

The Sailing Season concludes at lake Jindabyne Sailing Club

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club decided to complete the 2019/20 sailing season early and cancelled the last two races of the season. The club ran the sixteenth and last race of the 2019/20 Twilight series on the sunny evening of Wednesday 18th March. The 5 minute countdown was scheduled to start early, at 5:20 pm. This tricked a few sailors as three of the five catamarans were late getting to the start line set by John Byrne at the Quarry mark. John Russell assisted John from the rescue boat.

Andrew Kennedy and Tim Symons started on time and set off towards the Bay mark in the light South Westerly breeze. Alan Davis, Alistair & Lucy Cross and Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop took their boats to the start line then quickly turned around to set off in pursuit of Andrew and Tim. The leading pair of cats rounded the Bay mark set off on a long reach to the Mountain mark. All of the cats enjoyed some fast rides in the stronger gusts of breeze on the main lake.

The eleven mono hulls started at 5:30 pm and set off on their first triangle lap of the starboard rounding course. Nic Kennedy slipped to the front of the fleet on his International Finn. Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore Lee were in hot pursuit along with John Baird on his Laser, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner on the Flying Fifteen and a gaggle of Lasers. Nic led the fleet around the Bay and Peninsular marks back to the Quarry mark in the company of the cats as they returned from the mountain mark.

Tim led the cat fleet for a while until he was caught and passed by Alistair & Lucy. Alan passed Andrew & set off after the two nacras. The course followed the triangle lap with a windward / leeward sausage lap John changed the course to small triangle lap for the catamarans and chased them all with the start boat and a megaphone to let them know. Alistair & Lucy led the cat fleet to the finish line of the shortened course at the Bay mark. In the dying breeze followed by Tim, Jason & Sam, 2 seconds in front of Alan and Andrew. Tim took the handicap adjusted times win from Andrew, Alistair & Lucy, Alan and Jason & Sam.

Nic built up his lead over the rest of the mono hull fleet while the Laser full rigs of John Baird and Hamish Greenwood battled with Terry & Lucas on the 470, Phil & Nick and Thor & Freya Slater sailing the club's NS 14. Nic finished first over 5 minutes ahead of Terry & Lucas, John, Phil & Nick, Hamish, Steve Osborne, Thor & Freya, Gote Vikstrom, Kerry McGaw, Suzie Green and Ross Lawley. Nic kept the win on handicap adjusted times followed by Terry & Lucas, Phil & Nick, Hamish, John, Steve, Suzie, Gote, Kerry, Thor & Freya and Ross.

The last Saturday race, heat twelve of the 2019/20 Point-score series, was held by Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club on 21st March. Nine mono hulls rigged up to compete in the Division 1 race while four catamarans rigged up to compete in the Division 2 race. John Byrne, Elizabeth and Hayden Slater manned the start boat. After a few course re-thinks and changes due to the variable wind direction and strength a course starting at the Bay mark and heading out onto the main lake was chosen.

Most of the fleet set off into a very light South Easterly breeze from the boat end of the start line, while Tim Symons on his Nacra catamaran started at the buoy end. The boats started to slowly separate as they made their way on a long starboard tack to the Cardinal mark. Tim slipped to the lead and was chased by Alan Davis and Andrew Kennedy on their Hobie 17s. Nic Kennedy on his Finn and John Baird on his Laser Full rig led the smaller boats in the fleet.

The fleet turned at the Cardinal mark and headed to the mountain mark on a long square run. With some smart downwind tactics, Alan passed Tim and led the fleet around the Mountain mark and back towards the Bay mark. The wind started to drop completely so, the fleet had to search for every zephyr while keeping the boats moving despite the waves created by several ski boats. John and the start boat had to race ahead of Alan to set the finish line of the shortened course.

Alan led the cats to the finish after creating a commanding lead over Tim. Thor & Freya Slater on their Maricat along with John Baird found a bit of elusive breeze to the left of the main fleet and finished next. Andrew found himself in a large hole in the breeze and slowed to next to nothing before finishing. Alan kept the win on yardstick corrected times from Thor & Freya, Tim and Andrew.

As the monohulls followed behind the cats, they suffered greatly as the breeze died away to next to nothing. Nic Kennedy, Steve Osborne and Sam Bylett & Hamish Greenwood on their 12 foot skiff decided to head to the beach without finishing. John led the Division 1 fleet to the finish line followed by Phil Daley & Harriet Greville, Mal McLean, Ross Lawley, Kerry McGaw and Peter Baker. The last Division 1 boat to finish crossed the line an hour after the first. The yardstick corrected times didn't change the results by very much. John took the win from Phil & Harriet, Mal, Ross, Peter and Kerry.

The sailors t Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club all enjoyed the 2019/20 shortened sailing season and look forward to re-commencing sailing activities in November 2020.