



DOVE

TRIVIAL

QUERY

SKIFF REVIEW

C. S. RYRIE



PEN boats of all leading classes will be in full racing swing this month. Boxing Day this year will mark the beginning of the 1948-49 Australian Championship Carnival to be held in Sydney. The twelves and sixteens will hold their championships between Christmas and the New Year, and the Australian eighteen-footer championship will follow in January. The climax of the Carnival will be the world 18-footer title race set down for February.

This is probably the first time that all four title races have been sailed in Sydney together.

For the twelve footers this will be their twenty-first Australian Championship. The first of the series was sailed in 1926 when Ben Roff of New South Wales took *Schemer* to Brisbane. The only other entrant was Toby Wherat's Queensland boat *Defiance*.

The latter won the championship which proved to be the first real promotional effort for the growth of the class.

This year just on 100 skiffs from New South Wales alone, are taking part in the test races for the championship. Of these, only six will represent in the actual carnival. Test races will also decide the six representatives from Queensland.

The present holder of the title is Brisbane boat *Dove*, skippered by Len Johnstone, a cripple from

birth. Len's win last year was probably the most popular in the history of the series, even among competing skippers. It was the blossoming of the fruits of a wonderful character who has never bowed down to adversity. He is a fine skipper and a wonderful sport in every sense of the word.

His victory last year showed that the twenty-two years old *Dove* still has plenty of form and that Len must rank as one of Australia's best small-craft helmsmen. There is every possibility that she may retain the title, although competition and keenness is even greater this year than last.

Other Queensland boats which should be well to the fore are *Vortex* (G. Mitchell) and *Resolve* (W. Vaughan).

Vortex, in particular, is regarded as a very fair "tip" for the blue ribbon.

Sailed by 16-year-old ex-trainee skipper, Gerald Mitchell, this craft gained No. 1 representation this year by winning the first and second heats of the State title and test races.

Resolve, who sailed so well to be runner-up in last year's championship, has changed hands from Kev. Martin to W. Vaughan. However, *Resolve* still appears to have a capable skipper and is No. 3 representative this year.

The five Queensland skiffs in order of selection are *Vortex*, *Dove*, *Resolve*, *Dynamic* (R. Hawgood) and *Renaissance* (J. McCarthy).

The six N.S.W. representatives were also chosen over three test races.

Toogara, built and sailed by Cliff Monkhouse, came through with flying colours to gain No. 1 selection with one first and two seconds. The fact that she was so consistent in the three heats, all sailed in good working north-easters, marks her well in line for the championship honours.

Query (C. Ryrie) showed much improved form to win the first heat, and with a second in the last heat, she is No. 2 representative.

Dave Mair's *St. George* sailed well to take the second test race and is N.S.W. No. 3. *St. George* was leading in the third heat when trouble at the first spinnaker jibe put her out of the placing.

Dave Mair has a very creditable record in championship racing, having represented in the past two Australian titles with two different skiffs.

Last season he won the State, Botany Bay, Port Jackson and Middle Harbour Championships in the present *St. George*.

Mention must also be given to Ken Barrett's *True Blue*, who is sailing her first season for some years.

Although a fairly old craft, she showed remarkable windward ability in the tests and was placed third in each. Her performance was marred slightly by poor extras off the wind, but with improvement in this capacity and some hard-working breezes in the championships she must be reckoned a substantial force.

The New South Wales representatives are *Toogara*, *Query*, *St. George*, *True Blue* and the two to be decided from *Trivial* (R. Winning), *Amaroo* (W. Gilkes) and *Phyllis*, who each shared equal points. If *Trivial* is the one selected then four of last year's representatives will again be competing, namely, *Trivial*, *Toogara*, *St. George* and *Query*.

Last year's championship resulted—*Dove* (Q.) 1st, *Resolve* (Q.) 2nd, *Trivial* (N.S.W.) 3rd, *Dynamic* (Q.) 4th, *Query* (N.S.W.) 5th.

The first 16-ft. Championship was held in 1908-09 at Brisbane and resulted in a win for New South Wales' boat *Minoru* (H. Roderick). This race also marked the long line of progressive history of the class and today the standard of its competitive racing is probably one of the highest in Australia, if not in the world. Sixteen-footer clubs have been formed throughout New South Wales as well as in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. Each State is well represented in the National title races.

Last year's championship, held on Waterloo Bay (Queensland), resulted in a victory for the renowned veteran Vic. Lucas in *Vi V*.

