

= The Boat Race 1992 =

The 138th Boat Race took place on 4 April 1992 . Held annually , the Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . Oxford 's cox Andrew Probert was the oldest competitor in Boat Race history at the age of 38 years and 86 days . Oxford won by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , the closest margin of victory for twenty years . The race also featured the first German competitor in the history of the event in Dirk Bangert . Umpired by former Cambridge rower Roger Stephens , Mike Rosewell writing in The Times described the race as " one of the greatest races since 1829 " .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie defeated Oxford 's Isis , 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 ") . First held in 1829 , the race takes place on the 4 @.@ 2 @-@ mile (6 @.@ 8 km) Championship Course on the River Thames in southwest London . The rivalry is a " hotly contested point of honour " between the two universities , followed throughout the United Kingdom , and broadcast on several international television networks . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1991 race by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , with Cambridge leading overall with 69 victories to Oxford 's 67 (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 .

President of the Cambridge University Boat Club , Max Justicz , said of the previous year 's race : " We were burned on that day . Badly burned . It was worse than other defeats because we thought we could win ... Oxford just rowed through us ; with every stroke they took they destroyed our belief in ourselves . " His crew mate , Nick Clarry , focused on the approach to this year 's race : " This year it 's heads down and get on with the job . We know that if we don 't cross the line first on the day , nobody could care less who we are . "

Beefeater Gin sponsored the event ; prior to this year 's race they had announced a £ 1 million deal to continue their close involvement for a further three years .

= = Crews = =

Aged 38 years and 3 months , Cambridge 's cox , Andrew Probert , was the oldest competitor in the history of the Boat Race . Oxford 's crew featured four returning Blues and two former Isis crew members , while Cambridge saw three old Blues participate . The Oxford boat was made up from five Britons , an Australian , an American and a Yugoslav ; Cambridge was represented by seven Britons , an American and Dirk Bangert , the first German to participate in the event . Oxford 's crew were coached by Steve Royle and Patrick Sweeney , and assisted by the former East Germany Olympic coach Jürgen Gröbler , while Cambridge were guided Oxford 's successful coach of 1991 , John Wilson . Watermen Bert Green and Jim Cobb provided advice to the Oxford and Cambridge coxes respectively .

= = Race = =

The race commenced at 2 @.@ 35 pm . Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station . The boats raced side @-@ by @-@ side for the first three @-@ and @-@ a

@-@ half miles of the race , for fourteen minutes neither crew held a lead of more than half @-@ a @-@ length over the other , and umpire Roger Stephens was forced to issue warnings to both coxes for steering too close to one another . The Dark Blues held a slight early advantage but Cambridge pulled ahead at Hammersmith Bridge . Oxford edged ahead at Barnes Bridge , and passed the finishing post in a time of 17 minutes 44 seconds , one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths ahead of Cambridge , the closest finish in the last 20 years . Oxford 's Yugoslav rower Boris Mavra had to be lifted from the boat at the end of the race . The Beefeater Gin Trophy was presented to the winning boat club president by Raymond Seitz .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie won by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths over Isis , their fifth victory in six years . Cambridge won the 47th Women 's Boat Race by one @-@ third @-@ of @-@ a @-@ length in a time of 6 minutes and 20 seconds , their third victory in four years .

= = Reaction = =

Mike Rosewell , writing in The Times complimented all of the race participants : " the 18 individuals involved produced one of the greatest races since 1829 . " Former Oxford coach Daniel Topolski , writing for The Observer , described the Oxford 's win as " scintillating " and noted that the crews were " locked in combat for fully three and a half miles . " Christopher Dodd , writing in The Guardian suggested that " the promise was delivered ; a rare race " .

Oxford 's number five and Great Britain international Peter Bridge noted Gröbler 's impact : " We really felt the strength that we had built up over six months under Jürgen 's methods . " He continued : " [Cambridge] were slower off the start than we expected which was nice . " Referring to Cambridge 's lead at Hammersmith Bridge , their number seven Steve Fowler said " we were feeling good but we should have closed the door there and then . We should have killed them on the bend . " Cambridge cox Probert conceded to his counterpart Liz Chick : " she steered very well . " Oxford coach Gröbler stated : " It was wonderful . Both crews ... were very good ? and so disciplined . I like these university students . " Cambridge coach Wilson lamented : " we failed to capitalise at Hammersmith and they grew in confidence thereafter . "