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“All the people involved in my claim were extremely helpful and speedy in their responses. This is our second claim in our sailing history and it is so good to see standards as high now as they were years ago. Many, many thanks”.

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Join us at the Dinghy Show in March

The Halo

Miracle Association Magazine Autumn 2018



Close racing at Bala

“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 p10-p15 John Hunter; p2 Sue Atherton; p3 Jean Reed; p4 Helen Jacks; p19 Jean Reed; and p25 Doug Pinch.

Items for the next issue to the Editor by 1st December 2018.

Editor's Corner

With the 2019 open meeting calendar almost sorted out, thanks to Wayne Atherton's hard work, you can start to plan for next year. Taking on the role of Race Organiser, Wayne set about contacting clubs and at the time of writing only Thornbury's date is to be confirmed.

Plans for the Miracle Nationals next year at the Welsh National Sailing Academy (WNSA) at Pwllheli in North Wales are well underway. Louis Moulden has already been to visit the WNSA and Ken Gibson has been emailing them for a while so we already know the costings, see page 9, and are sorting out the entry form and Notice of Race. The SigneTs are to join us again and in addition the Kestrels are to bring their fleet of about 15 boats. As Pwllheli is a very popular holiday venue early booking of accommodation is highly recommended, noting the WNSA itself has a limited number of on site pitches which you can find out about on their website.

2020 the fleet is to return to Netley on Southampton Water. A sheltered sea venue in a country park those who went last time found it quite excellent. The final date will depend on the tides and will be circulated as soon as we know.



And then there's the Dinghy Show, that great chance to meet up and find out the latest, I look forward to seeing you there.

Gillan Gibson,
Miracle 3670

Chairman's Desk



Hi Folks, what a great sailing summer we have had! Terrific weather and plenty of wind.

The Open Meeting Circuit has been well

attended and the National Championships at Bala (must go there again soon) was a superb venue. The welcome was first class and the organisation on and off the water was excellent. The result was in doubt until the last race. Andrew and Michela Mifsud looked as if they were going to walk it, but ended up in second place again.

Many congratulations to Dave and Rebecca Southwell. Dave has been our Miracle National Champion five times, but not for 20 years — It just shows that an Old Soul can win.

Unfortunately I had to leave on the Wednesday so was unable to attend the

AGM which as ably chaired by Paul Robinson, who also officiated at the Prizegiving, many thanks Paul.

In 2020 we are going back to Netley, a great venue. The spectating is tremendous, courses nearer the shore, and the whole sailing area is sheltered by the Isle of Wight. There is also a new clubhouse, see November's *Yachts and Yachting*, p79 for a report and photo.

Pwllheli is all set for next year and we are going to have a new OOD. We are going to be joined in 2019 by both the SigneT and Kestrel fleets, but, don't have any doubts, this is still the Miracle National Championships.

Yet again first time entrants to the National Championships get a £50 discount on the entry fee, and the second boat in a family also gets a £50 discount.

My new FRP Miracle will be on the Miracle Association stand at Alexandra Place for the RYA Dinghy Show, so I may have a Miracle to sell.

Good sailing everyone
Louis Moulden, Miracle 4100



RYA Dinghy Show Alexandra Place

2nd to 3rd March 2019

Could you give an hour or two to help on the Association's stand? We have some exhibitors passes giving free entry so if you

think you can help contact Ken Gibson,
Dinghy Show Co-ordinator

Membership Matters

Hello, for those who do not know me, my name is Ian Brown and I have recently taken over as Membership Secretary of the Miracle Association from Martin Bathe.

Martin has done a tremendous job in this often thankless task and has been incredibly helpful in the handover, particularly as we both decided it was time to move the Association into the digital age and migrate our membership management onto the web. This means that people can now sign up to become a member of the Association online and pay their subs via Paypal. This has helped to us acquire 5 new members (2 of which have been for 3 years) and persuaded 9 lapsed members to renew their membership of the Association in the last 7 weeks alone.

My first success was with a fellow member at Delph, he was crewless and asked if we could set up a WhatsApp group to marry up helms and crews. Whilst setting it up, I suggested he joined the Association. Welcome onboard David Mole!

A new Miracle owner at the club asked me how to tune a Miracle so I sent him a tuning guide and suggested he joined the Association. Welcome onboard Alan Barton!

I put an advert for my laminate sails on Facebook and when the buyer



came to collect, I asked him if was a member of the Association. By bedtime he had taken out a 3 year membership. Welcome onboard Duncan Berriman!

I was chatting to a member of our club who had sailed a Miracle for many years but had had to recently retire from racing. She wished to keep in touch with the Miracle Association so I discussed it with the Chairman and she has taken up the Life Associate Membership. Welcome back on board Rene Saveli!

Our other new members are people I have chatted to on the Facebook site and suggested they join the Association or have come to us through recommendation. If I such as much as sniff they might be interested

I send them a link and this is where you come in.

