

# HALO

**Summer 2025**

**The magazine for the  
Miracle Dinghy Association**



Photos courtesy of Ann Nugent



# Chairman's Report

Well the winter seems to have come and gone quickly, but there was some success for the Miracle Dinghy in some tough competitions from a mixture of fleets.

First up was the Seldon Sailjuice Series where Graham and Helen sailing in M4114 scored a 3rd in the pursuit race at Chase S. C. and finishing 21<sup>st</sup> overall out of 80 boats.

Next up were Dave and Zara sailing in M3794 and coming 2nd overall at the Steve Nicholson event at Northampton S. C. And then they followed that up by winning the Shustoke Gauntlet Pursuit event, again against some top sailors.

We have tried to encourage people to go to events like this by the Association paying the entry fee so as to show the Miracle to other fleets as the Boat Show has become so expensive for little gain.

So we look forward to the summer sailing and especially the Nationals at Tenby S. C., where in the 50 years of the Miracle Dinghy they have never been to.



We were invited by the GP14 fleet as to get to a venue like Tenby they require a fleet of 60-70 boats to make it viable for the club and members to run, and with the Enterprise fleet joining as well, we will easily achieve that, and it looks to being a great week.

With open meetings this year we have lost some of the favourites and unfortunately Delph and Welton have had to be cancelled due to different reasons. We have Whitefriars, Medway Regatta, Thornbury, Shotwick and Shustoke still to come, and if you can support them please do.

I would like to wish Wayne Atherton (Miracle Association Race Officer) a speedy recovery after his double hernia operation (I'm missing his shouting STARBOARD up the beat).

Happy Sailing!

Graham Watts. M4114

Chairman

## Editor's Corner

Well, it's been quite a while since the last Halo edition, hasn't it? The arrival of Madelynn has certainly created a total shift in the focus of the helm and crew of Miracle 3805 and she is keeping us on our toes learning new things every day!

Tom, Madelynn and I will be at the Miracle Nationals this year in Tenby, but I may need some help with crewing the good ship Pamela. If you're able to help out me or one of our other entrants, Andrew Clarke with a much needed extra pair of hands – please do get in touch via email at [hannahsmith1077@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hannahsmith1077@hotmail.co.uk). All abilities and ages are welcome!

We have been able to test out our new boom for the first time in a range of conditions at the Whitefriars Open Meeting, but you'll have to wait until the next edition of the Halo for the write up of that event! Safe to say, all went well and we still remember how to sail despite a long break due to my pregnancy and the coinciding arrival of Madelynn and winter.

Collating the stories of those able to sail throughout the winter of 2024 and 2025 has been a joy and I hope you enjoy this edition of the Halo!

Hannah Metcalfe-Smith  
Pamela 3805



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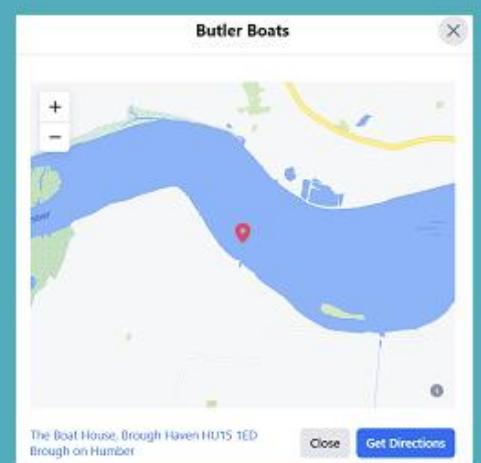
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# Miracle Events Calender

Date	Location	Event
24–26 <sup>th</sup> May	<a href="#">Staunton Harold Sailing Club</a>	Midland Area Championships
CANCELLED	<a href="#">Delph Sailing Club</a>	Northern Area Championships
CANCELLED	<a href="#">Welton Sailing Club</a>	Open Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> –22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<a href="#">Whitefriars Sailing Club</a>	Southern Area Championships
28–29 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="#">Wilsonian Sailing Club</a>	Medway Dinghy Regatta
2 <sup>nd</sup> –9 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="#">Tenby Sailing Club</a>	National Championships
30 <sup>th</sup> –31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	<a href="#">Thornbury Sailing Club</a>	Regatta
20 <sup>th</sup> –21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	<a href="#">Shotwick Sailing Club</a>	Welsh Area Championships
4–5 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="#">Shustoke Sailing Club</a>	End of Season Championships

## Tenby National Championships



The [Miracle National Championships](#) at [Tenby Sailing Club](#) are a few weeks away and [there is still time to enter via the entry form!](#) There are also opportunities to crew in a couple of different boats if there are any folks looking to get out on the water in the beautiful surrounds of Tenby and Pembrokeshire. Please get in touch with the Halo Editor Hannah Metcalfe-Smith (contact details in the Editors Corner) if you're looking for a sail and she can link you to those searching for crew! Tenby has excellent facilities, a picturesque location, and superb a racing area in sheltered Carmarthen Bay.

