

Sailors Struggle in the Windless Conditions

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne

Lake Jindabyne sailing Club planned to run heat fourteen of the 2019/20 Twilight series on the evening of 4th March in the forecast 5 to 7 knot breeze which didn't eventuate. Only two Lasers rigged up to brave the cold and rainy conditions. John Byrne manned the start boat and set a start line at the bay mark John Baird and Hamish Greenwood struggled to reach the start line in the next to nothing breeze of less than 2 knots.

The two boats slowly sailed towards the Peninsular mark in the less than 2 knot breeze. John Byrne moved the start boat to part way between the two marks to shorten the leg by using the start boat as a rounding buoy. The two sailors then headed to the Club mark where John set a finish line. After a bit over 39 minutes of painfully slow sailing, John Baird reached the finish line, followed by Hamish 1 minute behind. Hamish took the win on Handicap corrected times. Both sailors and John on the Start Boat were glad to head back to the clubhouse to dry off and warm up.

The weekly juniors training session and green fleet race training session was held on the morning of Saturday 7 March. Alistair Cross, Thor Slater and Ross Lawley were there to assist Hamish Greenwood instruct the Juniors. Sailing this week on the Corsair dinghies were Freya Slater, Hayden Slater, Jay McLean and Alexi Cross. They all enjoyed some light weather sailing and managed to avoid the cold and rain. Sailing in the club's two 16 foot Corsair dinghies rather than the smaller Optimist dinghies allowed one-on-one training within the boat. All of the new sailors have enjoyed their sailing this season and in past weeks Sam Bylett has instructed with Hamish Greenwood guiding our juniors towards fun in boats. Alex Hearn has taken his sailing a step higher purchasing a Optimist dinghy. He has sailed well over the last few weeks. The junior sailors look forward to mixing it with the seniors in the regular races.

The Lake Jindabyne members held high hopes for a decent breeze when they held heat eleven of the 2019/20 Point-score series on the sunny afternoon of Saturday 7th March. They rigged seven boats, headed out onto the lake and were disappointed when after about an hour and a half's wait in the next to nothing breeze John Byrne was forced to cancel the race. All of the sailors hoped for more breeze for the next race.

While the Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club members where going nowhere on Lake Jindabyne, they were represented by Gote Vikstrom on his Laser Radial at the Wallagoot Lake Boat Club's annual regatta on 7th and 8th March. The sailors on Wallagoot Lake enjoyed strong sea breezes of around 12 to 15 knots on Saturday and 6 to 10 knots on Sunday. Gote competed in division 4 of this regatta sailing at the front of the fleet and crossing the finish line first in race 5. He had a great battle with the other laser Radial sailor, local Cadel Boyce from Wallagoot Lake Boat Club. After 5 races held over the two days of the regatta, Gote came 5th in Division 4 on Yardstick corrected times.