The best ambassadors for the Association are you, our members. You do not need to be the Membership Secretary to put your arm round a fellow Miracle sailor and suggest they join the Association. Someone who buys some boat bits off you on eBay, you meet at an open meeting, the Dinghy Show or online somehow. Your friends, your crew, your family members, we don't care how they find us just keep pointing them at our membership portal and we will do the rest:

<https://membermojo.co.uk/miracledinghy>

There is now a link on our website and the official Association Facebook page.

And for our existing members, I apologise for all the messages, emails and phone calls as we brought our records up to date, but I am hopeful that we are nearly there. Don't forget that if you suspect that any of your details are incorrect you can log on and amend them yourself. If you haven't been mithered by me then chances are both your phone number and email address may be incorrect on our records.....

We will continue to promote the Association online and in print as it is our intention to grow the Association and try and help a few more club members gain the confidence to go out on the open scene and perhaps even enter their first Nationals, but the personal touch still works best and you, our membership, are our best chance of reaching the broadest possible

audience.

Over the past few years, a personal decision to try and improve my sailing has led me and my children to travel all over the country and attend a huge amount of open meeting, plus 3 National Championships. Everywhere we have been, we have been greeted with a warm welcome, good food and great sailing. I heartily recommend taking your boat on the road and gaining a broader experience of Miracle sailing.

The Miracle is a wonderful family friendly class boat. Here's hoping we can sustain and increase the membership of the Association and get people involved, both at club and committee level, to promote the class and run the opens. From my perspective, the more bronze fleet sailors we can encourage to travel, the better sailing we will get at the back of the fleet.

Ian Brown, Membership Secretary
membership@miracledinghy.org

PS to answer a recent query, nothing has changed with regards voting rights at the Association.

The merging of Full and Family memberships on the web portal is purely an administrative exercise and no matter how many family members you have attached to your membership, only the Primary Named member has voting rights. Hope this helps clarify things and if you haven't already added your partner or your kids, please use the membership portal to add them to our records.

Winter Sailing: the SailJuice series

Fancy some winter sailing? Well the Selden SailJuice Winter Series is based around the UK's biggest winter handicap events. Sailors from many different dinghy fleets now consider this series as one of the main goals of their winter racing. With great prizes on offer, it attracts some of the best sailors in the country to compete against each other. The series is managed by SailRacer.

This year sailors will be competing not just for individual prizes, but also for the new perpetual trophy presented by Seldén Mast to SailJuice at the series launch during the Southampton Boat Show.

In its 10th Anniversary year, SailJuice hopes to bring a family focus as well as giving people a reason to get out sailing during the 'off' season. Seldén Mast Ltd Managing Director and 2017/18 series prize winner, Steve Norbury said: "We like the concept of SailJuice, it brings a whole load of events together, encourages people together from

different classes, and provides a great opportunity for people to catch up with friends from other fleets. It's also multigenerational, parents get their kids involved, and the Series really helps drive dinghy sailing through the quiet times of the winter."

Enter at: Selden.SailRacer.org
(Limited entry numbers for many events)

Draycote Dash

17th & 18th November 2018

Datchet Flyer

8th & 9th December 2018

Brass Monkey, Yorkshire Dales SC

27th December 2018

Grafham Grand Prix

Sunday 30th December 2018

Bloody Mary, Queen Mary SC

Saturday 12th January 2019

John Merricks Tiger Trophy, Rutland SC

2nd & 3rd February 2019

Oxford Blue, Oxford Sailing Club

Saturday 16th February 2019



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 Calendar 2019

Staunton Harold
13th & 14th April

Welton
27th & 28th April

Port Dinorwic
4th & 5th May

Delph
18th & 19th May

Thornbury
8th & 9th June

Whitefriars
15th & 16th June

Girton
22nd & 23rd June

Leigh & Lowton
6th & 7th July

Pwllheli, WNSA
Nationals
11th to 16th August

Shotwick
21st & 22nd Sept.

Shustoke
5th & 6th October

*2019 Ullswater Cruising
Event not planned. An
opportunity to join with
another class's event may
come forward.*

**2019
Nationals**

Pwllheli
**11th to 16th
August**

**2020
Nationals**

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2019 Nationals

11th to 16th August

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North Wales**

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The WNSA, has a limited number of
on site camping and caravan pitches, see website

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Entry form available soon

Entry fee:

£195.00 if entered before the end of April

£220.00 if entered before the end of June

£240.00 if enter in July and August

Family Members Two Boat Discount

For Family Members bringing two or more
boats to the 2019 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.

Website:

<http://plasheli.org>

Tourist Information

www.pwllheli.org.uk/

[www.visitwales.com/
accommodation-search](http://www.visitwales.com/accommodation-search)



MiracleNationals 2018

5th to 10th August

Racing report

Bala Sailing Club welcomed 24 Miracles for a combined Nationals with the Signet fleet.

