

= The Boat Races 2016 =

The 2016 Boat Races (also known as The Cancer Research UK Boat Races for the purposes of sponsorship) took place on 27 March 2016 . 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 . For the first time in the history of the event , the men 's , women 's and both reserves ' races were all held on the Tideway on the same day .

In the men 's reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie were beaten by Oxford 's Isis while in the women 's reserve race , Cambridge 's Blondie defeated Oxford 's Osiris . In the women 's race , Oxford won easily as Cambridge nearly sank in rough conditions , while the men 's race was won by Cambridge by three lengths , taking the overall record in the event to 82 ? 79 in their favour .

= = 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 , between Putney and Mortlake on the River Thames in south @-@ west London . The rivalry is a major point of honour between the two universities ; it is followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as champions , having won the 2015 race by a margin of six lengths , but Cambridge led overall with 81 victories to Oxford 's 79 (excluding the 1877 race , officially a dead heat though claimed as a victory by the Oxford crew) .

It was the first time in the history of The Boat Race that all four senior races ? the men 's , women 's , men 's reserves ' and women 's reserves ' ? were held on the same day and on the same course along the Tideway . Prior to 2015 , the women 's race which first took place in 1927 , was usually held at the Henley Boat Races along the 2 @, @ 000 @-@ metre (2 @, @ 200 yd) course . However , on at least two occasions in the interwar period , the women competed on the Thames between Chiswick and Kew . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 2015 race by six and a half lengths , with Cambridge leading 41 ? 29 overall . For the fourth year , the men 's race was sponsored by BNY Mellon while the women 's race saw BNY Mellon 's subsidiary Newton Investment Management as sponsors . In January 2016 , it was announced that the sponsors would be donating the title sponsorship to Cancer Research UK and that this year 's event was to be retitled " The Cancer Research UK Boat Races " . There is no monetary award for winning the race , as the journalist Roger Alton notes : " It 's the last great amateur event : seven months of pain for no prize money " .

On Sunday 27 March , the women 's race started at 3 : 10 p.m. British Summer Time , the women 's reserve race at 3 : 25 pm , the men 's reserves ' race fifteen minutes later and the men 's race a further half @-@ hour after that at 4 : 10 pm . The men 's race was umpired for the fifth time by Simon Harris , who had overseen the inaugural Tideway running of the Women 's Boat Race in 2015 . He rowed for Cambridge in the 1982 and 1983 races and was most recently umpire for the men 's race in 2010 . Rob Clegg , umpire for the 2011 race and three @-@ time Oxford Blue , took charge of the women 's race . The men 's and women 's reserves races were umpired by Sarah Winckless and Judith Packer respectively , the former becoming the first female official of one of the men 's races in history .

Although around 250 @, @ 000 spectators were expected to line the banks of the river , engineering works and poor weather reduced the attendance . The event was broadcast live in the United Kingdom on the BBC . Numerous broadcasters worldwide also showed the main races , including SuperSport across Africa , EBU across Europe , SKY México across Central America , TSN in Canada and Fox Sports in Australia . It was also streamed live on BBC Online .

= = Coaches = =

The Cambridge men 's crew coaching team was led by their Chief Coach Steve Trapmore . Appointed to the post in 2010 , Trapmore was a gold medal @-@ winning member of the men 's eight at the 2000 Summer Olympics . He was assisted by Ed Green , the former head coach at University College Cork and development coach at Molesey Boat Club . Donald Legget , who rowed for the Light Blues in the 1963 and 1964 races acted as a supporting coach , along with coxing coach Henry Fieldman (who steered Cambridge in the 2013 race) and the medical officer Simon Owens . Sean Bowden was Chief Coach for Oxford , having been responsible for the senior men 's crew since 1997 , winning 11 from 16 races . He was a former Great Britain Olympic coach and coached the Light Blues in the 1993 and 1994 Boat Races . His assistant coach was Andy Nelder who has coached the senior boat since 2006 .

