remember Michael's cheery disposition and chat as he strolled around the Dinghy Park as a "Senior Advisor" at our more recent National events.

This year our new trophy was awarded to Olivia Southwell, aged 8, of Leigh and Lowton SC.

So the Plymouth Cup is no more, It was presented by the Lord Mayor and Citizens of Plymouth and the Miracle Association first presented it as a Trophy awarded for the Youngest Competing Crew. I have to admit now that the silvering was badly tarnished and the base had been cracked and repaired but I did have a certain affection for this cup, more of this later on

Here for posterity is our list of previous winners of the City of Plymouth Cup :-

1979 CP Sturgess, Salcombe SC  
 1980 Paul Huett , DW SC  
 1981 Martin Huett, DW SC  
 1982 Martin Huett, DW SC

1983 Judith Tippett, DW SC  
 1984 Todd Paraioannou, H & St L. SC  
 1985 Simon Riddle, Worthing YC.  
 1986 Martin Jones, RWB SC  
 1987 Martin Jones, RWB SC  
 1988 Richard Jones, ICI SC  
 1989 Richard Jones, ICI S  
 1990 Tom Halhead, D YC  
 1991 Elizabeth Bowen, Sovereign SC  
 1992 Nick Hope, Wigan SC  
 1993 Nick Hope, Wigan SC  
 1994 Mark Robinson, Margate S  
 1995 Tom Hope, Wigan SC  
 1996 Tom Hope, Wigan SC  
 1997 Tom Steadman, Wilsonian SC  
 1998 Tom Steadman, Wilsonian SC  
 1999 Martin Lown, Wilsonian SC  
 2000 Joshua Crawley, Winsford SC  
 2001 No Record  
 2002 No Record  
 2003 George Shaw, CVL SC  
 2004 Callum Huett, DW SC  
 2005 Callum Huett, DW SC  
 2006 Callum Huett, DW SC  
 2007 Ian Stone, Taplow Lake SC  
 2008 Harrison Pye, DWSC  
 2009 Molly Southwell, Leigh SC  
 2010 Rory White, DW SC  
 2011 Tod Brameld, Beaver SC  
 2012 Molly Southwell, Leigh SC  
 2013 Fergus Pye, DW SC  
 2014 Max Wharram, Welton SC  
 2015 Nathan Robinson, Whitefriars SC

I think it was a shame that we did not record their individual ages at the time but there you go maybe we should start to do this on our new Trophy.

I said at the top that I had a connection with the Plymouth Cup. I brought my first Miracle, no 1622, I called it ORAC after the computer in Blake's Seven, just shows how long ago it was. In 1982 I sailed it with my son Ashley at Ullswater in our first Nationals, but at Plymouth the next year he was indisposed and my daughter Judith was roped in instead. At the briefing in Plymouth sailors were warned that Portuguese Men of War (Physalia Pysalis), these being basically Jelly Fish with sail fins and a severe sometimes fatal sting, had been seen drifting up the Channel and into the Sound and to keep a careful look out for them

It so happened that in one of the midweek races on the way out to the start

in a stiffish swirling breeze we partially capsized at the exit from Sutton Harbour into Plymouth Sound proper. Judith had not had a lot of practice but I never knew she could react so fast, she was back lying in the boat and waiting for me to right it again in no time flat, quicker than you could say Jack Robinson, whoever he was, no relation I hope Paul.

I know she did feel proud at the Prize Giving when she was awarded the Plymouth Cup for the Youngest Crew, which seemed nearly as big as she was back then. I still live in hopes that her children might one day get interested in sailing and that their Mum doesn't tell them too much about the Physalia Pysalis beforehand.

*John Tippett, Trophy Officer*

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## **Welsh Area Championship & End of Season Championship**

### **Shotwick**

### **10th & 11th September 2016**

#### **What a great weekend at Shotwick Lake**

Well the Miracle 'End of Season' and Welsh Area Championships at Shotwick Lake Sailing Club were a real success – a great time was had by all, both on and off the water. A big thank you goes to all who came along and to all those willing volunteers from Shotwick who made it happen.

The weekend started with tents going up on Friday night with more arriving on Saturday morning. On the Saturday morning we woke to the sound of geese flying over the lake with swans and coots making the most of the water before 10 Miracles arrived to take over their space! This was added to by the arrival of several vans/cars with Newfoundland Rescue dog owners carrying out Rescue tests for their dogs at the far end of our little water. Who needs a safety boat! The wafting smell of bacon baps welcomed the visiting sailors and the club's much appreciated volunteer officials who ran the event.

