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Join us at the Dinghy Show in February/March

## The Halo

Miracle Association Magazine Autumn 2019



Starting at the Pwllheli Nationals

"The Friendly, Family, Dinghy Class"

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Contacts

Paul Robinson

Chairman  
chairman@miracledinghy.org  
Whitefriars SC

Gillan Gibson Secretary  
secretary@miracledinghy.org  
Thornton Steward SC

Mike Smith Webmaster  
webmaster@miracledinghy.org  
Thornton Steward SC

Gillan Gibson Halo Editor  
halo-editor@miracledinghy.org  
Thornton Steward SC

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

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, p5-p7, p9 fleet, p15 Andy Green / [www.greenearthphotography.co.uk](http://www.greenearthphotography.co.uk); p2 Sue Atherton; p3 Ian Brown; p4 National Champions 2020 Brian Jones; p12 & 13 Geoff Weir; and p18 Shustoke SC

Items for the next issue to the Editor by 1st December 2019.

## Editor's Corner

This Halo looks back at this year's Nationals at Pwllheli, North Wales where the sailing set a challenge for all. For those who relish windy sailing it was awesome. Our Race Officer Henry and his team were brilliant at accounting for the weather and making the best of the conditions.

Your Association already has plans underway for the 2020 Nationals. And so there is no doubt they will be:

**Netley Sailing Club**  
**Southampton Water**  
**Monday 3rd August to**  
**Friday 7th August 2020**  
**5 days**

Yes, that's right they are 5 day. However, there is an open invitation from the sailing club to join in their club racing on the Sunday. This should give plenty of time to practice and give your boat a shakedown.

Netley is a venue with the race area, launching, clubhouse, car parking, boat parking and camping conveniently together. That it is in a country park with a lovely café and plenty for those ashore to do was well appreciated last time.

The other different item in this Halo is one on DIY clamps. It was a discussion which started in the SigneT fleet and spread



into the Miracles. When Geoff Weir said he had his own design he could supply photos and a drawing for, I took the chance to include it.  
Gillan Gibson,  
Miracle 3670

## Chairman's Desk



Paul Robinson

As incoming Chairman following the AGM held at Pwllheli. I would like to thank Louis Moulden for the great work he has done over a number of years as a wise and enthusiastic Chairman of our Association. He tells me that Gillan managed to steer him through his duties and responsibilities. Well here goes!

The Miracle Association exists for the benefit of its members and those who enjoy sailing the much-loved Miracle dinghy. It is the people in our class who help make sailing Miracles special. There

was a great spirit amongst the participants at the Nationals again this year. The willingness to encourage, support and help each other is a credit to our fleet and long may it continue.

A good number of open meetings have taken place around the country since April, supported by Miracle sailors with the added potential bonus of winning the Traveller's Trophy. Well done to Graham Watts and Helen Jacks who were awarded the Traveller's Trophy this year, which is based on the combined number of miles travelled to events. As I write this report, Shotwick has just taken, place won by Dave and Zara Turtle, and I am looking forward to the final event of the year at Shustoke Sailing Club near Birmingham on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October. It will be good to have my boat back on the water after repairs in Dave Butler's boathouse. You really should give an open meeting a try as there will be other Miracle sailors on hand to provide assistance and encouragement. Next year's provisional programme is on p13, though always check before you travel.



## RYA Dinghy Show Alexandra Place

**29th February to 1st March 2020**

Could you give an hour or two to help on the Association's stand? We have some exhibitors passes giving free entry so if you

think you can help contact *Ken Gibson, Dinghy Show Co-ordinator*

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

## Chairman's Desk (cont.)

Reflecting on the Pwllheli Nationals, we were warned of strong winds before we travelled! On arrival we found ourselves in the eye of a storm with white horses in the bay. As usual, the anticipation builds before the event which had the spectacular back drop of the Snowdonia National Park and Welsh mountains. Throughout the fleet we all have our own personal goals. For some of us a top ten race finish makes our week!

We shared the event this year with the SigneT and Kestrel fleets. Thanks to Henry and race team who had difficult weather conditions with strong winds dictating the running order of our week, and to our hosts at the Welsh National Sailing Centre. This was sailing at its best on the occasional sunny day and a good breeze.

