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Nationals cancelled

The Halo

Miracle Association Magazine Summer 2020



Louis Moulden and Clare Charnock flying at Delph Sailing Club

"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: Cover Steve Starbuck; p2 Sue Atherton; p3 Andy Green / www.greenephography.co.uk; p5 Helen Jacks; p7 Simon Bean; and p12 & 13 Gurit.

Items for the next issue to the Editor by 1st September 2020.

Editor's Corner

It's just as well dinghy sailors are an optimistic bunch the way this season has gone. With the coronavirus pandemic cutting a swathe through event calendars with a stream of cancellations, including our Nationals at Netley Sailing Club, Southampton. There is still a calendar in this issue, though at the back, just in case some of the events still scheduled do actually manage to run, but if there was ever a time to check an event is running before you travel this is it!

The mega issue for the Miracle Association is the AGM which is going to be online. Ian Brown is doing amazing work organising the voting and the event and final details will come out by email. The silver lining to the chaos is it does give members who are not normally able to attend the opportunity to participate so please take your chance.

Another positive side is the various stories on all sorts of Miracle related topics. From the re-purposed spinnaker halyard to one of the epoxy companies using the Miracle hull as a demonstration piece. It was meant to travel the world, but the coronavirus put paid to that! I was also interested to hear Brian Worrall's tale of not finishing.



Ken and I are major advocates of the "back finishing" concept.

For those able to sail. Enjoy.
*Gillan Gibson,
Miracle 3670*

Chairman's Desk

Welcome to the summer issue of the Halo Magazine. I hope you, your family and friends are well and keeping safe.

As with everybody else in the UK, the Miracle Association activities, members and sailing clubs have been impacted by coronavirus. The spring sunshine has helped all of us cope with the lockdown.

At Whitefriars Sailing Club we are currently able to book a three hour sailing slot via the club website, with options for am, pm or evening for household groups, now with up to maximum of 15 households at any one time. The clubhouse is out of bounds with the exception of one toilet. We have seen four or five Miracles on the water in these social sessions together. It has been great to enjoy getting back on the water even without club racing. We welcomed a new Miracle boat to the club this year with the potential of a further boat to follow which is really encouraging. It takes a number of years to build up a fleet at a club, but open meeting events in the last couple of years have certainly raised the profile of the Miracle dinghy at Whitefriars, particularly amongst family members through the juniors section.

Sailors are generally an optimistic bunch. At this stage, your committee are still hopeful that some open meeting events may be possible in the later part of the season. We continue to take guidance from the RYA and various sailing clubs around the country. The Netley national championships planned for this August are confirmed as cancelled which was



Pwllheli Nationals 2019. Thanks to Dave Turtle for the use of Miracle 3794 during the week when 4110 was damaged!

communicated separately to the membership in May. Of course, this is disappointing but is a decision taken by the Netley Sailing Club executive committee. Rosie Parker worked very hard on our behalf to try and run the event for us. I have already enquired if an event in 2022 would be possible at Netley and await a response when a new management committee will be in place next year.

The AGM will still be taking place on Thursday 7th August 2020 at 19:30 via a Zoom meeting and an electronic voting facility. Ian Brown has kindly written an article to explain about this later in this issue.

Brian Jones brought it to my attention that Falmouth Sailing Week, 9th to 15th August 2020 – Carrick Road fleet in the lower estuary, is still currently going

Chairman's Desk (cont.)

ahead for dinghies where you can sail with other family members, visit: www.falmouthweek.co.uk for further information. The estuary location for dinghy classes at Falmouth, Cornwall is two miles long by one mile wide. However, be aware that no shoreside events will be taking place this year.

The Miracle Association web-site is currently undergoing an update which will be a long term project.

There was a Miracle e-sailing event this year, with six participants, hosted by Ian Brown. Ian Fryett was the eventual winner. After a third place in the inter-fleet semi-finals, Ian Freyett went on to

represents the Miracles in the e-sailing final. Well done Ian!

Thank you to the committee for their continued efforts on behalf of the Association at this challenging time. We have had a number of additional on-line meetings this year. If anybody else feels that you could offer to help us we would love to hear from you. Please continue to encourage Miracle sailors at your clubs to join the Association.

