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Join us in August for the Nationals

The Halo

Miracle Association Magazine Spring 2019



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11th to 16th August 2019

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"The Friendly, Family, Dinghy Class"

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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: p2 Sue Atherton; p3 Jean Reed; p7 Ian Brown; p8 & p9 The Green Blue..

Items for the next issue to the Editor by 1st June 2019

Editor's Corner

At the RYA Dinghy Show Ian Brown and his girls did us proud with an amazing presentation on the Miracle "Tribe" on the Class Presentation Stage. Of course not everyone could be there, so turn to page 8 for a printed version. There's some really good points for promoting the Miracle.

The big news going forward is we now have the dates for the 2020 Nationals at Netley Sailing Club. Those who went last time really enjoyed it, both sailors and those ashore. And there is their new clubhouse. It seemed like we had barely left the place in 2017 when the clubhouse came down and building work started. Understandably members are trying to minimize the loss of days sailing having had to last so long without a clubhouse, so we are going to have a 5 day Nationals Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August 2020. As Louis says in his Chairman's Desk, they are only too happy to have us join in their Sunday racing which should mean plenty chance to practice.

Note there is an AGM notice in this Halo. August may seem a long way away, but if you have any proposals for changes to the Rules of Measurement or the Rules of the Association they need to be with



me, as Secretary, by 19th May 2019, which is not that far away.

Finally, can I wish you fair winds and happy sailing in the coming season
Gillan Gibson,
Miracle 3670

Chairman's Desk



Hi Folks, We had a great time at the Alexandra Palace RYA Dinghy Show. My new boat looked well, even though I say it myself, and I only finished working

on it on the day before the show. This epoxy GRP, not registered yet so it will have the latest number, is for sale at a good price. Well Done to the members who gave up their time to come and chat to the public. We had lots of enquires about how to buy and build Miracles. As usual Ken and Gillan had excelled themselves with the displays on the stand, putting emphasis on our lady champion Hannah Smith.

A new departure this year was to be found on the Class Presentation Stage where Ian Brown gave a fifteen minute presentation on Miracle dinghies, ably assisted by Lilly and Mia Brown. This was filmed and ready to show on the monitor at the Miracle stand. The emphasis was on family participation and both girls spoke clearly on the microphone. Well done girls! You deserved your ride on the Millennium Wheel!

We had a good attendance of helpers on both days, Cathy and Leah, Geoff, Martin, Ian with Lilly and Mia, Paul and Nathan, Ken and Gillan, and Dori and Dave Butler and if I've forgotten anyone please accept my apologies.

On another tack, 2020's Nationals will be the first week in August at Netley Sailing Club, Southampton Water. Those who went last time thoroughly enjoyed the venue and now there is their brand new clubhouse. It will be a five day event, Monday till Friday, and whilst the practice race usually held on the Sunday is not planned Netley SC are quite happy for us to sail with their fleets on that day if you wish to practice and tune your boats.

Looking forward to sailing this year's nationals at Pwllheli. Andrew and Michela will be joining us from Malta and Marcel and Giulia from Holland. Marcel and Giulia were at the Dinghy Show too. Please encourage the owners of Miracles at your club to join the Miracle Association and receive this superb magazine with access to good advice and shared enjoyment.

Hoping to support as many open meetings as I can, we are busy planning our two day open meeting and barbeque at Delph SC on 18th and 19th of May. Camping on site and a warm welcome hope to see you there!

Louis Moulden, Miracle 4100

Miracle Nationals 2019
WNSA, Pwllheli, North Wales
Sunday 11th to Friday 16th
August

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

Are you going???

Crews wanted and available?

Keeping in touch?

Results and reports?

