

While there was rain in most parts of the country, the weather was kind to the big crowds by the River Thames for the 1955 Varsity Boat Race. Oxford had won the toss and they chose the shelter of the Surrey side, although it ^{is} ~~was~~ calm enough at the start. [^] And it's a good start --- with both crews getting away well and both striking fast. Oxford go immediately into a slight lead. [^] Now from our launch we follow them as they approach Hammersmith Bridge.

Here's Hammersmith. Cambridge have made up their leeway and they're rowing like a great crew, despite the handicap from chicken-pox that broke into their training. After Hammersmith we're going into rough water --- though here of course, it's the following boats that make the wash.

Now along Chiswick Reach and Corney Reach to Duke's Meadows Cambridge are really going ahead, and the Dark Blues are beginning to get tired.

Yes --- it's Cambridge in the far distance, as they approach Barnes Bridge with nearly four miles of hard rowing behind them. The heaviest crew of all time have triumphed over tough conditions..... to win with ease.

Oxford are beaten by sixteen lengths.

The Dark Blues reached the post --- having rowed on gamely until they were rowed out. No. 5 puts ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ out a hand to steady No. 6 --- who is ~~xxxxxxxx~~ completely exhausted. The Light Blues after Hammersmith Bridge ^{had} produced power, and staying power, to crack any but a crew of champions. The Varsity Boat Race of 1955 has put this Cambridge crew among the great ones.