

The Boat Race Trophies go on public display for the first time

For the first time in the history of The Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race both the Men's and Women's Boat Race trophies will go on public display in the Courtyard of the Fitzwilliam Museum from Tuesday 9 November. This unique opportunity, to see both trophies side by side, runs until 27 March 2022 when they'll be leaving Cambridge and heading back to the Thames for Boat Race Day 2022 (Sunday 3 April).

Until now, the two Blue Boat trophies have only been brought out on Race Day, but in 2020, it was decided that responsibility for the trophies between Boat Races should pass to the winning University.

The Men's Boat Race and the Women's Boat Race were won earlier this year by the Light Blues, giving a unique opportunity to display both trophies side by side in the Fitzwilliam Museum. And it's especially fitting that they are on display in Cambridge given that the 2021 Boat Race took place on the River Great Ouse in nearby Ely rather than on its traditional venue on the River Thames in South-West London.

New research carried out by **Dr Victoria Avery the Keeper of Applied Arts**, gathers together for the first time how they were commissioned, who made them and the significance of their decorative elements. She said, *'The Boat Race is an annual sporting highlight for millions but very few people have ever had the chance to see the winners' trophies up close. And even fewer realise that the Blue Boat trophies are actually significant examples of contemporary British silver. I am thrilled that this year's double Cambridge Blue Boat victory has given the Fitzwilliam Museum a unique opportunity to display both trophies side by side. For the first time in Boat Race history, people will be able to see for themselves just how beautiful these iconic trophies are, and appreciate all the skill and thought that has gone into their design and making. The Blue Boat trophies are joined by three other key trophies connected with The Boat Race: the original Women's Blue Boat trophy, first awarded in 1936, and the cups awarded to the Men's and Women's Reserve Boats.'*

The Boat Race is one of the world's oldest annual sporting events, regularly watched by 250,000 riverside supporters and 10 million TV viewers worldwide. In all five trophies associated with the history of this Battle of the Blues will be on show:

1. The current Men's Blue Boat Race Trophy, known as The Aberdeen Asset Management 'Quaich'
2. The current Women's Blue Boat Race Trophy, known as The Newton Trophy
3. The original Women's Blue Boat Race Trophy, known as The Francombe Cup
4. The current Men's Reserve Boat Race Trophy, known as the Goldie-Isis Cup
5. The current Women's Reserve Boat Race Trophy, known as the Blondie-Osiris Cup

The start of The Boat Race Trophies Display at the Fitz deliberately coincides with two key dates in the open weight 2022 Boat Race timeline. On 13 November 2021, the new Cambridge and Oxford crews will be racing against each other for the first time in 'The Fours Head' on The Tideway; and on 18 November 2021, the Presidents' Challenge will take place in London, when the Oxford OUBC and OUWBC Presidents (as the losers of the 2021 Boat Race) officially challenge the CUBC's Men's President and Women's President to the 2022 Boat Race.

The Boat Race Company Limited (BRCL) Chair, Tim Senior, said *'Aside from being the rewards for immense sporting endeavour, the Boat Race trophies are beautiful works of art in themselves. We are very pleased that they will be on public display within The Fitzwilliam Museum for the first time and would like to thank Museum Director Luke Syson, Applied Arts Keeper Dr Victoria Avery and their team for making this display possible. We hope this exhibition will appeal to a wide range of people who will be able to see these trophies, learn more about The Boat Race and discover how much sport and art have in common.'*

Nick Brooking, Cambridge University's Director of Sport said *'When we were made aware that the Boat Race trophies needed a new home we were keen to find somewhere that they could not just be kept secure but also viewed by the widest possible number of people. We were delighted when our colleagues at the Fitzwilliam Museum reacted so positively to our request for help and have added their professional expertise to make sure the trophies now shine brilliantly and also to tell the story around them.'*

For further enquires please contact the Fitzwilliam Museum Communications:

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Notes to Editors

Boat Race Display:

[The Fitzwilliam Museum - New Display of University Boat Race Trophies in the Courtyard \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

Long form Story:

<https://stories.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/boat-race-trophies/#story0-38>

About the Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816, the Fitzwilliam Museum is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funded programme. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. The Fitzwilliam is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation. www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB | Free admission Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00; CLOSED: 24 - 26 & 31 December, 1 January, Good Friday.

About The Boat Race: The annual Oxford-Cambridge University Boat Race was first raced in 1829 and is one of the world's oldest and most famous amateur sporting events, offering an unrivalled educational experience to the students who take part. 2022 will see the 167th Men's Boat Race and the 76th Women's Boat Race.

About The Boat Race Company (BRCL): The Boat Race Company Limited is a company limited by shares (no. 02544376) and is responsible for the delivery of the annual Boat Race between Cambridge University and Oxford University. We are committed to delivering a well-organised, safe race for the students and clubs, and are working to create an inclusive, engaging experience for the local community, supporters, and the wider Boat Race family. Our ambition is to help build a better shared future and inspire others with the transformative potential of sport, while working sustainably to secure the longevity of the event.

- For more information on The Boat Race please visit www.theboatrace.org
- Follow The Boat Race's journey live on Twitter @theboatrace

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