

## B14 Worlds Day 1:

The 7th B14 World Championships, hosted by Restronguet Sailing Club in Cornwall kicked off in fantastic sailing conditions for the first 2 races on Monday 9th July.

A north-westerly 15-20 knots coming off the Falmouth shoreline produced relatively flat water but shifts of 20 degrees. The conditions were perfect for the B14 skiffs with upwind planning and a full on blast downwind.

Following the surprise PRO Ian Fraser had at the speed of the boats in the practice race he extended the course to 1 nautical mile and four laps. Even then the leading boats were finishing in 45 minutes showing just how electric the sailing was.

In race one the charge up the first beat saw those who had hit the left and right corners converging together with the top 12 boats together. Early leaders Mark Watts and Tim Rogers succumbed to leading Australian challenger, Guy 'Bangers' Bancroft and James Patterson who held the lead for a couple of laps. 2004 World Champions Tim Fells and Shaun Barber were slowly picking their way through the fleet and hit the front on the final lap extending to win by 100 metres. Mark Barnes and Pete Nicholson did remarkably well to recover from a capsize near the last leeward gate to finish second ahead of Bangers and Chris Bines and Dave Gibbon.

The second race was a repeat of the first with Fells / Barber hitting the left corner and arriving at the first mark together with Bines / Gibbon who had gone hard right. Over the next 3 laps Fells / Barber continued to play the left and steadily pulled out a comfortable lead to the finish. Bines / Gibbon persisted with the right and dropped back into traffic but managed to pull through on the last run to take second ahead of Watts / Rogers and leading Australians Ian and Scott Cunningham and Bangers / Patterson.

With a forecast for the breeze to hold up all week everything is set for an adrenalin packed regatta.

Overall after 2 races:

1st GBR 773 (AT&T), Tim Fells / Shaun Barber, 2pts  
2nd GBR 775 (CSC), Chris Bines / Dave Gibbons, 6pts  
3rd GBR 772 (Ince & Co), Mark Watts / Stig Rogers, 8pts  
4th AUS 373 (Bone Works), Guy Bancroft / James Patterson, 8pts  
5th GBR 768 (Seavolution), Mark Barnes / Pete Nicholson, 10pts  
6th AUS 370 (The Plumbers), Ian & Scott Cunningham, 10pts  
7th GBR 757 (MJF), Dave Hayes / Rich Bell, 14pts  
8th AUS 374, Kelvin Boyle / Rhys Bancroft, 18pts  
9th AUS 369, (Craftsman Homes) Adrian Beswick / Josh Phillips, 18pts  
10th GBR 753, Alan Davis / Toby Barsley-Dale, 19pts

## B14 Worlds Day 2: Brits lead - 'Bangers' gives chase

The second day of the B14 World Championships produced more rugged, boat breaking conditions in Falmouth Bay in the UK, with series leaders Tim Fells/Shاون Barber (UK) unable to recover from a bad first work and second overall Guy 'Bangers' Bancroft/James Patterson hitting and giving away a win.

The fleet screamed out to the race track in winds gusting to 25 knots and many boats had taken an early morning swim before they reached the start area.

Revelling in these strong conditions, Tim Fells and Shaun Barber started off how they had ended the first day by leading at the first mark and slowly extending to take their third consecutive bullet.

A number of teams came close and at the finish it was the Australian challenge of Guy 'Bangers' Bancroft and James Patterson who led their countrymen Ian & Scott Cunningham in second and third. Chris Bines and Dave Gibbon kept their consistent series going in fourth.

For the second race of the day, conditions had moderated bringing more teams into the frame. Mark Pollard and Richard Hingston got a flier in the unfavoured right hand corner to lead for the first round but with a pack of eight boats challenging them hard.

As the race progressed those who hit left hard continued to prosper, and by the last windward buoy, Mark Barnes and Pete Nicholson rounded together with Bangers/Patterson who clipped the buoy and had to take a penalty turn, leaving to take the race from Bangers/Patterson rounding out a great day for them.

Down the last run, Bines/Gibbon got the better of the Cunningham's, while the event leaders Fells and Barber found it hard to extricate themselves from a poor first beat to finish 6th.

Looking forward to the remaining three days, lighter conditions are expected, which should be to the liking of the lighter weight teams who have taken a battering in the first 2 days. With a strong Australian challenge mounting for the title, this one should go all the way.

