

Ah the Serenity – First Race for the Season

All was serene on Lake Jindabyne as the boats sat still on the mirror like surface. This was the scene of the first day of the sailing season as Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat one of the 2021-22 Point-score series on the afternoon of Sunday 31st October 2021. The warm and sunny day provided the sailors with plenty of serenity but not much wind. After waiting for what wind there was to arrive, John Byrne on the start boat, assisted by Jo Wright, started the race into the very light Easterly breeze. Ross Lawley and Michael Fearnside manned the club's rescue boat.

The eight catamarans started first with many struggling to cross the line in the almost non-existent breeze. Several of the catamaran sailors were sailing their boats in their first race including Adam Robinson & his dog, Alan Davis and Doug Paterson on their Nacra 16 squares, Alistair & Alexi Cross on their new Nacra 5.8, Thor & Freya Slater on their Capricorn F18 and Sinead Stone and Todd Rosevear on their Hobie Tiger F18.

Alan had a great start and found a helpful lift in the breeze which took him up the shoreline from the Bay mark to the Quarry mark. He was followed by Alistair & Alexi while the rest of the fleet took different routes to the mark. Alan led the cats around the Quarry mark and towards the Peninsular mark on a long windward work as the breeze had shifted to the North East.

Meanwhile, the nine monohulls started 5 minutes after the cats and slowly made their way towards the Quarry mark on the Port rounding course. The lead changed several times in both fleets as the sailors struggled to keep their boats moving while searching for that elusive bit of extra breeze. Both fleets sailed a single triangle course around the Quarry and Peninsular marks and back to the finish at the Bay mark. Alistair & Alexi led the cats around the Peninsular mark followed by Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross on their Viper F16.

After more than an hour of extremely slow progress, Sam & Lucy led the cats to the finish line followed by Tim Symons on his Nacra 16 square, Adam, Alistair & Alexi, Alan, Thor & Freya, Sinead & Todd, and Doug. The Yardstick corrected times gave Tim the win from Adam, Alan, Sam & Lucy, Alistair & Alexi, Doug, Sinead & Todd and Thor & Freya.

In the monohull fleet, Peter Baker on his Sabre and Duncan Higgs Tasar didn't complete the course. John Baird led the fleet to the finish line, followed by Stephen French, Damien Goninan, Steve Osborne, Ian Ferguson, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee and Kerry McGaw. The yardstick corrected times didn't change the results by much as six of the boats were all Laser Full rigs with the same yardstick factor. John took the win from Stephen F, Damien, Steve O, Ian, Kerry and Terry & Lucas.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's next race will be heat one of the 2021-22 Twilight series on the evening of Wednesday 3rd November.

Cloudy Day Sailing

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat one of the 2021-22 Twilight series on the overcast evening of 3rd November. John Byrne manned the start boat with assistance from Adrian Condon while Michael Fearnside and Tony Davidson manned the rescue boat. After much deliberation and a few course changes, John set a start line at the Club mark and a Starboard rounding course.

The six catamaran Division 2 fleet started first into the 6 knot North-North Easterly breeze. Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller and Alan Davis made good starts and led the fleet to the Bay mark for the first time, then headed off to the far-off Mountain mark. Alistair & Gavin led the cat fleet around the 3 lap course and back to the finish at the Bay mark. Thor, Freya & Hayden Slater sailed their Capricorn F18 through the fleet and finished next followed by Alan on his Nacra 16 square who kept up with the bigger boats. Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross finished next followed by Adam Robinson and Tim Symons as the breeze dropped on the way to the finish. Alan took the handicap corrected times win from Tim, Adam, Alistair & Gavin, Sam & Lucy and Team Slater.

The ten boat mono-hull Division 1 fleet started 5 minutes after the cats, as usual. The fleet headed off around the Bay, Peninsular and Quarry marks on their first triangle of the three lap course. The sailors battled around the course with the lead changing hands between the Laser sailors Rod Baillie, John Baird, Mal McLean, Kerry McGaw, Steve Osborne, Hamish Greenwood and Damien Goninan. Peter Baker retired from the race in his Sabre.

After a tight tussle around the course, John led the fleet to the finish line at the Bay mark closely followed by Rod, Kerry and Mal. Next to finish were Hamish, Steve, Damien, Duncan Higgs and Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee. The Handicaps for this season have rolled over from the previous season and mixed up the results. Duncan took his first ever race win from Mal, Rod, Terry & Lucas, Kerry, Hamish, Damien, John and Steve.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat two of the 2021-22 Point-score series on the cloudy and overcast afternoon of Sunday 7th November. Seven Laser sailors competed in Division 1 while 7 catamarans competed in Division 2. John Byrne and George Mohay manned the start boat while Ross Lawley and Ian Ferguson manned the rescue boat. John set an unusual windward / leeward course between the Club and Peninsular marks for Division 1 and the Club and Mountain marks for Division 2. He started both divisions at the Peninsular mark and set them off to the Club mark into a light and shifty South-South Easterly breeze.

The cats started first, though Tim Symons left the beach way too late and started several minutes after the rest of the fleet. Alistair Cross & Harriet Greville led the fleet at the start and on the long leg out to the Mountain mark. They were chased and eventually passed by Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross and Thor, Freya & Hayden Slater. After two long and slow laps of the course, Sam & Lucy led the fleet to the finish line at the Club mark. They were followed by the Team Slater and Alistair & Harriet. Next came the single handed cats with Adam Robinson having slipped past Alan Davis to finish next. The last two cats got stuck in a large hole in the breeze near the Mountain mark and eventually finished after the rest of the fleet with Doug Paterson in front of Tim Symons. The Yardstick corrected times gave Adam the win from Sam & Lucy, Alan, Alistair & Harriet, Team Slater, Doug and Tim.

