

## = The Boat Race 2001 =

The 147th Boat Race was won by Cambridge by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths . It was the first time in the history of the event that the race was stopped and restarted , following a clash of blades .

In the reserve race Goldie beat Isis ; Cambridge also won the Women 's race .

## = = Background = =

The Boat Race is an annual competition between the boat clubs of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge . First held in 1829 , the competition is a 4 @.@ 2 @-@ mile ( 6 @.@ 8 km ) race along the River Thames in southwest London . The rivalry is a major point of honour between the two universities and followed throughout the United Kingdom and worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 2000 race by three lengths , but Cambridge led overall with 76 victories to Oxford 's 69 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) . The race was sponsored by Aberdeen Asset Management for the second consecutive year .

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 .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew ( sometimes referred to as the " Dark Blues " ) consisted of seven Britons , an American and a Norwegian , while the Cambridge crew ( sometimes referred to as the " Light Blues " ) was composed of six Britons , a German , an Australian and a British / American . The Cambridge crew weighed , on average , 4 @.@ 5 pounds ( 2 @.@ 0 kg ) more than their rivals , while Josh West , Cambridge 's number five , was the tallest rower , at 6 ft 9 in ( 2 @.@ 06 m ) .

## = = Race = =

Boat club presidents Kieran West and Dan Snow met on the banks of the Thames at Putney for the coin toss at soon after noon on 24 March 2001 . Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . While the river was calm , rain began to fall just prior the start of the race . Oxford took an early lead , but both coxes were given warnings by race umpire Rupert Obholzer . A clash of blades ensued , with Cambridge 's bow Colin Swainson losing his oar ; this resulted in Obholzer called for a restart for the first time in the history of the race . Once again , Oxford took the lead and held a two @-@ second lead at Hammersmith Bridge . Although rating the same , Cambridge took the lead , to be ahead by half @-@ a @-@ length at the Surrey bend , and seven seconds ahead by Chiswick Steps . Extending their lead to more than two lengths by Barnes Bridge , Cambridge passed the finishing post in a time of 19 minutes 59 seconds . It was Cambridge 's eighth win in nine races , and took their overall lead to 77 victories to Oxford 's 69 .

In the reserve race Goldie beat Isis by six lengths in a time of 19 minutes , 36 seconds . Cambridge also won the Women 's race by three feet .

## = = Reaction = =

Race umpire Obholzer stated " I could have disqualified Oxford but both sides were responsible " . Cambridge president and number six West said " Both teams had a good row but we had good rhythm and pushed really hard " , while Oxford president Snow remarked " The Boat Race is not fair ... six months ' work to be screwed by the system . We have got to deal with that " . BBC commentator and former Light Blue president Richard Phelps believed that Cambridge " deserved "

the win and that " it was the superior power and application of it that saw Cambridge slowly pull clear of Oxford " . Cambridge coach Robin Williams said " It was a brave , quick decision by the umpire " , while former Dark Blue and Olympic gold medallist Matthew Pinsent suggested the clash was simply a racing incident and that the race could have been allowed to continue . He added : " There is no yellow card offence between a warning and disqualification " . Oxford coach Sean Bowden blamed the defeat on the restart : " We rowed with a lot of courage ... but having to restart after that great first take @-@ off really hurt us . It just put us at a disadvantage from then on " .