

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club runs a Stern Chaser Race

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Richard Churm.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat twelve of the 2020/21 Twilight series on the evening of Wednesday 3rd February. Twenty boats rigged up to compete in the extremely light South Easterly breeze of around 4 knots. John Byrne manned the start boat while Ian Ferguson and Mark Norling manned the rescue boat.

The seven cats set off first from the start line at the Club mark and headed to the Quarry mark. Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller led the way in close company with Sam Byllett & Lucy Cross and Adam Robinson & Mars. Alan Davis kept in touch with the bigger boats. Tim Symons & Ian Foster had their own battle. Tim snuck in front of Ian at the Quarry mark, only to hit the mark while rounding it. He then had to complete a penalty turn which allowed Ian to slip ahead. Freya & Hayden Slater followed the fleet on their Maricat.

The cats then continued on a very slow reach to the Mountain mark. The bigger two man cats slipped away from the one man cats to the mountain mark and back to the Bay mark. Tim passed Ian and tried to catch Alan.

Meanwhile the thirteen boat monohull fleet set off on a similar course to the Quarry and Peninsular marks and back to the Bay mark. The two fleets combined around the course. They all sailed a sausage leg from the Bay mark to the Quarry mark and back to the finish line at the Bay mark.

The full rigged Lasers made good use of their bigger soft sails in the very light conditions. Peter Baker retired his Sabre from the race after the triangle lap. Damian Goninan led the monohull fleet to the finish line. He was followed by Nic Kennedy, John Baird, Mal McLean, Hamish Greenwood, Rod Baillie, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Steve Osborne, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Duncan Higgs, Nathan Gorridge and Kerry McGaw.

Damian took a well-earned first win of the season on handicap corrected times. He was followed by Mal, Steve, Hamish, John, Terry & Lucas, Kerry, Rod, Phil & Nick, Duncan, Nic and Nathan.

The cats finished around the same time as the monohulls with Alistair & Gavin crossing the finish line first. They were followed by Adam & Mars, Sam & Lucy, Alan, Tim, Ian and Freya & Hayden. Alistair & Gavin kept the handicap times win followed by Freya & Hayden, Adam & Mars, Ian, Alan, Sam & Lucy and Tim.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran a Stern Chaser race on the afternoon of Saturday 6th February. This was a fun event where instead of the boats all starting together, the start is staggered with the slower boats starting first and the faster boats starting later. The object is for the faster boats to catch the slower boats before the ninety minute time limit expires.

As it was very windy and gusty when the sailors arrived at the Sailing club, they waited for the wind to settle. John Byrne set a windward / leeward course between the islands and the shore while Richard Churm, Mark Norling and Dudley manned the rescue boat.

Four catamarans competed in this race with Tim Symons and his Nacra being the first boat to start. He headed off from the start line set off Horizons resort on the first windward leg of the course. The cats battled the shifty and variable Westerly breeze as well as each other.

Adam Robinson & Verdon Robson made great use of their pink spinnaker and zoomed around the course. They soon overtook all of the others. After an hour and a half of racing, Adam & Verdon were declared the winners in Division 2 followed by Sam Byllett & Lucy Cross, Alistair & Alexi Cross and Tim.

Peter Baker led the 10 boat monohull fleet away from the start. He was then chased by Kerry McGaw on his Laser Radial and Laser full rig sailors John Baird, Rod Baillie, Damian Goninan, Hamish Greenwood and Stephen French. They were joined by Taser sailors Duncan Higgs and Nathan Gorridge with his daughter and Freya & Thor Slater on the club's NS14.

The shifting breeze made for a tricky and technical race as the sailors tried to avoid the whole in the breeze near Lion Island. The Lasers chased down Peter and Kerry with John and Rod battling for the lead. After an hour and a half of racing and 3 laps of the course, John was declared the winner of the Division 1 race.