Top 10 results after two races:

- 1st GBR 773 (AT&T), Tim Fells/Shawn Barber, 8pts
- 2nd AUS 373 (Bone Works), Guy Bancroft/James Patterson, 12pts
- 3rd GBR 775 (CSC), Chris Bines/Dave Gibbon, 13pts
- 4th AUS 370 (The Plumbers), Ian & Scott Cunningham, 17pts
- 5th GBR 768 (Seavolution), Mark Barnes/Pete Nicholson, 27pts
- 6th GBR 757 (MJF), Dave Hayes/Rich Bell, 31pts
- 7th AUS 374, Kelvin Boyle/Rhys Bancroft, 36pts
- 8th AUS 369, (Craftsman Homes) Adrian Beswick/Josh Phillips, 44pts
- 9th GBR 758, Tim Harrison/Jonny Radcliffe, 45pts
- 10th GBR 764, Mark Pollard/Richard Hingston, 47pts

B14 Worlds Day 3: Aussie 'Bangers' on equal points with Brit leaders

Brits versus Aussies for B14 Worlds trophy

Two further races were sailed at the B14 Worlds in the UK overnight and whilst the Brits still lead, previous leaders Tim Fells/Shawn Barber had a bad day with Chris Bines/Dave Gibbon taking over the No. 1 spot, whilst Aussies Guy 'Bangers' Bancroft/ James Patterson from Victoria have maintained their second place and are on equal points with the leaders.

It was all change at the front of the B14 World Championships hosted by Restronguet Sailing Club. The forecast lighter winds produced a major change in the leading pack with many of the teams who had struggled in the tough opening conditions finding a new lease of life and some of the heavier teams struggling to repeat their earlier domination.

The north-westerly breeze was very shifty and patchy with lots of snakes and ladders continually mixing positions throughout the fleet.

Crews were kept busy continually moving between foredeck and wing as the pressure came down the course.

The first race of the day saw the lead changing continually. Chris Bines and Dave Gibbon had the early lead but by the last windward mark it was an Aussie one-two with Guy 'Bangers' Bancroft/James Patterson leading from Richie Reynolds and Lissa McMillan who had sailed superbly to climb up through the fleet.

However both boats gybed away into a hole allowing Bines/Gibbon to take new pressure around them and take the gun from Bangers/Patterson. Mark Pollard/Richard Hingston took their first podium ahead of Tim Harrison/Jonny Radcliffe and Reynolds/McMillan.

The second race was dominated by a large left hand shift on the first beat which brought many new faces to the front.

Reynolds and McMillan, who seemed to be one of the few crews able to read the conditions, led the left hand charge and were able to extend a large lead as the race progressed.

Leading lady helm Gerry Brown crewed by the legendary Leaky held second for most of the race but were passed by Watts/Rogers to complete a good day following their broken wing on Day 2. Tim Harrison/Jonny Radcliffe rounded off an excellent performance with another 4th ahead of Don Forster and Anna Payne.

Of the overnight leaders, Tim Fells and Shaun Barber struggled and could only post a ninth as their best result dropping them to 3rd overall. Father and son Ian and Scott Cunningham had an equally difficult day and dropped from 4th down to 8th overall.

With more of the same forecast for Thursday the lighter crews will be looking to take advantage before the breeze returns for the final day.

Overall after 6 races.

1st GBR 775 (CSC), Chris Bines/Dave Gibbon, 14pts  
2nd AUS 373 (Bone Works), Guy Bancroft/James Patterson, 14pts  
3rd GBR 773 (AT&T), Tim Fells/Shawn Barber, 18pts  
4th GBR 772 (Ince & Co), Mark Watts/Stig Rogers, 23pts  
5th GBR 768 (Seavolution), Mark Barnes/Pete Nicholson, 28pts  
6th GBR 758, Tim Harrison/Jonny Radcliffe, 32pts  
7th GBR 757 (MJF), Dave Hayes/Rich Bell, 35pts  
8th AUS 370 (The Plumbers), Ian & Scott Cunningham, 36pts  
9th AUS 368, Richie Reynolds/Lissa McMillan, 42pts  
10th GBR 744, Don Forster/Anna Payne, 49pts

B14 World Championships Day 4: Aussies lead by one point going into final day

Aussies Guy Bancroft and James Patterson lead the fleet going into the final day of racing but only one point separates the first three boats.