Day 1: Sunday

In a long hot summer of unbroken sunshine and light winds we were not to be disappointed as Sunday dawned with a lake of glass and cloudless skies.

Our race officer promised a good breeze down the lake - we lived in hope - sure enough almost on time it arrived and the fleet enjoyed a glorious day's racing.

With the fleet far too keen it took two general recalls to get the fleet cleanly

away for the practice race with Andrew and Michela Mifsud (all the way from Malta and sailing a borrowed boat) slugging it out with Hannah Smith, crewed by Thomas Metcalf, for first and second, along with David and Rebecca Southwell taking fourth place just behind Simon Reddecliffe and Mark Atherton.

For the first points race the wooden spoon was awarded to Graham Watts and Helen Jacks for a flying start at the pin end then throwing it away. All recorded on drone footage! Louis Moulden and crew were first at the windward mark, later slipping to eighth place. The Mifsuds again

took the bullet, with David and Rebecca Southwell not far behind. David and Zara Turtle were ahead of Eamon & Thomas Cuthbert.

Hannah Smith and Tom Metcalf were fifth.

Marcel and Giulia Neuteboom deserved a prize for driving all the way from the



Netherlands, rigging and leaping straight into their boat and then staying upright! They have a penchant for wanting to swim in as many English seas and lakes as possible.

Six boats were out for the first Youth and Juniors race with some very young helms coping very well in the windy conditions.

Day 2: Monday

The wind was awake before the competitors blowing nicely down the lake. So with a clean start the fleet was away on time sailing a similar, but slightly longer, course, than the day before. There was some good close competition with the variable always being which side of the beat to go?

The shore side paid handsomely in Race 3 with Graham Watts and Helen Jacks nearly regaining the lead after losing out on the previous beat.

Louis Moulden and Luke Tonge also went the same way to pull through to a sixth place. David and Zara Turtle had fought hard to narrowly lead the race and take the bullet ahead of Andrew and Michela Mifsud.

Race 2 was won by the Mifsuds with Hannah Smith and Thomas Metcalf getting the wooden spoon for forgetting to go through the upwind gate until the last second, so costing them a place or two. Eamon and Thomas Cuthbert gained a brilliant second. The spinnaker reaches were tighter and longer today giving the fleet some better sailing. Cathy Goodwin

and Leah Murphy sailing 662 (the oldest boat in the fleet) had a good day recording a 7th and a 10th, and with Leah sailing the same boat coming 2nd overall in the combined Youth and Juniors race making it a first in the Juniors. It was ideal conditions for the Youth and Juniors with less wind than the previous day and some very close downwind legs.

Day 3: Tuesday

Tuesday greeted the fleet with a building wind and clouds over the mountains threatening rain. Richard Brameld said it always rained on his birthday! It did, but he also won Race 5 (crewed by Todd) by the narrowest of margins, just ahead of

Graham Watts & Helen Jacks and David & Rebecca Southwell. It was very close but still a brilliant birthday present. Andrew and Michela Mifsud had been out in the lead when gear failure on



the clew outhaul put them back to midfleet, eventually pulling through to 7th after a hasty repair.

The previous race (Race 4) had some tricky conditions, a few holes to fall into plus some good spinnaker reaches in the gusts. The port side of the course seemed to be paying the dividends. It was Louis Moulden and Luke Tonge's turn to miss the gate and be awarded today's wooden spoon. Our birthday boy came 3rd. Peter Mifsud and Ross Southwell, also in a borrowed boat, have been steadily improving scoring a 9th and 11th. Wil and Wendy Hitchman using a Bala Club boat

Miracle National Championships 2018 (cont.)

have been burning the midnight oil to bring it up to speck. This weeks modifications include a new boom, centre main and inboard sheeting using parts borrowed from other boats! Better results beckon!

The final Youth and Juniors Race saw more competitors on the water and slightly less wind. Giulia Neuteboom, crewed by dad Marcel, continued the Dutch tradition of going swimming in any Welsh lake or sea they compete in!! It was good to see a successful format for this event with good numbers competing. Congratulations to Andrew and Michela Mifsud first Youth, and Leah Murphy crewed by Cathy Goodwin first Junior.

Day 4: Wednesday

Sunshine and showers was the forecast, so with the day starting cold and grey competitors went afloat wearing slightly more gear than usual.

A Force 4 to 5 was blowing straight down the lake giving hard beats and some good reaches. There were a few capsizes and a bit of fleet attrition by the start of the second race. Ian Southwell crewed by young daughter Olivia showed how it could be done without flying a kite, even taking places on some of the reaches. Richard and Todd Brameld, still on a high from

yesterday's glory, took two first places with Andrew and Michela Mifsud hot on their heels. Third place went to Eamon and Thomas Cuthbert for Race 6 and Marcel and Giulia Neuteboom for Race 7.



Wil in the Singlehanded race

Will Hitchman swapped boats for the single handed race and showed the fleet a clean pair of heels. The Southwell and Booali boat won the non spinnaker.

