

HALO

Autumn 2021

The magazine for the
Miracle Dinghy Association



Rutland Nationals

Full report and pictures



The Halo Autumn
2021
In this edition....

- Chairman's message
- Miracle Nationals
Aug 21 report &
highlights
- Seasonal End of Year
round up
- Website Update
- Nationals 2022
- Our sponsors

Digital Edition



Rutland Class of '21

Chairman's report - Autumn 2021

By Paul Robin-

“ Rutland Sailing Club did us proud with first class race control and catering ”

I also enjoyed open meeting events at Staunton Harold Sailing Club and Delph Sailing Club. Race reports are available and in all, seven open meetings took place this year which is a credit to Wayne's hard work.

See the 2022 calendar of events in this issue of Halo...



Miracle 4110

Members.....You are all encouraged to support our advertisers and sponsors and we are still seeking a volunteer to edit the Halo magazine on a quarterly basis please!

There is now a For Sale and Wanted section available for use on the Miracle website which is being overseen by Graham.

**FOR SALE
& WANTED**



It was great to be back on the water at Open Meetings and the Nationals at Rutland this year.... Catching up with Miracle sailing friends.

After re-scheduling the events calendar, the first open that I attended was Girton where we were bathed in sunshine but this came with light winds. On the Saturday evening we enjoyed fish and chips together in the evening sun with of course some of our own in-house entertainment! Freedom again at last. Perfect!

Feedback on the Rutland nationals has been very positive shared again with our friends in the Signet fleet. As one kind member put it "You did it! Against all the Covid odds....., it was one of the best Miracle Nationals ever!"

Rutland Water proved very spectator friendly, providing good vantage points to watch all the thrills and spills. We were blessed with some days of both sun and good winds! "Rutland Sailing Club did us proud with first class race control and catering." Martyn Emberson proved to be a very capable & experienced race officer.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the week.

Congratulations to Jeremy Davy and his daughter Kitty from Draycote SC who were crowned national champions this year. Full event race results and reports are provided later in this edition [here](#).

Thanks to our guest sportswriter Hannah Metcalfe Smith who did a brilliant job posting daily race reports in Yachts & Yachting. These are still available on the Y & Y website or [here](#). We of course missed our overseas visitors this year.

The big current news item is that we have now secured a nationals venue for 2022 at Dabchicks SC, West Mersea,

near Colchester, Essex, on the Blackwater estuary.

Event racing will take place on Monday 22nd August to Friday 26th August. Andrew, Mike Overs and I visited Dabchicks Sailing Club at the end of last month. There is a beach to view the racing area.

Full details are provided in an article written by Andrew later in this edition of the Halo and published to the association website already.

Marcel Neuteboom has already been in touch and is very pleased that next year we are not too far away from the Harwich ferry terminal! We look forward to welcoming a large fleet to West Mersea and we're also in discussions regarding a nationals venue for 2023.

It was good to hear recently that Brian Jones' health has improved for which he is very thankful.

Plans are in hand for the RYA dinghy show at Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre on 26th & 27th February 2022. Graham Watts has kindly agreed to display his new boat on the stand with assistance and direction from Helen Jacks.

Members are asked to support with offers to be available to talk with visitors on the stand for a couple of hours over these two days. Please let Graham and /or Helen know if you can assist.

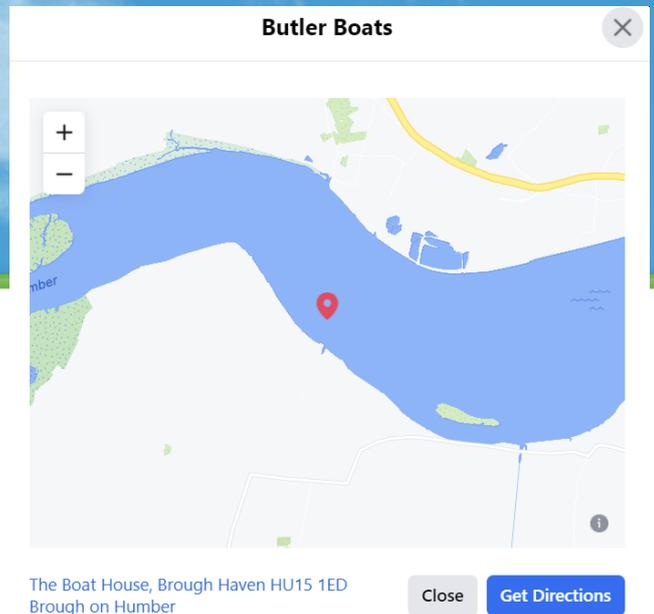
It has been a pleasure to see everybody on the events circuit again this year!

