

= The Boat Race 2004 =

The 150th Boat Race took place on 28 March 2004 . Cambridge won by six lengths after a race with several clashes of oars . Oxford 's appeal for a re @-@ row upon the conclusion of the race was rejected by umpire James Behrens . The event was sponsored for the final time by Aberdeen Asset Management and broadcast in the United Kingdom by the BBC .

In the reserve race Isis beat Goldie ; Oxford also won the Women 's Boat Race .

= = Background = =

The Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between 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 Championship Course on 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 2003 race by 1 foot ( 0 @.@ 30 m ) , with Cambridge leading overall with 77 victories to Oxford 's 71 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) . The race was sponsored by Aberdeen Asset Management for the fifth and final time . It was also the BBC 's 50th anniversary of live broadcast of the event .

The first Women 's Boat Race took place in 1927 , but did not become an annual fixture until the 1960s . 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 Cambridge crew ( sometimes referred to as the " Light Blues " ) weighed an average of 1 pound ( 0 @.@ 45 kg ) per rower more than their opponents , and had an average age of 24 while Oxford 's crew ( sometimes referred to as the " Dark Blues " ) averaged 23 . The Oxford crew featured seven Britons and two Americans , while the Cambridge crew consisted of three Britons , a British / American , a German / French , a German , an American and an Australian .

= = Race description = =

Oxford were considered to be pre @-@ race favourites by many . Cambridge won the coin toss and elected to start from the northern bank ( the " Middlesex side " ) of the Thames . Conditions were described as " fairly calm " .

Oxford made the better start , pulling away to a lead of half a length , but following a number of oar clashes , the Oxford bowman lost his seating , causing his boat to slow . Cambridge took the lead and with clear water behind them , pulled away to win . Cambridge finished with a time of 18 minutes , 47 seconds , Oxford finishing six lengths behind . It was Cambridge 's first victory since 2001 and brought the overall result to 78 ? 71 in Cambridge 's favour . Oxford 's cox Nethercott made an appeal to the umpire but the result stood . At the finish , following tradition , the Cambridge crew threw their cox , Kenelm Richardson , into the water in celebration .

In the reserve race , Oxford 's Isis beat Cambridge 's Goldie . Earlier at Henley , Oxford won the 59th Women 's Boat Race by four lengths .

= = Reaction = =

Oxford cox Acer Nethercott said " Our bowman came off his seat and could not continue properly ? it was race over after that . " Regarding the rejected appeal , he claimed that the umpire " had laid down to both coxes before the race that there was a way he wanted to conduct the race . And then he did something completely different in the race . " Kennelly , the bowman , claimed he was " 100

per cent confident that if what happened didn 't happen we would have won " while Cambridge cox Kenelm Richardson stated " The umpire was very good and told me to hold my line , so I knew I was exactly where I needed to be " .