

= The Boat Race 2013 =

The 159th Boat Race between crews from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge took place on 31 March 2013 . 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 Cambridge crew featured the first rower from the Czech Republic to compete in the event . Umpired by former Olympic medallist and former Oxford rower Matthew Pinsent , Oxford won by a margin of one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in a time of 17 minutes and 27 seconds .

In the reserve race , Oxford 's Isis defeated Cambridge 's Goldie , and 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 . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the disrupted 2012 race by four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , and led overall with 81 victories to Oxford 's 76 , with one " dead heat " . The race was sponsored for the second consecutive year by BNY Mellon .

Following the disruption caused by a protestor in the previous year 's race , Royal Marines provided support to the security arrangements surrounding the race . Race director David Searle urged nobody to repeat the disruption of 2012 , saying " What I would say to anybody thinking of doing that , is that it 's unbelievably dangerous ... We had practised emergency stops and it worked " . The manner of any potential restart was modified to allow the race re @-@ commence as soon as practicable . The Metropolitan Police had made contact with the protestor , Trenton Oldfield , to assist him making a more peaceful protest should he wish to do so , but he declined the offer and did not attend the race in any capacity .

Oxford announced that they had named their boat Acer in honour of former cox Acer Nethercott who had died two months earlier from brain cancer . Nethercott , an Olympic silver medallist in Beijing , had coxed Oxford in the 2003 , 2004 and 2005 races .

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 . 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 an average of 6 pounds (2 @.@ 7 kg) per rower more than Cambridge . For the second consecutive year , Cambridge 's crew featured just one British rower . Cambridge was coached by Steve Trapmore for the third time , and declared " It 's the best crew I 've had in my time at Cambridge " . Oxford 's Sean Bowden who was coaching the university for an eighteenth time , was " very satisfied " with his crew . Milan Bruncvík was the first Czech rower in the history of the Boat Race . Three medallists from the 2012 Summer Olympics featured : Cambridge 's George Nash won a bronze for Great Britain in the coxless pair , Oxford 's Constantine Louloudis won bronze for Great Britain in the men 's eight and his crew @-@ mate Malcolm Howard won silver for Canada in the same event .

= = Race = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . The weather conditions were adverse , with a " brisk wind " and snow flurries prior to the race . The race commenced at 4 @.@ 31 pm , and despite a good start from Cambridge , Oxford quickly moved to hold a half @-@ length lead . With blades nearly overlapping , Umpire Pinsent issued warnings to both coxes to avoid a clash , and approaching Hammersmith Bridge , Oxford 's lead extended to nearly a length . Cambridge kept in touch despite a push from Oxford , but by Barnes Bridge , Oxford were two lengths clear , and according to James Cracknell , they were " the fastest eight in the world right now . " Oxford passed the finishing post one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths clear , in a time of 17 minutes 27 seconds .

In the reserve race , Oxford 's Isis defeated Cambridge 's Goldie by one third of a length , the smallest margin of victory ever recorded in the reserves race . Oxford won the 68th Women 's Boat Race by one @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter lengths .

= = Reaction = =

Olympic gold medallist Katherine Grainger presented Oxford with the trophy . Winning cox Zorilla said " It was fun , tough but that was what we expected . We had a plan and we stuck to it ruthlessly . " His Light Blue counterpart , Fieldman , remarked : " I asked a lot of the guys and they gave it me every time . Unfortunately it wasn 't quite enough . ?

The BBC apologised for broadcasting Zorilla 's repeated swearing . A microphone in the Oxford boat picked up the " bad language " during the latter half of the race which was subsequently broadcast live on both BBC One and the BBC World News channel . Further swearing from Zorilla was broadcast as he emerged from the Thames after the customary soaking of the victorious cox .