

= The Boat Race 1910 =

The 67th Boat Race took place on 23 March 1910 . Held annually , the Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . Oxford were reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race . In a race umpired by Frederick I. Pitman , Oxford won by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 20 minutes 14 seconds , taking their overall lead in the competition to 36 ? 30 .

= = Background = =

The Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between the University of Oxford (sometimes referred to as the " Dark Blues ") and the University of Cambridge (sometimes referred to as the " Light Blues ") . The race was first held in 1829 , and since 1845 has taken place on the 4 @. @ 2 @-@ mile (6 @. @ 8 km) Championship Course on the River Thames in southwest London . The rivalry is a major point of honour between the two universities ; it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and , as of 2015 , broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1909 race by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths , and led overall with 35 victories to Cambridge 's 30 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Oxford 's coaches were G. C. Bourne who had rowed for the university in the 1882 and 1883 races , Harcourt Gilbey Gold (Dark Blue president for the 1900 race and four @-@ time Blue) and W. F. C. Holland who had rowed for Oxford four times between 1887 and 1890 . Cambridge were coached by William Dudley Ward (who had rowed in 1897 , 1899 and 1900 races) , Raymond Etherington @-@ Smith (who had rowed in 1898 and 1900) and David Alexander Wauchope (who had rowed in the 1895 race) . For the seventh year the umpire was old Etonian Frederick I. Pitman who rowed for Cambridge in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

According to author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater , the Dark Blues " did not have any very promising new material from which to make up [their] crew " but was impressed by a " very stylish " Philip Fleming who had been included as Oxford 's number seven . Cambridge 's coaches worked to re @-@ introduce a more traditional style of rowing but like Oxford , " their material was not very good " . Although they lost Eric Fairbairn late in the build @-@ up to the race , Drinkwater considered them to be " a pretty , lively crew to look at " . As a result of unfavourable tides , the race was scheduled to be held on the Wednesday of Holy Week which , according to Drinkwater , " caused considerable controversy " .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 8 @. @ 875 lb (80 @. @ 0 kg) , 4 @. @ 375 pounds (2 @. @ 0 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge 's boat contained three rowers with Boat Race experience , including R. W. M. Arbuthnot , J. B. Rosher and Edward Gordon Williams , the latter making his third consecutive appearance in the event , having won a bronze medal in the men 's eight in the 1908 Summer Olympics . Oxford saw four crew members return , including Duncan Mackinnon , Stanley Garton , Robert Bourne and cox A. W. F. Donkin . Three participants in the race were registered as overseas Blues : Oxford 's bow M. B. Higgins and Cambridge 's number four C. P. Cooke were Australian while Light Blue cox C. A. Skinner was from South Africa .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Oxford . In bright sunshine and a light breeze , umpire Pitman started the race at 12 : 30 p.m. Cambridge made the better start and led Oxford until one of the Light Blues " caught a crab " , allowing the Dark Blues to take the lead . Even with a slower stroke rate , Oxford were a quarter of a length ahead by Craven Steps but the lead was short @-@ lived as Cambridge spurted to lead by the Mile Post . Unable to make further gains , the Light Blues began to lose ground around the

unfavourable bend in the river , with Oxford spurting and gaining almost one length in ten strokes .

At The Doves pub , another spurt saw Oxford go one length clear , which they gradually extended along the rest of the course to win by three and a half lengths in a time of 20 minutes 14 seconds , the slowest winning time since the 1907 race . It was their second consecutive victory and took the overall record in the event to 36 ? 30 in their favour .