

# HALO

SUMMER 2022

The magazine for the  
Miracle Dinghy Association



Miracles leap into the spring season



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# Chairman's Report – Summer 2022

By Paul Robinson



Hope you are enjoying the summer weather. The year is speeding by already. We have enjoyed some great sailing competition and social events so far this season at Welton, Staunton Harold, Delph, Girton, Whitefriars and Port Dinorwic. Travelling numbers have held up well.

The next big event is our national championships 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August at Dabchicks Sailing Club, West Mersea, nr. Colchester, Essex. 18 Miracles and 7 Signets have so far [signed up on-line](#)

There is still time to enter if you would like to come a join us. It promises to be a fantastic estuary venue with a good stretch of sailing water.

We will be discussing options for future nationals event locations and event formats during our national's week.

Other open meetings follow later this season at Thornbury, Shotwick and Shustoke. Please refer our website for further details: <https://www.miracledinghy.org/>

We are about to publish the Miracle Dinghy Association - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Further details will be available on the website in due course.

Ken Gibson is retiring from the treasurer role at the AGM. He has been a served the association over many years including a period as Chairman. We send our thanks to Ken & Gillan.

I would really appreciate a volunteer to take up the treasurer position as part of the Committee. Please let Helen Jacks (Secretary) and / or me know if you could assist.

Looking forward to catching up with sailing family and friends at the Dabchicks SC nationals and the remaining open meetings.

Enjoy the rest of the sailing season.

Regards,

Paul

**Paul Robinson**

**Miracle Dinghy Class Association - Chairman**

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

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# Staunton Harold hosts the Midland Area Championship on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April

Staunton Harold hosted the Midland Areas on the weekend of 23rd/24th April, and with the weather forecast, the price of fuel and the remains of Covid, we knew there would be a low turnout.

There were three boats on Saturday, and after watching the GP's upside down in the morning, one boat decided not to go out and another boat had to find a crew after his crew didn't fancy it. So race 1 saw Graham Watts & Helen Jacks plus Paul Robinson & local junior Arthur Collier (who had never been in a Miracle) take to the water.

Graham & Helen led from start to finish after Paul & Arthur decided it was too much for them and headed in.

Race 2 was held back-to-back and only Graham and Helen took part. After a fish and chip supper and more boats arriving, things looked good for the Sunday, also the forecast was looking a bit better.

Race 3 the winds were slightly less than Saturday and Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney were first at the windward mark, closely followed by Jon & Jessica Willars, Hannah & Tom Metcalfe-Smith, Graham & Helen with Paul & Arthur not too far behind. This was also how the boats finished.

Race 4 again it was Wayne & Angela followed by the others around the windward mark who were changing places amongst themselves, until Jon & Jessica broke away and reeled in Wayne & Angela and overtook them on lap 3 and held onto the lead to take the race win. Wayne & Angela, Hannah & Tom were close behind.

Race 5 was held after lunch with 3 boats only having 1 point between them. Again, it was Wayne & Angela first away on the triangle/sausage course, with Jon & Jessica plus Hannah & Tom hot on their heels. Jon & Jessica looked like they might have got into the lead until they realised they were heading for the triangle mark instead of the sausage, which let Wayne & Angela keep the lead and take the win and championship, which they had never won before.

On a plus note, young local Arthur, who took a swim on Sunday was not put off and is now on the look-out with his Dad for a GRP Miracle.

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Pts
1	4121	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	Delph SC	DNF	DNF	1	2	1	4
2	3834	Jon Willars	Jess Willars	RYA	DNF	DNF	2	1	2	5
3	4114	Graham Watts	Helen Jacks	SHSC	1	1	4	4	DNF	6
4	3805	Hannah Metcalfe-Smith	Tom Metcalfe-Smith	Thornbury SC	DNF	DNF	3	3	3	9
5	4123	Paul Robinson	Arthur Collier	Whitefriars SC	DNF	DNF	5	DNF	DNF	19

# Event Calendar 2022

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



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# Miracle Nationals at Dabchicks Sailing Club

## Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> August via [hrjmiracleassoc@outlook.com](mailto:hrjmiracleassoc@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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 at Dabchicks Sailing Club!

