

= The Boat Race 1875 =

The 32nd Boat Race between crews from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge took place on the River Thames on the 20 March 1875 . The Cambridge crew contained four Blues to Oxford 's two , the latter went into the race without a win since the 1869 race . In a race umpired by Joseph William Chitty , Oxford won by ten lengths in a time of 22 minutes 2 seconds , taking the overall record in the event to 17 ? 15 in their favour . One of the Cambridge crew broke his slide during the 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 ") . 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having defeated Oxford by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in the previous year 's race , while Oxford led overall with sixteen wins to Cambridge 's fifteen .

Cambridge were coached by John Goldie , the Cambridge boat club president and rower for the 1869 , 1870 and 1871 races , and Charles Stokes Read who had rowed for Cambridge in the previous three races . Oxford 's coaches were S. D. Darbishire who had rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1868 , 1869 and 1870 races , F. H. Hall who had coxed for three races between 1870 and 1872 , Robert Wells Risley who had rowed four times between the 1857 and 1860 races , Edmund Warre (represented Oxford in 1857 and 1858) , Frank Willan (four @-@ time winning rower between 1866 and 1869) and Walter Bradford Woodgate who had rowed in the 1862 and 1863 races . Joseph William Chitty was the umpire for the race . He had rowed for Oxford twice in 1849 (in March and December) and the 1852 race . The starter was Edward Searle .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 11 st 12 @. @ 375 lb (75 @. @ 3 kg) , 1 @. @ 625 pounds (0 @. @ 7 kg) more than their opponents . Cambridge 's crew contained four former Blues , including Herbert Edward Rhodes who was making his third appearance in the race . Oxford saw two rowers return from the 1874 race , in H. J. Stayner and J. P. Way . According to Drinkwater , the Oxford University Boat Club towards the end of 1874 produced a " fine crew " , and of particular note was the inclusion of the former Eton Captain of the Boats Tom Cottingham Edwards @-@ Moss . In contrast , Cambridge 's crew , with just two returning from the previous year 's race , was completed with " material ... not of a very high order " .

= = Race = =

Oxford were considered clear pre @-@ race favourites to win their first Boat Race in five years ; conditions were inclement with a " nasty north @-@ west wind " but a " fair tide " . They lost the toss and Cambridge elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing Oxford the Surrey side of the river . The race commenced at 1 : 13 p.m. , and Cambridge made the better start , taking the lead from the outset with a higher stroke rate . Half a length ahead after a minute , the Light Blues nearly had a clear water advantage but tired in the strong headwind , and started to be caught by Craven Steps , around 1 @, @ 000 yards (910 m) along the course . About a mile into the race , one of the Cambridge crew broke a slide .

The crews were level at the Crab Tree pub and by Hammersmith Bridge , and with the advantage of the bend in the river , Oxford were clear and went on to win by ten lengths in a time of 22 minutes 2 seconds . It was their first victory since 1869 and took the overall record in the event to 17 ? 15 in their favour .

