

## = The Boat Race 1901 =

The 58th Boat Race took place on 30 March 1901 . 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 . Cambridge had won the previous year 's race by twenty lengths . This year 's race , umpired by former rower Frank Willan , was won by Oxford by two @-@ fifths of a length in a time of 22 minutes 31 seconds . Oxford 's crew featured five former Blues while Cambridge just one . It was the Dark Blues ' first win three years and the slowest winning time since 1877 . The victory took the overall record in the event to 33 ? 24 in favour of Oxford .

## = = 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 1900 race by twenty lengths , while Oxford led overall with 32 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 , Harcourt Gilbey Gold ( Dark Blue president the previous year and four @-@ time Blue ) and C. K. Philips who had represented Oxford four times between 1895 and 1898 . Cambridge were coached by James Brookes Close , who had rowed for the Light Blues three times between 1872 and 1874 , Stanley Muttelbury , five @-@ time Blue between 1886 and 1890 and John Ernest Payne ( two @-@ time Blue in 1899 and 1900 ) . The umpire for the race for the twelfth 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 .

Author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater wrote that the Dark Blues " created a sensation " when they elected to row in a boat designed by Felix Warre , based on that built by Matthew Taylor of Newcastle upon Tyne for the 1857 race . Of the crew , Drinkwater remarked " the material of which [ they were ] built was second class , but behind Culme @-@ Seymour a , and coached by Mr. Gold ... they attained very nearly to first @-@ class pace " . The Cambridge crew suffered illness in practice and in a late reorganisation , " the crew received a set @-@ back from which they never really recovered . "

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 2 @. @ 675 lb ( 77 @. @ 2 kg ) , 1 @. @ 375 pounds ( 0 @. @ 62 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . The Cambridge crew contained a single rower with Boat Race experience in their number three , boat club president Bertram Willes Dayrell Brooke . Conversely , Oxford saw five former Blues return to the boat , including rower Warre and cox Gilchrist Maclagan who were making their third appearance in the event . All of the participants in the race were registered as British . Seven of the nine Cambridge crew members were studying at Trinity College .

## = = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . Heavy rainstorms and strong wind from the south @-@ west made for inclement conditions for the race . Willan started the race at 10 : 31 a.m. and Oxford , taking advantage of the bend in the river , gradually drew away from their opponents to hold a half @-@ length lead by the Mile Post . The Cambridge stroke Graham Macdowall Maitland spurred to ensure that the crews

were level by the time they passed Harrods Furniture Depository . Oxford 's stroke rate dropped as they conceded ground to the Light Blues around the long side of the bend and dropped in behind them . Despite being closer to the shore , the water was still very rough and Cambridge struggled .

However , Oxford found it impossible to move out into the rougher water to pass Cambridge and settled behind the Light Blues until near to Barnes Bridge where Maclagan moved and Culme @-@ Seymour simultaneously spurted . As a result , they began to overlap the Cambridge , and with the bend of the river in their favour , they levelled the race as the crews passed Mortlake Brewery . Encountering more rough water , Cambridge were unable to respond and Oxford passed the finishing post two @-@ fifths of a length ahead , in a time of 22 minutes 31 seconds . It was the Dark Blues ' first win in three years , and the slowest winning time since the 1877 race . The victory took the overall record in the event to 33 ? 24 in favour of Oxford .