The Sailing Club’s address is:

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# Delph host the Miracle Northern Championships, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May

Report by Nigel Reddecliffe, picture from Chris Jones

**2022 Miracle Northern Championship sponsored by the Bank Top Brewery and First Mark, held on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th May 2022, at Delph Sailing Club, Bolton.**

This was a two day event which attracted a fleet of 16 Miracle class dinghies on the Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of May 2022 to compete in fine summery weather on the moors north of Bolton and to enjoy an appreciated satisfying barbecue dinner in the Club House for competitors and club members alike.

During all the previous week, sailors had rubbed their hands in glee watching local trees dance and seeing the moving sweep of colour of long grasses as fresh winds gusted across open lands and waters, - it just had to continue so for the 'Northerns' this weekend!? Didn't it? Of course not!

Saturday's weather was disappointedly sunny, bland and sparse of wind.

**Race 1:** Officer of the day Graham Clow and his team chose a successful course and saw 15 boats align behind a just-long-enough start line and all make a clean starboard move to claim power as quickly as possible after the start signal. With his very small daughter crew, Simon Evans made a just about non-stop rounding of the windward mark leading Andrew Taylor sailing with Molly (teenager crew), followed by Paul Robinson sailing with Dave Dyson whose boats both had found windless holes to tarry in, but who both had made better progress than the rest of the fleet struggling in two groups some distance behind.

Half way through the course Wayne Atherton sailing with Angela Sweeny had managed to move up the fleet into second position in the racing fleet but could not catch Simon sailing with Lucy at all. The order of progress was quite haphazard, though the final positions (as always?) reflected the expected finishes of the more experienced sailors. The only fright for the O D was the close finish between Karen Taylor and Louis Moulden as Louis got a surge of last gasp wind to finish just a matter of circa 4 or 5 inches ahead of Karen. All other finishes occurred in nice easy sequencing with slight sunburn to all on the water.

**Race 2:** Under slightly more composed conditions and less patchy winds, this race was eventually shortened to one and a half laps, as the winds had not made much more strength as the afternoon progressed. Again a good fair start was achieved at the first attempt, with Wayne and Angela having to follow in the wake of Sam Naylor (3493) to the windward mark, where 4121 was just able to shoot ahead as Simon Evans joined in the three-some, many boat lengths in advance of the slightly wider spread out remaining fleet. The racing was interrupted by a couple of periods of windless patches over different areas of the course which, whilst frustrating for the becalmed dinghies, was interesting to watching spectators, seeing the skill and vigilance of practised helms in seeking to take advantage of the merest cat's-paw of wind as such appeared on the water surface.

**Race 3:** A clean start, under essentially force 3 winds, resulted in Graham Watts/Helen Jacks in (4114) making a bee line to the windward mark fairly closely followed there by Simon Evans and daughter in 2772 with Wayne and Angela in hot pursuit as Steven Cronshaw made 4th position of this group in Miracle (4056). At this juncture Simon Evans made a retirement due to a knee injury restricting his ability to bear rapid movements and ensure that his daughter did not experience a capsizing nor lose her confidence in crewing. The remaining fleet strung out into fairly evenly spaced order in essentially expected pecking order with 12 craft reaching the finish line and landing ashore for lunch.

**Race 4:** Shortly after lunch the launching beach was a line of wind-facing Miracles with mainsails raised, crackling and snapping in the wind, now blowing at force 4+ with a few souls somewhat apprehensive! However as boats were launched and set to work the noise subsided, a couple of immediate capsizes were righted and confidence was restored.

Of the twelve craft crossing the start-line, Louis Moulden was first to the windward mark of this race, with Karen Taylor closely challenging him as Graham Watts chased her and then Wayne making a 4th contender closely followed by the oldest boat in the fleet (59) with Martin Bathe manipulating the tiller. The first lap of the course had problems for the first three boats jostling for the second mark within a small bay of water when an escaping pintle-securing pin allowed its rudder to unhinge with loss of control resulting in all three craft to jam together and run ashore. Whilst damage was thankfully almost indiscernible, the delay to untangle and re-float the dinghies and push off the wind resulted in a substantial delay, whilst Wayne (Thank you very much!) steered past to become race leading boat! Meanwhile in the centre of the water 3493 had contact with 3383 which then was seen to have shipped more water than was convenient and was shepherded back to shore (with its gunnels at water-line) by the safety boat using only a fore-sail in gentle use to reach dry land. Nine boats finished the course.

