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Editorial

Apologies for the April newsletter slipping to the middle of the month. Excuses? I've been on holiday and got back to a mountain of work. Well you can't blame me for being grumpy.

Whilst holidaying in Cornwall last week, 'er indoors & I (and the dog) decided to take a stroll around the coast path from Flushing (opposite Falmouth) to Mylor Harbour. Imagine our surprise when we popped out of a field to find a very friendly looking sailing club with the letters **RSC** writ large on the front. Tip #1: If you're heading for the Worlds, Restronguet Sailing Club isn't at Restronguet – it's at Mylor Harbour (although how you gain vehicular and boat-on-trailer-icular access isn't all that clear). Anyway, it looks like a proper friendly sailing club and it is in a beautiful spot. Those of you staying in Falmouth may like to consider that you can get a ferry over to Flushing (5 minutes) in the morning and then take an invigorating 30 minute walk around the coast path to the club. Non-sailing other halves/pit crews etc. will not be short of things to do, especially if you're outdoor types. There are innumerable beautiful bits of river & creek, many with great pubs at the water's edge.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Brightlingsea Open on May 5th/6th – details will be posted on the website as soon as they are available. Don't forget that it's a bank holiday on the Monday (7th) so you've got all day to get home – maybe you can find a hedge to leave your boat in for the next weekend at Whitstable...

Mike Bees, B14 GBR771

Words from the Big Chair

April already! Where did the winter go? Barnsie kept us all so busy with the winter events that it seems to have passed quickly this year.

For those that made it to Rutland great to see so many new faces to enjoy winters last gasp and not exactly ideal training weather! More from Barnsie on this but lets hope the next training event is in friendlier weather. One smashed shin and an appendicitis from one team breaks the record for damage so far, too much of that Somerset Scrumpy from our West Country friends I think!

With the winter momentum still snowballing I am looking to get some coordination of the south coast boats. For the moment I am proposing that we have a nominated Solent/South Coast fleet captain to look at coordinating the boats in the Solent area. There are a number of B14's scattered around the Solent that could be meeting more regularly for informal training or racing. So for now it is me with 772 at Weston SC (until someone else volunteers), if you own a B14 in the Solent area let me know via the message board.

April will see the re-launch of the TT series ranking system. Taking as a rolling score of 2006/2007 results it shows the current rise and fall of fortunes in the overall rankings. You can guess who holds the number one spot cant you! Watch this space for its coming launch. The association is currently working on prizes to support the trophy already up for grabs for the 2007 TT series.

Last note from me - we are still seeking to confirm boats for the worlds and importantly availability of charter boats. We have requests from overseas and UK teams to charter boats for the event, so if you can't make it to the worlds then please let Tim Fells or I know.

Summer is on its way and dreams of sunny Falmouth and a few beers with a band of roaming Aussies doesn't seem so far off! See you all at Brightlingsea for the second TT event of 2007.

Mark Watts, UK Class Chairman, B14 GBR772 'Team Ince&Co'

Barnsie's blathering

B14 Training, 24th March, Rutland Water Sailing Club

The fleet turned up to bitterly cold northerly force 4 – 5 winds. The morning was spent sorting through the boats and meeting up with friends.

Several of the fleet were split up to put crews with the more experienced members of the fleet. After a briefing by Tim Fells and myself, we launched the fleet and proceeded to the training area.

The training went well, taking into account the extreme conditions. After lunch we kept the same teams and did some more training and a 2 race series. Winners of this were 764 Mark (P) and Rich who received the bubbly. Next time they will be in the top group.

That evening after the briefing and dinner, the group on mass, nearly 40 or us retired to the pub for a good session.

Starcross is the next training event and the format will be similar but modified with hopefully better conditions.

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Barnsie's blathering continued...

Buddy system

We have had a number of new members join the Association over the last few weeks. We will therefore be updating the system but leaving those already allocated with their current mentors. Please use this facility as it will prove invaluable to those having joined the class recently.

Second-hand list

It has been repopulated with some new editions. Sales have been good with a large number of boats changing hands in the last few months. If you know of a boat that has been left for a while/no longer required, please email me and we will do our best to find the owner and possibly add to the list. Also if you have spare kit to sell, please send the details.

Teaming Up

One facility we do have but is not being heavily used, is the matching section where we put helms, crews and boats together. It has worked to date but if you find the reason you are not sailing is due to one of these, then please send me your recent CV and we will endeavour to resolve the issue.

Mark Barnes, B14 GBR768 'Readycrest'

Rutland Rumble

Rutland TT Series Round 1 Report

With Round 1 of the TT Series just completed the signs are already suggesting a very competitive season of B14 racing on the UK circuit in 2007.

