LeanderNews





Leander News

The official newsletter of Leander Club is published twice yearly, in late Spring and Autumn

Articles, photographs and ideas, as well as news of our Members, are always welcome and should

be addressed to:

The Press Office, Leander Club, Henley-on-Thames

RG9 2LP

E: press@leander.co.uk

Editor: Robert Treharne Jones

Contributors:

Mark Banks Sara du Luart
Mark Blandford-Baker Jeremy Randall
Chris Dalley Hugh Richardson
Alex Gregory Peter Spurrier
Philippa Gutteridge Mike Willoughby

Ivor Lloyd

Cover photo: Harry Leask, Nick Middleton, Jack Beaumont and Andy Joel brought the Prince of Wales' Challenge Cup back to Leander for the sixth successive year.

Isis 1975 Crew Reunion



Leander is the preferred venue for many crew and club reunions, including the victorious 1975 Isis crew, many of whom went on to race in the Blue Boat and later to successful business careers. The crew includes (L to R) Peter Politzer, coach and retired schoolmaster; Lord Moynihan, politician and businessman; Jamie Pike, company director in finance and engineering; Professor David Edwards, paediatrician and neonatologist; Oliver Moore, wine merchant; Stephen Plunkett, financial adviser; Professor Boris Rankov, classics professor; Professor Hugh Craig, English literature (Newcastle Univ., Australia); Giles Vardey, investment banker; David Newman, insurance company director.

Our Three-Year Vision

As Leander approach its bicentenary in 2018 we are delighted to announce a three-year programme of major events leading up to the anniversary celebrations. Together these events will create a lasting legacy to help carry the Club forward for the next 200 years, as Leander President Jeremy Randall describes.



Jeremy Randall

It gives me enormous pleasure to announce our ambitious plans for the next three years, when our Members should have so much to celebrate, both on and off the water.

Our membership extends right around the world, and provides the bedrock of our aim in producing the next generation of successful international athletes. We hope to reach out to the entire Leander family, to help engage wider audiences with the Club and our sport.

Of course that family also includes our corporate sponsors, as well as those many guests who make use of our fantastic clubhouse and help generate the revenue which is so essential to the success of our rowing programme.



Next year includes the culmination of every four-year cycle for our athletes - the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. With less than a year to the Opening Ceremony our current GB athletes are absolutely focused on the task of fulfilling their dreams next August.

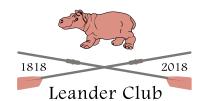
During next year's 'Meet the Athletes' events, in February and May, Members and their guests will have the chance to meet many of our Olympic hopefuls over dinner, and gain some insight into the personalities which drive these extraordinary people.

Come the Olympics themselves, those who cannot be in Rio will have the chance to share our athletes' experience, here at the clubhouse, using the formula which we have used with such success during Beijing 2008 and London 2012. Food, drink and fellowship will be available in abundance, with live television pictures screened from the Games throughout the four days of finals.



The following year our RowZambique project will be a major undertaking that will challenge its participants as well as bring much-needed benefits to a remote part of Africa.

Led by experienced expedition leader Tim Cook, a group of our athletes will row 900 km down the lower reaches of the Zambezi, including a record-breaking attempt to cross the Cahora Bassa Lake beneath the light of a partial eclipse of the moon. We hope that this adventure will benefit the local and wider community by a series of challenges, including raising funds for a fresh water project, and helping to promote our sport in Africa.



And to so to 2018, when we celebrate two hundred years since those far-off days when some gentlemen climbed into a Lambeth-based cutter to spawn what is now the most historic, prestigious and successful rowing club in the world.

Our Bicentenary will aim to celebrate the Club's history, heritage and athlete success. But with our vision focused on the years ahead, the Club will need adapt to meet the challenges of the future.

Our plans are already well advanced for a series of events, in Henley, London and elsewhere, on and off the water, to provide everyone with a truly memorable year to celebrate in style.

Details of all these events will appear in future editions of Leander News, as well as the monthly Hippo Happenings, and on our website www.leander.co.uk

Thank You, One and All!

At the end of another successful year it is my very pleasant duty to congratulate all our athletes and coaches who were selected for Great Britain this year, either at the Under-23 or Senior World Championships. Leander wishes to place on record that this credit should be shared, not only with our partners in the GB Rowing Team, but also the support teams at the athletes' previous clubs, universities and schools. Our athletes would not have had this success without their substantial contribution.

Congratulations to you all!

Mark Banks, Chief Coach (formerly of Hollingworth Lake and Nottingham & Union)

Chris Bartley

(King's School, Chester)

Morgan Baynham Williams

(Ross; Oxford Brookes Univ.)

