

The Sailing Season Commences, Despite the Rain.

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

The 2020/21 Sailing Season commenced at lake Jindabyne Sailing Club on Saturday 31st October with the running of the first heat of the 2020/21 Point-score series. Despite the rainy weather, five monohulls and 5 catamarans rigged up to compete in the race. John Byrne manned the start boat while Richard and Mark manned the rescue boat.

John set a Port rounding course and a start line at the Bay Mark. He sent the two fleets off together, though some of the Laser sailors expected starts for each division and so were a bit slow crossing the line, letting the cats go first. Alan "Barney" Davis led the cats through the start while Nic Kennedy on his Finn was the first monohull across the line. These two stayed in front as they led their separate divisions around the course.

The wind grew from around 6 knots at the start to 10 to 12 knots during the race. Luckily the sailors only had one small rain shower to contend with during the race. Andrew Kennedy followed Alan around the first triangle lap and onto the first sausage lap while being chased down by Sam Bylett and Hamish Greenwood sailing their Viper F16 for the first time. The quick F16 cat eventually passed Andrew and set off after Alan, but failed to catch him. Marty Wittington sailed his Hobie 17 for the first time as he had just purchased it. Thor and Freya Slater started about seven minutes late on their Maricat 4.3 and tried to catch the other cats.

After a four lap race, Alan led the cats to the finish line followed by Sam & Hamish, Andrew, Marty and Thor & Freya who finished together. Alan took the win on yardstick corrected times followed by Andrew, Thor & Freya, Sam & Hamish and Marty.

In the monohulls race, the four Laser sailors followed Nic around the four lap course. He finished first followed by Damien Goninan sailing his recently purchased Laser full rig for the first time. Next came Kerry McGaw and new members, Stephen French and Ian Fergusson. The yardstick corrected times win went to Nic followed by Kerry, Damien, Steve and Ian. The sailors all enjoyed the race, though hoped for fine weather for the next race on Wednesday 4th November.

Meanwhile the Sailing Club's New Sheds is going ahead with the two concrete slabs ready to be laid in preparation for the construction of the sheds.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's Twilight Series Gets Underway

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne, Ian Foster and Tim Symons

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's premier Twilight series commenced for the 2020/21 sailing season with race one held on the evening of Wednesday 4th November. After a warm and sunny day, a cold and rainy afternoon approached as the Lake Jindabyne sailing Club sailors rigged their boats for the first twilight race of the season. Seven mono-hulls and six catamarans made up the fleet with John Byrne on the start boat and Ian Foster and Steve Osborne manning the rescue boat. The start boat's engine decided not to co-operate due to a flat battery resulting in John and the start boat being towed out to the start line near the Bay Mark. John set a Port rounding course in the Southerly breeze. The breeze shifted dramatically to the South West, resulting in a square run start rather than the expected windward work.

The cats started first with Alan Davis getting his usual good start. He was followed by Tim Symons and Andrew Kennedy to the Quarry mark which they rounded together and set off to chase Alan. Thor and Freya Slater followed next on their Maricat with Jason Abbott and Sam Bishop on their F18 starting a bit late. Adam Robinson and Mars on their F18 got on the water, but too late for the start. So, they sailed around instead.

The monohull fleet consisting of five Laser plus a Finn and a 470 dinghy crossed the start line five minutes after the cats. Nic Kennedy and John Baird started up their regular battle at the front of the fleet as they sailed around the first triangle lap. The wind increased to around 8 to 10 knots with the occasional stronger gusts.

The boats zoomed around the three lap course with the cats making good use of their trapezes in the stronger gusts. After a close battle, Tim managed to slip ahead of Andrew who was eventually caught by Jason & Sam while Freya skippered the Maricat. Alan led the cat fleet to the finish line at the Bay mark, followed by Tim, Jason & Sam, Andrew and Thor & Freya. The Handicaps have rolled over from last season which helped Andrew get the win from Freya & Thor, Alan, Tim and Jason & Sam.

Meanwhile the monohulls battled each other and the gusty breeze around the inside course. Some had to recover from capsize to continue racing while John Baird retired from the race. Nic led the fleet to the finish line followed by Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Damien Goninan, Kerry McGaw, Mal McLean and Ian Ferguson. Kerry sailed his Laser Radial well against a bunch of Laser Full Rigs to take the Handicap corrected time win from Terry & Lucas, Nic, Damien, Mal and Ian.

