

A GOOD DAY FOR CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge emerged from the Fours Head race last Saturday with more to celebrate than their Oxford rivals in next year's Boat Race.

In wet and windy conditions on the Tideway, both Boat Race squads raced four crews rather than the five originally entered (all in coxed fours), with Oxford racing under the Isis name.

Cambridge went on to win two classes – Elite and Senior 2 Coxed Fours.

The light-blue Elite crew, stroked by US 2008 World U23 Gold Medallist Silas Stafford, were well clear of the chasing pack and 19 seconds ahead of Oxford's top boat that contained a former world champion and three Olympians, including President Colin Smith at stroke.

Oxford's Chief Coach Sean Bowden admitted that the results had put the year in perspective and “show Cambridge to be strong.”

Rob Baker, still holding the Cambridge coaching fort until the impending arrival of new Chief Coach Chris Nilsson from New Zealand, said of his less experienced squad – at least on paper – “don't write us off yet!”

Fours Head results of the Boat Race squad boats:

Cambridge I - 19m:16s (Elite winners)

Isis II - 19:35

Cambridge III - 19:38

Cambridge V - 19:51 (Senior 2 winners)

Isis IV - 19:56

Isis III - 19:58

Cambridge II - 20:06

Isis V - 20:48