

= The Boat Race 1852 =

The 11th Boat Race took place on the River Thames on 3 April 1852 . Typically held annually , the event is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge . Former Cambridge cox Thomas Selby Egan coached Oxford , the first time that either crew had been trained by a member of the opposing university . The race was won by Oxford , their first Boat Race victory at Easter , who triumphed over Cambridge by nine lengths .

= 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 . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having defeated Cambridge , who were disqualified , in the previous race held in December 1849 . Cambridge led overall with seven wins to Oxford 's three .

The universities were unable to agree on a date for race in both 1850 and 1851 . The challenge to race from Cambridge was received by Oxford in December 1851 and was finally accepted that a race be conducted around Easter the following year . Oxford were coached by the former Cambridge cox Thomas Selby Egan , who had represented the Light Blues in the 1836 , 1839 and 1840 races , in protest at the use of watermen as Boat Race coaches . Oxford had prevented their use since 1841 but Cambridge would not do so until 1873 and were coached by the Thames waterman and world champion sculler Bob Coombes . It was the first time a crew was coached by a member of the other university .

The umpire for the race was Charles Jasper Selwyn and the starter was Edward Searle .

= Crews =

Three members of the Oxford crew had participated in the previous meeting of the universities in December 1849 , Houghton , Joseph William Chitty and the cox , Cotton . None of the Cambridge crew had Boat Race experience . The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 11 st 8 @.@ 5 lb (73 @.@ 5 kg) , 2 pounds (0 @.@ 9 kg) per rower more than their opponents .

= Race =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start on the Surrey side of the river , handing the Middlesex station to Oxford . The race started under Searle 's command at 1.45pm with Oxford taking a slight lead . On the approach to Hammersmith Bridge the gap was closing and Oxford passed through the central arch . Cambridge , following Coombe 's advice , opted to shoot the bridge towards the Surrey side and in doing so " lost the stream " and allowed Oxford to extend their lead . By Barnes Bridge the lead was around four lengths , and Oxford kept increasing their margin , winning by nine lengths in a time of 21 minutes 36 seconds . It was their second consecutive victory and took the overall record to 7 ? 4 in favour of Cambridge .