

HALO

Spring 2022

The magazine for the
Miracle Dinghy Association



Miracles sail throughout the Autumn and Winter



The Halo Spring 2022

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Chairman's Report – Spring 2022

By Paul Robinson



As I write this report, final preparations are in hand for the RYA Dinghy show at Farnborough on 26th & 27th February 2022. Sail number 4114, purple hull will be on our stand all polished and closely supervised by Graham Watts and Helen Jacks. Look forward to catching up with sailing friends over the weekend.



In the off-season your committee has been busy on Zoom meetings planning future events for next season and beyond.

We have a full programme of open meeting events in the calendar. From April through to October, there is a choice of ten sailing clubs to visit this year. Thank you to Wayne for his continuing enthusiasm with the racing calendar. Details are included in this Halo and can also be located on the Miracle website.

Dabchicks SC have been very positive and proactive with arrangements for the nationals in August. New for the event this year, Dabchicks SC have set up an electronic entry form and food ordering system to be used by everybody in advance of the event. Following user testing, Andrew has prepared a guidance note with screenshots to help with navigating and completing the forms. There is a link in this Halo and on the Miracle Association [website](#). We will again be organising a Buddy system for the nationals with the objective of particularly encouraging our bronze fleet competitors and incorporating a combined team race prize and other fun prizes.

Helen Jacks is doing an excellent job as Secretary and Hannah Metcalfe-Smith has kindly stepped up to be Editor of the Halo magazine. Thank you to both for your valued contributions to the life of our Association.

Thoughts are now turning to those maintenance jobs that need doing ahead of the new sailing season starting again generally at the end of March at clubs around the country. I know that some of the boat builders are currently very busy with new craft and re-painting projects ahead of the season.

Our thoughts are with the family of Eamon Cuthbert at this time. Thank you to David Southwell who has written an article reflecting on friendship, sailing and competing with Eamon. Many of our members grew-up in the Miracle family with Eamon.

Looking forward to the new sailing season ahead. I am planning to attend a number of events this year and look forward to seeing you all.

Regards,
Paul

Paul Robinson [Miracle Dinghy Class Association](#) - Chairman
Miracle 4110

Event Calendar 2022

Date	Location	Meeting	Status
9 th – 10 th April	Welton SC	North East Area Championships	Confirmed
23 rd – 24 th April	Staunton Harold SC	Midland Area Championships	Confirmed
14 th – 15 th May	Delph SC	Northern Area Championships	Confirmed
11 th – 12 th June	Girton SC	Puddleduck Meetingq	Confirmed
2 nd – 3 rd July	Whitefriars SC	Open Meeting	Confirmed
9 th – 10 th July	Port Dinorwic SC	Opening Meeting	Confirmed
22 nd – 26 th August	Dabchicks SC	National Championships	Confirmed
3 rd – 4 th September	Thornbury SC	Open Meeting	Confirmed
24 th – 25 th September	Shotwick SC	Welsh Area Championships	Confirmed
8 th – 9 th October	Shustoke SC	End of Season Championships	Confirmed

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Miracle Northerns at Delph

2nd – 3rd October 2021



Sponsored by the Bank Top Brewery, Bolton and First Mark, Golborne
[Yachts & Yachting Report](#) by Martin Bathe; photos by Martin Bathe/Graham Watts

Despite some dire wind forecasts for the weekend including one of 18 knot winds gusting to 39, the Miracle Northern Championships got under way on the Saturday without the anticipated drama.

Also, fortunately, there wasn't much rain whilst the boats were on the water although conditions were not pleasant for the visitors rigging their boats nor for those camping out overnight with heavy rain. At least the rain helped top up the depleted water levels in the reservoir a bit.

With only two visiting boats, Delph boats made up the majority of the fleet and along with the usual stalwarts there were a few of sailors that were new to Miracle racing and trying it out for the first time.

On Saturday, the two races were dominated by Simon Evans sailing with Stephen Cronshaw. They were planning to sail with their children but decided against it based on the conditions so instead sailed together. In both races Simon and Stephen established a lead off the start line and romped away from the rest of the field to two comfortable victories.

Behind them, in race 1, after a less than ideal start off a starboard biased line, Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney worked their way up to a clear second place and behind them there was a battle for third on the approach to the finish between two boats which was eventually won by Andy and Will Taylor by virtue of them calling water on their rivals Simon Reddecliffe and Mark Atherton on the line.