A sunny but chilly afternoon greeted the sailors on Saturday 7th November. John Byrne manned the start boat while Ross Lawley and Tim Symons manned the rescue boat. John set a course on the main lake and a start line at the Peninsular mark in the erratic 6 to 8 knot South, South Easterly breeze. The start boat moved downwind a bit before the start which slewed the start line from its preferred position. As the six catamarans made their way to the start line the rescue boat got caught in their way & had to avoid several of the cats as they zoomed past. The resulting start was a bit confused and several boats crossed the line early. As the catamaran start is the five minute warning for the mono-hulls, John decided not to recall the cats for a new start. The eight monohulls also had a confused start with several boats over the line early. Again, John decided to let them go.

The cat's zoomed off on the first triangle lap with a long single tack work to the cardinal mark off Cub Island. Adam and Mars on the Capricorn F18 slipped top the front while being chased by Michael Fearnside and Ross Tattersall on the Hobiecat Wild Cat F18 and the other cats. The cats sailed two triangles and two windward / leeward (sausage) legs before finishing back at the Peninsular mark. Michael and Ross finally caught and passed Adam and Mars while Alistair & Alexi Cross on their Nacra 5.8 steadily worked their way through the fleet and chased the two F18s. Andrew Kennedy on his Hobie 17 battled with Sam Bylatt and Lucy Cross on their Viper F16 with the F16 only passing him on the last sausage leg of the race. Marty Wittington brought up the rear on his Hobie 17.

Nic Kennedy on his Finn slipped to the front of the monohull fleet. He was closely chased by John Baird and Hamish Greenwood on their Laser full rigs. Three more Laser full rigs sailed by Damien Goninan, Steve French and Mal McLean battled away along with Steve Osborne on his Laser radial.

Peter Baker on his Spiral slipped off the fleet a bit and retired from the race. The monohulls completed a three lap race of two triangles and a sausage lap.

Michael and Ross led the cat fleet to the finish line at the Peninsular mark. Alistair and Alexi found some extra breeze near Lion Island on the last leg to pass Adam and Mars and finish second with Adam and Mars third. Next to finish were Sam and Lucy followed by Andrew and Marty. The Yardstick corrected times mixed the results up with Alistair & Alexi taking the win from Andrew, Michael & Ross, Adam & Mars, Sam & Lucy and Marty.

Nic led the monohull fleet to the finish line, while John and Hamish battled for second place. Hamish capsized on the last leg, allowing John to finish second and Hamish third. Next to finish were Damien, Steve F, Mal and Steve O. John took the yardstick corrected times win from Nic, Hamish, Damien, Steve O, Steve F and Mal. After the completion of the monohull race, John Byrne started the trip back to the beach as the start boat was taking on water. Ross and Tim kept the rescue boat at the finish line until Marty completed the course. Meanwhile, on the start boat, John had to sit as far forward as possible to reduce the water in the stern as he safely returned to the beach.

Not Much Wind on Wednesday and Plenty on Saturday

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Alan Davis

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat two of the 2020/21 Twilight series on the warm evening of Wednesday 11th November. The light North Westerly breeze of around 5 to 8 knots before the start started to drop as the 6 pm start time approached. John Byrne assisted by Richard Churm in the start boat set a Starboard rounding course with a start line at the Club mark. Phil Daley manned the Rescue boat.

The seven catamarans set off from the start to the Bay mark in a tight bunch in the light breeze. The two F18s slipped to the front, rounded the Bay mark first and set off on a long reach to the far-off mountain mark. They struggled to carry their spinnakers on the shy reaching leg while being chased by the other cats. Meanwhile, the fourteen monohulls started 5 minutes after the cats. Their first triangle lap took them around the Bay, Peninsular and Quarry marks.

The two fleets joined up on the last leg of the first triangle lap from the Quarry mark to the Bay mark. This made for a busy windward work with a mixture of fast & slow boats and many port tack boats giving way to starboard tack boats. The breeze steadily dropped to about 0 to 2 knots. The boats slowly made their way around their second triangle lap while searching for the elusive breeze. Andrew Kennedy and Thor & Freya Slater retired their cats before the finish. Peter Baker, Jason Frost, Mal McLean and new members in their first race, Rod and Cheryl Miller all retired from the monohull race too.

