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For over 60 years insuring Britain's sailors, better.

Nationals: Bala 5th-10th August 2018

# The Halo

Miracle Association Magazine Winter 2017



Bala town from the launching area

"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 and p9 Gillan Gibson; p2 Sue Atherton; p3 Jean Reed; p7 supplied by Brian Worrall; p12 and p13 Alex Parker; p16, & p17 of Lilly, Ian Brown; p17 of Miracle, Steve Starbuck.  
Items for the next issue to the Editor by 1st March 2018.

## Editor's Corner

In the depths of the cold and frost it's great to have something warm and positive to look forward to. There's certainly plenty of good sailing planned for the coming season.

The new initiative is a cruising weekend at Ullswater Yacht Club in June. The Club has always been a popular venue and whilst they cannot take a Nationals until their clubhouse situation is sorted, they can do a weekend and will no doubt make the Miracles and SigneTs very welcome.

For the Nationals the fleet return to Bala, a venue which is a favourite with many sailors and supporters having fond memories. Kenneth and I went for a look and we can see why it is so popular: a beautiful place, car, boat and launching by the clubhouse and the sailing area close by. The only thing not on site is the accommodation, but that can be near by. Mind, it is a very, very, popular tourist area so do sort yourselves out as soon as you can. The camp site next to the club, Pen y Bont, is keeping some pitches for the fleets at the beginning of the year, but once the unbooked ones are released to the general public they know they will quickly go, so don't hang around if you want one.

As for open meetings, we have a new venue this year at Whitefriars Sailing Club, Gloucestershire. With 85 acres of water



why not go and test your skills?

And before that, the Dinghy Show, the great place to meet up and catch up, I hope to see you there.

Gillan Gibson,  
Miracle 3670

## Chairman's Desk



Hi folks, Happy New Year!

Last year we added to our members and branched out to include Malta as a Miracle location. Dorri and I visited the Mifsud's local

club in November and, although not competing, we enjoyed the social side and had a few pleasant sails in company with other boats. These somehow visited other shores where the cafes sold beer. Audrey and Dorri meanwhile toured museums and churches. The Birzebugga Sailing Club is very actively training young sailors, we watched their activities during an open meeting and I was interviewed by the Maltese television crew. I got in a good plug for Miracle dinghies, outlining their suitability for families and competitive racing. The programme, at first in Maltese, can be found on Youtube. Pierre tells me that there should be about a hundred Miracles on the Maltese islands, but few are sailed. He thinks they are in

garages or boat sheds not being used. Neglected boats in Malta deteriorate by being left out in the sun, Malta having only 20 days of rain per year.

October's committee meeting at Moss Cottage went well. Nine members attended. We had discussions about the national championships and technical matters. It was voted that round aluminium booms can be up to 50 mms in external diameter. John Tippett and Ian Brown sent out certificates and medallions to the young sailors who sailed at Netley to arrive in time for Christmas.

As you may be aware Rene Savelli, a regular Nationals competitor, was involved in a car accident two months ago and is slowly recovering, we wish her all the best for 2018 and a full return to health and sailing again.

Dorri and I hope to visit Bala in the near future to look at arrangements and possibilities for this year's nationals and we are looking forward to seeing you all in London at Alexandra Palace. See you at open meetings.

Cheers, Louis.

Louis Moulden, Miracle 4036

### RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show

In association with  
SUZUKI, YACHTS & YACHTING and GILL

Alexandra Place

3rd to 4th March 2018

<http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/dinghyshow/Pages/RyADinghyShow.aspx>

Can you help man the Association's stand?

Contact Kenneth Gibson  
Dinghy Show Stand Co-ordinator,  
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## Meeting Calendar 2018