In race 2, off a port biased line, Wayne and Angela managed a better start but still didn't match Simon and Stephen off the line and who started at the pin end and tacked across nearly the whole fleet which, much to the amazement of the Race Officer John Cronshaw, largely piled up at the committee boat on the starboard end of the line with Ian and Lilly Brown and Paul and Nathan Robinson having to go round again. As the second race progressed the wind dropped off and helms sailing with younger crew, most notably Sam and Elliot Naylor, managed to race more competitively.

Saturday evening the Delph volunteer barbeque team put on their pinnies and served up a feast whilst the assembled sailors and their entourages attempted but failed to drink the bar dry. The evening also doubled up as the club's [RYA](#) award evening, overseen by the Club's Training Principal Karen Taylor and included the awarding of the Youth RYA Sailing with Spinnakers award to a number of the younger Miracle sailors.

On the Sunday, there was one race in the morning and, although the breeze was fairly strong, the gusts were moderate and there was broken sunshine. Simon and Stephen decided to split up and sail with their children, Simon sailing with Lucy and Stephen sailing with Jacob. Of the two pairings, Simon and Lucy were the more competitive and, despite not using their spinnaker, managed third place finishing closely behind Simon and Mark and Wayne and Angela. After lunch the wind got up and only one of the two races scheduled for the afternoon was sailed. Over half the fleet decided not to compete. Simon and Stephen reunited in the same boat and sailed to a clear first place whilst giving an excellent demonstration of sailing a boat flat in challenging conditions. The race behind them developed into a procession led by Wayne and Angela, the only close racing being between Louis Moulden sailing with Bill Morris and Paul and Nathan Robinson, which resulted in a tussle for fourth place which Paul and Nathan won.

The event concluded with the clubhouse full of weary windblown sailors and a prize-giving. On the face of it, as adult males approaching middle age, Simon and Stephen are not an ideal pairing for a Miracle and are now more suited to sailing an RS400. However, having sailed a Miracle together as teenagers through into young adulthood with some success some twenty years ago or so, in the strong wind conditions and with Lucy's help they made sailing a Miracle look easy and came out as worthy Miracle Northern Champions. As for Lucy, she seemed very pleased with the outcome, not least because she got a tub of chocolates bigger than her head. Not a bad reward for a morning's work.

Last but not least, Delph Sailing Club would like to thank the Bank Top Brewery, Bolton and First Mark, Golborne for sponsoring the event.



Miracle Northerns at Delph: Overall Results

Pos	Helm	Crew	Club	Sail No	R1	R2	R3	R4	Pts
1	Simon Evans	Stephen Cronshaw & Lucy Evans	Delph	2772	1	1	[3]	1	3
2	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	Delph	4121	2	2	2	[2]	6
3	Simon Reddecliffe	Mark Atherton		4007	[4]	3	1	3	7
4	Andy Taylor	Will Taylor	Delph	3796	3	5	4	[16]	12
5	Louis Moulden	Bill Morris	Delph	4100	5	[16]	5	5	15
6	Paul Robinson	Nathan Robinson	Whitefriars	4110	7	[7]	6	4	17
7	Graham Watts	Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold	4114	6	6	[7]	6	18
8	Ian Brown	Lilly Brown	Delph	4098	10	[10]	8	7	25
9	Sam Naylor	Elliot Naylor	Delph	3493	9	8	10	[16]	27
10	Matt Donaldson	Alison Mole	Delph	4022	8	4	16	[16]	28
11	Alan Barton	Nicola Gillam	Delph	4065	12	9	13	[16]	34
12	Martin Bathe	Poppy Haslam	Delph	59	13	11	11	[16]	35
13	Will Dyson	Luke Tonge	Delph	3414	11	13	12	[16]	35
14	Stephen Cronshaw	Jacob Cronshaw	Delph	4056	16	16	9	[16]	41
15	Dave Haslam	Molly Haslam	Delph	3825	16	12	16	[16]	44

Sutton Bingham Icicle 30th January 2022

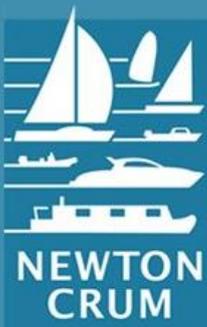
Report and pictures by Hannah Metcalfe-Smith

The day started off well suited to the name of the event with the car covered in ice, as well as the boat, which I had packed up the night before, ready for its first outing of the year.

