

## = The Boat Race 1972 =

The 118th Boat Race took place on 1 April 1972 . Held annually , the Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along a 4 @. @ 2 @-@ mile ( 6 @. @ 8 km ) tidal stretch of the River Thames in south @-@ west London . Umpired by former Cambridge Blue Philip Carpmael , the race was won by Cambridge , who passed the finishing post nine @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths ahead of Oxford in a time of 18 minutes and 36 seconds , their fifth consecutive victory . The win took the overall record since 1829 to 66 ? 51 in favour of Cambridge .

The race was variously described as an " anti @-@ climax " and " a bore " given the ease with which Cambridge secured the win . Their crew was the heaviest in Boat Race history and included siblings for the first time since 1935 . In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis , and in the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge were victorious .

## = = 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 ; it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having beaten Oxford by ten lengths in the previous year 's race . Cambridge also held the overall lead with 65 victories to Oxford 's 51 ( 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 .

Oxford were coached by Dick Fishlock who had coxed Great Britain in the men 's eight in the 1960 Summer Olympics . He was assisted by John Langfield , John Peake , Peter Reynolds ( who had coxed for the Dark Blues in the 1960 and 1961 races ) and Peter Sutherland . Cambridge were being coached by Lou Barry for the fifth consecutive year , along with James Crowden ( who had rowed for the Light Blues in the 1951 and 1952 races ) , David Jennens ( who had represented the Cantabrigians three times between 1949 and the 1951 race , Donald Legget ( who rowed in the 1963 and 1964 races , Mike Sweeney ( who rowed in the 1965 and 1966 races ) and Robin Winckless ( who rowed in the 1967 , 1968 and 1969 races ) . The umpire for the race was Philip Carpmael who had rowed for Cambridge in the 1930 and 1931 races .

Writing in The Times , Jim Railton suggested that Cambridge looked " invincible " before their arrival at the Thames , and former Oxford Blue and author Dickie Burnell suggested that the Light Blues were " reckoned to be unbeatable " . However , Oxford rowed a number of record practice times , while Cambridge met with several " disasters " ( including catching some " mammoth crabs " and experiencing outings " spoilt by shipwrecks " ) .

## = = Crews = =

The Cambridge crew weighed 8 @. @ 5 pounds ( 3 @. @ 9 kg ) per rower more than their opponents , averaging just over 13 st 11 lb ( 75 @. @ 6 kg ) , making them the heaviest crew in the history of the race . Both boats contained four Blues ; Oxford saw Keith Bolshaw , D. d 'A Willis , Andrew Hall and J. Hawkesley return , while Cambridge 's crew included Chris Baillieu ( whose grandfather had rowed in the 1913 race ) , Neil James , David Maxwell and Graham Hughes . American Olympic rower Gardiner Cadwalader ( who finished fifth in the men 's coxed four in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico ) along with four British Olympic team candidates ( Maxwell ,

Bailieu , Michael Hart and James ) brought experience to the Light Blue boat . Cambridge 's crew also contained brothers Michael and James Hart , the first time a pair of siblings had rowed for Cambridge since the Kingsford 's in the 1935 race . Along with Cadwalader , Oxford cox Fred Yalouris was American , while the Dark Blue bow Michael Magarey was Australian ; all the other participants were British .

= = Race = =

Cambridge were pre @-@ race favourites . Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , from which the previous ten winning crews had commenced , handing the Middlesex side of the river to the Light Blues . At the scheduled start time of 3 : 15 p.m. , Cambridge were still practising downstream and hence the event was delayed . Fishlock remarked that he believed this to be " plain bad manners " . Within a minute of the start , Cambridge held a lead of a canvas length and despite reducing their stroke rate , they continued to pull away from Oxford . At the Mile Post , the lead was seven seconds , and at Hammersmith Bridge the Light Blues held a lead of three lengths ; they extended this to 21 seconds by Chiswick Steps , and 24 seconds by Barnes Bridge . By the finishing post , Cambridge were 34 seconds ahead , recording a nine @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half length victory in a time of 18 minutes 36 seconds . Oxford 's stroke , Mike Baines , collapsed at the end of the race . Railton wrote that " the race was once again an anti @-@ climax , painful to watch , with a merciful release as Oxford crawled past the timber post marking the race finish . " The Guardian report Mike Rodda described the race as " a bore " .

In the tenth edition of the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 19 minutes and 19 seconds , their sixth consecutive victory which made the overall record 6 ? 2 . In the 27th running of the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge triumphed , their tenth consecutive victory , and their fifteenth in eighteen years taking the overall record to 17 ? 10 in their favour .