

= The Boat Race 1946 =

The 92nd Boat Race took place on 30 March 1946 . 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 in London . In a race umpired by former Cambridge rower Kenneth Payne , Oxford won by three lengths in a time of 19 minutes 54 seconds . The victory took the overall record in the event to 48 ? 43 in Cambridge '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 ; it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and , as of 2014 , broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1939 race by four lengths , and led overall with 48 victories to Oxford 's 42 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) . No races were conducted between 1940 and 1945 as a result of the Second World War .

Oxford were coached by R. E. Eason (who rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1924 race) , D. T. Raikes (who represented Oxford in the 1920 , 1921 and 1922 races) , Peter Haig Thomas (a four @-@ time Light Blue between 1902 and 1905 , who had also coached Cambridge nine times between 1924 and 1934) and G. L. Thomson . Cambridge 's coaches were B. C. Johnstone , Sidney Swann (who had rowed for the Light Blues in the four races from 1911 to 1914 , and coached them in the 1920 , 1921 and 1922 races) and Claude Waterhouse Hearn Taylor (who rowed for Cambridge three times between 1901 and 1903 , and coached them in the 1904 race) . The race was umpired by the former British Olympian Kenneth Payne , who had rowed for Cambridge in the 1932 and 1934 races .

During the build @-@ up to the race , Cambridge suffered misfortune in particular with regard to their number four . M. A. Nicholson , the first choice , was taken ill and was replaced by P. A. G. Dewar . Just two days later Dewar was forced to leave the boat suffering with blood poisoning from a septic boil . D. J. D. Perrins was Cambridge 's third and final choice . With a week to go , the Light Blue coach Thomson stated " we took a day off yesterday because some of the crew were feeling off @-@ colour ... they appear to be suffering from some internal trouble " . The rowing correspondent for The Manchester Guardian noted that the Light Blues were " not quite fast enough and are not particularly well together " yet showed promise . He also noted that while Oxford had improved considerably , Cambridge would most likely start as favourites .

= = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 12 st 7 lb (79 @. @ 2 kg) , 8 @. @ 75 pounds (4 @. @ 0 kg) per rower more than their opponents . As the event was forced to take a hiatus between 1940 and 1945 as a result of the Second World War , none of the rowers had participated in the Boat Race prior this year . Three of the Cambridge crew were registered as non @-@ British : J. G. Gosse was Australian , P. L. P. McDonnell was Canadian and stroke J. H. Neame was American .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . Umpire Payne started the race " in perfect conditions of a south @-@ easterly breeze and with sun shining through a light mist " at 11 a.m in front of " a vast crowd , fully up to pre @-@ war standards " . Followed by six launches and a helicopter overhead , Oxford led from the start , and were half a length clear of the Light Blues by the time they passed Craven Steps .

Marginally out @-@ rating Cambridge , Oxford passed the Mile Post two and a half lengths ahead and allowed their stroke rate to drop , still maintaining their lead at Hammersmith Bridge . Cambridge spurted at The Doves pub and reduced the deficit marginally but by HMS Stork , the Light Blues were visibly tired and allowed Oxford to draw away once more .

Leading by three lengths at Chiswick Steps , Oxford reduced their stroke rate to " little more than a paddle " , yet still passed below Barnes Bridge with the same advantage . The Dark Blues passed the finishing post three lengths ahead in a time of 19 minutes 54 seconds . The victory , Oxford 's third in the last four races , took the overall record in the event to 48 ? 43 in Cambridge 's favour . The special correspondent writing in The Times stated that Oxford won " in faultless style and without ever looking anything but an assured winning crew . " It was reported in the Dundee Evening Telegraph that Oxford 's win was " a triumph of team @-@ work over individualism " . Hugh Dalton , the Chancellor of the Exchequer , announced that the race had made £ 700 from Purchase Tax .