Hopefully we can all enjoy some sailing this year.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon.

*Paul Robinson, Chairman
Miracle 4110*



When the National Championships at Netley were inevitably cancelled, Lilly and I were absolutely gutted. Netley was the first nationals that we competed together, finishing every race with Lilly winning the prize of youngest crew aged just 8.

It is a wonderful club and we were looking forward to visiting their new clubhouse that replaced the dilapidated building we enjoyed back in 2017. Not that the condition of their clubhouse spoiled the event. The warm reception we received and the camaraderie from the camping and sailing area being so close together made it a fabulous nationals. Here's hoping we can get back there soon.

As a committee member, one of the problems cancelling the nationals has had though, is how do we hold our AGM this year?

When my club, Delph SC, was faced with the prospect of cancelling or postponing our AGM in the face of the coronavirus pandemic earlier this year, we decided to hold its AGM online instead. We looked at a number of packages which might enable our AGM to take place without members needing to attend in

Online AGM Ian Brown

person and decided to use electionbuddy.com <https://electionbuddy.com/>. This online system enabled the club to email members with a link to its AGM papers along with access to secure online voting for each section. It resulted in the club's highest ever engagement rate for an AGM.

We took the agenda and replicated it electronically so people could work through it online using a link emailed to them with a letter explaining the change this year from a physical AGM, which was due to take place on Friday 20 March, to a digital AGM.

Over 50% of our eligible members took the opportunity to vote which has given us a better mandate than any physical AGM in recent years. Our members embraced what has possibly become the biggest democratic exercise in our club's history. Members felt involved and it has given a voice to those members who live a distance away - we even had a vote from Florida - and others who may not normally be able to attend our AGM because of family or work commitments.

Electionbuddy allows free tests with up to 5 participants, so we tried it to see how it worked on a mobile phone and a computer, and with an older technologically challenged member, to ensure it was user-friendly. The club then imported the email addresses of all those eligible to vote and ran it for real. I can easily do this from membermojo, our GDPR compliant membership system

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Online AGM (cont.)

software will take members through each part of the agenda - including the minutes of last year's meeting, the chairman's report, suggested rule changes, election of officers and the accounts - with an option at the end of each section enabling you to vote either "FOR", "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN". The feedback we have had is it is easy, simple and straightforward.

The Delph Sailing Club AGM was 'open' for 48 hours during which time members could email the management committee at the club if they wanted to raise any questions or ask for further information before voting. Sixty two members took part and voted compared with the 20 to 30 people who usually attend a physical AGM.

The results are not secret, it is akin to a show of hands but for the duration of the ballot it is not possible to see how anyone has voted so the process cannot

be influenced. Each vote has a unique key that is tied to the recipient's email address - preventing it from being shared or repeated - and all the results are fully auditable should there be any questions raised over legitimacy. The results can be published afterwards and those from Delph SC's AGM can be seen here: <https://secure.electionbuddy.com/results/VQY7D4CCRCN4>

As committee members, we are satisfied that running our AGM in an electronic format discharges our legal responsibility to the Miracle Association's constitution and given these unprecedented times, enables us to continue for another year. We hope to continue to use this system in the future to allow digital proxy voting for association members.

We hope you embrace and enjoy it.
Ian Brown

Miracle stories

Spinnaker halyard re-purposed

Contemplating the renovation of Miracle 609, "Ringle", it was a job around the house that was the beneficiary of my prurue. It was the spinnaker halyard which came in useful for the much required repair of a window's worth of broken sash cords

Simon Bean
Miracle 609 'Ringle'



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Due to the Covid-19 situation the Annual General Meeting of the Miracle Association will be **an online meeting** instructions to follow

Thursday 6th August 2020 at 7.30 pm

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 15th August 2019 at Welsh National Sailing Academy, Pwllheli
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 14th May 2020.

Miracle Association Proposal for the AGM 2020

Rules of Measurement and Construction

Proposal to change the above Rules, for discussion at the Association's Annual General Meeting to be held at Netley Sailing Club on Thursday 6th August 2020.

Published in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of the Association.

PROPOSAL

Referring to the Rules of Measurement and Construction 2020.

