

= The Boat Race 1845 =

The 7th Boat Race took place on the River Thames on 17 March 1845 . The Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge . It was the first time the event was contested along The Championship Course , from Putney to Mortlake . The race was won by Cambridge who beat Oxford by a distance of ten lengths .

= = Background = =

The Boat Race , first held in 1829 , 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 ") . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having defeated Cambridge by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in the previous race held in 1842 . However , Cambridge led overall with four wins to Oxford 's two .

The universities failed to agree on a location or a date for a race in 1843 or 1844 , so no contests were held those years . In November 1844 , the Cambridge University Boat Club secretary wrote to Oxford in an attempt to re @-@ start the Easter running of the Boat Race . The Oxford committee " seemed willing " and in the Lent term proposed a change to the course , to race above Putney Bridge rather than below it on 15 March . It was the first Boat Race to be conducted between Putney and Mortlake on The Championship Course , previous races having taken place between Westminster Bridge and Putney Bridge , or on the Thames at Henley between Hambleden Lock and Henley Bridge . Cambridge arrived in London on the Wednesday before the race , Oxford following two days later . Following their displays in practice rows , Cambridge were considered favourites for the race .

The Cambridge boat was built by Logan and belonged to Second Trinity Boat Club , while Oxford 's was constructed by King 's of Oxford . The umpire for the race was W. H. Harrison , Commodore of the Royal Thames Yacht Club , while the starter was Edward Searle .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 11 st 9 lb (73 @.@ 8 kg) , 6 @.@ 375 pounds (2 @.@ 9 kg) per rower more than their Light Blue opposition . None of the crews had rowed in previous Boat Races .

= = Race = =

The conditions for the race were " of the most inclement possible " and the water " very rough " . Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey station to Oxford . The Light Blues made the better start but swell from a steamer dislodged the oar of Richardson and allowed Oxford to take the lead . Cambridge gradually recovered to draw level and by Bishop of London 's Walk were clear . Despite poor steering from both coxes (and Henry Munster losing his hat while waving it at the crowds) , Cambridge were three lengths ahead by Hammersmith Bridge . They continued to pull away and won by ten lengths in a time of 23 minutes 30 seconds . It was their fifth victory overall , to Oxford 's two since the first Boat Race of 1829 . Cambridge inflicted a second defeat on Oxford later that year , winning the Grand Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta .