

Sailors Start the New Year with Big Fleets and Big Wind

Story by Tim Symons, Photos by John Byrne and Mark.

The Sailors have returned to Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club after the Christmas and New Year Break. The Club runs two special three race series during January, the Sir William Hudson Memorial Series on Saturday afternoons and the Foundation Cup Series on Wednesday evenings. 2018 started with race 1 of the Foundation Cup series on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Sixteen boats rigged up to compete in a tricky wind which varied from a mild 5 to 8 knots with strong gusts over 20 knots. These conditions gave the big catamarans a clear advantage with three cats taking the first three places on yardstick corrected times. Though sixteen boats started the race, only eight finished. John Byrne, on the start boat, and Andrew Kennedy, on the rescue boat, carried out co-ordinated assistance to capsized boats. Rescues included Ian McCluggage and Jacqui Van Weel on their NS 14.

Alex Machin and Dan Kroenert on their Hobie 20 took the win from Michael Fearnside and Louise on their Hobie 18 with Barney Davis on his Hobie 17 in third place. Gote Vikstrom was the first Laser followed by Steve Osborne and Jason Abbott.

Nine boats competed in the first Saturday race for 2018 on 6th January. The strong breeze, gusting to 22 knots, challenged the mixed fleet of boats and kept Peter Baker and Gote Vikstrom busy on the rescue boat assisting capsized boats. Barry Denis broke the mast on his Hobie 17 in a spectacular capsize. Alex Machin and Sam Bylett retired from the race early. Kerry McGaw took the yardstick corrected time win from Barney Davis and Rod Baillie, Ian Foster and Adam & Cade Robinson.

Race two of the Foundation Cup series was involved 20 boats on Wednesday 10th January. John Byrne waited for the breeze to arrive at about 6:05 pm before sending the fleet off from the Club mark on a Port rounding course in an anti-clockwise direction. Mark, a visitor to Jindabyne manned the rescue boat while photographing the sailors from an overhead drone.

The North Easterly breeze challenged the sailors as it built up from 8 knots to 18 knots then dropped to 10 knots at the end of the race. Martin Bannister snapped a trapeze wire and capsized his Hobie 16 soon after the start of the race. The fleet started the race with a large triangle lap out to the Mountain mark. Barney Davis broke his Hobie 17's tiller bar after one triangle lap and Peter Baker returned to the beach early.

The larger cats quickly moved to the front of the fleet as they zoomed around the course while making great use of their trapezes. The sailors completed a four lap race which was shortened by John and finished at the Quarry mark. Alex Machin & Dan Kroenert crossed the finish line first, followed by Michael Fearnside & Louise, Tim Symons, Alistair & Lucy Cross, Ian Foster, Barry Dennis, Steve & Josh Ashe and Peter & Tom Brulisauer all sailing various catamarans. The mono-hulls followed led by visiting NS 14 sailor Adam Bieder, Phil Daly & Nick Kirshner, Jason Abbott, Martin Van Weel, Steve Osborne, Gote Vkstrom, Kerry McGaw and Nic Luntangan & Karen Green.

The yardstick corrected times mixed up the results with Adam taking the win to go with his recent win in the Junior division at the NSW Nationals in South Australia. Martin VW came second, followed by Alex and Fearnie. The Sailing Club members were pleased to see three participants of the recent Tackers 1 Learn to Sail Course, Lucy Cross, Josh Ashe and Tom Brulisauer sailing with their dads in this race.