The Miracle Association is online at:

Facebook Page

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

Links from website

Facebook Group

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

Joining easy

Website

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

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Meeting Calendar 2019

Staunton Harold (DE73 8DL) Midland Area Championship	13th & 14th April	www.shsc.org.uk
Welton (HU15 1PT) North East Area Championship	27th & 28th April	www.weltonsc.org
Port Dinorwic (LL56 4RQ) Open meeting	4th & 5th May	www.pdsc.org.uk
Delph (BL7 9TS) Northern Area Championship	18th & 19th May	www.delphsailingclub.co.uk
Thornbury , Oldbury-on-Severn Open meeting	8th & 9th June	https://thornburysc.org.uk/
Whitefriars (SN6 6QR) Southern Area Championship	15th & 16th June	http://whitefriarssc.org/
Girton (NG23 7HX) Puddleduck	22nd & 23rd June	www.girtonsc.org.uk
Leigh & Lowton (WA3 1BQ)	6th & 7th July	http://leighandlowton.wordpress.com/
Pwllheli, WNSA (LL53 5YT) National Championships	11th to 16th Aug	http://plasheli.org
Shotwick (CH5 2LL) Welsh Area Championship	21st & 22nd Sept	www.shotwicksailing.org/home/
Shustoke (B46 2BE) End of Season Championship	6th & 7th Oct	www.shustokesailingclub.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 "Downloads" will bring up a page with a list of articles one of which is on going to open meetings.

Miracle Nationals 2019
WNSA, Pwllheli, North Wales
Sunday 11th to Friday 16th
August

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

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2019 Nationals

11th to 16th August

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North Wales**

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Entry form online,
or email Miracle Association Secretary for a copy

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£220.00 if entered before the end of June (saving of £20)

£240.00 if enter in July and August

Family Members Two Boat Discount

For Family Members bringing two or more boats to the 2019 National Championships a **£50.00** discount on their second boat (First, third and subsequent boats pay standard fees)

First Nationals discount

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RYA Dinghy Show: Ian promotes the Miracle



This year at the RYA Dinghy Show, the Miracle Association was asked to do a presentation on the theme of “Tribes of Sailing”. It was a gimmick conceived by a marketing guru and advertised across social media with the hashtag #tribes

I was foolish enough to volunteer to give the presentation and below is an abridged version minus the video and most of the photographs obviously.....

“Hello Everybody, My name is Ian Brown. I’m NOT the lead singer of the Stone Roses, BUT I am the Membership Secretary of the Miracle Dinghy Association and the tagline of the Miracle Association is

“The FAMILY, FRIENDLY, DINGHY CLASS”. So what makes our sailing tribe - “FAMILY”?

For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, the Miracle dinghy is a 13 foot dinghy with 3 sails, including a symmetric spinnaker. It can comfortably fit up 3 people and was designed by Jack Holt as a sort of slightly bigger and faster follow up to his hugely successful Mirror Dinghy.

It’s a very stable boat and although it has never been made in huge numbers, it

has proved very popular with those who have owned and sailed in it, particularly families.

Our current national champion is David Southwell who won the 2018 Miracle National Championships at Bala with his daughter Rebecca as crew.

It’s not the first time David has won our National championships. With the Southwell’s the Miracle is a real family affair. David has 7 kids and most of them have sailed with him. His brother Ian used to crew for David, but he now sails with his children. Ian and David’s sister Michelle and brother in law David Raines were also multiple class champions in the Miracle.

And the Southwells story is not unusual. The Mumford, Jones, Amos & Gibson families are hugely experienced sailors with many trophies under their belts. In fact the majority of people we find on the Miracle circuit, the sailors that make up our Tribe, are usually families. Be it brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers sailing with their children, or grandparents sailing with their grand-kids, our opens truly are multi-generational affairs.

Indeed, if we are to look at the top 11 places from our, 2018 National Championships in Bala, we find that the majority of helms and crews are related by either blood or marriage:

- 1st: David and Rebecca Southwell - Father and daughter;
- 2nd: Andrew & Michela Mifsud - Brother and sister from Malta;
- 3rd: David & Zara Turtle - Father and daughter;
- 4th & 6th: The Bramelds and Cuthberts, both Father and son pairings;

7th: Hannah Smith with her boyfriend Thomas Metcalfe;

8th: Marcel & Giulia - Father and daughter from The Netherlands;

9th: Cathy Goodwin & Leah Murphy - Mother and daughter; and

11th: Ian Southwell with his daughters. But children are not just found in the front of a Miracle, many go on become accomplished helms and eventually switch places with their parents. Sometimes with spectacular results. In fact, going back to Hannah Smith who finished 7th, she is a former double champion and she won both of her championships with her father Nick crewing for her.

