

= The Boat Race 2000 =

The 146th Boat Race took place on 25 March 2000 . Oxford won the race by three lengths , breaking a seven @-@ year spell of Cambridge dominance . The result was a " shock triumph " . The race also featured the joint @-@ tallest ever competitor , and the youngest ever winner in the " modern " race . In the reserve race , Isis beat Goldie by five lengths , and Oxford triumphed in the women 's race , emerging with victory in the men 's and women 's races for the year .

= Background =

The Boat Race is an annual competition between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge . First held in 1829 , the competition is a 4 @. @ 2 @-@ mile (6 @. @ 8 km) race along 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 worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 1999 race by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths . Cambridge had won the last seven races (between 1993 and 1999) ; and led overall with 76 victories to Oxford 's 68 (excluding the " dead heat to Oxford by five feet " of 1877) . The race was sponsored by Aberdeen Asset Management .

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 (sometimes referred to as the " Dark Blues ") had a heavier average weight of 13 stone 10 pounds (87 kg) per crew member , making them almost 11 pounds (5 @. @ 0 kg) heavier per man ; and were considered the underdogs before the race . The Cambridge crew (sometimes referred to as the " Light Blues ") had a taller crew , and had the joint @-@ tallest ever competitor , the 6 feet 10 inches (2 @. @ 08 m) Joshua West . The Oxford crew had an average age of 21 while Cambridge 's crew averaged 23 . The Oxford crew featured six Britons , two Americans , and a Norwegian ; whilst the Cambridge crew consisted of six Britons , an American , a New Zealander , and a South African .

The crews for the race were as follows :

= Race description =

Cambridge won the coin toss and chose to start from the southern side , the Surrey side , of the River Thames , based on the opinion that taking a lead early in the race would give them an advantage . However , the theory failed as Oxford stayed with Cambridge , and though Cambridge had a large push which gave them a slender lead after two minutes , Oxford were leading at the First Mile post , passing in 3 minutes 41 seconds , Cambridge a second behind .

The race was close , and " the lead switched back and forth between the two teams " . Cambridge pressed and rewon their lead , and were a quarter of a length ahead after a favourable bend . Though level at Chiswick Steps , Oxford pushed ahead , gaining a five @-@ second lead by Barnes Bridge , and eight at the finish .

Oxford finished with a time of 18 minutes , 4 seconds , Cambridge finished 8 seconds behind . It was Oxford 's first victory in seven years and brought the overall result to 76 ? 69 in Cambridge 's favour . The victory gave the Oxford number four , Matthew Smith , the honour of being the youngest ever " modern " winner at 18 years , 8 months 11 days .

In the reserve race , Oxford 's Isis beat Cambridge 's Goldie by five lengths . Earlier , Oxford won the 55th women 's race by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths , in a time of 6 minutes 18

seconds , their first victory in nine years . Oxford also won the women 's lightweight , but Cambridge won the women 's reserves , men 's lightweight , and men 's lightweight reserves .

= = Reaction = =

Oxford University Boat Club President and number four Nick Robinson said the crew had kept going and won " an incredible race " , but was a " shock triumph " .