

= The Boat Race 1935 =

The 87th Boat Race took place on 6 April 1935 . 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 . Umpired by former Oxford rower Robert Bourne , Cambridge won by four and a half lengths in a time of 19 minutes 48 seconds . The record twelfth consecutive victory took the overall record in the event to 46 ? 40 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 1934 race by four and a quarter lengths , and led overall with 45 victories to Oxford 's 40 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Cambridge 's coaches were D. H. E. McCowen (who had rowed in the 1932 race) and , according to the rowing correspondent for The Times , " two eminent Metropolitan coaches " in R. A. Nisbet and C. H. Rew . Oxford were coached by Francis Escombe and Peter Haig @-@ Thomas , both of whom previously coached the Light Blues , and former Light Blue rower Kenneth Payne (who rowed for Cambridge in the 1932 and 1934 races) . The race was umpired by former Oxford rower and boat club president Robert Bourne who had stroked the Dark Blues to four consecutive victories between 1909 and 1912 , while the finishing judge was C. W. Kent . Both boats were made by Sims and both crews used Ayling 's oars .

The rowing correspondent for The Times noted that " neither crew is exceptionally fast " and suggested that Oxford 's heavier crew would out @-@ perform Cambridge , who he claimed " will be seen at their best in calm conditions " . As a result of Oxford 's practice rows during the period running up to the race , former Dark Blue rower E. P. Evans , writing in The Manchester Guardian , stated " Cambridge are now at the zenith of their power and are not likely to improve , whilst Oxford are still in the stages of reaching perfection " .

= Crews =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 13 lb (81 @. @ 9 kg) , 4 @. @ 375 pounds (2 @. @ 0 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge saw four participants with Boat Race experience return to the crew , including cox Noel Duckworth . The Light Blue crew also included a pair of brothers in Annesely and Desmond Kingsford . Oxford 's crew also contained four former Blues , including P. R. S. Bankes and John Couchman , both of whom were rowing in their third consecutive race . All of the race participants were registered as British .

= Race =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . The umpire Bourne started the race at 2 : 48 p.m. in strong and gusty wind , and rough water . The Light Blues made the quicker start , out @-@ rating Oxford by three strokes within the first minute , and led by half a length . Thirty seconds later , Cambridge were clear and were further ahead by Craven Steps . By the end of the Fulham Wall , Duckworth steered directly towards the Surrey shore in an attempt to find shelter from the conditions . A spurt from the Dark Blues made no difference to the gap and Cambridge passed the Mile Post almost two lengths ahead . Another spurt from Oxford at Harrods Furniture Depository once again made no impact on the deficit and Cambridge passed below Hammersmith Bridge with a lead of three lengths .

Intelligent steering from C. G. F. Bryan , the Oxford cox , saw the Dark Blues " hugging the Surrey bank " to reduce the Cambridge lead to about a length by Chiswick Eyot . It was short @-@ lived however , as Bryan steered back over towards the Middlesex side of the river , losing his crew a length in doing so and moving into rougher water , and by Chiswick Steps , the Light Blues were four and a half lengths ahead . Cambridge 's stroke Ran Laurie called for a spurt and by the time they passed under Barnes Bridge they were five lengths ahead . They crossed to the Middlesex side of the river before passing the finishing post with a lead of four and a half lengths in a time of 19 minutes 48 seconds . It was a record twelfth victory for the Light Blues and took the overall record in the event to 46 ? 40 in their favour . Former Oxford rower E. P. Evans , writing in The Manchester Guardian , stated that Cambridge " won in the easiest manner possible , having led from start to finish " and described the race as a " fiasco " . The rowing correspondent for The Times suggested that " never was it so obvious after the first few strokes that there was only one crew in the race ... Oxford 's form was too bad to be true . "