

# HALO

**Winter 2025/2026**

The magazine for the  
Miracle Dinghy Association



- Chairmans Report
- Editors Corner
- A round up of events in 2025, including the Nationals results in full by various authors
- The Ultimate Miracle? By Nick Smith
- The 2026 events calender

Photo courtesy of Ian Clowes



# Chairman's Report

Well, I don't know where this year has gone, no sooner were we discussing open meetings and Nationals, it's time to get next years sorted!

Talking of Nationals, this years at Tenby with the GP14's and Enterprises was a great success and venue and we hope to go back sometime.

On the note of next year's open meetings, we currently have 8 pencilled in for next year, which I think is about right, as if we have too many entries would get watered down more than they do now as people have busy lives plus the cost of traveling around.

One of the opens is a new venue to us - Ripon S.C.in Yorkshire of which myself and Wayne took part this year with a home boat also taking part, and we were impressed enough to add it to the calendar for 2026.

As for the Nationals next year it has been a hard slog to secure a venue, with clubs either wanting big numbers or offering unsuitable dates.

I have however got a hard pencilled venue at Abersoch - Saturday 8th August - Tuesday 11th. This would be a short 4 day Nationals, of which some members have been asking for due to work and holiday commitments, but being a seaside venue it gives people the option to stay on and either have some family time or leisurely sailing of their choice. I can't publicise this at the moment until we and the club have signed it off, but I will do as soon as I can.

The second-hand market for boats is still healthy especially people looking for GRP boats, although saying that one of our members that was at the Nationals this year has just sold his GRP boat and bought full wood 3834 that won the Nationals a few times.

On the new boat front, a set of plans has been sold, and a composite has recently been supplied, and as I write this my full GRP boat is being constructed.

Happy New Year to you all,  
Graham Watts - Chairman. M4114 & M4130



Photo courtesy of Andrew Clarke



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# Editors Corner

2025 disappeared so fast and 2026 has now arrived! A new year with plenty of opportunities for sailing, racing and friendship-making should you wish to take it upon yourself.

This will be my last Halo as Editor as I am taking a step back after three years at the helm, to focus on family life. It has been a joy to create these newsletters, reading about the events going on throughout the country and all the sailors taking part. I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the contributors who have written articles – it makes all the difference and for interesting reading for the Miracle Class Association membership! If you're keen to take on the role, please get in touch with me and I will happily show you what is involved ([hannahsmith1077@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hannahsmith1077@hotmail.co.uk)).

We had another wonderful year of sailing for the Miracles at a range of events as well as at our local club. Getting out on the water with a different crew in Lilly Brown at the Tenby Nationals was a new experience for me and one for which I'm incredibly grateful. Lilly held her cool in all sorts of weather conditions and helped me effect an on-water repair with the boat capsized in difficult conditions that enabled us to use our spinnaker in the last race of the series – no easy feat!

Hopefully this edition will be a great recap of the year of 2025 and a short preview of what is to come in 2026 with many regular events on the calendar and some exciting new ones as well with our Nationals to be held at the premier sailing location of Abersoch in North Wales.

I look forward to seeing you out on the water!

Hannah Metcalfe-Smith  
Pamela 3805





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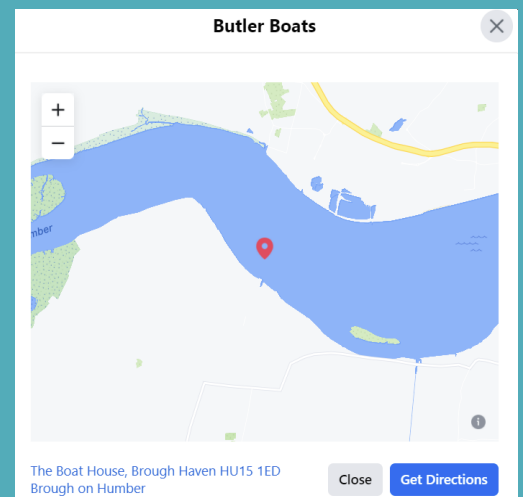
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# The Ultimate Miracle?

