

## = The Boat Race 1865 =

The 22nd Boat Race between crews from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge took place on the River Thames on 8 April 1865 . Oxford won by four lengths in a time of 21 minutes 24 seconds . The race , described as " one of the most sensational races in this history " thus far , was umpired by Joseph William Chitty . It was the first time that a crew had won the Boat Race having been behind at Hammersmith Bridge .

## = = 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 1864 race by nine lengths , with Oxford leading overall with eleven victories to Cambridge 's ten .

Cambridge were coached by their non @-@ rowing president J. G. Chambers ( who had rowed in the 1862 and 1863 races ) , while Oxford 's coach was G. Morrison ( who had rowed for Oxford three times as well as being a non @-@ rowing president in 1862 ) . Both university boats were constructed by J. & S. Salter of Oxford using cedar wood . 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 11 st 11 @. @ 25 lb ( 74 @. @ 8 kg ) , 1 @. @ 25 pounds ( 0 @. @ 6 kg ) per rower more than their Light Blue opposition . Cambridge saw the return of five former Blues , including the cox Francis Archer and number four Robert Kinglake , both of whom had represented the university twice before . Three of Oxford 's crew had rowed in the previous year 's race .

## = = Race = =

Both crews had initially returned to the boathouses upon the instruction of their boat club president 's who had demanded the steamers stay behind the start . Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge . Following an indifferent start from both crews , Cambridge took the lead , and were a length ahead by Bishop 's Creek . To avoid the steamers pressing from behind , the Light Blue cox Archer steered his boat to the middle to the river , while his counterpart , Charles Tottenham , manoeuvred too close to the bank , resulting in a two @-@ length lead for Cambridge by Craven Cottage . By the Crab Tree pub , the lead was three lengths . Despite dominating the race , by the time the crews passed below Hammersmith Bridge , Oxford had reduced the lead to three @-@ quarters of a length , and at The Doves pub , the lead was down to half a length .

Soon after the Oxford boat overlapped their opponents yet Cambridge pushed away again before Chiswick Eyot where the Dark Blues once began to overlap the Light Blues ' stern . Cambridge 's stroke Lawes reacted and pushed to keep the lead , but by Chiswick Church the crews were level . Oxford 's better line in the river saw them draw away rapidly from Cambridge , whereupon the Light Blues were regarded as " falling to pieces " . Oxford 's lead at Barnes Bridge was around three lengths , and by the time they passed the finishing line they had won by four lengths in a time of 21 minutes 24 seconds , securing the Dark Blue 's fifth consecutive win and taking the overall record to 12 ? 10 in their favour . Drinkwater suggested that , of the 22 races conducted thus far , it was " one of the most sensational races in this history " , while Burnell described it as a " splendid race " .