Paul Robinson

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A new service available to all members:

For Sale and Wanted listings - Published on the association website free of charge!

List any craft or sailing item for sale. Upload up to 5 images to describe your item.

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Visit the new page from the main menu: Members/For Sale/Wanted Or click [here](#) to access the page directly. Follow the steps below to list an item.

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RUTLAND NATIONALS

8th - 13th August 21

Full report

By Hannah Metcalfe Smith.....

This years' National Championships was held at Rutland Sailing Club, with a fleet of 16 boats. Overall, the conditions were breezy throughout the week. The racing during the week was close throughout the fleet and generally good-natured. The windy conditions definitely highlighted any weaknesses in the pre-Championship boat preparation with work ongoing throughout the week across the fleet. Those with new boats also took the opportunity to tune their boats each day.

The racing started on the [Sunday](#), with a very heavy breeze with the Practice Race and the Race 1. There were many thrills and spills with lots of capsizing due to the breezy conditions. Staying upright was the name of the game and the results were dictated by the ability to stay upright. Hannah Metcalfe-Smith lost Tom as he dived backwards overboard mid-capsize after contesting a kite leg overtake by Simon Reddcliff and Mark Atherton.

We had a reception in the Rutland club house and were warmly welcomed by the Commodore, with the peaceful weather conditions a marked change from the racing conditions earlier in the day. [Monday's](#) racing was once again, breezy, but provided the only upset to the Davy's week, with Hannah and Tom Metcalfe-Smith taking 1st place in the second Championship race. [Tuesday](#), the third day of the Nationals provided some deserved sunshine and more tight racing conditions, with three boats vying for first place with the Willar's completing penalty turns for a port/starboard infringement on the Davy's. As we raced through the week, [Wednesday](#) meant we were over halfway through the event!

The quietest day of the whole event enabled four races to take place, with two points races and two novelty races; the single-handed and non-spinaker.

An annual pub quiz provided some excellent entertainment for the evening and having a good age range in the teams proved to be essential for scoring highly.

The penultimate day of racing on [Thursday](#) showed the Miracles to be ill-disciplined with multiple general recalls required. Another breezy day meant for some capsizes, some seriously tight racing and some turns needed for port and starboard incidents throughout the fleet.

The final race on the Friday was sailed in big breeze, very reminiscent of how we started the week. It proved to be an exciting race, with the space to move up and down the fleet depending on how the results panned out.

Wayne and Angela lead the race initially, which would have taken them to second place overall, but an unfortunate capsizes meant that Hannah and Tom snuck through to retain second place, sailing a conservative race.

Overall, the Nationals was a well-organised event, with excellent course-setting and race management. It was a sociable affair with lots of interesting thrills and spills, boat repairs and incredibly tight racing throughout the week.

Lots of the sailors were grateful to get out on the water after a constrained start to the season due to the lockdowns we have all endured.



YACHTS
ANDYACHTING.COM

The daily reports linked below from Yachts & Yachting will give you all the details if you didn't catch them at the time.

A great way to spent half an hour with a cup of tea!

Yachts & Yachting daily report links

- ▶ [Day 1](#)
- ▶ [Day 2](#)
- ▶ [Day 3](#)
- ▶ [Day 4](#)
- ▶ [Day 5](#)

[Next Page for
Results & Pics.....](#)

RUTLAND NATIONALS

8th - 13th August 21

Full on-line Gallery....



