

Wild Winds Batter 2020 Snowy Mountains Regatta

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

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club hosted the 2020 Snowy Mountains Regatta on the weekend of 5th and 6th December. The club ran an invitation race on the evening of Friday 4th December for competitors who arrived early. The club's Race Captain, John Baird set a course starting off the clubhouse flagpole. The course took the sailors round the bay and mountain marks and around Lion and Cub Islands back to the clubhouse. 19 catamarans completed 2 laps of the course while 15 monohulls and 3 Weta trimarans completed a single lap. John Byrne started the race from the flagpole on club's front lawn.

The sailors met a variety of conditions around the course with some fast rides and drifting through gaps in the breeze. Local Jindabyne sailors Michael Fearnside and Ross Tattersall led the cat fleet to the finish line on their F18 Wild Cat. They were followed by Adam Robinson and Mars on their Capricorn F18 and Nacra 5.8 sailors Alistair & Alexi Cross. Five Visiting Taipan catamaran sailors Wayne Smith, Tim Right, Eli Henbery and Adam Smith took the major placings on Yardstick corrected times in front of the local sailors.

In the monohull's race, Flying Dutchman sailors David & Andrew Ham crossed the Finish line first. They were followed by Brian Pike on his Contender, Matthew Moore & Michael Wood on another FD, Jindabyne sailor Nic Kennedy on his Finn and Rob Morton on his RS 100. The yardstick corrected times favoured the local sailors with Nic taking first place and Laser sailor John Baird and Brian Pike in second and third.

The regatta proper was scheduled to start on Saturday with the first race at 11 am. The 75 registered competitors rigged their boats in anticipation of some fast sailing and close racing. Phil Yeomans from Australian sailing and large team of local volunteers set an inside course and a larger outside course on the main lake. But the wind strength increased alarmingly to over 20 knots with gusts over 30 knots which caused the start boat's anchor to drag. The regatta included the NSW state championships for Taipan catamarans and Viper F16 catamarans. The Taipans had a start which was immediately stopped when their class flag flew off the start boat. The race team tried to get some races started but had to abandon racing for the morning due to the strong and gusty Westerly wind.

The sailors returned to the beach at lunch time while the race team stayed out on the lake. Kim Neville Catering prepared great lunches and breakfasts each day of the regatta to feed the hungry sailors. Many sailors packed up their boats for the day. A second attempt was made to conduct some races in the afternoon with a much-depleted fleet of sailors. Again, the strong and gusty wind caused the cancellation of races for the day.

The sailors and officials hopefully anticipated an early start to racing on Sunday 6th December. But the wild winds and storm lashed the visiting boats on the lake shore overnight severely damaging several boats and blowing away piles of gear and sails. The Westerly wind was still blowing at 20 to 30 knots on Sunday morning and most of the visitors packed up to return home. After a few hours the wind had abated with only occasional strong gusts. A small bunch of mainly local sailors decided to compete in 2 races around the islands with an 11 am start and Steve Osborne and Ross Lawley set a start line at the Bay mark.

The six catamarans and five monohulls chose what direction to take around the islands and back to the Bay mark. Rob Morton sped off with his spinnaker flying rounding the islands to the South while others followed or sailed through a large section of little breeze to round the islands to the North. Alan Davis returned first way out in front of the rest of the cats. He was followed by Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross on their Viper F16 who had capsized near Lion Island, Tony Hastings from Wallagoot Lake and Alistair & Alexi Cross who had capsized near Cub Island. Alan took the yardstick win from Tony, Freya & Thor Slater, Sam & Lucy, Alistair & Alexi and Adam Robinson & Mars.

In the monohulls race, John Baird showed that Starboard rounding was best route to take by finishing first. He was followed by Brian Pike, Riley Pike and the Port rounding Rob Morton and Peter Ineson. The yardstick corrected times left the results the same. In race 2, John and Rob had a close battle with Rob crossing the line first, followed by John, Peter & Riley., Brian didn't sail in the second race.

In the cats' second race, Tony & Alan had a closely fought battle with Tony just pipping Alan at the finish line by less than a second. Adam & Mars finished next followed by Sam & Lucy and Freya & Thor. Alistair & Alexi didn't sail in the second race. Tony took the win on corrected times, followed by Alan, Freya, Adam & Sam & Lucy.

The Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club members were disappointed that the Taipan catamaran and Viper catamaran class association couldn't run any races for their planned NSW state championships due to the wild weather and the resulting damage to the visiting boats. Hopefully the 2022 Snowy Mountains Regatta will be as well attended and will be able to run plenty of races.

Back to Normal at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne

After the previous wildly windy weekend and piles of visitors, Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club got back to normal with the running of heat six of the 2020/21 Twilight series on the warm evening of Wednesday 9th December. A course was set starting from off the clubhouse lawn with the start line between the flagpole and the now blue club mark. John Byrne managed the flags at the flagpole while Ross Lawley and Phil Daley manned the Start boat which acted as the rescue boat.