By Nick Smith

Over the 50 years of its existence, the Miracle has been subject to many changes, but these have been largely cosmetic and the fundamental speed giving features have stayed the same: sail area, hull shape and hull weight. This is why an old Bell boat in the right hands, can still give the new boats a run for their money as seen at this year's national when Alec Denny sailing 2776 nearly won race 7.

When Bell stopped production, this opened the door for builders like Kelly and Spoulton to produce boats using better quality ply and lighter hard woods to make boats that were lighter (down to weight) and stiffer. They also played around with the hull shape, within the measurement tolerances. The idea of tweaking the hull shape had been going on with Bell boats. When a boat was chosen to produce the hull mould for GRP boats, it was chosen because it had a flat aft section.

Moving forward, there were changes to the deck, especially noticeable in the helm area and a false floor option with the idea of making the boat self-draining. Sam Mettam, sailing with Geoff Phillips in 3812 was focused on winning championships and 3812 reflected this determination by using spinnaker bags instead of chute. Miracle championships are often sailed at sea venues or large lakes with a good possibility of waves. A wet spinnaker in the bow of the boat adds to the overall weight and forces the crew further back in the boat to keep the nose up. Bags also allow the use of a pump action halyard which speeds up the hoist. There had been a raft of changes to the internal layout of the Miracle since 3812 was built in the late 1990's and now was the opportunity to incorporate all his ideas into the ultimate Miracle.

I saw this boat (sail number 4051) at the 2013 Weymouth and Portland Nationals which Sam and Geoff won counting only 1<sup>st</sup> places. The boat had a false floor in the crew area. What this does is ensure any water drains back to the self-bailers. When going to windward, with the crew weight forward in a standard Miracle, the water collects in the crew area and does not reach the bailers.

Another feature which would be hard to spot was the narrow centreboard case. This was made to the minimum 20mm (previously 25mm). The water in the centreboard case is carried around all the time and so the smaller volume in the case reduces the weight carried. Perhaps the most noticeable feature was the width of the boat. The rules around the shape of the gunwhale had been changed to allow a more comfortable shape, but Sam took the new dimensions and maximised the width and therefore the righting moment of the crew. All these features can be easily dismissed as small improvements, but when put together as a whole, they all add up.

Is this the Ultimate Miracle? I think so and there is a possibility we will see this boat and then you can see for yourselves.



# The Southern Area Championships at Whitefriars Sailing Club 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

by Andrew Robinson

Eleven Miracles arrived at Whitefriars Sailing Club for a weekend of close racing and varied weather, where they were joined by a fleet of 14 Mirrors. For the second year in a row, it was a real treat to see the sister boats out together; something that appears to be a unique sight in the calendar.

The first race started with a light breeze which soon dropped to almost nothing. Being on the line was critical in the light conditions, with Wayne Atherton & Angel Sweeney getting off the line well with Simon & Julie Dolman in 'hot' pursuit. On the downwind leg, with barely enough wind to fill the spinnakers, Simon & Julie kept their momentum to take the lead, which they would hold to the finish. On the following beat, Andrew Robinson & Hannah Mumford tacked left early and made the decision pay, turning 5th into 2nd. Father and Daughter Simon & Leora Munro had a good race finishing in 3rd, with Wayne & Angela finishing 4th. Hannah & Tom Metcalfe Smith came in 5th, and despite a slow start, Paul Robinson and Karen Glisson finished a well-earned 6th. One of the most notable pieces of sailing all weekend, was produced by John Tippet & Kathy Boulton, who despite being half a leg behind the rest of the fleet at the hooter due to arriving at the club late, still managed to cross the line in 8th.

Following a break to allow the wind to fill in, everyone headed out to the second race in a steady breeze. Andrew & Hannah got to the windward mark first but were shortly overtaken at the gybe mark by Wayne & Angela. Despite putting Wayne & Angela under pressure, Andrew & Hannah couldn't find a way past allowing Wayne & Angela to take the 2nd race honours. Carolyn and Nick Smith finished ahead of Hannah & Tom Metcalfe-Smith in 3rd place after some close racing. The second race was where a weekend-long fight first took hold further down the fleet, with David Dyson & Joseph Griffiths battling all the way to keep Andrew Clark & Julian Vinnerby behind them but failing to overhaul Simon & Leora; a pattern that was to continue into Sunday.