Our very own sportswriter, Brian Jones recorded events in his entertaining daily journalistic pieces in *Yachts and Yachting*. You can still catch up on the detail of each days racing online by searching "Miracle" on the *Yachts and Yachting* website and there is the report on page 6 onwards.

Thank you also to our return visitors from abroad, Andrew & Michela Mifsud from Malta and Marcel & Giulia Neuteboom from the Netherlands. We appreciate the effort you make to join us for the event each year and you now feel like family to us! We also welcomed back Michelle Raines.

Throughout the week, three boats shared the race wins. Congratulations to Ian and Katie Fryett who were worthy overall National Champions, with Andrew and Michela a close second. Last year's

National Champion, Dave Southwell, also won one of the races. Ian Southwell had his best Nationals results ever - well done Michelle for guiding your brother! Sam and Tom Donaldson had an exceptional 5<sup>th</sup> place in Race 8 – which put a big smile on Tommy's face! Full results can be found in this Halo edition.

It was good to hear recently that Dave and Josie are now the proud owners of a replacement boat after the floor of their old one gave way.

Congratulations to Nick and Caroline Smith who competed in the South Wales club series and came out overall winners over three events.

The 2020 Nationals will be held at Netley SC, Southampton Water from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. We are welcome to join in club racing on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Further details to follow. Organising next year's sailing programme is well underway and a provisional list is on page 11.

Your Committee are meeting on the first weekend in November at Shustoke Sailing Club to pick up actions from the AGM and planning for the year ahead, including the RYA Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace. Please let Gillan and I know of any other items that you think we should consider as part of the agenda.

Please continue to support the businesses who provide sponsorship and advertise in the Halo magazine.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please do get in touch. I look forward to catching up on the water soon. Good sailing.

*Paul Robinson, Chairman,  
Miracle 4110*

## Ian Brown on going to the Nationals

Three years ago, I attended my first ever Miracle nationals at Plas Heli, Pwllheli, and it was a bit of a shock after the calm waters of Delph. The practice race was terrifying and after an exhausting week I came resolutely last and vowed never to return. However in the non spinnaker race, which took place much nearer the shore, my daughter Lilly crewed her first race for me on the sea aged just 7.

The next year the nationals were at Netley on the Solent. We sailed every race together and Lilly won the trophy for the youngest crew. She repeated this feat at Bala in 2018.

I intended to give Pwllheli 2019 a miss, but when a bedroom became available in a shared house with a pool table, Lilly begged me to enter, so we did. Having won the Travellers Trophy two years on the bounce, our sailing had improved substantially. We set ourselves a target of winning the Bronze fleet.

Pwllheli though was exactly as I remembered it. Lumpy and bumpy and a bit scary. In the first race we finished second to last. Perhaps we had overestimated our abilities?

Assuming we had no chance of achieving our target, I relaxed and on days two and three we did much better. We had some thrilling battles with David, Josie, Geoff and Colin managing to finish in front of them all for four races on the bounce, but just as we got into our groove the weather hit.

Wednesday was a write off so we went surfing at Hells mouth instead. The forecast was for Friday to be worse with a slim chance of Thursday being sailable.

With the swell from Wednesday still in effect, neither of us wanted to sail. But with discards in short supply and three races to be run on Thursday, I

did the maths and realised if Geoff went out, he would beat us. He was determined to sail so reluctantly we decided to compete whilst many more sensible sailors were busy packing up their boats.

Just getting to the start line was hairy for us but we took things steady and limped around to secure a finish. Mathematically secure, we decided to go for it and smashed the final two races with our best results of the week, even picking off a couple of Silver fleet sailors :-)

Mission accomplished. Me and my 10 year old crew were the Bronze Fleet Champions of 2019.

Despite my reservations, Pwllheli 2019 was good fun and next year we return to our all time favourite venue of Netley. It is a brilliant, friendly little club. Kind of like Delph by the sea but with hovercraft.

If you are thinking of going to your first nationals, you couldn't pick a better venue, With the racing just off the shore and plentiful camping on site and in a national park. We hope to see you all there when we will be attempting to consolidate our hard fought position in the Silver Fleet.





## 2019 Nationals 11th to 16th August

### Welsh National Sailing Academy Pwllheli North Wales

Report by Brian Jones

Hosts for this year's Miracle National Sailing Championships were Plas Heli, the Welsh National Sailing Academy in Pwllheli, for a combined Nationals with the SigneTs and this year the Kestrels were also racing.

