

= The Boat Race 2007 =

The 153rd Boat Race took place on 7 April 2007 , and featured the most non @-@ British rowers in the history of the event . 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 . The Cambridge crew were considerably heavier than their opponents . Oxford won the toss but Cambridge won the race by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in a time of 17 minutes 49 seconds .

In the reserve race Goldie beat Isis and 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 miles (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 2006 race by five lengths , although Cambridge led overall with 78 victories to Oxford 's 73 (excluding the dead heat of 1877) . The race was sponsored by Xchanging for the third time .

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 Cambridge crew (sometimes referred to as the " Light Blues ") was 9 pounds (4 @. @ 1 kg) per man heavier than their Oxford rivals (sometimes referred to as the " Dark Blues ") . The Oxford crew featured four Americans , two Britons , a Canadian , a Croatian and a Pole , while the Cambridge crew consisted of four Britons , two Canadians , two Germans and an American . The race featured the most non @-@ British rowers in the history of the event , and in German Thorsten Engelmann , the heaviest rower ever . Rebecca Dowbiggin became the thirteenth female cox in the race 's history and the seventh female cox for Cambridge . Cambridge 's head coach was Duncan Holland , his Oxford counterpart was Sean Bowden .

? Dowbiggin replaced Cambridge 's first @-@ choice cox Russ Glenn ten days before the race .

= = Race description = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . They took an early lead , and were just ahead at Hammersmith Bridge . Cambridge edged back into contention by the Chiswick Steps and heading under Barnes Bridge were a length clear . They passed the finishing post first , in a time of 17 minutes 49 seconds , a length @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter ahead of Oxford . It was Cambridge 's first victory since 2004 and took their overall lead in the contest to 79 ? 73 . At the finish , following tradition , the Cambridge crew threw their cox , Dowbiggin , into the water in celebration . She later said " They flung me a really long way in there , and the water was freezing , but it was worth it . "

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis . Earlier , Cambridge won the 62nd Women 's Boat Race by half a length .

= = Reaction = =

Oxford coach Sean Bowden said " We had a good race and made all the right moves to Hammersmith , but we couldn 't quite shake them off and didn 't quite have enough lead to defend " , while Cambridge 's number six Kieran West said " Credit to Oxford . They threw everything they had at us , but we absorbed it all . " Cambridge head coach Duncan Holland praised his cox : " Rebecca was magnificent . She steered a superb course . She steered exactly where we thought she should steer and she stayed calm , it was great . " Dowbiggin herself recounted : " The guys asked me to be very calm , very relaxed , not to panic , even if Oxford were pushing and moving , I was just like ' okay , they 're pushing , they 're moving , but we 're going to do this ' . " Bowden criticised the umpire who he claimed " pushed us too tight round the bend . From Hammersmith Bridge on that took away our advantage . " Cambridge 's Tom James was finally successful , winning the Boat Race at his fourth attempt : " I really couldn 't think about losing this race . Oxford really hounded us . The line was getting closer but never quickly enough . "