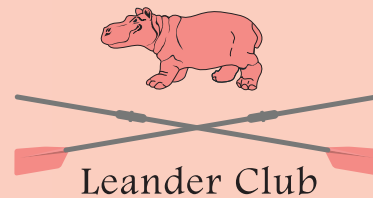


Leander News

Summer 2014



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:

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Cover photo: Charles Cousins, a world bronze medallist last year in the GB quad, took a second successive victory in GB Trials last April. Photo: Robert Treharne Jones

Henley Royal Regatta

The climax to the domestic rowing calendar sees all our crews in preparation for Henley Royal Regatta, where our lead boat is looking for a successful defence of the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup.

Sholto Carnegie, Angus Groom, Seb Devereux and club vice-captain Jack Beaumont have an average age of just 20, yet have proven themselves faster than other, more senior, crews. Together the quad are looking to record an unprecedented fifth successive win in the Prince of Wales – the intermediate status event for club quad sculls.

Meanwhile many of those more senior scullers have made the switch to sweep to contest the Visitors' Challenge Cup, the intermediate event for coxless fours.

The Leander Ladies' Plate eight is also relishing the prospect of racing at Henley, where the club is also hoping to boat two junior quads in the Fawley Challenge Cup, reflecting the recent success of the Club in promoting its Under-18 athletes.

This year's Henley marks a welcome return to the Regatta by Leander in the Thames Challenge Cup, where younger members of the Club's development

academy, each with only a few months' rowing experience under their belt, can relish the chance to compete on home water.

Leander's presence at Henley will be boosted by the return to their clubs of the GB international squad. Many of the club's world and Olympic champions will be on show, using the chance to race in front of a supportive Henley crowd whose last opportunity may have been during the golden moments of London 2012.



The young Leander line-up in the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup

National Schools Regatta

Despite not winning gold Leander juniors had their most successful medal haul ever at National Schools Regatta last month, returning home with two silver medals and a bronze. Never before had Leander won more than one medal at the event, which is hosted at the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, where more than 4,000 young athletes raced over three days of intense competition.

"It was a really successful regatta, and I'm very pleased that we won medals, across three separate age ranges, despite having such a small squad of juniors" said Livinia Cowell-Sherriff, Talent Identification Coach at Leander.

Part of Livinia's role involves visiting local non-rowing schools, in conjunction with the Heads of PE, and recruiting potential athletes, who may have enjoyed success in other sports but can then be taught to row.

All of the Leander athletes at National Schools came from non-rowing schools, reflecting the club's success in bringing new blood into our sport.



Image courtesy of Lindsay Uglow

Top: Cameron Forsythe and Tom Mortimer won silver in the J16 double sculls. Right: Harry Uglow took bronze in J17 single sculls. Left: Leander's Harry Leask won the silver medal in championship single sculls

Turkey Sculls



A traditional Leander pre-Christmas event, the Turkey Sculls offers a welcome respite from the long distance winter training schedule and is raced in scratch quads over a 200m upstream course to the clubhouse. The winners are awarded turkeys, courtesy of the Copas Partnership, long-term sponsors of the event, and our picture shows Tom Copas handing out prizes to the 2013 winners (left to right): John Collins, Adam Neill, Matthew Tatlock, James Lambton-Heys.

For John Collins this was a special year, marking his third successive win in the event, which was witnessed by his father, Philip Collins, who had driven over from his home in Twickenham.

"We rely on John to provide us with our Christmas dinner" joked Philip afterwards.

Captain's Report

Despite prolonged winter flooding causing time off the river, our athletes' preparation for the new season has continued unabated, as Club captain Debbie Flood reports.

At the end of last year I described an immensely successful season of records broken and history being made, reflected in the number of wins and successes earned by our athletes. In fact 2013 was always going to be a hard year to follow, but of course the athletes have taken it on and risen to that challenge.