The racing was excellent –



Saturday's conditions were warm with light to medium airs changing direction by the minute during the racing, sending us on a beat to one end of the lake and on going round the buoy to head back finding ourselves on a beat again! Gusts coming in on isolated areas of the lake in the proverbial triangle running towards boats, sending them into a moment of turbulence. So the first 2 races on Saturday were for skilful sailing, which I can't say we mastered on Miracle 3770! The day ended with Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney from Delph (Welsh Area Champion for several years in a row) and Shotwick's own Dave Turtle and Zara Turtle winning one race each, followed close behind by Dave Butler and Ross Fleming from Welton. During the evening we all settled down to a hearty meal and a good social gathering which everyone seemed to enjoy. Thanks to Cathy and Leah Goodwin from Port Dinorwic for making the effort to join us for the one day on Saturday and for staying late for the meal, adding to the warm community

spirit of the Miracle fleet.

On Sunday we shared the water with Shotwick's Club Regatta – the 3 races operating separate starts went smoothly as 19 boats in total criss crossed their way around the course in wind speeds of 16 knots, gusting 24 knots. With the winds getting stronger as the day went on, it was clear that Wayne had some keen competition with Dave Turtle. After 4 races they were two races each! This left the trophy hanging on the last race. Further down the fleet there seemed to be 3 groups forming, all having good racing in their part of the fleet, which made the racing interesting whatever your level. Keen competitive sailors were Ian and Lilly Brown from Delph, who kept a close eye on the possibility of winning the Super 6 Series prize of a free spinnaker or jib, (courtesy of Gibson Sails) which I am pleased to say they achieved, well done Ian and Lilly. Up until the last leg of the race Wayne and Angela were ahead with the trophy in their grasp, but a last minute burst from Dave and Zara saw them overtaking and pipping Wayne and Angela over the finish line just seconds ahead to bag the Trophy



Winners David and Zara Turtle

on their home ground. So Wayne and Angela from Delph came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, followed by Dave Butler and Ross Flemming from Welton in 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Such a close race and one that will be remembered. It has to be said that Dave & Zara and Wayne & Angela BOTH deserved to go home with a Trophy, having provided some excellent sailing and being a great challenge to each other throughout the weekend, but our congratulations go to Dave and Zara the new Welsh Area Champions.

*Josie Airns, Miracle 3770*

Pos		Club	Sail No
1	David and Zara Turtle	Shustoke	4026
2	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph	3383
3	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming	Welton	4060
4	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold	3813
5	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph	4007
6	Rob & Rachael Cocking	Delph	3657
7	David Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick Lake	3770
8	David & Jean Reed	Girton	4052
9	Cathy Goodwin & Leah Murphy	Port Dinorwic	662
10	Ian Brown & Patrick Glover	Delph	4098

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and  
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**Sail Register - Unit 1, Gallamore Ind Estate  
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. LN8 3HA**

## Battle of the Classes 2016

The Battle of the Classes is a race run as part of Southampton Boat Show. Two boats from each dinghy class are invited to take part in this 90 minute pursuit race and this year it attracted 33 entries. Representing the Miracles were Brian Mumford and Neal Gibson in Neal's boat sporting a new laminate main sail and me (Nic) and Hannah in 3805.

The race was called the Battle of the Classes, but it was a day of multiple battles. The first battle was the conditions. The strong westerly wind and the constant traffic was causing a very confused sea, which was throwing the boat around. We arrived early in the start area to make sure we timed the first start so we would know exactly when we had to start. The first boat away was the Mirror and we were to start 11 minutes after. The start was positioned very close to the Boat Show and there were plenty of spectators on the pontoons and the moored yachts.

We were slightly late at the start and took a while to get the spinnaker up and set. Neal and Brian's start was much slicker and they had the early advantage. Just beyond the start was the first mark of the course, Pier Head Boy. We rounded this and were then on a close 3 sail reach. The wind which was already strong picked up further and with nowhere to go except into the side of a giant car carrier, we took the spinnaker down and continued on a quick two sail reach to the next mark, SG1.

Unfortunately, SG1 was in a big wind shadow just round the corner of the dock in the River Itchen. We hoisted the spinnaker and then had to gybe to make the mark. After SG1, we crossed Southampton Water to a mark called Magazine. We went for a long tack across the channel, but Neal tacked on a shift half way across. This kept them ahead at Magazine. After this short windward leg, we were now on a long fast two sail reach to the mark at the top of the course near the start area. As we approached this mark, the wind eased and we got in front of Neal and Brian. At this point, the battle is between the two of us, the Mirror and the Topper still a way in the distance, and the Firefly

just appearing behind.

