

## = The Boat Race 1895 =

The 52nd Boat Race took place on 30 March 1895 . The Boat Race is an annual side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race along the River Thames between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge . The 1895 race was umpired by former Oxford rower Frank Willan with one of the Oxford coaches , R. C. Lehmann being a former Cambridge alumnus . Although Cambridge made the quicker start , Oxford recovered , had the lead by Hammersmith Bridge , and won by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 20 minutes 50 seconds . It was their sixth victory in a row and took the overall record in the event to 29 ? 22 in Oxford 's favour .

## = = Background = =

The Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between the boat clubs of 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 ; as of 2014 it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the 1895 race as reigning champions , having beaten Cambridge by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in the previous year 's race , and held the overall lead , with 28 victories to Cambridge 's 22 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

Oxford 's coaches were G. C. Bourne ( who rowed for Oxford in the 1882 and 1883 races ) , Douglas McLean ( an Oxford Blue five times from 1883 through 1887 ) , and R. C. Lehmann . Lehmann was a former president of the Cambridge Union Society and captain of the 1st Trinity Boat Club ; although he had rowed in the trial eights for Cambridge , he was never selected for the Blue boat . The Cambridge team was coached by Stanley Muttelbury ( who rowed for Cambridge five times between the 1886 and 1890 races ) .

Both crews suffered variously during the buildup to the race . A hard frost which persisted late into the season hindered training , forcing both crews to move to Bourne End and more open water . Both crews were then struck by influenza , Cambridge three weeks before the race and Oxford the week of the race itself . As such , Cambridge were in good form going into the race , Oxford less so .

James Brooks Close was the non @-@ rowing president of the Cambridge University Boat Club ? he had rowed in the 1872 , 1873 and 1874 races . His election was considered by author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater as " a bold step " in an attempt to overcome dissension as a result of Cambridge 's heavy defeat the prior year . Close was called away during the crew 's practice , and Francis Cargill Begg took captaincy of the crew . The umpire for the race for the seventh 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 .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 1 @.@ 875 lb ( 76 @.@ 9 kg ) , 1 @.@ 125 pounds ( 0 @.@ 5 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge 's cox Francis Cargill Begg was the only Light Blue participant with Boat Race experience , having steered the boat in the previous year 's race . Oxford 's crew contained six rowers who had previously rowed in the event , including Hugh Benjamin Cotton and Charles Murray Pitman , both of whom were taking part in their fourth consecutive race . Seven of the Oxford crew were educated at Eton College .

## = = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Cambridge . In a heavy wind and a strong tide , Willan started the race at 4 : 08 pm .

Cambridge , outrating their opponents at the start , took an early lead , but Oxford 's steady rhythm drew them back level and then ahead . By Hammersmith Bridge , the Dark Blues held a lead of three @-@ quarters of a length and took advantage of Cambridge experiencing rough water . With a well @-@ timed spurt from Oxford 's boat club president and stroke Pitman , the Dark Blues went clear of Cambridge and held a two @-@ length lead by the time they reached Chiswick .

With a lead of three lengths by Barnes Bridge , Oxford slowed to a paddle and passed the finishing post with a lead of two and a quarter lengths , in a winning time of 20 minutes 50 seconds . It was the Dark Blues ' sixth consecutive victory and took the overall record to 29 ? 22 in their favour .