**Race 5:** The last race of the day, was effected under possibly force 5 gusts and only six craft lined up to contest the race (and give measure to the final placements of the event) which Wayne and Angela made their own by securing yet another first place and becoming clear overall winners.

In the final analysis, the range of conditions under pleasant sunny weather gave a good measure of the ability of contestants to cope with all types of conditions and the results were fair trial of both boats and their helms.

Delph Sailing Club would like to thank the Bank Top Brewery, Bolton and First Mark, Golborne for sponsoring the event.

## Overall Northern Championship Results

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Pts
1	4121	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeny	Delph	(2)	1	1	1	(1)	3
2	3835	Andy Taylor	Molly Haslam	Delph	4	4	(5)	2	(18)	10
3	4114	Graham Watts	Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold SC	(9)	(12)	2	7	2	11
4	4110	Paul Robinson	Dave Dyson	Whitefriars SC	(10)	(7)	4	3	4	11
5	4100	Louis Moulden	Bill Morris	Delph	6	(11)	8	(18)	3	17
6	3796	Karen Taylor	Poppy Haslam	Delph	7	3	8	(18)	(18)	17
7	3493	Sam Naylor	Elliot Naylor	Delph	8	5	(10)	4	(18)	17
8	2772	Simon Evans	Lucy & Anna Evans	Delph	1	2	18	(18)	(18)	21
9	4098	Richard Smith	Lucy Naylor	Broadwater/ Delph	3	6	12	(18)	(18)	21
10	4098	Ian Brown	Lilly Brown	Delph	(18)	9	(9)	8	5	22
11	4065	Alan Barton	Nicola Gillham	Delph	5	8	(11)	9	(18)	22
12	59	Martin Bathe	Jo Haslam	Delph	13	(18)	(18)	5	6	24
13	3414	Dave Haslam	Emma Morris & Will Dyson	Delph	12	14	13	6	(18)	31
14	3383	Mark Ashworth	Finlay Smith	Delph	11	15	6	(18)	(18)	35
15	4056	Steve Cronshaw	Jacob Cronshaw	Delph	18	18	3	(18)	(18)	39
16	4056	John Cronshaw	Jacob Cronshaw	Delph	14	10	18	(18)	(18)	42
17	4009	Dominic Stanger	Jack Farrimond	Delph	18	13	18	(18)	(18)	49



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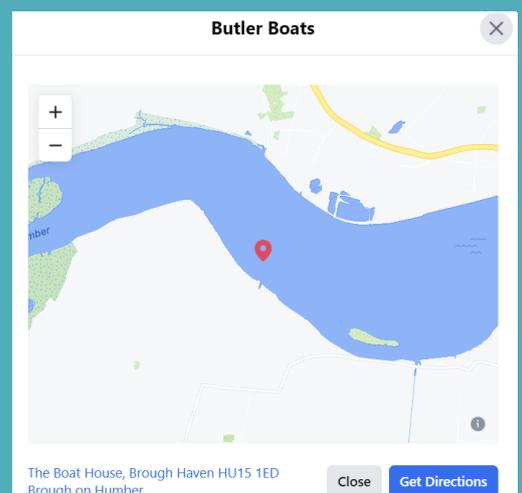
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# Whitefriars host the Miracle Southern Area Championships 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Report by Andrew Robinson

A steady 8 knot south easterly breeze in overcast conditions greeted 9 Miracles for the first race of the Southern Area Championships at Whitefriars SC. Wayne and Angela and Andrew and Hannah both had great starts off the line and fought hard up the beat to be first at the mark with Wayne and Angela narrowly ahead. They would retain 1<sup>st</sup> place for the duration of the race with Andrew and Hannah taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Behind the front two however, the racing was close and intense with positions changing on every leg. This was the beginning of the story for all of the racing over the weekend. After some fierce racing, Simon and Vivienne finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in their first race at a Miracle event.

The second race of the day saw the close competitive racing continued. Wayne and Angela quickly established a healthy lead at the front. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was hard fought throughout the race between 3 boats, with Simon and Vivienne Turnbull, Brian and Jago and Andrew and Hannah finishing the race in that order but with the final positions only being decided on the last lap. Brian Jones had respectable 5<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Gerald and Frances Copsey were welcome first time visitors to Whitefriars and had two 7<sup>th</sup> places during the afternoon's racing.