A quiet drive down meant for a relaxed rigging of the boat. At the 11am briefing, the start was delayed for an hour, due to a lack of wind. Due to the delayed start, they shortened the race from a full-length pursuit, to two hours.

We were to be the rabbit. The race started successfully and we started the race and kept away from the fleet for almost an hour and 20 minutes. Then the boats started to overhaul us, with four boats overtaking us on one leg, including a Solo, a Laser and an Aero. The Sutton Bingham Reservoir is T-shaped and the wind was turning throughout the race making each leg different. After two hours of racing, the race was complete and after losing a place on the last mark, we finished in 11th place. A successful first outing of 2022, in gorgeous sunny weather and a gentle breeze. Many thanks to Nick Smith for crewing for me.





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Miracle Nationals at Dabchicks Sailing Club

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th August 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 is located on the Blackwater Estuary at West Mersea. It offers an excellent tidal sailing area which is still sheltered by the estuary. 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.



Notice of race is available on the Miracle Association website and can be found on the Dabchicks website with the entry form.

Entry & Food Tickets

[An online webform](#) has kindly been created by Dabchicks Sailing Club in collaboration with the Miracle and SigneT Association Committees for entry to the Nationals this year. The form is found on the Dabchicks SC website.

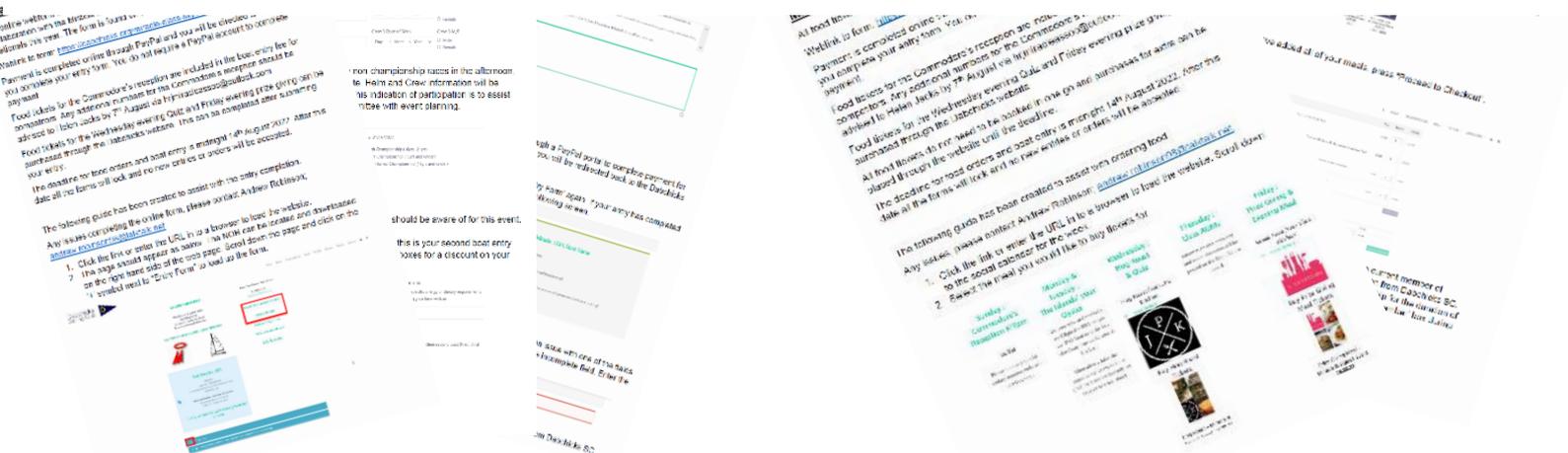
Payment is completed online through PayPal and you will be directed to this when you complete your entry form. You do not require a PayPal account to complete payment.

Food tickets for the Commodore's reception are included in the boat entry fee for competitors. Any additional numbers for the Commodore's reception should be advised to Helen Jacks by 7th August via hjrmiracleassoc@outlook.com

Food tickets for the Wednesday evening Quiz and Friday evening prize giving can be purchased through the Dabchicks website. This can be completed after submitting your entry.

The deadline for food orders and boat entry is midnight 14th August 2022. After this date all the forms will lock, and no new entries or orders will be accepted.

[A guide to completing the online entry forms](#) and buying food can be located on the Miracle Association website.