The 6 cats started first with Tim Symons and Alistair Cross expecting a Starboard rounding course rather than the actual port rounding course in the very light breeze which had changed to the South just before the start. The cat fleet headed off around the Quarry mark then off to the Mountain mark. Sam Bylett & Hamish Greenwood led the way on their Viper F16 using their spinnaker and tacking downwind on the long square run. Hobie 17 sailors and Alan Davis and Andrew Kennedy sailed straight at the mark reaching it next. They were followed by the other downwind tacking boats of Tim, Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller and Randy Wieman & Cath Greenwood. A long windward work back to the Bay mark followed where Tim luckily found more breeze reaching the mark first followed by Sam and Alan. Tim led the way to the Quarry mark then back to the finish line off the clubhouse. The following breeze pushed Sam & Hamish past Tim to finish first. Tim finished next only 4 seconds ahead of Alan, followed by Alistair & Gavin, Andrew and Randy & Cath. Alan took the handicap corrected time win by 5 seconds from Tim, Sam & Hamish, Andrew, Randy & Cath and Alistair & Gavin.

Twelve boats competed in the mono-hulls race which started 5 minutes after the cats. They also started off the clubhouse and headed to the Quarry mark. A square run to the Peninsular mark followed with all of the boats heading straight to the mark. The usual battles within the fleet continued though-out the race such as Rod Baillie, John Baird, Damian Goninan, Stephen French, Ian Ferguson and Mal Mclean on their Laser Full Rigs. Tasar sailors Rod & Cheryl Miller and Duncan Higgs & Adrian Condon also fought for position within the race. After a triangle lap and a half a sausage lap Rod B led the mono-hull fleet to the finish line followed by John, Damian, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Stephen F, Ian, Mal, Steve Osborne, Duncan, Rod M, Freya & Thor Slater and Peter Baker. Rod B kept first place on handicap corrected times followed by Daman, John, Terry, Stephen F, Ian, Mal, Steve O, Duncan, Rod M, Peter and Freya.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran race five of the 2020/21 Point-score series on the afternoon of Saturday 12th December. John Byrne and Kerry McGaw manned the start boat while Andrew Kennedy manned the rescue boat. A 10 to 12 knot North Easterly breeze allowed an interesting course to be set on the main lake with a buoy set near East Jindabyne.

The 8 cats set off first from the start line at the Peninsular mark and headed off on a long windward work to the East Jindabyne mark. The fleet split up with some taking to the left-hand side of the course and some to the right. The breeze varied dramatically in strength and direction all over the course turning the race into a very tactical one. Thor Slater was 30 seconds late for the start and sailed his Maricat on his own as Freya crewed for Alistair Cross on the Nacra 5.8. The 10 mono-hulls started 5 minutes after cats and worked their way towards the east Jindabyne buoy.

In the cat's race, the Two-man cats took to the lead with Alan Davis chasing them tenaciously on his Hobie 17. Alistair & Freya took a wrong turn, missing a buoy and slipped back in the pack. Randy Wieman on his Hobie 16 and Thor on his Maricat retired from the race. After a full-length race of five laps Michael Fearnside and Ross Tattersall led the cats to the finish line at the Peninsular mark. They were followed by Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop, Sam Bylett & Hamish Greenwood, Alan, Alistair & Freya and Tim. Alan took a well-earned yardstick corrected times win from Sam & Hamish, Jason & Sam, Michael & Ross Tim and Alistair & Freya.

Nic Kennedy on his Finn and Phil Daley & Harriet Greville on their Flying Fifteen battled at the front of the mono-hull fleet during their three-lap race. Peter Baker and his Sabre retired from the race. Nic led the fleet to the finish line followed by Phil & Harriet, Damian Goninan, Mal McLean, Steve Osborne, Tony Pearson, Stephen French, Ian Ferguson, and Duncan Higgs & Adrian Condon. The yardstick corrected times left the results nearly the same only with Steve O and Mal swapping places.

Sailing in the Rain and Lots of Sail Training

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Thor Slater, John Byrne, Richard Churm

The last twilight race for 2020, heat seven, was held at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club on a cold and rainy evening on Wednesday 16th December. Despite the drizzling rain, fourteen boats rigged up to compete. John Byrne manned the start boat assisted by Thor Slater while Nic Luntungan and Karen Green manned the rescue boat. A Port rounding course was set in the very light Southerly breeze of less than 5 knots.

The six catamarans lined up at the start line at the Club mark then headed off to the Quarry mark. Sam Bylett and Lucy Cross on their Viper F16 led the way around the mark and towards the Mountain mark. A long light-wind square run followed with the Viper using its blue spinnaker to good effect. The two Hobie 17s of Alan Davis and Ian Foster aimed at the mark while the two Nacras of Tim Symons and Alistair Cross & Freya Slater criss-crossed their way trying to find extra speed. Andy Wieman and Del Fisher on the Hobie 16 competed the fleet.