The contest proved one of the closest in the history of the championship series and in the third and final heat only one second separated the first two skiffs, *Vi V* and *Frolic II* (H. Watts). Had *Frolic* been successful then a sail-off would have been necessary between *Thunder* (B. Mortlock), *Victory* (E. Kirk) and *Frolic*. *Vi V* would not have been placed in the first three on points. *Thunder* and *Victory*, both New

South Wales skiffs won the first and second heats respectively.

Had *Victory* not been disqualified in the first heat when she ran second, she would have taken the title.

Vic. Lucas proved himself Australia's *Number One* skiff helmsman, as it was his fourth 16ft. title and his sixth in all classes. Toby Whereat has been the only skipper to take six Australian championships.

So far Queensland has won eighteen titles compared to New South Wales' five and Western Australia's three.

This year, however, the New South Welshmen are determined to alter this majority and appear to have every chance of doing so.

Three races, sailed on Waterloo Bay, decided the five metropolitan skiffs to represent Queensland in the title.

No. 1 representation is shared by *Vi V* (Vic. Lucas) and *Joy VI* (R. Wright). *Mercia V* (W. Port), *Gralex* (S. Lucas) and *Joyous Too* (G. Milne) finished in that order on points.

The team of eight will be completed by *Edna* (E. Price), of Maryborough, N.B.S. (J. Taylor), of Cairns, and *Satini* (O. Butler), of Townsville.

The tests were sailed on a course identical to that of Botany Bay, where the title heats will be held.

The N.S.W. representatives caused some surprise. The strong Middle Harbour Club, which was so well represented in last year's championship, proved disappointing and only obtained two selections.

Oh Johnny (W. Hayward) proved outstanding by winning the 1st and 3rd heats, and is N.S.W. No. 1 representative.

Marny (L. Riley) and *Laurel* (T. Collis) were two other St. George boats who were selected.

The other representatives for the championship are *Encounter* (R. Slade, Manly), *Farewell* (J. Rosenthal, Middle Harbour), *Victor J* (Drummoyne), and *Robco* (Colin Humphries, Belmont).

Oh Johnny must be considered well in the line of favourites for the title, as she is sailing in top form and should be specially suited on her "home-ground."

The three heats will be sailed on December 30, January 1 and January 2.

Sixteens on Ramsgate beach, Botany Bay, at the N.S.W. elimination trials.



The official W.A. representative for the Australian 16-ft. Skiff Championship is *Lily* (J. Mitchell). *Lily* is a new boat launched this season and quickly proved to be the smartest skiff in the local fleet. Probably it is 40% boat and 60% Jack Mitchell, because Jack has the natural skill which enables him to get the most out of any craft he may be connected with. Club members believe that *Lily* will be prominent in the Championship events, and that Jack has an excellent chance of bringing back the title to Perth.

Wings (Mel Peacock) will be W.A.'s second string and may do well if the going is hard. Mel is the present holder of the Vee-Jay Australian title, which he won with *Seabee* in Sydney last season. He will return to Perth from the Skiff Championship to defend his title.

It is a great pity that the sixteen-foot association officials have decided to sail their races on the same days as the twelves as it will cause a considerable loss in the patronage to each class. Sailing enthusiasts are usually interested in both title events and now they must choose between the two.

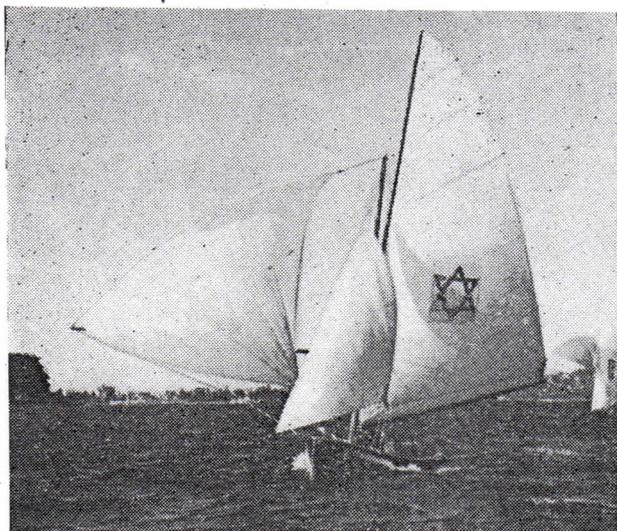
Next in succession is the Australian 18-footer championship to be sailed in January. The present holder of the title is Queensland boat *Culex III*.

Up to the present, New South Wales has been substantially outclassed in this event. However, with the introduction the fast six-foot beam eighteen in New South Wales and also the appearance of champion skippers in the class, it is quite possible that the Brisbane visitors will be surprised next year.

