

= The Boat Race 1968 =

The 114th Boat Race took place on 30 March 1968 . 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 , umpired by Harold Rickett , was won by Cambridge by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths . Goldie won the reserve race and 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 @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths . Cambridge , however , held the overall lead with 61 victories to Oxford 's 51 (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 .

Oxford were coached by Jumbo Edwards and Ronnie Howard , while Cambridge were overseen by a team including Lou Barry , Donald Legget , Mike Muir @-@ Smith (who was in the Tideway Scullers School first eight) , Derek Drury and A. V. Cooke . As a result of television contracts and to avoid a clash with the Grand National , the scheduled start time for the race was pushed back to 3.40pm , some forty minutes after the " best of the tide " . The umpire was Harold Rickett who rowed for Cambridge in the 1930 , 1931 and 1932 races , and who had represented Great Britain in the 1932 Summer Olympics .

= = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 13 st 7 @.@ 5 lb (85 @.@ 7 kg) , 6 @.@ 25 pounds (2 @.@ 8 kg) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford 's crew contained five Blues , including the future Oxford University Boat Club coach Daniel Topolski , and Martin Kennard who was rowing in his third Boat Race . Cambridge saw four Blues return , with their boat club president Patrick Delafield making his third appearance in the event . While Cambridge 's crew contained no registered overseas competitors , Oxford 's John Bockstoce and Bill Fink were both from the United States .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . The race commenced at 3.40pm , in a " slight drizzle " . After a fast start , Cambridge took a half @-@ length lead by Fulham . Rounding the Middlesex bend , Oxford drew back into contention and the crews were level at the Mile Post in a time of 4 minutes 4 seconds . On the approach to Harrods Furniture Depository , Painter , the Dark Blue cox , steered his boat so close to the Surrey shore that Douglas Calder , writing in The Times , suggested " if the crews had gone any farther over they would have been practically on the towpath " . After being warned twice by the umpire for steering too close to their opponents , and taking a small lead , Oxford were made to concede to the Light Blues , and Cambridge rallied . Despite rough water through Crabtree Reach , Cambridge pushed on at Hammersmith Bridge and opened an eight @-@ second lead by the time the crews reached

Chiswick Steps . By Barnes Bridge they had extended their lead to twelve seconds , and passed the finishing post three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths ahead in a time of 18 minutes 22 seconds . It was the Light Blues ' first victory in four years . Their cox remarked " I think we could have won on a foul if I had forced a collision at Harrods . However , we did not want to win this way if we could help it . I decided to give Oxford enough rope to hang themselves ... "

Cambridge 's Goldie won the fourth running of the reserve race , defeating Oxford 's Isis by five @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in at time of 18 minutes 44 seconds . In the 23rd Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge won , taking their sixth consecutive victory .