False Starts and Fast Rides

Story by Tim Symons, photo by John Byrne, John Baird, Richard Churm

The sailors at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club were pleasantly surprised to find steady 7 to 12 knot South-South Easterly on the evening of Wednesday 10th February. Nine catamarans and fourteen monohulls competed in heat thirteen of the 2020/21 Twilight series. John Byrne manned the start boat while John Baird and Rod Miller manned the rescue boat.

The cats started first at the Club mark and headed off into the light breeze on a Port rounding, anti-clockwise direction course. Alan Davis got a good start and led the tightly bunched fleet to the Quarry mark for the first time. The two man cats raised their colourful spinnakers after rounding the mark and zoomed off towards the Mountain mark.

The breeze steadily built up to around 12 knots as the cat fleet gybed their way to the mark. Adam Robinson and Vardon Robson slipped to the front of the fleet while the other F18s gave chase. Peter and Tom Brulisauer enjoyed sailing their Hobie 16, especially on the long reach from the Mountain mark to the Bay mark. Unfortunately, they broke a rudder soon after that leg and had to retire from the race.

While the cats zoomed away on their first triangle lap, the monohull fleet gathered at the start line ready to go. The big fleet crowded the line near the start boat while the breeze strengthened. This caused a large number of boats to cross the line early. John had to signal a General Recall and re-start the race. He also raised the Black flag which meant that any boats which again cross the line early will be disqualified from the race. The second start resulted in a similar number of boats crossing the line early and five sailors received a DSQ disqualification. All of the fleet headed off to the quarry regardless of the Black Flag disqualifications.

The cats enjoyed some fast rides around the four-lap course especially the long legs out to the Mountain mark and back where the boats with spinnaker really excelled. Adam and Vardon led the cat fleet to the finish line followed by Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop 10 seconds ahead of Michael Fearnside and Ross Tattersall, Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross finished next followed by Alan Davis just 1 second in front of Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller. Tim Symons finished next and Barry Dennis completed the fleet.

Adam & Vardon kept their win on Handicap corrected times. Jason & Sam and Sam & Lucy tied for second place. Alan came fourth followed by Tim, Michael & Ross, Alistair & Gavin and Barry.

The monohull fleet completed a three-lap course, but many didn't recognise the Bay mark finish line on the last lap rounding the mark and sailing back towards the Quarry mark. Peter Baker retired his Sabre from the race and returned to the beach. Damian Goninan led the monohull fleet to the finish line, followed by Hamish Greenwood, Kerry McGaw, Tony Peterson, Duncan Higgs, Ian Ferguson, Nathan Goringe and Freya & Thor Slater on the club's NS14. Kerry took the win on handicap corrected times followed by Hamish, Damian, Ian, Tony and Duncan in equal fifth place, Freya & Thor and Nathan.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat ten of the 2020/21 Point-score series on the afternoon of Saturday 13th February. Richard Churm manned the rescue boat and assisted John Byrne, on the start boat to set a start line on the main lake. The eight catamarans set off into the 12 to 14 knot South-south Easterly breeze with most opting for a Port tack start from the buoy end of the start line. Three cats crossed the line early and had to return to the start line to re-start. Adam Robinson & Vardon Robson re-started quickly while Michel Fearnside & Ross Tattersall and Alan Davis were chased by the rescue boat for Richard to inform them of their error. Freya and Thor Slater started a bit late on their Maricat and didn't complete the course. Doug Peterson & Greg Madeya joined the cat fleet for the first time on their blue Hobie 18.

The eight monohulls started 5 minutes after the cats with all sailors starting cleanly. The Port rounding course took all of the sailors on a large triangle lap around the Peninsular, Cardinal and Mountain marks and back to the Peninsular mark. A sausage lap to the Cardinal mark and back followed. This

lap was supposed to be a Windward / Leeward lap, but a shift in the breeze produced shy reaches back and forth.

Phil Daley & Harriet Greville sailed a different sausage leg as the course hadn't been explained to them. Their result was adjusted to correct this. Mal McLean got a bit lost on the course too and didn't complete the proper course. Peter Baker retired from the race before the finish.