Accommodation

Accommodation suggestions: Searching for “West Mersea” may result in more options when searching.

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

There is a [Park Holidays static caravan and motorhome touring site](#) a 10minute drive away.

There is [another campsite with more caravan and touring space](#), a 20min drive from the club

There are other accommodation options, these are just a couple of suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you next year at Dabchicks Sailing Club!

The Sailing Club’s address is:

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



Key Dates for the AGM

5th May, Notice of Meeting, including agenda

Motions must be submitted
By 2nd June

Committee to publish any
motions by 30th June

Any amendments to
motions to be put forward
by members by 4th August

Committee to publish original
motion, together with any
amendments by 20th August

AGM
25th August



Miracle End of Seasons at Shustoke

9th – 10th October 2021



[Yachts and Yachting Report](#) by Zara Frankton; Photos by Zara Frankton

Shustoke End of Seasons is often associated within the Miracle fleet with strong winds and wild tales of Storm Brian. However this year conditions could not have been more different!

Saturday offered very little wind from varying directions, however the unseasonably warm weather meant sailors could dig their shorts and t-shirts back out and settle down for a good drift in the sun. The OOD wisely opted for a figure of 8 course, in the hope that at least one leg would provide a good beat with the fluctuating wind direction! Wayne and Angela had a good start and made it first around the windward mark, followed by David and Louise, Hannah and Tom, Carolynn and Nick, and Harvey and Daniel. The fleet stayed in this order, although a 180 degree wind shift at the end of the race allowed the boats near the end of the fleet to significantly close the gap on the top 3 boats!

As to be expected, the wind filled in a bit whilst the sailors were having a break and held up until about 5mins into the next race...when it dropped again! Wayne and Angela were out in front again, followed by Hannah and Tom, David and Louise, Carolynn and Nick, and Harvey and Daniel. Considering there was very little wind this race made for tense watching near the end as Wayne and Angela appeared to stop whilst the other boats crept up from behind! The top 4 boats somehow managed to separate themselves to finish in the same order as the first race.

Sunday remained warm but with a decent North Westerly wind, making racing a bit more enjoyable and entertaining to watch! The first race of the day saw Wayne and Angela leading the way again, although David and Louise made a challenge early on in the race they remained in second place. Carolynn and Nick started the race ahead of Hannah and Tom, but some spinnaker troubles set them back into fourth place.

The next race was held back to back and everyone had their turn in the front in this race! A battle between the Smiths and Metcalfe-Smiths commenced at the beginning of the race before David and Louise took up the gauntlet for a few legs. However it was Wayne and Angela who managed to time their go at the front with the end of the race, getting their fourth 1st of the weekend.

Three boats were left for the final race of the weekend and if their reputations were anything to go by it was going to be very close!! Wayne and Angela reached the windward mark first, followed by Hannah and Nick, then David and Louise. David and Louise overtook Hannah and Nick on the next beat. A long line of club sailors on starboard created a bit of an obstacle on the long reach down the lake but David and Louise's low line allowed them to pass through into first place, which they held to the end.

Special mention to Harvey, Daniel, Matthew, and Louise - this was their first ever Miracle event so well done!

Thanks go to the travelling sailors for attending and the galley and bar volunteers at Shustoke, we look forward to welcoming you back next year.

Miracle End of Seasons Overall Results:

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Pts
1	4121	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	Delph	-1	1	1	1	-2	3
2	4026	David Turtle	Louise Whitehead	Shotwick/Shustoke	-2	-2	2	2	1	5
3	3805	Hannah Metcalfe-Smith	Tom Metcalfe-Smith	Thornbury	-3	-3	3	3	3	9
4	2551	Carolynn Smith	Nick Smith	Thornbury	-4	4	4	4	(DNC)	12
5	3655	Harvey Rose	Daniel Rose/Matthew Tite	Shustoke	5	5	5	(DNC)	(DNC)	15



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Eamon Cuthbert

Report by David Southwell, photo by Helen Jacks.

Eamon just was not a sailing rival but a good friend and always had a smile on his face.

The Cuthbert's joined the then Leigh Sailing club soon to become Leigh and Lowton Sailing club. The Southwell's and the Cuthbert's became friends through sailing Miracles and went on a crusade sailing all over the country, flying the flag for Leigh and Lowton.

Peter, Eamon's dad was a well-known Miracle sailor but as soon as Eamon jumped into the Miracle fleet it became clear he was a force to be reckoned with and trained many crews.

