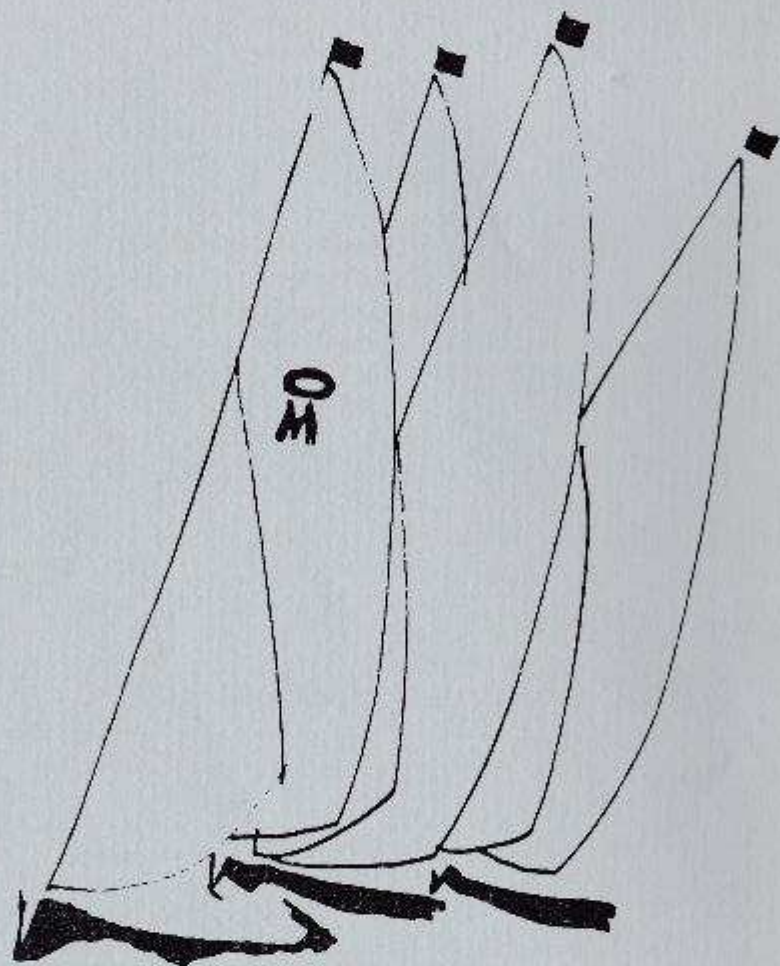


# INSURANCE



THE MIRACLE ASSOCIATION recommend

## NEWTON CRUM

Write for Proposal Form to:

NEWTON CRUM (INSURANCE)

