



Miracle in Cowes Harbour

Simon Bean
Miracle 609

Halo Winter 2011

I thought others might be interested in this photo of my wife and myself sailing through Cowes Harbour, Isle of Wight, on that glorious weekend at the beginning of October.

We are sailing my 50 quid Miracle "Ringle".

I have sailed Miracles on and off since the 1970's and have always enjoyed the sweet and swift handling. I bought Miracle 609 three years ago for a cheeky offer of £50 when I saw her for sale on a driveway near Gurnard Sailing Club. The hull was tatty, but she had been re-decked and most of the fittings were Harken so it seemed like a bargain.

I spent spring 2009 replacing rotten bottom panels (another £50 for ply and another £50 for epoxy and paint).

By May she was tidy enough to sail, so another £50 for insurance and another £50 for a club boat berth.

The aim was to race in Cowes Dinghy Week and not disgrace ourselves. Sailing with my student daughter, Alice, we had a good week, winning the last race of the Slow Handicap fleet and finishing 4th overall in a fleet of 30 entries.

Alice and I raced again in 2010, we had great fun again and finished 4th again.

For 2011 I treated "Ringle" to a new suit of sails (ten times £50) from Graham Caws and we went for it again. The Week went well, 2 firsts (offset by 2 shockers) left us as runners-up. Brilliant and happy sailing.

The October sail was a club rally to the Folly Inn, taking us from Gurnard Bay through Cowes Harbour and up the Medina River for a pub lunch at The Folly Inn. I finally persuaded my wife, Jacky, to sail with me. We met 30 years ago, but have never sailed together (something to do with my 'attitude' in my Laser racing days) but in a Miracle I am much more mellow. For this voyage it was a perfect autumn day, sun, enough breeze and the tides working with us. On the way up the river we passed a cruiser who called over to say that he had a Miracle as well, it is a boat that people seem to really like.

Passing through Cowes Harbour, professional yachting photographer Hamo Thornycroft took several shots including this one where it all looks in good order.

Down here on the Isle of Wight we are rather off the Miracle circuit, so I appreciate the Association, *Halo* and the website. Thank you.

At Gurnard Sailing Club anyone who is interested in sailing is welcome, visitors and potential members are always welcome to call in. Check out opening times on www.gurnardsc.org.uk.

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Photo: Hamo Thornycroft