

## = Women 's Boat Race 2013 =

The 68th Women 's Boat Race took place on 24 March 2013 . The race , between crews representing Oxford University Women 's Boat Club and Cambridge University Women 's Boat Club , was conducted as part of the Henley Boat Races . It took place on a 2 km ( 1 @. @ 2 mi ) stretch of water on 2012 Olympic venue Dorney Lake . Cambridge were the heavier of the crews and consisted of an all @-@ British crew , while Oxford 's boat included a Hungarian rower and an American cox . Oxford won the race by one and three @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 7 minutes 11 seconds , their first win since the 2011 race . The victory took the overall record in the event to 41 ? 27 in Cambridge 's favour .

## = = Background = =

The Women 's Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between Oxford University Women 's Boat Club ( OUWBC ) and the Cambridge University Women 's Boat Club ( CUWBC ) that has taken place since 1927 . It was conducted as part of the Henley Boat Races , which for 2013 was hosted at the 2012 Summer Olympics venue of Dorney Lake in Buckinghamshire instead of the traditional straight course at Henley @-@ on @-@ Thames . Strong winds and stream conditions on the River Thames had precipitated the move to the Olympic venue . Cambridge went into the race as champions , having won the previous year 's race by one quarter of a length , and led 41 ? 26 overall . The race was sponsored by Newton Investment Management , a subsidiary of The Bank of New York Mellon , for the third successive year .

Cambridge were led by Rob Baker who had previously coached Goldie to victory in 2006 and 2007 . Baker was assisted by British Olympic quadruple sculls silver medallist Annie Vernon . Oxford 's coach was Canadian former Olympic and University trainer Christine Wilson . She was assisted by British Olympic rower Natasha Page who was part of the women 's eights that came fifth in both the 2008 and 2012 Summer Olympics .

## = = Crews = =

Trials for the crews were held in December 2012 . Oxford 's trial boats raced at Henley and were named Quick and Easy while Cambridge 's trials took place at Dorney Lake with boats named Gin and Tonic .

The weigh @-@ in , held on 4 March 2013 , took place alongside the men for the first time in the history of the event . It was also the first time the weights of the female crews were made public . The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 11 st 0 lb 10 oz ( 70 @. @ 0 kg ) , 4 lb 3 oz ( 1 @. @ 9 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford saw two rowers return to the crew in number three Mary Foord @-@ Weston and number six Harriet Keane , both of whom had participated in the 2012 race . Oxford 's boat club president Bridget Fryer was forced to withdraw from the race through injury . Cambridge 's crew included three rowers with Boat Race experience , in bow Caroline Reid , number two Faye Sandford ( who was earning her third Blue for CUWBC ) and stroke Holly Game . Cambridge 's boat club president Helena Schofield did not participate in the event , and instead rowed for the women 's reserve boat Blondie .

CUWBC 's cox Esther Momcilovic had previously steered the Cambridge reserve boat Blondie , while Oxford 's crew included three former Osiris participants in Amy Varney , Keane and cox Katie Apfelbaum . Cambridge 's crew was entirely British while Oxford 's included Hungarian Mariann Novak at bow , British / Germans Alice Carrington @-@ Windo at two and Maxie Scheske at stroke , and American Apfelbaum .

## = = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and selected the more sheltered side of the course . The race started at 3 : 00 p.m. on 24 March 2013 . Cambridge made the quicker start and led by a few feet after ten

strokes . They were half a length ahead after 250 metres ( 270 yd ) , out @-@ rating Oxford by four strokes per minute . OUWBC 's longer strokes enabled them to cope with the " choppy " conditions and at the 750 @-@ metre ( 820 yd ) mark they began to catch the Cambridge boat , getting level by the 1 @, @ 250 @-@ metre ( 1 @, @ 370 yd ) mark . Pushing on , Oxford pulled away to win by one and three @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 7 minutes 11 seconds , the slowest winning time since the 2001 race . It was Oxford 's first win since the 2011 race but their fifth win in the last six events . The victory took the overall record in the event to 41 ? 27 in Cambridge 's favour .

Oxford 's Foord @-@ Weston said the conditions were " pretty grim " but their training at Dorney during the week running up to the race had prepared them for the " horrible winds " . Cambridge 's number seven , Emily Day , said " it was pretty windy ... we had the race of our lives ... there 's nothing we could have done that we didn 't do . "