The fleet enjoyed a fish and chip dinner and a sunny evening in the club bar.



Sunday saw shifty winds of ranging strengths, with the Miracle fleet being supplemented by the final boat; Rick Smith & Teddy / Ben joining for the day in Miracle 3813. The first race began in heavy winds, with Andrew & Hannah again leading into the first mark but this time maintaining their lead and pulling away from the fleet. Wayne & Angela finished strongly in 2nd following a close race with Hannah & Tom and Simon & Julie who finished 3rd and 4th respectively.

With a continuously building breeze race 4 started, with different boats adopting different tactics. A close race for the lead between Hannah & Tom (opting to use their Spinnaker) and Simon & Julie (opting to leave theirs in the chute) ensued. Hannah and Tom made good use of the spinnaker downwind, but on the close reaches Simon and Julie kept within touching distance. It was in this 4th race where Paul Robinson and Emily Hocking impressively delivered their best result of the weekend, earning a very hard-won 5th place, despite being one of the lightest crews in the field. Toward the end of the race, Andrew and Julian changed tactics and opted for the kite, something that was too much for David & Matthew Dyson, who's capsize left Andrew & Julian to finish ahead.

Heading into the final race, any of the top 4 boats could win the event. Simon & Julie established a lead and extended this further as Wayne & Angela and Andrew & Hannah battled for 2nd place right up to the line. Richard & Ben Smith got their best finish of 5th ahead of Paul and Emily.

Congratulations to Simon & Julie winning the Miracle Southern Area Championship. Andrew & Hannah narrowly pipped Wayne & Angela to 2nd place on a tie breaker. The results table shows just how tight the points were for the top 3 positions.

A massive thank you to Whitefriars SC for being great hosts of the Miracle Southern Area Championships. A huge thank you too, to the race team led by Liz MacDonald, and all the other duty team volunteers who made this event a great success.

#### Overall Results:

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Pts
1	4011	Simon Dolman	Julie Dolman	Shotwick SC	1	5	4	2	1	4
2	4123	Andrew Robinson	Hannah Mumford		2	2	1	3	3	5
3	4121	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	Delph SC	4	1	2	4	2	5
4	3805	Hannah Metcalfe-Smith	Tom Metcalfe-Smith	Thornbury SC	5	4	3	1	4	8



5	4110	Paul Robinson	Karen Glisson / Emily Hocking	Whitefriars SC	6	6	6	5	6	17
6	4115	Carolynn Smith	Nick Smith	Thornbury SC	10	3	5	DNF	DNC	18
7	3813	Richard Smith	Teddy & Ben Smith	Broadwater SC	DNC	DNC	7	6	5	18
8	3849	Simon Munro	Leora Munro		3	8	8	DNF	DNC	19
9	3461	Andrew Clarke	Julian Vinnerby	Wilsonian SC	7	10	10	7	DNC	24
10	4020	John Tippet	Kathy Boulton	Draycott SC	8	7	DNF	DNC	DNC	26
11	3717	David Dyson	Joseph Griffiths / Matthew Dyson	Whitefriars SC	9	9	9	8	DNC	26

## 2026 Events Calender

Date	Location	Event
18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="#">Delph Sailing Club</a>	Northern Area Championships
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<a href="#">Staunton Harold Sailing Club</a>	Midland Area Championships
6 – 7 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="#">Thornbury Sailing Club</a>	Regatta
13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="#">Whitefriars Sailing Club</a>	Southern Area Championships
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="#">Wilsonian Sailing Club</a>	Medway Dinghy Regatta
8 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="#">Abersoch Sailing Club</a>	National Championships*
19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<a href="#">Shotwick Sailing Club</a>	Welsh Area Championships
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="#">Ripon Sailing Club</a>	North Easterns
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="#">Shustoke Sailing Club</a>	End of Season Championships

\*The Abersoch Nationals will be held over four days from Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of August, however the club has said we are able to use the sailing water until the Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – so there will be an opportunity for free sailing/cruising in the local area for those who want to make a full week of it. More details will follow in due course as the event takes shape.