Carrying on the momentum of a notable B14 presence at the major winter events, and a renewed buzz for all things B14 on the Chat Page, it was great to see 18 boats brave the colder and windier than expected opener at Rutland.



Part 1 of weekend was the training day and several of the top teams split with their buddies for the on the water exercises which culminated in two races in the afternoon. Whilst a bitter Northerly force 5 is not the ideal training weather, the undeterred B14ers new and old gave Coach Barnes plenty to talk about in the video debrief. A belated new years resolution for many helms would appear to involve becoming less friendly with the tiller...

On to Sunday and Round 1 of the TT series. This consisted of 4 races with no discards just to add a bit of spice. Despite an hour less sleep the fleet gratefully launched in a little less breeze and even enjoyed some sunshine later in the day. It was a close affair at the top with 3 different race winners. AT&T (773 Tim Fells/Shawn Barber) took race 1, the new for 2007 'Team Ince&Co' (AKA 772 Mark Watts/ Stig Rogers) taking out races 2 and 4 and MJF (757 in the hands of fleet returnees Dave Hayes/ Rich Bell) taking the bullet in race 3. Consistency would be the key and others in contention throughout were Readycrest (768 Mark Barnes and Pete Nicholson) and 764 (Mark Pollard and Richard Hingston).

Rutland Rumble continued...

So who had won overall? It was still unclear once ashore so the calculators had to come out! Only when we got to the prize giving could all be revealed. Readycrest had won on 12 points followed by the next 3 on 14 points.

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Overall Results:

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	Pts
1st	768	Mark Barnes	Pete Nicholson	Whitstable	2	2	3	5	12
2nd	772	Mark Watts	Tim Rogers	Weston	5	1	7	1	14
3rd	757	David Hayes	Richie Bell	Southport	7	4	1	2	14
4th	764	Mark Pollard	Richard Hingston	Starcross	4	5	2	3	14
5th	773	Tim Fells	Shaun Barber	Salcombe	1	3	8	4	16
6th	776	Dick Roe	Kate Dulieu	Great Yarmouth	8	8	4	7	27
7th	688	Tim Harrison	Jonny Radcliffe	HPYC	3	6	6	DNC	30
8th	720	Geoffrey Stones	Simon Buckley	Jumbles	11	11	5	6	33
9th	741	Liam Pike	John Ellingham	RSC	6	9	9	DNC	39
10th	735	Theo Galyer	Jack Spencer	ESCS	10	13	10	9	42
11th	654	Daniel Cowin	Rachel Bennett	Ely	14	10	11	8	43
12th	744	Guy Whitby	Anna Payne	Weston	9	7	15 DNF	DNC	46
13th	728	Allan Stuart	George Morris	King George	12	12	12	10	46
14th	682	Mike Raine	Jane Hill	North Staffs SC	13	14	15 DNF	DNC	57

The fleet enjoyed a great weekend and we would like to thank the club for their slick race management on Sunday and Lynda (Club Manager) and the Coxons for their hospitality on Saturday in accommodating the fleet training.

After a short breather the TT Series continues with Round 2 at Brightlingsea on 5th / 6th May. This is the first of our East Coast events with the added bonus of the Bank Holiday Monday as a recovery/ bimbling day (delete as appropriate) so you can be ready for the Round 3 at Whitstable the following weekend.

Finally a note to amend your diaries! There is a change of date for the series finale, the Inland Championship at Grafham in November. Unfortunately the club have had to reschedule our event a week earlier so its now on 3rd/4th November **not** 10th/11th. We are still sharing with the other 9er fleets.

See you on the water!

Dan Cowin, B14 GBR654



Worlds update

With only 3 months to go, the excitement is building for what will definitely be a humdinger of a World Championships in sunny Cornwall. For those of you who haven't experienced a B14 Worlds, they are a unique combination of great adrenalin filled racing and similarly eye-popping drinking. Over the years we have learnt that our Aussie friends have a very similar outlook on life, namely that the social is as important as the sailing.

We are therefore delighted that up to 8 Aussie B's are making the trip to Restrouquet and will be as determined as ever to prize the trophy from the Pommie grip. Fighting hard to keep the old pot in Blighty will be our best and most able and it is looking extremely open as to who will walk away with the spoils.

But don't think that the Worlds is all about competing for the title. Far from it – the event should be as much fun for beginners and those still on the steep learning curve, getting to grips with their beast. The Worlds has always been a very friendly and welcoming event, an opportunity to enjoy racing a B in some of the best sailing waters in the UK. Whatever your standard, there will be plenty of helpful advice and friendly banter.