After their 3 laps race and about an hour and a half, the cats were led to the finish by the two Capricorn F18s. Jason Abbott and Sam Bishop finished first, 27 seconds ahead of Adam Robinson and Mars. The two Nacras finished next with Alistair Cross and Gavin Fuller finally slipping away from Tim Symons and Hobie 17 sailor Alan Davis. The Handicap corrected times mixed up the cats' results with Tim taking the win from Jason & Sam, Alan, Alistair & Gavin and Adam & Mars.

The monohulls sailed 3 laps of the smaller course and finished just in front of the cat fleet with Nic Kennedy and his Finn crossing the finish line first. He was followed by a gaggle of Lasers led by John Baird, Hamish Greenwood, Damien Goninan, Stephen French, Gote Vikstrom, Steve Osborne, 1 second in front of 470 sailors Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Ian Ferguson and Kerry McGaw. John took the handicap corrected times win from Nic, Gote, Hamish, Steve O, Damien, Stephen F, Ian, Terry & Lucas and Kerry.

Green Fleet racing for the club's juniors is back on again this season with a bunch of kids and instructors turning up on the morning of Saturday 14th November. They all enjoyed a great session practicing their sailing skills along with the club's team of youth instructors. They enjoyed a sunny morning with a medium strength breeze to push the club's Optimist dinghies along.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat 3 of the 2020/21 Point-score series on the afternoon of Saturday 14th November. The sailors raced around a large course on the main lake expecting the forecast 10 knots of breeze while getting a North Westerly breeze of 15 knots and more. John Byrne and Peter Baker manned the start boat while Alan Davis manned the rescue boat.

The nine cats started first at the Club mark, zoomed off on a short windward leg to the Bay mark, then a long shy reach to the Mountain mark. The three F18 cats zoomed to the lead in the strong breeze with good use of their trapezes and spinnakers. The rest of the cats chased them around the course and battled amongst themselves. The nine monohulls started five minutes after the cats and set off into the tough conditions on the main lake. All of the sailors worked hard on their boats in the windy and wavy conditions. Many had to recover from capsizes around the course. Jason Abbott and Sam Bishop spectacularly capsized their Capricorn F18 and recovered quickly to chase the other F18 cats. Mal McLean and his Laser retired from the monohull race.

The big cats split off from the others on the long 5 lap course with Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall leading Adam Robinson & Mars, then Jason & Sam to the Finish line at the Peninsular mark over twelve minutes ahead of the other cats. Tim Symons finished fourth followed by Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross, Alistair & Alexi Cross, Barry Dennis, Marty Wittington and Thor & Freya Slater. Michael

and Ross took the yardstick corrected times win from Tim, Adam & Mars, Jason & Sam, Barry, Thor & Freya, Alistair & Alexi and Marty.

After a three lap course, John Baird led the monohulls to the finish line, closely followed by Phil Daley and Harriet Greville, Stephen French, Kerry McGaw, Steve Osborne, Hamish Greenwood, Damian Goninan and Ian Ferguson. The yardstick corrected times gave Kerry the win from John, Steve O, Stephen F. Hamish, Phil & Harriet, Damian and Ian.

The construction Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's new sheds is continuing on schedule with the erection of the frame for the smaller shed.

Where's the Wind?

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

Lots of sailors gathered at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club to compete in heat 3 of the 2020/21 Twilight series on the warm evening of Wednesday 18th November. Amongst them were Hobie 16 sailors Randy Wieman, keen to test his new sails, and Peter Brulisauer, sailing for the first time this season. But, all were disappointed after waiting for around an hour, race officer, John Byrne signalled the cancellation of the race with three hoots of the start boat's horn. A bunch of Laser sailors still launched and had sail around in 0 to 2 knots of breeze.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club was a hive of activity on Saturday 21st November. A working bee had members busily mowing, brush cutting and cleaning around the clubhouse while a team reviewed the club's buoys and equipment in preparation for the upcoming Snowy Mountains on 4th to 6th December. While this was going on, the juniors participated in their regular Green fleet racing in the club's Optimist dinghies. After all that work and a sausage sizzle, the Juniors packed up and the seniors prepared their boats for two races that afternoon.

