

## = The Boat Race 1960 =

The 106th Boat Race took place on 2 April 1960 . 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 . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions having won the previous year 's race . In a race umpired by former Cambridge rower Kenneth Payne and attended by Princess Margaret , Countess of Snowdon , it was won by Oxford by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 18 minutes 59 seconds , their second consecutive victory , which took the overall record in the event to 58 ? 47 in Cambridge '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 @-@ 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 2014 , broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1959 race by six lengths , while Cambridge led overall with 58 victories to Oxford 's 46 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

Cambridge were coached by Chris Addison ( who rowed for Cambridge in the 1939 race ) , James Crowden ( who rowed for the Light Blues in the 1951 and 1952 races ) , A. T. Denby ( 1958 Blue ) , David Jennens ( who rowed three times between 1949 and 1951 ) and J. R. Owen ( 1959 race ) . Oxford 's coaching team comprised Jumbo Edwards ( who rowed for Oxford in 1926 and 1930 ) , J. L. Fage ( an Oxford Blue in 1958 and 1959 ) and L. A. F. Stokes ( who rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1951 and 1952 races ) . The Oxford crew had opted to use 7 @.@ 5 @-@ pound ( 3 @.@ 4 kg ) oars , 2 pounds ( 0 @.@ 9 kg ) lighter than normal .

The main race was umpired for the seventh and penultimate time by the former British Olympian Kenneth Payne who had rowed for Cambridge in the 1932 and 1934 races . Antony Armstrong @-@ Jones , who had coxed Cambridge to victory in the 1950 race , and his fiance Princess Margaret were spectators on board the Cambridge launch Amaryllis .

## = = Crews = =

Both crews weighed an average of 12 st 9 lb ( 80 @.@ 1 kg ) . Cambridge 's crew contained three rowers who had taken part in the 1959 race , bow J. R. Owen , G. H. Brown and John Beveridge . Oxford saw two rowers return from the previous year 's race , Alexander Lindsay and D. C. Rutherford . Former Olympic gold medallist Jack Beresford , writing in The Observer said the Dark Blues " are good watermen : their co @-@ ordination is precise , their boat control admirable " . Beresford suggested that the Cambridge crew were " not fully under control ... there is a definite jerkiness and hurry about their work . "

Only one participant in this year 's race was registered as non @-@ British in American Townsend Swayze , the former Harvard University captain .

## = = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge . The Dark Blues made the quicker start and held a canvas @-@ length lead after ten strokes , extending to half a length after the first minute . With the bend of the river in their favour , Oxford pulled further ahead and were three @-@ quarters of a length up by Craven Cottage . Passing the Mile Post in a record time ( beating that set in the 1934 ) , Oxford spurted at Harrods Furniture Depository to hold held a clear water advantage , and were two lengths ahead by the time the crews passed below Hammersmith Bridge .

As the Oxford cox , P. J. Reynolds steered the Dark Blues towards the Middlesex shore , allowing Cambridge to start to reduce the deficit . Difficult conditions between Chiswick and Barnes Bridge slowed the pace of the race , but a spurt just before Barnes allowed Cambridge to close the gap to four seconds . Aggressive steering from Cambridge 's Roger Weston was held off by Oxford who took advantage of the tide , and in a sprint finish , Oxford won by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 18 minutes 59 seconds . It was Oxford 's second consecutive victory for just the second time since the First World War . It was also the first time since the 1921 race that the event was witnessed by a member of the British Royal Family .

Ian Thomson , writing in The Observer , described the event as " a really titanic struggle ... an exceptionally gallant race . " The rowing correspondent for The Guardian stated that the race saw " one of the most gallant finishing efforts by a crew two lengths in arrears at the half @-@ way mark . "