Certainly, Bill Barnett in *Myra*, Ned Press in *H. C. Press*, Bert Swinbourne in *Jenny Too* and Tommy Doyle in *Desdemona* are capable of reaching strong arms for the title.

It is unfortunate that the Sydney Flying Squadron is the only club to represent New South Wales in this event. Many enthusiasts believe that the "League" eighteens are far superior to those of the Squadron. Certainly, in an inter-club race some years ago, League boats filled the first nine places.

"Farewell" (John Rosenthal). Much improved boat this year. Won Sydney Harbor Championship.



However, the Squadron has improved vastly in the last years and a combined race would be extremely interesting.

It seems absurd, however, that the Australian champion eighteen footer may not actually be the best eighteen in Australia.

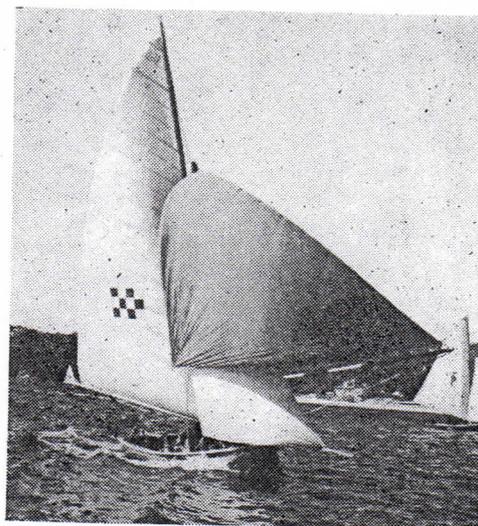
The first test race to decide the Queensland representatives resulted in a splendid win for *Jenny* (N. Wright, Jnr.).

Australia (Bill Stanley) was put in the water for the first time after a long spell and sailed well to gain second place. *Janet* (H. Spring) was third and *Culex* (L. Watts) fourth.

Culex was unlucky to break her spinnaker poles while running third.

On present performances, *Jenny* should be No. 1, and general opinion has it that all five Queensland boats will compete in the championship in late January.

Last, but not least, in the Carnival is the 18 footer



"Classique" (Ron Adams), consistent performer this season, especially in light airs. Won the morning test at Botany.

Worlds Championship to be sailed in the middle of February.

This famous event was suspended during the war and last season was sailed for the first time since 1939 when Bert Swinbourne took the title with *Taree*.

Billo Hayward, in *Crow's Nest*, again proved his brilliance by winning the Championship in straight heats. *Top Dog* (Bert Swinbourne) was placed second and the New Zealand boat *Matara* was third.

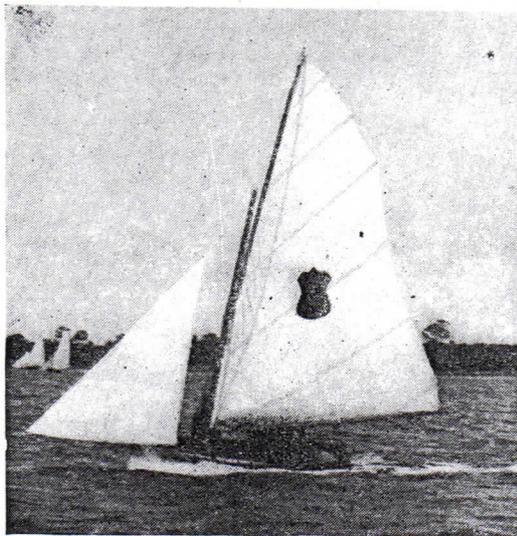
On the whole, Australia well outstayed her rivals. However, when the breeze was anyway fresh, New Zealand showed splendid sailing ability to windward and in some cases outshone the Australian boats in that capacity.

Off the wind, however, the New Zealander's were no match for the Australians and their enormous sail area. The New Zealand class carry relatively small marconi sails and do not use ringtails.

On present performances the strongest Australian contenders for the title are *Top Dog* (J. Pearce), *Marjorie* (A. Russell), *Top Weight* (R. Rawlings), and *Shamrock* (P. Griffiths).

Crow's Nest, present holder of the trophy, has not yet struck her true form, but it can be taken for granted that George Pearce will have her well up to standard before next February.

Top Weight has performed well lately but mainly due to her remarkable "off the wind" ability. With a little improvement to windward she will be right in line for championship honors.



"Toogara" (C. Monkhouse).



Shamrock, *Marjorie* and *Top Dog* are among the most consistent boats in the fleet at present.

New Zealand representatives have not yet been selected, but in all probability they will be some of last season's best, namely, *Matarā*, *Fleetwing*, *Beverley*, *Macusla*, *Marabi* and *Kaitere*.