Ouwbc 's head coach was Christine Wilson who had been appointed in 2012 . She was advised by former Dark Blue Neil Chugani , winning cox in the 1991 race . Cambridge 's women were coached by former Goldie coach Rob Baker who was assisted by Paddy Ryan and Nick Acock , along with guest coach Jonathan Conder .

= = Trials = =

= = = Women 's = = =

The women 's trials took place on The Championship Course on 10 December 2015 . Umpired by Rob Clegg , the Oxford boats , Scylla and Charybdis took part in a " phenomenal race " . After an even start , Scylla held a one @-@ length lead by Craven Cottage , extending it to two lengths by Hammersmith Bridge . As conditions worsened past Chiswick Eyot , Charybdis , stroked by OUWBC president Maddy Badcott , began to close the gap and took the lead around the second of the Surrey bends , to win the encounter by three lengths .

CUWBC 's trial was conducted between Twickenham and Tideway in rough water and windy conditions . The race was also umpired by Rob Clegg with both boats getting away together . Twickenham took an early lead , and following a steering error in which Tideway struck a buoy before Hammersmith Bridge , Twickenham were two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths ahead by Chiswick Eyot and pulled away to win by four lengths .

= = = Men 's = = =

The men 's trials were conducted three days after the women 's , on 13 December , also along The Championship course . The Dark Blues , rowing in Business and Pleasure , were umpired by Simon Harris . Pleasure drew away to hold half a length 's lead by the top of Putney Embankment , extending it to three @-@ quarters of a length as the crews passed Harrods Furniture Depository . Although Business made a push to close the gap , Pleasure held their lead below Barnes Bridge but began to tire . Business started to reduce the deficit but too late , as Pleasure passed the finishing post half @-@ a @-@ length ahead .

Cambridge 's trial boats were named Fuerte and Listo (strong and clever in Spanish) with the club 's president Henry Hoffstot occupying the latter 's number seven seat . Fuerte made the better start but by Barn Elms , the crews were level . With the umpire having to warn both crews for encroachment at Fulham , Fuerte 's Luke Juckett caught a crab , allowing Listo to take a small lead . Fuerte regained the advantage under Hammersmith Bridge and were a length ahead by Chiswick Eyot . Taking advantage of a clear water advantage , Fuerte moved across in front of Listo , and rowed on to win by four lengths .

= = Build @-@ up = =

Cambridge were considered the favourites to win for the first time since the 2012 race . Oxford 's

women were favourites to retain their title for the fifth consecutive year .

= = = Women 's = = =

CUWBC competed against Oxford Brookes University Boat Club along the Tideway on 31 January in a two @-@ segment race . In inclement weather , Cambridge started from the Surrey side of the river for the first segment , and were quickly behind . By Craven Cottage , Oxford Brookes were one third of a length ahead , but CUWBC drew level by Harrods Furniture Depository , and led under Hammersmith Bridge by a length to take victory . Oxford Brookes took Surrey for the second piece , starting at Chiswick Eyot . A close start saw the umpire John Garrett warning the crews for encroaching into each others ' water , ultimately culminating in a clash under Barnes Bridge as Cambridge were pulling away . A " boat @-@ stopping crab " put pay to any chance of Oxford Brookes recovering the deficit and CUWBC won the second segment by three lengths .

CUWBC took on Molesey Boat Club on 22 February in a race from the Chiswick Steps to the Start post . A good start from the Light Blues saw them almost a length ahead by Chiswick Eyot , and move into a clear water advantage by St Paul 's School . A further length 's advantage was taken by Hammersmith Bridge which was soon extended to two by Harrods and three by the Mile Post . Despite encountering a strong headwind , CUWBC continued to pull away from Molesey and passed the Start line six lengths clear . Six days later , OUWBC competed against Molesey in a three @-@ piece set on the Championship Course . Aggressive steering from the Dark Blues earned them several warnings from the umpire during the first race , and although it was initially close , OUWBC pulled away to hold a length 's lead by the Mile Post before passing under Hammersmith Bridge two lengths ahead . The second segment from the Mile Post to Chiswick Eyot saw further clashes between the crews , but Oxford dominated , leading by three lengths at St Paul 's boathouses and winning by four lengths . In the third race , Molesey took an early lead but OUWBC recovered before the crews shot Barnes Bridge , finishing the piece two lengths ahead .

