

= The Boat Race 1928 =

The 80th Boat Race took place on 28 March 1928 . 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 . In a race umpired by former Oxford rower Charles Burnell , Cambridge won by ten lengths , the largest margin of victory since 1900 , in a time of 20 minutes 25 seconds . The victory took the overall record to 40 ? 39 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 . 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 1927 race by three lengths , with Oxford leading overall with 40 victories to Cambridge 's 38 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Oxford were coached by H. R. Baker (who rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1908 and 1909 races) , A. E. Kitchin (who also rowed in 1908) , P. C. Mallam (a Dark Blue from 1921 to 1924 inclusive) , C. M. Pitman (who rowed four times between 1892 and 1895) and J. D. W. Thomson (who was a three @-@ time Blue between 1925 and 1927) . Cambridge 's coaches were William Dudley Ward (who had rowed in 1897 , 1899 and 1900 races) , Francis Escombe , P. H. Thomas (a four @-@ time Blue between 1902 and 1905) and David Alexander Wauchope (who had rowed in the 1895 race) . For the second year the umpire was Charles Burnell who had rowed for Oxford in the 1895 , 1896 , 1897 and 1898 races . Charles Kent , who rowed for Oxford in the 1891 race , was the finishing judge for the first time .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 9 @. @ 625 lb (80 @. @ 4 kg) , 0 @. @ 625 pounds (0 @. @ 3 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge 's crew contained three participants with Boat Race experience : R. Beesly , J. C. Holcroft and stroke T. E. Letchworth . Oxford saw four participants return , including number two T. W. Shaw and cox J. H. Croft , both of whom were making their third consecutive appearance in the event . One participant was registered as non @-@ British : Oxford 's number four H. C. Morphett was from Australia .

According to author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater , the Cambridge crew were " really good " with the trial eights being " much above the average " . After relocating to Ely in the build @-@ up to the race , Cambridge 's crew was reorganised and improved , before final modifications were made at Putney . Drinkwater stated " it was obvious that they were going to be a fast crew " . Conversely , Oxford suffered from " a dearth of experienced material " who " never developed and were quite incapable of rowing a racing stroke " .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge . Burnell started the race at 9 : 45 a.m. in reasonable conditions but on a poor tide . Cambridge took the lead from the start and were half a length ahead by the time they passed the boathouses (400 yards (370 m) along the course) . Dropping the stroke rate to 29 strokes per minute , the Light Blues held off the faster rating Oxford to the Mile Post . Here Cambridge pushed away quickly and , according to Drinkwater , " long before Hammersmith the race had become a procession " , so much so that the Light Blues reduced their efforts to a paddle .

Cambridge won by ten lengths in a time of 20 minutes 25 seconds , the slowest winning time since

the 1925 race . It was their fifth consecutive victory and their ninth win in ten races and took the overall record to 40 ? 39 in Oxford 's favour . It was the largest winning margin where both boats completed the course since the 1900 race .