Jack Beaumont

(Sir William Borlase's GS; Maidenhead)

Matt Beechey

(Worcester)

Karen Bennett

(Heart of Scotland; Molesey)

Ro Bradbury

(Thames; Imperial College)

Richard Chambers

(Coleraine Academical Inst.; Oxford Brookes Univ.)

Jono Clegg

(Sir William Borlase's GS)

John Collins

(Tideway Scullers)

Charles Cousins

(Rob Roy; Reading Univ.)

Zoe de Toledo

(St Paul's Girls School)

Ed Fisher

(Nottingham)

Will Fletcher

(Tyne; Durham Univ.)

Tom George

(Radley College)

Lucinda Gooderham

(Durham Univ.)

Matt Gotrel

(Loughborough Univ.)

Alex Gregory

(Evesham; Reading Univ.)

Katie Greves

(Headington School; Univ. of London)

Angus Groom

(Walton; Durham Univ.)

Jane Hall

(Kingston Grammar School)

Phelan Hill

(Bedford School: London)

Ross Hunter

(Poplar, Blackwall and District)

Stewart Innes

(Durham Univ.)

Jonathan Jackson

(Upper Thames)

Olly James

(Broxbourne; Warwick Univ.)

Andy Joel

(Windsor Boys' School)

James Johnston

(Harvard Univ, USA)

Jamie Kirkwood

(Cambois; Imperial College)

Pete Lambert

(Jeppe High School, South Africa)

Matt Langridge

(Northwich)

Harry Leask

(George Heriot's School)

Jess Leyden

(Hollingworth Lake)

Tom Marshall

(Royal Shrewsbury School)

Callum McBrierty

(Durham Univ.)

Vicki Meyer-Laker

(Nottingham)

Sam Mottram

(Upper Thames)

Holly Nixon

(Portora School)

Holly Norton

(St Stithians Girls' College)

Steve Parsonage

(Norwich)

Tom Ransley

(York City; Cambridge Univ.)

Pete Reed

(Univ. West of England; Oxford Univ.)

Lou Reeve

(Downe House School; Durham Univ.)

Monica Relph

(Rob Roy; Reading Univ.)

Pam Relph

(Caversham)

Will Satch

(Shiplake College)

Al Sinclair

((Inverness)

Vicky Thornley

(Bath Univ.)

Jonny Walton

(Leicester; Loughborough Univ.)

Captain's Report

With less than a year to go before the Rio Olympics there's time to look back over another successful season for Leander, and another world championship title for our Captain, Alex Gregory



The second Leander women's crew assemble at the Eights Head before winning the Club pennant

Writing a report for Leander's newsletter is never a chore. It gives me the opportunity to sit back, reflect on the recent racing period, and remind myself how impressive we are as a club. One good result means nothing - the key is consistency, and we are certainly creating a consistent level of top quality performances, right across the levels where we compete.

2015 has been a year with some Leander 'firsts', including the first time we have had two Leander eights at the Women's Eights Head. To field two full crews is something very significant, but with one crew finishing so close behind the other, an experienced international composite, and to finish fourth overall, was a huge success and an exciting move forward in the Club's development.

Henley Royal Regatta saw 69 Leander athletes competing in 21 different crews - an extraordinary number racing in a regatta to remember. We finished the week with Leander winning 7 of the 8 finals in which we had representation. With wins in the Grand, Stewards', Queen Mother, Double Sculls, Goblets, Princess Grace and Prince of Wales', we equalled our best-ever performance at Henley.

Of course, not everything went our way, but those crews which did not make the

final nevertheless did the Club proud. Both our club men's eights - the strongly tipped Ladies' Plate crew and the Thames crew - were knocked out in their semifinals. Both crews fought hard for the win and, although disappointed, can hold their heads very high.



The Leander A quad in the Fawley Challenge Cup, pictured with their coach, Karl Reid

It was fantastic to have two full Leander junior quads entered for the Fawley Challenge Cup again this year, highlighting the growing consistency and development in our junior program, led by Livinia Cowell-Sheriff and Karl Reid. Watching these crews fighting down the course brought back memories of my own years racing in that same event. The experience these young rowers will have gained will be invaluable to every one of them in their future rowing careers.

We had representation in both the men's and women's single sculls with Seb Devereaux and Polly Swann representing Leander. Polly lost to Lisa Scheenaard, the Dutch sculler, who went on to race in the final, while Seb had a brilliant battle with world and Olympic champion Mahe Drysdale. Seb gave Mahe a run for his money in the early part of the race and never gave up, in true Leander fashion, but the Kiwi pushed on and, unsurprisingly, led the way across the line.