= = = Men 's = = =

The Light Blues faced Oxford Brookes on the Tideway on 30 January , in a two @-@ piece race . Cambridge selected Surrey and were a length down by the Town Buoy . At the first bend in the river by Craven Cottage , Oxford Brookes held lead of nearly two lengths , but CUBC began to reduce the deficit . By Hammersmith Bridge , the crews were nearly level and despite warnings from the umpire , Cambridge held their aggressive line to pass the finish line at Chiswick Eyot two lengths ahead . The second race saw the crews rowing back from Chiswick Eyot to the Finish Post . Although Oxford Brookes took a narrow lead , the Light Blues were ahead by Chiswick Pier and took clear water advantage to win by more than three lengths . Goldie had lost both races against an alternate Oxford Brookes crew earlier .

On 22 February , it was OUBC 's turn to race against Oxford Brookes , in two segments over the Championship Course . After an even start to the first contest , the Dark Blues held a slight advantage heading into the first bend . Oxford Brookes recovered , and were two @-@ thirds of a length ahead as the crews passed below Hammersmith Bridge . OUBC took advantage of a caught blade to move back into contention but the race was ended prematurely as a sailing boat intervened on the course . The Dark Blues took an early lead in the second race , but despite being a length up , failed to take a clear water advantage . Oxford Brookes drew back and by Barnes Bridge held a small lead , one which they capitalised on in the rough water to finally pass the Finish Post two lengths clear of OUBC .

Umpired by Matthew Pinsent , Oxford raced against Leander on 12 March from Putney Bridge to Chiswick Eyot . Although Leander made the better start , the Dark Blues remained in touch , finishing two seats down . CUBC faced a German under @-@ 23 crew in a two @-@ segment race on 15 March , with the Light Blues winning both .

On 24 March , CUBC announced their boat name Kevin after Kevin Whyman , cox of the successful 1996 and 1997 crews who was killed in a solo aircraft display crash at CarFest North in August 2015

. OUBC announced their boat name Daniel after their former coach Daniel Topolski , who died in February 2015 .

= = Crews = =

The official weigh @-@ in for the crews took place at the Methodist Central Hall Westminster on 1 March 2016 .

= = = Women = = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 74 @.@ 8 kilograms (165 lb) , 4 @.@ 3 kilograms (9 @.@ 5 lb) per rower more than their opponents . Both women 's boat club presidents were British . Oxford 's 2015 number seven Maddy Badcott was the president of OUWBC for the 2016 race . Her counterpart , Hannah Roberts , rowed in Blondie in 2014 and 2015 . The CUWBC crew featured three returning Blues in Daphne Martschenko , Ashton Brown and cox Rosemary Ostfeld . Oxford also saw three participants with Boat Race experience return in former Boat Club president Anastasia Chitty , Maddy Badcott and Lauren Kedar . Cambridge 's number two , Fiona Macklin , was following her grandfather David Macklin who had represented the Light Blues in the 1951 race which required a re @-@ row after Oxford sank .

= = = Men = = =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 88 @.@ 25 kilograms (195 lb) , 1 @.@ 5 kilograms (3 @.@ 3 lb) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford 's number four , Joshua Bugajski , was the heaviest man in the race , weighing 96 @.@ 4 kilograms (213 lb) . It was the first time in the history of the race that both boat club presidents were American . Cambridge 's Henry Hoffstot hailed from New York while Oxford 's Morgan Gerlak was born in Baltimore . The Dark Blue crew contained a single rower with Boat Race experience in Jamie Cook , a member of the victorious 2015 crew . Four members of the 2015 crew returned for the Light Blues , including cox Ian Middleton and president Henry Hoffstot who were earning their third Blues .