Day four of the B14 World Championships served up another challenging range of conditions. The off-shore south-westerly was fluctuating between 5 and 14 knots with major shifts making race strategy hard to plan.

Race seven saw Tim Fells and Shaun Barber win the congested pin end of start under a black flag and lead the fleet into good pressure on the left. From this position they were able to hold a comfortable lead from Bangers and James Patterson. These two extended away from the fleet to take the first two places but behind them a battle royal was ensuing with 10 boats in the mix. Chris Bines and Dave Gibbon did very well to pull through to take third from Mark Pollard / Richard Hingston and Chris Bishop / Christian Humphrey having their best result of the week.

At the start of race eight the wind went hard left allowing Tim Harrison / Jonny Radcliffe and Mark Barnes / Pete Nicholson to escape on port tack into the right where with more pressure they were able to consolidate a useful lead at the first mark. By the top of the fourth beat Barnes / Nicholson had taken the lead and the usual suspects – Bines / Gibbon, Fells / Barber and Bangers / Patterson – had pulled through to complete the top four. The final run proved decisive with Barnes / Nicholson breaking a trampoline and capsizing on their final gybe to the finish. Bines / Gibbon grabbed the lead and Bangers / Patterson managed to out-gybe Fells / Barber to take another second place. Harrison / Radcliffe recovered to pip Fells / Barber for third on the line.

Overall and with 2 discards in play it couldn't be tighter at the top with only one point covering the first three boats. The final day, Friday the 13th, will see a shoot-out between the top three teams.

Conditions are forecast to be a strong southerly and the race committee are contemplating bringing the course into Carrick Roads, which should be great fun for competitors and spectators alike!

Overall after 8 races.

1st AUS 373 (Bone Works), Guy Bancroft / James Patterson, 13pts  
2nd GBR 773 (AT&T), Tim Fells / Shaun Barber, 14pts  
3rd GBR 775 (CSC), Chris Bines / Dave Gibbon, 14pts  
4th GBR 772 (Ince & Co), Mark Watts / Stig Rogers, 30pts  
5th GBR 758, Tim Harrison / Jonny Radcliffe, 31pts  
6th GBR 768 (Seavolution), Mark Barnes / Pete Nicholson, 36pts  
7th GBR 757 (MJF), Dave Hayes / Rich Bell, 40pts  
8th AUS 368, Richie Reynolds / Lissa McMillan, 53pts  
9th AUS 370 (The Plumbers), Ian & Scott Cunningham, 54pts  
10th GBR 764, Mark Pollard / Richard Hingston, 54pts

B14 Worlds Day 5: The final races

With a force 5-6 and a forecast for more the PRO chose to keep the fleet in Carrick Roads for the final showdown for the 2007 title. The wind had held its strength throughout the day and the roads provided a great relatively flat area for the racing.

Race 9 and with the line biased to the pin, the leading contenders all hit the left hand shore hard, led by Seavolution (Mark Barnes/Pete Nicholson) and AUS373 (Guy Bancroft/James Patterson). At the top mark AT&T (Tim Fells/Shawn Barber) led by 2 boat lengths from with Seavolution, who failing to make the buoy bailed out to drop back into the mid teens with CSC (Chris Bines/Dave Gibbons) rounding second followed by AUS373. At the hoist an unforced error saw CSC trawl their kite and capsized so releasing AT&T and AUS 373 followed by Ince&Co (Mark Watts/Tim Rogers) and 758 (Tim Harrison/Johnny Radcliffe).

The next two laps saw AT&T and Ince&Co fighting for the front from AUS373 and 758.

Up the final beat AUS373 hit the left hand shore with Ince&Co covering 758 up the right hand side to protect 4th overall. At the top mark AT&T had built a solid lead with AUS373 charging in from the right to take second from Ince&Co 3rd, 758 4th. With Seavolution making a late charge 4th to 6th overall was up for grabs.

Down the final run AT&T held on for a comfortable win from AUS373 2nd, followed by close formation of Ince&Co, Seavolution and 758. CSC had retired from the race to conserve their energy for the final race.

With one Race remaining the battle was on with AT&T and AUS374 tied for the Championship. CSC needing a win to stand a chance of taking 2nd overall after their disastrous first race.

