

## = The Boat Race 1965 =

The 111th Boat Race took place on 26 March 1966 . 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 race was won by Oxford , who led from the start , by three @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter @-@ lengths , in the third fastest time in Boat Race history . Isis won the inaugural reserve race while 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the previous year 's race by six @-@ and @-@ half lengths , and led overall in the event with 61 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 . 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 . It was the first year of the reserve race , contested between Oxford 's Isis boat and Cambridge 's Goldie boat . According to author and journalist Christopher Dodd , allowing the reserves to race on the Tideway was " a curtain @-@ raiser to the battle of the blues and to give the up @-@ and @-@ coming men some experience of the Putney razzle @-@ dazzle " . Since then , it has usually taken place on the Thames , prior to the main Boat Race .

The main race was umpired by Gerald Ellison who had rowed for Oxford in the 1932 and 1933 races . Cambridge 's coaching team comprised Derek Mays @-@ Smith , Chris Addison , J. R. F. Best , James Crowden , David Jennens , J. J. Vernon ( who rowed in the 1955 race ) and Ian Welsh , while Oxford were led by Ronnie Howard . In preparation for the race , Oxford put in " mile after mile of hard rowing " while Cambridge focused on the more technical aspects of training . On 19 March , Oxford beat the existing course record during the lead @-@ up to the race , while Cambridge surpassed their own record two days later .

## = Crews =

The Cambridge crew weighed an average of 13 st 8 @.@ 25 lb ( 86 @.@ 1 kg ) , almost 4 pounds ( 1 @.@ 8 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Oxford saw four former Blues return , rowers Sean Morris , Miles Morland and Duncan Spencer ( rowing in his third race ) , and cox M. J. Leigh . Cambridge 's crew included two returning Boat Race veterans in rower and boat club president Joe Fraser and cox Robert Stanbury . The Light Blue crew contained a single foreign @-@ registered rower in Australian D. P. Moore while the Dark Blues included four Americans , all formerly of Yale University . According to the journalist Stanley Baker , writing in The Guardian , the Dark Blues were the " strongest and toughest crew Oxford have sent to the Tideway since the war . "

## = Race =

Oxford , who were considered strong favourites , won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . The race commenced at 2.50pm. Oxford took an early lead and were half a length ahead at Craven Cottage . Cambridge drew back into contention and were nearly level as the crews passed the Mile Post , recording the same times . A push from Oxford saw them move away from Cambridge with a lead of two lengths by Hammersmith Bridge . Although increasing their rate to try to reduce the deficit , Cambridge 's rowing became untidy and Oxford were able to capitalise ,

passing Chiswick Steps with a lead of three lengths , and shooting Barnes Bridge four up . Passing the finishing post with a lead of 15 seconds , Oxford won by four lengths in a time of 18 minutes 7 seconds , the third @-@ fastest time in the history of the event , slower only than Cambridge 's winning times in the 1934 and 1938 races . A correspondent writing in The Times suggested that " if there were any surprises at all ... they were that this notoriously fickle event went so exactly to form . "

In the first reserve race , Oxford 's Isis beat Cambridge 's Goldie by two lengths , in a time of 18 minutes 45 seconds . In the 20th running of the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge triumphed , their third consecutive victory .