<b>Welton</b>	(HU15 1PT)	21st & 22nd April	<a href="http://www.weltonsc.org">www.weltonsc.org</a>
North East Area Championship			
<b>Stanton Harold</b>	(DE73 8DL)	28th & 29h April	<a href="http://www.shsc.org.uk">www.shsc.org.uk</a>
Midland Area Championship			
<b>Port Dinorwic</b>	(LL56 4RQ)	12th & 13th May	<a href="http://www.pdsc.org.uk">www.pdsc.org.uk</a>
Open meeting			
<b>Delph</b>	(BL7 9TS)	19th & 20th May	<a href="http://www.delphsailingclub.co.uk">www.delphsailingclub.co.uk</a>
Northern Area Championship			
<b>Ullswater</b>	(CA10 2NA)	9th & 10th June	<a href="mailto:brianworrall7@gmail.com">brianworrall7@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cruising Event</b>			
<b>Whitefriars</b>	(SN6 6QR)	16th & 17th June	<a href="http://whitefriarssc.org/">http://whitefriarssc.org/</a>
Open meeting			
<b>Girton</b>	(NG23 7HX)	23rd & 24th June	<a href="http://www.girtonsc.org.uk">www.girtonsc.org.uk</a>
Puddleduck			
<b>Bala</b>	(LL23 7BS)	5th to 10th Aug	<a href="http://www.balasc.org.uk">www.balasc.org.uk</a>
National Championships			
<b>Shotwick</b>	(CH5 2LL)	15th & 16th Sept	<a href="http://www.shotwicksailing.org/home/">www.shotwicksailing.org/home/</a>
Welsh Area Championship			
<b>Shustoke</b>	(B46 2BE)	6th & 7th Oct	<a href="http://www.shustokesailingclub.co.uk/">www.shustokesailingclub.co.uk/</a>
End of Season Championship			

### GJW Sailjuice Series for the hardy

<b>Tiger Trophy</b>	<b>Oxford Blue</b>
Rutland Water	Oxford Sailing Club
3rd & 4th February 2018	17th February 2018



### Gibson Super Series 2017

Delph Sailing Club had the most Bronze and Silver fleet sailors travelling to open meetings in the 2017 season so won the coaching from Gibson Sails

### Miracle Nationals

2019

Plas Heli  
Pwllheli

11th-16th August

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SigneT



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

Do you own a Miracle or SigneT dinghy? .....if so come and join us  
for a cruise on Ullswater in 2018!

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018

No racing involved - just lots of fun!

Meet fellow sailors and buddy up with another boat to search for treasure hunt clues on  
Ullswater

Friday evening meal & breakfasts available in the clubhouse (at extra cost)

BYO BBQ on Saturday night with live acoustic singaround

Bar available (also at extra cost!)

Boat Jumble Sunday morning

Advice on boat set up

Free sailing Sunday afternoon

Full safety boat cover provided on both days

Full changing and wash room facilities all weekend

£95 per boat for the weekend including on-site camping

If you want to join us please e mail [brianworrall@gmail.com](mailto:brianworrall@gmail.com) for a registration form : a

£50 deposit will be required by return

**MAXIMUM 20 BOATS SO HURRY TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!**

Note

Higher fees apply for motor homes and large tents. Above price applies to medium sized  
tents. £20 reduction if no camping required. £10 if only one night camping.

The Miracle Sailing Committee reserve the right to cancel the event at short notice in  
the event of inclement weather forecasts (full deposit refund given)

You must have adequate boat insurance

Rigging

Clothing

The 1st Place to Head for Watersports Equipment

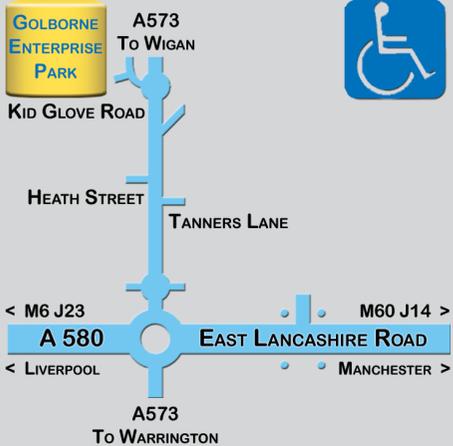
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Miracle Nationals 2018

5th-10th August

Entries: A form is enclosed with this Halo and is also available on the Miracle website to download and print.

http://www.balasc.org.uk/

http://www.visitbala.org.uk/

Entry fee:

£175.00 if entered before the end of April

£195.00 if entered before the end of June

£215.00 if enter in July and August

Family Members Two Boat Discount

For Family Members bringing two or more boats to the 2017 National Championships a £50.00 discount on their second boat (First, third and subsequent boats pay standard fees)

First Nationals discount

For first time entrants to the Nationals a discount of £50.

Note - Electronic Payment available - See Entry Form

Entry fee includes:

- Racing
• Boat space parking
• Car parking
• Commodore's Reception for all
• 2 tickets for Prizegiving meal, for helm and crew (Additional tickets adults £17, children £9.00)

Starts scheduled: 11.00am Sunday to Thursday, 11.30 am Friday, see Notice of Race on website.

