

Autumn races at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Nic Luntungan

The light winds of Autumn have reached Lake Jindabyne and the sailors of Lake Jindabyne sailing Club are enjoying the fine weather. The club held heat fifteen of the 2019/20 Twilight series on the warm evening of Wednesday 11th March. Alan "Barney" Davis manned the start boat while Nic Luntungan and Karen Green assisted on the rescue boat. Barney set a start line at the Bay mark and started the ten boat mono-fleet first into a light South Easterly breeze.

Some sailors chose to start near the start boat on Starboard tack while some started at the buoy end of the line on the more favoured Port tack. This caused some conflict when the two bunches of boats met as the Starboard tack boats had right of way over the Port tack boats. They quickly sorted themselves out and headed towards the Quarry mark in the light breeze of about 5 knots. Meanwhile the four-boat cat fleet readied for their start. They all started on Starboard tack to avoid the issues encountered by the previous start. Alex Machin & Barry Dennis on the Hobie 20 crossed the start line a fraction early and had to return to behind the start line and have another go. They then continued on up the right side of the course with Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop on the Capricorn F18 and Tim Symons on his Nacra 16 square on the left side. Andrew Kennedy started a bit late and chased the others.

The first mark rounding at the Quarry mark was a bit busy as both fleets arrived together. John Baird on his laser full rig rounded first and set off on a shy reach to the Peninsular mark. Despite their re-start, Alex and Barry led the cats off to the Mountain mark. The two big cats moved to the front of the fleet and battled for the lead with each other while the small cats followed.

The 6 knot breeze held over the course of the race and Barney shortened the course to a triangle lap and a windward / leeward sausage lap and finished the race at the Bay mark. In the mono-hull race, John Baird finished first followed by Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Hamish Greenwood, Gote Vikstrom, Mal McLean, Rod Bailie, Steve Osborne, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Suzie Green and Thor & Freya Slater on the club's NS 14. The handicap corrected times mixed up the results with Gote taking the win by 6 seconds from Terry & Lucas, Mal, John, Hamish, Rod, Suzie, Steve, Phil & Nick and Thor & Freya.

After a great battle amongst the two-man cats, Alex and Barry led the cats to the finish line followed by Jason & Sam, Tim and Andrew, Tim took the handicap win from Andrew, Jason & Sam and Alex & Barry.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran the final heat, number five, of the 2019-20 Sir William Hudson series on the afternoon of Saturday 14th March. Four Lasers and Three catamarans set off from the beach to the Peninsular mark where John Byrne had set a start line.

The small fleet set off on a windward work to the Club mark into the light to medium strength South Easterly breeze. They then headed East between the shore and the islands, then around the marks on the end of Cub Island and to the Mountain mark. John drove the start boat ahead of the fleet to the mark to show the sailors where it was. Tim Symons on his Nacra 16 square led the fleet around the islands with Andrew Kennedy on his Hobie 17 on Baird on his laser and the rest of the fleet in pursuit. The course then took the sailors around the Mountain mark, to the Peninsular mark, back to the Mountain mark and finally along windward work to the finish line at the Club mark.

The boats enjoyed a steady 5 to 6 knots of breeze with the occasional gust of 10 to 12 knots around the course. John had to race back towards the Sailing club to set the finish line while Tim sped towards the Club mark to finish first. He was followed by Andrew, John Baird, Mal McLean, Hamish Greenwood, Thor & Freya Slater and Kerry McGaw. As usual the light wind and yardstick corrected times favoured the smaller boats with John taking the win from Mal, Hamish, Kerry, Tim, Andrew and Thor & Freya.