

## = The Boat Race 1907 =

The 64th Boat Race took place on 16 March 1907 . 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 were reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race , and more than half their crew had already participated in the event . In a race umpired by Frederick I. Pitman , Cambridge won by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 20 minutes 26 seconds . It was their second consecutive victory and their fifth win in six races , taking the overall record in the event to 34 ? 29 in Oxford '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 2015 , broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1906 race by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths , while Oxford led overall with 34 victories to Cambridge 's 28 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

Cambridge were coached by Francis Escombe ( for the fourth consecutive year ) , Stanley Muttelbury , five @-@ time Blue between 1886 and 1890 , and David Alexander Wauchope ( who had rowed in the 1895 race ) . Oxford 's coaches were Harcourt Gilbey Gold ( Dark Blue president for the 1900 race and four @-@ time Blue ) and H. W. Willis . The umpire for the fifth year was old Etonian and former Cambridge rower Frederick I. Pitman who rowed in the 1884 , 1885 and 1886 races .

## = = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 12 st 2 @. @ 875 lb ( 77 @. @ 3 kg ) , 1 @. @ 875 pounds ( 0 @. @ 9 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford 's crew contained three rowers with Boat Race experience , including Henry Bucknall who was rowing in his third consecutive event . Cambridge saw five participants return to their boat , including Banner Johnstone who had rowed in both 1904 and 1906 . All of those taking part in the race were registered as British .

Late in the previous summer , and following the Henley Royal Regatta , Cambridge were challenged to a race along the Championship Course by Harvard University : Cambridge won by two lengths . The Light Blues made only two changes to personnel for this year 's Boat Race , and as noted by author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater , " had a crew almost ready @-@ made " .

## = = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Cambridge . Although the bend of the river provided the Dark Blues with an early advantage , Cambridge were ahead and clear within a minute and a half . Rating slightly slower than the Dark Blues , they passed the Mile Post two lengths up and held a three @-@ length lead as they passed below Hammersmith Bridge . Oxford 's stroke Albert Gladstone spurred in an attempt to draw his boat back into the contest , and stroke by stroke the gap was reduced , eventually to a few feet .

Encountering rough water , Oxford had to work hard to remain in contention but at Chiswick , began to fall back rapidly . Even after reducing their stroke rate , Cambridge pulled further away to lead by four lengths at Barnes Bridge . They eased up to win by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 20 minutes 26 seconds , their second consecutive victory and their fifth win in six races . It was the largest winning margin since the 1904 race and took the overall record in the event to 34 ?

29 in Oxford 's favour .