

Patient Sailors wait for the Wind.

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Michael Fearnside and Alistair Cross

On the sunny and fine evening of Wednesday 8th November seventeen boats competed in Heat 2 of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2017/18 Twilight series. Michael Fearnside manned the rescue boat while Steve Ashe assisted John Byrne on the Start boat. The sailors all searched the lake for signs of any possible breeze. With the regular 6pm start time approaching the sailors launched their boats to drift and paddle towards the start line in the nearly non-existent breeze.

After waiting over 20 minutes for a light Easterly breeze to arrive, John and Steve sent the fleet off in a combined start from the Club mark. Everyone searched for clear air in the zero to 5 knots of breeze. The bigger cats slipped to the front of the fleet as they slowly made their way towards the Quarry mark. Tim Symons and Alistair Cross reached the mark first then headed off on a broad reach towards the Peninsular mark. Tim gave Lion Island a wide birth while the other cats took a more direct route.

Randy Wieman and Ross Tattersall on their Hobie 16 reached the Quarry mark with a much of Lasers. In the light breeze, they drifted onto the Quarry mark and had to complete a penalty turn. The ten mono-hulls jostled for position in the light breeze while following the cats towards the Peninsular mark. Tim led the fleet around the next two marks with the rest of the cats in pursuit. He and Alistair rounded the Bay mark and started the windward work in the failing breeze. They headed to the left side of the course while Ian Foster, Barney Davis and Barry Dennis favoured right side and found more breeze and a lift along the shore. Barney took full advantage of this situation and reached the Quarry mark first, then led the cats to the finish line at the Club mark.

Barney took his second win on handicap corrected times followed by Barry, Ian, Alistair, Tim, Andrew & Jake Kennedy and Randy. After a tight tussle in the ever decreasing breeze, Rod Bailie led the mono-hulls over the line followed by Martin Van Weel, Terry and Lucas Lee, Kerry McGaw, Gote Vikstrom, Steve Osborne, Damien Goninan, Nathan Gorringe, Peter Baker and Nic Luntungan & Karen Green. Rod retained the win on handicap corrected times followed by Martin, Kerry, Gote, Steve, Damien, Terry, Nathan, Peter and Nic.

Heat two of the 2017/18 Point-score series was held on the afternoon of Saturday 11th November. Seven boats rigged up to sail despite the inclement weather. Alistair Cross manned the rescue boat while John Byrne set the start at the Club mark in the extremely light Westerly breeze. A couple of minutes before the start, the breeze swung around to the North and increased to about 10 knots allowing the boats to start at speed.

Tim Symons sailing his Hobie 17 sped off from the fleet to the Bay mark then onto the windward work to the Peninsular mark. John Baird and Rod Bailie sailing Laser full rigs followed with Kerry McGaw on his Laser radial keeping close. Nathan Gorringe sailed his Tasar with his daughter as crew, Sam Bylett and Hamish sailed the club's Windrush cat and Nic Luntungan and Karen Green sailed their Flying Fifteen.

Tim led the small fleet around the course on a triangle lap, followed by a sausage lap and onto the second triangle lap while the breeze kept steadily dropping. John Byrne shortened the course and finished the race at the Peninsular mark. Tim finished first and waited for the others to finish in the almost non-existent breeze. John finished 17 minutes later and Rod 30 minutes later. Next to finish were Nathan and Sam. Nic and Kerry returned to the beach without finishing. John took the win on yardstick corrected time with Tim second, Rod third, Nathan fourth and Sam fifth.