



*Official Newsletter of the NSW B14 Association
Affiliated with the Australian and World B14 Class Associations*

Inside this issue

NSW States Round 1

Presidents report

UK National Championship
2003

"Ships passing in the night"

Skiff series Round 2

Rules—from the ISAF case
book

Boat for Sale

Calendar 2002-2003

STATE TITLES ROUND 1



*Kris Plain & James
Christian were
keen to establish
an advantage on
their home waters.*

The first leg of the B14 State Titles were at BYRA at the start November. It's the second year in a row part of the Titles have been at Pittwater, and it's the second year in a row we've had winds at the very top end of sailable. In fact, some less charitable individuals have been heard renaming the picturesque course area as Shittwater! But don't worry Guy, we won't tell Jan you said that.

On the Saturday, the westerly wind (not one mentioned on the brochure) was very shifty and gusty. Forty-degree shifts were not uncommon, and gusts ranged from 5 to 20 knots. Apart from that it was perfect sailing weather! And it was competitive, the variable conditions allowing plenty of snakes and ladders opportunities. There was also a bit of swimming by a variety of crews.

The end of the first day's racing saw a tight result at the head of the points table, with Buggar the Bone (Bancroft and Bancroft) just ahead with 6 points, The Nude (Reynolds and McMillan) in second with 7 points, and the new boat The Plumbers (Ray and Wells) in third with 8 points.

On Sunday we awoke with a front forecast to come through in the afternoon. The first race was held in reasonable conditions, with a fairly steady southerly blowing. The result of Race 4 put the top three boats on equal points, with The Nude leading The Plumbers then Buggar the Bone over the line.

But then there was Race 5!! During the starting sequence, the front started coming through with a vengeance. Even the BYRA wind gauge showed the breeze was above 20 knots. An out-of-control keel boat fleet added to the excitement of the start. The Nude managed to capsize with one minute before the gun while avoiding the bigger boats, and was not able to successfully right herself for a bloody long time! It was eight minutes after the gun that she managed to work across the start line.



...state titles Contd.

Empire, Hunt Leather, Polygamist, No Strings Attached and Marvin. The second leg is at Woollahra on the 20th and 21st March.

BOAT No.	BOAT NAME	Skipper	Crew	HEAT 1	HEAT 2	HEAT 3	HEAT 4	HEAT 5	SUB-TOTAL
AUS 357	Buggar the bone	Guy Bancroft	Rhys Bancroft	1	4	1	3	1	10
AUS 370	The Plumbers	Peter Ray	Gareth Wells	3	2	3	1	2	11
AUS 368	The Nude	Richie Reynolds	Lissa McMillan	4	1	2	2	5	14
AUS 313	Masters Apprentices	Kris Plain	James Christian	6	3	4	6	6	25
AUS 367	Evil Empire	Martin Johnson	Mike Halkes	7	7	5	5	3	27
AUS 350	Hunt Leather	Keiran Livermore	Karen Wiseman	2	6	DNF	7	4	29
AUS 353	Polygamist	Scott Kennedy	Tim Plain	8	5	DNF	4	DNS	38
AUS 155	No strings attached	Jon Bradbury	Nicky Claringbold	5	DNF	DNS	8	DNF	44
AUS 356	Marvin	Paul Stott	Simon Hendry	DNF	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	54



President's report

What is going on with the weather? Especially the weather whenever there's a B14 regatta, and just every Sunday in particular since the season got underway?

The first of the Travellers' Season, the Ice Breaker Cup at Royal Prince Alfred was a blowout, with no boats even getting on the water.

The second Travellers' was at Cronulla, with metre and a half swells and NE winds of 25 knots (on the BYRA scale!). Six boats bravely negotiated the channel out to the race area, but the attrition rate was rapid. Karen Wiseman (crewing with Kieran Livermore on Hunt Leather) took the most drastic action to avoid staying out in those conditions, biting the boat (which left a gouge on the foredeck) and loosening and breaking some of her pearly whites. In the end, only The Nude remained out there to complete the course.

