

= The Boat Race 1966 =

The 112th Boat Race took place on 26 March 1966 . Held annually , the event is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . The race was won by Oxford by three @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter @-@ lengths . Isis won the reserve race while Cambridge won the Women 's Boat Race .

= = 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 . The rivalry is a major point of honour between the two universities , followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race by three @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter lengths . Cambridge , however , held the overall lead with 61 victories to Oxford 's 49 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) .

The first Women 's Boat Race took place in 1927 , but did not become an annual fixture until the 1960s . Up until 2014 , the contest was conducted as part of the Henley Boat Races , but as of the 2015 race , it is held on the River Thames , on the same day as the men 's main and reserve races . The reserve race , contested between Oxford 's Isis boat and Cambridge 's Goldie boat has been held since 1965 . It usually takes place on the Tideway , prior to the main Boat Race .

Two days before the main race and in inclement weather , the Cambridge boat began to sink and was pushed into barges and tugs moored below Beverley Brook . The crew were rescued and according to their boat club president Mike Sweeney , the incident would have no impact on the Light Blues : " we shall just get into our other boat and race in that " . It was the first Boat Race vessel to sink since the 1951 race . The Light Blues would row in the same boat in which they won the 1962 and 1964 races , while Oxford 's craft was manufactured by Swiss firm Stämpfli Racing Boats . Both boats were German @-@ rigged , where the number four and five row on the bow side . The inclement weather continued until the day of the race , with further disruption predicted and the threat of postponement a real one . The race was umpired by the former Cambridge University Boat Club president and rower Alan Burrough who took part in Cambridge 's victory in the 1939 race .

The Cambridge crew were coached by D. C. Christie (who rowed for Cambridge in the 1958 and 1959 races) , J. G. P. Crowden (who won Blues in the 1951 and the 1952 races) , D. M. Jennens (who rowed three times between 1949 and 1951) and I. W. Welsh (who participated in the 1956 race) . Oxford 's coach was Ronnie Howard who had rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1957 and 1959 races .

= = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 13 st 7 lb (85 @.@ 5 kg) , 1 @.@ 6 pounds (0 @.@ 7 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Oxonians Chris and Richard Freeman became the first brothers to row in the Boat Race since 1935 race . The Oxford crew contained a single former Blue , the boat club president and number two Duncan Clegg , while Cambridge saw Rodney Ward and stroke Mike Sweeney return . Oxford 's P. G. Tuke was following in the footsteps of his great grandfather F. E. Tuke who had rowed in the 1845 race . There were three non @-@ British participants in the race , the Oxford cox Jim Rogers , and Cambridge rowers J. H. Ashby and P. H. Conze were all American .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . Despite the prediction of poor

weather and the threat of postponement , the race commenced at the planned time of 4.15pm. Oxford made the better start and were half @-@ a @-@ length up on Cambridge , but with the advantage of the Middlesex bend , the Light Blues were one second behind at the Mile Post . Oxford reacted to a Cambridge push at Harrods Furniture Depository to maintain the lead which they extended to two seconds by Hammersmith Bridge . The Dark Blues continued to contain Cambridge 's attempts to reduce the deficit and by Chiswick Steps had clear water with a three @-@ second advantage . Pushing away once again , and with a two @-@ length lead , Oxford 's cox Jim Rogers steered them across the Cambridge boat to the Middlesex side , and were ten seconds ahead at Barnes Bridge . Oxford won by three @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 19 minutes 12 seconds .

In the reserve race , and after a false start , Oxford 's Isis beat Cambridge 's Goldie by seventh lengths , their second consecutive victory , in a time of 19 minutes 22 seconds . In the 21st running of the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge triumphed , their fourth consecutive victory .