This season's Carnival in all four classes will see representatives from Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand and this is some little indication of the immense popularity of the sport.

In the near future it is hoped that South Australia will be included on this list and a little later, perhaps, Canada and other countries.

AUSTRALIAN 16-FT. SKIFF SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP, 1948-49

Representing Victoria 16ft. Skiff Association.		
Valiant	Black Shield, Gold Diagonal Bar	E. Petherbridge
Representing Mounts Bay Sailing Club, West Australia.		
Boat	Colors.	Skipper.
Lily IV.	Black "T"	J. Mitchell
Wings	Blue Wing, Red Circle	M. Peacock
Representing Queensland 16ft. Skiff Association.		
VI V	Black Shield, White Bars	V. Lucas
Joy VI	Reversed Black "7"	R. Wright
Mercia	Blue Pennant, Black Staff	W. Port
Gralex	Blue Diamond	S. Lucas
Joyous Too	Red Triangle, Blue & Gold Centres	G. Milne
Edna	Royal Blue, Exclamation Mark	E. Price
Satini	Black Shield, Gold Bar	L. Taylor
N.B.S.	Red & Gold Shield, with N.B.S.	F. Black
Representing N.S.W. 16ft. Skiff Association.		
O'Johnny	Red Ball, Blue Bar	W. Hayward
Classique	Two Blue Triangles	R. Adams
Marny	Red & White Rectangle	L. Riley
Laurel	Black Outlined Triangle	H. Collis.
Encounter	Blue "8"	R. Slade
Farewell	Blue & White Checked Rectangle	J. Rosenthal
Robco	White Fish in Blue Rectangle	C. Humphreys
Victor	Blue Oval, Red "V" White Outline	A. Rodrick

To be sailed in three Heats, 29th Dec., 1st & 2nd January, 1949

Botany Bay Course. Racing to start at 2.30 p.m. on each race day. Sailed under Australian 16ft. Championship Rules.

First Prize, Replica Cup, Pennant, Medal for each crew member and £16 cash; Second Prize £8.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN 16-FT. SKIFF CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1908-9—At Brisbane, won by "Minoru," N.S.W.—H. Roderick.
- 1909-10—Brisbane, won by "Minoru," N.S.W.—H. Roderick.
- 1918-19—Sydney, won by "Vauclose," N.S.W.—F. Newton.
- 1919-20—Brisbane, won by "Valmae," Q'ld.—C. Clark.
- 1920-21—Sydney, won by "Agnes," Q'ld.—T. Deane.
- 1921-22—Brisbane, won by "C.M.," Q'ld.—A. Whereat.
- 1922-23—Sydney, won by "Furore," N.S.W.—R. Fennell.
- 1923-24—Brisbane, won by "Ajax," Q'ld.—A. Whereat.
- 1924-25—Sydney, won by "Furious," Q'ld.—T. Deane.
- 1925-26—Perth, won by "Victor," Q'ld.—V. Lucas.
- 1926-27—Brisbane, won by "Ajax III," Q'ld.—A. Whereat.
- 1927-28—Sydney, won by "Memory," Q'ld.—S. Cadman.
- 1928-29—Perth, won by "Verona," W.A.—J. Norris.
- 1929-30—Brisbane, won by "Ajax," Q'ld.—A. Whereat.
- 1930-31—Hobart, won by "Ajax," Q'ld.—A. Whereat.
- 1931-32—Sydney, won by "Victor II," Q'ld.—V. Lucas.
- 1932-33—Perth, won by "Marjorie," W.A.—J. Mitchell.
- 1933-34—Brisbane, won by "Victor III," Q'ld.—V. Lucas.
- 1934-35—Sydney, won by "Ace," N.S.W.—C. Boulton.
- 1935-36—Perth, won by "Aeolian," W.A.—J. Mitchell.
- 1936-37—Brisbane, won by "Imp," Q'ld.—R. Hendry.
- 1937-38—Sydney, won by "Imp," Q'ld.—R. Hendry.
- 1938-39—Perth, won by "Imp," Q'ld.—R. Hendry.
- 1939-40—Brisbane, won by "Imp," Q'ld.—R. Hendry.
- 1940-41—Sydney, won by "U-Dear," N.S.W.—J. Lyons.
- 1946-47—Perth, won by "Joy," Q'ld.—R. Wright.
- 1947-48—Brisbane, won by VI-V., Q'ld.—V. Lucas.

No Interstate Contests took place between 1910-1917 and 1942-1946.

The results up to the present are: Queensland 18 wins; New South Wales 6; Western Australia 3.