

= The Boat Race 1836 =

The 2nd Boat Race took place on the River Thames on 17 June 1836 . It was the first of the University Boat Races to be held in London , on a five @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter @-@ mile stretch between Westminster and Putney . For the first time , Cambridge sported light blue livery in the form of a ribbon on their boat while Oxford rowed in dark blue jerseys . In a race umpired by Lord Loftus and Mr Hiceson , Cambridge won the race by 20 lengths to level the overall record at 1 ? 1 .

= = Background = =

The Boat Race is an annual rowing eight competition between the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge . First held in 1829 , no attempt was made to organise the second race until 1834 . Cambridge had initially proposed a race from Westminster Bridge to Hammersmith , while Oxford suggested Maidenhead . Although Cambridge agreed to compromise to race on any stretch of the Thames between Westminster and Richmond , no agreement was reached until 1836 . This year , both universities issued a challenge to one another , and arrangements for the event were made in a meeting at the Star and Garter pub in Putney on 16 June 1836 . According to a journalist for The Morning Post , there was disagreement over the length of the race , with Oxford preferring a short course of a mile and a half , while Cambridge opted for the same course as the previous year . It was agreed that the race was to take place the following day along the 5 @.@ 75 @-@ mile (9 @.@ 3 km) stretch of river between Westminster Bridge and Putney Bridge , a championship course for professional scullers . It was also agreed that both boats would be steered by university men rather than professional coxes .

The second Boat Race in the history of the event , it was the first to be conducted in London , with the inaugural race taking place at Henley @-@ on @-@ Thames . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1829 race " easily " . Cambridge were coached by their cox Thomas Selby Egan . The umpires for the race were both Oxonians : Lord Loftus , of Balliol College and Mr Hiceson (or Mr Hickson) of Christ Church .

According to author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater , this was the first year that Cambridge adopted light blue as their racing colours : an R. N. Phillips provided a strip of Eton blue ribbon " which was fixed to the bows " of the boat . Oxford wore white jerseys with dark blue stripes , as they had done for the 1829 race .

= = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 11 st 8 @.@ 625 lb (73 @.@ 6 kg) , 0 @.@ 875 pounds (0 @.@ 4 kg) per rower more than their opponents . None of the competitors had taken part in a previous Boat Race , while all participants were registered as British . George Carter followed his brother J. Carter who had rowed for Oxford in 1829 race .

= = Race = =

Oxford were favourites to win the race ; Cambridge won the toss . Heavy rain began to fall two hours before the start of the race , yet " although the rain descended in torrents , all were gay " . The race was started by the umpires at 4 : 20 p.m. , with Cambridge starting well , taking an early lead . By Vauxhall Bridge Cambridge 's lead was significant . Rowing " gallantly " , author and former Light Blue rower William MacMichael noted that Cambridge had the race " all their own way " and passed under Putney Bridge about one minute and 20 lengths ahead of Oxford in a time of around 36 minutes . The victory levelled the series at 1 ? 1 .

Sports writer Gordon Ross described the race as " a very hollow affair " in which Cambridge " completely outclassed their rivals " . Drinkwater noted that the quality of rowing " was a good deal criticised by the watermen and amateurs of the Tideway " . According to the reporter for The

Morning Post , " the Oxonians never stood a shadow of a chance , although they looked bigger men " . The author of The Sportsman claimed that " Cambridge had the best boat . The one rowed by the Oxonians is too flat @-@ bottomed for the Thames " .