

= The Boat Race 2005 =

The 151st Boat Race took place on 27 March 2005 . Oxford won the race by two lengths in a time of 16 minutes 41 seconds . The race , umpired by the six @-@ time Boat Race winner Boris Rankov , featured seven Olympic rowers . It was the first time the event was broadcast in the United Kingdom on ITV .

In the reserve race Goldie beat Isis and Cambridge won the Women 's race .

= = Background = =

The Boat Race is an annual rowing eight 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 2004 race by six lengths , and led overall with 78 victories to Oxford 's 71 (excluding the " dead heat " of 1877) . The race was sponsored by Xchanging for the first time , and it was the first year the event was televised in the United Kingdom by ITV , following a £ 1 @.@ 75 million pound five @-@ year deal .

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 ") was the heaviest in Boat Race history , with over a 21 pounds (9 @.@ 5 kg) per crew member over the Cambridge crew (sometimes referred to as the " Light Blues ") . Both crews had an average age of 25 . The Oxford crew featured five Britons , three Americans and a Canadian while the Cambridge crew consisted of four Germans , three Britons , an American and an Australian . Seven of the rowers had represented their countries at the Olympic Games . In the Cambridge crew , Heidicker rowed for Germany at both the Sydney games and Athens , Briton Tom James , German Sebastian Schulte and American Luke Walton also rowed in Athens . Oxford 's Olympians included Britons Andy Triggs Hodge and Robin Bourne @-@ Taylor , and Canadian Barney Williams , all of whom competed in Athens . According to the BBC , the former Oxford coach Dan Topolski rated both crews as good enough to make an Olympic final .

= = Race description = =

Cambridge won the coin toss and elected to start from the northern bank (the " Middlesex side ") of the Thames . At race time , conditions were cloudy and cool , with rain falling midway through . The race umpire was Boris Rankov , a six @-@ time successful Oxford Blue .

Cambridge made a poor start allowing Oxford to take the early lead , but warnings from umpire Rankov forced the Oxford cox Acer Nethercott to steer out of the racing line and relinquish the advantage . As they approached Hammersmith Bridge , Oxford out @-@ rated Cambridge and held a half @-@ a @-@ length lead . Taking a clear @-@ water advantage before reaching Barnes Bridge , Oxford passed the finishing post two lengths ahead , with a time of 16 minutes , 41 seconds . It was their third victory in the previous four years and brought the overall result to 78 ? 72 in Cambridge 's favour . At the finish , following tradition , the Oxford crew threw their cox , Nethercott , into the water in celebration .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis . Earlier , Cambridge won the 60th Women 's Boat Race by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ third lengths .

= = Reaction = =

Oxford 's number two , Williams , had lost out on gold in the Athens Olympics by two inches , he said " I knew how much it was going to hurt to lose so half of me is just so glad we didn 't lose " . The departing Cambridge coach Robin Williams said of his crew " They fought like tigers and should be proud of themselves " . Cambridge 's stroke Heidicker admitted " It was a bad start ... we never really established our own rhythm . Maybe we weren 't cool enough in that situation . "