

## = The Boat Race 1872 =

The 29th Boat Race took place on the 27 March 1872 . The Boat Race is an annual side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . In a race umpired by Robert Lewis @-@ Lloyd , Cambridge won by two lengths in a time of 21 minutes 15 seconds taking the overall record to 16 ? 13 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having defeated Oxford by one length in the previous year 's race , while Oxford led overall with sixteen wins to Cambridge 's twelve .

During the build @-@ up to the race , Oxford 's boat club president , Robert Lesley of Pembroke College , strained his side and was prohibited from practice . Worse still , four days before the race , the number two rower Armistead " broke down and was replaced by C. C. Knollys , also an untrained man " . Conversely , Cambridge saw John Goldie return as president for the third consecutive year , and while all the previous year 's Blues were available , four were selected for the race .

Oxford were coached by E. G. Banks of Worcester College and Frank Willan who had rowed for the Dark Blues four times between the 1866 and 1869 races . Cambridge 's coaches were John Graham Chambers ( who rowed for Cambridge in the 1862 and 1863 races , and was non @-@ rowing boat club president for the 1865 race ) and William Henry Lowe ( who rowed in three times , in the 1868 , 1870 and 1871 races ) .

While sliding seats had started to come to prominence , having been first used by a crew from Pembroke College , Goldie was reluctant to allow them to be tried for the race and disallowed the Light Blue boat manufacturer Harry Clasper from fitting them . The umpire for the race was Robert Lewis @-@ Lloyd , the first time since The Boat Race 1856 that the event was not overseen by Joseph William Chitty . Lewis @-@ Lloyd had rowed for Cambridge four times , between the 1856 and the 1859 races inclusively . Edward Searle once again performed the duties of the starter .

## = = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 11 st 12 @. @ 875 lb ( 75 @. @ 6 kg ) , 2 @. @ 375 pounds ( 1 @. @ 1 kg ) more than their opponents . Oxford 's crew contained three rowers with Boat Race experience , and saw F. H. Hall return to cox the Dark Blue boat for the third time . Along with stroke and president Goldie , Cambridge 's crew included Edmund Spencer and Edward Randolph ( each rowing their third race ) , and John Brooks Close who had rowed in 1871 .

## = = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Oxford . The race started at 1.35pm " in the teeth of a bitter north @-@ easterly gale and snow @-@ storm " , and proved uneventful with the Light Blues winning by two lengths in a time of 21 minutes 15 seconds . Partway through the race , Goldie had broken a bolt in his rigging ; although he could no longer contribute to the power of the Light Blue boat , he continued to stroke and provide the required rhythm to lead Cambridge to the victory . It was Cambridge 's third consecutive win and took the overall record to 16 ? 13 in Oxford 's favour .