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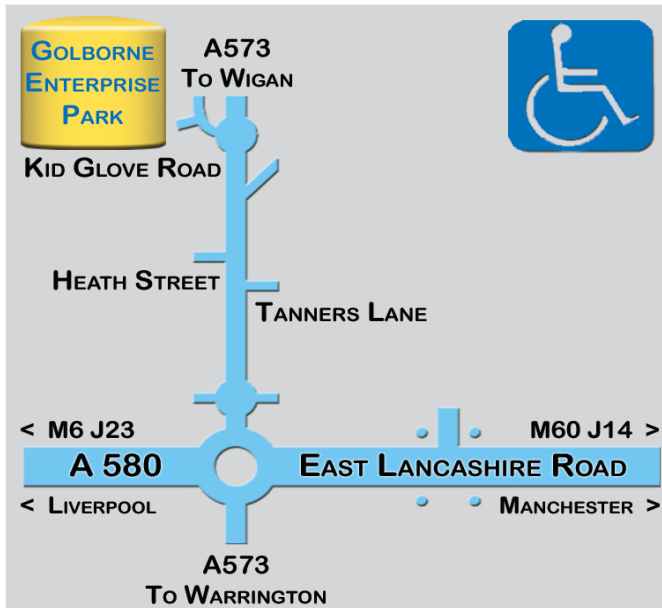
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# The Welsh Area Championships at Shotwick Lake Sailing Club 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2025

by Shan Shapley  
Photos courtesy of Ian Clowes

The eagerly awaited weekend for Shotwick Miracle sailors and visiting crews had arrived, from Shustoke SC, Delph SC and Colemere SC. However, the weather on Saturday was not so welcoming. Cool and drizzly with a North Westerly blowing over the lake, a good direction straight off the estuary.

Race officer Jonathon Edwards held a briefing, sharing the expected forecast, wind freshening with periods of prolonged heavy persistent rain, no need for sunscreen!

Seven intrepid Miracles took to the water for the first race; an excellent course had been set with lots of spinnaker legs and tricky beats. Every boat had mixed gender crews, father and daughter, octogenarian and teenager, lady helm but no husband-and-wife pairings.



The first race got off to a good start with tight beats between all the boats, Shustoke sailors Dave and Zara rounding the windward mark first, closely followed by local sailors Mark and Sara and Dave and Shan. Experienced sailors quickly flew spinnakers for the short downwind leg, gybing them at the next mark. However, Dave and Shan with only two sails held off the faster boats but did hoist the spinnaker at the next mark for the long broad reach to the furthest end of the lake; the four boats with spinnakers looked picturesque. The non spinnaker boat, Etty Ketty helmed by Gaz was in contention with the top of the fleet as closely fought places changed often. After four laps and an hour on the water, Dave and Zara crossed the line, comfortably in front of the rest. Dave and Shan were in second, 20 seconds ahead of Wayne and Angela who were pressing from behind and had even passed them on the last mark. All the crews welcomed the warmth of the clubhouse for a well-earned comfort break with delicious tea and cakes from the ever-smiling galley team of Dot, Sandra and Leslie.



Most were reluctant to leave the clubhouse for race 2 as the predicted forecast of heavier rain had begun. Nevertheless, all the boats got off to another smooth start and were soon jostling for position around the windward mark. Whilst racing they could almost forget the rain, but spare a thought for the race team, with little cover, especially those on safety. A big thank you to Jonathon Edwards and Simon Dolman on race duty and an even more appreciative one for Mark Roberts and James Stark on safety. Once again Dave and Zara were first round the windward mark, followed by Wayne and Angela who showed their experienced Miracle skills in the freshening breeze. These two boats kept their positions for the 4 laps. In the following group of Shotwick sailors, the non-spinnaker boat with Gaz and Claire were ahead of Mark and Sara and Dave and Shan. These three boats battled as positions changed on the lake and the persistent rain became a deluge. Crews were trying to hand bail as water rose in boats, but still they raced on. After 53 mins, Dave and Zara crossed the line followed by Wayne and Angela with Mark and Sara in 3rd place.

Shotwick changing rooms may be small, but everyone welcomed the hot showers and were warm and suitably refreshed before the evening celebration. The clubhouse had been decorated with a nautical theme and was warm and welcoming despite the continued rain. A delicious hot dinner of steak pie and vegetables followed by apple pie and cream had been prepared by Kath and served by Dot, Sandra and Leslie for competitors and friends.

