

Lots of Lasers race on Lake Jindabyne

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Thor Slater, Alan Davis, Kristian Blackmore-Lee.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat three of its 2019/20 Twilight season on the evening of Wednesday 13th November. Phil Daley and Nick Kirshner organised the race from the start boat while John Russel, Thor and Freya Slater assisted on the rescue boat. Despite it being a sunny day the temperature was low due to the cold Westerly breeze of around 8 to 12 knots.

Five catamarans rigged up to compete, though only four made it to the start line. Tim Symons' Nacra decided to launch itself off its beach wheels which meant that Tim had to dive on board in a hurry. He returned to the beach to retrieve the floating beach wheels and managed to break a rope on his port rudder. Barney Davis helped Tim by collecting the beach wheels while Tim replaced the broken rope. After all of that he missed the start and had a sail on the course to test his skills which resulted in a capsized and assisted recovery from the rescue boat.

The four catamaran fleet started the race from the Club mark and headed to the Bay mark on a Starboard rounding, clockwise direction first triangle lap. They all zoomed out to the Mountain mark and back to the Quarry mark using their trapezes to great effect. Alistair Cross and Gavin Fuller on their Nacra 5.8 mixed it up with the two F18s of Adam Robinson & Mars and Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop. The F18s used their spinnakers as often as possible around the course. Andrew Kennedy kept pursuing the others on his Hobie 17, the only single handed cat in the race.

Meanwhile the ten mono-hull fleet which consisted of eight Lasers, a Finn and 470 Dinghy started 5 minutes after the cats and proceeded around the smaller triangle lap around the Peninsular mark. Nick Kennedy slipped to the front of the fleet on his Finn while being pursued by John Baird on his Laser Full rig and a gaggle of Laser Radials. Plenty of fast rides were had around the course as the sailors battled the gusty conditions while trying to keep up right and out of the cold water.

The catamarans completed a full five lap course as the breeze started to disappear during the last triangle lap. Adam and Mars built up a commanding lead over Alistair and Gavin and they finished in that order. Jason & Sam and Andrew returned to the beach without completing the last triangle lap. The handicap corrected times gave Adam and Mars a well-earned first win of the season from Alistair and Gavin.

Phil and Nick shortened the Mono-hull's race after two triangle laps and two sausage laps. They set the finish line for both fleets at the Club mark. Nic Kennedy led the fleet to the finish line followed by John Baird. Steve Osborne finished next, the first of the laser Radials only 2 second in front of Rod Baillie. Next to finish were Ben D'helan, Gote Vikstrom, Mal McLean, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee. Kerry McGaw, 3 seconds later and Damian Gonninan, The handicap corrected times gave the win to John followed by Rod, Gote, Steve, Nic, Kerry, Ben, Terry, Damien and Mal.

Race one of the 2019/20 prestigious Sir William Hudson was held on the sunny and warm afternoon of 16 November. Twelve boats competed in this combined divisions race on the main part of the lake. Alan "Barney" Davis and Kristian Blackmore-Lee manned the start boat with Lynne Burgess and Alison Brass on the rescue boat. The eight mono-hulls and four catamarans jostled for position on the start line at the Club mark in the tricky medium strength Westerly breeze. A Port tack start was favoured by some sailors which resulted in Alistair Cross and reserve crew Michael Condello on the Nacra 5.8 on Port tack impinging Tim Symons on Starboard. Alistair later completed two 360 degree penalty turns for this incident and another with Terry Lee at the Bay mark. He then had to chase the other cats off to the Mountain mark and onto the main lake.

Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall on their Hobie Wild Cat F18 zoomed into the lead with use of their spinnaker on the long reaching legs of the course. Nic Kennedy and John Baird battled with each other for the lead of the mono-hull fleet with John leading for while on his Laser before Nic caught up and passed him on his larger Finn. The three Laser Radials of Steve Osborne, Kerry McGaw and Thor Slater all battled with each other for position in the fleet too. The fleet completed four laps of the large course including two triangle and two sausage laps. Barney shorted the course at the Peninsular mark which saw Michael & Ross finishing about the same time as the other cats were rounding the mark for their final sausage lap. Andrew Kennedy capsized his Hobie 17 and continued on to the

finish after righting the boat on his own, while the rescue boat was in attendance. Sam Bylett and Hamish Greenwood used the spinnaker on their 12 foot skiff for the first time in a race. They recovered from several capsizes and retired from the race.

Michael & Ross led the mixed fleet over the finish line of the shortened course at the Peninsular mark two legs ahead of the rest. Next to finish were Alistair and Michael who caught up to Tim and passed him at the start of the last lap. Tim finished next. Nic Kennedy and John Baird continued their battle to the finish line with Nic finishing just over a minute ahead of John. Next to finish were Steve Osborne, Phil Daley & his grand-daughter Harriet Greville, Andrew Kennedy, Terry & Lucas Lee and Thor Slater on a club Laser Radial. As is usual with a combined division race, the yardstick corrected times mixed up the results with the smaller mono-hulls gaining advantage over the bigger catamarans despite the medium to strong wind throughout the race. John took the win from Nic, Steve, Kerry, Phil, Thor, Michael, Terry, Tim, Alistair and Andrew.