

Strong, Gusty and Windy Conditions Test the Sailors

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club recommenced the 2019/20 Twilight series with race 9 held on the warm evening of Wednesday 29th January. Jon Byrne and Andrew Callaghan manned the start boat while Tim Symons and John Russell assisted on the rescue boat. John delayed the start for about 15 minutes while waiting for the very light breeze to steady from the East. The breeze steadily built in strength during the race from nearly zero to around 10 to 12 knots on some parts of the course.

The twelve strong mono-hull fleet started first and made slow progress from the start line at the Bay mark towards the Quarry mark on the Port rounding course. Terry Lee and Lucas Blackmore – Lee slipped to the front of the fleet while John Baird, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner and a bunch of Lasers followed in pursuit. The mono-hull fleet then headed to the Peninsular mark on their first triangle lap.

The six boat catamaran fleet started five minutes after the others in the still very light breeze. The cats continued on their first triangle lap to the Mountain mark. As they passed Lion Island, they were delighted to find the breeze had strengthened and they could use their trapezes and zoom along.

As the breeze strengthened, John was able to keep the race going for four laps of the course. Mono-hull sailors Ross Lawley, Suzie Green, Ben D'helan returned to the beach early as did Thor & Freya Slater on their Maricat. The smoke haze returned to the lake with the easterly breeze and John set a finish line at the Bay mark. John Baird moved to the front of the mono-hull fleet and finished first followed by Phil & Nick only 1 second in front of Terry & Lucas. Next to finish were Hamish Greenwood, Rod Baillie, Mal McLean, Gote Vikstrom, Steve Osborne and Kerry McGaw. The handicap corrected times gave the win to Hamish only 2 seconds in front of Phil. Then came Terry, John, Rod, Mal, Gote, Kerry and Steve.

The cats zoomed around the lake as they all chased Alan Davis on his Hobie 17. Martin Bannister started well, but slipped back a bit in the fleet, finishing his race with by capsizing near Lion Island. He was assisted by Tim & John on the rescue boat to right his boat. He then returned to the beach. Adam Robinson & stand in crew Nick Donnolly on their F18 tried to catch Alan, but didn't quite do so as he crossed the finish line 17 seconds in front. Barry Dennis finished next, followed by Ian Foster. Ian took his first win of the season on handicap corrected times from Barry, Alan and Adam.

The Club held a working bee and information session on the morning of Saturday 1st February in preparation for the Laser & ACT Masters regatta which it is holding from 7th to 9th February. While this was happening, the club's junior fleet continued their training on the Optimists and the club's Corsair in the gusty 20 knot plus Westerly breeze. They all had fun in the wild conditions, especially Hamish Greenwood, Freya Slater, Alexi Cross and Sam Bylett who handled the big Corsair brilliantly. Roger Green also took out his foiling sailboard to show how to use the latest technological advances in sailing.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat three of the Sir William Hudson series for combined divisions on the windy afternoon of Saturday 1st February. Four Laser sailors decided to compete in conditions that were right on the acceptable wind limit of 20 knots for their class. Adam Robinson and Nick Donnolly on their Capricorn F18 were the only catamaran to compete in the race.

John Byrne started the race from the flagpole in front of the clubhouse and set a four lap Port rounding windward / leeward course in the strong North Westerly breeze. Nic Kennedy and Alan Davis manned the rescue boat. Adam's big cat was late leaving the breach and missed the start by about 8 minutes. All of the sailors including the F18 cat had to recover from spectacular capsizes in difficult and gusty conditions. Kerry McGaw managed to create a lead on the rest of the fleet when rounding the Bay mark in the shifty conditions. He and Steve Osborne swapped places at the front of the fleet during the race. Kerry led the way to the finish at the Quarry mark followed by Steve Osborne, John Baird, Adam Robinson & Nick Donnolly and Rod Baillie. Kerry took the yardstick corrected time win from Steve, John, Rod and Adam.

This weekend will be a big one for Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club as it will host the ACT and NSW Laser Masters regatta. This regatta will provide a great spectacle on Lake Jindabyne with a large fleet expected to compete.