At the end of first day of racing, Dave and Zara had built up an impressive lead with two clear wins. With three races to count, any boats only attending the Sunday races could also win. As the heavy rain continued into the night, everyone was hoping for better weather in the morning.





What a difference a day makes! We woke to clear blue skies and a Northerly breeze, perfect conditions for the final day of the Miracle Open. Today's race team were Conrad Brown assisted by Neil Wallace on shore and Commodore Jeremy Cooper and David Barker on safety. A new course was set; a new crew of Matt and Julie joined the fleet on the start line.

Unfortunately, Matt (standing in for Simon) was a little too keen, and just dipped the line ahead of the gun, whilst he turned back the fleet were racing to the windward mark with Wayne and Angela rounding first, closely followed by Mark and Sara.

Today's course had tighter spinnaker legs and three beats, so plenty of opportunities to move places within the fleet. Before the end of the first lap, Dave and Zara had once again reached the front, followed by Wayne and Angela, but positions between the next four boats were constantly changing. Geoff and Maisie and Ellen and Pete were also close in the last two places. After four laps, Dave and Zara won with Wayne and Angela 40 seconds ahead of Mark and Sarah.

There was no coffee break this morning, as the races were back-to-back with the same course. For race four, everyone got off to a clean start and to their surprise, Dave and Shan rounded the windward mark first, with the rest of the fleet close behind. They managed to keep this place for the next two legs, despite not using their spinnaker. Their beats were good, and they held off Dave and Zara for a lap. Meanwhile there were some tough tussles between Mark and Sara, Wayne and Angela and Matt and Julie. Mark's concentration slipped at two, as he missed the buoy, did a 360 with the spinnaker up and got it so tangled they had to limp ashore. For this race, Claire helmed her boat, whilst Gaz crewed, and they enjoyed close battles with the other lady helm Ellen, and our oldest helm Geoff. After four laps, Dave and Zara crossed the line for their 4th win, followed by Dave and Shan then Wayne and Angela.

There was much excitement in the clubhouse and picnic benches over lunch, as the handicap regatta fleet were racing too. After the break, the first place was in no doubt, but it was all to play for between three boats for second and third places. Wayne and Angela had 7pts, Dave and Shan, 8pts and Mark and Sara, 10pts. Race 5 got off to a clean start, and Wayne and Angela were first at the windward mark, and they continued to hold their position for four legs before the skilful father and daughter team once again passed them. The Shotwick sailors raced well, and for this race Sylvie, Claire's daughter crewed for Gaz. It looked and sounded like she was thoroughly enjoying her first Open experience in the strengthening breeze. Another teenager enjoying the experience was Maisie who had crewed every race for Geoff and flew the spinnaker for the first time too.

After four laps Mark and Sara were the first Shotwick boat to cross the line in third place behind Wayne and Angela.

Congratulations to Dave and Zara winning the 2025 Shotwick Miracle Open, with Deph sailors, Wayne and Angela in runner up spot. The highest placed home boat, It's a.... sailed by Dave and Shan in third. A special mention must go to Wayne, who revealed he had been attending the Shotwick Miracle Open since 1985! Forty years, it must be a great venue, but all our Miracle sailors appreciate his knowledge of all things Miracle. Another Mr Miracle is our home-grown Geoff, who has sailed Miracles in Shotwick since he built his first one, Elmo. Well built, it still sails today. Geoff has also organised our Miracle events for many years, including this one. Thanks Geoff, everyone appreciates you. We hope everyone will have special memories of their 2025 Shotwick Open experience. See you in 2026

**Overall Results:**

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Pts
1st	3794	David Turtle	Zara Frankton	Shustoke	-1	-1	1	1	1	3
2nd	4121	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	Delph	-3	2	2	-3	2	6
3rd	4103	Dave Thomas	Shan Stapley	Shotwick Lake	2	-4	-4	2	4	8
4th	4064	Mark Nield	Sara Bell	Shotwick Lake	-4	3	3	(RET)	3	9
5th	3732	Gareth Henshall	Sylvia Cornmell	Shotwick Lake	5	5	-6	-6	5	15
6th	4011	Matt Bennett	Julie Dolman	Shotwick Lake	(DNC)	(DNC)	5	4	DNC	18
7th	4108	Geoffrey Weir	Maisie Dolby	Shotwick Lake	-7	(RET)	7	5	6	18
8th	4116	Ellen Dimelow	Pete Williams	Colemere	6	6	-8	-7	7	19