Winter brought the floods, and so the Club was surrounded with sandbags, roads were waterlogged and the rivers too dangerous to row. Our athletes thus migrated to the (slightly less flooded) waters of Dorney Lake to continue their water-work and ensure that no mileage was missed. The dynamics of both new and familiar faces at the club has kept that enthusiasm pushing through the challenges of the winter, both in the gym and on the water, and has meant that we have emerged strongly for 2014.

The weather conditions continued to disrupt the Eights Head, where only the first few crews were timed before the event was cancelled. But, of the 60 or so timed crews, Leander had four in the top eight, showing the depth of



Leander I, with four world champions on board, shoots Hammersmith Bridge during this year's Tideway Head



Vicky Thornley's win meant a clean sweep for Leander in openweight

strength coming through the club.

Senior GB trials this year saw a record 35 Leander athletes making the top twelve in their event – a fantastic achievement which shows great promise so early in this Olympic cycle. The photo feature on pages 10-11 describes our success but particular congratulations must go to Charles Cousins retaining his title in the men's single, Vicky Thornley winning the women's single, Jamie Kirkwood trumping the opposition in lightweight men's singles and Alex Gregory winning the pairs with Mo Sbihi of Molesey. Showing a great step up from last year we also had the four highest ranked U23 athletes in singles, with Jack Beaumont notably coming fifth in the A final.

Our Junior squad is also expanding and, despite the winter disruptions, the juniors were out in force in the racing offered at local Heads, where they featured in various quads, doubles and singles, from Novice, IM3, J16 and J18 Crews. Two quads were put out at the Junior Oarsport Head, finishing fourth, and a scratch quad finishing in 24th place. This was followed later in the year by the Start Regatta, where our boys with just 6 – 12 months rowing experience raced in very challenging conditions, yet made the C, D and E finals in their singles.

The whole club is now well into the racing season, having tested crews at both Wallingford and Ghent Regattas. Leander won the Victor Ludorum in Ghent, but after wins and near-misses at both regattas there's plenty to work on as the Club looks forward in the countdown to Henley.



Image courtesy of Tony Clarke

Leander wins in Ghent included lightweights Nick Buckle and Donald Evans taking gold in heavyweight pairs!

I'm pleased to report that Henley Royal Regatta will once again see our internationals competing on home waters, giving everyone the chance to

cheer on our GB stars as they take on the world's best in some great racing and close finishes.



Images courtesy of Robert Treharne Jones

Jamie Kirkwood dominated the lightweight men's singles at GB trials

Training Camp Diary

Despite the obvious attractions of Henley Reach our athletes can find it a little tedious rowing on the same water several times a day. Our January training camp is therefore a chance to shake off the winter blues and head south to the sun, although the French town of Temple sur Lot offered rather mixed weather, as Leander athlete Pippa Whittaker describes.

Day 1: The first day was actually a day off training, as we travelled to our new venue. Much to Banksie's surprise everyone managed to turn up with their own ticket and make it to France!

Day 2: Having arrived late in the evening the previous day, we were eager to see the river. However, it took until about midday to even get a glimpse of the other bank. Luckily once the fog burnt off, we found ourselves on a beautiful, flat river, all to ourselves for a hard days training!

Day 3: Perfectly calm water gave us all the chance to practice our steering line down the course. However, we must all be very used to the luxury of the straight at Henley, because there were some very scenic routes.

Day 4: After a short pre-paddle, everyone was prepared for the first timed pieces of the camp, which would be a 6,000 metre time trial – something we are unable to fit in to the Reach at Henley. In the afternoon, we went for a walk in to Temple sur Lot but, this being a Sunday in France, everything was closed!

Day 5: Starting to get in to the routine of training camp life. Finally getting over the insane new weights programme which Banksie and Jane put together for the camp!

Day 6: Another glorious day as we ventured upstream on the

Lot. We were spoilt with flat water and sunshine! A bit of a break gave us time in to pop to Temple sur Lot's café for a café au lait and some chocolat before our final water session.

Day 7: Time for the second assessment of the camp, a 7,000 metre time trial. Due to the demands the training camp was having on the athletes' bodies they ended up sleeping all afternoon straight through to the morning!