#### Saturday

On arrival day everybody was storm bound, so most helms sensibly parked up their boats and left rigging and setting up to the following morning. The wind

howled all night long and it wasn't even a good night to be camping!

#### Day 1: Sunday

The practice and first points races were postponed by three

hours on the Sunday to allow both the sea and the weather to settle down, a wise decision on the part of the race officer as the fleets then enjoyed offshore winds of Force 2-4 plus the bonus of a bit of sun.

The practice race was a one lap affair won by Ian Fryett crewed by Katie, both new to the fleet and making an early mark, they then went on to come second in the first points race. This was won by Andrew and Michela Mifsud visiting crews from Malta seeking to gain the title from Dave and Ross Southwell (last years National Champions). These two came a close fourth behind Dave Butler and Ross Fleming.

The first Youth and Juniors race attracted three competitors and was won by Michela Mifsud ahead of Morgan Rogers. Young Lilly Brown made a good stab at the first beat. So a great start to a promising week.

#### Day 2: Monday

While the fleet continued to be dazzled by Simon and Mark's lime green spinnaker on 4007 and the grandeur of our setting among the Welsh mountains, there was some serious racing to be done.



We are sharing the venue with the Kestrels and SigneTs so with a general recall for the over keen Kestrel fleet there was more time to assess the conditions: an offshore breeze with a flat sea and with shifts and lulls as the land approached. Dave Butler went right while most went off to port. Ian and Katie Fryett had trouble rounding the windward mark on the second beat as the tide played its part. Significant gains and losses could be made on the beats, plus a very tight reach to the wing mark. Dave and Ross Southwell made the most of it and took first place ahead of Dave Butler and Ross Fleming.

Sailing back to back the second race started in similar conditions with the fleet splitting 50/50 either side of the lay line, with most of the Gold Fleet choosing to go right. But it was port that paid leaving a lot of work to be done and some very happy helms up front. Ian and Katie made up for the earlier race by taking the bullet with Eamon and Thomas Cuthbert a close second. The Mifsuds and

Southwell's fought back through the fleet for third and fourth respectively. Graham Watts and Helen Jacks were next over the line with their best result of the series so far.

Lilly Brown enjoyed sailing a complete Youth and Juniors race.

Best news of the day though was that Paul and Nathan Robinson had managed to source another boat after theirs was badly damaged on day one.

#### Day 3 Tuesday

Another sparkling day sailing in Cardigan Bay, and once again the Kestrels delayed our start until they were put under the black flag.

On the gun we suffered a significant temporary lull and shift causing lots of angst for those caught out,

**Miracle Nationals 2020**  
**Netley SC, Southampton Water**  
**Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August**  
**(5 days)**



## Miracle National Championships 2019 (cont.)

but as the race got under way it paid to sail left towards greater pressure. Paul and Nathan Robinson, happily back on the water in a borrowed boat had two good mid fleet results.

David Herbstritt and Josie Airns decided to stamp a large hole in the floor of their boat and Dave Butler needed a knife between races, not to prod Ross his crew but to cut free a jammed spinnaker. They had come third in the first race and still came a credible tenth without their kite.

The wind had shifted into the West and strengthened for the second race with Graham Watts and Helen Jacks being first round the windward mark and then

nearly sailing off to the wrong buoy. The crew saved the day, so I'm told, and they ended with two fourth places. Dave Southwell however ignored his crew and ended the day with a fifth and sixth. Both Andrew & Michela and Ian & Katie sailed very consistently to take two firsts and two seconds, but they had to fight for it and battle their way through the fleet. Ian Southwell sailing with Michelle Raines in David's old boat came in 5th and 8th, a fitting tribute to David.

As I write Marcel and Giulia Neuteboom, our regular visitors from Holland have their boat on its side trying to fix a leaking centreboard case in an effort to keep up their reasonable

rankings so far. On Wednesday it's going to rain!

### Day 4: Wednesday

The forecast rain and wind arrived so racing was abandoned.

### Day 5: Thursday

Grabbing the gap between the gales our fleets sailed after a two hour postponement to fit in the last three championship races.

Could the Mifsuds hang on to their lead while being challenged by both the Fryetts and the Southwells?