The cats completed a full five lap course of three triangles and two sausages while the monohulls complete two triangles and sausage lap. All of the sailors zoomed around the course in the steady breeze with the cats making good use of their spinnakers and trapezes.

Michael & Ross and Alan had to chase the fleet after their re-starts left them at the back of the fleet Michael and Ross steadily made up the lost ground around the course and crossed the finish line first. They were followed by Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross just 10 seconds in front of Adam & Vardon. Next to finish were Alister & Alexi Cross, Tim Symons, Alan and Doug & Greg. The Yardstick corrected times gave Tim the win from Alan, Alistair & Alexi, Sam & Lucy, Adam & Vardon, Michael & Ross and Doug & Greg.

After nearly an hour of hard physical racing Damian Goninan crossed the monohulls finish line first just ahead on adjusted time from Phil and Harriet. Next to finish were Hamish Greenwood, Stephen French, new members Sinead Stone & Todd Rosevear on the club's Corsair, Rod & Cheryl Miller. Damian took the corrected time win from Hamish, Stephen, Phil & Harriet, Sinead & Todd and Rod & Cheryl.

Over the weekend of 13 and 14 February four Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club members attended the NSW Laser Masters regatta on Jervis Bay. Steve Osborne and Kerry McGaw sailed in the 75 strong Radial rig fleet while Rod Baillie and John Baird raced in the 62 boat Standard rig fleet. They enjoyed the challenge of this big regatta and endured big winds and seas on the open waters of Jervis Bay and plenty of close racing with like minded Laser sailors.

Zooming around on Wednesday and Drifting on Saturday

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne, Rod Miller and Richard Churm

The Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club sailors enjoyed another steady breeze on the evening of Wednesday 17th February when they competed in heat fourteen of the 2020/21 Twilight series. John Byrne and Jo Wright manned the start boat and set an interesting starboard rounding course on the main lake. Peter Baker and Rod Miller manned the start boat.

The nine cats started at the Club mark and headed off into the light north easterly breeze on a long windward work to the far away Mountain mark. The breeze dropped a minute from the start and the boats crawled over the start line. They soon reached the main lake and found a steady 12 to 14 knots of breeze. The cats zoomed away on their first triangle lap around Mountain, Cardinal and Peninsular marks. The reaching legs saw the F18 cats zoom away carrying their colourful spinnakers and using their trapezes to keep the boats flat.

The eleven strong monohull fleet followed the cats out onto the same big course. The Laser full rig sailors of Rod Baillie, John Baird, Hamish Greenwood, Damian Goninan and Mal Mclean all battled with each other and Nic Kennedy on his Finn. The sailors worked hard to keep their boats flat in the strong breeze while they zoomed around the course.

After a race of fast rides and big smiles around the triangle, sausage, triangle three lap course, the cats headed to the finish line at the Peninsular mark. Adam Robinson & Vardon Robson crossed the finish line first followed by Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop, Alan Davis, Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller, Tim Symons, Barry Dennis, Peter & Tom Brulisauer, Andrew Kennedy and Freya & Thor Slater.

The handicap corrected times gave Adam & Vardon the win while mixing up the rest of the results. Barry took second place from Jason & Sam, Alan, Tim, Alistair & Gavin, Freya & Thor, Peter & Tom and Andrew.

After sailing the same three laps as the cats, Nic had slipped to the front of the monohull fleet and crossed the finish line first. He was followed by Rod, John, Damian, Hamish, Mal, Steve Osborne, Phil Daley & Ross Lawley, Tony Peterson, Gote Vikstrom and Kerry McGaw. Steve took his first handicap win of the season followed by Rod, Mal, Gote, Phil & Ross, Hamish, Kerry, John, Nic, Damian and Tony.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran two races in the Sir William Hudson Cup for monohulls and Foundation Cup for multihulls series on the hot afternoon of Saturday 20th February. The sailors waited over half an hour after the scheduled start time for the extremely light breeze to decide which direction it was going to be. John Byrne changed the race one course direction from port rounding to starboard rounding and set a start line at the Peninsular mark while Mark Norling and Richard Churm manned the rescue boat.

