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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..

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

From our following launch, we watch the early battle for mastery. Ahead lie~~s~~ 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.

~~Cambridge must gain lead~~

~~[illegible]~~ 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. ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

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 ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

BY NOW THE RACE IS VIRTUALLY OVER.

~~Virtually, the race is over~~. Oxford, rowing majestically, ~~[illegible]~~ riding the WIND LASHED WATER ~~conditions~~, reach Barnes Bridge. Over four lengths behind, Cambridge, struggle to make up the leeway.- ~~[illegible]~~

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~~Hammersmith~~.

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