



Brisbane boatbuilder Norman Wright fulfils a lifetime ambition as "Jenny IV," with every stitch of canvas up, flies home to win the National Title.

IN ONE of the most thrilling races ever witnessed on the Brisbane River, Queensland 18-footer *Jenny IV* last month won the Australian championship from the New South Wales title-holder, *Myra III*.

On each occasion during the five-day carnival *Jenny IV* and *Myra III* appeared under similar conditions, and there was never much between them. They are similarly rigged, with bent-back Bermudan masts and nicely fitting sails of similar measurement for the various strengths of breeze.

Points scored in the three heats were: *Jenny IV* (N. Wright, Q.), 413; *Myra III* (W. Barnett, N.S.W.), 397; *Helen* (H. Spring, Q.), 349; *Alstar II* (S. Elms, Q.), 135; *Buccaneer* (H. Watts, Q.), 94; *Culex II* (N. Todkill, Q.), 78; *Flying Fish* (R. Carroll, N.S.W.), 23; *J.M.H.* (L. Watts, Q.), 10; *Ace* (L. Heffernan, Q.), 7.

In the first and second heats *Jenny IV* and *Myra III* secured a first and a second apiece, and it was a pity that the pair could not have decided the final as a match race. As it was, the final heat developed into a duel for supremacy, and the presence of the 10 other competitors did not make the tasks of Norman Wright and Bill Barnett any easier.

At times both craft suffered interference from other competitors, but there is no gainsaying the fact that a more evenly matched pair of 18-footers has never been seen on the Brisbane River.

All ideas of winning the final heat were thrown to the winds by Wright and Barnett. They fought each other as hard as they could, within the rules, and Wright's retention of windward berth throughout the long five-and-a-half mile run before the breeze won the day for him against *Myra III*.

"Myra III" Wins First Heat

In the first heat, sailed in the afternoon of January 19, *Myra III* outsailed the fleet in grand style. The medium nor'easterly breeze appeared to suit the New South Wales champion's intermediate sails and Billy

"JENNY IV" IS

Barnett's crew of six lightweights. Norman Wright evidently prepared for a strengthening breeze, for he added a sixth man to his five "heavies".

Alstar II, *Culex III* and *Jenny IV* were first across the starting line, with *Myra III*, *Ace*, *Patricia* and *Flying Fish* in handy positions. *Myra III* made better pace through the water and pointed slightly higher into the breeze on the five-and-a-half mile beat to windward; she took the lead after a couple of short boards and kept increasing her advantage.

Flying Fish, of N.S.W., showed surprising windward ability, fighting Queensland's ace trio — *Jenny IV*, *Helen* and *Buccaneer* — all the way to the mark, which she rounded second, 1 min. 45 sec. behind *Myra III*. *Jenny IV* was then third, 15 seconds astern of *Flying Fish*. Off the wind, however, it was a different story; while *Myra III* kept drawing away in the fading breeze, *Flying Fish* was soon passed by *Jenny IV* and several others.

Myra III crossed the line 3 min. 26 sec. in front of *Jenny IV*, with *Buccaneer* third, a further 1 min. 13 sec. away. Then came *Helen*, *Culex III*, *Ace* and *Alstar II* (equal 6th), *Flying Fish*, *J.M.H.*, *Alstar I* and *Patricia*. *Merle* was disqualified.

"Jenny IV" Turns Tables

The breeze was lighter for the second heat on Wednesday, January 23, and *Jenny IV* sported her largest sails. The extra sail area proved a useful ally for Norman Wright, who won the second heat just as convincingly as *Myra III* had won the first. So well did *Jenny IV* perform that at the finish she had 4½ minutes to spare from *Myra III*.

In gaining second place Billy Barnett had to counter many challenges by Queensland's Harold Spring, in *Helen*. Unable to gain weather berth on *Myra III* over the final mile, Spring drove *Helen* to leeward in a "do-or-die" finish and failed by only one second (about 18 inches) to beat the New South Wales champion.

Alstar II and *Helen* were the first to show out from an even start, with State champs *Myra III* and *Jenny IV* in the centre of the fleet. *Jenny IV* was not long in working clear of the ruck, but *Myra III* had a much harder task. *Flying Fish*, *Helen*, *J.M.H.*, *Alstar II* and *Culex III* all keenly contested the issue with Barnett, and it took three miles of sailing for *Myra III* to move up into third place, behind *Jenny IV* and *Helen*.

At the rounding mark *Jenny IV* was 3 min. 13 sec. in front of *Helen*, who was 27 seconds ahead of *Myra III*. Harold Spring gybed *Helen* at the mark and carried his mainsail to port, while the others simply squared away; his move proved incorrect, for *Myra III* sailed through *Helen's* lee.

With *Jenny IV* well clear and assured of victory, all eyes centred on the second-place battle between *Helen* and *Myra III*. Many — including *Helen's* crew