

## = The Boat Race 1921 =

The 73rd Boat Race took place on 30 March 1921 . 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 . Cambridge , with the heavier crew , went into the race as reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race . In total , nine of the participants in this year 's race had previous Boat Race experience , and five had won a silver medal in the 1920 Summer Olympics . In this year 's race , umpired by former rower Frederick I. Pitman , Cambridge won by one length in a time of 19 minutes 45 seconds . It was Cambridge 's third consecutive win , the fastest winning time since 1913 and the narrowest margin of victory since 1913 . The result took the overall record to 39 ? 33 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1920 race by four lengths ; Oxford led overall with 39 victories to Cambridge 's 32 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

Oxford were coached by H. R. Baker ( who rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1908 and 1909 races ) , G. C. Bourne who had rowed for the university in the 1882 and 1883 races , C. D. Burnell ( a Blue from 1895 to 1898 ) and R. P. P. Rowe who had rowed four times between 1889 and 1892 . Cambridge 's coaches were John Houghton Gibbon , who had rowed for the Light Blues in the 1899 and 1900 races , Sidney Swann ( who had rowed in the four races from 1911 to 1914 ) and G. E. Tower ( who had rowed in 1913 and 1914 ) . For the thirteenth year the umpire was old Etonian Frederick I. Pitman who rowed for Cambridge in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

## = = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 12 st 11 @. @ 75 lb ( 81 @. @ 3 kg ) , 4 @. @ 25 pounds ( 1 @. @ 9 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford 's crew contained five participants with Boat Race experience , while Cambridge saw four of the 1920 crew return . Five of the participants were silver medallists in the men 's eight at the 1920 Summer Olympics : Oxford 's Sebastian Earl , Walter James , Richard Lucas and Guy Oliver Nickalls , and Cambridge 's John Campbell . Two rowers were registered as non @-@ British , Oxford 's Francis Bacon Lothrop was American while Cambridge 's Campbell hailed from Australia .

## = = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Cambridge . Umpire Pitman started the race on a " moderate tide " in good conditions at 5 : 00 p.m. Cambridge made the quicker start , outrating Oxford and holding a half @-@ length lead by the time the crews reached Craven Steps . Gaining further , the Light Blues were a quarter of a length clear of the Dark Blues by the Mile Post . At this point , the Cambridge boat attempted to cross into the Surrey side of the river , but Oxford responded and surged to become level by the time the crews passed below Hammersmith Bridge .

As the course of the river now favoured Oxford , they pulled away and , according to author and former Dark Blue rower George Drinkwater , after a " ding @-@ dong struggle " held a half @-@ length lead by Barnes Bridge . Oxford were forced to allow the Light Blue space ; the Cambridge stroke P. H. G. H @-@ S. Hartley took advantage and spurred to push the Dark Blues off their line .

The bend in the river now favouring Cambridge , they levelled proceedings and pushed on to win by one length in a time of 19 minutes 45 seconds . It was their third consecutive victory , the fastest winning time since the 1911 race and the narrowest winning margin since the 1913 race . It took the overall record in the event to 39 ? 33 in Oxford 's favour .