**Miracle National Championships
2021
Rutland SC**

Results are final as of 8:31 on August 15, 2021

Overall

Sailed: 10, Discards: 2, To count: 8, Entries: 16, Scoring system: Appendix A

Rank	SailNo	Fleet	HelmName	CrewName	Boat	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Total	Nett	
1st	4023	Gold	Jeremy Davy	Kitty Davy		Draycote SC	(1)	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	8	
2nd	3805	Gold	Hannah Metcalfe-Smith	Tom Metcalfe-Smith	Pamela	Thornbury SC	(8)	1	3	2	3	4	2	2	(6)	5	36	22	
3rd	4121	Gold	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	Black Magic	Delph SC	(17 DNC)	3	2	5	4	3	3	3	(6)	49	26		
4th	3834	Gold	Jon Willars	Jessica Willars	Little Hootie	Welton SC	(17 DNC)	4	(17 DNC)	3	2	2	6	6	2	3	62	28	
5th	4007	Silver	Simon Reddcliff	Mark Atherton		Delph SC	2	(11)	6	7	7	(11)	5	4	4	2	59	37	
6th	4022	Silver	Matthew Donaldson	Alison Mace		Delph SC	(17 DNC)	(8)	5	8	8	5	4	7	5	7	74	49	
7th	4020	Gold	John Tippett	Kathy Boulton	Fighting Lady	Draycote SC	6	6	4	4	6	(17 DNF)	8	9	8	RDGb	(17 DNC)	85	51
8th	4110	Silver	Paul Robinson	Nathan Robinson	Splitting the Wind	Whitefriars SC	3	5	7	6	5	10	(11)	(12)	9	10	78	55	
9th	4120	Bronze	Gerald Copsey	Tanya Copsey		Ely SC	(17 DNC)	9	9	10	10	7	(12)	5	7	4	90	61	
10th	4114	Gold	Graham Watts	Helen Jacks	60watts	Staunton Harold SC	(17 DNC)	7	8	11	9	8	7	10	(13)	9	99	69	
11th	2166	Silver	Samuel Donaldson	Thomas Donaldson		Delph SC	4	10	11	(12)	(14)	9	9	11	11	12	103	77	
12th	4123	Silver	Andrew Robinson	James Robinson	Crusoe	Whitefriars SC	5	12	10	13	13	6	10	8	(17 DNF)	(17 DNF)	111	77	
13th	4100	Bronze	Louis Moulden	Bill Morris	Lily Grace	Delph SC	7	13	12	(14)	12	13	(14)	13	10	8	116	88	
14th	4098	Silver	Ian Brown	Lilly Brown	Lilly Ann	Delph SC	(17 DNC)	(17 DNC)	13	9	11	12	13	14	12	11	129	95	
15th	3461	Bronze	Andrew Clarke	Stephanie Clarke	Tip Top	Wilsonian SC	(17 DNF)	15	15	(16)	15	15	15	16	14	13	151	118	
16th	3493	Bronze	Sam Naylor	Elliot/Lucy Naylor		Delph SC	(17 DNC)	14	14	15	(17 DNF)	14	17	DNF	17	DNF	157	123	

Sailwave Scoring Software 2.29.0
www.sailwave.com



NATIONALS VENUE FOR 2022

Mon 22nd - Fri 26th Aug 22

Dabchicks
Sailing Club



Confirmed!

Miracle and SigneT Nationals 2022

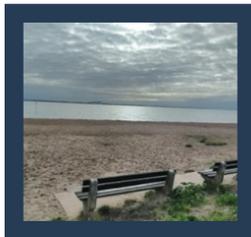
The Miracle and SigneT Nationals will be held at Dabchicks Sailing club, West Mersea from Mon 22nd - Fri 26th August 2022. Registration will be on Sunday 21st August with 2 championship races a day Monday to Friday and the extra fun races in the afternoons.

Dabchicks Sailing Club
Coast Road
West Mersea
Colchester
Essex CO5 8NX

[Dabchicks Website here](#)

Dabchicks Sailing Club is located on the Blackwater Estuary at West Mersea.

Offering an excellent tidal sailing area which is still sheltered by the estuary. Paul and Andrew visited the club along with Mike Overs (SigneTs) in October 2021. The clubhouse has a good bar area upstairs and a galley downstairs which will be serving food during the week for the hungry sailors and spectators. The clubhouse has disabled access to the upstairs bar area.



Along the coast, 10 min drive, is a large beach which overlooks the sailing area for spectators to watch the close competitive sailing the Miracle fleet always has. In addition, there is a large number of café's, pubs, seafood restaurants, takeaways and coffee shops alongside the estuary and in the village.



Accommodation Suggestions.....

There are a large number of holiday lets on [Airbnb](#) close to the sailing club itself.



A static caravan and motorhome touring site are within a 10min drive away: [Details here](#)

Another campsite with more caravan and touring space is a 20min drive from the club: [Details here](#)

Further information about the area can be found on the [West Mersea website](#): [Details here](#),



- ▶ Great Launching facilities
- ▶ Clubhouse
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- ▶ Galley for hot/cold food
- ▶ Disabled access
- ▶ Nearby beach for spectators



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Event Calendar 2022

It was so good to see competitors back at race events this year. Due to COVID -19 restrictions many events had to be moved around and this may be the reason for some low turnouts.

Fingers crossed for an uninterrupted racing calendar in 2022 that you can put in your diary and plan your life around, or is that just me?

The committee is very excited to have a new Nationals venue and we hope this seaside location ensures a great fleet turnout at Dabchicks in August.