Social programme

In the evenings there will be a social programme which is being arranged, currently confirmed are:

Table with 2 columns: Day (Sunday-Friday) and Event (Commodore's Reception, Free evening, Meal and Quiz, AGM, Prizegiving Dinner)

Midweek meal

Everyone: Adults £10.00 Children £6.50

Tickets at registration.



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# National Championships 2017

## Trophies—Part 1

Daily Mirror Cup	Overall Winner	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming
John Bray Trophy	Silver Fleet Winner	Brian Jones & Abbey Mumford
Bob Ferguson Plaque	Bronze Fleet Winner	Paul & Nathan Robinson
Practice Race Shield	Practice Race	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming
Bell Woodworking Trophy	1st Points Race	Simon Reddicliffe & Mark Atherton
Trimnell Trailer Trophy	2nd Points Race	Tracy Amos & Hannah Mumford
International Paints Trophy	3rd Points Race	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming
Jack Holt Trophy	4th Points Race	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming
Sovereign Cup	5th Points Race	Tracy Amos & Hannah Mumford
Charles and Diana Cup	6th Points Race	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming
Bala Challenge Cup	7th Points Race	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks
Cornwall Trophy	8th Points Race	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming
Miracle Association Cup	9th Points Race	Andrew & Michaela Mifsud
Starboard Cup	10th Points Race	Tracy Amos & Hannah Mumford
Young Junior Championship Trophy	Junior Youth Championship	Leah Murphy
Junior Championship Trophy	Junior Championships	No qualifiers
Youth Championship Trophy	Youth Championships	Andrew & Michaela Mifsud
Travellers Trophy	Travellers Trophy	Ian Brown
Newton Crum Trophy	Winner Non Spinnaker Race	Brian Jones
Casper Cup	Winner Single Handed Race	Steve Fischer
Crews Cup	Winner Crews Race	Peter Mifsud

G.R.I.D. Spoon	Highest Non Placed Husband & Wife	Brian & Sharon Worrall
Bay of Colwyn Trophy	Highest Placed Non Spinnaker Overall	Barry Mellor
Bailey Family Trophy	Highest Place Helm & Crew Siblings	Andrew & Michaela Mifsud
Southwell Cup	Highest Placed Parent & Child (not to have won a race)	Marcel & Giulia Neuteboom
St. Polly Plaque	Highest Placed Lady	Tracy Amos
Tom Pearson Trophy	Overall 16th Place	Brian & Sharon Worrall
Club Trophy	Club with the Highest Placed 3 Boats Outside The Top 10	Delph
Endeavour Trophy	Helm and/or crew displaying the greatest Endeavour	Barry Mellor & John Finnimore

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Netley 2017



## National Championships 2017 Trophies—Part 2

Michael Robinson Trophy	Youngest Competing Crew	Lilly Brown
West Wales Observer Trophy	Highest Placed under 16	No qualifiers
Ullswater Cup	Highest Placed over 16 under 18	No qualifiers
Water Lily Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 18-29 Years	Andrew Mifsud
Claire's Cup	Highest Placed Helm 30-39 Years	No qualifiers
Master's Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 40-54 Years	Tracy Amos
Senior Master's Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 55-64 Years	Dave Butler
Ancient Mariner's Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 65 Years and Over	Dave Herbstritt
Woodwind Trophy	Highest Placed Helm and crew both 70 Years and Over	David & Jean Reed
Gracie Trophy	Highest Placed Helm 70 Years and over and no other prizes	Louis Moulden
Ton Up Trophy	Highest Placed Helm & Crew 100 Years+	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks
Senior Helm Trophy	Eldest Helm	John Tippett