A tasty evening BBQ & pudding was enjoyed by the fleet in the evening sunshine, cooked for us by an outsourced catering company.

The Miracle fleet were joined by two additional boats on the Sunday morning in the sunshine; Carolynn and Nick Smith and Emma and Chloe Brisley. The first race began in 5 knots of wind with gusts and careful tactical sailing. It was also the first individual recalls of the day with both Andrew and Hannah and Hannah and Tom over the line. A slow race pursued in light airs, but Wayne and Angela continued where they left off on Saturday and lead the fleet again. Large gains were made by aiming for the sparse wind gusts around the lake. Wayne and Angela won the race and sealed the overall win of the Southern Area Championships. Simon and Vivienne secured another 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish and Paul and Nathan started the day strongly with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place narrowly ahead on the line of Andrew and Hannah. Emma and Chloe, participating in their first race at a Miracle event, finished joint 6<sup>th</sup> with Hannah and Tom in what turned in to a drift across the line after the wind had dropped considerably.

The wind dropped further, and the lake looked like it had turned in to a sheet of glass. The fleet drifted ashore for an early ploughman's lunch, which turned out to be a good decision by the race officer!

The wind later filled in to a steady 8 – 10 knots after lunch. The fourth race of the championship started with another individual recall, this time for Gerald and Frances. Unfortunately, they were unable to recover and finished the race in 9<sup>th</sup>. Wayne and Angela had a poor start and were sitting in 5<sup>th</sup> place after the first mark. They battled through the fleet and by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lap had worked their way up in to 1<sup>st</sup> again. Graham and Helen had their best result of the event with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place after some good tacking decisions on the beats. Emma and Chloe had a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> place. The tight racing continued down the fleet for the remaining finishing places.

The final race of the event was a clean start by the fleet. Wayne and Angela completed the event unbeaten by completing 5 / 5 wins. Paul and Nathan stayed clear of the following pack and had a strong race finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, their best result of the event and also securing 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was tightly contested throughout the race. At one gybe mark it was 4 boats wide with spinnakers flying! Andrew and Hannah eventually finished in 3<sup>rd</sup>, narrowly ahead of Hannah and Tom in 4<sup>th</sup>, Nick and Carolynn in 5<sup>th</sup> and Simon and Vivienne in 6<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Wayne and Angela on winning the Miracle Southern Area Championships. Simon and Vivienne finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Andrew and Hannah in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Vivienne Turnbull (9 years old) took the prize for youngest crew. It was great to see so many visiting boats on the water and wonderful to see some new faces competing at a Miracle event for the first time.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers & duty teams at Whitefriars SC for helping to run the event, Liam who cooked the Saturday BBQ and prepared the Sunday ploughman's lunch for the fleet and the kitchen staff.

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Pts
1	4121	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeny	Delph	1	1	1	(1)	(1)	3
2	3748	Simon Turnbull	Vivienne Turnbull		3	2	2	(8)	(6)	7
3	4123	Andrew Robinson	Hannah Mumford	Whitefriars/ Downs SC	2	(4)	(4)	3	3	8
4	4110	Paul Robinson	Nathan Robinson	Whitefriars SC	(6)	(6)	3	5	2	10
5	4114	Graham Watts	Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold SC	4	(8)	5	2	(DNF)	11
6	3805	Hannah Metcalfe-Smith	Tom Metcalfe-Smith	Thornbury SC	(8)	5	6	(7)	4	15
7	4010	Emma Brisley	Chloe Brisley	Whitefriars SC	(DNS)	(DNS)	6	4	7	17
8	2551	Carolynn Smith	Nick Smith	Thornbury SC	(DNS)	(DNS)	(DNF)	6	5	22
9	4021	Brian Jones	Jago Wightman	Maidenhead SC	5	3	DNS	DNS	DNS	-

Photograph by Paul Sleeman (Whitefriars SC)



# In The Bag goes to The Birkett

By Gemma Gibson, photo by Timothy Olin

As many of you know Neal and I normally race against each other, however the first weekend at the start of July is always our annual pilgrimage to sail together at Ullswater Yacht Club for the Lord Birkett Memorial. It's a 293 mile journey (each way) but gives us the chance to catch up with most of our friends from the North East who also travel across.