Miracle Opens are 2 day events held over a weekend. You can usually camp or stay over at the clubhouse or local pub. Each Open venue puts on an evening meal or an event, in fact the Miracle BBQ at Delph is the highlight of the social calendar often attracting up to 100 people.

Our **yearly national championship** is held over a week and for many Miracle sailors forms an integral part of their summer holidays. We try to pick venues where we can all camp together and socialise as families. The first nationals I went to with my daughter Lilly was at Plas Heli in Pwllheli but as a novice I sailed with an experienced crew, Gillan Gibson, in the main points races with me and Lilly sailing together in the fun races.

We had 32 boats at Pwllheli with families ranging from 5 to 80+ years old.

At Pwllheli Hannah Smith became a double national champion at just 23 years of age. She was also our first ever female champion.

Hannah sailed in her first nationals aged just 12 with her mum in Miracle 1553

- Patches. With her dad sailing with her sister and her Uncle Barry and Cousin Chris there too, it was a real family affair. At Beaumaris in 2010 Hannah took over the helm and with her dad as crew, they won the Bronze Fleet. The next year in Plymouth in a new boat, Miracle 3805 - Pamela, they won the Silver Fleet. Then in Rutland in 2015 they claimed their first National Championship and went on to win it again in 2016 at Pwllheli.

Seeing a young woman triumph over such an experienced field was quite inspirational for Lilly. We began to do a lot more Opens together and in 2017 me and Lilly sailed our first nationals together at Netley on the Solent.

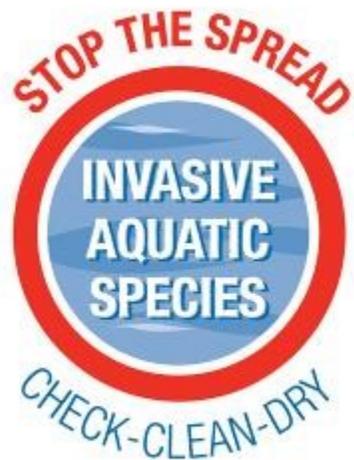
Lilly’s exploits in the Miracle with her dad began to inspire her sister too. And last year when the Port Dinorwic open clashed with Lilly’s Brownie camp, Mia got her chance to race in her first Open aged just 5, we didn’t come last either :-)

For us as a family, joining the Miracle Fleet has been one of the best decisions we have ever made. I have raced with 3 of 4 kids as crew and we’ve travelled all over the country. The 2 day opens give us lots of mini-holidays and we know that alongside a tribe of other families, we will always have a great time wherever we go to a Miracle Open.

Lilly has already begun to helm the Miracle alongside her Tera and I look forward to the day when we compete at the nationals with me in the front taking orders from my daughter, or even better perhaps Lilly and Mia will go on to race together one day.

So if you want to sail as a family, I cannot recommend the Miracle highly enough.

Ian Brown



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 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 Wrasbury Reservoir and the Wrasbury 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 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

- <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/index.cfm>
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Membership Notes

Hello, as many of you are aware, the renewal season for membership of the Association is now in full swing and I am delighted to see so many of renewing your memberships.

The move to an online membership system via Member-mojo has proved to be a great success and the association is picking up a handful of new members online every month

with many of them preferring to take out our budget breaking 3 year option. We currently have 166 members of which 127 are Active/Full.

Sadly our recruitment is tempered each year by people leaving the Association as they sell their boats or retire from sailing so it is a never ending process and hopefully if we can recruit a few more than leave each year, the association has a healthy future.

Looking at the league table of club membership, it is no surprise to see that Delph SC is top of the table. Not only does our club have a large fleet of Miracles, both the Chairman and the Membership Secretary are members here, so no Miracle sailor escapes our membership pitches for long! In fact it's often easier to join the Association than have Louis bend your ear every week :-)

As we go down the list the top 10 is not surprisingly dominated by clubs who host Miracle Opens but the biggest surprise is seeing Birzebugga SC in Malta tied for 4th place with Broadwater. Birzebugga is home to Andrew and Michela Mifsud and their father Pierre who have been a most welcome addition to our last 2 national Championships.

Most of the people me and Louis have press-ganged at Delph have been willing victims. Our subs are very reasonable and most people see them as a sort of donation to help keep the class alive.