It was a day with a few capsizes, individual recalls and hot competition through the fleet. Dave Butler was suffering from breaking his ribs trying to fix a spinnaker halyard so wasn't sailing. Hannah Smith and Tom Metcalfe had their best result of the week with a third in race 8, with Sam and Tom Donaldson 5th in the same race. Ian and Lilly Brown sailed well to win the bronze fleet and Carolyn and Nick Smith took a fourth place in race 7 to win the Silver fleet. Back at the sharp end Ian and Katie Fryett scored two firsts and a second to win the championship, Andrew and Michela Mifsud came second with a 1, 3, 2 and David and Ross

## Miracle National Champions 2020

Ian and Katie Fryett



© Brian Jones

Southwell third with a 3, 2, 4.

Huge thanks go to Henry and his race team for running a good week in difficult weather and to the Welsh National Sailing Centre for hosting us.  
*Brian Jones, Miracle 4021*

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## 2019 Nationals Top 6

- 1st Ian & Katie Fryett
- 2nd Andrew & Michela Mifsud
- 3rd David & Ross Southwell
- 4th Eamon & Tom Cuthbert
- 5th Graham Watts & Helen Jacks
- 6th Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney



## Miracle National Championship 2019, WNSA, Pwllheli, North Wales

Pos	Club	Sail	Fleet	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R8	R9	R10	Pts	
1st	Ian & Katie Fryett	Tata	4011	G	2	(10)	1	2	2	1	1	11	
2nd	Andrew Mifsud & Michela Mifsud	Birzebbuga / Malta	3825	G	1	(4)	3	1	1	3	2	12	
3rd	David Southwell & Ross Southwell	Leigh & Lowton	4010	G	4	1	4	(6)	5	3	2	23	
4th	Eamon & Thomas Cuthbert	Leigh & Lowton	4016	G	8	6	2	7	6	4	(12)	39	
5th	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold	3813	G	7	(14)	5	4	4	6	5	39	
6th	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph	3383	G	5	3	(9)	8	9	5	6	43	
7th	Carolyn & Nick Smith	Thornbury	2551	S	12	8	10	9	3	(14)	4	60	
8th	Hannah Smith & Thomas Metcalfe	Thornbury	3805	G	6	18	16	(OCS)	7	9	7	66	
9th	Ian Southwell & Michelle Raines	Leigh & Lowton	3740	S	10	9	8	5	8	(RET)	9	66	
10th	Marcel & Giulia Neuteboom	Netherlands	2007	G	9	7	11	10	13	(15)	10	73	
11th	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming	Welton	4060	G	3	2	6	3	10	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	74
12th	John Tippett & Kathy Boulton	Draycote	4020	G	13	12	7	(18)	11	12	13	77	
13th	Samuel and Tom Donaldson	Delph	4022	S	11	(20)	13	14	16	11	8	78	
14th	Andrew Robinson & Tanya Copsey	Whitefriars	4123	S	14	15	14	13	(19)	7	11	85	
15th	Brian Jones & Andrew Clarke	Maidenhead	4021	S	16	13	(19)	12	15	13	16	95	
16th	Paul & Nathan Robinson	Whitefriars	4110	S	16	16	16	15	(17)	10	14	99	
17th	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph	4007	S	15	11	(21)	16	18	8	17	101	
18th	Cathy Goodwin & Morgan Rogers	Port Dinorwic	3840	G	18	16	12	11	12	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	119
19th	Louis Moulden & Luke Tonge	Delph	4100	S	22	5	15	17	14	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	123
20th	Ian & Lilly Brown	Delph	4098	B	(21)	19	18	19	20	17	15	123	
21st	Geoffrey Weir & Colin Lown	Shotwick Lake	4108	B	19	22	(23)	22	22	16	18	137	
22nd	David Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick Lake	3770	B	20	21	20	20	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	156
23rd	Gillan Gibson & Lucas Skeahan	Thornton Steward	3670	B	24	23	22	21	21	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	161
24th	Ellen Dimolow & Pete Williams	Colemere	4116	B	23	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	(DNC)	18	(RET)	(DNC)	166

DNC - Did not compete

DNF - Did not finish

RET - Retired



## Open meetings 2020

### Staunton Harold

*Midland Area Championships*  
25th & 26th April

### Delph

*Northern Area Championships*  
16th & 17th May, TBC

### Welton

*North East Area Championships*  
30th & 31st May

### Thornbury

6th & 7th June

### Whitefriars

13th & 14th June

### Girton

*Puddleduck*  
20th & 21st June, TBC

### Netley

*Nationals*

3rd to 7th August

### Shotwick

*Welsh Area Championships*  
12th & 13th September

### Shustoke

*End of Season Championships*  
3rd & 4th October

\*

### Port Dinorwic

To be confirmed

# Deck clamps: Geoff Weir's version

The preferred method when decking is to insert a wooden fillet of either ash or beech hardwood along the length. This is a benefit as if two temporary small pieces of fillet are tacked into place the decks can be individually aligned when bonding.

