

= The Boat Race 2010 =

The 156th Boat Race took place on 3 April 2010 . 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 was won by Cambridge . Of the eighteen competitors in the race , six were British . Of the non @-@ British rowers , the Oxford crew featured the American Olympic finalists , the Winklevoss twins . It was the first time the race had a title sponsor ; it was also known as the " Xchanging Boat Race " , having been sponsored by Xchanging .

Oxford won the Women 's Boat Race by four lengths while Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis in the reserve 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 major point of honour between the two universities and followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 2009 race by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths , while Cambridge led overall with 79 victories to Oxford 's 75 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) . The race was sponsored by Xchanging for the sixth consecutive year , but it was the first time in the 180 @-@ year history of the Boat Race that the title had been given over to sponsorship ; as such it was referred to as the " Xchanging Boat Race " .

Prior to the race , Oxford University Boat Club president and Dutch international rower Sjoerd Hamburger claimed " Last year we had an exceptional crew , power @-@ wise , which we don 't have this year , but we 're starting to match the times we did last year , so I 'm very pleased " . His Cambridge counterpart , American Deaglan McEachern , responded : " we 're faster " . Umpire and former Cambridge Blue Simon Harris suggested that he did not anticipate any problems with the two coxes obeying his instructions : " I 've been impressed by the coxes , how they 've responded to the umpire 's calls " .

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 = =

Cambridge 's crew weighed an average of 1 pound (0 @. @ 45 kg) per rower more than Oxford . The Dark Blues were coached by Sean Bowden for the 13th time while the Light Blues saw Chris Nilsson act as chief coach for the second time . Cambridge 's crew featured four Britons , three Americans and two Canadians , while Oxford 's consisted of three Americans , two Britons , and rowers from Ireland , The Netherlands , Canada (dual nationality) and Germany .

Oxford 's crew included the Winklevoss twins (Cameron and Tyler) , who rowed in the 2008 Olympic Games for the United States in the men 's coxless pair . Cambridge 's bowman , Canadian international rower Robert Weitemeyer , had won the gold in the men 's eight at the World Rowing Cup in 2007 .

= = Race = =

Oxford were pre @-@ race favourites , and won the toss , electing to start the race from the Surrey station . They took an early lead and were nearly half a length up on Cambridge by the time the

crews passed the Harrods Furniture Depository . The boats closed in on one another and umpire Harris was forced to issue a number of warnings to both coxes as the crews came close to clashing oars . The Light Blues pulled themselves back into contention around the Chiswick Reach and took the lead into Corney Reach . Oxford attempted to find a quicker racing line and were still in touch , but Cambridge inched away from them , passing the finishing post one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ third lengths ahead in a time of 17 minutes 35 seconds .

Oxford won the 65th Women 's Boat Race by four lengths , their third consecutive victory . Oxford 's Isis beat Cambridge 's Goldie in the reserve race by two lengths , their first win in three years .

= = Reaction = =

Cambridge cox Randolph exclaimed " The whole way through I was thinking : ' We could win it , we could win it , we could win it " . Race umpire Simon Harris declared " it was a fantastic race " . Olympic medallist Steve Redgrave remarked " All credit to Oxford ... but all the way from the bend on there was only going to be one winner . It just took Cambridge a little while before they believed it was going to happen . "