

THE BOAT RACE

OXFORD'S CREW ANNOUNCED

FROM OUR ROWING CORRESPONDENT

The Oxford University crew to row against Cambridge in the 100th boat race from Putney to Mortlake on April 3 was announced at Wallingford yesterday.

The order of rowing is:—

R. A. Wheadon (Cranleigh and Balliol), bow; E. V. Vine (Geelong G.S. and Brasenose), J. A. Gobbo (Melbourne University and Magdalen), R. M. T. Raikes (Radley and Merton), * H. M. C. Quick (Shrewsbury and Merton), J. McLeod (Sydney University and New College), E. O. G. Pain (Sydney University and Lincoln), J. J. H. Harrison (Shrewsbury and Trinity), stroke; * W. R. Marsh (St. Edward's and University), cox.

* An old Blue.

Oxford have had some trouble with chills and influenza recently, and the loss of their secretary, M. J. Wilson, who was rowing at five, and would probably have been their heaviest man, may suggest that they have been having a run of bad luck. But, of course, Cambridge lost several promising men before they started practising, so that the luck has been by no means one-sided.

The Oxford crew as now announced may well be as fast as any they could produce, and, though it is not as fast as Cambridge at present, there is no question that, if all now goes well, it will be quite capable of rendering a good account of itself at Putney. There are four Australians in the crew, which is almost certainly the largest number the Dominion has ever contributed, and E. O. G. Pain, who rowed in the last Australian Olympic eight, is the most experienced oarsman in either crew. With H. M. C. Quick, the President, the only man in either crew who is rowing in his third boat race, Oxford would not appear to start at a disadvantage.

It is quite possible that R. M. T. Raikes will change places with J. McLeod at six, but if the latter continues to improve as he has recently the order may well be left as it is. In Harrison, Oxford have a stroke who uses his head and will always race hard. His weakness is at the finish of the stroke, and Oxford's ultimate pace may well depend on whether he and Pain can really make the crew sit back and finish every stroke right out.

Oxford remain at Wallingford under the care of Mr. A. D. Rowe until the end of next week. At Putney they will be coached by Group Captain H. R. A. Edwards.

Mr. Stagg

Times

5/3/54.

THE BOAT RACE

OXFORD SECRETARY OUT OF THE CREW

FROM OUR ROWING CORRESPONDENT

M. J. Wilson, the Oxford secretary, who was unwell last week, will be unable to row in the boat race. Oxford's lack of replacements is brought home very forcibly by the changes in the boat which this loss has necessitated, for it seems that there is no one who can well be brought in at five, or even at three. The President has therefore moved himself from six to five, and McLeod has moved down to six, while E. L. Vine, the Australian who was at one time tried as a spare stroke, has come in at two.

The trouble now is that there is really no one suitable to row six. McLeod is rowing better than he has at any time to date, but he weighs little over 12st., and if he was a doubtful candidate at two, he must be more so at six. The alternative is Raikes, who is seemingly a more forceful oar, but he is even lighter than McLeod and a freshman too. McLeod is, of course, technically a freshman, but he comes from Sydney University while Raikes was rowing for Radley last summer.

Yesterday the crew had their second outing in the new order at Wallingford coached by Mr. A. Rowe, and they were going better than one might have expected. They were accompanied by a Radley eight, which paced them for part of a six minute row, during which Oxford were generally stroking 29, and really looked more comfortable and more lively than a fortnight ago. But there were dangerous signs of their habitual failure to hold out the finishes. Pain was trying valiantly to hang on, but Harrison was not giving him enough time, and all through the boat there was a tendency to hurry the recovery. Order of rowing:—

R. A. Wheadon (Cranleigh and Balliol), bow; E. L. Vine (Geelong G.S. and Brasenose), J. A. Gobbo (Melbourne University and Magdalen), R. M. T. Raikes (Radley and Merton), *H. M. C. Quick (Shrewsbury and Merton), J. McLeod (Sydney University and New College), E. O. G. Pain (Sydney University and Lincoln), J. J. H. Harrison (Shrewsbury and Trinity), stroke; *W. R. Marsh (St. Edward's and University), Cox.

* An old Blue.

Times

3/3/54

Mr. Stagg:

Suggest you
check against
Pathe's dope-sheet
on "training"
story.

Stagg