

= The Boat Race 1882 =

The 39th Boat Race took place on 1 April 1882 . The Boat Race is an annual side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . In the race , umpired by former Cambridge rower Robert Lewis @-@ Lloyd , Oxford won by a margin of seven lengths in a time of 20 minutes 12 seconds , taking the overall record to 21 ? 17 in their favour .

= Background =

The Boat Race is an annual rowing eight competition between the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge . First held in 1829 , the competition is a 4 @.@ 2 @-@ mile (6 @.@ 8 km) race along The 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 previous year 's race by three lengths , and held the overall lead , with 20 victories to Cambridge 's 17 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

Oxford were coached by Tom Cottingham Edwards @-@ Moss (who rowed for the Dark Blues four times between the 1875 and 1878 race) and Walter Bradford Woodgate (who represented Oxford in the 1862 and 1863 races) . There is no record of Cambridge 's coaches . The Oxford boat was manufactured by Swaddle and Winship and was used in preference to one built by Harry Clasper which had been tested extensively in practice . The umpire for the race was Robert Lewis @-@ Lloyd (who had rowed for Cambridge four times between 1856 and 1859) and the starter was Edward Searle .

= Crews =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 11 st 11 @.@ 125 lb (74 @.@ 7 kg) , 0 @.@ 125 pounds (0 @.@ 1 kg) more than their opponents . Cambridge saw five former Blues return , including Llewellyn Rhys Jones whose poor health had prevented him from rowing since the 1878 race . The Light Blue crew also included the only non @-@ British competitor in the race in Australian Steve Fairbairn (whose brother Charles had competed in the 1879 race) . Oxford 's crew also contained five individuals with Boat Race experience , including R. S. Kindersley and David Edward Brown , both of whom were rowing in their third race .

= Race =

Oxford were firm pre @-@ race favourites , having rowed the course twenty seconds quicker than Cambridge in practice . Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Oxford . The race commenced at 1 : 02 p.m. in conditions described by author and former Oxford rower George Drinkwater as " fine and warm " with a " breeze from the north @-@ west " . Cambridge made the better start , taking a lead of a canvas length , but were in front for less than a minute . Oxford took the lead and were clear of the Light Blues by the Mile Post and held a three @-@ length lead at Hammersmith Bridge . Cambridge encountered choppy water and , according to Drinkwater , " fell to pieces " . Oxford drew away to win by seven lengths in a time of 20 minutes 12 seconds . It was Oxford 's third consecutive win and the fastest winning time since the 1873 race . The result took the overall record to 21 ? 17 in their favour .