The third Travellers' was at beautiful Port Stephens, complete with pods of dolphins, warm sunshine, and a steady 15 knots from the NE for two races on the Saturday. But of course, it was too good to be true, with a huge southerly buster (40+ knots coming up the coast) as the boats lined up for racing on the Sunday. It was shades of the "cyclone" two years ago, as boats were told to get to the shore and bring down their sails. Racing was subsequently cancelled on that day. By this regatta, most B14ers had obviously decided the series was jinxed, with the only class representative being The Nude (but we still had a lot of fun beating the 505s!).

And the piss-poor weather continued for the States, with winds of 5 to 35 knots and driving rain. See elsewhere in this action-packed edition of Wingflap for a full report on the States.

But there have been some strong developments in the class since the start of the season. Gareth and Susan Wells led the crew-production charge, with Mason joining The Plumbers' entourage in October. And Sophie Hunt and Andy Payne have produced a particularly light-weight crew with an appropriate name for sailing. Gretel Payne joined the world in early November and while she might not be trained up for the Nationals in December, Mum and Dad are planning to compete.

You would have seen the notice of race for the Nats later this month. I bring to your attention the most important facet of any B14 Title – the social functions. Apart from the traditional welcome BBQ on the first day (28/12), start getting excited about the Pyjama party/Presentation Ceremony/New Year's Eve Bash on the 31st. Of course, there will be limbo games and wall sit competitions and other things I think I might be able to win. There will also be a prize for the best PJs.

Let's hope there aren't too many (other) sailors who sleep in the nude!!

See you on the water,

Lissa

"Let's hope there aren't too many (other) sailors who sleep in the nude!!"

UK National Championship 2003

The B14 class enjoyed a spectacularly successful championship at Whitstable from 22 – 25 August. The entry of 43 boats matches the largest ever UK turnout, the weather gods blessed the event with great conditions and the club provided excellent race management and great socials and refuelling opportunities.

“ Competitors were met with a fully grey day and a full-on force 5 to test them all to the limits ...”

Friday was a slightly grey day but a good force 3 westerly had all boats enjoying fully hiked conditions. Jono Pank and Rich Edwards showed good early form by leading race 1 and although they dropped to 3rd at the end, they went on to win race 2 to be overnight leaders. Tim Fells and Dave Cunningham were next best with a 2nd and 4th. Nils Jolliffe and Jon Branch won race 1 but struggled to make the top ten in race 2. Other pre-event favourites also found it hard to break through after bad starts, and posted mixed results.

A distinct lack of any breeze meant that no racing was held on Saturday, allowing the fleet to hit the bar even earlier than usual.

Sunday was a stunning day – as good as the sport gets. Clear blue skies and a force 4 ENE with rolling waves provided champagne sailing conditions. Four races were completed and each saw a different winner. Dave Hayes and Sean Dwyer started their charge in Sea-Sure battling all the way to the line with Matt Searle and Rich Bell in the first race. Jono Pank and Rich Edwards took a commanding lead in the second with Aids Williams and Chimp Hobson following them home. Tim Fells and Dave Cunningham led the third race until in the last yards Chris Sallis and Mutt Frary flew past to snatch the win. The final race saw Aids and Chimp take the win from Dave and Sean.

Going into the final day with three races planned, it was close at the top with Dave / Sean and Jono / Rich a point apart and Matt / Rich and Tim / Dave still in with a chance if they had a good final day.

Competitors were met with a fully grey day and a full-on force 5 to test them all to the limits and further in many cases. Dave and Sean won the first race after a race long battle with Matt and Rich,





with Tim and Dave steaming into 3rd on the final run. For the second race the wind picked up still further, and the tide had turned too, making for a rougher sea and an extremely exciting ride. With the early leaders going swimming, Dave / Sean had another race long battle, this time with Tim / Dave. They lost it, but their second place was just enough to give them the championship with a race to spare.

With many of the fleet deciding that discretion was the better part of valour, Tim / Dave won the last race to gain second overall with their main rivals either not starting, retiring, or being black flagged.

