

THE BOAT RACE

It's the second start of the 97th Oxford and Cambridge boat race. A bit late to think about your colours but not the True Blues - they never change. The crews are at the stake boats and they're off! Oxford, nearer the camera, on the Surrey side as they were on Saturday when they sank. They're both well away, but Cambridge, using swivel rowlocks, are smoothly into their swing rightaway. The water's a lot smoother but there's a bit of a headwind, so there'll be no records broken.

At Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge are four lengths ahead and Oxford have lost the advantage winning the toss gave them for the long bend.

Cambridge are rowing with the perfect rhythm of a machine. This year's crew must be something exceptional. Each stroke is putting them further ahead. Ten lengths clear at Barnes Bridge and Jennens steps up his stroke for a grand-stand finish. It's a brilliant win for Cambridge - their brilliance making a good and game Oxford crew (who never gave up trying) look second-rate. It'll take a really crack American crew to lower their colours during the tour of the States their victory has won them.

What a change from Saturday! Old Blues looked worried about conditions. Half a gale blowing and rough water. Oxford on the exposed Surrey side shipped a lot of water on the way to the start. In a shower of spray they started. Cambridge, better waterman, got away smoothly but Oxford (nearer the camera) soon found it coming over green.

Much the heavier crew, Oxford are in trouble right from the start. Cambridge are drawing ahead quite smoothly, but they too are fast becoming water-logged.

Oxford can't keep it up much longer. They're slowing down their stroke. The further they go the worse things are getting - and they haven't covered half a mile yet! And that's the end. Umpire Bishop Ellison has ruled "No Race" and sinking Oxford lived to race another day - when they were 'sunk' again, only, in a different sense!