

= The Boat Race 1958 =

The 104th Boat Race took place on 5 April 1958 . 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 . The race was umpired by former Cambridge rower Kenneth Payne and featured the first cox to follow his father in steering one of the boats . The reigning champions Cambridge won by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 18 minutes 15 seconds , the third @-@ fastest winning time in history , and took the overall record to 58 ? 45 in their 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 ") . First held in 1829 , the race takes 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 and followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1957 race by two lengths , and led overall with 57 victories to Oxford 's 45 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Cambridge were coached by J. R. F. Best , James Crowden (who rowed twice for Cambridge , in the 1951 and 1952 races) , Charles Lloyd (a three @-@ time Blue , rowing in the 1949 , 1950 and 1951 races) , J. R. Owen (who rowed in the 1959 and 1960 races) and Harold Rickett (three @-@ time Blue between 1930 and 1932) . Oxford 's coaches were Hugh " Jumbo " Edwards (who rowed for Oxford in the 1926 and 1930 races) , J. H. Page , C. F. Porter and L. A. F. Stokes (who rowed in the 1951 and 1952 races . The race was umpired for the sixth time by the former British Olympian Kenneth Payne , who had rowed for Cambridge in the 1932 and 1934 races .

In the buildup to the race , Cambridge 's P. D. Rickett was struck down by influenza for a week and was unable to train .

= = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 13 st 3 lb (83 @-@ 7 kg) , 3 pounds (1 @-@ 4 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford 's crew had two rowers with Boat Race experience , including stroke G. Sorrell (who was rowing in his third race) and number four S. F. A. Miskin . Cambridge saw a single participant return in number three J. A. Pitchford . Two of the participants in the race were registered as non @-@ British . Oxford 's number six , Rodd Rubin , hailed from America while Cambridge 's number five R. B. Ritchie was Australian .

Cambridge 's James Sulley became the first cox to follow in his father 's footsteps : A. L. " Jimmy " Sulley steered the Light Blues in the 1928 race . Peter Rickett , the Light Blues ' number six , also followed his father (and coach for this year) Harold , while R. B. Ritchie 's father A. B. Ritchie and R. D. Carver 's father H. R. Carver also rowed for Cambridge , in the 1922 and 1925 races respectively . Oxford 's stroke , David Edwards was the son of Hugh " Jumbo " Edwards who rowed in the 1930 race while P. D. Rickett 's father and coach Harold rowed in three races for Cambridge , from 1930 to 1932 .

= = Race = =

Cambridge , who went into the race as favourites , won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . In conditions described in The Times as " wretched " with fog and rain , the race started at 1 : 30 p.m. Although Oxford out @-@ rated Cambridge , the Light Blues ' length of stroke saw them hold a three @-@ quarter length lead after the first minute . Continuing to pull away , Cambridge were clear by Beverley Brook , half a length clear by the time the crews passed Craven Steps and increased this to a length @-@ and @-@ a

@-@ half by the Mile Post .

A spurt from Oxford at the Crab Tree pub made no impression on the lead . Oxford were still out @-@ rating by Cambridge three strokes per minute as they passed below Hammersmith Bridge , two lengths adrift of the Light Blues . By Chiswick Steps , the lead was three lengths where Cambridge saw off another spurt , with Oxford now rowing six strokes per minute faster than their opponents . Able to relax , Cambridge passed the finishing post three and a half lengths clear of Oxford in a time of 18 minutes 15 seconds , the third fastest winning time in the event 's history . It was Cambridge 's fourth consecutive victory and the fastest winning time since the 1948 race . A correspondent writing in The Times described the victory as a " great success " and attributed the win to Cambridge 's " uniformity , precision , and properly covered blades ... not to the brilliance of any individuals in the boat . " Jack Beresford , writing in The Observer , suggested that Cambridge 's crew was " as good as any since the war " but that while Oxford " rowed gallantly and never gave up " , their technique was inadequate .