Twenty clamps were made which were enough for the length of the dinghy when bonding the decking or rubbing strip. They were made from 6mm marine ply, along with twenty 25mm angle iron brackets drilled and tapped to receive 6mm coach bolts, also twenty 2mm angle brackets, see the drawing. Twenty tapered wedges also are needed as shown on the photograph.

### Deck Panel Alignment.

Two small temporary pieces of wooden fillet are tacked into place so that the decking could be located against them when bonding

These wooden fillets can be removed once both deck panels have bonded, the full length wooden fillet could then be inserted

Weights can be applied onto a wooden batten to hold the fillet in place, a strip of plastic bin liner can be used between the surfaces to avoid the batten bonding to the fillet.

### Clamp Fitment and Wedges Tapped into Place for Deck Bonding.

Mechanical clamps can be used for the inner edges.

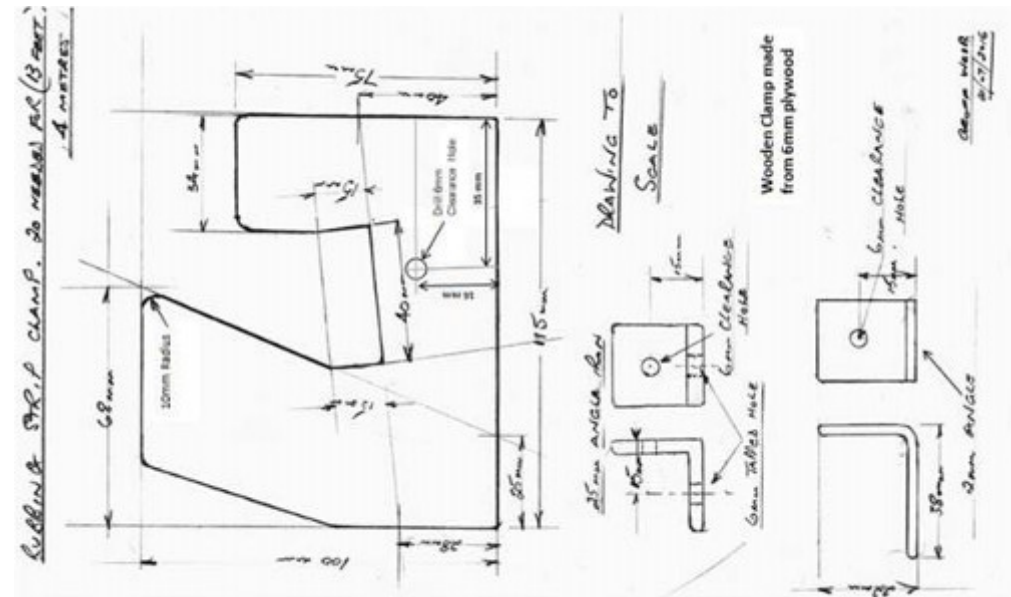
### Clamping and Bonding the Rubbing Strip.

If there is any concern about the clamps bonding to the deck, a small section of plastic bin liner can be placed between the surfaces.

Packing pieces between the metal clamps and rubbing strips are needed.

Once epoxy has been applied to both surfaces and the rubbing strip located the clamps can be attached, the cross head coach bolts can be tightened just enough to leave a layer of epoxy between the faces.

