

Sailors enjoy a windy race under a cloudy sky.

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran heat three of the 2017/18 Twilight series on the evening of Wednesday 15th November. John Byrne on the start boat and Nathan Gorrige in the rescue boat set a start line at the Bay mark and sent the eight cats off on a long windward work to the Mountain mark. Barney Davis led the fleet off on port tack with Tim Symons and Michael Fearnley in hot pursuit. The cats soon reached the 12 to 15 knot Northerly breeze on the main lake which had them all zooming along with the sailors using their trapezes to keep the boats level.

The mono-hulls started five minutes after the cats and headed to the Peninsular mark on the first windward work of the race. John Baird slipped to the front of the Mono-hull fleet while being closely followed by Jason Abbott also on a Laser full rig. Laser Radial sailors Kerry McGaw, Martin Van Weel, Damien Gonninan, and Gote Vikstrom all battled closely with each other. Terry Lee and Lucas sailed their 470 amongst the lasers and Nic Luntungan & Karen Green on their Flying Fifteen completed the eight boat mono-hull fleet.

Steve Ashe and a mate joined the cat fleet for the first time this season on his Hobie 17 sports cat. But a broken stay caused the mast to fall and they were assisted back to the beach by Nathan on the rescue boat. Adam Robinson joined the race late on his Hobie 16 and set out to chase the other cats around the course. The cats completed two large triangle laps split by a windward / leeward sausage lap from the Bay mark to the Mountain mark. The cats split into two groups during the race with Barney and his Hobie 17 leading the fleet around the course. Fearnie and Louise on their Hobie 18 chased Barney while slipping away from Tim on his Hobie 17.

After completing three laps of the course the wind started to drop towards the end of the race and John shortened the course to a finish line at the Quarry mark. Barry Dennis, Randy Wieman & Ross Tattersall and Adam returned to the beach without finishing the course. Barney finished first just in front of Fearnie, Tim and Ian Foster finished next, a fair bit behind after just drifting across the finish line in next to no breeze. The handicap corrected times didn't change the finish order of the cats with Barney taking his third win of the season.

The Mono-hulls also completed 3 laps of the shorter course all working hard to keep their boats upright in the breezy conditions, John led them to the finish line followed by Jason, Kerry, Terry, Martin, Damien, Gote and Nic & Karen. The handicap corrected times only changed the results slightly with John taking another win for the season.

The sailors gathered again at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club on the rainy afternoon of Saturday 18th November to be greeted by a still and windless lake. Therefore the first heat of the 2017/18 Club Championship series was postponed to another day.