# The Miracle National Championships at Tenby Sailing Club August 2025

by Hannah Metcalfe-Smith



Photo by Andrew Clarke

## Day 1

**The Race Officer made the decision to hold three races on Sunday 3rd August with Storm Floris scheduled to arrive on Monday, with a severe wind forecast. We set off in good time, with a 30-minute sail to the race area. The wind was strong to start with and gradually decreasing throughout the day.**

The Miracles had a total of 16 entrants with an international entrant from the Netherlands Marcel and Bella Neuteboom making the big journey across. In addition, we have a boat which took part in the first Miracle Nationals being sailed by Steve and Laura Fischer (Sail Number 124).

## **Race 1**

Lynn and Nick (4115) got away on the first beat up the middle and stayed away and took the win.

Throughout the rest of the fleet the racing was tight with Graham and Helen (4114) going around the windward mark in fifth, but working their way up to 2nd place coming into the final mark were neck and neck with locals from Neyland SC Simon Turnbull and Kiera Edwards (4050) coming in third place. Just behind in fourth place came new duo Hannah and Lilly (3805), with Wayne and Angela (4121) in fifth after

## **Race 2**

The Miracles were getting into the swing of racing with enough over on the start line to cause a general recall and were subsequently black flagged. This lead to a much more orderly start line. Graham and Helen lead around the windward mark, with Hannah and Lilly following closely. Lynn and Nick followed without their kite up to start with allowing them to stay on track with the others putting it up towards the end of the leg, enabling them to move through the fleet to take first place, which they retained for the rest of the race. The wind opened up throughout the leg as the wind swung around to the north throughout the day. John Tippet and Kathy Boulton (4020) retired from racing for the day after testing the Tenby SC safety crews man-over-board drills.

## **Race 3**

The tide had started to take effect in this race, with it being important to make the long tack first in the reducing wind strength. The Neutebooms (2007) had a fantastic first beat and were a long way ahead. Lynn and Nick closed up as well as Brian Jones and his grandson Jago (4021) throughout the race. Lilly and Hannah took a wrong turn and decided to sail with the GPs after the first mark mistakenly. They swiftly realised their mistake and returned to the Miracle course. This did drop them down the fleet a bit, but by the end of the race, they made up the places through some astute reading of the tide, leading them back to fourth! On the final beat, Brian and Jago seemed to move away from Lynn and Nick, and with Marcel and Bella took the left-hand side of the course, which due to the tide didn't pay, losing their first place to Brian and Jago, with Lynn and Nick following closely in second, Marcel and Bella taking third and Hannah and Lilly coming in fourth. Elsewhere in the fleet, father and daughter duo Ian and Mia Brown were doing well, but were scuppered by hitting the mark and having to do turns, letting Wayne & Angela, Simon & Kiera, and Graham & Helen through.

## **Day 2**

**After a Monday that was called off early due to the Storm Floris, today's racing in Tenby featured seriously breezy weather, with some lumpy gusts for good measure. As the fleets made their way out onto the sand to launch, some folks decided (perhaps wisely) to stay ashore.**

## **Race 4**

Lilly and Hannah (3805) took the port-hand side of the course and came out at the windward mark first. After promptly putting their spinnaker up, they realised they couldn't hold it to mark 2 and took it down, but not before being passed by Lynn & Nick (4115) and Simon & Keira (4050). They were not able to make back up the places and finished in third position.



Lynn & Nick gave Hannah and Lilly a chance to make up the places when Lynn and Nick took a capsize on the first downwind leg, but it wasn't quite enough. Wayne and Angela has a capsize after submarining and this caused them to drop back to finish in 9th place from 4th.

Father and daughter duo Ian and Mia (4098) had a good first race today, coming in 10th but called it quits after to come in and warm up.

**Race 5**

Alec Denny and Robert Ffitch (2776) from Neyland SC around the bay were doing well in the second race but a bad gybe caused them to take on a load of water which scuppered the remainder of their race. Marcel and Bella has a great race and were third place around the last mark before a mechanical with their rudder gudgeon breaking in the gybe. This lead to a recovery from the safety boats.