Geoff Weir





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## Miracle Association Committee

### Committee Members

**Paul Robinson, Chairman**  
 chairman@miracledinghy.org  
 07791 719 683  
 Whitefriars SC

**Wayne Atherton, Race Organiser**  
 wayne-a@miracledinghy.org  
 Delph SC

**Gillan Gibson, Secretary and Halo Editor**  
 secretary@miracledinghy.org  
 07703 597 211  
 Thornton Steward SC

**Andrew Robinson, Committee member**  
 andrew-r@miracledinghy.org  
 Whitefriars SC

**Kenneth Gibson, Treasurer and Dinghy Show Co-ordinator**  
 treasurer@miracledinghy.org  
 0191 537 1712  
 Thornton Steward SC

**Louis Moulden, Committee member**  
 louis-m@miracledinghy.org  
 07977 514776  
 Delph SC

*Non-committee officer*

**Ian Brown, Membership Secretary**  
 membership@miracledinghy.org  
 07887 953 519  
 Delph SC

**Mike Smith, Webmaster**  
 webmaster@miracledinghy.org  
 01609 748989  
 Thornton Steward SC

**Brian Jones, Measurement Secretary**  
 measurement-sec@miracledinghy.org  
 01628 416511  
 Maidenhead SC



## Miracle Association meetings

### Summaries of minutes

**Committee Meeting**  
**10th August 2018, WNSA, Pwllheli**  
 Arrangements for the National Championships and AGM were discussed and confirmed.

**Annual General Meeting**  
**15th August 2019, Welsh National Sailing Academy, Pwllheli**  
 Louis Moulden in the Chair  
 Chairman and officers' reports:

- **Chair**, Louis Moulden
  - ◇ Members were welcomed to the National Championships at WNSA, Plas Heli, Pwllheli, and all those involved in organising the event were thanked. The SigneTs and Kestrels were also welcomed.
  - Halo*: complimented and articles requested, plus members requested to have more activity on Facebook,

# Miracle Association meetings

## Summaries of minutes

- “Yachts and Yachting” and the media in general.
- ◇ Members encouraged to enter Open Meetings, and encourage others to do so, particularly the 2020 Nationals at Netley SC, Southampton which is probably one of the best venues we have had.
  - ◇ Louis resigned as Chair, with Paul Robinson taking over.
  - **Secretary**, Gillan Gibson
    - Since the last AGM your Committee has:
      - ◇ Arranged for the Nationals to be held at the Welsh National Sailing Academy, Pwllheli, in 2019. Netley Sailing Club, who have officially open their new clubhouse, are to host the 2020 Nationals.
      - ◇ Arranged for attendance at the RYA Dinghy Show in 2019 and 2020.
      - ◇ 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.
      - ◇ Dealt with a variety of correspondence received by various routes.
  - **Membership**, Ian Brown
    - ◇ Membership of 166 is an increase of compared to the previous year when it was 105.
    - ◇ Membership and joining is online using Membermojo.
    - ◇ Membership cards not now issued as membership can be checked online.
    - ◇ “Full” and “Family membership merged as there is no price difference.
    - ◇ For Family membership it is those living at the same address.
  - ◇ Making Association easier to join has been a tremendous success.
  - ◇ The most popular package is the 3 year option.
  - ◇ Delph remains the biggest club in the Association with Delph 15 members followed by Welton with 7, Leigh and Lowton with 6 and our Maltese friends in Birzebbuga SC Malta with 4.
  - **Measurement**, Brian Jones
    - ◇ Measurers’ Guide is up to date both in print and online.
    - ◇ The last sail number is 4123.
    - ◇ 5 boats were built, or are in the process of being built, in the last year.
    - ◇ There has been just one modification to the rules as follows:
      - 4 (d) The rudder may now be fully profiled across its width;
      - 66 max length of rudder below keel increased by 50mm to 650mm;
      - 67 min width of rudder for 200mm reduced from 220mm to 200mm with no maximum ;
      - 69 rule relating to limited profiling removed.
    - ◇ Measurement Certificates: For replacement certificates the £5 administrative charge was increased to £10;
    - ◇ Buoyance checks/tests at the Nationals — should self-certification with random checks be allowed? Many aspects require consideration and the matter was referred to the Committee for investigation and discussion.
  - **Race Organiser**, Wayne Atherton
    - Work has begun on the 2020