From the top mark, it was a short run to Pier Head and then harden up for a three sail reach to SG1. The wind was still strong but a shift in direction made this a fast and furious leg. We round SG1 to see a giant car carrier with a tug on its bow and one on its stern making its way up the river. It wasn't travelling that fast so we carried on to cross in front of it. The Harbour Master was not impressed and came charging over with his sirens on to warn us off. We tacked away and then gybed to go behind the car carrier. We then saw the Red Funnel Isle of Wight Ferry coming up at a rate of knots inside the car carrier. We bore away behind the ferry and saw Neal and Brian going between the car carrier and the ferry. Both of the ships moved out of the way quite quickly, but the 420 which was slightly further back didn't have a choice to make and went behind both ships and got in front while we were going round in circles.

The chase is on again to catch Neal and Brian. We were helped in this when they had to crash tack to avoid a Firefly as they approached Magazine. The wind started to ease and this favoured us and slowed the approach of the Europe. The three sail reach from Pier Head to SG1 gets us back in front of the Firefly.

The race is approaching its conclusion and we have the Mirror and Topper in sight, but are overhauled by the RS200 and Buzz at SG1. The time is up, but we carry on and sail through the moving finish gate which is between the committee boat and a RIB. These extra few minute allows the RS800 through but the final race results are confirmed by the trackers carried by all boats taking part.

The 420 was well sailed, the conditions favoured it and the wind dying towards the end held back the quicker boats. We survived our battles with the strong wind and waves, won our battle with Neal and Brian and more importantly survived the close call with the car carrier and the Red Funnel ferry. Hopefully seeing the Miracles racing in this event will inspire people to get into Miracle sailing.

*Nic Smith, Miracle 3805*

## Endeavour 2016

### Hannah and Nick Smith's tale: Part 1

7th to 9th October 2016

This is an invitation event for all the champions of dinghy classes holding a national championship. This year there were 26 classes which included invitations to Ben Saxton, who sailed the Nacra 17 catamaran in Rio and Nikki Birrell who sailed the Skud 18 at the Paralympic games.

As with last year, the racing was sailed in RS200s which the competitors borrow or charter for the event and to make the boats performance equal, new sails are supplied by RS sailing for all boats. To help the sailors get familiar with the 200, a training session was organised for Friday afternoon. Steve Irish, a previous 420 national and world champion ran the coaching session. Steve started by introducing himself to the sailors as they were rigging to see what help they needed. The on the water training consisted of two 20 minute races. Once Steve had started the races he followed us videoing the boats. We sailed all the races gradually improving our starts and on Steve's advice were using a lot more kicker. The brief included watching video clips and a chat about the rules around tacking along the shore and tacking around the individual marks. We would be doing a lot of this over the next two days. Steve is a well respected coach and all the contenders were there at the debrief to see what they could learn.

After the debrief, it was the evening meal. Food is a big feature of the Endeavour weekend and after a hard

training session, the pasta supper was most welcome. Our accommodation for the weekend was provided by a club member and was a cottage three minutes walk from the club. After an early start and a hard training session, we slept well.

At the briefing, we were encouraged to launch promptly to allow time to get to the race area. As is turned out, we had to wait for the wind to settle into the forecast 6 knots North Easterly. The first race was started at low water with very little tide running. We got a reasonable start and rounder the windward mark in the middle of the fleet and slipped back downwind finishing 24<sup>th</sup>. After the race finished, we were sailing along and were heading straight for another boat. There was a cry from the back of the boat and when I turned around Hannah had the tiller extension in her hand not attached to the tiller. The rubber universal joint had broken. We went to the committee boat and were told to wait close by rather than sail back to the club. The extension has a quick release universal joint and one of the RIBs took the broken pieces to ensure they brought the right replacement back with them. To our surprise they returned soon after, much quicker than if they had gone ashore, with a perfect replacement. Apparently, this spare extension was being carried by the RS Vario sailors. *Nic Smith, Miracle 3805*

*To see how they got on you are going to have to wait for Part 2 in the next issue...*

## Bloody Mary Pursuit Race Queen Mary Sailing Club

7th January 2017

The Miracle came up trumps at this year's Bloody Mary with Neal Gibson and Keith Macey 9th and Brian Jones and Paul Barnes 50th out of 245 boats of all classes. This two and a half hour pursuit race

draws top sailors from all over the UK and the Continent and is very competitive.

