

= The Boat Race 1849 ( March ) =

The 9th Boat Race took place on the River Thames on 29 March 1849 . Typically held annually , the event is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge . The race was won by Cambridge who triumphed over Oxford " easily " . As a result of the nature of the defeat , Oxford challenged Cambridge to a second race that year , which was to be held in December , the first and only time the Boat Race was competed for twice in a calendar year . Every member of the Cambridge crew came from Trinity College .

= = 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 leading overall with six victories to Oxford 's two . They had beaten Oxford in the previous race , held in 1845 , by three lengths .

Cambridge used an outrigger boat built by Searle , 62 feet 9 inches ( 19 @. @ 1 m ) in length and 26 inches ( 66 cm ) in width , while the Dark Blues ' boat was constructed by Hall of Oxford . The umpire for the race was J. C. Fellowes while the starter was Edward Searle .

= = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 11 st 2 @. @ 5 lb ( 70 @. @ 8 kg ) , just under 2 pounds ( 0 @. @ 9 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Every rower from Cambridge was studying at Trinity College but all were new to the event ; not one Blue returned from the 1846 race . F. Blomfield was replaced as the Light Blue cox by George Booth as a result of an accident . Oxford welcomed back E. C. Burton at number four and their cox , C. Soanes .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station . Just prior to the race , Oxford had suggested a foreshortening of the course , in order to avoid both crews having to pass through the narrow arches of Barnes Bridge ; this was rejected by Cambridge and the conventional course was rowed . After a close start , Oxford pulled ahead and held a half @-@ length lead by the time they passed the Star and Garter pub . By Hammersmith Bridge , the Oxford crew began to slow , their cox made an error in steering and Cambridge began to reduce the deficit . At Chiswick Eyot the crews were level once again , and Cambridge started to draw away . Several lengths ahead by Barnes Bridge , Cambridge won by around 60 seconds . The result meant that Cambridge led overall with seven victories to Oxford 's two .

= = Reaction = =

Three main factors were attributed with Oxford 's substantial defeat . Firstly their stroke , and boat club president , William Rich had set such a high rating , he and his crew were unable to sustain it for the duration of the race , becoming quickly tired . Secondly , Rich himself suggested that Oxford 's vessel was inadequate , calling it " a bad boat " . Finally , poor steering had allowed Cambridge to pass them " like a shot " .

Given the nature of the defeat , Oxford sent out a challenge in October 1849 to Cambridge for a re @-@ row . For the first and only time in the history of the Boat Race , a second race was held in the same calendar year , this time in December .