Day 5: Thursday

The Lake was again a sea of glass as the fleet prepared for the last two back-to-back races of the series. As usual the wind came on time, but took a while to settle down and was the lightest of the week.

The first start was a general recall followed by the U flag and then the fleet was clean away. The Southwell team were



first round the windward mark with Dave and Rebecca leading Ian and Olivier. John Tippett and Kathy Boulton won the wooden spoon by managing



the only capsize of the day, a bit like Simon Reddecliffe who had just carelessly fallen out of his boat the day before!

Dave and Rebecca Southwell maintained the lead to the gun after a shortened course. The two other top contenders came 8th and 12th. It was good to see David Herbstritt and Josie Airns up in the top ten going well. David and Zara Turtle had taken the shoreside on the first downwind leg and gained several places to take them up to second.

The second race of the day (Race 9) saw David and Zara Turtle out in the lead, managing tricky beats well as the wind

filled, shifted and faded on a regular basis. Graham Watts and Helen Jacks continued to sail consistently well with a 4th and a 3rd.

With just four points between them Andrew and Michela Mifsud have to fight off a challenge from David and Rebecca Southwell in the final points race. just behind them the Turtles, Bramelds and Graham and Helen are all just one point apart vying for third place or maybe even the Championship?

The Crews' Race after lunch was held in much fresher conditions with Ross and Abigail Southwell in Dad's borrowed



Some Singlehanded racers



Miracle National Championships 2018 (cont.)

boat leading the other seven boats and beating Michela and Peter Mifsud over the line by a few boat lengths. Then to celebrate he threw his crew out into deep water just short of the jetty! That's gratitude for you, or maybe just army training?

Day 6: Friday

It was grey, windless and with some strange wet stuff falling from the sky - not the ideal setting for a deciding race. The forecast was for a more westerly direction and coming offshore.

Wil Hickman, not content with rebuilding most of his boat during the week, had blagged a nearly new set of sails to replace his damaged and rather worn ones for the last day.

After about an hour's delay a course was set, the fleet sailed, then the wind shifted and the start was postponed on the gun. A further start attempt also failed but with the wind now blowing from the north and race time running out a new course

was set round the cans.

A huge wind shift on the start line favoured those at the committee boat end and with both contenders for the trophy down the pin end the race was on. David and Zara Turtle led the way with Dave and Rebecca Southwell steadily picking their way up the rankings to finish in 2nd. The next three boats were all very close with Eamon and Thomas Cuthbert forfeiting a hard won fourth to a protest hearing.

Congratulations to David and Rebecca Southwell, Miracle Champions 2018. Well done Andrew and Michaela Mifsud for travelling all the way from Malta and sailing so well into second place.

We enjoyed a superb week of racing at Bala, so thank you to all the club members running the races, providing rescue cover and manning the galley. All in all a great family sailing week and some hot competition throughout the fleet.

Brian Jones, Miracle 4021



2018 Nationals Top 6

- 1st Dave & Rebecca Southwell
- 2nd Andrew & Michela Mifsud
- 3rd David & Zara Turtle
- 4th Richard & Todd Brameld
- 5th Graham Watts & Helen Jacks
- 6th Eamon & Tom Cuthbert



Miracle National Championships 2018 - Bala Sailing Club, North Wales

Results Part 1

Pos	Club	Sail	Fleet	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Pts
1st	David & Rebecca Southwell	Leigh & Lowton	4010	G	2	5	4	2	3	10	25	1	2	21
2nd	Andrew & Michela Mifsud	Birzebbuga / Malta	3825	G	1	1	2	1	6	2	2	8	9	23
3rd	David & Zara Turtle	Shustoke	4026	G	3	6	1	6	8	5	9	2	1	25
4th	Richard & Todd Brameld	Welton	4115	G	10	3	11	3	1	1	1	12	6	28
5th	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold	3813	G	6	4	3	5	2	8	5	4	3	30
6th	Eamon & Thomas Cuthbert	Leigh & Lowton	4016	G	4	2	5	11	9	3	6	5	4	25
7th	Hannah Smith & Thomas Metcalfe	Thornbury	3805	G	5	8	8	4	4	7	4	6	13	14
8th	Marcel & Giulia Neuteboom	Netherlands	2007	S	14	15	14	13	7	6	3	7	10	5
9th	Cathy Goodwin & Leah Murphy	Port Dinorwic	662	G	13	7	9	7	13	16	12	10	8	13
10th	John Tippett & Kathy Boulton	Draycote	4020	S	7	9	15	8	10	11	11	25	11	15
11th	Ian Southwell & Molly, Olivia, Maxine	Leigh & Lowton	4104	S	16	14	10	14	12	14	16	3	5	11
12th	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph	4007	G	11	8	12	10	15	4	7	13	18	12
13th	Brian Jones & John Green	Maidenhead	4021	G	15	12	7	18	17	15	10	9	7	10
14th	Paul & Nathan Robinson	Whitefriars	4110	S	9	17	16	16	14	9	25	14	12	6
15th	Peter Mifsud & Ross Flemming	Birzebbuga / Malta	3835	S	18	13	13	9	11	21	25	15	15	8
16th	Andrew & James Robinson	Whitefriars	3101	B	12	16	18	12	16	12	8	11	16	25

