

## = The Boat Race 1902 =

The 59th Boat Race took place on 22 March 1902 . 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 . Although Oxford used swivel rowlocks for the first time in the history of the race , Cambridge won by five lengths in a time of 19 minutes 9 seconds . The victory took the overall record to 33 ? 25 in Oxford 's 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 " ) . 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 and followed throughout the United Kingdom and worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1901 race by two @-@ fifths of a length , and led overall with 33 victories to Cambridge 's 24 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

Oxford 's coaches were G. C. Bourne who had rowed for Oxford in the 1882 and 1883 races , William Fletcher , who rowed for Oxford in the 1890 , 1891 , 1892 and 1893 races and Harcourt Gilbey Gold ( Dark Blue president for the 1900 race and four @-@ time Blue ) . Cambridge were coached by John Ernest Payne ( two @-@ time Blue in 1899 and 1900 ) . The umpire for the race for the thirteenth year in a row was Frank Willan who won the event four consecutive times , rowing for Oxford in the 1866 , 1867 , 1868 and 1869 races . It was his last time in charge of the race as he would be replaced by Frederick I. Pitman the following year .

With a hard frost impeding Cambridge 's practice in Ely , the crew relocated , at the invitation of Sir John Edwards @-@ Moss , to Henley @-@ on @-@ Thames where parts of the river were clear of ice . Oxford disregarded Felix Warre 's latest boat in favour of the previous year 's vessel , however with the inclusion of the recently patented " swivel rowlock " . According to Oxford rower and author George Drinkwater ( who rowed at bow for the Dark Blues in this race ) , the rowlocks " were not altogether a success " and stated that while Cambridge could " row a faster stroke " , the Dark Blues " were very ponderous " .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 6 @. @ 5 lb ( 79 @. @ 0 kg ) , 4 @. @ 5 pounds ( 2 @. @ 04 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . The Cambridge crew contained four rowers with Boat Race experience , including Wilfrid Hubert Chapman who had last rowed in the 1899 race . Seven of the nine members of the Cambridge crew matriculated at Trinity College . Oxford saw five former Blues return , including cox Gilchrist Maclagan who was steering in his fourth consecutive race . The Dark Blues also featured a pair of brothers , John George and Devereux Milburn , who were also the race 's only non @-@ British participants , hailing from the United States having attended The Hill School in Pennsylvania before studying at Harvard University .

## = = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . At the time of the race it was raining ; umpire Willan started proceedings at 12 : 45 p.m. and Cambridge led from the first stroke . Within two minutes they were clear of Oxford , and , out @-@ rating them marginally for the duration of the race , they pulled away with every stroke . Cambridge passed the finishing post with a five @-@ length lead , in a time of 19 minutes 9 seconds . It was the Light Blues third win in four years and the victory took the overall record in the event to 33 ? 25 in Oxford 's favour .

