

= The Boat Race 2011 =

The 157th Boat Race took place on 26 March 2011 . 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 race was won by Oxford . Of the eighteen competitors in the race , thirteen were British . The race was sponsored for the second time by Xchanging .

Oxford won the Women 's Boat Race by four lengths while Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis in the reserve race .

= = Background = =

The Boat Race is a side @-@ by @-@ side rowing competition between the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge . First held in 1829 , the competition is a 4 @.@ 2 @-@ mile (6 @.@ 8 km) race along The 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 worldwide . Cambridge went into the race as reigning champions , having won the 2010 race by one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ third lengths , and led overall with 80 victories to Oxford 's 75 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) . The race was sponsored by Xchanging for the seventh consecutive year , and it was the second time that the title had been given over to sponsorship ; as such it was referred to as the " Xchanging Boat Race " . The BBC broadcast the event in the United Kingdom , in high @-@ definition for the first 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 was " slightly heavier " than their opponents , weighing in at a ceremony at City Hall overseen by Boris Johnson at 3 @.@ 5 pounds (1 @.@ 6 kg) more per rower than Oxford . Thirteen of the eighteen competitors were British , the highest proportion for a decade . Of the two crews , Cambridge featured three returning Blues to Oxford 's one . Oxford University Boat Club 's president Ben Myers suggested " we 're home @-@ grown guys , we know about the Boat Race and we 're keen " . Oxford were coached once again by Sean Bowden , who set their boat up as " tandem rigged " (where two consecutive crew row on the same side of the boat) , the first time such a configuration had been used in the Boat Race since 1975 . Steve Trapmore was making his debut as Cambridge 's coach . Oxford 's stroke , Simon Hislop , had recovered from testicular cancer in time to participate in the race .

= = Races = =

Oxford won the toss and elected to start from the Surrey station . Despite falling slightly behind early on in the race , Cambridge rowed their way back into contention and umpire Rob Clegg was forced to warn both crews as the coxes steered towards one another . Following a brief clash of oars , Oxford started to pull away again at Harrods Furniture Depository . At Hammersmith Bridge , the Oxford cox called for push , shouting " 2003 " to invoke memories of the narrowest margin of victory in the history of the event in the 2003 race . Passing St Paul 's School , Oxford took the lead and steered across and in front of the Cambridge boat . Despite attempts to keep in touch with Oxford , Cambridge fell farther and farther behind , and Oxford passed the finishing post four lengths clear in a time of 17 minutes and 37 seconds .

Oxford won the 66th Women 's Boat Race by four lengths , their third consecutive victory . Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis in the reserve race by two lengths , their first win for three

years . (No , they did not . Isis won in 2011 after being defeated in 2010 , having won 2008 and 2009)

= = Reaction = =

Cambridge number four Henry Cubasch remarked " They had the strength , character and went for it ; we just let them slip . " Oxford 's Constantine Louloudis said " We held Cambridge in high regard . But I certainly didn 't predict a margin like that . " Cambridge president Rasumussen called it a " stinging defeat " .