## The Travellers Trophy 2017

Pos	Name	Crew	Boat	Miles	Events	Total
1	Ian Brown	Lilly/James/Patrick	4098	746	5	3730
2	Graham Watts	Helen Jacks	3813	762	4	3048
3	David Turtle	Zara Turtle	4026	756	4	3024
4	Tracy Amos	Gemma Gibson	3692	1006	3	3018
5	Simon Reddicliffe	Mark Atherton	4007	498	4	2880
6	Dave Butler	Ross Fleming	4060	566	3	1698
7	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	3383	524	3	1572
8	Dave Reed	Jean Reed	4052	458	3	1374
9	Neal Gibson	Keith Macey	4040	600	2	1200
10	Keith Martin	John Whitehouse	3755	556	2	1112
11	Gillan Gibson	Ken Gibson	3670	356	2	712
12	John Tippett	Kathy Boulton	4020	322	2	644
13	Eamonn Cuthbert	Thomas Cuthbert	4016	258	2	516
14	Louis Moulden	Gillan/ Ross	4100	248	2	496
15	Yvonne Mumford	Brian Mumford	4099	396	1	396
16	Brian Jones	Paul Cook	4064	204	1	204
17	Geoff Weir	OJ/Keiran	2881	116	1	116
17	Cathy Goodwin	Leah Murphy	662	116	1	116
19	Richard Brameld	Todd Brameld	3131	114	1	114
20	Rob Cocking	Tom Donaldson	3657	104	1	104
21	Ashley Southwell	Michelle Raines	4010	30	1	30

The objective of this Trophy is to encourage members to attend Open Meetings and to reward the member who travels the furthest in support of Open Meetings. The formulae used is based on the distance travelled between home sailing club and venues multiplied by the number of events attended. All Open Meetings qualify, except National Championships and Regattas. The qualification period runs from one National Championships to the next. Presentation of the Trophy and any prizes are awarded at the National Championships. These results cover 8 meetings.

*David Reed, Miracle 4052*

## Ian and Lilly: a sailing adventure

In the summer of 2012, having never sailed in our lives, our family attended a Push The Boat Out event at Delph Sailing Club in Bolton. I had seen the boats bobbing around on the water all my life, but had never known how to get involved. On that day, after a successful taster session, we decided to join.

The following summer, my son James (13) and I did our RYA level 1 at Delph and almost as soon as we learned to sail, a member suggested we get a Miracle if we intended to sail together. Before we had even considered if this was the right option for us, another member had gifted us their old boat, Miracle 403, for absolutely free.

This was the beginning of our Miracle sailing adventure.

Miracle 403 was in a bit of a state having sat, unloved in a garage for nearly 10 years. We patched her up in time to get in an autumn's sailing then spent the winter stripping her down and pimping her up. To the best of my knowledge she is still the only Miracle to have an integral MP3 sound system!

In 2014 we did our Level 2 RYA certificates at Delph, then began to race, we even won the Novice Championship in 2015 but shortly after our triumph, aged 16, James retired. "I am either scared or I am bored", he said, "and that is no basis for a hobby". Sailing, I guess, isn't for everyone?

I started 2016 crewless but I had my eye on my eldest daughter Lilly as a possible replacement for James. With Miracle 403 leaking like a sieve, I made the decision that if I was to sail regularly with a 7 year old crew I needed a better boat. In May 2016, we took possession of Miracle 4098, a Woodwind GRP Miracle.

Throughout 2016, I used a grand total of 11 different crews to get me through the season and starting with the Delph Open in May, I began to travel.



With Gillan Gibson as my crew, I entered my first Nationals at Pwllheli, It was a baptism of fire for me, a pond sailor, but I still managed to start and finish 13 races including the non-spinaker race where I tested a new crew, Lilly Brown age 7, her first race at the Nationals. Overall I finished 32<sup>nd</sup> in my inaugural nationals, or as some like to call it, last :-)

After Pwllheli we then went to our first Open together at Shotwick. Our efforts for the 2016 season, alongside my other crews, won us a Spinnaker from Gibson Sails in the Bronze category of the Super 6 Series. Lilly designed it and it came just in time for the 2017 season.

With our sailing improving and Lilly now firmly established as my number one crew, we decided to attend as many Opens as possible in 2017. Staunton Harold, Port Dinorwic, Welton (with James back on board as reserve crew - it was very windy!), Delph, Leigh and Lowton and Shotwick meant we competed in 6 of the 9 events this year, winning both the Travellers Trophy and a weekend's training from Neal and Gemma Gibson for the Miracle sailors at Delph in 2018.

We even got a mention in Yachts and Yachting for our efforts at Port Dinorwic- "Delph boat Ian Brown and his daughter Lilly had a fantastic start in the first race of the day, judging the tide perfectly to cross the line first in clean wind as it filled in."

