

= The Boat Race 1871 =

The 28th Boat Race between crews from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge took place on the River Thames on the 1 April 1871 . The race , umpired by Joseph William Chitty , was won by Cambridge by one length in a time of 23 minutes 10 seconds for their second consecutive 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having defeated Oxford by three lengths in the previous year 's race , while Oxford led overall with sixteen wins to Cambridge 's eleven .

Oxford were coached by W. D. Benson (their non @-@ rowing president , who had rowed three times for the Dark Blues in the 1868 , 1869 and 1870 races) . Cambridge 's coach was John Graham Chambers (who rowed in the 1862 and 1863 race , and was a non @-@ rowing president for the 1865 race) and John Hilton Ridley (who rowed in the 1869 and 1870 races) .

The race was umpired by Joseph William Chitty who had rowed for Oxford twice in 1849 (in the March and December races) and the 1852 race , while the starter was Edward Searle .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 4 @. @ 125 lb (76 @. @ 1 kg) , 2 @. @ 75 pounds (1 @. @ 2 kg) more than their opponents . The Cambridge crew saw only three new rowers , with five returning from the 1870 race , including the Cambridge University Boat Club president John Goldie and William Henry Lowe in their third appearance in the event , along with the cox Henry Erskine Gordon . Similarly , Oxford saw five of their crew return , including S. H. Woodhouse at bow and Thomas Southey Baker who were participating in their third Boat Races .

= = Race = =

There was " little or no tide and head wind over part of the course " according to Drinkwater . Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex station to Oxford . The umpire , Chitty , got the race underway at 10.08am , with Cambridge taking an early lead . The Light Blues had a clear water advantage by the Point and held a two @-@ length lead by the time the crews shot Hammersmith Bridge . Despite a spurt instigated by Oxford stroke Robert Lesley at Barnes Bridge , Goldie remained steady until , before the final twenty strokes , he increased the stroke rate and saw Cambridge home by one length in a time of 23 minutes 10 seconds for their second consecutive victory and took the overall record to 16 ? 12 in Oxford 's favour .