Could I please ask you to put a copy of the Miracle Events Calendar up at your club and share it with other Miracle owners who may not be members of the association. ([Download a printable poster from the website](#))

By Wayne Atherton

Hoping to see you at an event or two in 2022... Wayne Atherton - Race Organiser

LOCATION	DATE	MEETING	STATUS
Welton SC	9 th & 10 th April 2022	North East Area Championships	PROVISIONAL 
Staunton Harold SC	23 rd & 24 th April 2022	Midland Area Championships	CONFIRMED 
Delph SC	14 th & 15 th May 2022	Northern Area Championships	CONFIRMED 
Girton SC	11 th & 12 th June 2022	Puddleduck Meeting	CONFIRMED 
Whitefriars SC	2 nd & 3 rd July 2022	Open Meeting	CONFIRMED 
Port Dinorwic SC	9 th & 10 th July 2022	Open Meeting	CONFIRMED 
Dabchicks SC	22 nd - 26 th August	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	CONFIRMED 
Thornbury SC	3 rd & 4 th Sept 2022	Open Meeting	CONFIRMED 
Shotwick SC	24 th & 25 th Sept 2022	Welsh Area Chamionships	PROVISIONAL 
Shustoke SC	8 th & 9 th Oct 2022	End of Season Championships	PROVISIONAL 
Selden Sailjuice	Sailjuice Winter Series-Variou Dates	More details	PROVISIONAL 

We're hoping to bring you open meeting reports for Delph, Shustoke and Welton 2021 in the February edition of the Halo

Blue Sky Sailing in Malta!

Miracles at Birzebbuga Sailing Club, Malta



Pierre Mifsud

“A great weekend at Birzebbuga Sailing Club - Freeport for the traditional St.Peter's Regatta with a Miracle Class.

Great weather conditions and well organised by our Club Members volunteers, as always!! ”



Well Jealous- Ed!

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Miracle Puddleduck Championship at Girton 10th & 11th July



8 Crews arrived on Saturday at Girton Sailing Club with a forecast of 2 to 4 knots of wind a light rain although in true Girton style the rain held off and a light 5 knot breeze looked to be coming down the lake.

The race officer planned a course around the cans in and out of the tricky island passage to keep the fleet on their toes for the the day.

As the fleet launched the wind all but completely shut down leaving the occasional fickle puff to drop in unpredictably in random places around the pond.

The decision to get race one underway unsurprisingly resulted in a clean start as the fleet began a gruelling task of picking transoms on the land just to check they were moving in the right direction over a glass pond. Nevertheless the fleet stayed tight as they made slow progress around the course and the lead changed almost with every shift giving most crews a chance at the front.

An hour later at the leeward mark Jon and 7 year old daughter Jess Willars decided to call it quits and headed for the shore to retire. Sure enough then the inevitable happened and the wind filled to a decent 5-6kts to get the fleet home before an abandonment with Wayne and Angela making the very best of it to take the win over Tracey and Gemma and then Gérard and Frances.

The race officer wasted no time getting race 2 underway with a simplified course and Jon and Jess rejoining the fleet after a short break.

In the final minute of the start the wind faded once again to a delicate and shifty breath which caught Wayne and Angela out on the right side of the course worst leaving them to watch the fleet from the left take the advantage. Close racing throughout the fleet then followed with some decent shifts dropping in to test concentration levels.

By the last run it was Tracey and Gemma leading the way with Andrew Robinson and Hannah Mudford sailing well in second then Jon and Jess 3rd. As they all rounded for the final short beat to the finish the first 2 boats headed to the right hand side with Jon and Jess taking the left to find a lucky right shift boosting them into the lead just at the finish whilst Wayne and Angela had sailed their way back up to 4th place.



Sunday forecast looked much more consistent and 3 back to back races were planned.

Jon and Jess made it to the windward mark first followed by Wayne/Angela and Tracey/Gemma. This was to be the order of the day for the first leg of all 3 races.

At the leeward mark Wayne clipped the transom of Jon as they rounded and promptly did his turns before working the shifts exceptionally well to take the lead to the finish.

Tracey/Gemma also found the extra speed downwind to pass Jon/Jess.

Race 2 saw much of the same with Wayne/Angela gaining the lead closely followed by Tracey/Gemma and Jon/Jess. A close tacking battle between the 3 boats up the tight passage of the island resulted with Jon/Jess back in the lead...but not for long as a shift on the next beat saw them back in 3rd behind Tracey/Gemma and Wayne/Angela.