Miracle National Championships 2018 - Bala Sailing Club, North Wales

Results Part 2

Pos	Club	Sail	Fleet	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Pts
17th	Louis Moulden & Luke Tonge	Delph	4100	S	8	10	6	17	5	13	25	25	25	109
18th	David & Jean Reed	Girton	4052	B	17	11	17	15	18	25	25	16	21	7
19th	David Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick Lake	3770	B	31	20	20	19	20	18	15	17	14	19
20th	Wil & Wendy Hitchman	Bala	3592	B	19	21	23	21	21	17	13	18	22	18
21st	Ian & Lily and Mia Brown	Delph	4098	B	20	19	19	20	19	19	25	19	17	16
22nd	Geoffrey Weir & Andrew Duncan	Shotwick Lake	4108	B	22	22	21	22	22	20	14	21	23	25
23rd	John Coulson & Gwyn Franklin	Pennine	4112	B	25	23	24	23	25	25	25	20	19	17
24th	Gillan & Kenneth Gibson	Thornton Steward	3670	B	25	24	22	24	23	25	22	20	25	185

**Open meetings
2019**

Staunton Harold
13th & 14th April

Welton
27th & 28th April

Port Dinorwic
4th & 5th May

Delph
18th & 19th May

Thornbury
8th & 9th June

Whitefriars
15th & 16th June

Girton
22nd & 23rd June

Leigh and Lowton
6th & 7th July

Pwllheli, WNSA
Nationals
11th to 16th August

Shotwick
21st & 22nd September

Shustoke
5th & 6th October

2020
Nationals
Netley
Southampton

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GP-14 THROUGH DECK CONVERSIONS

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Barry Read



**Inventor of the slot &
tab building method**

Earlier this year we were saddened to learn of the death of Barry Read. He worked for Bell Woodworking building Mirrors, Enterprises, etc, and it

was whilst contemplating the method of construction of a table in a pub that he realised the peg system could be used to build a dinghy. He developed the idea over the next couple of years and contacted the Mirror newspaper. They got in touch with Jack Holt who presented 2 boats to Barry to see which would best suit the system. He chose the hull which is now the Miracle and, as they say, the rest is history.

Rigging	Clothing	The 1st Place to Head for Watersports Equipment	
Vinyl		Chandlery	Mail Order
Boat Names		Maintenance Equipment	
Sail Logos			
	Repairs	Topper Spares	
	GRP	Laser Stockist	
Open 6 days a week	Free Advice	Unit 10 Golborne Enterprise Park Golborne WA3 3DP T 01942 273372 F 01942 273377 sales@1stMark.co.uk	
		Insurance Approved	
		Plastic Welding	

Miracle Association meetings

Summaries of minutes

Committee Meeting

4th August 2018, Bala Sailing Club

- Arrangements for the National Championships and AGM were discussed and confirmed.

Annual General Meeting

9th August 2018, Bala Sailing Club

Paul Robinson in the Chair

Chairman and officers' reports:

- **Chair**, Louis Moulden
 - ◇ Members were welcomed to the National Championships at Bala Sailing Club and all those involved in organising the event were thanked.
 - ◇ The recent deaths of David Raines and Derek May, long term members of the fleet, were noted with sadness.
 - ◇ *Halo*: complimented and articles requested, plus members requested to have more activity on Facebook, "Yachts and Yachting" and the media in general.
 - ◇ Ullswater Cruising Event went well.
 - ◇ Next season there will be the Dinghy show at Alexandra Palace, the open meeting circuit and the Nationals will be at the Welsh National Sailing Academy, Pwllheli, in north Wales. The challenges of arranging venues for the Nationals were outlined and discussed. Some aspects were within the control of the Association, others are not. Ideas for venues are always welcome.
- **Membership**, Martin Bathe
 - ◇ Membership of 105 is the same as the previous year.
- **Measurement**, Brian Jones
 - ◇ Measurers' Guide is up to date both in print and online.
 - ◇ The last sail number is 4116.
 - ◇ 4 boats were built in the last year
 - ◇ There have been a number of enquiries from abroad and assistance has been given to a Belgian who is rebuilding a boat.
 - ◇ Rule changed to allow a slight increase in the diameter of the round section boom: This will allow locally sourced materials to be used in Malta.
 - ◇ Approved sailmakers: "one who has produced/or produces 5 satisfactorily measured suits of sails (*Jib, main and spinnaker*)", ie. those who can provide sails which are guaranteed to
- ◇ Arranged for the Nationals to be held at Bala SC in 2018 and the Welsh National Sailing Academy, Pwllheli, in 2019. Contact has also been made with Netley Sailing Club, who are due to officially open their new clubhouse August Bank Holiday 2018, and Ullswater Yacht Club for a future Nationals, though they are currently awaiting the building of a new clubhouse.
- ◇ Arranged for attendance at the RYA Dinghy Show in 2018 and 2019.
- ◇ General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); a Privacy Policy has been drawn up and made available, with other documentation compiled as required. All to be kept under review and updated as necessary.

