

= The Boat Race 1905 =

The 62nd Boat Race took place on 1 April 1905 . 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions having won the previous year 's race . In this year 's race , umpired by former rower Frederick I. Pitman , Oxford won by three lengths in a time of 20 minutes 35 seconds . The victory took the overall record to 34 ? 27 in their 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 2015 , broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1904 race by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths , while Oxford led overall with 33 victories to Cambridge 's 27 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Cambridge were coached by John Edwards @-@ Moss who had rowed in the 1902 and 1903 races , Francis Escombe and David Alexander Wauchope (who had rowed in the 1895 race) . Oxford 's coaches were William Fletcher , who rowed for them in the 1890 , 1891 , 1892 and 1893 races and C. K. Philips who had represented the Dark Blues four times between 1895 and 1898 . The umpire for the third year was old Etonian and former Cambridge rower Frederick I. Pitman who rowed in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

= Crews =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 12 st 0 lb (76 @.@ 0 kg) , 1 @.@ 375 pounds (0 @.@ 6 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford 's crew contained five rowers with Boat Race experience , including A. K. Graham who was rowing in his third consecutive race . Cambridge saw four rowers return to their crew , including P. H. Thomas who was making his fourth appearance in the event . All of the participants in the race were registered as British .

According to former Oxford rower and author George Drinkwater , the Dark Blues , while they " had no great difficulties in training ... never got really together or attained any great place " . Conversely , the Cambridge crew " suffered many misfortunes . " Old Etonian W. P. Wormald was forbidden from joining the crew by doctors , his replacement Stanley Bruce had to stand down soon after the Light Blues arrived at Putney , and he was replaced by novice P. H. Thomas who was unfit having recently returned from Africa .

= 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 11 : 30 a.m. under the command of umpire Pitman , and the Dark Blues took the lead . According to Drinkwater , they " had the race well in hand at the Mile " and " won as they liked it . " Oxford won by three lengths in a time of 20 minutes 35 seconds . It was their first victory in four years and the narrowest winning margin since the 1901 race .