Wayne/Angela now had the event in the bag with a race to spare but still came out fighting for the final race of the day which ended in the same 3 boats at the front but this time Tracey/Gemma taking a well deserved win over Wayne/Angela and Jon/Jess. Well done to all competitors.

At the prize giving Wayne thanked the race committee and the organisers at Girton for doing a fantastic job of getting all 5 races in under some very challenging conditions which resulted in some really close and exciting racing throughout.



Report by Jon Willars

Thornbury 17th & 18th July



Miracle Championship at Thornbury Sailing Club – 17th/18th July Report & Photos by Nick Smith.

Only two boats attended the Miracle Open that was part of the Thornbury S. C. Regatta. The Miracles were included in the Slow Handicap fleet.

Congratulations to Helen and Graham winning the Thornbury Miracle Trophy on the hottest, sunniest weekend of the year so far.

Two firsts on Saturday secured the win, from Hannah and Tom who were sailing a borrowed boat, as theirs was still under renovation.

Only one race was completed in light winds on the Sunday which was won by Hannah, crewed by Nick.



Miracle Midland Championships Staunton Harold Sailing Club

4th/5th September



Y&Y Report

Report by Hannah Smith; Photos by
Rachel Willars

The Miracle Midland Championship at Staunton Harold Sailing Club got off to a great start with a light and shifty breeze and sunshine.

Race 1

The first race started at 1400, with a complicated course. The first mark was busy with Hannah Metcalfe-Smith and her Dad Nick Smith round first, with Tracy Amos and Gemma Gibson in second, with the Association Chairman Paul Robinson and his crew Dave Dyson third around the mark.

On the second lap, Tracy and Gemma got the inside track and got in front of Hannah and Nick, with Jon and Jess Willars coming into third place, with Paul and Dave dropping back to finish 5th.

Race 2

In the second race, Jon and Jess had a cracking start at the pin, crossing the fleet on port, making it to the windward mark first, with Tracy and Gemma in 2nd and Hannah and Nick in 3rd, with Paul and Dave in 4th.

The cluster of the top three boats stayed together throughout the race with Tracy and Gemma going past Nick and Hannah on the beat, and past Jon and Jess on the gybe.

Gemma and Tracy stayed front to get their second bullet of the day with Jon and Jess in second and Hannah and Nick finishing close behind.

Simon Reddecliffe and Mark Atherton pulled away to come 4th, with Graham and Helen in 5th and Paul and Dave slipped back to finish 6th.

Race 3

Hannah and Nick shot off the favoured committee boat end, but tried to work the shore, whilst Tracy and Gemma utilised the middle of the lake to good effect going first around the windward mark and stayed there for the duration of the race. New arrivals, Wayne and Angela strode into second place, with Jon and Jess Willars in 3rd. With the top three places were settled early on - the main racing was further back in the fleet. The wind of variable strength and direction meant for snakes and ladders on the beat and ever changing spinnaker legs, with the wind

swinging so much that a tight reach turned into a windward leg on the third lap. Hannah and Nick gybed on the mark, but Simon and Mark took a lower track, gybing across through after Nick and Hannah and before Paul and Dave. They had to gybe again to make the leeward mark with Hannah and Nick going around in front of them to take fourth place.

Race 4

The wind dropped and became flukey for the 4th race after lunch. A congested start line meant that Hannah and Nick went around the windward mark second to last,

with Tracy and Gemma around first holding onto their lead to get their fourth bullet of the weekend. With their best result of the weekend Simon Reddecliffe and Mark Atherton made their way into 2nd, with Jon and Jess in 3rd and Wayne and Angela in 4th. Hannah and Nick were battling Graham and Helen for 5th place with lots of swapping of places on the various legs, but Helen and Graham came out on top.

Race 5

Having sealed their win without doubt in the fourth race, Tracy and Gemma chose not to compete in the fifth race of the championships as did Dave and Jean and Paul and Dave with the difficult conditions frustrating all of the sailors. Keith Martin and John Whitehouse stuck it out and finished the race in 5th, a best result for them. Jon and Jess Willars escaped the rest of the remaining competitors to get away and stay away to win the race and secure 2nd place overall. 2nd and 3rd place was hard fought between Hannah and Nick and Simon and Mark. A bear away on port for Simon at the windward mark, meant that Hannah and Nick slipped away to secure 2nd place and 3rd overall.

The wind conditions made tough and tight racing throughout the fleet over the weekend but the slick boat handling of Tracy and Gemma unbeatable, as evidenced by their clean sweep.





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