Paul Robinson, sailing with Karen Glisson (4110) were the picture of consistency today with a sixth in both races.

With Monday's racing called off, the lay day planned for Wednesday is now a racing day, with a single race and the crews'/single-handed/non-spinnaker race.







### Day 3

**Day 3 of racing at the Miracle National Championships started with bright sunshine and a gentle (compared to Tuesday) breeze with a longer walk out to the water as the tide runs later in the week.**

To catch us up on our racing for the week, the race officer decided on 1 championship race and to hold the fun races afterwards instead of the originally pencilled in lay day. This included the Crew's Race (where crew and helm swap places), and the non-spinnaker race.

### **Race 6**

Hannah & Lilly took to the starboard side of the course after a poor start getting stuck under Paul Robinson and Karen Glisson (4110) and Richard and his son (3813) at the committee boat end, with the rest of the fleet heading off to the port side. They made it to the windward mark first with Simon & Kiera (4050) just behind, with Marcel & Bella (2007) following closely on with a rudder repair effected overnight to enable them to continue racing. Alec and Robert (2776) were following closely on after coming up the right-hand side of the course. Lynn & Nick (4115) had a poor start compared to their usual form and were 8th around the windward mark. On the first downwind leg, Lynn & Nick were gifted two places whilst Graham & Helen (4114) and Richard & Teddy were battling with their kites up.

On the second upwind leg, there was a split in the fleet with Simon & Kiera going to the starboard side of the course, Marcel & Bella going to the port side and Hannah & Lilly going up the middle. It turned out that on the second leg, going up the middle or left paid, with Hannah & Lilly pipping Marcel & Bella to the windward mark with an inch to spare getting around the mark, but Simon & Kiera dropping further back. The places remained similar in the downwind leg, with another opportunity to gain places upwind. Hannah & Lilly went up the middle of the beat again with Marcel & Bella heading left again, only just pipping them to the windward mark. Brian & Jago (4021) were tussling with Wayne & Angela (4121) throughout the race but were pipped to 7th place by Angela's slick spinnaker work.

The tide caught out a few folks with at least two boats doing two turns having hit the marks.

On the final downwind, Hannah & Lilly went wider and took the gybe later, allowing them to reach into the mark which put them ahead at the bottom mark to retain first place, with Marcel & Bella coming in 2nd. Having made up a significant number of places over the course of the race, Lynn & Nick arrived in 3rd place. At the end of the run Alec and Robert (2776) took their spinnaker down to go back up the windward leg on the last leg. Having realised their mistake, they then promptly tried to put it back up, but to no avail with the sheets stuck under the bow, allowing Simon & Kiera to overtake to come in fourth.

After all the excitement of Race 6, the race officer held the Crews Race and Non-Spinnaker Race for those keen to do even more sailing! The Crews Race was won by Nick & Lynn, with Simon & Kiera coming in second. Lilly and Hannah came in third after a poor spinnaker drop caused them to miss the downwind mark. Richard and Teddy won the non-spinnaker race.

With racing back on track, the rest of the week is now as planned with two races on Thursday and Friday respectively.

### **The Final Day**

**Friday's racing got under way an hour earlier than usual to accommodate three races as we were unable to sail yesterday due to poor visibility (the race officer was unable to see Tenby) and a very confused sea state.**

Going into the final day, it was all still to play for, particularly for the 3 boats on joint points for third place!

### **Race 7**

Simon & Kiera (4050) went to the right up the beat and made their way around the windward mark first, with Lilly & Hannah (3805) following close behind. When they went to launch their spinnaker the halyard disappeared into mast, not to be seen again for the rest of the race. This meant that they proceeded down the downwind leg sans spinnaker. They were able to maintain the pace for the first downwind leg, but dropped back to sixth place due to their inability to keep up with the fleet who were still operating at full capacity. This allowed Nick & Lynn to move forward to win the race, with Alec Denny & Robert Ffitch going well up the beat to come in 2nd place for their highest place result of the week. Graham & Helen to move into 3rd for their second highest result of the week.