Miracle Association meetings

Summaries of minutes (cont.)

measure. The Miracle Association Measurement Secretary will maintain a list of "Approved Sailmakers". Any individual or sailmaker is still free to make a suit of sails and have them measured by an Association Measurer.

- **Treasurer**, Kenneth Gibson
The Association is in a sound financial position.
- **Rules of the Association:** There were no proposals for changes.
- **Rules of Measurement:** The Measurements for the rudder were revised and will come into effect on 1st January 2019.
- **Election of the Committee**
The current officers were prepared to continue in the following posts:
Chairman: Louis Moulden
Secretary: Gillan Gibson
Treasurer: Kenneth Gibson
Measurement Secretary: Brian Jones
Committee Members:
Josie Airns
Andrew Robinson
Paul Robinson
Brian Worrall
The following person was proposed for Membership Secretary:
Ian Brown
The following person was proposed for committee membership:
Ian Southwell
The proposed Committee as listed above was voted for en bloc and voted in.
Wayne Atherton was proposed for co-option to Committee and this was approved.
Retiring committee members were thanked, noting particularly the many

years Martin Bathe has been Membership Secretary,
Martin Bathe
Ross Fleming
Cathy Goodwin

- **Any other business:**
 - ◇ Bala had been a fantastic venue.
- **Committee Meeting**
3rd November 2018
Upton, near Newark
- **Trophies**
 - ◇ Ian Southwell was confirmed as Trophy Officer.
 - ◇ Condition: Work required to repair and replace various Nationals trophies was commissioned.
 - ◇ Number of Nationals trophies: It was considered all served some purpose, though the number will be kept under review. Continuing to develop ways of enabling the presentation to run as smoothly as possible will continue.
- **Treasurer**
The Association is in a sound financial position.
- **Membership**
 - ◇ Online sign up for membership had been a success with a number of new, and renewing, members.
 - ◇ The 2019 fees are to be:
 - * Full/Family: one year £26, three year £65
 - * Youth: £15 (no 3 year)
 - * Life Associate: £65.
 - ◇ Ways of promoting Association membership continue to be explored.
- **Measurement**
 - ◇ Enquiries about the Miracle and its

measurement continue to be dealt with.

- ◇ Rudders: Following the decision at the AGM the Measurement Form has been revised. The new provisions come in to force 1st January 2019
- ◇ Mainsail topwidth measurement: a variable interpretation is to be clarified and the Measurement Form amended. This will require a proposal to the AGM and a formal vote. Any change made will not come into effect until 1st January 2020. In the meantime Sailmakers will be advised of our intention which hopefully will prevent them making any similar sails.
- ◇ "Approved Sailmakers": Following acceptance of the concept at the AGM Brian Jones, Measurement Secretary, is in the process of contacting sailmakers and compiling a list of "Approved Sailmakers". He can be contacted to ascertain who is on the list. Samples of sails from "Approved Sailmakers" will be measured, particularly at the Nationals. Any individual or sailmaker is still free to make a suit of sails and have them measured by an Association Measurer.
- **Race Organiser**
 - ◇ Wayne Atherton was confirmed as Race Organiser
 - ◇ 2019 calendar: arranged by Wayne who has a few final dates to confirm.
- **2019 RYA Dinghy Show:** Sat and Sun 2nd & 3rd March 2019
 - ◇ Stand G26 in Great Hall allocated.
 - ◇ Volunteers to man stand required please contact Ken Gibson.
- **2019 Cruising Event**
 - ◇ Whilst the value of a non-racing event was appreciated and considered

important, the complexities and effort taken to organise the 2018 event were substantial. With relatively few boats attending in 2018, five, and the potential dates in June and July already busy it was decided to not run an event in 2019.

- ◇ However, at the 2018 event the GP14's were also running a similar event and there had been some preliminary discussion about the Miracles and SigneTs possibly joining them in 2019. Should the GP14s organise an event to which Miracles and SigneTs are invited the Miracle Association would advertise the event in its calendar.
- **2019 Miracle Nationals:**
WNSA, Pwllheli
Sunday 11th to Friday 16th August
 - ◇ Entry fees agreed, see page 9.
 - ◇ SigneT and Kestrel fleets to join us.
 - ◇ Racing:
 - * Buddy system to be re-instigated.
 - * Crew changes: amended procedures
 - * Sailing area to be at discretion of Miracle Association Coordinator(s) and WNSA Race Officer
 - * Start: minimum wind speed to be at discretion of Race Officer
 - * Last day: latest start time to be 1.00 pm.
- **Future Nationals 2020 onwards**
 - ◇ 2020: Netley, Southampton Water, confirmed. Week will be tide dependent.
 - ◇ 2021 and subsequent years: Various options to be explored.