Finally I think a special mention must go to the Prince of Wales' quad who took consistency to a whole new level by bringing the trophy home for a sixth consecutive year, with Nick Middleton winning the event for the fifth time! This consistency is a fantastic example of what we are aiming for and huge credit must go to the scullers and coaches involved in that project.



John Collins and Jonny Walton won the Double Sculls at Henley and raced as the 2015 GB men's double.

Next stop was the Under-23 World Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, where thirteen Leander athletes represented Great Britain, together with two of our coaches, Matt Beechey and Ross Hunter. Eight of our athletes returned home with a medal, providing an excellent portent for the future. To have these young athletes winning medals at the top of their age group shows the program we have at Leander is working very well indeed.



The Leander coaching team have played a crucial part in the Club's success throughout the season

And so to the senior World Championships on the beautiful Lake Aiguebelette in France – a championships like no other, with so much at stake as nations vied for Olympic qualification, and one that I will always remember for the sheer ferocity of the racing. A total of 33 Leander athletes raced as members of the GB team and 17 came home to Blighty with medals round their necks. It was a pleasure to be part of the GB rowing team, which included Leander coaches Mark Banks and Jane Hall, and to have such a feeling of immense pride, knowing the strength of the Leander contingent.

As the next rowing year gets under way the club is a hive of activity. There's a momentum that has been carried forward from the summer, and the squad looks strong, competitive and hungry for more.

A large Leander contingent made the trip to Nottingham for the British Rowing Senior Championships, and we came away with the Victor Ludorum, which was a great start to the new year.

> Right: The new-look GB men's four overhaul Spain on their way to bronze at the World Championships

Below: James Foad (Molesey) and Matt Langridge (Leander) won the silver medal in men's pairs in Aiguebelette



The GB men's eight won the Grand before taking their third successive world championship gold medal





Of course it's an important and exciting year ahead, with the Rio 2016 Olympics right around the corner, and we are looking forward to seeing many Members out there in Rio next summer, sitting beneath the statue of Christ the Redeemer, and witnessing more GB success!

We are in great shape at Leander - everything we do is aimed at performance on the water. We will never settle for what we have, we will always strive for more, and I think we are going the right way about it. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the athletes, to thank all our Members for their continued support. It really does make a difference, knowing we have the support backing us and willing us down the course. For this, I thank you!

Back On Track

When Anna Watkins stepped down after becoming Leander's first-ever women's Olympic champion, few would have predicted her return to elite sport. But Anna now looks set to be the first athlete to return to the GB team having had two children during one Olympic cycle, as Robert Treharne Jones writes.

"What the hell am I doing?" asked Anna to herself as she began to contemplate a return to full-time training.

"I always had it in the back of my mind, but sometimes I managed to bury the thought completely" she admitted.

The births of two boys, within eighteen months of each other, might deny most women the opportunity to return to the world stage in sport, but Olympic champions are made of sterner stuff.

"After having kids I knew I couldn't row - I wouldn't have the time. So I used to give myself a talking-to" she said.

It was last February that she determined simply to get fit again, and gave herself half an hour a day as a treat. Husband Oli suggested a spa visit, or maybe a book, but that wasn't for her.

Instead she climbed back on the dreaded ergometer, and with it came thoughts of racing once more.

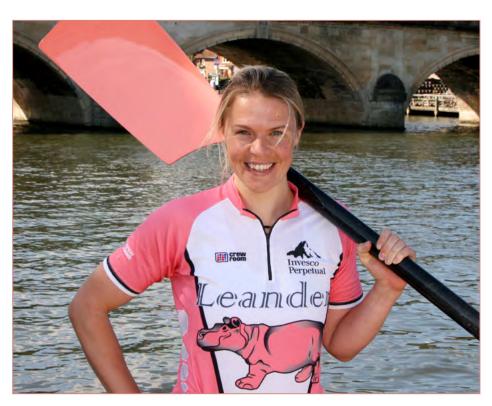
Back in her home town of Leek, Staffordshire, her fiercely supportive parents, Caroline and Richard Bebington, shared their own thoughts.

"Mum said there were easier ways to get fit!" admitted Anna.

How quickly would it all come back? How far could she go? How could she work it around the family? As these questions whirled around her mind she determined her aim.

"I wanted to be fit and healthy, and in tip-top condition, but I need a sense of purpose, and a goal, with capable, interesting, dynamic people" she said.

Once she made her announcement before the World Championships, the world's media wanted to know how and when she planned to climb back into the double with Katherine Grainger, her co-star at London 2012.



But Katherine, who returned to rowing at the start of the year, had already formed a promising new crew with Vicky Thornley. And in any case Anna needed to prove her worth - it was never going to be a case of simply stepping back into the team.



