

= The Boat Race 1964 =

The 110th Boat Race took place on 28 March 1964 . 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 Oxford crew was the heaviest in Boat Race history . The race was won by Cambridge by six @-@ and @-@ half lengths . Cambridge 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 " ) . The race was first held in 1829 , and since 1845 has taken 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 , followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race by five lengths , while Cambridge led overall in the event with 60 victories to Oxford 's 48 ( 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 . This year 's women 's race was the first to be held since 1952 .

Writing in the Financial Times , Joseph Mallalieu noted that the Boat Race was subsidised by The Varsity Match every year . Despite Oxford being " firm favourites " upon their arrival at the Tideway , Cambridge put in better performances in training , and by the time of the race were considered the favourites themselves . The main race was umpired for the eighth and final time by the former Olympian Kenneth Payne who had rowed for Cambridge in the 1932 and 1934 races .

= = Crews = =

Although it was the heaviest Cambridge crew ever , they weighed an average of 13 st 4 @.@ 75 lb ( 84 @.@ 5 kg ) , almost 3 pounds ( 1 @.@ 4 kg ) per rower less than Oxford , who were the heaviest crew in Boat Race history . Oxford saw two former Blues return in Miles Morland and Duncan Spencer , while Cambridge 's crew included four Boat Race veterans in Donald Legget , Mike Bevan , John Lecky and Christopher Davey . Lecky was a Canadian international rower who had won a silver medal in the men 's eight at the 1960 Summer Olympics . Six of Oxford 's crew came from Keble College , five of those schooled at Eton College .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , handing the Middlesex side of the river to Oxford . With a " calm , following wind " , the race commenced at 2.20pm , and within a minute , Cambridge had a quarter @-@ length lead before Oxford closed the gap at Craven Cottage . The Light Blues reached the Mile Post three seconds ahead and crossed over to the midstream . By Harrods Furniture Depository they had extended their lead out to two lengths and passed below Hammersmith Bridge a further half @-@ length ahead . Despite a surge from Oxford , Cambridge were sixteen seconds ahead at Chiswick Steps and increased the gap to twenty seconds by Barnes Bridge . Cambridge won by six @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 19 minutes 18 seconds , 23 seconds ahead of Oxford .

The victory was Cambridge 's 61st in the contest , taking the overall score to 61 ? 48 . The Cambridge boat club president and stroke Christopher Davey said : " Everything went as planned , but Oxford hung on more than I would have liked at the end . I would have liked to have taken it to 10 lengths if possible but Oxford kept going splendidly at the end . "

In the 20th running of the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge triumphed , their third consecutive

victory .