The cats set off on a reaching leg, rather than the usual windward work to the Mountain mark. The three F18s slipped to the front of the ten boat cat fleet. The sailors worked on finding the breeze as it varied greatly in strength and direction around the course. Some gusts of around 8 knots allowed the use of their trapezes. The leading F18s were becalmed at the Mountain mark for a while, allowing the rest of fleet to catch up. The breeze dropped to round 2 to 4 knots for the last two legs of the race. Jason Abbott and Gemma Burns didn't round the Mountain mark and didn't complete the course.

After nearly an hour completing two triangles and a sausage lap, Michael & Ross led the cats to the finish line at the cardinal mark. They were followed by Sam & Lucy, Adam & Vardon, Alistair & Alexi, Alan, Andrew, Tim, Freya & Hayden Slater and Ian Foster. The yardstick corrected times mixed up the results with Freya & Hayden taking the win from Andrew, Alan, Tim, Alistair & Alexi, Sam & Lucy, Michael & Ross, Adam & Vardon and Ian.

Eleven monohulls competed in race one over the same course as the cats. The diminishing breeze slowed up the boats with some taking over an hour and a half to complete the course. Ross Lawley, Ian Ferguson and Kerry McGaw didn't complete the course.

Nic led the monohulls to the finish line followed by John Bd, Rod, Phil & Harriet, Stephen F, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Steve O and Mal. John Bd took the yardstick win from Nic, Rod, Steve O, Phil & Harriet, Stephen F, Mal and Terry & Lucas.

The boats re-grouped for a second race with the cats starting from a new start line at the cardinal mark before the last of the monohulls had finished race one. The two F18 Capricorns decided not to compete in race 2 and the now eight boat fleet set off on a two leg race up to a mark near Curiosity Rocks Bay and back to the Cardinal mark.

The wind had dropped to next to nothing by this stage and the boats struggled to find enough breeze to keep them moving. Michael & Ross led the leet around the top mark and back down to the finish line. Some cleaver down wind sailing saw Alistair & Alexi pass them and finish first. Sam & Lucy finished next after Michael & Ross. Then came Tim, Alan, Andrew, Ian and Freya & Hayden. Alistair & Alexi took the yardstick corrected times by only 2 seconds from Tim. Andrew came third followed by Alan, Sam & Lucy, Michael & Ross, Freya & Hayden and Ian.

Before all of the cats had finished, John had to rush back up the course to set the finish line for the monohulls who sailed a single leg course. Mark & Richard on the rescue boat recorded the finishing times of the last two boats at the Cardinal mark finish line.

Four monohull sailors chose not to compete in race two leaving a fleet of seven Lasers. After a slow work in the extremely light breeze from the Cardinal mark to the finish line near Curiosity Rocks Bay of over half an hour, Rod crossed first. He was followed by John Bd, Mal, Stephen F, Kerry, Steve O and Ian Ferguson. Rod took the yardstick win from John Bd, Kerry, Steve O, Mal, Stephen F and Ian.

Tough Conditions on Lake Jindabyne

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne, Barry Dennis, Jo Wright and Sophie Goninan

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat fourteen of the 2020/21 Twilight series on the cold evening of Wednesday 24th February. Lake Jindabyne served up the toughest conditions of the season with a strong North-north Easterly breeze blowing down the lake and producing two to three foot waves. The wind started at around 12 to 14 knots and built to 20 in the middle and dropped to about 10 knots at the end of the race.

John Byrne manned the start boat while John Russell and Barry Dennis manned the rescue boat. John B set a three lap course for each division with the catamarans completing a large triangle and two sausage laps between the bay and Mountain marks. The monohulls sailed the same laps but used the Peninsular mark on the triangle laps.