Anna Watkins and Katherine Grainger after winning gold at London Olympics

"I had limited conversations with Katherine in the run-up to the World Championships – I didn't want to distract her. And I have to be respectful to Vicky – she's a top athlete, and I couldn't go into things with the double scull as the sole objective" said Anna.

"I started looking at the bigger boats in the squad and wondering what I might add to those."

The women's quad was the only GB boat to miss an Olympic qualification slot in Aiguebelette. Another opportunity is the women's single where Britain did not have an entry. There's a last chance for both boats to qualify next May in Lucerne.

Her decision has meant major upheaval in the Watkins household, which now boasts a full-time nanny. Oli has started his own consultancy, having left his job as a Formula 1 engineer with McLaren, to allow more flexibility in his schedule.

Her family plays an important part in Anna's life, and time spent with her children at the end of the day provides a welcome contrast to the intensity of the training programme. She has even got special dispensation to allow their nanny to bring William and Richard to visit at training camps.

Following the announcement Anna set herself a target of six months' solid training and then see how she compared with the established team members.

"Knowing where to pitch myself - that's critical. I needed to relearn that" she said.

Anna admitted she wasn't looking forward to the punishing 2,000 metre ergo tests, and the idea of matching her own personal best time of 6 mins 26 secs, set in the winter of 2010/11, seems a distant prospect.

But 12th place at the first leg of GB trials in Boston last month placed her firmly among the rest of the GB team.

Maybe, just maybe, the story of an Olympic champion determined to get fit again will have an unexpected ending.



Anna and Katherine scored three successive golds during the 2012 World Cup season.

New Chair for PLA

Former Leander chairman Christopher Rodrigues CBE has been appointed chairman of the Board of the Port of London Authority (PLA) with effect from 1 January 2016.



During his school years at UCS, for whom he raced three consecutive years in the PE at Henley, Christopher earned a GB junior vest, racing in the coxed fours at the

1967 World Championships. At Jesus College, Cambridge, he was twice selected for the Blue Boat, helping to win the Boat Race decisively in 1970 and again in 1971, when he was President.

He served as Treasurer of Leander Club 1991–1993 and was then elected Chairman for a seven year period, during which he supervised the change in the Club's constitution to admit women Members.

Following an executive career in the financial and tourism sectors, Christopher Rodrigues is currently chairman of Visit Britain, Openwork LLP and The Almeida Theatre and is a Trustee of the National Trust. He is also a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta.

Pink Hippo Club

Created to generate funds for our rowing programme, tickets for the Pink Hippo Club cost £12 each, payable by standing order, and a draw takes place every six months to determine the lucky winners.

The winners this time are:

1st Prize £300 lan Codrington

2nd Prize £200 VJ Van Zwanenberg

3rd Prize £100 JM Oliver

World Championships

This year's championships were staged on the scenic Lac d'Aiguebelette, set high in the French Alps, where 16 Leander athletes won medals, and many more helped qualify boats for next year's Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio. Images by Peter Spurrier and Robert Treharne Jones.



The GB team prepare to leave for France from their Caversham training base



Leander's Angus Groom got the week-long regatta under way by winning the spare men's sculling race.



Leander's Jane Hall coached the GB women's four to a silver medal on Lake Aiguebelette



Only Matt Gotrel, in the bow of the GB men's eight, could see how close Germany came to deny him gold



Silver medallists Will Fletcher and Richard Chambers were hot on the heels of France in lightweight doubles



Leander's Steve Parsonage and Sam Mottram at 2 and 3, on their way to silver in the lightweight quad



More than 30 Leander athletes and coaches earned to right to wear the coveted GB polo shirt



The British para-rowing coxed four took a third successive world title to make them hot favourites for Rio



Members of the FISA commentary team were among more than 100 guests at the GB Supporters' Dinner



Katherine Grainger takes a look as she and Vicky Thornley go head-to-head with Greece and Poland in the final of women's doubles



An overhead drone caught stunning action shots for TV coverage worldwide

Lest We Forget

In this issue we feature two former Leander members who never rowed for the Club, but whose rowing prowess saw them achieve high distinction, including medals at the 1908 Olympic Games, before losing their lives in the Great War.

John Robert Somers-Smith was born at Walton-on-Thames in 1887, the son of Robert Vernon Somers-Smith and his wife Gertrude. The son of a champion track athlete, Somers-Smith was educated at Eton, where he was 'Captain of the Boats', and won the Ladies' Plate in 1905, prompting his election to Leander. He then went up to Magdalen where he was joined by Collier Cudmore and Angus Gillan, two men who would later share his international success. Although Somers-Smith did not himself row for Oxford his elder brother, Richard, had competed in the Boat Race in 1904 and 1905.

