

= The Boat Race 1878 =

The 35th Boat Race took place on 13 April 1878 . 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 total , ten former Blues took part in the contest . The race was umpired by former rower Joseph William Chitty and Oxford won by a margin of 10 lengths in a time of 22 minutes 15 seconds . The victory took the overall record to 18 ? 16 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 ") . First held in 1829 , the race takes place on the 4 @.@ 2 miles (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 . Neither crew went into the race as reigning champions ? the previous year 's race had been declared a " dead heat " . However Oxford held the overall lead , with 17 victories to Cambridge 's 16 .

Cambridge 's coach was James Brooks Close (who rowed for the Light Blues in the 1872 , 1873 and 1874 races) . Oxford were coached by William Grenfell (who had rowed for the Dark Blues the previous year and was rowing at number four in 1878) , A. J. Mulholland (who rowed in 1877) and Edmund Warre (who represented the Oxford in the 1857 and the 1858 races) .

The race was umpired by Joseph William Chitty who had rowed for Oxford twice in 1849 (in the March and December races) and the 1852 race , while the starter was Edward Searle and the finishing judge was E. H. Fairrie .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 3 @.@ 675 lb (77 @.@ 7 kg) , 6 @.@ 875 pounds (3 @.@ 1 kg) more than their opponents . Cambridge saw four former Blues return , including the cox George Latham Davies who was taking part in his fourth consecutive Boat Race . Oxford 's crew included six individuals with experience of the race , with boat club president Tom Cottingham Edwards @-@ Moss making his fourth appearance in the event . Drinkwater suggested that the Oxford crew was the " best ... up to that date " .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Cambridge . The race commenced at 10.15am. Out @-@ rating Oxford by four strokes per minute , Cambridge took an early lead and were half a length ahead after the first minute . They held the lead round the bend which favoured them but as the river curved to favour Oxford , the Dark Blues quickly overtook , even with the slower stroke rate . They were at least half @-@ a @-@ length clear at the Crab Tree pub which they had extended to four lengths by Hammersmith Bridge . Oxford won by 40 seconds (approximately 10 lengths) in a time of 22 minutes and 15 seconds , their second victory in nine years , which took the overall record to 18 ? 16 in their favour .