

= The Boat Race 1934 =

The 86th Boat Race took place on 17 March 1934 . 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 the former rower Herbert Aylward Game , Cambridge won by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 18 minutes 3 seconds , the fastest winning time in the history of the Boat Race at the time of the event . The record eleventh consecutive victory took the overall record in the event to 45 ? 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 1933 race by two and a quarter lengths , and led overall with 44 victories to Oxford 's 40 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Cambridge were coached by T. A. Brocklebank (who had rowed for Cambridge three times between 1929 and 1931) , Francis Escombe , F. E. Hellyer (who had rowed for the Light Blues in the 1910 and 1911 races) and Peter Haig @-@ Thomas (four @-@ time Blue for Cambridge between 1902 and 1905) . Oxford 's coaches were Stanley Garton (who had rowed three times between 1909 and 1911) , John Houghton Gibbon (who had rowed for the Light Blues in the 1899 and 1900 races) and A. E. Kitchin (who had rowed in the 1908 race) . The race was umpired by the former Cambridge rower Herbert Aylward Game , who had represented the Light Blues in the 1895 and 1896 races . Both crews rowed in boats built by Sims and used Ayling oars .

Oxford performed well in training , and according to the rowing correspondent of The Times they " were definitely a much better crew than Cambridge " . However , the crew lost three members through illness , including president Gerald Ellison , and were forced to reorganise the boat . Cambridge had difficulty finding a suitable stroke for the race , eventually opting to place N. J. Bradley in that seat , even though The Times 's correspondent noted that he " is not , and never could be , anything but a makeshift stroke " . By the time of the race , Cambridge were markedly favourite to win , with former Oxford rower E. P. Evans , writing in The Manchester Guardian that the Light Blues would " win with comparative ease " .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 12 @. @ 5 lb (81 @. @ 7 kg) , 1 @. @ 75 pounds (0 @. @ 8 kg) per rower more than their opponents ; at the time , jointly the crews were the heaviest in the history of the event . Bradley and A. V. Sutcliffe were also the heaviest strokes on record . Two of the Cambridge crew returned to participate in the race , including Sambell who was rowing in his third consecutive event . Oxford 's boat contained five former Blues including R. W. G. Holdsworth who was making his third appearance in four years for the Dark Blues . Three of the participants in the race were registered as non @-@ British : Oxford 's number six J. H. Lascelles was from New Zealand , while Cambridge 's crew contained two Australians in William Sambell and D. J. Wilson .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . Umpire Game started the race at 2 : 16 p.m. in sunny conditions , with both crews making an " excellent start " . Oxford went off the quicker , out @-@ rating the Light Blues by two strokes per minute and taking a canvas @-@ length lead . By Beverley Brook the crews were

level again and Cambridge took a small lead by the time they passed Craven Steps . The Dark Blues began to look tired by Craven Cottage and Bradley took the opportunity to push away and passed the Mile Post with a third of a length advantage . A spurt from Oxford at the Crab Tree pub was responded to by Cambridge who held a half @-@ length lead before spurting again to go clear before Harrods Furniture Depository .

The Light Blues passed below Hammersmith Bridge two lengths ahead with another spurt by The Doves pub taking them further away from Oxford . A mistake from Duckworth , the Cambridge cox , took Cambridge into slower water which " must have lost his crew quite a couple of lengths " , but Oxford could not capitalise on the error . Entering Chiswick Reach , the Dark Blues were two and a half lengths down and showed further signs of tiredness . Cambridge coped with the head wind and choppy water better and passed Chiswick Steps three lengths ahead . Despite another push from Oxford along King 's Meadow , they failed to reduce the gap and the Light Blues passed below Barnes Bridge with a ten @-@ second lead . Cambridge passed the finishing post leading by four and a quarter lengths in a time of 18 minutes 3 seconds . It was the Light Blues ' eleventh consecutive victory in the quickest winning time in the history of the race , beating the existing record set by Oxford in the 1911 race by 26 seconds . The Dark Blues also beat the existing record as they passed the finishing post in 18 minutes 18 seconds . The victory took the overall record in the event to 45 ? 40 in Cambridge 's favour .