Magdalen, with John Somers-Smith at stroke, won the Wyfold and the Visitors' in 1907, and followed up by winning both the Stewards' and the Visitors' the following year. Both Magdalen and Leander were selected as GB crews for the Olympics, with Somers-Smith's crew taking gold by 1½ lengths ahead of Leander. In 1909 Magdalen entered the Grand, where they lost to Club Nautique de Gand, Belgium, in the semifinal, and also the Stewards', where they lost the final to Thames.

Somers-Smith served with the 5th London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) during the Great War, and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry as a captain in 1915 at the 2nd Battle of Ypres. He fell in action at the opening of the Battle of the Somme offensive on 1 July 1916 during the assault by the 56th (London) Division at Gommecourt. His body was never recovered from the field, and so his name is engraved on the Thiepval memorial together with the



The 1908 Olympic four, with Somers-Smith seated, left, pose on the Leander steps with their coach, Guy Nickalls

names of more than 72,000 other men who died on the Somme.

Just two days earlier, his elder brother Richard, a second lieutenant in the 7th Battalion the King's Royal Rifle Corps was killed while trying to save his sergeant. News was brought that a bursting shell had buried some of his men, and when Somers-Smith ran to dig them out he was struck by a piece of shrapnel and killed instantly.



Somers-Smith's name on the Thiepval memorial



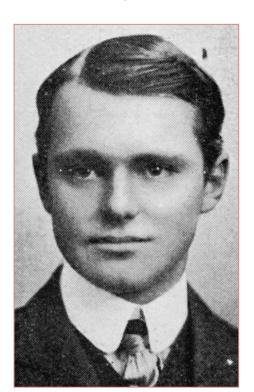
A rare quiet moment in the trenches for John Somers-Smith

redit: Imperial War Mu

George Eric Fairbairn was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1888, the son of Thomas Fairbairn, whose brother was the legendary Steve Fairbairn. Following school at Eton, where he did not row, he followed his uncle to Jesus College, Cambridge, where the river occupied the major portion of his university life, to the detriment of his studies.

He stroked the victorious four in Michaelmas term, and after Jesus rowed over as Head of the River in the Lents Fairbairn rowed at 2 in the 1908 Boat Race. His university having duly won the race by 2 ½ lengths Fairbairn was elected to Leander before helping Jesus to their first win in the Ladies' Plate at Henley for more than thirty years.

Despite their Boat Race victory it was deemed a lacklustre performance from the eight which had been nominated to represent Great Britain in the 1908 Olympics. The selectors were so concerned about losing on home water that they invited a second crew of veteran Blues, long retired from the river, to rowed under the flag of Leander. The Light Blue crew was reshuffled, and the only man to lose his seat was Fairbairn, to be replaced by fellow Jesus man and former Cambridge President, Henry Goldsmith. Meanwhile Fairbairn teamed up with Jesus colleague Philip Verdon in the coxless pairs.



Fairbairn in civvies



George Eric Fairbairn in his sculling boat

In the eights semifinal the student crew went out at the hands of the Belgians, and had to be content with bronze, but the all-Leander final of the pairs saw Fairbairn and Verdon go one better. John Fenning and Gordon Thomson took gold from the Jesus men, while in the eights final the 'old men' of Leander pulled though to win ahead of Belgium.

While other successful Olympians retired from the sport at this point Fairbairn returned to the river, but was never able to match his previous form with Jesus. In 1909 his crew lost the final of the Grand to the Belgians, whose win was some small recompense for Olympic silver. In 1910 Jesus again lost the final of the Grand, this time to Magdalen, and their third successive attempt in 1911 resulted in another second place, again to Magdalen. A switch to sculling in 1912 saw Fairbairn lose his semifinal of the Diamonds. Leander beat his crew in the final of the 1913 Grand, and his Henley swansong occurred in 1914 when Jesus lost their heat of the Grand to Mainz RV, Germany. Just weeks later the two nations were at war.

He joined up as a private with the 10th Durham Light Infantry and was commissioned second lieutenant in October of that year. Seriously wounded in action at Bailleul in 1915, he died of his wounds on 20 June and was buried at the nearby Communal Cemetery.



Fairbairn's grave at Bailleul

Staff Christmas Fund 2015

I am sure you will agree that our Club is made such a special place by the welcome we receive and the friendly service we enjoy from our hard-working staff. We are totally dependent on them and, without that warm interaction between the staff and the Members, the Club would be no different from a hotel.

You will be aware that, as a Members' Club, we do not add gratuities to our bills, but simply give you the opportunity to show your appreciation at the end of the year.

Please will you do so now by making a donation to the Staff Christmas Fund?

You can make your payment, either in cash, by credit card via the phone, or by cheque - details for all methods of payment are listed below.