Friday's journey to the event took a whopping 8 hours but we were set up quickly with our boat on the front row at the waters edge ready to rig first thing Saturday morning, and cold beers and wine being pulled straight from the fridge in the motorhome almost as soon as the hand break was pulled on. The social aspect of this event is part of the reason we travel so far and having consumed a fair amount of alcohol and listened to Friday evenings band, we were ready and raring to go for the start on Saturday.

Not being a fan of racing in heavy breeze, it is often a joke in our house that when I ask Neal how windy it is, he will normally just tell me '10 gusting 15' and Saturday morning was no different. With me normally sailing with a light helm, and Neal with a light crew I was certainly grateful we had each other out there on the water, rather than our normal teammates. With a start line spanning the width of Ullswater from the yacht club itself to a yacht anchored on the other side of the lake, the start is definitely interesting with around 150 boats on the start line. Unbelievably, we got started straight away with no recalls. We were 'only' heading to Norfolk Island which is the largest (and first) island that you get to when sailing from Pooley Bridge end of the lake and I'm sure that any of you who have sailed this race or been for a jolly on the Ullswater Steamer will know it is still a long way to sail. We had a South Westerly gusty breeze which meant a beat for the length of the lake, and we were crossing tacks with the tail end RS400's and RS200's for a considerable part of the race.

We were probably about 3/4 of our way to the island when we saw Matty and James in their 49er pop the kite and start heading back down the lake at speed followed by many other boats significantly faster than us.

In previous years, having nearly been timed out (there is a 6 hour time limit) we were really surprised to be rounding the island after about an hour and 20 minutes. Let's be honest, we had good tactics but there were certainly moments of 'my legs ache, can we tack now'.

By the time we rounded the island, we had seen a lot of capsizes and a fair few breakages, however, knowing the extra stability the spinnaker offers dead downwind, and the extra speed it produces for the boat too, out came the spinnaker ready for the downwind section all the way back to Pooley Bridge. It was at this point I was so pleased we were in a symmetric spinnaker boat as, similar to when I take the dog for a walk, this crazy bunch spent a lot of time doing a zigzag pattern and travelling far greater distance than us sailing in a straight line.

Frustratingly while we seemed to have a lot of wind the whole way up the lake, we seemed to travel back down the lake with those in front and those behind in gusts most of the way back with us seemingly in a hole between them. To complete the race, we had to sail past the Yacht Club, back down to Pooley Bridge, round a leeward and fly mark then back up to finish on the club line. We finished in an amazing 2h30 with a corrected time of 2hr06 in 36th place.

As always at The Birkett there was a lot more partying to be had, with another band playing until midnight, and lots more catching up with friends for us to do too.

Sunday morning started with less breeze and fewer competitors, between those that had broken boats and those who had pushed themselves to their limit on Saturday deciding that a second day racing up to Norfolk Island and back wasn't worth it.

With less breeze this meant another interesting start as far more people were willing to 'push their luck'. This along with the line being more biased and the committee boat being several hundred metres forward of the line rather than 25 metres from the line as it had been the day before ended with two general recalls followed by a black flag start. Now this was what we are used to for a Birkett start!

Having listened (on both days) to other sailors on the shore discussing their tactics of heading for the more sheltered sections of the race course, we again were searching for breeze, although this time round I spent the majority of the upwind part of the race inboard or on the leeward side, until we started getting to the top end of the fleet coming back from the island and bringing good breeze with them. Considering the significantly less breeze on the Sunday, we were really impressed to round the island at about 1hr40, only 20 mins slower than Saturday.

With the island rounded, we again hoisted the spinnaker, knowing we had a marginally shorter downwind leg as the leeward mark was off Gale Bay rather than Pooley Bridge. We still had those pesky RS's and other silly asymmetric boats in our way downwind but being the slowest boat on the water we certainly weren't last.

It is often said that you either have wind for the narrows (a section of the race) or no wind for the narrows and it seemed like Sunday was a good day for us, keeping good breeze the whole way downwind. Although the course was slightly shorter, given how much less wind there was for the majority of the beat we were incredibly impressed to have finished in 2hr32 with a corrected time of 2hr07 putting us in 32nd place for Sunday's race leaving us in 30th place overall.