Day 8: After seven days of beautiful weather, the conditions changed, and the rain started to come. Thankfully there was a incredible washing service, with a scarily quick turnaround!

Day 9: Unfortunately today saw the end of our run of perfectly flat water, as the wind started to pick up. This didn't hinder our training though, with everyone completing the longest row so far.

Day 10: Day 10 saw the third assessed piece. Back to 6,000 metres, but this time in more challenging conditions. We used the afternoon to walk to the next town along, Castelmoron, which had a bit more to offer than Temple sur Lot!

Day 11: Due to the worsening weather, a competitive match of basketball was played by the men's squad instead of the first session. It's safe to say they are already in the right sport!

Day 12: Last day in Temple sur Lot and the conditions had worsened severely so the planned high-rate 2000m were unable to take place. This proved to be a sensible decision as the men's eight completed one before returning to the dock almost submerged. The trailer was packed and Leander Club left Temple Sur Lot after an incredibly successful camp, looking forward to our return in the future.



Leander athletes take a break from training to pose for the cameras at their base in Temple sur Lot, south-east of Bordeaux

Fours Head 2013

The late running of last year's Fours Head on 30 November meant no time to include the event in our last edition, but with 13 Leander crews taking part, and five finishing in the Top Ten, there was plenty to celebrate despite no overall win.

With all their GB internationals allowed to return to their clubs for the event, albeit for the shortest time possible, hopes were high that Leander could go some way to match last year's results, when four of their crews finished in the top five.

But Tideway Scullers School, based in Chiswick, were eager to avenge their two second defeat at last year's race and brought together four of the best scullers in the world. They included world champion Ondrej Synek alongside Valentin Sinkovic of Croatia, Alexander Alexandrov of Azerbaijan, and GB Olympic bronze medallist Alan Campbell.

For their part the Leander crew included double Olympic medallist Matt Langridge, world and Olympic champion Alex Gregory, world bronze medallist Charles Cousins and Henley winner Jonny Walton.

Tideway Scullers overtook Leander before the crews reached Chiswick Eyot, and cruised home to record victory by a margin of 24 seconds.

But the Leander lightweight quad, including Sam Mottram, Don Evans, and Chris Boddy were stroked by GB lightweight single sculler Jamie Kirkwood. Starting in sixteenth place overall they used the perfect racing conditions to their advantage, moving up to sixth place overall and winning their event a clear 12 seconds faster than second placed Imperial College.

There was another strong performance in the coxless fours from four more Leander lightweights, all of whom had won bronze medals as members of the GB team at the recent world championships in Korea. Stroke Richard Chambers rowed with his brother in the double sculls, while Jono Clegg, Will Fletcher and Chris Bartley

competed in the lightweight fours.

But with no lightweight pennant available at the Fours Head they were forced to race heavyweight opposition, and only missed the title by four seconds behind Molesey, who won the class pennant.

Four more GB internationals made their presence felt in the women's quads where the leading Leander crew were stroked by Vicky Thornley, alongside GB double Frances Houghton and Vicky Meyer-Laker, together with world junior singles champion Jess Leyden.

The foursome romped home a clear twenty seconds faster than the second Leander quad, stroked by newly-crowned world champion Polly Swann.

In the men's coxed fours it was the Oxbridge crews, preparing for next year's Boat Race, who retained their customary dominance, with Leander placed third, despite boating four world champions from the GB men's eight.

"Simply not good enough. We were stomped on by Oxford and kicked a bit by

Cambridge too. Well done those crews" tweeted double Olympic champion Pete Reed afterwards.