Copies of the full minutes are available from the Secretary on request.

Welsh Area Championship Shotwick 15th & 16th September 2018

Once again Shotwick Lake Sailing Club hosted a fun, windy and sociable event with a small and competitive fleet of 7 Miracles taking to the water for the Welsh Area Championships on the 15th and 16th September. The forecast for the weekend was not particularly appealing, with strong winds and rain forecast for the Sunday! However, much to everyone's relief, this turned out not to be the case! The sun graced us and during quieter times on the water, when sailing had finished, the local bird wildlife reclaimed their place on the water.

The first race on Saturday had light to medium winds. Graham Watts & Helen Jacks, Dave Butler & Ross Fleming, and Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton had the best starts in the first race. However, a wind shift on the first beat saw David and Zara Turtle recover from their more reserved start near the back of the fleet to round the windward mark in first place, followed by Graham and Helen, and Dave and Ross. Dave Herbstritt & Josie Airns and Geoff Weir & Kieran Lewis had a close race all the way round, with Geoff and Kieran eventually taking 6th place. Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney also sailed a hard fought race, working their way up the fleet to give David and Zara a very close race for 1st place on the finish line. David and Zara managed to hold on to their lead to take the win, followed by Wayne and Angela, then Dave and Ross.

Shotwick Sailing club always like to provide for their sailors, and Race 2 scaled every wind strength to make sure everyone

was happy at some point! David and Zara started the race crossing the fleet on a port end flyer to make the windward mark first. Dave and Josie also had a great first beat but decided to beach on the shallows to allow the visitors to pass by! Shotwick Lake sailing members are a friendly bunch! Dave and Ross took a great lift off the bank to round the windward mark in second place, followed by Wayne and Angela. It was on the first spinnaker reach that the squall came through, bringing rain and strong winds. Simon and Mark revelled in these conditions, keeping their spinnaker up after the gybe mark to storm down the next reach – fearlessly. Not long after, the rain and wind disappeared, with David and Zara managing to pull away on the next beat to take the last win of the day. Wayne and Angela had again worked their way up to second place, with Dave and Ross taking third. The squall didn't put the wildlife off either, as they took to the air in large groups. noisily making their spectacular trial flights above the lake.

After a great afternoon's sailing 20 folk sat around one long table decked with flowers in our cosy warm clubhouse, ready to eat the amazing food prepared for us – a great social evening was had before retiring to our tents etc.

Sunday's racing was shared with club racers, which was smoothly organised by Jonathan the OD. The first race on Sunday was rather windier with some heavy gusts coming across before the start. These thankfully reduced slightly in intensity by the time the start gun

sounded. The second lap saw a shift in the wind, changing the beats in the course. David and Zara were out in front, closely followed by Wayne & Angela and Dave & Ross. The heavy wind took it's toll on David and Zara's boat, causing the kicker to snap on the second lap.

Luckily the Scout's motto "always be prepared" was not lost on them and they had some spare rope in the boat to do a make-shift fix. David managed to hold on to their lead whilst Zara was faffing (polite term) in the boat tying it back up, to take their third win of the weekend to secure them the title.

The wind had died down by the time everyone had had a hearty lunch provided by Shotwick's very welcoming and legendary 'Galley ladies'. Wayne and Angela led from the start in the fourth race, leaving David & Zara and Dave & Ross to fight it out for second place. Race five saw the wind pick up again with Geoff and Kieran sailing an excellent race until they came into spinnaker trouble when it got caught underneath the boat. Wayne and Angela led round the windward mark, closely followed by the rest of the fleet.



David and Zara had their second gear failure of the weekend with their spinnaker halyard cleat breaking, causing some trouble in getting it back down again! Wayne and Angela didn't need to look back, extending to a comfortable lead. Dave and Ross overtook David and Zara on one of the spinnaker legs with Simon and Mark keeping close behind David and Zara all the way.

So the Welsh Area Championship Trophy returned to Shotwick's own David and Zara despite their boat troubles and a great weekend was had by all.

Thanks go to Shotwick Sailing Club, it's members for sharing the water with the Miracles, and to all the volunteers in making it such a successful weekend. *Josie Airns (3770) and Zara Turtle (4026)*

Pos	Club	Sail No	Total points
1st	David & Zara Turtle	Shotwick/Shustoke 4026	3
2nd	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph 3383	4
3rd	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming	Welton 4060	6
4th	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph 4007	12
5th	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold 3813	13
6th	Dave Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick 3770	16
7th	Geoffrey Weir & Kieran Lewis	Shotwick Lake 4108	18

End of Season Championship Shustoke 6th & 7th October 2018

A strong fleet of 11 boats turned out for the Miracle Inland and End of Season Championships this weekend and racing could not have been tighter throughout the fleet. Changeable winds meant that races could be won or lost at every turn, making for a mentally challenging event!

