

= The Boat Race 1995 =

The 141st Boat Race took place on 1 April 1995 . 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 . Marko Banovic became the first rower from Croatia to participate in the event . Cambridge won by four lengths .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie defeated Oxford 's Isis , 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 ") . 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1994 race by six @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths , with Cambridge leading overall with 71 victories to Oxford 's 68 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) . The race was sponsored by Beefeater Gin for the ninth consecutive year .

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 .

Oxford saw former coach and Blue Dan Topolski return as director of coaching following his departure after the 1992 race . Topolski , who rowed for the Dark Blues in the 1967 race , had coached Oxford to ten consecutive victories from 1976 to 1985 . He noted : " We know we are underdogs . We started with only one man from a previous Blues race and no internationals . Nothing but big hearts and lungs " . Cambridge 's boat club president Richard Phelps was upbeat : " We 're buoyant , tails up , the boat 's been going fast . " Cambridge were coached by Robin Williams who was reserved in his assessment , noting his crew needed to be " comfortable with the situation of rowing side @-@ by @-@ side . "

= = Crews = =

The official weigh @-@ in took place at The Hurlingham Club five days before the race . The Oxford crew weighed on average 2 @.@ 5 pounds (1 @.@ 1 kg) more than their opponents . Cambridge saw the return of four former Blues while Oxford 's crew featured two . The Oxford crew contained two native British rowers to Cambridge 's five . Cambridge 's crew also featured the first rower from Croatia in the Boat Race , in Marko Banovic . Oxford 's cox , 19 @-@ year @-@ old Abbie Chapman , became the ninth female cox in the history of the contest , and as a result of her diminutive stature , standing 4 ft 10 in (1 @.@ 47 m) tall , her seat was raised to afford her the visibility required to steer .

= = Race = =

Cambridge won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . In a stiff headwind , Oxford took an early lead but as Cambridge 's rhythm improved , they closed the gap and took the lead . Aggressive steering from Oxford 's Chapman resulted in warnings from the umpire , yet by Craven Cottage , Cambridge held a lead of two @-@ thirds of a length , and were a second ahead at the Mile Post . A length ahead by Harrods Furniture Depository , a push at Hammersmith Bridge increased the lead to a length @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half and allowed Cambridge a clear water

advantage by Chiswick Eyot . Although rating considerably lower than Oxford , Cambridge held their lead and passed the finishing post four lengths ahead , in a time of 18 minutes 4 seconds .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie won by fourteen lengths over Isis , the largest margin of victory since the 1971 race , and Cambridge 's eighth victory in nine years . Cambridge won the 50th Women 's Boat Race by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ third lengths in a time of 6 minutes and 2 seconds , their sixth victory in seven years .

= = Reaction = =

Cambridge 's Croatian international Banovic said " Matching them over the first two minutes and delaying our effort to Hammersmith was part of our plan . " His president , Phelps , confirmed " We knew they had four or five minutes in them ... we waited for them to crack . " Topolski reflected : " We had a great first seven minutes ... Cambridge are on a roll that has taken years to build up . " He continued : " You cannot expect our system to bear fruit in just a year " . The race was watched by around seven million viewers in the United Kingdom , the fifth most @-@ viewed sports event of the year .