With my thanks and best wishes

Ivor Lloyd Chairman

Bank Details: Barclays Bank, Henley-on-Thames

Account Name: Leander Club
Sorting Code: 20-39-53
Account Number: 30566837
Reference when paying by Transfer: SFX

IBAN: GB85 BARC 2039 5330 5668 37

SWIFTBIC: BARCGB22

Telephone Number for Credit Card: 01491 575782

Address for cheques: The General Manager, Leander Club, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2LP

Leander Juniors



Cameron Forsythe and David Few are pictured following their silver medal in double sculls at the British Junior Championships, staged on the loch at Strathclyde Park. The successful junior programme at Leander, for which medals such as these provide tangible evidence, is well-established under the supervision of Livinia Cowell-Sherriff and Karl Reid. The Club has established strong relationships with a number of non-rowing schools, who continue to provide us with potential athletes, and also Henley College, with whom our juniors are able to combine their sporting and academic ambitions.

Round the Island Race



Hippos are not just confined to the smooth waters of Henley Reach! Leander Members David Murray and Alastair Mclean were spotted taking part in this year's Round the Island Race, a one-day event around the Isle of Wight, where they were part of a fleet of 1,584 boats, which make it one of the largest yacht races in the world.

Leander Car Park



We are once again obliged to remind

Members that 'our' car park is not owned by
the Club - we lease a portion of it from
Henley Royal Regatta, and are considered
in breach of our agreement if Members use
the car park for reasons other than those
stipulated. Members may only use the car
park when visiting the Club, or Regatta
Headquarters - it may not be used for other
reasons, such as shopping in town, or catching
a train into London.

Annual Subscriptions for 2016

Leander Club subscriptions for 2016 were approved at the Annual General Meeting as follows:

Members (non-rowing) and Full Members - £300 Overseas Members - £150 Full Members (UK and Overseas) less than 30 years of age - £90

The British Rowing annual levy will be £7.20 and will be added to the subscription for all categories of membership. Subscriptions are collected by Direct Debit on 1st January each year unless you opt for the twice-yearly scheme. Only in the case of Overseas Members without a UK bank account will cheque or credit card payment be accepted.

Members who have set up a split Direct Debit arrangement with the Club will make two payments of £150. The first payment of £150 (plus the levy) will have been taken on 1st October 2015 and the second payment will be taken on 1st April 2016.

The Committee is always pleased to receive applications for both Full and Club membership and Members are encouraged to propose suitable candidates. If you would like to seek guidance on eligibility, you can contact us in confidence by email at confidential@leander.co.uk

The incentive scheme where proposers of successful applicants are invited to dine with the new Member and their respective quests (a table of four) at the Club's expense, is still in operation.

A joining fee equal to one year's subscription for the category is applied to new Members but is waived for Full Members less than 30 years of age.

Notice of a General Meeting

A General Meeting of Leander Club will be held at the Clubhouse, Henley on Thames, on Sunday 22 May 2016 at 11.30 am, to deal with matters relating to Incorporation of the Club.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the Year 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Leander Club will be held in the marquee at the Clubhouse, Henley-on-Thames on Sunday 26th June 2016 at 11 am.

Ivor Lloyd, Chairman, will retire by rotation as set out in Rule VIII.2

Chris Dalley

Honorary Secretary

Obituaries



Sir Adrian Cadbury CH 1929 - 2015

Elected to membership 1952

Olympic rower, Steward of Henley Royal Regatta, and former chairman of Cadbury Schweppes.

Sir Adrian was the son of Laurence Cadbury, who was in turn a grandson of John Cadbury, a Quaker who had started business as a tea and coffee merchant in Bull Street, Birmingham, in 1824 and later manufactured cocoa powder.

John's sons developed a formula for chocolate in 1866 and went on to build Bournville, the company village near Birmingham which pioneered decent working and housing conditions for employees - Bourn was a local name, but the addition of "ville" reflected the fact that most good chocolate at that time came from France. Cadbury Brothers' most famous brand, Dairy Milk, was introduced in 1905, and Bournville became the world's biggest chocolate factory.

After school at Eton Sir Adrian completed his National Service in the Coldstream Guards before going up to King's College, Cambridge, to read economics. There he made his first appearance at Henley, stroking his college's Thames Cup eight in 1951 to reach the guarter-finals.

Rowing at 2 for Cambridge in the Boat Race the following year, his crew lost to Oxford, who had been down at Barnes but came round the outside of the final bend, in blizzard conditions, to win by a canvas, in one of the closest races on record.

A seat in the Olympic four in Helsinki later that year saw Sir Adrian once again at stroke, but GB were boating the lightest crew in the event, and the headwind proved a major disadvantage. His crew finished fourth although Sir Adrian later described the experience as 'the greatest thing that

ever happened to me'.