The eight cats set off from the start line at the Bay mark into the steady breeze and large waves. They struggled to cross the start line on starboard tack and soon tacked onto port and headed out towards the mountain mark. Various battles within the race ensued between such as the F18s of Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop and Adam Robinson & Vardon Robson. The two Nacras of Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller and Tim Symons raced Alan Davis on his Hobie 17. Hobie 17 sailors Andrew Kennedy and Martin Bannister battled each other while Freya & Thor Slater on their Maricat completed the fleet.

Adam and Vardon capsized their F18 and had to recover and chase the fleet. Others had difficulties tacking their wide cats in the wavy conditions and the big hole in the breeze near Lion Island added complication to the race. Jason & Sam slipped to the front of the fleet and reached the finish line at the bay mark first nearly 10 minutes ahead of Adam and Vardon. Next to finish were Alan, Tim, Alistair & Gavin, Andrew, Martin and Freya & Thor. Jason & Sam took the handicap corrected times win followed by Alan, Tim, Alistair & Gavin, Adam & Vardon only 1 second ahead of Freya & Thor, Andrew and Martin.

The 10 strong monohull fleet battled the conditions and themselves too. John Baird on his Laser raced Flying fifteen sailors Phil Daley & Nick Kershner at the front of the fleet while Rod Baillie and Steve Osborne battled with each other. Many of the sailors had to recover from capsizes in the tough conditions.

John Bd led the monohull fleet to the finish line followed by Phil & Nick, Steve O, Rod, Mal McLean, Stephen French, Kerry McGaw, Damian Goninan, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee and Ian Ferguson. Steve O took a well earned win on handicap corrected times followed by Phil & Nick, John Bd, Kerry, Rod, Mal, Stephen F, Terry & Lucas, Damian and Ian.

The sailors gathered at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club for heat eleven of the 2020-21 Point-score series on the afternoon of Saturday 27th February. A light to medium breeze was blowing while the boats were rigged and sailed out to the start line on the main lake. But it dropped dramatically at the start of the race leaving the sailors with only 2 to 4 knots of breeze to during the race.

John Byrne manned the start boat and was assisted by Jo Wright while Damian and Sophie Goninan manned the rescue boat. The five cats started first at the start line in the middle of the course and headed to the Peninsular mark, then the Mountain mark on a large triangle lap. The seven monohulls started 5 minutes after the cats and completed the same triangle and sausage laps.

The very light breeze made for a slow progression around the course. Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall led the cats around the course and to the finish line at the peninsular mark around 10 minutes ahead of the rest of the fleet. They were followed by Tim Symons, Andrew Kennedy, Freya & Thor Slater and Martin Bannister. Freya and Thor took the win on yardstick corrected times followed by Michael & Ross, Tim, Andrew & Martin.

In the monohulls race, some individual battles within the race still occurred despite the lack of wind. Phil Daley & Harriet Greville on their Flying Fifteen had a great battle with Duncan Higgs on his Taser while Impulse sailor, Ross Lawley raced with Kerry McGaw on his Laser Radial. John Baird showed off his light wind sailing skills on his Laser Full rig leading the fleet around the course and to the finish

line. He was followed by Stephen French, Phil & Harriet, Duncan, Steve Osborne, Ross and Kerry. John took the win on yardstick corrected times followed by Stephen F, Steve O, Phil & Harriet, Duncan, Ross & Kerry.

Two Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club members, Sam Bylett and Lucy Cross, travelled to Sydney to compete in the NSW state championships for the Viper F16 catamaran class on 26th to 28th February. The event was held at the Bayview Yacht Racing Association club on Pittwater and replaced the Jindabyne regatta which was blown away in December 20. Sam and Lucy came 4th, by only 1 point. An excellent achievement in their first F16 regatta and first season in the class. Sam and Lucy will join other LJSC sailors at Wallagoot Lake Boat Club's annual regatta over the weekend of the 6th and 7th March.