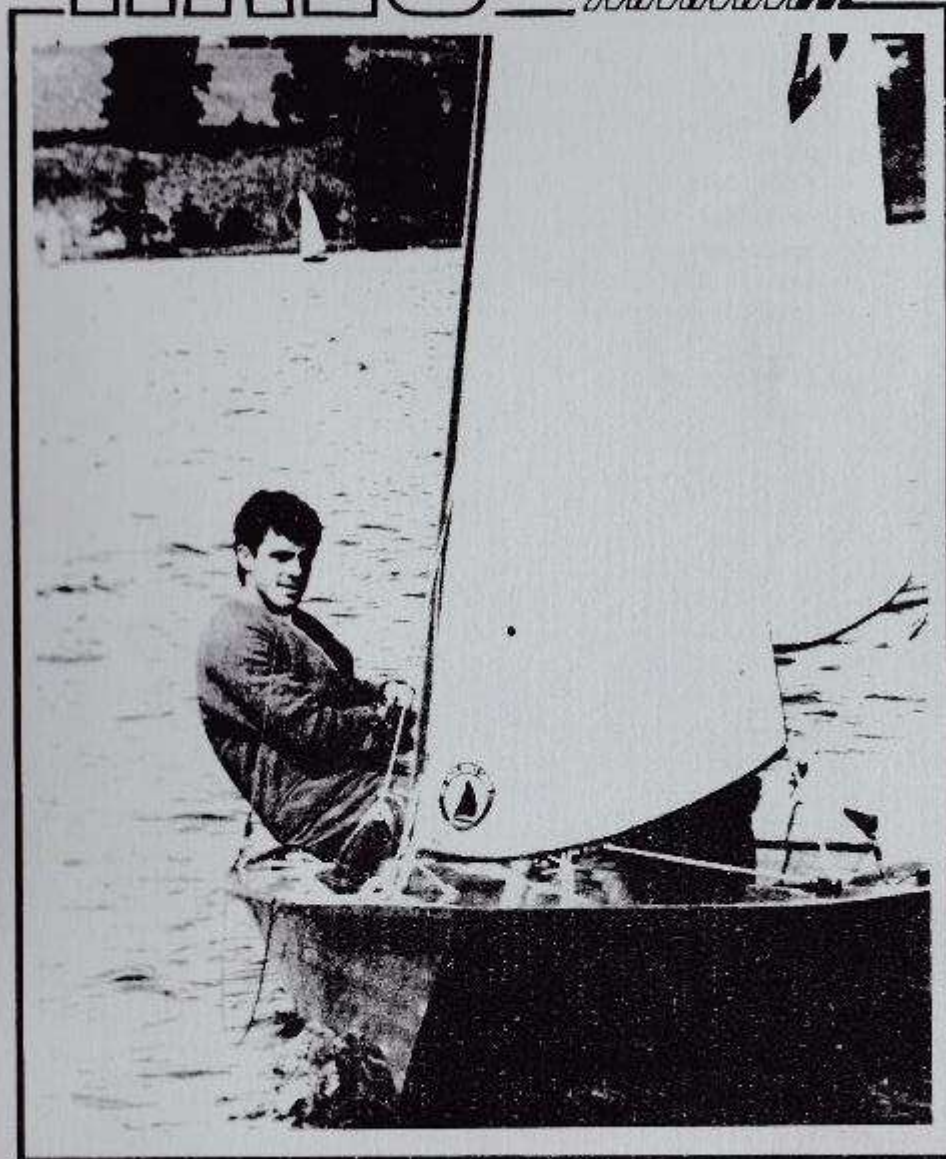
Dingy Dept. 57 BROADWAY,

LEIGH-ON-SEA, ESSEX SS9 1QQ

IMMEDIATE QUOTATIONS Telephone: 0702 710041

# HALO

ULLSWATER  
September 1986



NEWSLETTER OF THE MIRACLE ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

43 Grange Crescent,  
Lincoln,  
LN6 8DA.

This is my first edition of Halo after being elected to the committee as the editor at Ullswater. Most of the racing sailors will know both Warren and myself and our boat 3493, Second Childhood, as we have attended the nationals at Plymouth, Eastbourne and Ullswater, many Miracle meetings and open events at other clubs such as Rutland and Selset.

My aim as your editor is to unite both the racing membership and the pleasure sailors; racing copy is easy to find as Miracles sail many open events in a year; so please can I have copy from pleasure sailors, you must use your Miracle to car top, cruise, fish or picnic and have some extremely interesting and entertaining moments.

Having received the computer labels from membership secretary John Wilson I find it disturbing that out of 360 members in 85; 96 have not renewed. It is the intention of the committee to send them all the Ullswater edition of Halo plus a final reminder, this costs at least 50p a copy, so shame on you, pay up, or at least drop a line letting us know if you have sold your boat and save us the expense. Even worse.. I find two committee members on the list of offenders ..and they were at Ullswater along with others. This is not fair sailing.

On a more pleasant note I would like to thank Ted Willis our ex-treasurer for his term of office, he is replaced by John Tippet; Mike Dobbs who has moved class and Mike Smith who has other sailing work with the E.Midlands RYA. The changes on the committee are on a list enclosed in this issue.

Andy and Matty Parkinson have sold thier Miracle(shame) and moved to the blue sails and spreaders, having been placed 20th in the Enterprise Nationals. Well done and good luck.

Big Dave Fitton has retired from Miracles 'yet again' so perhaps we will have another come back at Brixham.

Malcolm Lunn, who borrowed his old boat Salamander for Ullswater, sailed to 2nd place in the Enterprise Masters at Bala defeated by just over a point. Good sailing.

Both Graeme Castle and John McKeand followed Ullswater with the Mirror Europeans at North Berwick (results in next issue?)

Copy for the next edition by December 14th 86 please. I promise to print whatever is written. Also reports on the southern and Inlands.

Any ideas for features warmly welcomed.

Designs for T shirts for Brixham, one colour on white (because of cost) by the end of December please.

Regards,

Margaret Hodgkinson.

Disclaimer: The views in this magazine are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the committee.

Photos: Ullswater Nationals ..Warren Hodgkinson.

Computer

layout: Adrian Hodgkinson.

Thanks: Phil Sowden and Bob Ferguson for personal interviews.

FOR SALE

Articles for sale advertised free of charge for association members.

