

Lots of Wind and Lots of Boats

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne, Andrew Callaghan

After several weeks of light winds, the Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club sailors were excited to see lots of wind for the final race 3 of the Foundation Cup series on Wednesday 22nd January. Seventeen boats rigged up to compete in this combined divisions race. John Byrne manned the start boat and set a starboard rounding course starting at the Quarry mark in the 10 to 15 knot gusty North Westerly breeze. Nic Kennedy and Andrew Callaghan manned the rescue boat. The fleet got away from the busy and crowded start line without incident. The cats zoomed away from the mono-hulls and some sailors tacked away from the bunch to find clear air on the windward work to the Bay mark.

The fleet rounded the Bay mark the headed out on a long reach to the Mountain mark with Michael Fearnside and Ross Tattersall in the lead. The strong and gusty breeze gave the sailors plenty of fast rides. The cat's zoomed long especially fast with great use of their trapezes and in some cases spinnakers. A few of the mono-hulls recovered from capsizes while Thor Slater sailing his Maricat single handed capsized and didn't complete the race after being assisted by the rescue boat.

After completing two triangle and two sausage laps, the boats finished the shortened course at the Bay mark. The cats finished at the front of the large fleet over 23 minutes a head of the first mono-hull. Michael & Ross led the fleet to the finish line closely followed by Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop only 5 seconds behind. They were followed by Alan Davis who sailed a great last lap to separate himself from Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller, Tim Symons and Barry Dennis. Adam Robinson & Thomas Davis suffered spinnaker problems during the race which forced them to the beach to make some adjustments before they made their way to the finish line. Andrew Kennedy was the last cat to finish.

John Baird and his red Laser was the first mono-hull to finish followed by Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Rod Baillie, Steve Osborne, Sam Bylett, Gote Vikstrom, Mal McLean & Kerry McGaw. The Foundation Cup series is now complete and the regular Twilight series will re-commence next week.

After the race on 22nd January, the Sailing Club's members were pleased to congratulate Sam Bylett on his participation in the Australian Youth Sailing Championships at Sorrento on Lake Macquarie. Club Captain, John Baird presented Sam with a sponsorship cheque from the club to cover his registration fees for this important regatta. Sam told the members that he enjoyed the weeklong event and the opportunity to sail with the top echelon of youth sailors and potential future Olympians.

Despite the hot and sunny conditions on Saturday 25 January, the sailors were not so happy to find next to no wind on Lake Jindabyne. John Byrne and Andrew Callaghan manned the start boat and set a simple windward / leeward course starting from a buoy between the Peninsular and Mountain marks. Steve Osborne and Barry Dennis assisted on the rescue boat. The race start was delayed by about half an hour while the sailors tried to get to the start line in the tricky zero to 3 knot strength breeze.

The fleet of twelve boats headed off from the start on a long and painfully slow windward work in the extremely light breeze while they struggled to keep their boats moving forward while bouncing over the waves created by lots of speed boats on the lake. Two of the cats, Alan Davis and Tim Symons, took to the left side of the course, while the others used the right side.

Tim and Alan reached the Cardinal mark first with Alan sneaking inside of Tim while rounding the mark with only a few inches to spare. They headed off on the downwind leg of the course back to the Finish line at the start buoy. John shortened the course to just one lap. Alan slipped ahead of Tim and finished first. They were followed by Terry Lee and Lucas Blackmore-Lee on their 470 with flying their new set of sails resplendent with Australian flag. John Baird finished next followed by the other Laser full rig sailor, Mal McLean. Next to finish were Gote Vikstrom, Phil Daley & Harriet Greville, Thor & Freya Slater, Kerry McGaw and Dave Callaghan. The Division 2 results of Alan, Tim and Thor didn't change when corrected for class yardsticks. In the Division 1 race, John took the win on yardstick corrected times followed by Terry & Lucas, Gote, Mal, Phil & Harriet, Kerry and Dave.