

## = The Boat Race 1971 =

The 117th Boat Race took place on 27 March 1971 . Held annually , it is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge along the River Thames . It was won by Cambridge who passed the finishing post ten lengths ahead of Oxford , securing Cambridge 's fourth consecutive victory . The winning time was , at that point , the second fastest in the history of the event .

In the reserve race , Goldie beat Isis , 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 " ) . The race was first held in 1829 , and since 1845 has taken 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 , followed throughout the United Kingdom and broadcast worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having beaten Oxford by three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half lengths in the previous year 's race , and held the overall lead , with 64 victories to Oxford 's 51 ( excluding the " dead heat " of 1877 ) .

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 .

Cambridge coach Lou Barry was aiming to lead the Light Blues to victory for the fourth consecutive time under his guidance , while Oxford were coached by their former Blue , Ronnie Howard , who represented the university in the 1957 and 1959 races . The race was umpired by the former Oxford and Olympic rower Chris Davidge who had represented the Dark Blues in the 1949 , 1951 and 1952 races .

## = = Crews = =

The Oxford crew weighed an average of 13 st 8 lb ( 86 @. @ 0 kg ) , 2 pounds ( 0 @. @ 9 kg ) per rower more than their opponents . Cambridge saw the return of four former Blues in Chris Baillieu , James Hervey @-@ Bathurst , Christopher Rodrigues and N. G. Hughes , all of whom had made they Boat Race debut in the 1970 race . Oxford welcomed back A. J. Hall , J. Hawksley and F. J. L. Dale , the latter rowing in his third Boat Race for the Dark Blues . Cambridge 's American number seven , Somerset Waters III , was the only non @-@ British rower recorded in the race .

## = = Race = =

Cambridge were pre @-@ race favourites , according to Jim Railton writing in The Times , they were " the strongest favourites for many years " . They won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station , consigning Oxford to Middlesex , from which the losers of the last ten consecutive races had commenced . After a good start , and despite a " desperate attack " from the Dark Blues , Cambridge were three seconds ahead at the Mile Post . The Light Blues were clear soon after and by the time the crews shot Hammersmith Bridge , they held a three length , ten @-@ second lead over Oxford . By Chiswick Steps , the lead had extended out to 18 seconds ; Oxford trailed by 26 seconds at Barnes Bridge and could make no ground on Cambridge as they passed the finishing post ten lengths clear . The winning time of 17 minutes 58 seconds was the second fastest in the history of the event , behind that of the Cambridge crew of the 1948 race who recorded a time eight seconds faster .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis by fifteen lengths , their fifth consecutive victory . In the 26th running of the Women 's Boat Race , Cambridge triumphed , their ninth consecutive victory .