

NEW AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION

— expected that *Helen* would derive some advantage when *Myra III* was compelled to gybe about a mile from the finish, but Billy Barnett and his experts performed the manoeuvre with precision and lost practically no ground. The pair continued their duel in close company, right up to the finish.

Order across the line was: *Jenny IV*, *Myra III*, *Helen*, *Buccaneer*, *Flying Fish*, *J.M.H.*, *Alstar II*, *Ace*, *Merle*, *Alstar I*, *Culex III*. *Patricia* retired. *Jenny IV* won by 4 min. 29 sec., with 1 sec. between second and third boats.

"Jenny IV" Triumphs

Final heat of the series will go down as one of the greatest tussles for supremacy ever seen on the Brisbane River. *Myra III* and *Jenny IV* sported their largest suits for the breeze, which was slightly fresher than that which prevailed during the second heat. Actually both craft had slightly too much area for the beat to windward, and as a consequence Wright

raced in close company. *Buccaneer* was disqualified for fouling *Flying Fish*, but skipper Harold Watts elected to sail on under protest (this was eventually dismissed).

Buccaneer and *Helen*, after sailing the north bank with *Jenny IV* and *Flying Fish*, moved over to the southern shore; this proved the correct move, but *Jenny IV* was kept to weather of the overtaking *Myra III*. Disregarding all other competitors, Wright and Barnett sailed the north shore, where the breeze was lighter and more fickle than along the leeward bank. Neither cared a jot who won the heat; all that mattered was that the first of them to reach the finishing line would gain the title.

What appeared likely to develop into a match race was spoilt by *Merle*, *Culex III* and *Flying Fish* joining issue with *Jenny IV* and *Myra III* over the final mile-and-a-quarter. *Merle* was eventually disqualified for fouling *Jenny IV*.

Buccaneer, *Helen*, *Alstar* and *Culex III* had all sailed through to forward positions, but the *Jenny IV-Myra III* tussle for windward position continued, *Jenny IV* holding her windward position all the way, to finish fifth, 15 seconds ahead of *Myra III*. With *Buccaneer* disqualified, *Jenny IV* was declared fourth and *Myra III* fifth.

Finishing order was: *Helen*, *Alstar II*, *Culex III*, *Jenny IV*, *Myra III*, *Flying Fish*, *J.M.H.*, *Ace*, *Alstar I*; *Patricia*. Won by 21 sec., with 19 sec. between second and third.

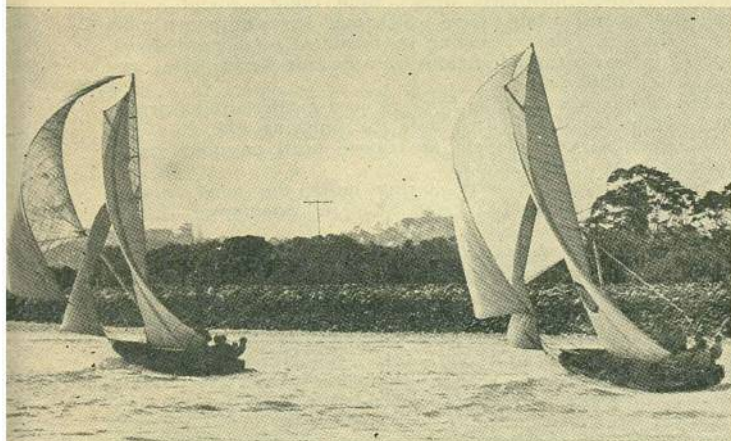
Had *Myra III* been taken to leeward of *Jenny IV* in Pinkenba Reach, Barnett would have had an excellent chance of retaining the title; but he preferred to match his skill against Wright in close off-the-wind tactics, and it is a pity that the issue could not have been decided between the two title contenders, without the other craft coming in to complicate the picture.

Jenny's win was an excellent birthday present for Norman Wright Junior, who turned 36 on the very day of the final heat. A week earlier his father, Norman Wright Senior, celebrated his 67th birthday; he now considers 1952 his lucky year, because, in addition to Norman Junior's 18-footer title victory, his other son, Ron, earlier won the Australian 16-ft. skiff championship.

Results of Other Carnival Events

In the opening Interstate Handicap *Alstar II* (S. Elms) scored from *J.M.H.* (L. Watts), with *Jenny IV* (N. Wright) third and fastest.

The Anniversary Day Handicap gave Bill Barnett and his *Myra III* combination a chance to demonstrate their ability in a hard breeze; *Myra III* cleared out early to win the scratch race from *Jenny IV*, with *J.M.H.* third. In the handicap *J.M.H.* scored from *Myra III*, *Alstar II* and *Jenny IV*.



A tense moment for Wright as he fights to maintain a narrow home-stretch lead from his chief opponent, "Myra III", in the final heat of the championship.

and Barnett had to fight every inch of the way with *Flying Fish*, *Buccaneer* and *Helen*.

These five skiffs presented a grand spectacle as they tacked in close company all the way over the five-and-a-half mile race to windward. *Jenny IV* was the best performer, but the margin was insufficient to make her position safe; nearing the rounding mark *Buccaneer*, *Flying Fish* and *Helen* were within striking distance, with *Myra III* trailing. The others appeared to be well out of the picture.

At the turn *Jenny IV* had six seconds to spare from *Buccaneer*, followed by *Flying Fish* four seconds later; then came *Helen*, another 10 seconds farther back and 32 seconds ahead of *Myra III*. Hoisting large extras, *Jenny IV*, *Flying Fish*, *Buccaneer* and *Helen*