

Traditional buying of light and dark blue favours preceded the ~~start~~ start of the 1956 Varsity Boat Race --- and it's the Light Blues nearest the camera. Cambridge had won the toss and chosen the Surrey side of the river. And it's Cambridge that pulls away to a slight lead soon after the start.

From our newsreel launch at Hammersmith Bridge --- it's Cambridge leading by a length and striking slightly the faster stroke. And now from a bank position, that early lead can be clearly seen.

Cambridge had been judged by far the better crew --- but Oxford are putting up a magnificent show and they're not beaten yet.

Barnes Bridge: The Light Blues have increased their lead to something like a length and a half; but here there seems to be a chance of an upset of the form-book; a big-hearted Oxford crew are being urged on to a great effort by their cox; near the end of this gruelling race, they're fighting every inch of the water.

Coming up to the finishing post the distance between the boats ~~has~~ has been cut down by the Dark Blues; on this stretch of the river, both are fighting a head-wind also --- but in spite of that the pace is hot and the time is going to be a good one.

Cambridge have held on --- to win by a length and a quarter ~~eighteen minutes thirty six seconds~~

This was the third fastest time in all the hundred and two Oxford and Cambridge Boat Races; a win for Cambridge --- and a very gallant defeat for Oxford.