

Sailors endure windless conditions on Lake Jindabyne

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Ross Tattersall, Alan Davis, Nathan Bylett

Nineteen boats competed in heat four of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2019/20 Twilight series on the warm evening of Wednesday 20 November. After a hot day, the sailors were hoping for a breeze to cool them down and zoom them around the race course. Despite the promising light breeze at the start of the race, the sailors endured an extremely light breeze and almost windless conditions throughout the race which left the boats parked on the lake searching for that elusive zephyr of breeze.

John Russell and Ian McCluggage manned the start boat while Michael Fearnside, Ross Tattersall and Rosie assisted on the rescue boat. Due to a mix up with the flags, the sailors thought that a Port rounding course from the Club mark was set, but discovered that a Starboard rounding course had actually been set. What breeze there was continued to shift around throughout the race.

The seven catamarans set off first from the start line to the Club mark with the two Capricorn F18s slipping to the lead on the way to the Bay mark. The next leg of the triangle course was a long square run to the far off Mountain mark. The F18s flew their spinnakers and tacked downwind towards the mark. The other cats followed their lead and did the same except for Thor and Freya Slater on their much smaller Maricat. They took the more direct route towards the mark which kept them in the mix with the bigger cats.

Meanwhile the twelve strong mono-hull fleet headed off on the same course as the cats except that their square run took them to the closer Peninsular mark. The sailors all jostled for position while searching for that little bit of breeze. Nic Kennedy and John Baird continued their usual battle at the front of the fleet while the rest of the fleet continued their own races within the race. The mono-hulls completed their triangle lap and continued on to a windward / leeward sausage lap from the bay mark to the Quarry mark and back to the Bay mark.

John and Ian shortened the course and set a finish line at the Bay mark. The cats only completed one large triangle lap after around an hour and a half. Jason Abbott and Sam Bishop on their F18 managed to slip into a commanding lead over the rest of the cats and finished about 10 and a half minutes ahead of Adam Robinson and Mars on the other F18. Alistair Cross and Gavin Fuller finished next a further 10 and a half minutes behind. Barry Dennis finished next only 5 seconds ahead of Tim Symons followed by Andrew Kennedy and Thor and Freya Slater. Jason and Sam kept their win on handicap corrected times followed by Thor & Freya, Tim, Andrew, Adam & Mars, Barry and Alistair & Gavin.

The mono-hulls completed their two lap race with Nic Kennedy finishing 3 minutes ahead of John Baird. Three Laser full rig sailors finished next with Ben D'helan in front of Mal McLean and Hamish Greenwood. Then came the Laser radials and others, Rod Baillie, Steve Osborne, Gote Vikstrom, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Kerry McGaw, Alex Machin and Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee. John took the win on handicap corrected times followed by Nic, Ben, Hamish, Mal, Gote, Rod, Steve, Kerry, Terry & Lucas, Phil & Nick and Alex.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat three of the 2019/20 Point-score series on the sunny afternoon of Saturday 23rd November. Alan "Barney" Davis manned the start boat with Nathan Bylett while John Russell, Lynne Burgess and Lucas Blackmore-Lee manned the rescue boat. Eleven boats competed in two divisions and all started together from the club mark and headed to the bay Mark then out to the Mountain mark and the course on the main lake.

Barry Dennis on his Hobie 17 and Jason Abbot and Mars on Mars' F18 led the fleet and built up a sizable lead as they reached the stronger breeze while the rest of fleet were stuck in light conditions. Adam & Mars capsized their F18 and had to make a quick recovery. Tim Symons on his Nacra 16 square eventually joined the other big cats and the three pulled away from the rest of the fleet. Nic Kennedy on his Finn slipped to the lead of the mono-hull fleet and was pursued by the six Lasers.

The breeze softened during the race as it shifted dramatically in direction and strength. So, the sailors had to work extra hard to find advantage in the shifts rather than disadvantage. After two triangle laps

and two windward / leeward sausage laps, Barney set a finish line at the Peninsular mark. Jason and Mars were the first cat to finish closely followed by Barry and Tim with Martin Bannister a bit further behind. George Mohay slipped back of the main bunch throughout the race and didn't complete the course. Nic led the mono-hulls to the finish followed by John Baird, Sam Bylett, Rod Baillie, Steve Osborne and Kerry McGaw. In the cat division Barry claimed a well-earned win on yardstick corrected times from Tim, Jason & Mars and Martin. In the mono-hull division race the light wind conditions at the end of the race assisted the Laser Radial sailors to keep in touch with the bigger boats. On yardstick corrected times Sam took the win by 1 second from Nic. Then came Rod, Steve, John and Kerry.