Full results and pictures on our website at www.leander.co.uk/news/fours-head-2013/



Leander's second pennant came in the women's quad, stroked by Vicky Thornley



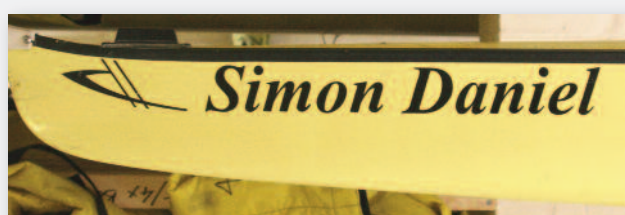
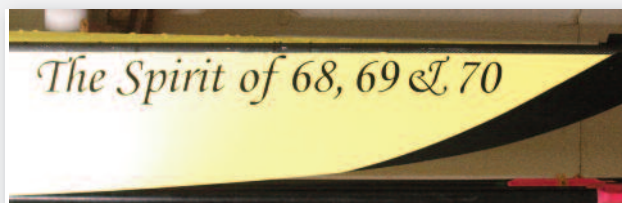
Leander's lightweight quad took an emphatic win in their event

Name your Leander boat

Whether or not your own rowing pedigree includes a Henley medal many Leander Members choose to commemorate a notable crew performance, or a loved one in their family, by naming a boat in their honour.

Leander is now able to offer a number of eminently affordable schemes to Members who wish to take advantage of this new opportunity.

For further information please contact Paul Budd, General Manager by phone on 01491 636777 or email manager@leander.co.uk



Winter Floods

The prolonged flooding during the winter prevented our athletes training on the river, but also transformed the Henley landscape for several weeks. Water levels didn't quite match those experienced in 2003 but caused widespread disruption with street closures in Henley, and many residents having to leave their homes for several weeks.



Despite the disruption the Royal Regatta build programme was able to get under way as normal, with heavy lorries moving onto site, just as planned, on 9 April.



European Championships

Great Britain topped the medal table at the European Championships in Belgrade, when Leander's Alex Gregory and Polly Swann helped the men's four and women's pair to gold.

After missing the first World Cup Regatta in Sydney a full British team attended this year's Europeans as a curtain raiser to the international season, and all eyes were on the new crews as well as the established favourites.

Jürgen Grobler had placed his fastest men in the new-look GB four and they duly delivered, taking the gold medal with ease and establishing a new European best time in the process.

Leander's Alex Gregory had teamed up with Molesey's Moe Sbihi, George Nash and Andrew Triggs Hodge and already had a full length lead after 500m before crossing the line more than four seconds clear of Greece in second place.

"It's really exciting. I am really enjoying racing with these guys and being a part of this" said Alex Gregory.

Leander's second gold medal performance came in the women's pairs, where Polly Swann reprised her world championship title race last year with Helen Glover of Minerva Bath.

Having set a European Champs best time in winning their heat they started as pre-race favourites and lowered the Championships best time again with a five second margins ahead of Romania.

"It's the beginning of the season and it's good to get a win under our belts" said Polly afterwards.

The GB haul also included four silver medals and two bronze, with second places for the men's quad, the

lightweight men's four and pair, and the women's eight.

Leander's Charles Cousins and Peter Lambert, with Agecroft's Graeme Thomas and Sam Townsend of Reading University are unchanged from the men's quad line-up which took bronze in Korea. After sitting in fourth place with 500m to go they raised their game to take silver behind Ukraine.

After a searing performance in their heat, the lightweight men's four, which included three Olympic silver medallists on board, were among the favourites on the start line. The British quartet were second at halfway and held off the French challenge to cross the line behind Denmark.

Leander's Jono Clegg and Sam Scrimgeour of Imperial College led the Swiss European champions at 1500m in

the lightweight men's pairs final but a sprint for the line by Niepmann and Tramer saw them retain gold, just a canvas ahead of the new GB combination.

A strong showing in Friday's heat, where they placed first, set up the GB women's eight for a straight path to the final, where they met Romania, the reigning European champions.

The British crew, stroked by Leander's Lou Reeve, pressed hard for the lead but had to be content with silver.

Leander's bronze medallists in Belgrade were all on board the men's eight which squeezed home just 0.6 seconds clear of Poland in the closest medal fight of the regatta. The race was won by the German Olympic champions with silver going to Russia, now coached by Marlow's Mike Spracklen.