The first race was set to start at 1pm with a second race scheduled for 3pm. The sailors waited for the wind to arrive and John Byrne set a start line at the Peninsular mark. Richard Churm and Mark Norling manned the rescue boat. At about 1:20pm, the seven catamarans started the port rounding course first and headed off on a long, slow windward work in the 0 to 4 knot South Easterly breeze. Alistair and Alexi Cross slipped to the front of the fleet and reached the Cardinal mark behind cub island first. They turned towards the Mountain mark and discovered a new North Westerly breeze and sped away from the rest of the fleet. They were followed by Alan Davis, Tim Symons and Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross and the rest of the cats. The breeze built to 8 to 12 knots and allowed the sailors to use their trapezes to good effect.

The nine monohulls started five minutes after the cats. They too made slow progress to the cardinal mark with Nic Kennedy on his Finn battling for the lead with Laser Full Rig sailors Rod Baillie and John Baird. The monohulls too enjoyed the new stronger breeze as they raced to the Mountain mark, then back to the Peninsular mark to complete the first triangle lap. This was followed by a sausage lap to the cardinal mark and back to the Peninsular mark and another triangle lap for both divisions.

Though the North Westerly breeze was quite strong in places, it varied in strength during the race and around the course which kept the sailors searching for the best breeze to keep their speed up. Alistair and Alexi steadily built up a large lead on the rest of the cats and led to the finish line at the Peninsular mark. Tim managed to keep ahead of Sam and Lucy and passed Alan to finish next. Then came Sam & Lucy, Alan, Adam Robinson & Mars, Andrew Kennedy and Marty Whittington. Due to the very light breeze before the start, Thor & Freya Slater started about 15 minutes late and didn't receive a score. Alistair & Alexi took a well-earned yardstick corrected times win from Tim, Alan, Sam & Lucy, Andrew, Marty and Adam & Mars,

Meanwhile in the monohulls' race, Rodney and Cheryl Miller retired early in their yellow Tasar. After some tight racing, Nic led the fleet to the finish followed by John, Rod, Mal McLean, Damian Goninan, Stephen French Hamish Greenwood and Kerry McGaw. The top three remained the same after yardstick corrections with Kerry fourth from Mal, Damian & Stephen.

John moved the start line to the Cardinal mark for race two and sent the cats off to the Peninsular mark on a Starboard rounding course. Adam & Mars made up for their mistakes in the first race and led the fleet around the triangle and sausage laps with a final windward work to the finish at the Peninsular mark. The wind fluctuated around the course with fast and slow sections. Adam & Mars finished first. Alistair & Alexi battled with Alan around the course and finished next only 10 seconds ahead of Alan. Tim finished next followed by Andrew, Sam & Lucy and Thor & Freya. Marty didn't compete in race two. Alan took the yardstick corrected times win from Tim, Alistair & Lucy, Thor & Freya, Adam & Mars, Andrew and Sam & Lucy.

A similar scenario to race one unfolded in the monohulls second race with Nic, John and Rod battling at the front of the fleet. Steve Osborne joined the fleet and Rod & Cheryl didn't compete in race two. Nic finished first followed by John, Rod, Damian, Steve O, Hamish, Mal, Stephen F and Kerry. The

yardstick corrected times didn't change much with Nic first followed by John, Rod, Damian, Steve O, Hamish, Kerry, Mal and Stephen F.

Big Fleets and Fickle Wind

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne, Richard Churm and Thor Slater

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat four of the 2020/21 Twilight series on the warm evening of Wednesday 25th November. A mechanical problem with the rescue boat's motor put it out of action. Luckily Rick Edmiston from Alpine Sailing lent the club their rescue boat for the race. This kindness became extremely important when the start boat's flat battery wouldn't start its motor and so it and John Byrne had to be towed to the start line at the Quarry mark to start the race. John was joined by a visitor from America, Caleb while Michael Fearnside and Richard Churm manned the borrowed rescue boat. They got the start boat's motor started after the race start, so the two boats got back to watching the sailors and being available to lend assistance if required.