The Division 1 Laser Full Rig fleet battled around the two lap course while the breeze varied in strength and direction around the course. Rod Baillie led the fleet to the finish line followed by John Baird, Steve Osborne, Mal McLean, Damien Goninan, Hamish Greenwood and Stephen French. As all of the Lasers have the same class Yardstick, the corrected times results didn't change.

Tricky Sailing on Lake Jindabyne

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat two of the 2021-22 Twilight series of the evening of Wednesday 10th November. John Byrne delayed the start for a short while as he waited for the light breeze to decide where it was going to come from. Meanwhile Adam Robinson capsized his Nacra after a steering issue. Phil Daley and Peter Baker on the rescue boat assisted Adam to right his catamaran before the race start.

John started the Division 2 cats into a light and shifty North Westerly breeze on a starboard rounding course from the start line at the Club mark. Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross got away off the start line closely followed by Alan Davis and Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller. The light breeze kept shifting direction and changing in strength as the eight cats struggled to round the Bay mark for the first time. They then headed off to the Peninsular and Quarry marks on their first triangle lap.

Adam started late with the Division 1 mono-hull fleet and had to chase after the rest of the cats. Randy Wieman & Tony Davidson retired from the race as the shifty light breeze didn't suit their Hobie 16. Sam & Lucy led the cat fleet around the triangle, sausage, triangle three lap course and to the finish line at the Bay mark. Alan sailed his single handed Nacra amongst the bigger two-handed cats and finished next. He was followed by Thor, Freya & Hayden Slater, Alistair & Gavin and Tim Symons. Adam nearly caught up to Dug Paterson with Doug finish next just 8 seconds in front of Adam. Alan took another win on handicap corrected times followed by Sam & Lucy, Tim, Doug, Adam, Alistair & Gavin and Team Slater.

The competitive Division 1 mono-hull fleet consisted of eight laser full rigs plus Duncan Higg's Tasar and Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee on their 470 dinghy. They started five minutes after the catamarans in the same light North Westerly breeze. The Laser sailors all battled with each other with the lead changing hands several times in the tricky wind conditions.

After sailing on a triangle lap and one Windward / leeward sausage lap, John Baird led the fleet to the finish line at the Bay mark. He was followed by Hamish Greenwood, Steve Osborne and Damien Goninan. Next to finish were Rod Baillie, Mal McLean and Kerry McGaw separated by only 12 seconds. Terry & Lucas, Ian Ferguson and Duncan completed the fleet. Hamish took the handicap corrected times win from Terry & Lucas, Duncan, Steve, Mal, John, Ian, Damien, Kerry and Rod.

After a rainy few days which caused the lake level to rise significantly, Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club abandoned heat three of the 2021-22 Point-score series planned for the cold and rainy afternoon of Sunday 14th November. This race will be re-scheduled to be run along with heat four on 28th November.

Lots of Rain and Little Wind

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club cancelled the regular Wednesday twilight race planned for Wednesday 24th November due to the cold rainy weather and the lack of enough breeze. The large amount of rain over the last few weeks resulted in the sailors having to move their boats further up the shore to avoid the rising level of the lake. The club's car park is half under water too.

The rain finally stopped for a while on Sunday 28th November and Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heats three and four of the 2021/22 point-score series. Unfortunately, the wind didn't arrive on Lake Jindabyne though the sailors waited for around 30 minutes after the regular start time.

John Byrne manned the start boat while Steve Osborne, Sinead Stone and Todd Rosevear manned the rescue boat. Two courses were planned and eventually a triangle lap course from the Peninsular mark to a mark near the Mountain mark then around a mark set off East Jindabyne and back to the Peninsular mark in the almost non-existent Northerly breeze. John ran the scheduled race four for both Divisions first. This was followed by the catchup of race three which was previously missed.

The four catamarans started first but the wind was so small that some of the mono-hulls caught up to them by the first mark despite having started 5 minutes after them. Thor & Freya Slater slipped to front of the very slow fleet and led the cats around the triangle course to finish over 6 minutes ahead of the next boat. Sam Bylett and stand in crew Alex finished next followed by Doug Paterson and Tim Symons. Doug took the yardstick corrected times win from Tim, Thor & Freya and Sam.

The eleven monohulls sailed the same triangle lap course in the same extremely light conditions, though the wind did pick up a bit on the last leg of the course. John Baird and Nic Kennedy sailed close to each other around the course with John finishing first followed by Nic. They were followed by Ian Ferguson, Mark Baker, Mal McLean, Duncan Higgs & Rod Miller, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Damien Goninan and Stephen French. Peter Baker and Hamish Greenwood retired from the race without finishing. John took the yardstick corrected times win from Ian, Mark, Nic, Mal, Damien, Stephen, Duncan & Rod and Terry & Lucas.

A 3 to 5 knot South-south Easterly breeze arrived and a new Windward / Leeward course between the Peninsular and East Jindabyne marks was set. The four cats sailed two laps of this course in the catchup race for the missed race three. Tim battled with Sam on the first windward leg and reached the mark first. Sam overtook him on the downwind leg, only to round the mark from the wrong side and having to re-round the mark. Sam soon passed Tim again and led the small fleet to the finish line. The wind started to drop again slowing up the boats finishing after Sam. Tim finished next, followed by Thor & Freya and Doug. Sam took the yardstick corrected times win from Tim, Doug and Thor & Freya.

The nine remaining monohulls sailed a single lap of the Windward / Leeward course at a much faster pace than in the previous race. John finished first followed by Terry & Lucas, Nic, Damien, Stephen, Mark, Mal, Ian and Duncan & Rod. John took his second win of the day on yardstick corrected times followed by Mark, Nic, Damien, Stephen, Mal, Terry & Lucas, Ian and Duncan & Rod.