

= The Boat Race 1933 =

The 85th Boat Race took place on 1 April 1933 . 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 . Umpired by the former rower Herbert Aylward Game , Cambridge won by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 20 minutes 57 seconds . The record tenth consecutive victory took the overall record in the event to 44 ? 40 in Cambridge '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 ; it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and , as of 2014 , broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1932 race by five lengths , and led overall with 43 victories to Oxford 's 40 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Cambridge were coached by Francis Escombe , Harold Rickett (who rowed three times between 1930 and 1932) , and Peter Haig @-@ Thomas (four @-@ time Blue for Cambridge between 1902 and 1905) . Oxford 's coaches were John Houghton Gibbon (who had participated in the 1899 and 1900 races , and umpired the 1931 race) , P. Johnson (who had rowed for Oxford in the 1927 race) , A. E. Kitchin (who had rowed in the 1908 race) and W. P. Mellen (who was a Dark Blue in 1923 and 1924 races) . The race was umpired by former Cambridge rower Herbert Aylward Game who had represented the Light Blues in the 1895 and 1896 races .

According to the rowing correspondent for The Times , " no training in recent years has seen more changes in the comparative merits of the two crews . " Oxford started well while Cambridge took time to settle , but having done so " made astonishingly rapid progress " and " promised to be the best Cambridge crew since 1900 . " Oxford improved further once they had arrived at Putney ; conversely the Light Blues suffered misfortune in losing Lewis Luxton , last year 's stroke ten days before the race . The Dark Blues continued to progress but by the time of the race , " there was very little to choose between the two crews . "

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 6 @. @ 125 lb (78 @. @ 8 kg) , 1 @. @ 125 pounds (0 @. @ 5 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge saw three rowers return to the crew with Boat Race experience , including number five Charles Sergel who was making his third consecutive appearance . Oxford 's crew also contained three rowers who had taken part in previous events , including W. D. C. Erskine @-@ Crumb , appearing in his third consecutive race . Two participants were registered as non @-@ British : Oxford cox C. Komarakul @-@ Na @-@ Nagara was from Thailand , while Cambridge 's William Sambell was Australian .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . The race was delayed as a result of the slowly rising tide and it was eventually started by umpire Game at 4 : 02 p.m. Cambridge made the quicker start and out @-@ rated their opponents to hold a quarter @-@ length lead by the end of the Fulham Wall . With the bend in the river favouring the Middlesex station , Oxford gained and the crews passed the Mile Post level . Despite a spurt from Cambridge 's stroke Frame @-@ Thomson , Oxford took the lead and responded to the push with one of their own . Another spurt , this time minute @-@ long , from the Light Blues , saw them pass below Hammersmith Bridge with a one third length advantage .

Making the most of the inside of the bend in the river , Cambridge pushed on to be a length clear by The Doves pub . As both crews rowed into Chiswick Reach , they were struck by the headwind and by Chiswick Steps , the Light Blues had extended their lead by half a length , rating two strokes per minute more than Oxford . By the time they passed below Barnes Bridge , Cambridge were seven seconds ahead . They passed the finishing post with a lead of two and a quarter lengths in a time of 20 minutes 57 seconds , taking the overall record in the event to 44 ? 40 in their favour . It was the Light Blues ' tenth consecutive victory , a record streak in the history of the event . It was the slowest winning time since the 1925 race and the narrowest margin of victory since the 1930 race . Writing in The Observer , William Beach Thomas declared that " a good crew was beaten by a good crew after one of the finest races in the long chronicles " . According to the former Oxford rower E. P. Evans , " the features of the race were the superb stroking of the Oxford crew by Holdsworth and the extremely bad coxing of the Cambridge boat ... although Cambridge won , they were not really at their best . "