Boat rigging was a rather wet affair Saturday morning, but as promised the rain cleared in time for the first race in the afternoon. The fleet started cleanly under a gusty northerly wind. Tracy Amos & Gemma Gibson and Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney led the fleet, with Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton and James & Paul Robinson also having a good start to the race. Wayne and Angela managed to clinch the top spot ahead of Tracy and Gemma, whilst David and Zara worked their way up the fleet to take third ahead of Simon and Mark who were sailing a great race.

After a short break Race two was underway. Graham Watts and Helen Jacks led the fleet off the port end of the line and picked their way up the beat well to get to the windward mark first. Wayne and Angela caught up with them further into the race, but Graham and Helen sailed on to get a well deserved win. Another close battle was going on behind between Hannah & Nick Smith, Tracy & Gemma, and David & Zara. Hannah and Nick were leading the group until the last mark, when David and Zara managed to pull up to third.

A meal was booked at the local pub for the evening social, the food was excellent and eagerly anticipated by the 20 hungry sailors! There was a 50th birthday party being held at the sailing club Saturday night,

but the remaining Miracle sailors were welcomed in to join the celebrations, and from the looks of the pictures had a very good time!

The call was made to move the first race on Sunday to 11.30 to allow the wind time to come in. This was a stark contrast to last year's event when Storm Brian was upon us! Dave and Ross had a great start in the first race, choosing to stay along the bank by the club, and it paid off. Wayne and Angela made it round the windward mark first and did a great job of keeping the fleet behind them for the remainder of the race. David and Zara closed the gap when Wayne and Angela ran into spinnaker troubles, but this was soon rectified by Angela and they pulled out a convincing lead to take the race. David and Zara came in second in front of Dave and Ross in third. Tracy & Gemma and Hannah & Nick had another close race with each other, Hannah and Nick eventually pulling out to take fourth just behind Dave and Ross.

Hannah and Nick had a great start in the second race on Sunday, and with a combination of well read winds up the beat and Nick's good spinnaker flying they pulled out a good lead on the first lap. However, the fluky winds lulled them into a hole on one of the beats, allowing Tracy & Gemma and David & Zara through. David and Zara took Tracy and Gemma on the run and pulled away to take the win. David & Josie and Stuart & Jonathon had been enjoying good close racing all weekend and were often seen neck and neck throughout the races!

It was all to play for in the last race with 3 boats in contention for the top spot! The tension obviously showed resulting in

the first general recall of the weekend! David and Zara managed to reach the windward mark first after opting to stick to the far bank to keep in clear wind. John Tippett and Kathy Boulton also had a good first beat rounding the windward mark with the top of the fleet. David and Zara were challenged by Hannah & Nick and Tracy & Gemma coming up behind but they managed to pull away on the last lap, building up a commanding lead to win the race and the championship.

Overall top three prizes went to David and Zara, Wayne and Angela, and Tracy and Gemma, with a special prize going to Jonathon Shields who, at just 6yrs old, sailed all 5 races in his first ever Miracle open event - well done Jonathon!

Thanks go to Shustoke Sailing Club for their warm welcome and excellent hospitality, the race officers did a great job of running the weekend alongside club racing!

Zara Turtle, Miracle 4026

Pos	Club	Sail No	Total points
1	David & Zara Turtle	Shotwick/Shustoke 4026	4
2	Wayne Atherton & Angela Sweeney	Delph 3383	4
3	Tracy Amos & Gemma Gibson	Redoubt 3692	7
4	Hannah & Nick Smith	Thornbury	9
5	Dave Butler & Ross Fleming	Welton 4060	14
6	Simon Reddecliffe & Mark Atherton	Delph 4007	15
7	Graham Watts & Helen Jacks	Staunton Harold 3813	15
8	John Tippett & Kathy Boulton	Draycote 4020	22
9	James & Paul Robinson	Whitefriars 4110	25
10	Dave Herbstritt & Josie Airns	Shotwick 3770	28
11	Stuart & Jonathon Shields	Tonbridge	30



End of Year Roundup 2018

The Miracles have had 9 open events this year with 6 different winners! The racing has been incredibly tight throughout the fleet, with plenty of place changing to keep everyone on their toes.

Some of the top players this year:

- David and Zara Turtle have had a great end to the season working up three wins, two seconds, and a third at the Nationals.
- Tracy Amos and Gemma Gibson have been sailing brilliantly this year with two wins and two thirds.

- Wayne Atherton and Angela Sweeney have been consistent with three seconds and a third.

- Dave Butler and Ross Fleming have had a second and a third.

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

Zara Turtle, Miracle 4026