Polly Swann and Helen Glover on their way to gold

GB Trials

The final leg of GB trials in April brought outright wins for Leander in both men's and women's single sculls, another win in lightweight men's singles, and a shared success in men's pairs, as Robert Treharne Jones reports.

Despite adverse weather forecasts forcing the entire race programme into a single day, and a stiff northerly breeze resulting in several capsizes, the established favourites were unfazed by the conditions.

Olympic champion Alex Gregory and his Molesey partner Moe Sbihi forged off the start in the men's pairs final, after Jürgen Grobler had spread his world champions around the field, while Molesey's Andrew Triggs-Hodge and George Nash squeezed back the advantage, but with only 250m left a punishing burst by Sbihi and Gregory saw them across the line in first place.

"I'm very pleased to have won with Moe – it's everyone's aim to be at the top of the team, and after years of second places I've finally done it. It's a great start to the season" said Gregory afterwards.

"Moe is incredibly strong, and I was hanging on for dear life at the end!" he added.

Third place went to Leander's Al Sinclair and his UL partner, Nathaniel Reilly O'Donnell, but a chest complaint forced the withdrawal of our own Pete Reed, leaving his club partner Will Satch to finish fifth in a scratch crew with Mat Tarrant of Oxford Brookes.

There was also a first-time trials win for Leander's Jamie Kirkwood in the lightweight single sculls.



Men's eight world champions, Leander's Alex Gregory and Molesey's Moe Sbihi, won a close race in the pairs

After competing at last year's world championships in the single the former Imperial College sculler is looking to move up into an Olympic boat class, and a decisive win ahead of more experienced opposition will have done his chances nothing but good.

Second place went to Leander's Will Fletcher, ahead of the Olympic bronze medallist Chambers brothers, with Pete (Oxford Brookes) taking third place and Richard (Leander) in fourth.

"It was really important for me to do well here and to impress the coaches and I'm pleased all the hard work has paid off. Things have been going pretty well these last few months" said Kirkwood afterwards.



Second place for Will Fletcher meant 1-2 for Leander in lightweight men's singles

Leander's world bronze medallist Charles Cousins had to work hard for his second successive trials win in the men's single sculls after Alan Campbell (Tideway Scullers) and Graeme Thomas (Agecroft) forced the pace inside the losing stages. But Cousins' finishing sprint proved decisive as Campbell was ultimately disqualified for attracting two yellow cards – one for arriving late at the start and the second for a false start. Thomas finished in second while Leander's Pete Lambert was promoted to third.

Two more Leander athletes finished fourth and fifth – multiple Henley winner John Collins, and 20-year-old Jack Beaumont, who finished ahead of more senior opposition in their respective semifinals.



Images courtesy of Robert Trehan Jones

World champion Polly Swann partnered Jess Eddie of London RC and finished only 1.14 sec down on the Olympic champions



U23 athlete Jack Beaumont stretched out to finish fifth in the A final against more experienced senior opposition

There was no stopping Leander's Vicky Thornley with a seven second verdict ahead of her clubmate Frances Houghton, in the women's singles, where Gloucester's Beth Rodford finished third and Houghton's doubles partner, Vicky Meyer-Laker, also Leander, in fourth.

In the women's pairs event there was another win for the Olympic champions, Heather Stanning of Army RC and Helen Glover of Minerva Bath, back together again after Stanning's return from army duties in Afghanistan. But Glover's 2013 partner, Polly Swann of Leander, ousted from the boat despite a world title last year, was determined to prove a point and finished only 1.14 sec down in second place partnered by Jess Eddie of London RC.

Lest We Forget

As we approach the centenary of the opening of hostilities in the Great War we look at the rowing and service careers of the first two Leander Members to die during the conflict. Despite both men being Oxford graduates their paths were destined to take very different directions.

Thomas Cunningham Gillespie,

born on 14 December 1892, was the son of Thomas Paterson Gillespie and his wife Elizabeth Hall Chalmers of Longcroft, Linlithgow. After schooling at Prep School in Cramond Bridge, followed by Winchester College he went up to New College, Oxford in 1911.

