

## Close Racing on Lake Jindabyne in Next to No Wind

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Michael Fearnside

Lake Jindabyne decided to test the patience of the sailors who competed in Heat thirteen of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2017/18 Twilight series by providing an almost non-existent breeze. The sailors hoped that the breeze would increase when they started in a less than 4 knot North Easterly breeze. John Byrne started the three catamarans from the Bay mark and sent them off on a long windward work to the Mountain mark. Steve Ashe missed the start on his Hobie 17 and sailed around on his own while Michael Fearnside and Louise manned the rescue boat.

The fifteen mono-hulls started five minutes after the cats and set off on a windward work to the Peninsular mark. They then set off on a slow, drifting square run to the Quarry mark. All of the boats looked like they were parked on the mirror like lake surrounding them.

Alistair Cross and Gavin on the big Nacra 5.8 led Hobie 17 sailors Ian Foster & Tim Symons from the start line. Alistair led the cats around the Mountain mark followed by Tim and Ian and started the painfully slow square run back to the Quarry mark. The cat sailors joined the mono-hull sailors as they all struggled to complete the leg to the Quarry mark.

All the sailors searched for the elusive breeze while keeping movements around their boats to a minimum. Eventually some breeze arrived on the course, but from a completely different direction, the South East. John Baird and Jason Abbott battled down the final leg to the finish line at the Bay mark and finished 4 seconds apart. A few minutes later, Ross Lawley snuck in front of Terry and Lucas Lee by 1 second to finish next. Terry was followed by Martin Van Weel only 2 seconds later and Nathan Gorrington another second later. Next to finish were Phil Daly and Nick Kirshner, Kerry McGaw, Sam Bylett, George Mohar, Ian McCluggage & Jacqui Van Weel, Suze Green, Peter Baker and Hamish Greenwood. Nick Luntungan & Karen Green didn't complete the course.

Nathan was rewarded with his first ever win on handicap corrected times. Ross took second followed by Sam, Jason, John, Martin, Kerry, Terry, Hamish, Suze, Peter, Phil, George and Ian & Jacqui. In the cats' race Alistair and Gavin crossed the finish line first followed by Tim and Ian. The handicap corrected times reversed the results with Ian taking his first win of the season from Tim and Alistair.

Race four of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2017/18 Club Championship series was run on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February in totally different conditions than the previous Wednesday race. A large five lap race on the main lake was set and John Byrne and Ross Lawley started the race at the Club mark. Peter Baker & John manned the rescue boat as the three catamarans and seven mono-hulls set off into a strong and gusty South Westerly breeze. After a short leg to the Bay mark, the mixed fleet headed out to the Mountain mark on a long variable reach, Tim Symons slipped to the front with the other Hobie 17s of Ian Foster and Adam Robinson in hot pursuit.

The fleet completed a triangle lap around the Cardinal and Peninsular marks then a sausage lap to the cardinal mark and back. Two more triangles separated by a sausage lap completed the long course. The wind varied greatly in strength and direction and often reached over 20 knots which created large and confused waves. The sailors zoomed around the course as the mono-hulls chased the cats. Some of the mono-hull sailors had to recover from capsizes in the challenging conditions.

John and Ross set a finish line at the Peninsular mark. Tim crossed the finish line first, closely followed by Adam & Ian. After nearly an hour and a half of tight racing, Jason Abbott led the mono-hulls to the finish followed by John Baird, 12 seconds behind. They were followed by Rod Baillie, Martin Van Weel, Kerry McGaw, Sam Bishop and Sam Bylett. As usual the yardstick corrected times mixed up the results with Rod taking the win from Jason, John, Martin, Kerry, Sam Bishop, Sam Bylett, Adam Tim and Ian.