

HALO

Digital Edition

The magazine for the Miracle Dinghy Association
Jan 2021

Association



In this Digital Halo Edition.....

- Chairman's report, a look forward and back on this unprecedented sailing season
- Temporary posts sought for committee positions
- Measurement changes for 2021 - A full round up
- RYA Dinghy Show moves on-line
- Membership matters
- 4114 takes to the water!
- Looking forward to the Rutland National
- Planned events for 2021
- Website update

H A L O - Jan 21



Chairman's Report – January 2021

Welcome to this new Halo Newsletter.



I would like to start by wishing you all a happy New Year. It is the start of a new year and hopefully a more positive one on the sailing front with the prospect of an exciting programme of sailing events.

2020 was a year of unprecedented

challenge for many of us personally, in our work life and social activities, where we had to adapt to new ways.

Positive news received at the start of January is that Gillan Gibson is now back at home following an operation carried in Middlesbrough hospital and a period in Sunderland hospital during December. There are some signs of improvement, particularly with eating and mobility. I know from emails of support received, that you will join me in sending best wishes to Gillan and Ken at this time.

The Committee is looking for volunteers to 'lean in' for the positions of:

- Secretary (at least in the interim) and secondly
- Editor for the Halo magazine.

Please contact me if you are prepared to assist with one of these roles. Ken is continuing in his role as Treasurer. This electronic Newsletter format is an interim trial this quarter. Feedback is always welcome.

As Gillan has often been heard to say, "*Sailors are an optimistic bunch*". In that spirit your Committee has continued to meet regularly via Zoom, liaising with various sailing clubs, planning and making arrangements for the coming sailing season.

News of the open meeting racing calendar and national championships at Rutland Sailing club follow later in this Newsletter. It would be great to have a bumper turn out of boats at events this season as we all missed out last year. Please note there is an appeal from Rutland SC during the nationals week for safety boat assistants if you feel you could help.

Well done to Graham Watts and Helen Jacks who continued to fly the Miracle flag during the winter Sail juice series participating at the Datchet Flyer using Graham's new boat, sail number 4114 in early December.

It did look a little cold though. Helen is well layered up! Thanks to Brain Mumford for the picture.



May I also take this opportunity to thank the Committee members for their hard work getting things done over the past year.

I encourage your continued support for our Halo advertisers and fleet sponsors over the coming year see adverts in this Halo issue.

Look after yourselves and one another. I look forward to catching up with you during 2021.

Paul Robinson
Chairman, Miracle Dinghy
Class Association
m. 07395 995792



Committee takes on virtual meetings

We have seen the benefit of the Zoom meeting facility.

Our priorities are to continue to promote your Miracle Dinghy Class Association for the best interests of current and future members.



A reminder that if you were a trophy winner at the 2019 Pwllheli nationals to ensure that these are engraved prior to the Rutland nationals this August.

Mike

In other news

The RYA Dinghy Show has now been moved to a virtual event at the end of February.

In the light of current circumstances your Committee has decided to decline participation this year but envisage taking part again next year when the event will be due to take place at the new Farnborough venue.



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

Home Members Events News Nationals Join us Resources Contact

Miracle Dinghy Association

SPECIAL NEWS

WE ALL NEED TO GET THROUGH IT

See News page for update

WELCOME

ASSOCIATION & CLASS
The Miracle Association was formed in 1975 and represents those interested in the Miracle sailing dinghy. It is run by an elected committee.

THE BOAT
The Miracle has a true thoroughbred pedigree and was one of the last designs to have come from the stable of the world's foremost small sailboat designer - JACK HOLT

MIRACLE EVENTS
There are regular events, open meetings and Miracle class races throughout the year, check our event calendar for further details of what's on and when.

Take a look at our new Miracle Association website.

During lockdown 1, our webmaster Mike Smith has taken the time to refresh our Website, updating with a fresh new look.

Now accommodating browsers on mobile devices, with different screen sizes we hope you find the layout easy to navigate.



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Miracle

Butler Boats composite Miracle has a foam reinforced vinyl ester, epoxy hull teamed with timber superstructure. It features the new chute position and displays the Butler Boat trademark curved thwart. Epoxy coatings and fillets make the boat strong and down to minimum weight.

More Info....





MIRACLE MEASUREMENT UPDATE

Jan 2021

The **Measurement Rules** on the website have been updated as from Jan 1st 2021 with the only change being that buoyancy checks are now the responsibility of the owner and all references to Annual Inspections on current Measurement Certificates are to be ignored.