# Miracle Association meetings

## Summaries of minutes (cont.)

- programme. Suggestions for venues welcome.
- **Treasurer**, Kenneth Gibson
    - The Association is in a sound financial position.
  - **Rules of the Association**: There were no proposals for changes.
  - **Rules of Measurement**:
    - ◇ The Measurement Rule for the Top Width of the Mainsail was revised and will come into effect on 1st January 2020. The amendment deleted the words “(OF MAINSAIL HEADBOARD)”  
New Rule to read:  
**“SAIL MEASUREMENT FORM**  
**STANDARD CLASS RULES FOR SAIL MEASUREMENT**  
*Based on World Sailing’s Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS)*  
**MAINSAIL**  
**2.2 DIMENSIONS MAXIMUM ACTUAL**  
**TOP WIDTH 118mm”**
  - ◇ As the IYRU had changed name to World Sailing the “IYRU Sail Measurement Rules” are now World Sailing’s “Equipment Rules of Sailing” and the Measurement Rules are to be revised to reflect this.
  - **Election of the Committee**
    - 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
  - **Retiring** committee members, Josie Airns, Ian Southwell and Brian Worrall were thanked.
  - Any other business:  
Cruising events: Currently nothing is planned for 2020, but the possibility is kept under review.



## Facebook Group

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

## Website

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

## Facebook Page

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

## **Welsh Area Championship Shotwick 21st & 22nd September 2019**

Once again Shotwick Lake Sailing Club hosted the Miracle Welsh Area Championships over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Sailors with tents and camper van arrived regardless of pending storms and rain. The small fleet of five boats enjoyed very contrasting conditions with brilliant sunshine and plenty of wind on Saturday and dull overcast with a lighter breeze on Sunday. Everybody agreed that the sailing on Saturday was something special with some excellent courses set by Jonathan who once again kindly volunteered for Race Officer for the weekend.

### **Saturday**

There was a clean start to the first race on Saturday and at the end of the beat the local team of Geoff Weir and Dav Turtle, together with visitors Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney, led the rest of the fleet around the first mark. Some crews chose not to use their spinnakers on the short reaches across the lake but there was no such hesitation on the long downwind leg across the whole length of the lake that completed the lap. At the end of the first lap Wayne and Angela were forced into a rare error with their spinnaker that allowed Dave and Zara Turtle, together with Simon Reddecliffe and Mark Atherton, to squeeze past. As the full-on six-lap race progressed Wayne and Angela made a good recovery passing Simon and Mark to take second place, but unable to catch Dave and Zara who managed to hold on to their lead until the finish.

There were some slight tweaks to the course for the second race to provide different spinnaker angles but with 25 knot gusts this still did not tempt some of the lighter crews to fly their kites on the shorter legs! In fact, Simon and Mark were the only boat to fly their spinnaker at every available opportunity, but this was not enough to catch Dave and Zara who took an early lead that they extended throughout the race. Simon and Mark had a well-earned second place followed home by Wayne and Angela.

The Miracle group were welcomed by an open galley run by our legendary 'galley ladies' who served bacon butties, rolls, home-made cake and hot drinks to keep the sailors going throughout the day. After a great afternoon's sailing 20 folk sat around one long table decked with flowers in our cosy warm clubhouse, ready to eat the amazing food prepared for us – a great social evening was had before retiring to our tents, well pegged down in expectation of a rainy windy night.

### **Sunday**

Sunday dawned cloudy and wet following some overnight storms, but fortunately the rain had stopped and the wind settled down to a light south easterly increasing to about 12 knots in the gusts. The Miracles were joined by seventeen club boats that shared the same course, but with a separate start. This format worked very well with both fleets enjoying excellent racing. Wayne and Angela resumed battle

with Dave and Zara with some close racing before Dave and Zara broke clear to take their third win of the weekend to secure them the title. Dave and Josie found the lighter conditions more to their liking and held on to third place for a while before being overhauled by Simon and Mark.

Unfortunately, as we all enjoyed a hearty lunch, the wind dropped and the heavens opened. Much to the relief of the sailors, a short postponement was announced while the storm passed. Eventually the wind settled back allowing the fourth race to be sailed. Wayne and Angela established a good early lead and looked to be sailing off into the distance before Dave and Zara eventually wore them down to take their fourth win.

Dave and Josie were again sailing well and looked set for a comfortable third place before heading for the wrong buoy allowing Simon and Mark to slip past – so much for local knowledge! – or are they just great hosts in letting visitors graciously pass!

As further rain threatened, the wind dropped and it was clear that the final positions were decided and the fifth and final race was abandoned - the boats packed away for a timely finish to the weekend.

In conclusion, a very enjoyable weekend, great hospitality and good sailing with Dave and Zara retaining the Welsh Area Championship. We are sorry for those who were unable to join us. In particular we wish Dave Butler a speedy recovery from his Nationals injury, he was in touch with us during the weekend - 'missing being on the water with us'! We missed you too! Hopefully next year you'll all be able to make it.

