

The Sailors Enjoy Tight Racing in Tricky Wind Conditions

Story by Tim Symons, Photos by John Byrne

Twenty-one boats, sixteen mono-hulls and five catamarans rigged up on Wednesday 13th December to compete in heat seven of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2017/18 Twilight series. John Byrne manned the start boat while Martin Bannister and Jason manned the rescue boat. The cats started first as usual with Barney Davis and Barry Dennis starting on time with Tim Symons 5 minutes late and Ian Foster and Andrew Kennedy a further 5 minutes late.

The large mono-hull fleet started on time. The usual races within the race ensued between Laser full rig sailors Sam Bishop, John Baird and Jason Abbott, Laser radial sailors Martin Van Weel, Gote Vikstrom, Kerry McGaw, Steve Osborne, Thomas Davis, Suzie Green and Peter Baker with Phil Daly & Nick Kirshner, Terry & Lucas Lee, Nathan Goringe, Ross Lawley, Nic Luntungan & Karen Green and Ian MacLuggage & Jacqui Van Weel sailing various other class boats.

After a tricky race in a variable light to medium South Westerly breeze, John Byrne shortened the course to 3 laps and set the finish line at the Quarry mark. In the cats' race, Andrew didn't complete the course as he was sailing his two-man boat solo. Barney led the cats to the finish line followed by Barry, Tim and Ian. Barney kept the win on handicap corrected times followed by Barry and Ian. After some close and tactical racing, Sam led the mono-hulls to the finish line. Next to finish were John, Jason, Martin, Phil, Gote, Terry, Steve, Kerry, Ross, Suzie, Thomas, Nathan, Nic, Ian, and Peter. Sam took the win on handicap corrected times from John and Martin.

On the sunny afternoon of 16th December, nine boats rigged up to compete in heat Five of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2017/18 Point-score series while other club members participated in a sailing instructors' course conducted by Australian Sailing. Thomas Davis manned the rescue boat while John Byrne set starboard rounding course in the 13 to 17 knot South Westerly breeze. The varying and gusty breeze made of an interesting start for the mixed fleet. Some started at the boat end of the start line on starboard tack while others started from the buoy end on port tack. Though the port tackers got away from the start line well, the starboard tackers sailed over towards the sailing club beach, then tacked and reached the Bay mark first. Barney Davis led Tim Symons around the first mark and off towards the Peninsular mark on the first of five laps.

Hobie 18 sailors Michael Fearnside and Louise passed Hobie 17 sailors Tim and joined Barney as they battled for the lead and extended their lead over the rest of the fleet. Tim battled with Andrew & Jake Kennedy on their Hobie 16. Fearnie & Louise eventually passed Barney while the lead between Tim and Andrew changed hands several times. Meanwhile, Terry Lee and Lucas chased the cats on their 470 and Martin Van Weel, Kerry McGaw, Peter Baker and Hamish Greenwood raced their Laser radials. Nic Luntungan and Karen Green on their Flying Fifteen completed the fleet. All of the sailors enjoyed lots of high speed sailing as they zoomed around the course in the windy conditions.

The wind shifted around dramatically with gusts and lulls which challenged all of the sailors as they completed the full length five lap course. Peter, Nic and Hamish slipped behind the rest of the fleet and didn't complete the whole course. Fearnie led the fleet to the finish line followed by Barney, Tim, Andrew, Martin, Terry and Kerry. The yardstick corrected times mixed up the results with Martin taking the win from Kerry, Fearnie, Barney, Andrew and Tim.

On the weekend of 16th and 17th December several Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club Members and Marty and Tim from Alpine Sailing completed boat handling and sailing instructor courses run by Australian Sailing in preparation for the Learn to Sail courses starting on Monday 17th December.