As a small class, we can only do so much to promote the Association. From the Dinghy Show to the Halo and our Facebook and web presence we are only ever likely to hit a small audience.

The best ambassadors for the Association are you, our members!

We currently have 43 clubs with only 1 member and if everyone who receives a copy of the Halo can persuade just 1 more person to join, we will double in size, just think about that :-)

Ian Brown, Membership Secretary

Delph	15
Welton	7
Leigh and Lowton	6
Birzebugga SC, Malta	4
Broadwater	4
Crawley Mariners	4
Shotwick	3
Staunton Harold	3
Wilsonian	3
Bexhill	2
Colemere	2
Draycote	2
Girton	2
Port Dinorwic	2
Redoubt	2
RYA	2
Teesdale	2
Thornbury	2
Thornton Steward	2

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Miracle Association will be held at
Welsh National Sailing Academy
Pwllheli

on Thursday 15th August 2019 at 7.30 pm
(room location to be advised)

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 9th August 2018 at Bala Sailing Club
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman and Officers' Reports
5. Treasurer's 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 **19th May** 2019.

Miracle Association Committee

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Thornton Steward SC



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>

Miracle Association meetings

Summary of minutes

**Alexandra Palace, London
2nd March 2019**

- **Treasurer:** The Association is in a sound financial position.
- **Membership:**
 - ◇ Fee levels to be £26 for one year, £65 for 3 years and kept under review.
 - ◇ The new online joining system was in place and operating. It was noted there was an auto reminder for those who had not renewed and if there was no response the lapsed member was to be personally contacted.
- **Dinghy Show 2019:** The stand was well located and was proving popular, it had been busy all morning. Thanks to all who helped make it possible.
- **2019 Racing Calendar:** Programme for 2019 is organised and available.
- **2019 Nationals at Welsh National Sailing Academy (WNSA), Pwllheli: Sun to Fri 11th to 16th August 2019** Arrangements are progressing.

- **Future Nationals:**
 - ◇ **2020:** Netley Sailing Cub, Southampton, [Monday 3rd to Friday 7th] August.
 - ◇ **2021 and beyond:** various venues considered.
- **Miracle Association Trophies at Open Meetings:** For a number of open meetings there was a Miracle Association Trophy and there was some uncertainty as to whether non-members could win the trophy. It was proposed and agreed that Association Trophies went to the highest placed Association member, noting sailors are able to join the Miracle Association on the day.
- **PY for Miracle now 1194**, a drop of 6.
- **Future Committee meetings:** the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 10th August 2019, WNSA, Pwllheli. Items requiring discussion before then to be dealt with by email, telephone and other accepted means of communication.

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

Miracle Association trophies at Open Meetings

If there is a Miracle Association trophy at a Miracle open meeting it is awarded to the highest placed member of the Association (bearing in mind you can join the Association on the day, which has happened).

This was confirmed at the Miracle Association Committee Meeting on 2nd March 2019 following some queries at the end of the 2018 season. If nothing else it means the Association has contact details for the holder of the trophy and know the holder has contact details for the Association.

Midland Mini-Series

February & March 2019

County Cooler

Notts County Sailing Club
9th & 10th February

The County Cooler kicked off the Midland mini-series on 9th and 10th February. Unfortunately racing was canned on Saturday due to Storm Eric blowing through. Sunday was a totally different day, light to medium winds, cloudy, with showers and some sun. There were 36 entries from a mixture of classes and 3 starts with fast, slow and juniors.

Getting a good start and holding a lane was key. Graham Watts and Helen Jacks, Miracle 3813, had a better start than Richard and Todd Brameld in Miracle 4115. It had been a while since either boat had hit the water - and the rust was evident. Graham and Helen crossed the finish ahead and some close racing by both boats proved this was going to be fun.

In the 2nd race Richard and Todd realised the wind had shifted a little and the pin end would pay so tacked on to port and crossed most of the fleet (nice!). Richard & Todd finished 5th and Graham & Helen 11th.

The two Miracles were not so lucky in the 3rd race but both had some good racing.

After a welcome break to warm up and refuel, race 4 saw a change of course with a bit of a tour of the lake. It was not so spinnaker friendly, but had a nice close reach to blast down. This was particularly memorable when a hailstone shower combined with the ice cold spray woke us up somewhat. Richard and Todd finished ahead with Graham and Helen keeping them on their toes.

