

## = The Boat Race 1962 =

The 108th Boat Race took place on 7 April 1962 . 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 . Umpired by former Blue , Ran Laurie , it was won by Cambridge by five lengths in a time of 19 minutes 46 seconds . The race featured the heaviest oarsman since the 1829 race .

## = = 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 ; it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and , as of 2014 , broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1961 race by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , and led overall with 58 victories to Oxford 's 48 ( 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 ) and Harold Rickett ( who rowed in the 1930 , 1931 and 1932 races ) . Oxford 's coaches were Jumbo Edwards ( who rowed for Oxford in the 1926 and 1930 races ) , Ronnie Howard ( who represented Oxford in the 1957 and 1959 races ) and Antony Rowe ( who had rowed in the 1948 and 1949 races ) . Although the Cambridge crew were favourites on their arrival at Putney , and were reckoned to be " one of the best Boat Race crews for ten years " , their early performances in practice did not impress the critics . However , in their final row before the race , Cambridge took four seconds off the record time from the Mile Post to Putney Bridge , covering the distance in 4 minutes 6 seconds .

The race was umpired by Ran Laurie who had rowed for Cambridge in the 1934 , 1935 and 1936 races , and had gone on to win a gold medal for Great Britain at the 1948 Summer Olympics .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 13 st 2 @.@ 75 lb ( 83 @.@ 6 kg ) , 2 @.@ 75 pounds ( 1 @.@ 2 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . The Cambridge crew saw two former Blues return , bow R. Nicholson , and number four A. J. Collier . Similarly , Oxford 's crew contained two rowers with Boat Race experience , including C. M. Davis who was rowing at stroke for the third consecutive year . Two non @-@ British participants were registered in the race , both in the Cambridge crew : John Lecky , rowing at number five was a Canadian Olympic oarsman while American Harold Budd occupied the six seat . Budd , at 15 st 1 lb ( 95 @.@ 5 kg ) was the heaviest oarsman to feature in the Boat Race since J. J. Toogood who rowed for Oxford in the inaugural race in 1829 .

## = = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . The race commenced at 3.45pm , with the Dark Blues making a better start and quickly held the lead , as Cambridge had a " sticky second stroke " . With both crews rating 34 strokes per minute , the Light Blues quickly restored parity before taking the lead and holding a one @-@ length advantage by Craven Steps . A spurt from Oxford reduced the deficit to half a length but Cambridge began to pull away again , despite being outrated by the Dark Blues . Another spurt at the Crab Tree saw the two crews level by Harrods Furniture Depository , and as they passed below Hammersmith Bridge .

There , the Cambridge cox succeeded in forcing the Oxford boat wide and into rough water , and

took advantage , drawing clear above Chiswick Eyot . To avoid the breaking waves , Oxford pulled in behind the Light Blue boat and as such , the race as a contest was effectively ended . Cambridge continued to pull away and passed the finishing post with a lead of five lengths in a time of 19 minutes 46 seconds , the slowest winning time since the 1954 race . It was Cambridge 's second consecutive victory and their largest winning margin since the 1955 race . According to the rowing correspondent for The Times , " for Cambridge this was a most convincing though not unexpected victory " .