

## **The Sailors Enjoy a Light Wind Race and a Challenging Windy One.**

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Mark Bieder

Race 2 of the Sir William Hudson series was held on a wild and windy Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Only four sailors braved the windy conditions. John Byrne manned the start boat and Ross Lawley the rescue boat. John sent the two Lasers and two Hobie 17s off on a five lap course in the 16 to 20 knot strong North Westerly breeze. They battled the challenging conditions and 25 knot gusts on the first triangle lap out to the far off Mountain mark.

The boats all zoomed around the course while the sailors tried to keep control of their bucking rides. After working hard on their Lasers, Steve Osborne returned to the beach early while Kerry McGaw sailed the five laps in the incorrect order. Barney Davis led Ian Foster to the finish and well-earned rest after a difficult and tiring race.

Seventeen boats rigged up on the evening of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January to compete in the final race 3 of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2018 Foundation Cup series. John Byrne and Ian MacCluggage started the race at the club mark while Mark Bieder controlled his overhead drone from the rescue boat. The large number of boats jostled for a good position on the start line in the light 5 to 7 knot South Easterly breeze. Some of the cats got away to a good start, but with around six Lasers crossing the line early, John had to recall the fleet and start the race again.

The fleet got away for a clean start the second time and the big cats of Alex Machin and Michael Fearnside led them all to the Quarry mark for the first time. The boats then set off on a long down-wind leg to the Mountain mark. The larger two man cats all made an extra gybe to improve their sailing angle to the mark while the rest of the fleet took a more direct route. The bigger, faster cats remained in the lead at the mark, but only just.

The next leg from the Mountain mark was a long single leg port tack to the Bay mark. Barney Davis used his sailing skills well to move through the fleet past Barry Davis and Tim Symons to be the first solo cat behind the larger two man cats. Alistair and Alexie Cross on their Nacra 5.8 moved up into second position to split the Hobie cats of Alex and Fearnie. Positions changed around between the mono-hull boats too with good use of their Flying Fifteen spinnaker allowing Phil Daly and Nick Kirshner to catch up to and pass John Baird on his Laser.

The race was a bit of a "follow the leader affair" as the fleet completed a windward / Leeward sausage lap followed by a second triangle lap to the Peninsular mark. John and Ian shortened the course in the light wind conditions and set up a finish line at the Bay mark. Alex led the fleet to the finish line followed by the cat sailors of Alistair, Fearnie, Barney, Tim, Barry, Adam Robinson and Ian Foster. Phil & Nick led the mono-hull fleet to the finish followed by John, Kerry McGaw, Gote Vikstrom, Martin Van Weel, Steve Osborne, Ross Lawley, Nic Luntungan & Karen Green and Suze Green.

Due to the light conditions, the catamarans were nowhere near far enough ahead of the smaller mono-hull boats by the finish and the yardstick corrected times reversed the order of the two fleets and mixed up the results. John took a well-earned first win of the series followed by Phil, Kerry, Gote, Martin, Suze, Steve, Ross and Nic & Karen. The catamaran corrected times were spread over only 2 minutes with Barney leading the cats in tenth place overall only 9 seconds behind Nic & Karen. He was followed by Tim, Alex, Barry, Adam, Alistair, Fearnie and Ian.