

## = The Boat Race 1924 =

The 76th Boat Race took place on 5 April 1924 . 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 were reigning champions having won the previous year 's race and their crew was significantly heavier than their opponents for this year 's race . Umpired by former rower Frederick I. Pitman , Cambridge won by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 18 minutes 41 seconds , the fastest time since 1911 . The victory took the overall record in the event to 40 ? 35 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 and followed throughout the United Kingdom and worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1923 race by three @-@ quarters of a length , and led overall with 40 victories to Cambridge 's 34 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

Oxford were coached by G. C. Bourne who had rowed for the university in the 1882 and 1883 races , Harcourt Gilbey Gold ( Dark Blue president for the 1900 race and four @-@ time Blue ) and E. D. Horsfall ( who had rowed in the three races prior to the First World War ) . Cambridge 's coaches were Francis Escombe , P. Haig @-@ Thomas ( four @-@ time Blue who had rowed between 1902 and 1905 ) and David Alexander Wauchope ( who had rowed in the 1895 race ) . For the sixteenth year the umpire was Old Etonian Frederick I. Pitman who rowed for Cambridge in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

Cambridge had few former Blues to call upon and despite measles striking at least one of the crew down , their rowing style was described by author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater as " harmoniously together " . Conversely , Oxford 's crew was experienced yet a " lack of uniformity " in early training evolved into a crew with " a turn of such extraordinary speed that being was as much as four to one on Oxford " .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 5 @. @ 5 lb ( 78 @. @ 5 kg ) , 5 @. @ 875 pounds ( 2 @. @ 7 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge saw a single rower return with Boat Race experience in their number six T. D. A. Collet . Conversely , Oxford 's crew included six individuals who had represented the Dark Blues in the event , including bow P. C. Mallam who was making his fourth consecutive appearance . Oxford 's American stroke W. P. Mellen was the only non @-@ British participant registered in the event , having been educated at the Middlesex School in Concord , Massachusetts .

## = = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . Umpire Pitman started the race in bright sunshine and a light breeze at 2 : 23 p.m. Oxford took a brief lead , out @-@ rating their opponents significantly in the first minute , but by the time the crews passed the Mile Post , the Light Blues were nearly a quarter of a length ahead . As both boats passed under Hammersmith Bridge , Cambridge had extended their lead and were clear of Oxford , despite rowing two strokes per minute slower .

Even though the Dark Blues made a spurt , Cambridge pulled away and were three lengths ahead by Chiswick Steps . According to author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater , " from here

they had it all their own way to the finish " . Cambridge passed the finishing post four and a half lengths ahead , in a time of 18 minutes 41 seconds , the fastest winning time since the 1911 race and the second fastest time in the history of the event . It was their fourth win in five years and took the overall record in the event to 40 ? 35 in Oxford 's favour .