

Sailing in the Smoke Haze

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Nic Kennedy, Ross Lawley and John Byrne

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club is back on the lake after the Christmas / New Year break. The club ran race 1 of the combined divisions Foundation Cup series on Wednesday 8th January 2020. Six boats competed despite the thick smoke haze over the lake. The medium strength South Easterly breeze suited the smaller Lasers over the catamarans. Steve Osborne took the yardstick corrected time win from John Baird, Kerry McGaw and Gote Vikstrom. Next were the two F18 catamarans of Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop and Adam Robinson & Hamish Greenwood.

Heat 6 of the 2019/20 Point-score series was abandoned on Saturday 4th January and heat 7 was run on Saturday 11th January. The smoke had cleared for this race with seven mono-hulls competing in Division 1 and three catamarans in Division 2. A windward / leeward course was set on the main lake by John Byrne and Tim Symons on the start boat while Alan Davis and Ross Lawley manned the rescue boat. The mono-hulls started first and the usual follow the leader behind John Baird ensued. The leeward mark which was used for the start was very difficult to see against the lake shore background and John led most of the fleet toward another mark which was not being used in the race. Meanwhile Kerry McGaw headed to the correct mark and gained a great advantage on the rest of the fleet.

After 3 laps of the course, Kerry won the Division 1 race on yardstick corrected time from John, Steve Osborne, Phil Daley & Harriet Greville, Hamish Greenwood, Mal McLean and Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee. In Division 2, Alistair Cross and his wife Vicki took the win from Adam Robinson & Sam Bishop and Thomas Davis sailing his dad's Hobie 17.

The smoke haze returned for race 2 of the Foundation Cup on Wednesday 15th January. Thirteen boats competed in this combined divisions race in an extremely light Easterly breeze. John Byrne and Alan Davis manned the start boat while Roger Green and Nic Kennedy assisted on the rescue boat. The light breeze of less than 5 knots shifted all over the compass, but at the start of the race was from the East. A Port rounding course was set with a start line at the Bay mark. This made for an interesting start where most of the fleet, including the big cats started on Port tack from the buoy end of the line while John Baird and Steve Osborne sailed their Lasers up the line with right of way on Starboard tack to get to the same end of the line. The fleet got away from the start line without incident and headed to the Quarry mark.

The cats separated from mono-hulls on the first leg, rounded the Quarry mark and headed out on a long windward work to the Mountain mark. As all of the sailors searched for that elusive puff of breeze, the two F18s of Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop and Adam Robinson & Ross Tattersall slipped to the lead. A long square run to the Finish line followed as John had shortened the course and setup the Finish line at the Bay mark. After a painfully slow race, the cat's finished in front of the mono-hulls who benefitted from an increasing breeze from the North West to bring them home. The yardstick corrected times mixed up the results with all of the mono-hulls in front of the cats. John Baird took the win from Suzie Green, Hamish Greenwood, Kerry McGaw, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Steve Osborne, Barry Dennis, Andrew Kennedy, Tim Symons, Thomas Davis, Alistair Cross and Tristyn Lowe, Jason & Sam and Adam & Ross.

Heat eight of the 2019/20 Point-score series was run on the clear and sunny afternoon of Saturday 18th January. Despite the improved weather, the sailors had to wait until around 4:30 pm until enough breeze turned up to start a race. Division 1 consisted of five Lasers and Division 2, four catamarans. John Byrne manned the Start boat with John Russell and Ian McCluggage on the rescue boat. The breeze shifted around a lot, but eventually settled on North East and around 4 to 5 knots.

The boats headed off from the start line at the Bay mark on a windward work to the Peninsular mark expecting to return to the Bay mark. During this first leg, John decided to change the course from a windward / leeward course to a triangle. Alan Davis sailing his Hobie 17 for the first time this season led the fleet to the Peninsular mark for a Port side rounding then off to the Quarry mark. He was followed by the other cats of Andrew Kennedy, Tim Symons and Thor & Freya Slater. The three cats separated on the windward work, bunching up again on the two reaching legs. John Baird headed up the competitive Laser fleet.

After a short course of a single triangle lap, John set a finish line at the Baymark, Alan "Barney" Davis crossed the line first, closely followed by Andrew Kennedy, 6 seconds behind and Tim Symons a further 2 seconds behind. John Baird finished next, followed by Thor & Freya Slater, Sam Bylett, Mal McLean, Kerry McGaw and Steve Osborne. Thor & Freya won the Division 2 race on yardstick corrected times followed by Andrew, Tim and Alan. John won the Division 1 race followed by Sam, Kerry Steve and Mal.