As usual, the seven boat cat fleet started first into the 6 to 7 knot Westerly breeze. Most of the cats started on Port Tack and sped off to the Bay mark on the first triangle lap of the Starboard rounding course. Alistair Cross and Gavin Fuller rounded the Bay mark first on their Nacra 5.8 and extended their lead on the long reach to the Mountain mark. They were followed by Tim Symons, Alan "Barney" Davis, Adam Robinson and the rest of the fleet. The breeze varied up and down in strength as the cats zoomed along in the gusty bits.

The fourteen boat monohull fleet started five minutes after the cats. Full rigged Laser sailors, John Baird, Rod Baillie, Damian Goninan Hamish Greenwood and Mal McLean headed to the front of the fleet in company with the bigger boats of Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee and Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner.

The cats used their trapezes and Adam his spinnaker to race around the course. Adam moved to the front of the cat fleet and Alistair's lead reduced during the race. Alan caught and passed Tim while Barry Dennis and Andrew Kennedy kept chasing on their Hobie 17s. Randy Wieman retired his Hobie 16 with its flash new sails from the race.

After both fleets had completed a 3 lap course, John shortened the course and set a finish line at the Bay mark at the end of the second triangle lap. In the cat's race, Adam finished first, followed by Alistair & Gavin, Alan, Tim, Barry and Andrew. The handicap corrected times mixed up the results with Andrew taking the win from Barry, Alan, Adam, Tim and Alistair & Gavin.

As the breeze slowly dropped in strength, John led the monohull fleet to the finish line followed by Rod, Hamish, Terry & Lucas, Damian, Gote Vikstrom, Phil & Nick, Mal McLean, Stephen French, Steve Osborne, Kerry McGaw, Ian Ferguson, Rod & Cheryl Miller and Jason Frost. The handicap corrected times gave Gote the win from Hamish, Kerry, John, Mal, Steve O, Rod, Damian, Terry, Phil, Ian, Stephen F, Rod and Jason.

After a very hot and windy morning, the sailors gathered to compete in Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's fourth heat of the 2020/21 Point-score series on the afternoon of Saturday 28th November. The sailors anxiously waited for the excessive wind to drop while 37 knots was recorded at the club. After waiting for the wild weather to abate, the sailors were rigging their boats when a sudden severe storm hit the lake foreshore. The sailors had to hold down their boats to prevent damage, Adam Robinson's jib on his F18 was badly damaged and Tim Symons' Nacra catamaran was blown into the lake. John Byrne, Martin Bannister, Thor & Freya Slater and Tim jumped into the club's two rescue boats took to the lake and retrieved Tim's boat. Alexi Cross saved Tim's sail from damage as it blew off the cat's trampoline into the lake.

After all of that excitement, John Byrne and John Baird manned the start boat and set a course on the main lake with a start line at the cardinal mark behind Cub Island. The Lasers set off for the start line while the cats were still rigging their boats. Adam Robinson borrowed a jib from Jason Abbott to rig his boat. The breeze dropped considerably and shifted to the East so that the Johns had to move the start line to the Peninsular mark. This allowed the cats to reach the start in the very light breeze while the Lasers returned from the cardinal mark.

The five cats set off in a zero to two knot breeze at Peninsular mark start line. Some were still trying to reach the start line when the race started. A sudden wind shift had all of the boats on a Port tack as

they set off towards the cardinal mark. The Lasers started next with a similar slow start and long port tack. After an agonisingly slow windward work up the single leg course, the two Johns moved the start boat to the cardinal mark, shortened the course and set a finish line, just as Alan Davis reached the mark. He was followed by Tim Symons, Alistair & Alexi Cross Adam Robinson and Andrew Kennedy. The Yardstick corrected times didn't change the cats' results much with Alan taking the win from Tim, Alistair, Andrew and Adam.

The four Lasers battled away on the same long, slow work as the cats. The first Laser sailor to reach the cardinal mark was Full rig sailor Damian Goninan, followed by Radial rig sailors Steve Osborne, Kerry McGaw and new member and Full rig sailor Tony Peterson. The yardstick corrected times helped the Radial sailors with Steve taking the win from Kerry, Damian and Tony.