

= The Boat Race 1982 =

The 128th Boat Race took place on 27 March 1982 . 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 . Oxford won by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , securing their seventh consecutive victory . Their number five , Boris Rankov , won a record fifth Boat Race as a rower , and Oxford 's Clay brothers became the first twins to win the event .

In the reserve race , Oxford 's Isis beat Cambridge 's Goldie by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , and in the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge were victorious .

= = 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 . Oxford went into the race as reigning champions , having beaten Cambridge by eight lengths in the previous year 's race . However Cambridge held the overall lead , with 68 victories to Oxford 's 58 .

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 .

During the pre @-@ race preparations , the Cambridge crew struck a floating railway sleeper near Chiswick Eyot , damaging their boat which needed repair before the race . Oxford 's crew suffered illness in the days leading up the race , in particular the president Nick Conington who was moved from stroke to bow to reduce the chances of a possible recurrence of glandular fever .

= = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of just below 14 st (88 @-@ 7 kg) per rower , and had a 10 pounds (4 @-@ 5 kg) per man advantage over Cambridge . Oxford saw four former Blues return , including the first female cox in Sue Brown . Cambridge 's crew contained a single Blue in boat club president Roger Stephens . Despite retiring from rowing , Boris Rankov , a junior fellow at St Hugh 's was persuaded back into the crew by the Oxford boat club president Nick Conington . Rankov was rowing in his fifth consecutive Boat Race , alongside Steve Foster whom he supervised in classics . Oxford 's crew also contained the Clay twins , Robert and Hugh .

= = Race = =

River conditions were calm : Jim Railton of The Times described the course as " a smooth and flat Queen 's highway from Putney to Mortlake . " Michael Muir @-@ Smith was the umpire for the race , for which Oxford were " heavily favoured " . They won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . A good start from the Light Blues saw them a length ahead by Craven Cottage and passing the Mile Post one second ahead of Oxford . From Harrods Furniture Depository , Oxford fought their way back into contention with cox Brown forcing her counterpart Bernstein to steer towards the centre of the river . Both crews shot Hammersmith Bridge a second apart , with Oxford quickly gaining a length 's lead and a clear water advantage . Cambridge were nine seconds down by Chiswick Steps and a further second behind at Barnes Bridge . Oxford passed the finishing post eleven seconds and three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths ahead of Cambridge , in a time of 18 minutes 21 seconds , to record their seventh consecutive victory .

In the reserve race , Isis beat Goldie by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths and five seconds in a time of 18 minutes 43 seconds to record their third consecutive victory . In the 37th running of the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge triumphed , their first win in three years .

= = Reaction = =

Rankov , who became the first rower to win five consecutive Boat Races (C. R. W. Tottenham had won five as a cox in the 1860s) , admitted , " The beginning was all right . We expected them to be up on us before Hammersmith . But the burn we did there was exhausting . It was really hard just to keep in front for the rest of the way . " Defeated Cambridge cox Bernstein said , " I can 't wait to get back at them next year " , while his stroke Simon Harris stated , " we will have six of this crew left next year . That 's a good base " . The Clays became the first twins to win a Boat Race .