Race 5 was much more pleasant and the sun came out to make it another good race with Graham and Helen ahead until Richard and Todd got lucky up the beat and finished just ahead with a Laser 2000 between the two of them. Overall Richard and Todd just broke the top 10 and Graham and Helen got 15th overall. A great day's racing had blown the cobwebs away.

Ogston Wooley Jumper

Ogston Sailing Club
23rd & 24 February

This weekend brought light winds and bright warm sunshine. Neither boat had sailed here before and what a lovely setting it proved to be. The racing got underway after a short delay as we waited for the mist to clear and the wind to fill in.

Race 1 saw Graham Watts and Helen Jacks, Miracle 3813, having a good start and pulling out ahead with Richard and Todd Brameld in Miracle 4115 hunting them down, both boats often side by side. Both boats crossed the finish line neck and neck with Richard and Todd ahead.

The 2nd race proceeded pretty much the same although the wind was a little lighter. There were some close fought battles up and down the fleet. Richard and Todd finished ahead again.

The wheels fell off for Richard and Todd in the final race on Saturday. Graham and Helen had a great start and sailed better with Richard and Todd buried in the fleet. Graham and Helen got 9th and Richard and Todd got 16th (oh dear).

Sunday dawned with fog and no wind. Thankfully the fog had burnt off and

a nice light breeze got racing underway.

A different course saw the fleet visit more marks than I like to put on a board. The wind fluctuated around the course. After completing the first lap the wind shut down and a 'driftathon' proceeded. Graham and Helen decided the mark closest to the club would be enough for them. Richard and Todd were ahead at the time so that was it, they needed this finish. Inch by inch five boats closed in on the finish until just 200m from finishing they were timed out (grrr). 10 minutes later the wind filled in a little and Richard and Todd sailed back to the clubhouse with spinnaker flying!

The wind once again disappeared and 2.00 pm was the cut off time. Right on cue the wind filled in and race 5 got underway. Graham and Helen took the win from Richard and Todd. Graham and Helen were 7th overall and Richard and Todd got 8th.

Staunton Blaster

Staunton Harold Sailing Club
2nd & 3rd March

This was on the following weekend, with the promise of some good wind and stiff competition, 36 boats raced, it didn't disappoint.

The 1st race was a pursuit race and both Miracles agreed to race their own race and not try to mess each other up. Richard and Todd Brameld in Miracle 4115 sailed well and got ahead pulling out a nice gap and catching the slower boats. Then a sloppy reach to reach gybe ended it all as she capsized right in front of the clubhouse (doh!). Some quick crew work prevented inversion and they were up and on, although full of water and bailing like mad. Graham Watts and Helen Jacks, Miracle 3813, caught and passed Richard and

Todd. Graham and Helen got 12th, Richard and Todd got 15th.

The battle was on, the wind had picked up a little for the 2nd race and Richard and Todd had some great racing and came 18th and Graham and Helen were 19th.

The 3rd race the wind really picked up and it was Graham and Helen's turn to have a swim - losing it dead downwind with spinnny up. Luckily Richard and Todd had just dropped theirs for the mark. Richard and Todd were 8th and Graham and Helen were 17th.

After a great Chinese we retired ready for the next day and Sunday dawned with light winds and rain - not so nice.

Richard and Todd must have had a good night's sleep as they led Graham and Helen around the lake, Richard and Todd to take 11th and Graham and Helen 17th.

In the final race the wind was increasing and keeping the boat on its feet became paramount. Some great spinnaker reaches and some full on blasting brought smiles all round. Richard and Todd's heavier crew paid dividends and they took 12th with Graham and Helen taking 15th.

The results don't really do justice to the close racing we had, it was often tit for tat all the way round. In the mini-series overall both boats broke the top ten with Richard and Todd taking 9th and Graham and Helen taking 10th.

It's going to be tougher next year with the PY decreasing, but I'm planning on doing the series again. Anyone want join us?

Richard Brameld, Miracle 4115

Overall

82 boats from more than 25 clubs

9th Richard and Todd Brameld

10th Graham Watts and Helen Jacks