For next Halo by 14.12.86 please.

For Sale Proctor Miracle mast..little used..125 ono Gibbs 021 7441672.

For Sale Miracle Sails..David Southwell..061..7898910

For Sale Miracle 3221..Non spinnaker boat new mast..new sails.. launching trolley..certificate..495..Peter Lamb.0427 71689.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Many congratulations to Phil Sowden and Linda Harrison of ICI Slough who are our new National Champions. Already holders of the Inland Championship, they won the Nationals with three firsts, a second and a third. As mentioned at the prize-giving, all the placings from second down are subject to ratification, due to an appeal on a protest decision being taken to the RYA by Dave Fitton. The outcome of this will not be known for several months, but fortunately the result will not affect any of the actual Trophy winners. Nevertheless, I am grateful to Dave Fitton for agreeing to the place prizes being given out at the prize-giving.

My thanks go to all the members of the Association who helped organize the Nationals and I should particularly like to mention Peter Gibbs and Dennis Southwell who both did an enormous amount of work behind the scenes. I should also like to thank Peter Ward for organizing the barbecue.

Now that the Mirror group have closed down their publicity department, there is some confusion over when new changes to our rules of measurement come into force. Our Secretary will be writing to Holts with the proposed change to the rule on kicking straps to see whether any objections are received from the copyright holders. If no objections are received, then this change to our rules will come into effect on 1st January 1987.

The proposal on spreaders was rejected by the narrowest of margins at the AGM, where a two-thirds majority was required. It seemed to me that the members present were generally in favour of spreaders in some form as a solution to strengthening up the mast. The difficulty lies in the best type of spreader, and it is probably as well that there is at least another year's grace before a very important decision for the future of the Miracle is made. The main disadvantage of the original proposal put forward by the Technical Sub-Committee, for totally fixed spreaders, would have been that many of the fleet would require a new suit of sails to fit the pre-ordained fixed bend in the mast, whereas at present there is a wide variety of differing mast bends used.

An amended motion put forward by Graeme Castle proposed adjustable spreader lengths with an adjustable angle (although both rigid and fixed when actually afloat), whilst leaving all other dimensions fixed. This allows the mast to be bent to fit your present sails and to suit individual requirements. This amendment was actually adopted as the proposal by the meeting, but was then thrown out when the critical vote was taken.

'Whitelands',  
Bathley,  
Newark,  
Notts.

Dear Editor,

I am somewhat concerned at the way in which the business was conducted at our recent AGM.

I refer in particular to the proposal put forward regarding the adoption of spreaders. The proposal was put forward and seconded prior to the AGM and in accordance with the Rules of the Association. At the AGM however an amendment to the proposal was put forward and seconded. The amendment was passed 29 votes to 10; if I remember correctly, a majority of almost 3/4. The original proposal should then have been thrown out.

Amidst a considerable confusion, people leaving the meeting, people leaving the room to answer calls of nature, I returned to the room to find a vote being taken on whether we adopt spreaders or not.

Please, would someone clarify the situation since as far as I am concerned the meeting adopted spreaders.

Yours sincerely,  
Mike Smith M2776

The AGM also informally considered the proposal for the introduction of a GRP hull. Everyone present was in favour of a GRP Miracle and the Committee can now proceed with its negotiations with Holts and Bell Woodworking with renewed confidence and with the backing of its members.

Ted Willis has now stepped down from your Committee after several years as your Treasurer and my thanks go to Ted for all he has done. John Tippet from Draycote has agreed to become our new Treasurer and I should like to express my thanks to him for standing in for Ted at the AGM. My thanks also to Mike Smith for his services over the last year on your Committee. Jim Perkins has now given up the editorship of the Halo, but has agreed to continue on the Committee as Publicity Officer. My thanks go to Jim for all the work he has put in as Editor over the last few years. Margaret Hodgekinson has very kindly agreed to take over as Editor and my good wishes go to her in this task. Please help Margaret by sending in as much material as you can. John Newlands ( Welsh Area Representative ) and our new National Champion, Phil Sowden ( Southern Area Representative ) have also joined your Committee for the coming year.

Bob Ferguson has very kindly agreed to continue as your Commodore for the next year in order to assist with any negotiations with Jack Holt. In recognition of his services to the Association as your past Chairman and Halo Editor, Jim Perkins has agreed to become the Vice-Commodore for the next year.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce that the members at the AGM agreed that Jack Holt should become the first Honorary Member of the Miracle Association.