Buoyancy Checks

Aim. To move to a situation where the owner and not the Association is responsible for the efficiency of a boats buoyancy. The wording of Rule 10 to be altered to remove all reference to a measurer, with the addition of a comment to delete or ignore all reference to Annual Buoyancy Inspections on current Measurement Certificates.

Current wording

Rule10 **BUOYANCY**

Buoyancy shall consist of three separate tanks, the efficiency of which shall be determined by inspection, or, if the measurer considers it necessary by air test. FRP boats may have a single tank plus sufficient positive buoyancy to remain afloat if holed.

Proposed amended Rule to read:

Rule 10 **BUOYANCY**

Buoyancy shall consist of three separate tanks, the efficiency of which shall be determined by *the owner*. FRP boats may have a single tank plus sufficient positive buoyancy to remain afloat if holed.

N.B delete or ignore all reference to Annual Buoyancy Inspections on current Measurement certificates

Proposer: Brian Jones
Seconded: Gillan Gibson

AGM 2020 Key dates for Motions

Motions to Secretary by
14th May 2020

Committee to publish
Motions by
11th July 2020

Amendments to Motions
to Secretary by
16th July 2020

Committee to publish original
Motion with any amendments by
1st August 2020

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Miracle stories

Brian Worrall on the day going nowhere had positive consequences

.....It was at the Plymouth Nationals 2011. I think it was on the Thursday. There was very little wind that day out in Plymouth Sound and in fact conditions had been light all week - unusual for a sea venue! I remember on one race we all ended up being towed back! Anyway, on this particular race we were in our usual position - towards the back! There was a leeward mark ahead and we noticed at least five Miracles in a bunch, none of who could get round the mark. The tide was running fast and dragged you the wrong side. We tried twice and, like the others, got pushed to port. Third time we went way out to Starboard and JUST made it. The tide pushed us onto the buoy but we got around. We DID OUR TURNS, and carried on. Behind us were at least 10 boats and we thought : "we will get a good position here!". It would take us up to Silver.....

Unfortunately, as we got around the final mark with the finishing line no

more than a say 10 - 15 boat lengths off, the wind COMPLETELY DIED! There were no other boats behind us and some boats mingling around the committee boat after the finish line. They were willing us on! But we just could not get any forward motion and in those days there was a time out of one and a half hours. We sat there for 20 minutes trying everything to move forward. We were talking to the committee boat we were that close!! We got timed out and a DNF. We were pretty hacked off at the time.

Anyway I think after this it was "back finish", rather than have a time limit, and give positions to all. I think they called it BRIAN'S LAW!

As a post script Richard Smith said we should have been standing further forward in the boat which I kind of knew but in the situation it just didn't occur...all about minimising the wetted area!!!

Brian Worrall

**Miracle National
Championships**

Roll of Honour

See website

Miracle Nationals 2021

Sunday 8th to Friday 13th August

Rutland Sailing Club

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

Miracle stories

Some of you will have seen Brian Mumford's beautiful new wooden Miracle which he built with his brother in law. There was clearly a great deal of skill involved. Well, more of the story has come to light and is worth taking advantage of. It transpires Steve has worked on everything from minesweepers, to super yachts, to Formula 1 race cars, to Miracles and you wonder what else! So when the company he works for, Gurit who used to be SP, wanted a sample section to take round the trade shows it was a part of a

Miracle hull that was chosen. Originally this issue of the Halo would have explained this and then suggested that anyone going to the Southampton Boat Show drop in to Gurit's stand to see the Miracle hull section. The demonstration section was then due to go to the Munich Boat Show and then trade shows around the world. Well, the coronavirus put a stop to that, but the tale of the build, which was to demonstrate the use of a new range of products is still worth telling, though it will take more than one issue of the Halo.



Steve Main
Gurit Senior Technical
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www.gurit.com

The Gurit technical team has built a piece of a Miracle Dinghy to demonstrate the full capability of the Gurit AMPRO™ range which can be used for coating, bonding, filleting, filling,

sheathing and laminating. This article goes through the steps taken and the resins and fillers used to build the section.

Each piece was cut from 5mm Marine plywood using a CNC router so the fit was perfect, the design also allowed for a dry assembly format, meaning that the finished component could be quickly visualized.



