

= The Boat Race 1957 =

The 103rd Boat Race took place on 30 March 1957 . 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 . The race was umpired by former Oxford rower Gerald Ellison . Despite Oxford being favourites and with the heaviest crew in the history of the event , Cambridge won by two lengths in a time of 19 minutes 1 second . The victory took the overall record to 57 ? 45 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 ") . First held in 1829 , the race takes 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 1956 race by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , and led overall with 56 victories to Oxford 's 45 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Cambridge 's coaches were James Crowden (who had rowed for the Light Blues in the 1951 and 1952 races) , D. K. Hill (who had rowed for Cambridge in 1953 and 1954) , Derek Mays @-@ Smith (who had represented Cambridge in the 1955 and 1956 races and James Owen . Oxford were coached by J. H. Page , L. A. F. Stokes (a Dark Blue in 1951 and 1952) and R. A. Wheadon (who had rowed in the 1954 race) . The race was umpired by Gerald Ellison , the Bishop of Chester , who had rowed for Oxford in the 1932 and 1933 races .

According to the rowing correspondent of The Times , " never in the past 10 years has there been such unanimity in Boat Race forecasts as this year , when only the staunchest Cambridge supporters could see more than an outside chance of a light blue victory " . He described the Oxford crew as " exceptionally strong and mechanically quite efficient " yet " lacks polish and uniformity " and while Cambridge were demonstrated uniformity , they rowed in a way which " does look like hard work " . In the build @-@ up to the race , Oxford 's time in their second full course row was 45 seconds quicker than that rowed by Cambridge the previous day .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 13 st 3 lb (83 @.@ 7 kg) , 5 @.@ 75 pounds (2 @.@ 6 kg) per rower more than their opponents , making them the heaviest crew on record . Cambridge 's crew featured a single rower with Boat Race experience : their number six and boat club president Michael Delahooke had rowed in the previous year 's race . Oxford saw four rowers return who had previously participated in the event . Two members of each crew were registered as non @-@ British : Oxford 's Roderick Carnegie was Australian while their cox A. Said was from Pakistan . Cambridge 's crew included two Americans in J. R. Meadows and their cox R. C. Milton .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge . Both crews rowed 38 strokes in the first minute , with the Light Blues holding a canvas @-@ length lead . While Oxford dropped their stroke rate to 32 strokes per minute , Cambridge continued at pace , rating 35 strokes per minute in an attempt to extend their early lead through to Beverley Brook . Oxford 's longer stroke saw them pass Cambridge to pass the Mile Post around a length ahead . At the Crab Tree pub , Cambridge pushed on while the Dark Blues maintained their rhythm , with the rowing correspondent for The Times suggesting this was " Oxford 's tactical error " .

The Dark Blues ' lead was down to half a length by the time the crews passed Harrods Furniture

Depository and by Hammersmith Bridge Cambridge had edged ahead . Still out @-@ rating Oxford , the Light Blues gradually pulled away and were a length and a half ahead by Chiswick Steps . With no response from Oxford , Cambridge extended their advantage further to around two lengths by Barnes Bridge , a lead which they held at the finishing post in a time of 19 minutes 1 second . They secured their third consecutive victory and their ninth win in eleven years and taking the overall record in the race to 57 ? 45 in their favour . At the post @-@ race dinner , held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall , the Oxford boat club president Carnegie defended his crew 's style : " The style was all right but we did not match up to it " . His counterpart Delahooke suggested that had the race been held ten days prior , Oxford would have won .