In August 2017, having sailed more

Miracle open races than anyone else in the past 12 months, we headed for the nationals in Netley with a lofty aim of coming at worst, 2<sup>nd</sup> from last. After the harsh conditions at Pwllheli, Netley was incomparable. A wonderful family club that made us welcome from the go. On the water things were also much different. I spent Pwllheli watching a race occur far in front of me, here at Netley we were in the mix of the established Bronze fleet and despite capsizes and incidents we managed to start and finish every race peaking with a 13<sup>th</sup> place in race 9. If I hadn't have gybed us into a mark in race 10, we may have finished 19<sup>th</sup> overall but as it was, we settled for 20<sup>th</sup>, third from last. What a result!

As the helm, and having started and finished all the races again, I may have missed out on the Endeavour prize for the second and final time but we were still on track to win the biggest trophy on the table. Aged 8, Lilly won it for being the youngest crew and as the photograph attests, I doubt anyone in the history of trophies has ever been as utterly chuffed to win such a prize. She slept that night with her arms wrapped tightly around it and every guest to our house gets to hold it and hear her story.

Lilly's younger sister Mia (5), inspired by her big sisters exploits, has her eyes on that trophy and has already crewed a race at Delph because as every helm knows, you need to have a succession plan. But as I'm reliably informed that Lilly has no imminent plans to retire, Mia might just have to put her trophy plans on hold :-)

So that's our story, I'm still a rubbish sailor with no idea what those ribbons are for on my sails or what the



kicking strap does, but I love sailing with my daughter Lilly and if you are going to have sailing as your main family hobby, what better boat to be doing it in than a Miracle?

Thank you to all the friends we have made on our journey and we are looking forward to seeing you all in 2018 at Bala or along the way. If you have ever considered getting your boat on the road, what are you waiting for?

*Ian Brown, Miracles 403 and 4098*



**Stop press...**  
Lilly also had a mention  
in the RYA Kids magazine  
- well done Lilly

## “Dashing” around Draycote Water

John Tippett

Kathy and I decided this year to sail in the Draycote Dash held over the weekend 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017, it's part of the GJW Sailjuce Winter Series along with other events such as The Brass Monkey and The Bloody Mary. The Draycote event is sponsored by Fernhurst Books

Basically it comprises 4 short, approximately 45 minute, average lap time, handicap races on Saturday and then a 120 minute non discardable Pursuit Race on Sunday.

This year the wind during the whole weekend was light, not much over 5 mph, and it was also very cold, just above freezing. Nevertheless 93 boats had entered from the Norfolk Punts, the B14's and the RS800's with PY's in the 800's to us, the Feva XL's and Lazer 4.7's with our PY numbers in the 1200's.

The 4 average lap time handicap races are all run back to back on a trapezoid course with 3 starts in each race for the Fast, Medium and Slow handicap boats. The Slow start was for boats of PY 1125 and above so we had plenty of company on the start line. One of the boats we were in competition with was a RS Feva XL helmed by Katheryn Byne and crewed by Phoebe Jones both girls reared in the Miracle Fleet nursery at Draycote. They had a distinct advantage in the light wind and the Feva seems to have the added advantage of getting their asymmetric kite up and flying really quickly on the offwind legs, or maybe we were just slow at it.

We also had a battle all the way round in each race with the 3 Challenger trimarans, apparently designed for sailors with some physical disadvantages their PY

no is 1150 so a bit faster than the Miracle, but they had hung back on the start I think because of the space they take up on the line, etc. They seemed to be always either on our tail or at other times in our way.

The wind was North Westerly but by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> race had turned still more Northerly requiring a resetting of the course with the obvious delay and by the end of the four races we had both got very cold. After packing the boat away the hot showers were very very welcome indeed.

On Sunday morning when we arrived the temperature had not improved and there was a near mirror finish on the lake. We had uncovered the boat but then made an executive decision not to sail in the Pursuit Race, 120 minutes is a long time to drift around in the cold we thought. As it happened at a few minutes before the 11.00 o'clock datum the wind filled in a bit and the early starters got away in a decent (compared to Saturday's) breeze – we of course missed it. It's called Sods Law.

The Saturday results had placed us about 63<sup>rd</sup> overall, but I had overlooked that Sundays Pursuit Race was not discardable so had to count it as a DNC which put us back to finish 68<sup>th</sup> overall. Our two girls finished a credible 58<sup>th</sup> overall. The Pursuit Race was won by Chris Brown, a Draycote Solo sailor, but the overall Event Winner was Andy Couch sailing a Phantom from Leigh and Lowton Sailing Club.