Tenby is blessed with no less than three sandy beaches, lovely for paddling, snoozing and scoffing ice cream. They're also the perfect place to build a sandcastle with a moat, ready to be filled by the incoming tide

For a true Tenby experience, you have to visit Tenby Harbour, from which you can you can enjoy a spot of fishing, take a boat trip out to the nearby Caldey Island, relax and unwind on the fantastic beach or simply sit and people watch. There is plenty for the family to [experience around Pembrokeshire](#) and to make the most of the lay day.

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# The Shustoke Gauntlet

## By Zara Frankton

On Sunday 2nd March Shustoke Sailing Club threw down the Gauntlet to 13 visiting boats. A visiting boat hasn't taken home the impressive looking (yet hard to clean, I hear!) trophy since 2017 when Andy Davis won it in his Solo, so would anyone be able to break the cycle this year?!

There wasn't a cloud in the sky all day and the breeze even held up most of the day too! There was a wide ranging fleet of boats from the single-handed Mirror to the Merlin Rocket, with the largest fleet being the Solos with ten boats. With a fluky and often patchy wind many places could be gained and lost on each leg making for some tense and exciting racing!

The Mirrors were first out the blocks and had a good battle between themselves throughout the race. Despite the wind filling in a bit more after their start they managed to hold on to their lead for a good amount of time before the bigger boats started coming through.

David Turtle and Zara Frankton were the first to pass the Mirrors and held on to this lead to take the first race win of the day.

Andy Davis pulled through the fleet quickly in his OK but was overtaken in the last few minutes by previous Gauntlet winners Stuart and Nick Hydon in their Lark and Adam Froggatt in his Phantom; obviously retaining some of his knowledge of the Shustoke winds from his victory at our Phantom open in the summer!

As the wind started to die, we headed in for a welcome lunch break, during which the wind returned from a different direction prompting a course change.

In Race 2 the double-handed Mirror of Steve and Harry Cumley had a great start and pulled out a good lead for half the race. The rest of the fleet seemed much closer together from early on in the race with lots of place changing. Neil Wilkinson was having a great day leading the Solo fleet in both races.

Andy Davis was again quick to work his way through the fleet and after a short battle with David and Zara managed to get into the lead with 5 minutes to spare. Behind them Stuart and Nick and Adam Froggatt were again having a very close race in the closing minutes with Stuart and Nick in front when the horn was sounded. Steve and Gill Leney in their Merlin were having a much better race in the afternoon, coming sixth.



Photo by Paul Collins



Overall, David and Zara won the event with a first and second, Andy Davis was second with a fourth and a first, and Stuart and Nick were third with a second and a third.

Big thanks go to the race team, rescue crews, galley team and all the volunteers who helped make the event possible - it was a great day enjoyed by all!

Photo by Lucinda Thornton

# Miracle Midland Championships At Staunton Harold

By Graham Watts



Staunton Harold hosted the first Miracle event of the year over the May Whit Bank Holiday. Blustery winds greeted the 4 visitors and home boats, after at least 3 boats had decided not to travel. The event was held in conjunction with the Graduate Nationals of which they started first with the Miracles starting 5 minutes behind.

Race 1 saw a clean start and first round the windward mark was the home boat of Graham Watts and Helen Jacks, followed by Andrew Robinson and Hannah Mumford. Down the reach Dave Turtle and Zara Frankton showed off their downwind speed and moved to the front, while further back Paul Robinson and Karen Glisson went for an early swim. Although Andrew and Hannah, Graham and Helen got close to Dave and Zara they held on to take the win.

Race 2 saw the wind pick up with some vicious gusts, but it didn't stop Dave and Zara leading from start to finish. Further behind Andrew and Graham had a battle all the way round until the last reach where during a huge gust both were clinging on to stay upright, unfortunately Graham and Helen went for a swim and retired, allowing Gerald and Francis Copsey to just pip Paul and Karen to 3rd place by a couple of boat lengths.

After retiring to the bar for the day a Chinese meal was ordered for the weary sailors.

Sunday morning broke with similar weather and the 5 crews decided they would only do the 2 morning back to back races as this still gave them a discard and would forgo the 5th race.

Race 3 started and Graham went off the pin end and went hard right to the farmhouse bank as all the others tacked onto port. This paid off for Graham and Helen as they were comfortably round the windward mark first and had a good lead. On the next lap again Graham went hard right and was looking good until the wind had a big swing bringing Dave and Zara up along side and eventually passing, with Graham holding on to 2nd place. Further back Gerald again held Paul off by a boat length on the line for 4th and 5th.

Race 4 was similar with Dave and Zara again taking the win and had already won the event, but this time further back Paul got the better of Gerald again by only a boat length at the line.

With 4 races done and Graham only taking 2nd place by count back he offered Andrew a 2 boat shoot out as the others had had enough. Andrew duly agreed and off they set.

For the first lap it was neck and neck all the way with the lead changing constantly. On lap 2 Andrew seemed to get his spinnaker stuck which allowed Graham to get a slight lead although using the spinny in these conditions was risky. Lap 3 and Graham was still in the lead and both not using spinnakers. After rounding the last mark and tacking for the line the jib sheet had come out so Graham tacked back onto port to allow Helen to grab it and tie it back in. After tacking back for the line Andrew and Hannah were not far behind but Graham and Helen held on to win by 2 boat lengths.

Many thanks to Tim Gray and his team for running a smooth weekend for all that sailed.

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