

THE BOAT RACE

For the 99th time it's Boat Race day, and Cambridge make their way to the start, followed by the Dark Blues for the traditional battle from Putney to Mortlake. Thousands line the banks right along the four-and-a-quarter mile course. The two boats are at the start - and away they go. Cambridge who won the toss are nearest the camera.

Critics have predicted that there won't be much in it, but already Cambridge are pulling away and showing a class and style that they haven't revealed in their practice rows. Hall, their stroke, has set a good pace of thirty-six, but there won't be any records broken today: the water is far from calm.

Cambridge are more than a length in front as they head towards Hammersmith Bridge. Howles, Oxford's stroke, calls for an all out burst from his crew to try and shorten the Light Blues' lead. Oxford have been going great guns during their trials over the past weeks, but they're not shaping at all well at the moment.

Heading away from Hammersmith, Cambridge near the half-way mark going strongly, with the Dark Blues trying valiantly, but vainly, to catch them up.

At Chiswick, the water is really choppy. This might give Oxford a chance of picking up: but Cambridge have got such a lead by now that nothing short of an accident can stop them winning.

Up to the finishing post at Chiswick, Cambridge come racing in all on their own - and they cross the line to win by eight lengths. Their time was 19 minutes, 54 seconds - not a record, but good going on a day such as this. Magnificent rowing, plus superb team work, give Cambridge their 54th Boat Race victory.