

## **The Tricky Breezes Test the Sailors**

Story by Tim Symons, Photos by Ross Lawley and Steve Osborne

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat six of the 2019/20 Twilight series on the sunny afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> December. Six mono-hulls and five catamarans rigged up to compete under the official gaze of Ross Lawley and Phil Daley on the Start boat while Ian McCluggage and a mate manned the rescue boat.

The cats started first at the start line set at the Club mark on a Starboard rounding clockwise direction course. The three F18s zoomed off around the bay mark and off on a long reaching leg to the mountain mark. The light to medium strength breeze varied greatly on this leg with strong gusts as the cats neared the mark. Michael Fearnside and Ross Tattersall on Wild Cat slipped to the front and led the cats around the four lap course. Andrew Kennedy and Tim Symons on their single-man cats battled with each other around the course with the lead changing several times. Tim gave up the lead after the second triangle lap when his mainsheet wrapped around a rudder requiring a trip to the beach to fix the problem. Andrew took full advantage of the situation and built up a commanding lead over Tim on the next three legs.

The mono-hull fleet started after the cats and headed off on their first triangle lap around the Peninsular mark. All of the sailors had to make best use of the tricky breeze which varied in strength and direction hugely during the race. The leading sailors made best use of the wind shifts especially on the windward work legs. Terry Lee and Lucas Blackmore-Lee slipped to the front of the fleet on their 470 dinghy and built up a commanding lead.

Ross and Phil shortened the course after four laps and set a finish line at the bay mark. Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall finished first followed by Adam Robinson & Mars and Jason Abbott & fill in crew Sam Bylett. Andrew Kennedy then led Tim Symons to the finish line. The handicap corrected times gave Andrew his second win of the season followed by Adam & Mars, Michael & Ross, Tim and Jason & Sam.

In the mono-hulls race, the Laser full rigs battled with each other as did the laser radial rigged boats. Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee led the monohull fleet to the finish line followed by John Baird, Hamish Greenwood, Rod Baillie, Steve Osborne and Kerry McGaw. The handicap corrected times gave Terry & Lucas their first win of the season from Rod, Kerry, Hamish, John and Steve.

Heat two of the Sir William Hudson series was run by Lake Jindabyne sailing Club on the sunny afternoon of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. John Byrne manned the start boat with Steve Osborne and Lyn Burgess on the rescue boat. After a bit of a mix up with the flags, John was joined by Steve on the start boat and the race sequence was re-started. The combined fleet of eight boats started from the Club mark and headed out to the course on the main lake after rounding the Bay mark.

Soon after the start Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall on the Wildcat F18 completed a 360 degree penalty turn after impeding Kerry McGaw on his Laser Radial on the start line. They soon slipped to the front of the fleet & led everyone out to the Mountain mark on a long square run. The fleet split into two groups with the three cats out in front of the five mono-hulls. The windward works proved particularly tricky as the sailors had to deal with a breeze which kept changing direction and strength.

The fleet completed two large triangle laps and two sausage, windward / leeward laps before John shortened the course and set a finish line at the Peninsular mark. Michael and Ross finished first nearly 12 minutes ahead of Mars & fill in crew Hamish Greenwood on the other F18 and Tim Symons on his Nacra. After slipping a bit behind on his Impulse dinghy, Ross Lawley decided not to complete the course. John Baird finished next, the first mono-hull. He was followed by Phil Daley & Harriet Greville on their Flying Fifteen, Mal McLean and Kerry McGaw. The yardstick corrected times mixed up the results with John taking the win from Mal, Phil & Harriet, Kerry, Michael & Ross, Tim and Mars & Hamish.