The following year he stroked Leander to win the Grand at Henley where his crew was 'never seriously challenged over the second half of the course' in all three of their races. But 1954 was a different story, as the Soviets made their first appearance at the Royal Regatta. Leander reached the final only to go down to the heavier Krylia Sovetov crew by 2 ½ lengths.

In his business life he was rare among descendants of Britain's famous Quaker business dynasties in continuing to practise Quakerism and to apply its principles to the conduct of business. He became a leading expert on corporate governance, and chaired a committee of inquiry whose findings, published in 1993, were universally known as the Cadbury Code.

Elected a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta in 1970, he was knighted in 1977 and appointed Companion of Honour earlier this year.

A Memorial Service is to be held at 11am on 19 January 2016 at Birmingham Cathedral.



Bill Clarke 1934 - 2015

Elected to membership 1968

As chair of the international rowing committee at the ARA (now British Rowing) Bill Clarke played a crucial role in the development of GB rowing.

Born in Solihull Bill attended Solihull School before going up to Fitzwilliam College,

Cambridge, to read geography. While at Cambridge he rowed for his college and, after graduation, joined Kingston Rowing Club, where he was made captain in 1963. Kingston was a leading club during that period and regularly boated 8–10 eights at weekends. Bill built the club into a firstrate operation, and played a leading role in persuading Kingston Borough Council to build a new boathouse in Canbury Gardens for Kingston, Tiffin School and Kingston Grammar School.

In the early 1970s he was appointed team manager of GB Rowing, taking Britain's top athletes to international competitions including the Montreal Olympics in 1976. He became a FISA umpire, supervising the start at the 1980 Moscow Olympics and various World Championship events.

Bill was chairman of the International Rowing Committee throughout the 1970s, and was later appointed chairman of Nottinghamshire International Regatta.

Starting his career with London Transport, Bill was appointed ultimately operations director of the Underground, where he had to deal with the worst catastrophe in the organisation's history, the King's Cross fire, in 1987.

In the late 1980s he took charge of plans for the extension to the Jubilee Line, and also for the Crossrail project which, despite being shelved for a period of time, is due to be completed in 2018, and has largely retained Bill Clarke's original route and proposed stations.

Richard Norton

1937 - 2015

Elected to membership 1959

Richard Norton won the Silver Goblets at Henley in 1959 with his partner Hugh Scurfield, and later went on to represent Great Britain at the European Championships.

When the two men won the Goblets for Hertford it was the College's first Henley medal since 1882. They had taken an innovative approach to rowing and training, at a time when British rowing was usually 'amateur' both in its literal and derogative sense. Had the sport taken the professional approach adopted by Norton and Scurfield, it has been suggested that the revival of rowing in the UK may have come long before the Redgrave era.

Richard later served for many years as Chairman of the Boat Club Society and was instrumental in getting a new boathouse built at Long Bridges. He became an evangelist for Thames traditional boats, participating in the Vogalonga in Venice on numerous occasions and championing the creation of City Barge in Oxford. Thanks to Richard's efforts the Drapers' Company purchased a six-oared shallop, their first barge in 182 years.

Richard Bate writes: "Richard and I were at school together at Tonbridge, where we rowed in a school four and raced at Marlow Regatta. We both went up to Oxford where we decided that it would be fun to get in a pair together and see how we got on and Derek Mays-Smith agreed to coach us. Our plans went out of the window when I got into the Blue Boat while Richard met up with Hugh Scurfield,



Richard Norton (left) with Hugh Scurfield after winning the Goblets at Henley in 1959

and the rest is history."

Hugh Scurfield writes: "We were transformed from two very average oarsmen into a Henley-winning pair of internationals. We rowed well over 1000 miles in training, we experimented with weight training, we ran and we did a lot of interval training. We found ourselves thinking increasingly together. Without pre-warning we would find ourselves wearing similar clothes. On the water we did the same things without either of us instructing the other.

"Those of us who knew Richard will remember his enthusiasm, interest and serious-minded determination. He would delve deeply to get the best possible answers. He would read all the experts both current and past. We experimented. Collectively all the changes must have made a big difference but individually each was unmeasurable. He was very satisfying and fun to work with. There are many of us who were grateful to have known, worked and played with him."

David Macklin 1928 - 2015

Elected to membership 1950

David Macklin started his student rowing career with Lady Margaret and went on to become a Henley-winning Leander athlete and Great Britain international. After a successful career in local government, he was ultimately appointed chief executive of Devon County Council.

John Hinde writes: David won his pink socks after going head of the river with LMBC in

1950 and then winning the Ladies' Plate with LMBC. He rowed in the 1950 European Championships VIII at Milan and then in the triumphant Cambridge crew of 1951 which, after a successful Boat Race, prevailed over Yale, Harvard, and M.I.T. He next won the Grand for Lady Margaret in 1951 - the last occasion when a college crew has won the premier event for eights.