At present we expect around 40 entries but there are people out there without boats looking to come and play, so please let us know if you will lend or charter.

On the sponsorship front, we have found a home for the North Main and Jib and, as I write, are still looking for someone to purchase the Kite and Carbon Mast. Prices are £565 (20% off list) and £1500 (16% off list) respectively.

Contact me if you have any queries or offers of help and I look forward to a fantastic week of hot sun, good winds, great racing and scary socials!!

Tim Fells, B14 GBR773, 'AT&T'

Grand Nationals

Once the excitement of the Worlds has abated, and our livers have recovered, what better way to spend the August Bank Holiday than at Weston Sailing Club in the Solent at the B14 Nationals!

The Nationals this year is all about good fun and great racing. There is free camping next door to the club and a 5 minute sail-out to the racing area – we're even keeping it to a three day event so you don't have to book any time off work!

For the uninitiated, Weston SC is nestled in between Southampton and Hamble in Southampton Water, so protected from the worst of the weather. It's a friendly, family club with a recently refurbished bar and a sunny (hopefully!) patio overlooking the race area.

All the big guns will be in attendance, and as always there will be excellent racing wherever you come in the fleet. And just in case all doesn't go according to plan you can prove what an ace you are by competing in the Pico slalom racing on Sunday evening.

The event promises to be the perfect salute to summer, so get practicing your wine-waving action and we'll see you there!

Kate Forster, B14 GBR763

Starcross

Starcross fleet is now up to eight boats - Will McGrath (ex Hornet and Laser) has bought 730 and Paul McGahey (ex RS400 and Laser) has bought 653 - both Will and Paul graduated from the club's junior programme a couple of year's ago and will help balance the old geezer demographic in the SYC fleet. We also have a new outpost in Plymouth - Rod Boswijk (Ex L4000, etc.) has bought 745 - reports from his first sail were very encouraging. We are hoping to organise a class start/prize at the Mayflower Final Fling in October - Plymouth Sound is a great place to sail B14s and it would be good to get this venue back on our circuit again.

Thanks to everybody who attended the Steamer - the B14 mob-handed attendance has had a significant impact on raising the fleet profile at Starcross - aside from Will and Paul, there are two (maybe three) people actively looking for boats to join the fleet.

Evidence from the recent Rutland meeting would suggest that Mark and Richard (764) are on the pace and us lesser mortals will have a yardstick to measure progress by.

The SYC fleet has its own start from April and will be using windward/leeward courses whenever the wind direction allows - we are also hoping to organise a mass wing upgrade day to fit plumbing joints to all the boats on a production line principle.

Next event for this regional outpost is the training/open event scheduled for 9/10 June - I hope we can get everybody in the SW to attend, and a few others who fancy a weekend in sunny Devon.

Website

Not much progress on the website this month. Cathy has been trying out a few things and there are some signs of improvement with the website management tool. I will really try to get on top of the team pages this month. I have added the Dinghy Sailing boat test article and newsletters from 2004 and 2005

The forum remains very active. Do you think it would help if we added a separate forum for technical issues that would be of interest to both UK and Aus fleets? You have probably noticed that we get the occasional spam post which I remove when I have the time. This should get easier when the forum software is fixed so that I can ban specific names and IP addresses - in the meantime please don't click on the posts, it only encourages them (unless of course you need the Viagra [theres' the stiffie reference - Ed.]).

Mark Elkington, B14 GBR762

What's on in 2007

Main menu

March

~~24th Rutland SC – Training Too late!!!~~

~~25th Rutland SC – UK Series Event 1 Too late!!!~~

May

5th/6th Brightlingsea SC - UK Series Event 2

12th/13th Whitstable YC - UK Series Event 3

June

9th Starcross YC - Training

10th Starcross YC - UK Series Event 4

July

7th-13th Restronguet SC - **World Championships**

August

25th-27th Weston SC - **National Championships**

September

15th/16th Hayling Island SC - UK Series Event 5 'The Tide Ride'

22nd/23rd Great Yarmouth & Gorleston SC - UK Series Event 6

October

27th/28th Weymouth Sailing Academy - UK Series Event 7

November

3rd/4th Grafham Water SC - UK Series Event 8 and **Inland Championships. Note the change of date!!!**

Light snacks

April

~~6th-9th Weston SC – Weston Easter Grand Slam Too late!!!~~

June

16th/17th Weston SC – Skiff classes open meeting

August

11th/12th Ullswater YC – Scottish Skiff Event

12th-17th Brightlingsea SC – Pyefleet Week

September

22nd/23rd Prestwick SC – Scottish Skiff Championships

See the **Events** section at www.b14.org for more details.