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The Centenary Boat Race 5th April 54

Putney: A time-honoured challenge is renewed on London's River, the Centenary Boat Race. Cambridge has won 54 times and Oxford 44; but still each generation stakes its choice - in both shades of blue..

[redacted]. Oxford won the toss and chose the favoured Surrey station. Cambridge, [redacted], are the pre-race favourites. Tense moments - then - they're away - with Oxford seeming faster-off-the mark.

From our following launch, we watch the early battle for mastery. Ahead lies four-and-a-quarter gruelling miles - and right now - there are prospect of a great battle.

Oxford are fighting to hold their rivals - and then take advantage of that wide Hammersmith bend.

[redacted] Cambridge strive to draw ahead and, if possible, cross to the Surrey side...

Up to Hammersmith Bridge - with Oxford in a happy position. They've not only held their rivals - they're about half-a-length up. [redacted]

Chiswick Reach brings a head wind and rough water. Cambridge, in mid-stream get the worst of the buffeting - lose their rhythm. Oxford draw ahead. The rough conditions prove the swan-song of the Light Blues [redacted]

BY NOW THE RACE IS VIRTUALLY OVER.

Virtually, the race is over. Oxford, rowing majestically, [redacted] reach Barnes Bridge. Over four lengths behind, Cambridge, struggle to make up the leeway.- [redacted] Hammersmith.

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Up to the finish - Oxford now four-and-a-half lengths ahead. Cambridge still battling gamely - beaten by a better crew - who took the rough, with the smooth, in their stride. The Centenary Race for Oxford, [redacted] their 45th victory.