Ah well, at least we didn't get cold on the Sunday, we had a Bacon Butty instead!

*John Tippett, Miracle 4020*

## Of booms and masts

**Boom: amended Measurement 90a to read**

**“Diameter of Boom min 44 mm max 50 mm”**

In Britain if you break a boom or a mast you contact a chandler or spar maker and order a new one, but what if there is no one.....? If you live in Malta, as a number of our members do, it's an issue so they have had to be imaginative.

They try to rig the boat from materials available locally intended for other uses in local industry. For example, when they have a damaged mast they retrieve the track and fittings then buy a 22' anodized 50mm outer diameter aluminum tube. They cut it to the required length and then fit the fittings and track. This mast would measure in the Class Rules, where the range is 49-51mm outer diameter.

However, until the amended Measurement Rule given above, a problem arose with changing a broken boom. The Class allowed either a round aluminum tube of outer diameter range 47-49mm, or an oval section boom of size range 58-60mm major axis, 47-49mm on the minor axis. The Maltese were left with a choice of either 40mm outer diameter tube which

would be too narrow, or 50mm round tube which would be out of class. The Maltese fleet wish to develop the class in Malta and to do so keeping the boats in measurement. One solution was to squash the round 50mm tube down it's complete length so it was within the measurement parameters. The more pragmatic and sensible solution is a minor revision of the Rule. When Brian Jones, Measurement Secretary, considered the matter he observed the max dimension of the oval section boom is 49mm on its minor axis (and 60mm on its major) so he saw no problem in allowing a round section of 50mm. Consequently, following the Committee meeting of 18th November 2017, measurement 90a is now to read: “Diameter of Boom min 44 mm max 50 mm”.

So, a tale of ingenuity and a change that will hopefully benefit not just the Maltetse but other who do not have easy access to replacement spars.



### Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/56799327734/>

### Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Miracle-Dinghy-Class-Association/965046153558785>

### Website

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

# Miracle Association Committee

## Committee Members

# Miracle Association meetings

## Summary of minutes

**Louis Moulden, Chairman**  
 chairman@miracledinghy.org  
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- Bolton – 18th November 2017**
- **Committee:** Associate Life Membership added to Rules of the Association.
  - **Trophies:** The condition of the perpetual trophies is to be reviewed and a plan devised for the future. The number of trophies is also to be considered.
  - **Malta:** With an active Miracle sailing community there is a builder who is looking to build FRP boats. He is to be put in contact with the people in the UK who can assist him investigate the possibilities.
  - **Treasurer:** The Association is in a sound financial position.
    - ◇ The Nationals at Netley produced a small profit.
    - ◇ A small budget to promote the Association on Facebook was approved.
  - **Membership:**
    - ◇ There has been little change since the Nationals in August, though some people have joined and there is the occasional query from the website.
    - ◇ Promotional/invitational packs members can distribute to Miracle owners in their clubs are proving useful.
    - ◇ A poster to go on club noticeboards to promote the Miracle is being designed.
  - **Measurement:**
    - ◇ **Boom diameter:** Measurement amended to read: "90a min 44mm, max 50 mm".
    - ◇ **Camber lines on sails:** Proposal not carried, so not to go forward.
  - **Race Organiser:** Programme for 2018 organised and available.
  - **Website:** Site reviewed and many anomalies address, to be kept under review.
- **Dinghy Show 2018:** A standard association sized stand applied for and a good location in the Great Hall allocated. Arrangements progressing well and members who can help man the stand most welcome, free entry wristbands are available with enough forewarning.
  - **Cruising Event at Ullswater:**  
*Sat & Sun 9th & 10th June 2018*  
 Organising this is progressing well.
  - **Nationals at Bala :**  
*Sun to Fri 5th to 10th August 2018*  
 Arrangements progressing well.
  - **Future Nationals:**
    - ◇ **2019 WNSA, Pwllheli**
    - ◇ Ullswater and Netley considered for future years
  - **General Data Protection Regulations:** Material held to be audited and necessary procedural changes made.
  - **Electronic meetings:**
    - ◇ Considered Rules do not require revision as electronic/digital meetings are "meetings".
    - ◇ A trial Skype conference to be arranged.
  - **Open meetings:**
    - ◇ Consistency in timings and number of races to count to be promoted.
    - ◇ Assistance for sailors with young children to be promoted.
    - ◇ Gibson Super 9 race series 2017 criteria decided. Delph probable winners.
  - **Endeavor Trophy:** Dave Butler and Ross Flemming to represent the Miracles.
- Copies of the full minutes are available from the Secretary on request.

