

COAT AND BADGE.

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Seventeen previous winners watched the race this year for Doggett's Coat and Badge and the starter was Mr Harry Phelps --- Bargemaster to the Fishmongers Company. ^{eager to pull} There were five entries ~~for the race from~~ London Bridge to Chelsea. ~~In its 223rd year,~~ It is claimed to be one of the oldest sporting events in the world. It was founded in 1715, and although the scenery at that time was no doubt ~~as good as~~ ^{as good} at Henley, in 1937 it's gone off a bit. All the previous winners were their traditional uniform of scarlet coats and silver badges, ~~the young lightermen and watermen competing over the five mile stretch of choppy water.~~ ^{and the new} The winner was young William Silvester of Hammersmith, who completed the course in 27 minutes 7 seconds, ~~and was able to walk like a fish etc.~~ After the race this year the competitors were welcomed at Dolphin Square, and toasts were drunk to round off ^{an} ~~the~~ old English custom. It was ~~the most interesting day, and very~~ ^{most} interesting to think that they're all plain watermen. Oh yeah?