

The Last Race for 2019 at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Martin Bannister

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club held the last race for 2019, heat eight of the 2019/20 Twilight series, on the warm and smoky evening of 18 December 19. A good turnout of fourteen mono-hulls and six catamarans rigged up to compete. John Byrne and Dave Callaghan manned the start boat with Ian Foster, Nic Luntungan and Martin Bannister on the rescue boat.

The forecast South Westerly 8 to 13 knot breeze arrived on schedule and the cats zoomed away from the usual Club mark start line. Most of the cat's started on port tack from the buoy end of the line while a few sailed through the fleet with right-of-way on starboard tack. The big cats, led by Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall led the fleet to the Bay mark then to the Mountain mark. They were followed by Alistair & Lucy Cross and Adam Robinson & Mars. Meanwhile, Tim Symons and Barry Dennis had a minor coming together on the way to the Bay mark when Barry sailed through the fleet on starboard tack. Tim completed his 360 degree penalty turn and set off to chase the rest of the fleet. Michael & Ross extended their lead on the long reaching Leg to the Mountain mark, but lost it all when they capsized near the mark and were passed by the rest of the cats.

Five minutes after the cat's start a shift in the direction of the breeze allowed the mono-hull fleet to all start on starboard tack and avoid potential right-of-way issues. They slowly spread out as they headed to the Bay and Peninsular marks. The usual battles ensued between the various mono-hulls, especially amongst the ten Lasers. John Baird slipped to the front of the fleet while being closely followed by Jason Abbott who sailed his Laser for the first time this season.

In the cats' race, Michael & Ross made haste chasing the other five cats which passed them while they were capsized. They passed the smaller Maricat of Thor and Freya Slater and the solo cats of Tim, Barry and Andrew Kennedy. Tim also spent the race chasing Barry and Andrew passing Barry on the second last windward work and Andrew right on the finish line. After sailing four laps of the course, two triangles and two sausages, the cats headed to the finish line at the Bay mark. The big cats were a lap ahead of the solo cats by the finish and Barry headed back to the beach with the bigger cats after missing the last lap. Adam & Mars finished first followed by Alistair & Lucy, Michael & Ross, Tim 10 seconds in front of Andrew and Thor & Freya. Adam & Mars took a well-earned handicap corrected times win from Andrew, Alistair & Lucy, Tim and Thor & Freya.

The mono-hulls sailed a shorter three lap course of two triangles and one sausage lap. Ross Lawley and Peter Baker didn't complete the course. John Baird held on to his lead to the finish, followed by Jason Abbott, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Ben D'helan, Hamish Greenwood, Steve Osborne, Alex Machin, Mal McLean 2 seconds in front of Rod Baillie, Gote Vikstrom and Kerry McGaw. Jason took his first win of the season on handicap corrected times from Kerry, Gote, Terry & Lucas, Steve, John, Phil & Nick, Alex, Mal, Ben, Hamish and Rod. After the race the sailors enjoyed a great Christmas dinner with their families at the clubhouse.