This wasn't our best result at the Birkett, but it certainly won't be our last attendance either and being one of Yachts and Yachting's top 10 races to attend I would absolutely recommend it to anyone.

Who knows, we might see you at Ullswater Yacht Club next year!



# The Puddleduck Trophy at Girton

By Dave Turtle

The weather forecast had been predicting gusts in excess 30 knots but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the eight boats who turned up from across the country to compete for the 2022 Puddleduck Trophy.

The poster for the event stated that "All Miracle sailors and friends are welcome to our friendly club to sail and spectate on our picturesque and challenging 100 acre lake". Nobody would be disappointed! There was the usual friendly welcome from everybody at the club. The setting was very picturesque, even the water had a blue tint! The sailing was very "challenging" especially in the gusts and the spectators had a great view of the thrills and spills.



Competitors on Saturday were greeted by dark squalls and white horses running the length of the lake with several wondering (hopefully in some cases) whether racing would be postponed. However, this was not to be and racing started promptly at 13:00hrs as programmed.

The difficult conditions were mastered quickly by Tracey and Gemma (Redoubt) who soon established a good lead which they held on to comfortably apart from one hairy moment at the leeward mark. Wayne and Angela (Delph) were second but not until after the now customary tacking duel with Dave and Zara (Shustoke).

The second race was even livelier with a massive gust hitting the leading pack on the first spinnaker reach forcing Wayne and Angela to retire. This left Dave and Zara to battle it out with Tracey and Gemma for line honours. Paul and Dave (Whitefriars) were obviously enjoying the windy conditions beating Graham and Helen (Staunton Harold) into third place (who win the prize for the most spectacular capsize caught on camera!).

By Sunday morning the wind had veered and eased (only slightly!) but still with hefty gusts crossing the lake to keep the spectators happy. The racing team were running the event like clockwork with excellent courses and tight start lines.

Conditions remained tricky, with large wind shifts and gusts keeping everybody on their toes and allowing places to be gained and lost on every leg.





The day started well for Tracey and Gemma who dominated Race 3. Wayne and Angela must have felt a little “deja vu” when again they filled the boat with water after a big gust in the same place on the same lap as Race 2! This time, however, they battled on for a well-earned third place.

Dave and Zara executed a classic port-end flyer ([link to video here if interested!](#)) going on to win Race 4 setting up an exciting final race with the leading two boats on equal points.

In fact, Race 5 turned out to be a real cliff-hanger with the top three boats all taking turns in the lead but in the end it was Dave and Zara who took the gun followed by Tracey and Gemma in second and Wayne and Angela in third which was how the overall result panned out.

Dave and Paul had done enough on the first day to take fourth place finishing ahead of Graham and Helen on countback. John and Kathy finished a well earned sixth overall having finished consistently in every race. Andrew and Bethany were the sole representatives from the home club sailing well to compete in the oldest boat without a spinnaker and mix with the visiting fleet.

So, a big thank you to all at Girton Sailing Club for an exciting and enjoyable weekend. There are some great photos on their Facebook page!

## Miracle Puddleduck

### Miracle Puddleduck

#### Overall

Sailed: 5, Discards: 2, To count: 3, Entries: 8, Scoring system: Appendix A

Rank	SailNo	HelmName	CrewName	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total	Nett
1st	3794	Dave	Zara	(3.0)	1.0	(2.0)	1.0	1.0	8.0	3.0
2nd	3692	Tracy	Gemma	1.0	(2.0)	1.0	(2.0)	2.0	8.0	4.0
3rd	4121	Wayne	Angela	2.0	(8.0 RET)	(3.0)	3.0	3.0	19.0	8.0
4th	4110	Paul	Dave	4.0	3.0	(8.0)	6.0	(8.0 RET)	29.0	13.0
5th	4114	Graham	Helen	(5.0)	4.0	5.0	(8.0)	4.0	26.0	13.0
6th	4020	John	Kathy	(6.0)	5.0	(6.0)	5.0	5.0	27.0	15.0
7th	4040	Neal	Matthew	(9.0 DNC)	(9.0 DNC)	4.0	4.0	8.0 RET	34.0	16.0
8th	1358	Andrew	Bethanie	(7.0)	6.0	7.0	7.0	(8.0 RET)	35.0	20.0