The eight monohulls started 5 minutes after the cats on their triangle lap around the Peninsular mark. Phil Daley with occasional crew, Ross Lawley mixed it up with the Laser full rigs of John Baird, Hamish Greenwood and Mal McLean at the front of the fleet. A windward work from the Peninsular mark to the Bay mark brought the monohulls back on their triangle lap. They then sailed a sausage lap to the Quarry mark and back to the finish line at the Bay mark. Light rain kept falling throughout the race making the wind indicating tell-tails stick to the wet sails. John led the monohulls to the finish line, 4 seconds in front of Phil & Ross. They were followed by Hamish, Terry Lee & his occasional crew, Peter Baker, Mal, Steve Osborne, Kerry McGaw and Ian Ferguson. The handicap corrected times mixed up the results with Phil & Ross taking the win from Mal, Steve, Hamish, Ian, Kerry, Terry & Peter and John.

The cats rounded the Mountain mark and headed back to the bay mark on a long windward work in the light breeze. They too completed a sausage lap to the Quarry mark and back to the Bay mark finish line. Sam & Lucy led the fleet to the finish., A close tussle followed them between Alistair & Freya and Alan Davis. Alistair & Freya won the battle finishing 10 seconds in front of Alan with Tim a further 24 seconds behind. Ian and Randy & Del completed the fleet. Ian took the handicap win in his first race of the season followed by Alistair & Freya, Alan, Tim, Sam & Lucy and Randy & Del.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's team of youthful instructors, Sam Bylett, Hamish Greenwood, Lucy Cross, Alexi Cross, Freya Slater, Hayden Slater and Harriet Greville conducted a Learn to Sail course during the week and a She Sails programme over the weekend of 19th and 20th December. They were assisted by Gemma Burns from Australian Sailing and club members Alistair Cross, Steve Osborne and Thor Slater. Gemma also conducted an advanced sailing techniques course for the instructors on Wednesday 16th December.

A Junior Tackers course followed on Monday 21st through Wednesday 23rd December. These programmes allowed fourteen youths and adults and twelve kids to learn about and experience sailing on beautiful Lake Jindabyne. They used the club's two Corsair dinghies and fleet of six Optimist dinghies to gain practical experience on the lake combined with theory sessions in the clubhouse. The participants thoroughly enjoyed their sailing experience at the club with many planning to continue their journey into the fabulous sport of sailing into the future.

The Sailing Club ran two trophy races for each division on the afternoon of Saturday 19th December. John Byrne manned the start boat with assistance from Richard Churm who joined Mark Norling on the rescue boat after the start. John set a course on the main lake in the light South Easterly breeze with Mark & Richard laying a mark near the cardinal mark at Cub Island, one off east Jindabyne and another for the start and finish near the Mountain mark.

The ten cats started first with all crossing the start line on Starboard tack. Sam Bylett & Lucy Cross on their Viper F16 tacked to Port tack soon after the start and were followed by Tim Symons on his Nacra to sail up the right side of the first windward work. Michael Fearnside & Ross Tatersall on their Hobie Wild Cat F18 led the fleet around the first mark and on around the rest of the three lap course. The other two F18s and the F16 battled with Alistair Cross on his Nara 5.8, Alan Davis on his Hobie

17 and Tim for position at each buoy rounding. The breeze dropped in strength throughout the race. Randy Wieman & Callum retired their Hobie 16 from the race. After around an hour the three two-man cats, Michael & Ross, Adam Robinson & Mars and Sam & Lucy managed to separate from the others and reached the finish line before the wind almost disappeared altogether. This left Jason Abbott & Hamish Greenwood on their F18 Alan, Tim and Alistair struggling to finish about half an hour later. Hobie 17 sailors, Ian Foster and Andrew Kennedy ran out of time and couldn't complete the course in the zero breeze.

The 10 boat monohull fleet completed a two lap course and suffered the same problems with the dying breeze. As usual the laser full rigs battled with the Finn of Nic Kennedy at the front of the fleet. After over an hour of tough light wind sailing Damian Goninan managed to reach the finish line first, just 1 second in front of Nic. They were followed by John Baird and Rod Baillie, 3 seconds apart and new member Tony Peterson. The dying breeze cause a gap to the next group of finishers, Steve Osborne, Phil Daley & Harriet Greville, Kerry McGaw, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore- Lee and Ian Ferguson.

After this first race, the sailors all headed back to the Sailing Club Beach in the disappointing light breeze. Once they reached the beach, a 15 knot South easterly breeze suddenly arrived and they headed back out to the Bay mark to complete a second race on the club's inside course. A quick two lap race was set with the triangle lap around the Peninsular mark for both divisions.

Six cats set off on the windward work in the strong and gusty breeze with all using their trapezes to keep their boats flat. Michael & Ross blasted around the course in a bit over 14 minutes with Alan less than 3 minutes behind. They were followed by Sam & Lucy & Ian who recovered from capsizes. Tim and Andrew battled other problems in the wild wind and completed the fleet. Alan took the yardstick corrected time win from Michael, Ian, Sam & Lucy, Tim and Andrew.

Seven monohulls sailed in the second race with Nic showing the way in the strong breeze. He finished first followed by John, Rod, Damian, Steve, Kerry and Ian. Nic kept the win on yardstick corrected times followed by John, Steve, Rod, Damian, Kerry and Ian.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club will take a break over the Christmas and New Year period with the next race to be held on the evening of Wednesday 6th January 2021.