

## = The Boat Race 1892 =

The 49th Boat Race took place on 9 April 1892 . The Boat Race is an annual side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . Oxford went into the event as reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race . In total , twelve of the competitors had previous Boat Race experience . In a race umpired by former rower Frank Willan , Oxford won by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 19 minutes 10 seconds . It was their third consecutive victory and the fastest time in the history of the event .

## = = Background = =

The Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between the boat clubs of 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 ; as of 2014 it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having beaten Cambridge by half a length in the previous year 's race , and held the overall lead , with 25 victories to Cambridge 's 22 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

Oxford 's coaches were F. P. Bully , R. C. Lehmann ( former president of the Cambridge Union Society and captain of the 1st Trinity Boat Club ; although he had rowed in the trial eights for Cambridge , he was never selected for the Blue boat ) Douglas McLean ( who rowed five times for Oxford between 1883 and 1887 ) , and Guy Nickalls ( five @-@ time Blue between 1887 and 1891 ) . Lehmann had briefly coached Cambridge in the " early stages " of their preparation .

The umpire for the race for the fourth year in a row was Frank Willan who won the event four consecutive times , rowing for Oxford in the 1866 , 1867 , 1868 and 1869 races .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 3 lb ( 77 @. @ 4 kg ) , 5 @. @ 125 pounds ( 2 @. @ 3 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge 's crew contained two rowers with no experience in the event , Robert Grieve Neill rowing at number two and Graham Campbell Kerr at number six . Four of their crew attended Trinity Hall . Oxford saw four rowers and the cox return from the previous year 's race , and included Guy Nickalls rowing in his fourth consecutive event . Six of the Dark Blues had been pupils at Eton College , and four were studying at Magdalen College . One rower was registered as non @-@ British : Edward Wason Lord for Cambridge hailed from Australia , having attending Brisbane Grammar School .

## = = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge , the pre @-@ race favourites ( although former rower and author George Drinkwater states this was as a result of a practice row after which Oxford 's time was inaccurately reported in the press ) . Conditions for the race were described by Drinkwater as " perfect " with a light breeze from the east and a good tide . Oxford led from the start and were half a length ahead by Craven Steps ( approximately 1 @, @ 080 yards ( 990 m ) along the course ) , extending to almost a length at Harrods Furniture Depository . A spurt from Cambridge 's stroke Gerard Elin reduced the deficit and by Hammersmith Bridge they were half a length down .

A malfunctioning slide rendered Elin 's contributions to the Light Blues ' efforts negligible and Oxford accelerated away , being two lengths up by Chiswick and four lengths ahead as they passed under Barnes Bridge . They passed the finishing post two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths ahead in

a time of 19 minutes and 10 seconds . It was Oxford 's third consecutive victory , and was the fastest winning time in the history of the race ( when held on the Championship Course ) , beating the 1873 race winning time by 25 seconds .