He followed this by winning gold with the GB eight at the European Championship VIII in Macon, before winning the Grand with Leander in 1952 and going onto compete

in the GB Olympe eight at Helsinki . The following year he rowed at bow in the winning Leander Grand crew, described by Richard Burnell as 'one of the best ever seen at Henley'.

David was subsequently elected Captain of Leander in 1956, but any thought of his putting together another successful Leander VIII for the Melboume Olympics was dashed by an ill-fated decision to put together a composite eight who had never rowed together before.

Toby Smith

1981 - 2015

Elected to membership 2003

Awarded an all-rounder scholarship as a 13 year old at St Edward's School, Toby excelled at football, rugby and athletics but it was rowing that provided the greatest challenge and sporting fulfilment.

His first appearance in GB kit as a J16 in a Teddies four was followed by a rugby injury that kept him off the water for months, but his athleticism and determination got him straight back into the eight that went on to win the PE at Henley, followed by gold in the GB junior coxed four in Plovdiv. As Head of House and Captain of Boats during his final year he earned further golds at National Schools and the Home Countries International

A rowing scholarship to California, Berkeley, saw him stroke the Freshmen crew before going on to row in the varsity crew of 2003, winning bronze at IRA's before returning to the UK in time for Henley. He soon found himself a dream ticket, winning the Prince Philip with Chris Lloyd, James Cracknell, Matthew Pinsent and cox Christian Cormack. Having missed his goal of Athens 2004 he spent the year at Leander, culminating with victory in the Ladies' Plate, beating Harvard in the final. Chris Lloyd, who paired with Toby for 2004 trials found him to be one of the toughest



Toby Smith (second left) with Cracknell, Cormack, Lloyd and Pinsent after their 2004 Henley win

competitors he had ever rowed with, commanding the respect of everyone who had the privilege to row with or against him.

Returning to the US to complete his history degree, Toby played rugby for the Cal Bears and, after graduation, followed his father, Derek, into Oury Clark Partners where he qualified as an accountant, and met his future wife Amy. He fought against cancer for several years but, despite a period of remission, it returned with a vengeance. Toby died at on 21 July 2015 at the Royal

Marsden, for which his friends and family still campaign to raise funds.

Many of his former Cal crewmates flew over to pay their last respects at Mortlake Crematorium, where the service overflowed with friends, family and associates gained from his short life of just 33 years.

Jerusalem has rarely been sung with such feeling.

John Wiggins St Edward's School coach

Denis Eadie 1917 - 2015

Elected to membership 1936

Previously Father of the House at Leander. Winner of the Ladies' Plate with 1st Trinity at Henley 1936, stroke of Cambridge Blue Boat 1938.

Alan Mays-Smith 1933 - 2015

Elected to membership 1955

Double winning Blue for Cambridge 1955 (record 16 length win) and 1956. Later became London representative for the Boat Race, responsible for organising race day logistics before the days of paid professionals. Seven appearances, for Eton and 1st & 3rd, at Henley Royal Regatta, of which he was elected Steward in 1976.

Prof. Derek Baker 1931 - 2015

Elected to membership 1968

Paul Briggs 1956 - 2015

Elected to membership 2006

Margaret Flower 1949 - 2015

Elected to membership 2010

Jonathan Harrison 1931 - 2015

Elected to membership 1987

Mike Kennedy 1944 - 2015

Elected to membership 1983

John Labdon 1940 - 2015

Elected to membership 1992

BS Mawer 1934 - 2015

Elected to membership 1953

Prof. John Richards 1939 - 2015

Elected to membership 1952

David Rutherford 1930 - 2015

Elected to membership 1953

Eric Thompson 1919 - 2015

Elected to membership 1939

Our new products and gift ideas include our Regatta-design mug, tea towel and trays, with mug and tea-towel on special offer at £22. We also have the Full Members' ladies' pink silk scarf and men's 'LC' cufflinks, braces, City silk handkerchief and 'Rowers' Tie'. Together with our new-design, good quality, waterproof coat, an extended range of candles, diffusers and fabulous jumpers, we also have bottles of

Leander Pink or our Hippo chocolates which would make great gifts for Christmas! Thank you to all our loyal customers!





Hippo Chocolates £7.99



Regatta Mug and Trays from £5



Leander Pink £27.99



Rowers' Tie, Cufflinks, Braces from £29



Leander Jumpers from £60



Handwash and Diffusers from £15



New Coat £60



Silk Handkerchiefs and Scarves from £12



Candles from £11



Personalised Cabin Bag £65