

Lots of boats make for a busy start line

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Robin Daly

The sunny and warm evening of Wednesday 22nd November gave no indication of the excitement to come at the start of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's heat four of the 2017/18 Twilight series. Nick Kirshner and Phil and Robin Daly manned the rescue boat while John Byrne set a start line with the start boat at the Club mark, but sending the sailors off on along windward work into a light Northerly breeze. The eight catamarans were started first with several boats getting tangled at the start with some boats bumping together. The confusion allowed Tim Symons on his Hobie 17 and Andrew & Jake Kennedy on their Hobie 16 to get a clean start and find clear air while the other boats sorted themselves out.

The thirteen mono-hulls also had a confusing start with many boats crossing the start line early causing John to call a general re-call and start a new five minute start sequence. Martin Van Weel made the best of the re-start and led the fleet to the Peninsular mark for the first time. Meanwhile Alex Machin and Dan Kroenert on the Hobie 20 chased Tim to the far off Mountain mark and just caught him at the mark with Fearnie and Louise closing in on the Hobie 18. Alex led the cats back to the Bay mark on a long square run. After completing a large triangle lap, the cat's then joined the smaller boats by completing a sausage lap and another triangle lap to the Peninsular mark.

The mono-hulls all battled away with the Laser full rigs of Sam Bishop, Jason Abbott and John Baird eventually catching and passing Martin on his smaller Laser radial. Alex led the cats to the finish line at the Club mark followed by Fearnie and Tim. Barney Davis passed Andrew and Jake and was closing on Tim by the finish. Alex and Lucy Cross kept the Hydra 16 ahead of Randy Wieman and Ross Tattersall and Adam and Cade Robinson all on Hobie 16. The handicap corrected Tim took his first win of the season followed by Andrew and Jake and Alex and Dan.

The wind started to increase for the last lap of the course bringing the mono-hulls home. John led the fleet to the finish with Jason only 11 seconds behind and Sam another 19 seconds behind Jason. Martin led Terry and Lucas Lee, Gote Vikstrom, Rod Baillie, Steve Osborne, Kerry McGaw, Suzie Green, Nic Luntungan and Karen Green, Nathan Gorrige and Peter Baker across the finish line. The Handicap corrected times gave Martin a well-earned win ahead of Gote and Steve. All of the sailors enjoyed the close racing on a warm sunny evening.