

= The Boat Race 1984 =

The 130th Boat Race took place on 18 March 1984 . 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 originally scheduled to take place the day before but the Cambridge boat struck a barge before the start and the race was postponed until the following day , making it the first Boat Race to be held on a Sunday . Oxford won by three @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter lengths and both crews beat the existing course record .

Cambridge 's Goldie won the reserve race , while Cambridge were victorious in the Women 's Boat Race .

= = 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 three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter lengths in the previous year 's race . However Cambridge held the overall lead , with 68 victories to Oxford 's 60 .

Originally scheduled to take place on Saturday 17 March , the Cambridge cox , Peter Hobson , steered their boat into a moored barge during the warmup , destroying the bow . The crew paddled to the side of the river where most were able to disembark , but some were forced to swim to safety . The race was postponed to the following day where Cambridge competed in a boat borrowed from the Amateur Rowing Association . It was the first Boat Race to be held on a Sunday in the history of the competition . The disagreement over the inclusion of Boris Rankov in Oxford 's crew for the sixth time in the previous year 's race had not been resolved . Rankov , however , had left the university after completing his studies so the dispute would have no impact on this year 's race .

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 = =

Oxford were pre @-@ race favourites and their crew were an average of 11 pounds (5 @. @ 0 kg) heavier than their Cambridge opponents . The race saw the return of five Blues for Oxford and four for Cambridge . Oxford 's crew contained two Canadian brothers (the Evans twins , Mark and Michael) , two Australians and an American cox , while Cambridge 's predominantly British crew was completed by a Canadian and an American .

= = Race = =

Oxford started from the Surrey station and despite rating higher , were slightly behind Cambridge after a minute . Aggressive steering from Hobson resulted in warnings from umpire Mike Sweeney , and by the mile post , Oxford held a two @-@ second lead . A push by Oxford at Harrods saw them five seconds clear by Hammersmith Bridge and two lengths clear by Chiswick Steps . Nine seconds ahead by Barnes Bridge , Oxford passed the finishing post officially 12 seconds and three @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter lengths ahead of Cambridge , in a time of 16 minutes 45 seconds , beating the previous best of 16 minutes 58 seconds recorded by Oxford in the 1976 race . This was Oxford 's ninth consecutive victory , and their tenth in eleven years , and took the overall record to 68 ? 61

in favour of Cambridge .

In the reserve race , Cambridge 's Goldie beat Oxford 's Isis by two @-@ and @-@ three @-@ quarter lengths , while Cambridge won the 39th Women 's Boat Race .

= = Reaction = =

Cambridge cox Hobson reacted to the pre @-@ race crash : " It was the worst nightmare in the world coming true . " Regarding the race , the Cambridge number 5 , John Garrett stated " the borrowed boat was better than ours but we weren 't used to it . " Oxford cox Seth Lesser said he was aware that his crew were setting a record @-@ breaking pace : " I knew the record was on ... We made another burn at St Paul 's School just to make sure . "

As a result of Saturday 's collision and the associated publicity , Sunday 's race was viewed on British television by more than 12 million people .