Richard Smale

FOR SALE

MIRACLE 2865

Laid up for last three years.  
Little used.

£650.

For further details phone;

James Tanner 0703-(Southampton) 437931

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

First in a series of profiles of the Miracle Association Committee.

Bob Ferguson...The Commodore.



Caught on the (or at) the hop, Ullswater 86.  
(Hop for those too young to understand is an old..ish word for disco.)

Bob Ferguson..age 60. Crew and wife Vera..slightly older.  
Miracle 3388.Arawa.Club..Crawley Mariners YC.

Has been an active member of the Association since the beginning and was a member of the original committee becoming Chairman in 1978. Helped organize the first all week Nationals at Ullswater with N.Lincs SC (previously it had been a three day event). Has owned 3 Miracles 245, 1597, and now 3388. "previous winner of the Ton Up Cup. 25th in the first Nationals and has the distinction of having sailed them all and enjoyed them. Crawley Mariners is a trailing club, their venues are Hedgecock Lake, Fellbridge, 8 miles from Gatwick. Clipping near Littlehampton and cruising on the Hamble and Solent.

MIRACLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.  
ULLSWATER S.C. JULY 27th - AUGUST 1st 1986

After two months of perfect lakeland weather the spell was broken with the arrival of nearly 70 Miracle helms with their crews and families. Phil Sowden and Linda Harrison can truly be called champions for all weathers as that was to be the order of the week. The championship lay wide open all week with the final placings decided on the last race and the protest committee.

1	3220	Phil Sowden/Linda Harrison	ICI Slough
2	3433	Andy & Mathew Parkinson	Draycote
3	3021	Dave Fitton/Andy Graham	Leigh
4	2922	Graeme Castle/Sarah Hockliffe	Castaways
5	3345	Peter Stewart/Caroline Houghton	Draycote
6	3383	David Southwell/Mark Atherton	Leigh
7	2905	Paul & Martin Huett	Draycote
8	2766	Mark Lunn/Martin Jones	Wigan
9	1605	David & Michelle Raines	Leigh
10	3493	Andrew Smith/Brian Stuart	Hoveringham

The rest of the results are as follows:-

Practice Race	3433	A/M Parkinson	Draycote
1st Points Race	3433	A/M Parkinson	Draycote
2nd Points Race	562	J.Wilson/H.Evans	Bartley
3rd Points Race	3220	P.Sowden/L.Harrison	ICI Slough
4th Points Race	3220	P.Sowden/L.Harrison	ICI Slough
5th Points Race	3021	D.Fitton/A.Graham	Leigh
6th Points Race	3220	P.Sowden/L.Harrison	ICI Slough
Crews Race	2766	J.McKeand/M.Lunn	Wigan
Single Handed	3313	D.Fitton	Leigh
Under 16	3470	J.Davey/G.Barlow	Draycote
Under 18	2905	P/M.Huett	Draycote
Masters Trophy	319	D.Beere	ICI Slough
Ladies Trophy	350	R.Harrison	ICI Slough
Ton Up Cup	3067	P/R.Sowden	ICI Slough

WELL DONE ICI SLOUGH!!!

Improvers

Race 1-2	T.Best	1336	27 places
Race 2-3	A.Bishenden	2454	16 places
Race 3-4	G.Deane	2497	16 places
Race 4-5	A.Jones	3200	11 places
Race 5-6	S.Paish	1458	18 places

The same improvement next year will give you the first five places in the nationals...good sailing all of you.

Thanks to Ullswater S.C. our hosts, the Miracle Race Committee, Peter Gibbs, and to Peter Ward, Hoveringham S.C. and helpers for the rescue boat crews.

1987 Nationals are at Brixham, perhaps a joint event with the OK class. More details at a later date.



The A.G.M. was held on the Thursday evening at Ullswater S.C. There were three proposals for change to the Miracle Association Rules of Measurement and Construction.

### 1. SPARS

To allow spreaders of the fixed type, at fixed dimensions to be fitted. This proposal is forwarded to further the safety of the Miracle Dinghy.

Proposed by: T.W. Pearson M3333

Seconded by: P.H. Gibbs M541

(On behalf of the Association Tech. SubCommittee)

### 2. Rule 8i. Kicking Strap

Change to rule 8i. which currently reads: "Kicking strap may have two single sheave blocks and one cleat". To read: "using existing mast and boom fittings the kicking strap may have up to a maximum of 4:1 ratio, a split control system with up to two cleats is allowed."

