

= The Boat Race 1893 =

The 50th Boat Race took place on 22 March 1893 . The Boat Race is an annual side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . Oxford went into the event as reigning champions having won the previous year 's race . In a race umpired by former rower Frank Willan , Oxford won by a length and a quarter in a time of 18 minutes 45 seconds which was , at the time , the fastest in the history of the event . It was their fourth consecutive victory and took the overall record to 27 ? 22 in their favour .

= = Background = =

The Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between the boat clubs of 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 ; as of 2014 it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having beaten Cambridge by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in the previous year 's race , and held the overall lead , with 26 victories to Cambridge 's 22 .

Oxford 's coaches were G. C. Bourne (who rowed for Oxford in the 1882 and 1883 races) , Tom Cottingham Edwards @-@ Moss (who rowed for the Dark Blues from 1875 to 1878) and Douglas McLean (an Oxford Blue five times between 1883 and 1887) . Cambridge were coached by R. C. Lehmann (former president of the Cambridge Union Society and captain of the 1st Trinity Boat Club ; although he had rowed in the trials eights for Cambridge , he was never selected for the Blue boat) . The umpire for the race for the fifth 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 .

According to author Wadham Peacock , Barnes Bridge was undergoing repair which had jeopardised the running of the race . It was also one of only a few occasions where the race was not held on a Saturday .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 3 @.@ 125 lb (77 @.@ 4 kg) , 3 @.@ 125 pounds (1 @.@ 4 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge saw two rowers with Boat Race experience return , including Graham Campbell Kerr and Charles Thurstan Fogg @-@ Elliot . Six of the Light Blues had matriculated at Trinity College . The Oxford boat contained five former Blues including William Fletcher who was participating in his fourth Boat Race . Four of the Dark Blues were studying at Magdalen College . All of the competitors in the race were registered as British .

Although Oxford had four members of the previous year 's race available , Fletcher was injured in practice and Vivian Nickalls was unwell . Cambridge 's crew was considered to be powerful but technically deficient .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . With a good spring tide and a light breeze from the east , umpire Willan started the race at 4 : 35 p.m. , with the Light Blues outrating their opponents at 40 strokes per minute , and taking an early lead . Oxford drew level and moved ahead , holding a length 's lead by the Mile Post . With the advantage of the river 's course to Cambridge , by Hammersmith Bridge the lead had been cut to half a length and at The Doves pub (almost 2 miles (3 @.@ 2 km) along the course) , the crews were once again level .

Along Chiswick , despite a higher stroke rate , Cambridge failed to move ahead and showed signs

of tiredness , and Oxford began to move away again . By Barnes Bridge they were a length @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half clear , but encountered difficult water there as a temporary dam that had been constructed created an eddy . Cambridge took advantage to reduce the deficit and pushed all the way to the finishing post , but Oxford won by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths . It was their fourth consecutive victory and in a time of 18 minutes 45 seconds , the fastest in the history of the event .