

## = The Boat Race 1867 =

The 24th Boat Race between crews from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge took place on the River Thames on 13 April 1867 . In a race where the lead was exchanged several times , Oxford won by half a length in a time of 22 minutes and 39 seconds . The victory took the overall record to 14 ? 10 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 " ) . 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 . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having defeated Cambridge by three lengths in the previous year 's race and led overall with thirteen wins to Cambridge 's ten .

Cambridge , according to The Field were " as nearly fit to row as possible ... their rowing was really a pleasure to behold " . They were coached by Rev. W. Maule ( who had rowed for Cambridge at the Henley Royal Regatta in 1947 ) and D. F. Steavenson ( who had rowed in the Boat Race in the 1864 and 1865 races ) . Walter Bradford Woodgate , who had rowed for Oxford in the 1862 and 1863 races , and George Morrison , former Oxford University Boat Club president who had rowed three times between the 1859 and 1861 race , coached the Dark Blue crew . Although Cambridge arrived at Putney in very good form , it was considered to their disadvantage because , according to Drinkwater , " no crew can be kept at the top of its form for more than a few days " . During practice runs , Oxford demonstrated they could outpace Cambridge , but with Frank Willan suffering from a boil , Oxford 's stroke was instructed to keep the rating low for the race . The race was umpired by Joseph William Chitty who had rowed for Oxford twice in 1849 ( in the March and December races ) and the 1852 race , while the starter was Edward Searle .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 12 st 0 @. @ 5 lb ( 76 @. @ 2 kg ) , 2 @. @ 5 pounds ( 1 @. @ 1 kg ) per rower more than their opponents ; for the first time in the race history , a crew weighed more than an average of 12 st ( 76 @. @ 0 kg ) . The Oxford crew saw the cox Charles Tottenham make his fourth Boat Race appearance and three rowers return , including Willan who was competing for the third time . Five former Blues returned for Cambridge , with William Griffiths and Herbert Watney making their third appearance in the event . According to a report in The Times , " sixteen finer or better trained young men it would have been difficult to find in England " .

## = = Race = =

According to the Oxford Book , the weather on the morning of the race was " filthy ... raining and blowing like anything . " Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station , handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge . The race commenced shortly before 9am , with Cambridge making the better start . Oxford slowly drew back into contention and the crews rowed side by side towards Hammersmith Bridge , by which point the Light Blues held a length 's lead . Beyond the bridge , Oxford began to close the gap once again , and lead was exchanged twice before Barnes Bridge . Following a number of spurts from both crews , Cambridge appeared to be exhausted , allowing Oxford the advantage , winning the race by half a length . It was Oxford 's seventh consecutive victory and took the overall record to 14 ? 10 in their favour .