

= The Boat Race 1991 =

The 137th Boat Race took place on 30 March 1991 . Held annually , the Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . Oxford , whose crew contained one of only two men to have rowed for both universities , won by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie defeated Oxford 's Isis , while Oxford won the Women 's Boat 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 1990 race by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , with Cambridge leading overall with 69 victories to Oxford 's 66 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) . The race was sponsored by Beefeater Gin .

The first Women 's Boat Race took place in 1927 , but did not become an annual fixture until the 1960s . 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 = =

The Oxford crew weighed 9 @. @ 5 pounds (4 @. @ 3 kg) per rower more than their opponents . The Oxford crew 's average age was 22 , while Cambridge were , on average , half a year younger . Richard Young , Oxford 's bow , had rowed for Cambridge in the 1990 race , making him one of only two men to earn a rowing Blue for both Universities . Both crews contained former Blues ; Cambridge saw Richard Staite , Guy Pooley and Adam Wright return , while Oxford welcomed Young , Calman MacLennan , Matthew Pinsent and Rupert Obholzer .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . Rating higher , Cambridge took an early lead under the guidance of experienced stroke Adam Wright , and were almost a length up after two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half minutes . By the Mile Post , the lead was just a second and the long bend around Harrods Furniture Depository , afforded Oxford the advantage , and by Hammersmith Bridge the Dark Blues were over two seconds ahead . Extending their lead to seven seconds by Chiswick Steps , Oxford took control of the race and passed under Barnes Bridge with a twelve @-@ second advantage . Oxford passed the finishing post in a time of 16 minutes 59 seconds , the third @-@ fastest time in the history of the Boat Race , winning their 18th race in 23 years . The Beefeater Gin Trophy was presented to the victorious Oxford Boat Club president Obholzer by the Princess Royal .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie won by four lengths over Isis , their fourth victory in five years . Oxford won the 46th Women 's Boat Race by three lengths in a time of 7 minutes and 29 seconds , their second victory in four years .

= = Reaction = =

Oxford 's finishing coach was surprised that Cambridge made such a good start , while his

counterpart , Stephen Peel , had hoped that his crew would " rattle Oxford by breaking contact " . Winning head coach Stephen Royle praised his stroke , Obholzer : " Rupert was brilliant . He took the race by the scruff of the neck . " Despite Michels shouting " see you at the finish " as his boat pulled away from Cambridge , and a celebration considered " street @-@ gang @-@ style prancing " by the Oxford crew , Michels explained : " without Cambridge , there is no race . The beauty of the event is the personal conflict , and that is what it brings out in the crowds . "