

Oxford or Cambridge? A time-honoured challenge that heralds the ~~the~~ Centenary Boat Race. Watched by Dr Owan, their coach, the Light Blues round off training at Ely.

J.A.N. Wallis ^(ROW) ~~the~~ No. 2 Stancliffe. ~~the~~ three - Hill ~~the~~ Four - ~~the~~ Masser / Five. Baynes / Six. Davies. ~~the~~ Seven Bruce. Stroke Marshall, with Tanburn as Cox.

Cambridge (who won last year) lead by 54 wins to 44 - with one dead-heat.

(2) at Wallingford, near Oxford, the Dark Blues made great strides under the care of Coach A.D. Rowe - after suffering several set-backs.

With Four Australians in the boat - their order of rowing is:-

Bow. Wheadon. Numbers two and three, Vine and Gobbo, both Australians.

Four Raikes (his family's fifth rowing blue). Five Quick / Six and seven ~~McLeod and Pain~~

McLeod and Pain, the other Australians. Stroke Harrison, and Cox Wally Marsh / ~~the~~

Over now to Aintree, where a motor-racing track is being laid alongside the Grand National circuit. Mrs Topham (~~the~~ Managing Director of the Course) discusses the new project before supervising the rebuilding of jumps for the World's greatest steeplechase.

The winner? Well, what about Irish Lizard, third last year and winner of his last three races?

IRISH LIZARD is co-favourite with Coneyburrow - ~~the~~ thought to be the best of six Irish challengers.

Royal Tan tries again - after finishing second in 1951, and falling a year later, ~~at the~~.

Royal Tan is trained by Vincent O'Brien - the Irishman who prepared last year's winner, Early Mist.

Vincent O'Brien's other entry is Churchtown - owned by his wife - who proudly watches her First National entry, ~~at exercise~~

Then there's Ordnance - he was leading most of the way last year. ~~Quite~~ Quite Naturally was the first to fall. Unplaced in his last three outings - Alberoni hardly looks big enough

for those thirty massive jumps. (3)

Another Irish hope is Statesman (2) but you can't talk yourself around

Aintree. As for inside information, there's much whispering still to be done before they cheer home the Grand National hero of 1954. /

IN CONTRAST