

48/27

EASTER PARADE - 1948

The Boat Race -

The Thames at it's dirtiest, but probably it's most famous stretch, puts on the sporting highlight of the Easter parade. A million leg weary Londoners trek down to the river and don their old council school ties and join the ex Varsity men, even if unlike the Prime Minister they have not been to Oxford. For every young blue, the older they get the bluer they are, there a thousand others without a blazer, order the Oxford and Cambridge off to a flying start for the 94th University Boat Race. With an exceptional tide and a strong following wind conditions are ideal for record breaking. Cambridge catch a crab ten strokes from the start, they make a remarkable fresh start losing only a length. Before Hammersmith the leaway is made up and approaching Barnes Bridge Cambridge are well in the lead. A racing record apart from the one set up by the crowd, seems to lie ahead. Rowing into their 50th victory Cambridge leave Oxford 5 lengths behind. A winning time clocks 17 seconds off a 14 year old record. The architect of the triumph is Chris Barton, no relation to Dick who says

Speech