Results

1. 767 - Dave Hayes and Sean Dwyer - Southport
2. 758 – Tim Fells and Dave Cunningham – Oxford
3. 746 – Jono Pank and Rich Edwards - Tamesis
4. 645 - Chris Sallis and Mutt Fray – Great Yarmouth and Gorleston
5. 725 - Matt Searle and Rich Bell – Hayling Island
6. 695 - Mark Barnes and Tom Pygall - Whitstable

“With many of the fleet deciding that discretion was the better part of valour...”



Ships Passing in the Night...

Since last season there have been many changes in the B14 fleet. Some have left the class, other new faces have searched out long-forgotten boats, and some nearly-forgotten names have resurfaced as B14ers.

Congratulations to Peter Ray and Gareth Wells for launching their brand new boat 370, called The Plumbers. Their previous boat, 356, now known as Marvin (formally know as TEAZ and before that Big Blue) has joined their other previous boat (313 Peter Ray Plumbing now called Masters Apprentices) at BYRA. As we know, the Plain Boys, Kris and Michael, are the apprentices, while Paul Stott and Simon Hendry are going around in Marvin.

On the other side of Sydney, Scott Birdsall has relaunched one of the oldest boats (101). He secured this boat from Dave Evans (a jeweller) who had swapped a ring for it from Murray Glaze. Scott will be sailing at Cronulla with his teenage son. Barry Foster's old boat 200 Extasea is also at Cronulla. This has encouraged class stalwart and Cronulla local Neil Murphy to rejoin the class, purchasing Polygamist 353 from Scott Kennedy. Scott bought 353 from Murray Walters, when she was known as Dimension Polyant, and Murray had acquired 353 from Jeff Keane.

Scott Kennedy may have sold Polygamist, but he's still solidly in the class, having bought 358 Epic, more affectionately known as Eric around the traps. His first official outing in Eric showed him displaying extraordinary speed, but still familiar but unusual mark-rounding techniques!

Keep heading south of Cronulla and you'll encounter the B14's newest fledgling fleet in Eden. Drew Malcolm has retrieved 171 (Thrills and Spills) from Saskia and David in Bendigo. 171 was earlier rebuilt by Fraser Bell in Melbourne, who bought her from class legend and B14 NSW Association Life Member, Jim Lamb.

In Canberra, the spooky Marie Celeste 183 (sailed in Lake Garda by Julian Bolleter and Chris Madden) has resurfaced with the Rosebaums. Julian and Chris bought her in a dark Qld carpark outside the Ettamogah hotel. Previously this vessel was owned by Clive Watts (366).

The effusive Jon Emmerson is also there in the ACT with 252, Ian Wrigley's old boat, known as Misconduct when sailed by Doug Stewart, an early B14 stalwart.

And Greg Jones and Melissa Hinde are sailing Marty Johnson's old vessel 352, which had been owned previously by immediate past NSW B14 President Grant Hudson. She was then known then as Fujitsu.

Back at Woollahra, there hasn't been much more movement, but to ensure everyone's up to speed with more recent changes let it be known that Yael Heynold is now the proud owner of 282 (Wacky Racer when she belonged to the Insects, prior to that she had a relatively successful owner whose name we can't recall, and prior to that she was bought new by Peter Coleman in Victoria when the B14s were last quite big there.)

Also let it be known (for those who haven't been paying attention) that Geoff Greaves and Kim Porteous have been sailing for more than a year in 269 Wai Haka, which was previously known as Groove Monster when she was sailed by Emily Fewster with the budding Kieran Livermore as crew. Of course, Emily had picked up the old Priority from Paul Hansen.

Simon and Suzy Williams likewise are going about in 280 Scuzzmoss previously owned by Mark Woods, who sailed with

Jason for a season. Anthony Hogno had her before that, sailing as Spike, with previous National Champion Chris Bibby owning her before that, having bought her from Alistair Murray when she was known as Out of the Blocks. Phew!

