

Sailors Battle the Southerly Buster

Story by Tim Symons, Photos by John Byrne, Barry Dennis, John Russell

On the warm afternoon of Wednesday 11th December, the sailors rigged seventeen boats in anticipation of a moderate 10 knot breeze for heat seven of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2019/20. John Byrne manned the start boat and was assisted by Barry Dennis and John Russell on the rescue boat. John set a Port rounding course starting at the Club mark for the first time this season into the Southerly breeze. The breeze continued to build during the race to about fifteen knots with twenty knot gusts Southerly Buster.

The six catamarans zoomed off from the first start with the four bigger two man cats leading the two solo cats. The cat fleet rounded the Quarry mark then set off on a long square run to the Mountain mark. The three F18s flew their spinnakers while their crews balanced on the trapezes. Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall led the fleet back to the Bay mark on a long Windward work followed by Adam Robinson & Mars and Jason Abbott crewing for his Dad Lawson. The F18 required an extra tack to reach the Bay mark while the other three cats didn't which allowed them to catch up and stay in touch with the leaders. Alistair Cross and stand-in crew Hamish Greenwood made enough gains to round the Bay mark in second place. The cats kept zooming around the course while dealing with the strong wind and gusts plus major shifts in the wind direction. The breeze shifted to the South East during the second half of the race.

The eleven mono-hulls started five minutes after the cats. They also enjoyed some fast rides and a few capsizes. John Baird on his Laser full rig revelled in the windy conditions and slipped to the front of the fleet while being chased by the bigger boats of Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner and Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee. The following gaggle of Lasers raced amongst themselves as usual.

After completing a full length five lap outside course in about fifty two and a half minutes, Michael and Ross led the fast finishing cat fleet to the finish line at the Bay mark. They were followed by Adam & Mars, Alistair & Hamish, Tim Symons, Jason & Lawson who capsized on their way to the finish and Andrew Kennedy. The handicap corrected times gave Tim his first win of the season, followed by Adam & Mars only 8 seconds ahead of Michael & Ross, Alistair & Hamish, Andrew and Jason & Lawson.

The mono-hulls completed a full length five lap course on the inside course. Peter Baker and his new Sabre didn't complete the course. John Baird led the fleet to the finish line at the Bay mark followed by Sam Bylett, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Rod Baillie, Steve Osborne, Alex Machin, Mal McLean, Gote Vikstrom, Kerry McGaw. Terry & Lucas took their second win in a row on handicap corrected times. They were followed by Phil, Sam, Rod, Steve, John, Kerry, Gote, Alex and Mal.

Heat five of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2019/20 Point-core series was held on the cloudy afternoon of Saturday 14th December. John Byrne manned the start boat with Ian Foster and John Russell on the rescue boat. John started the five cats first from the Club mark towards the Bay mark. A long square run to the Mountain mark was next as the fleet started its first triangle lap on the main lake. The South Westerly breeze varied in strength and shifted around as all of the sailors tried to find the most efficient route from mark to mark.

Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall shot into the lead as they gybed down-wind with their blue spinnaker flying. Adam Robinson & Mars chased in the other F18 while the solo cats of Barry Dennis, Andrew Kennedy and Tim Symons continued a battle of their own. The ten boat mono-hull fleet followed the cats out onto the main lake course. The cats complete a five lap course while the mono-hulls completed 4 laps. Barry Dennis and Peter Baker didn't complete the course along with Sam Bylett and Hamish Greenwood on their 12 foot skiff.

Michael & Ross crossed the finish line at the Peninsular mark first followed by Adam & Mars, Andrew and Tim. Michael took the yardstick corrected time win from Andrew, Adam and Tim. John Baird led the mono-hulls to the finish line followed by Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Mal McLean, Rod Baillie, Gote Vikstrom, Kerry McGaw, Ross Lawley and Thor & Freya Slater sailing the club's leaky

Laser 11. Rod won the race on yardstick corrected times followed by John, Mal, Gote, Terry & Lucas, Kerry, Ross and Thor & Freya.