

## = The Boat Race 1927 =

The 79th Boat Race took place on 2 April 1927 . 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 's crew was marginally heavier than their opponents , and saw five participants return with Boat Race experience , compared to Cambridge 's four . Umpired for the first time by former Oxford rower Charles Burnell , Cambridge won by three lengths in a time of 20 minutes 14 seconds . It was the first race in the history of the event to be broadcast live on BBC Radio . The victory took the overall record in the event to 40 ? 38 in Oxford 's favour . The inaugural Women 's Boat Race was contested this year , with Oxford securing the victory .

## = = 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 1926 race by five lengths , with Oxford leading overall with 40 victories to Cambridge 's 37 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) . This year also saw the inaugural running of the Women 's Boat Race , between female crews from the two universities .

Oxford were coached by H. R. Baker ( 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 ) , R. C. Bourne ( who had rowed four times between 1909 and 1912 ) and P. C. Mallam ( a Dark Blue from 1921 to 1924 inclusive ) . Cambridge were coached by William Dudley Ward ( who had rowed in 1897 , 1899 and 1900 races ) , Francis Escombe and David Alexander Wauchope ( who had rowed in the 1895 race ) . For the first year the umpire was Charles Burnell , who had rowed for Oxford in the 1895 , 1896 , 1897 and 1898 races .

It was the first time that the progress of the race was broadcast on BBC Radio from the umpire 's launch Magician . Poet J. C. Squire and Olympic gold medallist and former Oxford rower Guy Nickalls provided the commentary , with transmission equipment on the boat weighing in excess of 1 @, @ 000 pounds ( 450 kg ) , and using a number of specially built reception points along the course . It was the second live outdoor commentary ever broadcast , the first being the England versus Scotland match of the 1927 Five Nations Championship .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 8 @. @ 625 lb ( 79 @. @ 9 kg ) , 2 @. @ 25 pounds ( 1 @. @ 0 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge 's boat contained four participants with Boat Race experience , including cox J. A. Brown who was steering the Light Blues for the fourth consecutive year . Oxford saw five members of the previous year 's crew return , including E. C. T. Edwards and James Douglas Wishart Thomson , both of whom were rowing for the third time in the event . Cambridge 's Australian number six J. B. Bell and his opposite number , American Howard T. Kingsbury of Yale University , were the only non @-@ British participants registered in the race .

According to author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater , neither crew could " be classed in a very high standard " , claiming Cambridge 's selection was poor and Oxford 's coaches indecisive . Ten days before the race , Oxford 's W. S. Llewellyn was struck down by German measles and was replaced by A. M. Hankin who was placed at stroke .

## = = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Cambridge . In a strong wind and " big spring tide " , Burnell started the race at 1 : 30 p.m. After a level start , Oxford held a canvas @-@ length lead by the time the crews passed Craven Steps , but the Light Blues levelled the race using the advantage of the bend in the river at Craven Cottage . The crews passed the Mile Post level whereupon Oxford retook the lead , slightly out @-@ rating their opponents and passed below Hammersmith Bridge with a half @-@ length advantage . Nearly clear by The Doves pub , the Dark Blues ran into strong wind and rough water and Cambridge started to reduce their lead .

A lead of one @-@ third of a length at Chiswick Steps was soon overhauled by the Light Blues who were almost clear at Barnes Bridge . They rowed on to win " comfortably " by three lengths in a time of 20 minutes 14 seconds . It was Cambridge 's fourth consecutive victory and their eighth win in nine races , and took the overall record in the event to 40 ? 38 in Oxford 's favour . Following the race , the tide was so high that spectators were forced to wade through water that was knee @-@ deep .

Oxford won the inaugural women 's race by 15 seconds despite not rowing together ; the crews were not permitted to compete side @-@ by @-@ side , that style of competition being considered " unladylike " .