Batteries Not Included 169, previously sailed by Craig Rowe and Cindy Parker made a brief comeback at WSC under the guidance of Debs and Teya. However, word is she is for sale, with a couple of holes in the side after a rigging accident.

Let us know of any other Shipping News for inclusion in future thrilling editions!!



“Congratulations to Peter Ray and Gareth Wells for launching their brand new boat 370.... ‘The Plumbers’.”

Bethwaite Skiff Series Round 2

December 6/7

Round two of the Bethwaite Skiff series, the new Australian competition for B14s, 29ers, 49ers, 59ers and Tasers, was held at Woolahra Sailing Club on Dec 6/7. Event sponsors are Gill, Ronstan, Bethwaite Design, MacDiarmid Sails and North Sails.

Day one was held in a 15 knot southerly gusting to 20 with a short course in Rose Bay. There were four back-to-back races on a windward/leeward course of either two or three laps. The water was flat and the wind steady allowing two on the wing pretty much all the time. However being a Saturday on Sydney Harbour with our start /finish set between Shark Island and Steele Point we were destined to cop a bit of traffic during the afternoon.

Race one had Epic (Scott Kennedy/Megan Taylor) showing us the way, obviously feeling comfortable in the recent purchase. The Nude (Richie Reynolds/Lissa McMillan) worked through the fleet to get into second place from Hunt Leather (Kieran Livermore/Karen Wiseman) on the last run. Unfortunately Epic gybed a bit late for their final approach to the finish and capsized with their bowsprit nudging the buoy, letting the rest of the fleet pass them by.

Race 2 brought a new variable into racing tactics – traffic! A decent-sized fleet of Etchells and Dragons were sharing our patch of water. The Plumbers (Peter Ray/Gareth Wells) were starting to get used to the conditions and their brand new boat and were having a good tussle with The Nude.

Race three was amazingly even busier than race two with a fleet of keel boats racing through Rose Bay as well as the Etchells and Dragons having a rounding mark to windward of our start/finish line. Epic was again showing good speed but slipped back with the traffic, getting a good view of a "T" bone of a dragon by a keel boat. The Plumbers and The Nude were again 1,2 over the line, with Evil Empire (Martin Johnson / Michael Halkes) in the Nude's windshadow.

Race four had a slightly clearer track and was a battle, as muscles were starting to get weary after 3 close races. Evil Empire led most of the race only to capsize on the final gybe, letting The Nude, The Plumbers and Epic get through before they got up and going again.

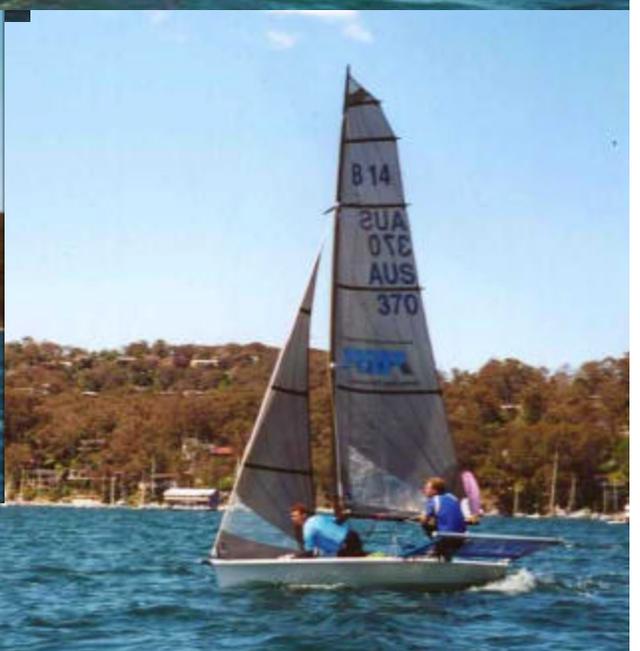
Day two had a tight course with most of the six races being two lap windward/leewards held in shifty 10-15Kn breezes from the South East. It ended up being very much a day for The Plumbers, who added five wins to their tally. The racing was tight, and strangely enough (after the traffic of Saturday) we had Rose Bay to ourselves. But on a short course we made the area very busy with OOD Robin Foote keeping the four fleets turning around at a cracking pace. He had fleets finishing while others were in starting sequences. At times it looked like things were going to be pretty tight but gaps were made and the fleets all did their own things in good humour.