Note to **Measurers**: please amend P6. Item 10 to read:

10 BUOYANCY

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

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

To **check your buoyancy** insert a rubber tube into each bung hole in turn - ensure that there is a good airtight seal - blow into the other end of the tube - then hold thumb over tube end for a short period of time - remove thumb. - air should blow back through the tube.!

If it doesn't your tanks are not holding pressure and you can look for the leaks by applying watered down washing up liquid or similar and spotting the bubbles when you put pressure into the tank.!

Then clean and repair any small holes (with epoxy or similar)!

I have sometimes been asked for a **RIGGING GUIDE**

On the following page is a very basic guide to rigging a Miracle dinghy aimed at those new to the class.!

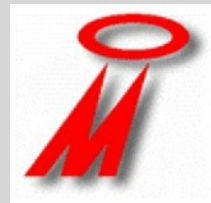
There is a published tuning guide on the Association website along with advice on Spinnaker systems.!

First some useful lengths !
(Depends slightly on set up)

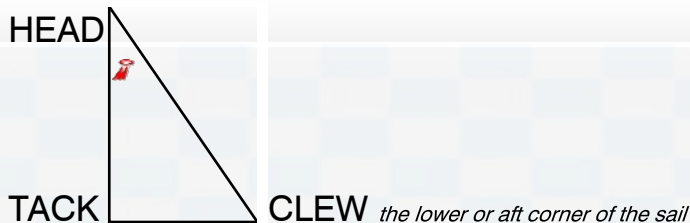
Jib Halliard	approx 7m
Main Halliard	approx 10m
Spinnaker Halliard	14m
Jib Sheets.	5m
Spinnaker Sheets	12m



Cont/.....



MIRACLE MEASUREMENT UPDATE



To Rig your Miracle
Jan 2021

- Turn the boat so it is facing into the wind.
- Check all the buoyancy tanks with drain holes have **bungs** fitted. Usually four, two at the rear of the side tanks and two for the forward tank!

SPARS

To Step the mast first attach the burgee to the top of the mast.

- Set the mast upright and position it on the mast step leaving about a finger width at its base between the front of the mast and the forward bulkhead!
- Attach the shrouds
- Fasten the forestay to the front hole in the forestay attachment
- Check the mast.. Looking from the side of the boat, it should be almost upright, sloping back slightly (this slope is known as mast rake) see tuning guide for further information!
- Attach the boom to the mast with the gooseneck fitting.
- Attach the kicking strap (it runs from mast foot to an eye on the boom about 50cm along)



- Thread the mainsheet. For a rear main it runs from the transom up to the boom and back to the transom. For centre main see photo.!
- Attach the rudder and tiller to the transom.



SAILS

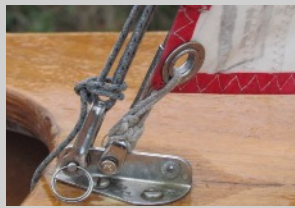
- attach the main halyard to the head of the mainsail thread the head of the mainsail into the groove on the back of the mast and pull up the main halyard until the sail reaches the bottom of the black band at the top of the mast. The sail is loose footed and the clew is attached to an outhaul on the end of the boom while the tack is attached to an adjustable rope called a Cunningham near the mast. The kicking strap can now be set. As a general rule, in light winds, no tension. In medium winds a small amount of tension. In heavy winds, lots of tension. •



- Attach the tack of the **jib** to the forestay attachment fitting with a short length of line or a shackle.
- Attach the head of the **jib** to the jib halyard and hoist

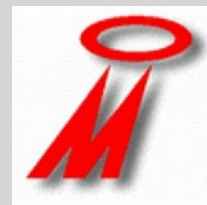
- In light to medium winds the halyard should be just hand tight. In heavy winds have the halyard much tighter.

- Attach the jib sheets to the clew of the jib.
- Thread the jib sheets through the jib fairleads. (The photo shows inboard sheeting, your boat may not have this)
The sheets should go inside the shrouds. Tie figure of eight knots in the ends of the jib sheets.



The boat is now ready to launch.





Membership Matters!

Hello Association members.

After a winter chock full of Zoom meetings, planning an exciting race calendar for 2021, here we are again with another lockdown that will last until who knows when? With the future uncertain, if you are a member whose membership is up for renewal soon, you may be wondering why you should rejoin the Miracle association?

Your £26 gives you the right to sail in the National Championships which hopefully will go ahead in Rutland this August, and receive several copies of The Halo a year but I prefer to look at it in a very different way.

You are not so much becoming a member, as becoming a supporter and an advocate of the Miracle class and your membership fees allow the class to continue, get promoted and through a group of like minded individuals, we are able to organise Opens and a National championship.....As someone who has got so much out of sailing a Miracle with my family, I consider that to be a bargain!