Big thanks go to Shotwick Sailing Club, it's members for sharing the water with the Miracles and to all the volunteers in making it such a successful weekend.  
*David Turtle, Miracle 4025*

### **Welsh Area Championship Shotwick - 21st & 22nd September 2019**

Pos		Club	Sail No
1	Dave & Zara Turtle	Shotwick/Shustoke	4025
2	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph	3383
3	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph	4007
4	David Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick Lake	
5	Geoffrey Weir & Dav Turtle	Shotwick Lake	4108



## **End of Season Championship Shustoke 5th & 6th October 2019**

Shustoke Sailing Club hosted the Miracle End of Season Championships on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October. Although there was a small turn out of only 4 boats, we all agreed it was a weekend of quality over quantity!

### **Saturday**

Saturday provided a light and shifty south easterly breeze. A good course was set with 2 good beats and a variety of spinnaker legs. All four boats reached the first mark in close proximity, but it was Graham Watts and Helen Jacks who managed to pull away and create a substantial lead. They were eventually worn down by David and Zara Turtle, and then by Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney. Andrew and Paul Robinson unfortunately hit a mark so dropped back to take fourth place.

Race 2 saw David and Zara round the windward mark first, closely followed by the rest of the fleet. They were forced



to work hard though, with Wayne and Angela significantly closing the gap on the last lap. Graham and Helen also put a spurt on for the final spinnaker leg, almost taking second place from Wayne and Angela! It was a close finish, with all boats finishing on the same leg.

After a team effort to fine tune Paul's rigging the group went for a well deserved meal in The Plough across the road, with the lighter crews opting for extra courses in anticipation for the heavy winds due on Sunday!

### **Sunday**

Sunday dawned bright and (very) breezy but with pleasant sunshine to keep the chill off. The first two races were held back to back. David and Zara were just too keen to get going in the first race of the day and ended up having to do an emergency about-turn before the start to avoid being early. They then followed this up with further manoeuvring practice doing a 720 at the windward mark...

Wayne and Angela pulled out a good lead on the next spinnaker leg, David and Zara recovered well and pulled through to take second, followed by Graham and Helen, and Andrew and Paul.

The wind really got up for the second race of the day, with some large gusts coming through. Wayne and Angela again pulled out from the rest of the fleet and kept this to the end. The large gusts provided some good spectator entertainment, they didn't know which

came through at one end of the lake Andrew and Paul were hit on the gybe mark and after some spectacular rolling ended up in the water, at the other end of the lake David and Zara were going for the windward overtake of Wayne and Angela but they were overpowered and also took a dip! So well done to Wayne, Angela, Graham and Helen for keeping upright to the end!

So that left it all to play for on the last race! The anticipated close racing was put under even more pressure as the last 2

boats bowed out, making it a 2 boat race in more ways than one! After a close first beat Wayne and Angela rounded the windward mark first, David and Zara managed to take the lead on the following spinnaker legs and for the rest of lap 1.

However, after several tacking matches Wayne and Angela managed to power through on lap 2 to take the lead and keep this for the remainder of the race, making them this year's Miracle End of Season Champions – Well Done!

*Dave Turtle*

### **End of Season Championship Shustoke - 5th & 6th October 2019**

Pos	Club	Sail No	Total points
1	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph 3383	3
2	Dave & Zara Turtle	Shotwick/Shustoke 4025	4
3	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold 3813	8
4	Andrew and Paul Robinson	Whitefriars 4110	12



### **End of Year Round-up**

The Miracles have had 10 open events this year plus the Nationals with 9 different winners!

- David and Zara Turtle won the Northern, Southern, and Welsh Area Championships
- Tracy Amos and Gemma Gibson won the Midland Area Championships
- Graham Watts and Helen Jacks won the Girton Puddleduck
- Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney won the End of Season Championships

- David and Rebecca Southwell won Inland Championships
- Sarah Jarman and Andrew Robinson won the Thornbury Open
- Louis Moulden and Lucas Skehan won the Port Dinorwic Open
- Jon Willars won the Welton Open
- Ian and Katie Fryett won the Nationals

It's been a great season thanks to the efforts of everyone travelling to the various events. Roll on next year!