

Sailors Meet the Challenge of a Windy and Cold Race

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Ross Lawley and John Byrne

After an unusually cold summer's day on Wednesday 31st January, the Sailors rigged eight mono-hulls and eight catamarans to compete in heat ten of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2017/18 Twilight series. John Byrne and Ian McCluggage manned the start boat and set a Port rounding course into the strong South East wind from the Bay mark. Ross Lawley manned the rescue boat as the cats started first into the 15 to 20 knot breeze.

The cats zoomed off on the first triangle lap to the Mountain mark. They encountered large waves crossing the course on the main lake which added to the challenging and exhilarating ride. Michael Fearnside and Sam Bylett led the cats. They were followed by Barney Davis, Alistair & Lucy Cross, Tim Symons, Ian Foster, Adam Robinson & James, Andrew & Jake Kennedy and Barry Dennis. Barney retired from the race after breaking his tiller and recovering from a capsize. Alistair and Andrew also retired in the cold and windy conditions.

The mono-hull fleet also battled against the strong wind as they headed off on the first triangle lap to the Peninsular mark. Several of the laser sailors had to recover from capsizes in the rough conditions. Both fleets completed a full five lap course in a bit over an hour. Alistair & Lucy, Andrew & Jake, Hamish Greenwood, Sam Bishop and Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee returned to the beach early.

Fearnie & Sam led the cats to the finish line followed by Tim, Ian, Adam and Barry. Fearnie took the Handicap corrected time win from Ian, Tim, Adam and Barry. John Baird led the mono-hulls to the finish line, followed by Phil Daly & Nick Kirshner, Martin Van Weel, Kerry McGaw, and Steve Osborne. Phil won the race on Handicap corrected times followed by Steve, John, Kerry and Martin. All the sailors were pleased to return to the clubhouse to warm up after a cold and tiring race.

A mixed fleet of eleven bots competed in Heat three of the 2017/18 Championship series on the sunny afternoon of Saturday 3rd February. John Byrne set a start line at the Bay mark and sent the fleet off on a long first leg to the Mountain mark in an extremely light Easterly breeze. The boats made slow progress on this first leg of the course as they tried to capitalise on every small puff of breeze.

The cats slipped to the lead of the fleet with Barney Davis closely followed by Alistair & Lucy Cross & Tim Symons. John Baird & Kerry McGaw sailed John's Flying fifteen instead of their usual Lasers. They kept close to the cats with clever use of their spinnaker. Martin Van Weel sailed his NS 14 with new crew, Harry, instead of his Laser and Ian McCluggage sailed his recently purchased Laser. The fleet then headed on a long windward work to the cardinal mark behind Cub Island. Barney found some extra breeze on the right side of this leg while Alistair and Tim tried the less windy left side and the mono-hulls sailed up the middle.

The fleet then sailed to the Peninsular mark, followed by the Mountain mark to complete a large triangle lap. They then completed a Windward / Leeward sausage leg from the Mountain mark to the Cardinal mark and back to the Cardinal mark to the finish line. The Easterly breeze slowly increased during the race with the strongest gusts at the end. The cats got to use their trapezes and all the boats enjoyed some fast rides. After a few capsizes in his new boat, Ian returned to the beach early.

Barney led the mixed fleet to the finish line followed by Alistair & Lucy, Tim, John & Kerry, Gote Vikstrom, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Rod Baillie, Martin Bannister & Jason, Martin Van Weel & Harry and Ross Lawley. As usual the yardstick corrected times mixed up the results and favoured the smaller boats in the light wind conditions. Gote took the win from Rod, John & Kerry. Terry & Lucas, Ross, Martin VW & Harry, Barney, Tim, Alistair & Lucy and Martin B & Jason.