As the membership secretary, every time someone joins or renews their membership of the association, I get an email on my phone and it always brings a little warmth to my heart to see that you have taken the effort to show you care about the class and want it to survive and prosper.

Last year, with the first lockdown coming in the middle of the renewal season we saw a large number of members leave the association. Usually in April I would ring around the lapsed members for one last stab at convincing them to remain in the association.

If I am unable to convince them to stay, I mark down their reason for leaving which is usually that they no longer own or sail a Miracle, which is fair enough. In 2020, it felt wrong to mither people for £26 when they could have lost their income or may know someone who has been affected by the virus.




So how can I convince you to remain a member of the Miracle Dinghy Association?

We all know we have some of the friendliest sailors on the water and there are not too many other fleets that have so many families competing together. Without you, the members, we simply wouldn't exist.

To all our members who are planning to renew their membership, thank you for your continuing support in these troubling times and we hope to see you all again soon on the water.

Stay Safe, Ian

Membership Secretary

	FULL/FAMILY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP Expires 31/03/21	£26 Annually	JOIN NOW
	FULL/FAMILY 3 YEAR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP OFFER Expires 31/03/23	£65 per 3 years	JOIN NOW
	UNDER 21 MEMBERSHIP OUR JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP OFFER ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	£15 Annually	JOIN NOW

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The recent exploits of 4114 by Helen Jacks

Photo of Graham and I taken at Queen Mary's Reservoir at Selden Juice Winter series in November with new boat..

I looked like the Michelin Man I was so wrapped up .. We did 3 back to back races so we were on the water a long time....

We came 37 out of 115 boats.
On day 1 double handers sailed.
Day 2 single handers.
On Saturday when we sailed, we came 32nd out of 51..
R1 36th,
R2 33rd and
R3 19th
Overall over 2 days combining single handers we came 37th out of 131.



About our new miracle...

Miracle '60 Watts' made her virgin voyage on 26 July.

It was a fairly gusty day... so Graham and I decided to complete a buoyancy check to see how she floats, compared to a full front tank.

Helen was left swimming for a while whilst Graham decided to have a sail without her! Having no spinnaker bag helps with speed of hoisting up the spinnaker and less clutter in the boat.

“ She sails slightly differently in the water, but overall very impressed...”

.....Helen & Graham



H A L O - Jan 21

2021 Nationals (Joint event with SigneT class)



When: Sunday 8th to Friday 13th August 2021 - 6 days
Where: RUTLAND SAILING CLUB

Gibbet Lane, Edith Weston,
Oakham,
Rutland LE15 8HJ
www.rutlandsc.co.uk



Facilities:

Club house includes bar and café, see pictures below. There are plenty of car parking & launching facilities available. Disabled toilets and access ramp.

Camping:

The Club does not have a campsite, however, there is one across from the Club ([Rutland Water Campsite](#)). Camper vans and motorhomes are not permitted on site.

Campsite accepts motorhomes but no Electric hook up. Prices below:

DAILY RATES FOR 2020 were as follows:-

PUP TENTS (under 16's)	£3.00
ONE MAN TENT	£6.00
2/3 MAN TENT	£8.00
FAMILY TENT	£11.00
CARAVANS AND CAMPERVANS	£10.00 [£9.00 if club member or visitor]
MOTORHOMES AND TWIN AXLE C/VANS	£11.00 [£10.00 if club member or visitor]
SATNAV POSTCODE LE15 8 HJ	

You can either contact the campsite direct or, let Brian Jones know if you require camping facilities and he has offered to make contact with the campsite to make a block booking reservation.

Starts:

10:25 am each day. Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SA's) to follow.

Entries:

- An electronic 'Eventbrite' expression of interest - early commitment by competitors will be issued to members before the end January 2021. Further details to follow.
- A form will be available on the Miracle Website to download and print in due course. Entry forms requested before end March 2021.

Entry Fee:

£150.00 per boat (excluding social events & catering costs - see below). £50.00 deposit by end March 2021. Balance by end June 2021.

£175.00 if entered before end May 2021 (excluding social events & catering costs).

£200.00 if entered in July and August (excluding social events & catering costs)

Cont/.....

H A L O - Jan 21

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Family Members Two Boat Discount:

For Family Members bringing two or more boats to the 2021 National Championships a £50.00 discount on their second boat (First, third and any subsequent boats pay standard fees).

First Nationals Discount:

For first time entrants to the Nationals a discount of £50.00.
Note: electronic payment available - see entry form.

