

= Women 's Boat Race 2014 =

The 69th Women 's Boat Race took place on 30 March 2014 . The race , between crews representing Oxford University Women 's Boat Club and Cambridge University Women 's Boat Club , was umpired by Judith Packer . Cambridge 's crew , the heavier of the two , was entirely British , while Oxford 's boat included rowers from Canada , Switzerland and the United States . Oxford won by four lengths in a time of 5 minutes 50 seconds , their second consecutive win . The victory took the overall record in the event to 41 ? 28 in Cambridge 's favour . It was the last time the race would be conducted over a 2 km (1 @. @ 2 mi) straight race as part of the Henley Boat Races .

= = Background = =

The Women 's Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between eights from Oxford University Women 's Boat Club and the Cambridge University Women 's Boat Club that has taken place since 1927 . Oxford went into the race as champions , having won the previous year 's race by one and three @-@ quarter lengths ; Cambridge led 41 ? 27 overall . It was the last time the race would be conducted as part of the Henley Boat Races , along a 2 @-@ kilometre (1 @. @ 2 mi) stretch of the River Thames referred to as the Straight Course which is used for the Henley Royal Regatta since 1924 . The 2015 race would be conducted on The Championship Course on the same day as men 's race .

Cambridge 's number five , Catherine Foot , remarked " After training , I step back and think ' wow , I 'm part of this incredible tradition ' . There is nothing else I 'd rather be doing than training for this event " , while Oxford 's stroke Amber de Vere said " All the training has been leading up to this weekend . Next year is definitely exciting and it has added something to training , but as a crew , we 're only thinking about Sunday . " This year 's race was umpired by Judith Packer and was sponsored by Newton Investment Management , a subsidiary of The Bank of New York Mellon , for the third successive year .

= = Crews = =

During the build @-@ up to the race , the two universities sent trial boats to race on 19 December 2013 . For the first time in the history of the competition , this took place on the Tideway on part of the Championship Course . The two Cambridge boats were named Nudge Nudge and Wink Wink (with a third reserve boat called Say No More) , while Oxford 's trialists rowed in Cleopatra and Boudicca . Both trials were overseen by Olympic bronze medallist Sarah Winckless .

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 73 @. @ 2 kg (161 lb) per rower , 4 kilograms (8 @. @ 8 lb) more than their opponents . Three members of Oxford 's 2013 crew returned to race in 2014 : Alice Carrington @-@ Windo , Maxie Scheske and Anastasia Chitty . Cambridge 's boat included two double Blues in Caroline Reid and Holly Game , while four other members of the crew had taken part in the previous year 's race . Every member of the Cambridge crew was British , while Oxford 's boat included Canadian Elizabeth Fence , German / Britons Carrington @-@ Windo and Scheske , Nadine Graedel Iberg from Switzerland and American Laura Savarese (who had rowed in the Harvard ? Yale Regatta for Harvard University on four occasions) .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Berkshire side , handing the Buckinghamshire station to Oxford . At 3 p.m. , umpire Palmer dropped the flag to start the race . Both crews went off rating 40 strokes per minute and after the first 500 metres (550 yd) Oxford were half a length ahead . By the time the crews passed the Upper Thames Rowing Club , Oxford 's lead was over a length . Cambridge made a series of pushes ; both crews were warned by the umpire to avoid a collision . Oxford continued to extend their lead to win by four lengths , the largest winning margin since the 2010 race . Their time was 5 minutes 50 seconds , six seconds slower than the record

time set by Oxford in the 2006 race . The victory was Oxford 's second consecutive win and their sixth in the last seven ; it took the overall record in the event to 41 ? 28 in Cambridge 's favour .

The former Oxford cox Rachel Quarrell , writing in The Daily Telegraph stated that the race " was won in storming style " and suggested the contest was over within the first two minutes . A newly @-@ designed trophy , to replace the existing wooden shield , was awarded to the Oxford president by Olympic gold medallist Sophie Hosking who had won the Women 's lightweight double sculls at the 2012 Summer Olympics .