Back in the 80's, we were at Plymouth competing in the Nationals - at this point he had not won any major events or

however on this particular day it was blowing about a force 6 with heavy swells. We both came round the top mark around 5th and 6th and I said to my crew Ian, 'lets head for the cliffs to try and get in calmer waters'. Eamon followed the rest of the fleet went out to sea. After about what seemed to be an eternity, I said to Ian 'where's Eamon?' to which he responded, 'Oh he tacked off about a minute ago' and I thought, well then, we better tack off and head for the mark. When we approached the mark, there was a white hull boat turned turtle! Yes, it was Eamon! I asked if he was ok...not that we were going to stop, as to our surprise we had just taken the lead! Back on shore I asked Eamon what had happened. He said he only followed us as he thought we knew something. I said no we were knackered and tried to find shelter! He saw we were over standing the mark so tacked off early and just as he got there to bear away the centre board snapped. He thought it was too good to be true as this would of give him the first National Race win!

Well things did get better for Eamon. He had many open meeting wins and in 1988 won his first Inland Championship's at Draycote Water with over 40 boats entered. His able crew that day was Ian Gregory, another crew he trained who I think was the crew he tried to drown in Plymouth. In 1989 Eamon went to defend his title this time at North Lincs Sailing club and yes, he did defend it this time with rent-a-crew Mark Atherton.

We did many national championships together. Eamon was now wining some of the races but the big one always eluded him so in 1991 the Inland Championships were held at Leigh and Lowton and I could not have lost it to a nicer guy. This time a Young John McKeand crewed some will know his big sister Louise from Wayfarer and 400 Fame.

In the 2009 Ullswater National Championships, he won the first point's race, this time with a new crew. He had trained up one of his daughters, Lauren, and they came 4th overall. They then went to Draycote for the Inland Championships and came in 6th.

He bought himself another Miracle and started to train another crew, his son Thomas, and this paid off as they won the Inland Championships in 2012 at Pennine Sailing club.

We both went to Bala in 2018 and in 2019 Eamon at the last minute, persuaded Jane to take their caravan to Plas Heli Pwllheli, the problem was he could not get his boat there with the caravan. 'That's not a problem' I said. 'I'll take it on my double bank trailer'. We got there! The only thing we agreed on, if neither of us win the Nationals, we have to beat an old rival of ours Wayne Atherton! One of the highlights was we were both down the fleet but picking up places and rounded the weather mark close together. By the time I got to the leeward mark, no Eamon! Back on shore in the bar! 'What happened?' to which the response was 'me and Thomas decide we needed a swim'.

By the end of the Championships, we were 3rd and Eamon and Thomas were 4th. All I'll say is that we did what we set out to do if we did not win it.



Over a few beers, we discussed the upcoming 24hour race. In the end, I did manage to persuade Eamon and Thomas to join our Enterprise team. After the event, he came to me and said he was glad I persuaded him as he really enjoyed it. I think it's because Thomas was buying him drinks...

We all know how 2020 was when COVID hit. Eamon sold his Miracle and bought a RS400 and was just getting to grips with it with his now regular crew Thomas.

I'm sure I have more tales to tell with what we got up to when either on the circuit or at the 24hour race but some of that would be X rated

In my eyes he will always be a champion and we will make sure his memory will not be forgotten.

By David Southwell

The Adventures of Miracle 4114

Report by Graham Watts

With some of the open meetings lost this year due to covid, Helen and I again took on the challenge of the Seldon SailJuice Series and Midland Mini Series.

First up was the Draycote Dash and with nearly a full entry of 85 boats, with national and world champions in the mix, we knew it was going to be a big ask to come in the top half.

With 4 light wind races on the Saturday and a non-discardable windy pursuit race on the Sunday, we finished 64th overall with our best result being 53rd.

Next up was the Datchet Flyer. This time a full house of 90 boats took part with a delayed start, waiting for wind and then 3 handicap races, followed again with a non-discardable pursuit race on the Sunday. Again, we finished 64th with our best result being 53.5.

Into the New Year and we went off to the Notts County Cooler – part of a 4 venue Midland mini series.

On the Saturday, they had turned the wind machine onto full with gusts of 50MPH. 30 boats took to the water, and most had at least one capsize, including Helen and I. Only 13 boats finished. Sunday was sailed in lighter winds with a total of 40 boats for the weekend. We finished 22nd.





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