## **End of Season Championship**

### **Shustoke**

### **21st & 22nd October 2017**

Wow, what a weekend to host the Miracle End of Season Championships! Storm Brian definitely provided the spectators with some thrilling entertainment on the water!

After the news spread that many other open events had been cancelled, due to the imminent arrival of Storm Brian, there was some doubt on whether there would be any sailing for the fleet on Saturday afternoon. However, as race time approached the decision was made to go ahead with the racing, whether this was a wise or foolish decision is still up for debate!

Although the underlying wind looked manageable, the direction of the wind meant that it was coming over the club house, hitting the water, and squalling in all directions! This made for extremely testing and unpredictable conditions. Out of the 8 boats 5 lined up on the slipway ready to launch. After a particularly vicious squall came through, nearly launching the boats off their trolleys, Dave and Zara Turtle made the call to take their sails down again and keep their kit dry for the day! Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney, Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton, James & Paul Robinson, and Graham Watts & Helen Jacks were less easily put off and headed out anyway! Half way up the first beat Graham and Helen decided to bow out, followed just over a lap later by James and Paul. James deserves an extra well done as he hadn't helmed in those conditions before and

went out for all 3 races with no capsizes!! That just left Wayne & Angela and Simon & Mark to battle it out for the remainder of the race, with Wayne and Angela coming in first, followed by Simon and Mark. The second race of the day was cancelled, I'm not sure why.....

Saturday evening was spent in the pub across the road which provided some delicious food with excellent company. The lighter weight crews used this as a great excuse to pack as much extra weight on as possible before Sunday!

Sunday dawned with hopes of decreasing winds, however the wind remained very strong, although the change to a westerly direction meant it was much steadier. 7 boats ventured out this time. Wayne and Angela led round the windward mark, closely followed by Dave and Zara, and Simon and Mark. Dave and Zara took the lead on the spinnaker reach, overtaking Wayne and Angela to leeward, but were unable to hold onto the lead on the next beat, falling back to third. Simon and Mark unfortunately went in on the gybe mark next lap, allowing Dave and Zara, and Dave and Ross to pass. Wayne and Angela built up a good lead to finish first, ahead of Dave and Zara, who held off a good challenge from Dave and Ross. The decision was made to head in and have an early lunch, hoping that the wind might reduce enough for two races to be held later. This was wishful thinking! Only 4 boats ventured out for the next race - Wayne and Angela led again, followed

closely by Dave and Zara, who can't have eaten enough the night before to put sufficient weight on for those conditions! James & Paul and Simon & Mark had a great tussle all race, with Simon and Mark just taking James and Paul on the last leg. After securing their overall victory Wayne and Angela headed in, and after yet another vicious squall came through, the others followed when the call was made to abandon the last race! (Phew!)

With only three races held there

Pos	Club	Sail No	Points
1	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph/Bolton 3383	3
2	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph/Bolton 4007	9
3	David & Zara Turtle	Shotwick/Shustoke 4026	13
4	James & Paul Robinson	Whitefriars 4110	18
5	David Butler & Ross Flemming	Welton 4060	21
6	Tracy Amos & Gemma Gibson	Reboubt 3692	24
7	David Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick Lake 3770	27
8	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold 3183	27

were no discards which meant Wayne and Angela took the top spot, followed by Simon and Mark in second, and Dave and Zara in third.

A big thank you to Shustoke Sailing Club for hosting the event, the race officers did a great job in those conditions, plenty of rescue cover was provided to assist with the (surprisingly few!) capsizes, and the galley team provided some much needed sustenance!

*Zara Turtle*

## **End of Year Roundup**

The Miracles have had 10 open events this year with 13 different boats inside the top three! This just goes to show the high standard across fleet, which makes for some great racing! Some of the top players this year:

- Tracy Amos and crews Gemma Gibson and Hannah Mumford who had a first, second and two thirds.
- Dave and Zara Turtle had a first, two seconds and two thirds.

- Dave Butler and Ross Fleming had two firsts (including a nationals win!), a second and third.

- Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney had three firsts, a second and third.

It's been a great season thanks to the efforts of everyone travelling to the various events. Roll on next year!

*Zara Turtle*