

= The Boat Race 1904 =

The 61st Boat Race took place on 26 March 1904 . 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 . Neither boat club president was able to row through injury . In a race umpired by former rower Frederick I. Pitman , Cambridge won by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 21 minutes 37 seconds . Their third victory in a row , it took the overall record in the event to 33 ? 27 in Oxford 's favour .

= 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1903 race by six lengths , while Oxford led overall with 33 victories to Cambridge 's 26 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Oxford 's coaches were G. C. Bourne who had rowed for university in the 1882 and 1883 races , William Fletcher , who rowed for them in the 1890 , 1891 , 1892 and 1893 races and C. K. Philips who had represented the Dark Blues four times between 1895 and 1898 . Cambridge were coached by Francis Escombe and Claude Waterhouse Hearn Taylor (who rowed for Cambridge three times between 1901 and 1903) . The umpire for the second year was old Etonian and former Cambridge rower Frederick I. Pitman who rowed in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

Both boat club presidents , Monier @-@ Williams and Edwards @-@ Moss , were unable to row through injury . According to George Drinkwater , contemporary Oxford rower and subsequent author , the Dark Blues " never got together ... and invariably lost form over a long course " . He also noted that " Cambridge were not up to the standard of their last two crews . "

= Crews =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 11 st 9 @. @ 75 lb (74 @. @ 1 kg) , 1 pound (0 @. @ 5 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Two of the Cambridge crew had previous Boat Race experience , the number six P. H. Thomas (who was rowing for the third consecutive year) and the cox B. G. A. Scott . Oxford 's crew had a single returning rower , the stroke A. K. Graham . Two of the participants in the race were registered as non @-@ British , in Cambridge 's Australian number two Stanley Bruce and their number seven Harold Gillies who was from New Zealand .

= Race =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . Pitman started the race at 7 : 45 a.m. in cold and foggy conditions , and on a weak tide . Oxford took an early lead , outrating Cambridge from the start , and getting clear of them by the Mile Post . The Light Blues steadied their rhythm and started to catch Oxford , and errant steering from the Dark Blue cox E. C. T. Warner at Harrods Furniture Depository allowed Cambridge to reduce the deficit .

By Hammersmith Bridge , Oxford 's lead was down to two @-@ thirds of a length and by The Doves pub , the crews were level . The Light Blues pushed ahead and were clear by Chiswick Ferry as Oxford struggled to maintain their technique . Cambridge passed the finishing post with a lead of four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths , in a winning time of 21 minutes 37 seconds , the slowest winning time since the 1898 race . It was Cambridge 's third consecutive victory and their fifth in six years . Drinkwater remarked that the " race was a good one , for the crews were more evenly

matched " .