Dry assembly of the Miracle section

Part two, Autumn 2020 issue

The next step was to coat all the surfaces of the plywood with AMPRO™ SEAL to ensure the wood was protected and reduce resin absorption during the bonding process. With all the wood sealed, the entire surface was sanded ready for the next stages

The bulkheads were then located at regular intervals and the chine (intersection between the hull bottom and side) was laminated with AMPRO™ and glass reinforcement. Once cured, the bulkheads were filleted with AMPRO™ resin combined with a mixture of Microballoons and AMPRO™ silica



Chine lamination



The bulkheads located and fitted

Once the fillets were cured, the assembly was strong enough to turn over and laminate the outer side of the chine. The laminate was finished with a peel ply in order to achieve a smooth finish which would minimise filling and fairing



The outer chine which was laminated and finished with peel ply

It was at this time of the build that Covid 19 came into play and all non-production staff were sent home to work. Steve gathered up as many materials as possible and the miracle section constructed so far and took them all home to complete the build in his workshop. Gone was the air conditioned and temperature-controlled laboratory, replaced by a more typical environment that would be faced by a home boat builder: during the day work was carried out in a shed in ambient conditions and on colder nights the part was brought into the kitchen

The next stage was to fit the inner gunwale and longitudinal bulkhead. These were both bonded using AMPRO™ mixed with microfibres to create a strong joint. A fillet made with microfibres tends to give quite a rough finish and is usually only used on joints that will be concealed. As you can see in the picture, anything available to hand was used to add weight to the joints while they cured.



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Miracle Association meetings

Summary of minutes

**13th June 2020
Zoom Meeting**

- **2020 Nationals:** Netley Sailing Club, Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August. These have been formally cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Miracle Association AGM 2020:** This will be held online and
 - ◇ the AGM Notice has been adjusted to suit.

- ◇ Ian Brown has already arranged an online AGM for Delph Sailing Club which was considered legally compliant and he is to make suitable arrangements for the Miracle Association AGM.
- ◇ AGM reports will need to be sent to Ian in time for him to upload them to the website.

- **Minutes of the AGM 2019:** These were noted and will be checked for any outstanding items which require attention and action taken if required.
- **Proposal to amend the Rules of Measurement and Construction:** There was one proposal to amend Rule 10 relating to buoyancy to permit self-certification. This was publicised in the Spring 2020 Halo. A possible amendment outlining a method of air pressure testing was withdrawn as the various methods of construction and buoyancy tank systems complicated matters. However, information is to be circulated using the Halo, website, etc, on how an air pressure test can be

- done for those boats where it is relevant.
- **Halo,** Summer 2020 issue: Compilation has started and articles and photos requested.
- **Zoom Subscription:** The various options are to be investigated and it is anticipated a subscription will be taken out as required.
- **Website:** The Webmaster is reviewing the site with a view to upgrading it.
- **Future Nationals**
 - ◇ Rutland is booked for Sunday 8th to Friday 13th August 2021.
 - ◇ 2022 onwards various options are under investigation.

Meeting Calendar 2020

The Covid-19 situation is resulting in many clubs curtailing their events. Some are hoping to reschedule if the situation improves.

It is more essential than ever for sailors to not travel without checking with the club. Government guidance must also be followed

Netley SC, (SO31 5GA) Southampton Water National Championships	3rd to 7th Aug <i>Cancelled</i>	http://www.netleysc.co.uk/
Port Dinorwic (LL56 4RQ) Open meeting	15th & 16th August <i>Cancelled</i>	www.pdsc.org.uk
Staunton Harold (DE73 8DL) Midland Area Championship	5th & 6th Sept <i>Rescheduled event cancelled.</i>	https://shsc.org.uk/
Shotwick (CH5 2LL) Welsh Area Championship	12th & 13th Sept <i>Not confirmed</i>	www.shotwicksailing.org/home/
Shustoke (B46 2BE) End of Season Championship	3rd & 4th Oct <i>Not confirmed</i>	www.shustokesailingclub.co.uk/
Delph (BL7 9TS) Northern Area Championship	10th & 11th Oct <i>Rescheduled</i> <i>Confirm will be held closer to the date</i>	www.delphsailingclub.co.uk