The racing was much closer on day two with the top four boats often going through the bottom gate together at the end of lap one. Hunt Leather who took out Round One of the series in Melbourne was unable to capitalise on good first works. They led to the top mark several times but were unable to stay ahead throughout a race. Evil Empire started to get into the placings with a few flyers separating from the fleet.

Given there were six races back-to-back, the finer details were a blur.

The event was wrapped up with a presentation with Bethwaite Design founder Frank, presenting prizes supplied by the event sponsors to the top three places in each class.

The Plumbers (Peter Ray, Gareth Wells)	16 points
The Nude (Richie Reynolds/Lissa McMillan)	22 points
Evil Empire (Martin Johnson/Michael Halkes)	37 points



Rules

With the permission of the YA, I have reproduced one of the more interesting applications/interpretations below. For those of you who are interested, you can download the RRS and the Casebook for 2001-2004 (International Sailing Federation, July 2001) from www.sailing.org

CASE 89

Rule 43.1(a) Competitor Clothing and Equipment

A competitor may not wear or otherwise attach to his person a beverage container.

Question

Does rule 43.1(a) permit a competitor to wear or otherwise attach to his person a beverage container while racing?

Answer

No. Except on a sailboard, there is no necessity for such a practice, and therefore its primary purpose must be considered to be to increase the competitor's weight. (Note that rule B4.2 modifies rule 43.1(a) for sailboards.)

Note: there are some very informative cases in this document (see website above), but with the Nationals coming up I just couldn't go past this one! I'm sure that a number of people will be disappointed by this. (James)

Australian B14 Calendar 2003-2004

Date	Venue	Event
23-24 August	Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Pittwater	Ice Breaker Cup, Travellers Trophy #1
4-5 October	Williamstown YC - VIC	Bethwaite Skiff Series #1
19th October	Cronulla SC, Gunnamatta Bay	Travellers Trophy #2
1-2 November	Bayview Yacht Racing Assoc, Pittwater	NSW State Titles Round 1
16-17 November	Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic Club.	Travellers Trophy #3
6-7 December	Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, Pittwater	Bethwaite Skiff Series #2
13-14 December	Woollahra SC, Sydney Harbour	Woollahra 50th Anniversary Regatta, Travellers Trophy #4
21st December	Bayview Yacht Racing Assoc, Pittwater	Combined Club Day SIRS at WSC
28-31 December	Bayview Yacht Racing Assoc, Pittwater	National Championships
24-25 January	Woollahra SC, Sydney Harbour	Bethwaite Skiff Series #3
26th January	Woollahra SC, Sydney Harbour	Australia Day Regatta
14-15 February	Wangi, Lake Macquarie	Bethwaite Skiff Series #4, Travellers Trophy #5
20-21 March	Woollahra SC, Sydney Harbour	NSW State Titles Round 2
10-12 April	Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club, Paynesville VIC	Easter Regatta, NSW/ACT/VIC combined meet
24-25 April	Batemans Bay SC.	Batemans Bay Regatta, NSW/ACT/VIC combined meet Travellers Trophy #6
2nd May	Bayview Yacht Racing Assoc, Pittwater	BYRA Marathon, Travellers Trophy #7
19-24 July		Lake Garda, Italy World Championships!

For Sale

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**Breaking News! New Sponsor for
B14 National Championships**

Racing Line, the maker of superior products for the yachting industry, has come on board as the new sponsor for the 2003-4 B14 National Championships, to be held at B.Y.R.A. this December. Scott Birdsall, the principal of Racing Line, has generously provided two of the new skiff suits as prizes for the 2003-4 National Championships as part of the sponsorship agreement. Racing Line is already well known in the B14 community for the famous bucket hat that took the January 2003 B14 World Championships by storm at McCrae Y.C..