

= The Boat Race 1911 =

The 68th Boat Race took place on 1 April 1911 . 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 . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race . Umpired by former Cambridge rower Frederick I. Pitman , Oxford won by two @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 18 minutes 29 seconds , taking their overall lead in the competition to 37 ? 30 .

= = 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 . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1910 race by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths , and led overall with 36 victories to Cambridge 's 30 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Oxford 's coaches were H. R. Barker (who rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1908 and 1909 races) , G. C. Bourne (who had rowed for the university in the 1882 and 1883 races) , and Harcourt Gilbey Gold (Dark Blue president for the 1900 race and four @-@ time Blue) . Cambridge were coached by Stanley Bruce (who had rowed in 1904) , William Dudley Ward (who had rowed in 1897 , 1899 and 1900 races) , Raymond Etherington @-@ Smith (who had rowed in 1898 and 1900) and H. W. Willis (who had previously coached Oxford in 1907) . For the eighth year the umpire was old Etonian Frederick I. Pitman who rowed for Cambridge in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

The race was watched from the Oxford launch by the Prince of Wales and his brother Prince Albert . It was also the first time the launches were accompanied by aeroplanes .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 7 @.@ 5 lb (79 @.@ 4 kg) , 3 @.@ 625 pounds (1 @.@ 6 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Six of the Cambridge crew had previous Boat Race experience , including R. W. M. Arbuthnot and J. B. Rosher , who were taking part in their third event . Oxford 's boat contained three rowers who had previously participated three times in the event , in Duncan Mackinnon , Robert Bourne and Stanley Garton . Six of the Dark Blues were studying at Magdalen College , five of whom had rowed to victory in the Grand Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta the previous July . Three participants in the race were registered as overseas Blues : Oxford 's Charles Littlejohn was Australian , while Cambridge 's Pieter Voltelyn Graham van der Byl and cox C. A. Skinner hailed from South Africa .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge . Umpire Pitman started the race at 2 : 36 p.m. in a light breeze which helped create an unusually strong spring tide . Oxford made the better start , with their stroke Bourne out @-@ rating his opposite number by two stroke per minute . At Craven Steps , the Dark Blues were three @-@ quarters of a length ahead which they held past the Mile Post . At this point Oxford pushed on to be clear by the Crab Tree pub and a further length ahead by Harrods Furniture Depository . By the time the crews passed below Hammersmith Bridge , the Dark Blues were two and a half lengths ahead and reduced their rating yet continued to pull away .

By Chiswick Steps , Oxford were four lengths clear and further ahead at Barnes Bridge . Cambridge 's determination meant that they reduced the deficit over the last few minutes of the race . Oxford

won by two and three @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 18 minutes 29 seconds . It was Oxford 's third consecutive victory and took the overall record to 37 ? 30 in their favour . The winning time was the fastest in the history of the race .