

= The Boat Race 1894 =

The 51st Boat Race took place on 22 March 1894 . The Boat Race is an annual side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . Oxford went into the race leading by 27 ? 22 in the event and of the eighteen participants , half had previous Boat Race experience . Umpired by former rower Frank Willan , Oxford won the race by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 21 minutes 39 seconds , for their fifth consecutive victory in the event . It was the largest margin of victory since the 1883 race .

= = 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 race as reigning champions , having beaten Cambridge by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in the previous year 's race , and held the overall lead , with 27 victories to Cambridge 's 22 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Oxford were coached by William Fletcher (who rowed for Oxford in the 1890 , 1891 , 1892 and 1893 races) , R. C. Lehmann (former president of the Cambridge Union Society and captain of the 1st Trinity Boat Club ; although he had rowed in the trials eights for Cambridge , he was never selected for the Blue boat) and Douglas McLean (an Oxford Blue five times between 1883 and 1887) . Cambridge 's coach was Charles William Moore (who represented Cambridge in the 1881 , 1882 , 1883 and 1884 races) .

The umpire for the race for the sixth 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 3 lb (77 @.@ 3 kg) , 7 pounds (3 @.@ 2 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge 's crew contained four rowers who had previously participated in the Boat Race , including Lionel Arthur Edward Ollivant , Charles Thurstan Fogg @-@ Elliot , Robert Orme Kerrison and Trevor Gwyn Elliot Lewis . Oxford saw five member 's of the previous year 's crew return , including Charles Murray Pitman and Hugh Benjamin Cotton who were rowing in their third consecutive Boat Race . The Dark Blues also saw the introduction of William Burton Stewart , a rugby union Blue who Drinkwater described as " a useful heavy @-@ weight " who had rowed for Brasenose and Leander Club at the Henley Royal Regatta . Eleven of the sixteen rowers were educated at Eton College . All of the competitors in the race were registered as British .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Cambridge . The umpire was accompanied on his launch by the Duke of York (later to become King George V) . Despite a poor tide , weather conditions were good and the race commenced at 9 : 12 a.m. Rating 41 strokes per minute , Cambridge took a brief early lead but were soon overhauled by Oxford who led by half a length by the Mile Post .

Taking advantage of the bend in the river , the Dark Blues continued to pull away and were clear of Cambridge by the time the crews passed below Hammersmith Bridge . At The Doves pub , Oxford were more than a length clear , and had extended that to three lengths clear by Chiswick and five by Barnes Bridge . Relaxing down to a paddle , Oxford passed the finishing post with a three @-@ and

@-@ a @-@ half length advantage , in a winning time of 21 minutes 39 seconds . It was Oxford 's fifth consecutive win , was their largest margin of victory since the 1883 race , and took the overall record in the event to 28 ? 22 in their favour .