

= The Boat Race 1906 =

The 63rd Boat Race took place on 7 April 1906 . 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 went into the race as reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race , and their crew was slightly heavier than their opponents . In a race umpired by Frederick I. Pitman , Cambridge won by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 19 minutes 25 seconds , the fastest winning time for four years . The win took the overall record to 34 ? 28 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 . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1905 race by three lengths , and led overall with 34 victories to Cambridge 's 27 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Cambridge were coached by Francis Escombe (for the third consecutive year) , Stanley Muttelbury , five @-@ time Blue between 1886 and 1890 , and David Alexander Wauchope (who had rowed in the 1895 race) . Oxford 's coaches were William Fletcher , who rowed for them in the 1890 , 1891 , 1892 and 1893 races and Harcourt Gilbey Gold (Dark Blue president for the 1900 race and four @-@ time Blue) . The umpire for the fourth year was old Etonian and former Cambridge rower Frederick I. Pitman who rowed in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 3 @. @ 5 lb (77 @. @ 6 kg) , 4 @. @ 125 pounds (1 @. @ 9 kg) per rower more than their opponents . The Cambridge crew included two rowers with Boat Race experience , in Banner Johnstone and Ronald Powell , both of whom were rowing in their third consecutive event . Powell was rowing alongside his brother Eric . Oxford 's crew contained four who had represented their university in the event , including E. P. Evans who was making his third appearance . All of the participants in the race were registered as British .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Cambridge . According to former Oxford rower and author George Drinkwater , the Light Blues went into the race as " firm favourites " . Conditions were described as " very fast , a strong tide and no wind " . Umpire Pitman started the race at noon , and Cambridge led from the first stroke .

Going clear within two minutes , the Light Blues held an advantage of at least four lengths by the time they passed below Barnes Bridge . The victory secured , they paddled to the finish , winning by three and a half lengths in a time of 19 minutes 25 seconds . It was their fourth win in five years in the fastest winning time since the 1902 race , and took the overall record in the event to 34 ? 28 in Oxford 's favour .