Between the races Hannah & Lilly effected a jury rig spinnaker halyard via capsizing the boat. The safety team were swiftly over to see what was going on and stood on station to keep an eye on them whilst they were conducting their repairs.

### **Race 8**

Simon & Kiera were around the windward mark first, closely followed by Wayne & Angela. A poor start for Lilly & Hannah saw them washed down the pan and close to the back of the fleet.

Lynn & Nick were able to make it up to second at the finish and with that, knowing they'd won the Championships with their 2nd place in Race 8 headed in for an early finish (but not before capsizing on the way). Wayne & Angela slipped back to 3rd. Even with their jury rigged spinnaker, Lilly & Hannah were able to make up some places but it was to be their worst result of the week and a discard.

## Race 9

Lilly & Hannah were second around the windward mark again and were able to follow Simon & Kiera down the kite leg but had a mechanical at the end of the run with their spinnaker falling into the water and acting like a sea anchor. This allowed a few boats to slip through and they spent the remainder of the race trying to make up the places. They nearly pipped Paul Robinson & Karen Glisson to 5th on the line, but weren't quite able to make it. Another win for Simon & Kiera meant they moved from third place to second overall in the Championships, with Hannah & Lilly slipping back into third, with their 6th place in Race 9. Marcel & Bella (2007) were back on top form and came 3rd in this race. Wayne & Angela were able to capitalise on their success on the first beat and were able to maintain 2nd place and their best result of the Championship.

The week has been incredibly well run by the race officer and his team and the safety crew have been exceptional. The Miracles have had an awesome week at Tenby Sailing Club and would love to come back again soon. Thanks to the GP14s and Enterprises for hosting us and making it a really special week!







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**National Champions: Lynn and Nick Smith with Miracle Association Chairman Graham Watts**



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**Left: Simon Turnball and Kiera Edwards with a worthy second place!**

**Below: Hannah Metcalfe-Smith and Lilly Brown coming in third with some major mechanicals on the last day.**



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**Left: Wayne  
Atherton and  
Angela Sweeney in  
4<sup>th</sup> place**

**Below: Graham  
Watts (Association  
Chairman) with 2<sup>nd</sup>  
place finisher  
Simon Turnball.  
Helen Jacks is  
behind the camera,  
getting all the best  
shots.**



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**Left: Father-daughter duo Marcel and Bella Neuteboom, securing 6<sup>th</sup> place having travelled from the Netherlands to take part. Right: Jago Wightman-Smith and Brian Jones, grandad-grandson duo securing 7<sup>th</sup> place and the silver fleet winners!**



**Left: Dad Richard Smith and sons in 8<sup>th</sup> place**

**Left Bottom: Paul Robinson and crew Karen Glisson in 9<sup>th</sup> place**

**Below: Steve and Laura Fisher – taking home the Bronze Fleet trophy in 10<sup>th</sup> place**







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**Top Left: Mother-son duo Alec Denny and Robert Ffitch with 11<sup>th</sup> place, travelling locally from Neyland SC.**

**Top Right: Father-daughter duo Ian and Mia Brown securing 12<sup>th</sup> place.**

**Middle Left: Andrew Clarke with Trophy Officer Simon Turnball, scooping up 13<sup>th</sup> place**

**Bottom Left: Julius and Clare Mach with the coveted 'boat in a box' trophy.**



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## Overall Results:

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	Pts
1	4115	Carolynn Smith	Nick Smith	Thornbury SC	1	1	2	2	1	-3	1	2	(DNC [17])	10
2	4050	Simon Turnbull	Keira Edwards	Neyland SC	3	-4	-6	1	2	4	4	1	1	16
3	3805	Hannah Metcalfe-Smith	Lilly Brown	Thornbury/Delph SC	4	2	4	3	4	1	-6	-9	6	24
4	4121	Wayne Atherton	Angela Sweeney	Delph SC	5	3	5	-9	3	-7	7	3	2	28
5	4114	Graham Watts	Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold SC	2	-6	-7	4	5	6	3	5	4	29
6	2007	Marcel Neuteboom	Bella Neuteboom	ARZV Akerloot Neth	6	7	3	5	-9	2	-10	8	3	34
7	4021	Brian Jones	Jago Wightman-Smith	Maidenhead SC	8	9	1	-13	8	8	5	-10	7	46



[illegible]