Both Miracles used Gibson laminate mainsails and Brian noted that they looked good and were easy to read.

So laminate sails have now made their first official outing with good results.

Light winds had worked in the Miracle's favour, but it is still hard work keeping such a mixed, fast, fleet behind you, so congratulations to Neal, Keith, Brian and Paul.

*Gillan Gibson*



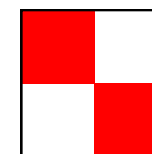
Neal Gibson and  
Keith Macey

## Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020

[www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS20172020-\[20946\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS20172020-[20946].pdf)

As usual following the Olympics the Racing Rules of Sailing have been revised. This is one of the editions where it has been more a tidying up of the wording to bring greater clarity.

For most sailors, most of the time, the change of consequence is Race Officers having the option to use Flag U,



Flag U

rather than a black flag, in the starting sequence. **When U is flown if you are disqualified for being on the course side of the line at the start and there is a General Recall you are able to join in subsequent starts. Rule 30.3.**

You can download all the new Rules from the website given above.

# Miracle Association Committee

## Committee Members

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# Miracle Association meetings

## Summary of minutes

### Bolton – 19th November 2016

- **Committee:** Gillan Gibson was confirmed as secretary and Ian Brown was co-opted as a committee member.
- **Training events:** The possibilities for two training events in 2017 are to be explored.
- **Halo:** The Autumn 2016 issue has been published and the Winter 2016 is in preparation.
- **Membership:** Promotional/invitational packs members can distribute to Miracle

owners in their clubs are to be compiled and made available to those who request them to encourage new memberships.

- **Communications:** There are various videos of Pwllheli and Hunstanton Nationals and it is planned to put them on Facebook and the website.
- **Dinghy Show 2017:** A standard association sized stand was applied for and a good location in the Great Hall close to other major exhibitors such as Rooster,

Hartley Boats, Sea Sure, etc, has been allocated. Arrangements have been made to supply a boat for the stand and manning is to be arranged.

- **Treasurer:** The Association is in a financially sound position.
- **Racing Calendar 2017:** Organisation for the new season is well underway with some events confirmed and others still under discussion. There are a number of new venues such as Port Dinorwic and the return of others such as Staunton Harold.
- **Nationals 2017 at Netley** Brian briefed the committee on his visit and the arrangements for 2017's event were discussed. The SigneTs are to join us again.
- **Nationals 2018 and future years:** Various options were discussed and the potential for sharing with other fleets confirmed. *Inlands to sea venues:* It was noted a straw poll at the AGM was in favour of a 1:1 ratio.
- **Miracle Nationals Trophies:**
  - Youth and Junior:** To broaden the opportunities for the younger element of the fleet the various trophies for Junior and Youth were considered. It was decided:
    - ◇ The upper age of Youth Championship participants to be extended from 18 to 21 years old, in line with many other fleets.
    - ◇ There would be 3 perpetual trophies
      1. Youth: 16 to 21 years old at the qualifying date.
      2. Junior: 15 years old and under at the qualifying date.
      3. Young Junior: 13 years old and under at the qualifying date. This would require an additional trophy.
    - ◇ The qualifying date is the date of the first scheduled Main Championship race.
    - ◇ For the helm and crew of the first boat in each of the above categories

there will be a plaque/trophy and certificate for both helm and crew to keep.

- ◇ Martin Bathe offered to see if the results could be age adjusted.

**Main Championship:** There is to be an additional trophy for the lowest placed boat in the series which has sailed in every race. Louis Moulden has offered to provide a trophy.

**Main Championship:** The gap in the age related trophies, 19 to 39 years old was noted, particularly as it is the younger end of the fleet which the Association wishes to encourage. It was decided to create 2 new trophies:

- Highest placed helm 18 to 29 years
- Highest placed helm 30 to 39 years

The Association would provide the trophies.

- **Measurement:**

- ◇ **Laminate sails:** The option to have a laminate mainsail comes in to effect 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. Neal Gibson had been issued with a dispensation to use a laminate sail at the Battle of the Classes event.
- ◇ **Laminate sails - Red batten pockets:** The Committee considered red batten pockets on the laminate sails and considered them acceptable.
- ◇ **Fathead sail:** There was no general enthusiasm for this option so it is not being pursued.
- ◇ **Measurement Rules:** The Rules had been updated and copies of the relevant documents are available on the Association's website from where they can be downloaded. Brian has also issued revised pages of the Measurer's Guide to the relevant people.

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