

# Boat Race rivals make peace

By Rachel Quarrell

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The last ripples of controversy over the 2007 University Boat Race appear to have been calmed for good, as the Oxford and Cambridge clubs have agreed to put it behind them and concentrate on next year's race.

A dispute was rumbling on after this year's winning Cambridge stroke, [Thorsten Engelmann](#), [withdrew from his course days after the race on April 7, 2007](#). He dropped out of his degree and returned to the German national squad, with whom he won silver in the men's eights at the world championships. This left Cambridge smarting under accusations of unfair play.

For years the athletes of both squads have had to sign letters of intention to complete their courses: Engelmann broke this agreement unilaterally. Some at Oxford had wanted Cambridge to concede the race.

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A new PR company for the race yesterday put presidents Nick Brodie (Oxford) and Dan O'Shaughnessy (Cambridge) face to face for the first time since April to show that they were willing to bury the hatchet.

The 2008 race will be rowed on March 29, but the two clubs will go head to head at the Fours Head as soon as Nov 3. Their top coxless fours, Isis I (Oxford) and Cambridge I, start 27th and 28th in the draw, while their top coxed fours are only two places apart.