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GB rowers go down to rare defeat

Three of Great Britain's world champion coxless four tasted a rare loss at the Head of the River Fours on the Thames.

A Cambridge University coxed four of German and GB internationals beat their Leander crew by five seconds.

They were without Andy Hodge, who successfully defended his title in Senior 1 quadruple sculls with Molesey.

World sculling rivals Mahe Drysdale of New Zealand and Great Britain's Alan Campbell were in the Tideway Scullers quad that won overall.

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With Slovenian Iztok Cop and GB's Mike Hennessy also on board, they overtook a Leander crew featuring world bronze medallists Matthew Wells and Stephen Rowbotham in the time trial event.

World silver medallists Sarah Winkless and Kath Grainger, rowing for Marlow/Thames, were 32 seconds ahead of their nearest rivals in the women's elite quad category of the 546-crew race.

Entries from Oxford University (rowing as Isis) finished third and fourth in the coxed fours but the dark blues beat Cambridge in the coxless category.

The event is run between Mortlake and Putney - the reverse of the four-and-a-quarter mile University Boat Race course - and is an early form guide for the 2007 varsity event, which takes place on 7 April.



Campbell and Drysdale race together for Tideway Scullers