

**Class News Release
November 2011**

**International B14 World Championships
Perth, Australia – January 2012**

Due to the economic situation within the European Union and further afield, sailing across the domestic fleets of Europe has seen a significant drop in the numbers of boats willing to undertake international travel. As a class we bucked this trend both in Hobart and Carnac with great turnouts and fantastic events. However the extended economic slowdown has resulted in a situation where the number of European boats willing to travel to Australia for the upcoming B14 World Championships makes the event not viable as a World Championship.

It is with regret that the B14 World Council has therefore decided to cancel the Perth Western Australia World Championships scheduled for January 2012. The world council wishes to thank all those that have been involved in shaping what should have been a fantastic event. The event will now revert to being the Australian National Titles and we hope the Australian fleet can still enjoy all that Perth has to offer and the fruits of the Australian Association efforts. The next World Championships will be scheduled shortly after consultation on timing and location.

Having had 51 B14's at the 2009 Worlds in Hobart, Tasmania and great success at the recent World Championships in Carnac, France 2010, the class has continued to be extremely vibrant in Europe and has seen a resurgence in Hong Kong. We are seeing the new UK class builder and the package from Seavolution attracting interest and new boat orders far above anything we have seen in recent memory and with new boats rolling out of the mould in Australia local fleets are looking strong for 2012 and beyond.

The B14 World Council and local class associations will now work to understand from all our members their support and requirements for a future Southern Hemisphere World championship. We will not rush into this and expect to work with the fleet to gather this information over the remainder of 2011 ready for fresh discussions and proposals in first half 2012.

If anyone has any immediate feedback or concerns please contact your local class association committee.

Thanks

**Mark Watts
On Behalf of B14 World Council.**