The reason for the above proposal is to improve safety. The current 2:1 system has insufficient purchase to allow lightweight crews to adjust the kicking strap whilst on the water. It is essential that it should be possible for all weights of crew to increase tension so to flatten the sail should the wind strength increase and take off tension to allow wire mainstay halyards to be removed from hook up racks.

Proposed by: P. Stewart M3345

Seconded by: P. Gibbs M541

(On behalf of The Association Tech. SubCommittee.)

### 3. Rule 8b.

Additional note to be added to rule 8b. "The lower mainsheet block is to be secured directly to a slide which shall be free running in the mainsheet track. The slide shall have an unrestricted travel of 250mm plus or minus 5mm. (125mm on either side of the centreline of the boat and track) when measured through the centreline of the hole onto which the mainsheet block is fitted."

This note needs to be added to stop the various 'fiddles' currently on seen on several boats to restrict the distance the boom goes out when tacking and so allow the boat to point higher. Also if the lower block is attached to a short strap rather than directly to the slide then when the sail is sheeted in the boom can be pulled past a point to which it would normally come.

Proposed by: P. Stewart M3345

Seconded by: G. Huett M2905

Rule 8i. Kicking Strap was passed.

Rule 8b. Definition of slide track etc was passed.

Spars i.e. Spreaders.

An amended proposal by Graeme Castle was narrowly defeated as it was felt that although the height could be fixed, neither the length or the angle should be specified and this should be left to the individual requirements for cut of sail etc. The matter obviously needs to go back to the Tech SubCommittee for more investigation and experiment. Graeme Castle has promised an article on spreaders for the next copy, perhaps it will explain the issue more clearly before members are asked to vote again, perhaps at Brixham in 87. If you have any views on the subject, however controversial, please let me have them for inclusion in Halo then we can express the general feelings on the matter.

Rule 8i and Rule 8b need to be ratified by Jack Holt and must not be adopted until then, hopefully by Jan 1st 87. More details in a later newsletter.



### KNOW YOUR CHAMPIONS

First in a series of profiles of Miracle Champions.  
Phil Sowden and crew Linda Harrison of ICI Slough.  
Reigning Inland champions and new National Champions.



Phil Sowden age 25 ... Linda Harrison age 18 as crew.  
Boat number 3220..Tik-Tak-Too..Club ICI Slough.

Phil has sailed for 18 years, eight in a Mirror and ten in a Miracle. He was National Schools Mirror Champion twice, and is the reigning Miracle Inland Champion with the Southern Area title four times to his credit and the South-Westerns thrice.

He also holds local club championships awards in both Laser and Enterprise.

Linda has crewed for Phil for three years but has sailed for five years.

ICI Slough is on the A4 between Maidenhead and Slough and is a small inland gravel pit of only 28 acres. So bang goes the theory that all champions are bred on large reservoirs or the sea.

Six ICI Miracles competed at Ullswater (four won prizes), there are at least fifteen at the club..ten of which play an active part in the racing ..probably the reason for their success.





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SOUTHERN AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Worthing YC Sussex  
September 20,21,1986  
Practice Race.....Sat.....11.00  
First Race.....Sat.....15.00  
Second Race.....Sun.....11.00  
Third Race.....Sun.....15.00

Entry fee '5  
Frank Riddle.....0903..6000450

INLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Draycote Water  
October 18,19,1986  
4 races 3 to count  
Saturday 2 races start 12.30  
Sunday 2 races start 10.30  
Camping, caravanning and accommodation,  
Saturday evening meal.

Entry fee '5  
Ann Felli.....0926..402236

Miracle Open...Bartley S.C. August 31st  
First race...11.00  
Fee.  
John Wilson, 151 finstall Rd.  
Bromsgrove.  
0527..76487

Miracle Open...BSC Shotton. Sept 6th  
First Race...10.30  
Fee.....'3.50  
Geoff Weir, 10 Balmoral Park,  
Chester.  
0244..373..958 (3 out of 4 to count)

Miracle Open...Steeple Bay S.C. Sept 6th-7th  
First Race...Sat.12.30..Sun.1.00  
Fee.....'3.50  
Simon Hadley..0277..821044  
(Camping facilities, Food.)

Miracle Open...Leigh S.C. Sept 21st  
First Race...11.00  
Fee.....'3.00  
Peter Cuthert, Cartref, 6 Brackley Rd,  
Morton, Greater Manchester.

Miracle Open...ICI Slough. October 5th  
First Race...11.00  
Fee.  
Eric Jones, 106 Nursery Rd,  
Taplow, Maidenhead.