= = Races = =

= = = Reserves = = =

In the women 's reserves race , Cambridge 's Blondie defeated Oxford 's Osiris . Oxford 's Isis beat Goldie in the men 's reserves race .

= = = Women 's = = =

The women 's race was the 71st contest between OUWBC and CUWBC , and started at 3 : 10 p.m. on 27 March 2016 . The overall record in the event before the race stood at 41 ? 29 in Cambridge 's favour . Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey side of the river . Cambridge made the better start and held a slight lead , but after passing the Mile Post level , OUWBC made a push to hold a half @-@ length lead after five minutes , and were almost clear by Harrods Furniture Depository . Cambridge were forced to take evasive action as the crews passed below Hammersmith Bridge two seconds down , but kept in touch despite multiple warnings from the umpire . The Light Blues made for the shelter of the shore as the conditions worsened and both boats took on water , while Oxford remained in the rough water , losing some of their advantage . Oxford were eight seconds ahead by Chiswick Steps and continued to pull away . Oxford tucked into the Middlesex bank while Cambridge remained in the more traditional racing line , taking on substantial water . At Barnes Bridge , Cambridge began to sink and received advice to pull to the

side . The Cambridge cox indicated that she wanted to continue to complete the course and was allowed to do so . Oxford passed the finishing post in 21 minutes 49 seconds , 24 lengths ahead of the Light Blues , taking the overall record to 41 ? 30 in Cambridge 's favour .

= = = Men 's = = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey side of the river . The men 's race was the 162nd contest between OUBC and CUBC , and was held at 4 : 10 p.m on 27 March 2016 . Prior to the race , the overall record in the event stood at 81 ? 79 in Cambridge 's favour , with one dead heat . Oxford were late for the start and were awarded a " false start " , meaning that one more false start from the Dark Blues would result in disqualification . Cambridge edged ahead from the start and were a canopy 's length ahead after a minute . After warnings to both crews from the umpire , Cambridge moved away from the Dark Blues and were half a length ahead by the Mile Post and almost clear as the crews passed the Harrods Furniture Depository . Oxford pushed on under Hammersmith Bridge to remain in contention , one second behind . Cambridge moved just clear as the crews hit rough water in Chiswick Reach just below Chiswick Eyot . By the time they passed Chiswick Steps , the Light Blues were over a length clear and five seconds ahead of Oxford . Both crews moved towards the Middlesex side of the river to reduce their exposure to the rough conditions and as they passed under Barnes Bridge , the Light Blues held a nine @-@ second lead . Oxford pushed on to keep in touch , but Cambridge passed the finishing post in 18 minutes 41 seconds , two and a half lengths ahead of Oxford . It was the Light Blues ' first victory in four years , ending a run of six wins from eight races for Oxford , and took the overall record in the event to 82 ? 79 in Cambridge 's favour .

= = Reaction = =

Cambridge 's women 's coach Rob Baker said " Our cox did exceptionally well and nearly got us back into the race . Then we sunk . " Speaking of Oxford 's cox Morgan Baynham @-@ Williams , OUWBC president Badcott noted " we 're so lucky to have Morgan ? she smashed it today . " Badcott went on to describe the conditions as " probably the worst I have experienced on the Tideway " . OUBC 's coach Sean Bowden said the conditions were " the worst I have ever seen " while Matthew Pinsent referred to them as " absolutely biblical " . Hoffstot said he was " humbled " by the victory , his first in three attempts , while his opposite number Gerlak acknowledged that Cambridge had " managed the conditions better . "

Olympic medallists Helen Glover and Heather Stanning were amongst the presentation committee .