

## = The Boat Race 1887 =

The 44th Boat Race took place on 26 March 1887 . The Boat Race is an annual side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . Umpired by Robert Lewis @-@ Lloyd , Cambridge won the race by two and a half lengths after one of the Oxford crew snapping his oar in half . The winning time for the race was 20 minutes 52 seconds , and Cambridge 's victory took the overall record to 23 ? 20 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 " ) . First held in 1829 , the race takes place on the 4 @.@ 2 miles ( 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 previous year 's race by two @-@ thirds of a length , while Oxford held the overall lead , with 23 victories to Cambridge 's 19 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

The coaches for Cambridge were Donaldson , Charles William Moore ( who represented Cambridge in the 1881 , 1882 , 1883 and 1884 races ) and Herbert Edward Rhodes ( who rowed in the 1873 , 1874 , 1875 and 1876 races ) . Oxford 's coaches were Tom Cottingham Edwards @-@ Moss ( who rowed for the Dark Blues four times between the 1875 and the 1878 races ) , R. S. Kindersley ( who rowed three times for Oxford between 1880 and 1882 ) and A. R. Paterson ( four @-@ time Blue for Oxford between 1881 and 1884 ) .

The umpire for the race was Robert Lewis @-@ Lloyd ( who had rowed for Cambridge four times between 1856 and 1859 ) .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 3 @.@ 5 lb ( 77 @.@ 6 kg ) , 4 @.@ 25 pounds ( 1 @.@ 9 kg ) more than their opponents . Oxford initially had just two Blues available to them in the Oxford University Boat Club president F. O. Wethered and Hector McLean , yet the latter 's brother Douglas was persuaded to return for his fifth Boat Race appearance , three weeks before the race following his return from India . Five of Cambridge 's crew had Boat Race experience , including the only non @-@ British participant , Australian Steve Fairbairn in his fourth race .

## = = Race = =

The weather for the race was good , as was the tide , but a strong breeze made for some rough water . Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . Making the better start of the two crews , Cambridge were a length ahead by Walden 's Wharf and had extended that by another half @-@ length by the time they passed the Crab Tree pub . Oxford came back into contention and by the time the crews shot Hammersmith Bridge there was " little or no daylight between the boats . " The other side of the bridge the crews hit rough water and as Cambridge had the advantage of shelter on their side of the river , they pulled away quickly to be three lengths clear by Chiswick . As the bend of the river began to favour the Dark Blues , they drew up once again and were almost level by Barnes Bridge when their number seven Douglas McLean broke his oar in two , effectively ending his participation in the race . Cambridge pulled away again and won by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 20 minutes 52 seconds . It was their second consecutive victory and their fastest time since the 1876 race . The win took the overall record to 23 ? 20 in Oxford 's favour .