Entry Fee above includes:

- On the water boat cost for racing
- Boat space parking
- Car parking

Entry Fee above excludes:

Due to the current Covid situation we are currently awaiting catering costs from Rutland SC and are therefore excluded from above boat entry fee. {Note: at some previous national event entry costs have included 2 tickets for the Commodore's Reception, for helm & crew and 2 tickets for Prizegiving meal, for helm & crew}. Social event & catering costs for competitors, including options for additional Adults and Children to be advised in due course.

We would obviously encourage all competitors, family and friends to attend the Friday evening prizegiving meal.

Covid:

Rutland SC have advised that Covid restrictions may apply - tba nearer the time.

Safety Boat cover:

Rutland SC have requested volunteers for assistant safety boat crews during the nationals week who will need to be over 16 years of age, physically fit and able to pull people out of the water into a rib. Volunteers are asked to contact Wayne Atherton.

Social Programme:

Sunday	Commodore's Reception (ticket costs £ tba)
Monday	Free Evening
Tuesday	Free Evening
Wednesday	BBQ and Quiz night (BBQ food costs for adults & children £ tba)
Thursday	AGM
Friday	Prizegiving Dinner (ticket costs £ tba) Tickets at registration.

Boat trip:

Costs for a possible trip on the Rutland Belle are being investigated for either Monday or Tuesday evening, if there is enough interest.



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Events for 2021 - a full list of regional meetings

Venue:	Meeting type	Post Code:	Dates:	Website:	Event Organiser:
Staunton Harold Sailing Club	Midland Area Championship	DE73 8DL	24th & 25th April	https://shsc.org.uk/	Graham Watts
Delph Sailing Club	Northern Area Championship	BL7 9TS	1st & 2nd May	www.delphsailingclub.co.uk	Wayne Atherton
Welton Sailing Club	North East Area Championship	HU15 1PT	15th & 16th May	www.weltonsc.org	Dave Butler
Port Dinorwic Sailing Club	Open Meeting	LL56 4RQ	6th June (Sunday only)	www.pdsc.org.uk	Cathy Goodwin
Whitefriars Sailing Club	Southern Area Championship	SN6 6QR	12th & 13th June	http://whitefriarssc.org/	Paul Robinson
Thornbury Sailing Club	Open Meeting	Oldbury on Severn	19th & 20th June	https://thornburysc.org.uk/	Nick Smith
Girton Sailing Club	Puddleduck	NG23 7HX	10th & 11th July	www.girtonsc.org.uk	Dave Reed
Rutland Sailing Club	National Championship	LE15 8HJ	8th to 13th August	www.rutlandsc.co.uk	Paul Robinson / Wayne Atherton
Shotwick Sailing Club	Welsh Area Championship	CH5 2LL	18th & 19th September	www.shotwicksailing.org/home/	Dave Turtle
Shustoke Sailing Club	End of Season Championship	B46 2BE	2nd & 3rd October	www.shustokesailingclub.co.uk/	Zara Turtle

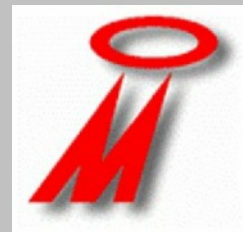
Miracle Dinghy Class Association website for event details [HERE](#):

Visit our Nationals page on the Miracle website

20  21

8th - 13th August 2021

A fantastic location with amazing views over Rutland Water and our sailing area, the clubhouse offers excellent, accessible, facilities right on the waterfront.



Miracle Insurance

Cover and Premiums for:

Sum insured	£5m Third Party only	£5m Third Party + Fully Comprehensive
T.P. Only	£26.00	n/a
£ 100	£5m	£28.00
£ 500	£5m	£36.00
£ 800	£5m	£39.00
£1,000	£5m	£41.00
£1,500	£5m	£43.00
£2,000	£5m	£46.00
£2,500	£5m	£49.00
£3,000	£5m	£52.00
£3,500	£5m	£59.00
£4,000	£5m	£64.00
£4,500	£5m	£69.00
£5,000	£5m	£74.00
£6,000	£5m	£82.00
etc.		

- Racing
- 12 months use
- Fire
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- Trips to E.U.

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Measurement secretary	Brian Jones	measurement-sec@miracledinghy.org
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Webmaster (Non Committee)	Mike Smith	webmaster@miracledinghy.org
Trophy Officer	Helen Jacks	trophy-officer@miracledinghy.org
Committee member	Wayne Atherton	wayne-a@miracledinghy.org
Committee member	Andrew Robinson	andrew-r@miracledinghy.org



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- Secretary (at least in the interim) and secondly
- Editor for the Halo magazine



.....Paul Robinson - Chairman