The final race was upon us. With the leaders tied on equal points, the final showdown had arrived. Would AT&T prevail or would AUS373 take the glory.

Again the pin paid and was relatively chaos free with the fleet spreading to either side early to escape the tide. The top guys favoured the left hand side of the course early, then spreading after the first few minutes with AT&T, MJF and Ince & Co sticking left, Bonework and CSC hit the centre mid beat and stuck right later. Seavolution lead from the middle left up the first beat but were passed by AT&T at the top mark by 2 boatlengths.

The pointy end of the fleet was tight early with AT&T rounding in front of Seavolution closely followed by Velocitek, Hyde, MJF and Craftsman Homes.

This was to be the state of the game of the next 3 rounds with CSC in 8th with Bonework in 11th desperate to break through. The downhill slide was not quite full on but fruity. Those that went out into the channel led by Seavolution lost out slightly to those that went for the wind compression round the headland rather than the tide. At the leeward mark AT&T led from Seavolution by 50 m. followed by Velocitek, MJF and Craftsman Hoes. However, CSC were on the move and closing in on the first

group showing some fast downwind speed on a big wind line. Up the next beat the fleet headed right with Bonework rolling the dice and heading left. At the windward mark, AT&T Led but had been reeled in by Seavolution to about 30 m. followed by Velocitek, MJF and Craftsman Homes. CSC was now in the hunt chasing down these latter 3 picking off MJF and Craftsman Homes over the next round.

Down the run the fleet headed left and with no place changes but compression CSC were hounding Velocitek up the next beat. Bone work had rolled their dice and would not break into the top 5 on this round.

Up the next beat, CSC passed Velocitek to move into 3rd, now having the leading 2 firmly in their sites 100 – 150 m. ahead. At the windward mark AT&T led by 40 m. followed by Seavolution with CSC 40 m. back.

The leading pack all headed left with AT&T protecting their lead but with a big line of wind bringing CSC downwind, the 2 leaders looked vulnerable. At the gybing point, AT&T gybed into the wind but Seavolution had to wait for the Slay ride. When Seavolution gybed CSC followed and came down in much more pressure closing on the leading 2. At the finish, AT&T won the race and the Championships followed by Seavolution less than a boat length in front of CSC. This result relegated CSC to 3rd overall.

So with great winds all day the fleet was thoroughly pleased with the conditions that Mother Nature had provided. The Carrick Roads were a great and not so shifty spot to sail and the shallow water did not cause havoc on the fleet.

Throughout the fleet, the racing was tight, especially in the handicap series which was won by GBR 645 (Harrison/Miles Ashton) followed by Blue Marine (Allan Stuart/George Morris), Sailsport (Tony Blackmore/Charlotte Jones), 654 (Dan Cowin/Rachel Bennet) and Credo (Theo Gayler/Jack Spencer). First Youth was James Patterson and First Lady Lissa McMillan.

The fleet would like to congratulate Ian Fraser and his race team on the running of the races and Guy English and his shore management team.

1st GBR 773 (AT&T), Tim Fells / Shaun Barber, 16pts  
2nd AUS 373 (Bone Works), Guy Bancroft / James Patterson, 20pts  
3rd GBR 775 (CSC), Chris Bines / Dave Gibbon, 21pts  
4th GBR 772 (Ince & Co), Mark Watts / Stig Rogers, 40pts  
5th GBR 768 (Seavolution), Mark Barnes / Pete Nicholson, 42pts  
6th GBR 758, Tim Harrison / Jonny Radcliffe, 46pts  
7th GBR 757 (MJF), Dave Hayes / Rich Bell, 51pts  
8th AUS 368, (The Nude) Richie Reynolds / Lissa McMillan, 76pts  
9th AUS 370 (The Plumbers), Ian & Scott Cunningham, 78pts  
10th GBR 764, Mark Pollard / Richard Hingston, 79pts  
12th AUS 369, (Craftsman Homes) Adrian Beswick / Josh Phillips, 86pts  
13th AUS 374, (The Battered Sav's) Kelvin Boyle / Rhys Bancroft, 91ts  
19th AUS 357, (Bugger the Bone) Richard Fisher / Jason Walker, 132pts  
21th AUS 761, (It's not rocket surgery) Marty Johnston / Drew Malcom, 155pts  
33rd AUS 356, (Blitzkreig) Dennis Watson / Michael Watson, 220pts