He rowed for his college for three years, and helped them twice go Head of the River, for which he was elected to Leander membership in 1912.

The same year the New College eight, with Gillespie on board, was selected to contest the Stockholm Olympics, at a time when each nation was permitted to enter more than one crew for each event. Uniquely the eights final included 18 GB athletes, with New College taking the silver medal behind the winning Leander crew.

Gillespie rowed once more for New College at Henley, competing in their Grand crew in 1913, when they lost in the first round.

He then went on to obtain a university commission in the 2nd battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers and, after just three weeks training at home, he joined his regiment as a lieutenant in France, where he spent time in the trenches at Missy-sur-Aisnes. There he was exposed to heavy gunfire day and night for seventeen days, before orders were given to try and advance eastwards towards the Belgian frontier. He was killed near La Bassee on October 18th 1914. His body could not be recovered and, with no known grave, he is commemorated on Panel 15 of the Le Touret Memorial nearby.



Thomas Cunningham Gillespie
1892-1914





The memorial at Le Touret, where Gillespie's name is recorded on Panel 15

Frederick Derick Edwin Buller

was born on 14 July 1891, the third son of Revd. George Buller, rector of Oakford, Bampton, Devon, and his wife Margaret (nee Anson).

After school at Eton, where he rowed in his house fours, he went up to Trinity College, Oxford, where he stroked the winning trial eight in his first year, resulting in election to Leander but was not subsequently selected for the Blue Boat.

On going down from Oxford in 1913 he bought a large farm in Kenya, then known as British East Africa, and on the outbreak of the European war, immediately volunteered his services and joined the Kings Mounted Rifles.

He was killed in the fighting on 25th Sept 1914 in the Ingito hills between the Magadi railway and the frontier with Tanzania, then known as German East Africa. It appears that a German force of about 35 Europeans and 150 natives, with two Maxim guns, had

attacked a small body of the East African Mounted Rifles (C squadron), commanded by Captain Chapman. After an hour of severe fighting in thick bush country the enemy were repulsed,

and retired hastily back across the border towards Longido.

Buller has no known grave, but his name is commemorated on the British and Indian Memorial in Nairobi, Kenya.



Frederick Derick Edwin Buller
1891-1914



The British and Indian memorial in Nairobi where Buller's name is listed

Building for the Future

The first major reconstruction work at Leander for more than 15 years gets under way after Regatta, when the Bars and Drawing Room will be remodelled to cater for the needs of the Club in the New Millennium.

The entire bar complex will be removed and re-positioned to provide the flexibility of a large 'L' shaped room or separately partitioned area. The revamped layout and refurbishment of the Bars and Member areas will offer Members and their guests improved facilities whether entertaining, meeting up with other Members or simply seeking peace and quiet to read the paper.

"The existing Drawing Room will be converted into a comfortable Members' Room, that is far classier and that isn't just a bar – it will be more clubby" said Paul Budd, Leander's General Manager.

"We'll bring back the fireplace, with a gas fire, so we can have a proper fire in the winter, so it's going to have a heart to it. The problem is that the current Members' Bar that came out of the late 1990's redevelopment, wasn't actually very attractive – it was actually quite dark, it overlooks the back of the Club and the car park, so it wasn't a very nice place, and therefore people didn't gravitate to it, and it became a bit of a dead area" he added.

In the refurbishment, the existing Members Bar will be converted into a multifunctional room that can cater for the current diverse needs of the club.

The whole project is being managed by Leander coach Brian Armstrong, a former chartered surveyor, who spent



The entire bar complex will be removed and re-positioned

many years as the GB international rowing manager until his retirement in 1996.

"Brian has done a brilliant job leading this project, as you would expect – he has a very high degree of competence which means it stands a very good chance of running on time and within budget" said Paul.

Brian and his team, which includes Paul, Irene Randall and House Manager Caroline Mulcahy, have also promised the best pictures in the Club for the Members Room, as they try to make the atmosphere distinct, modern, stylish and

comfortable, but definitely not fuddy-duddy!

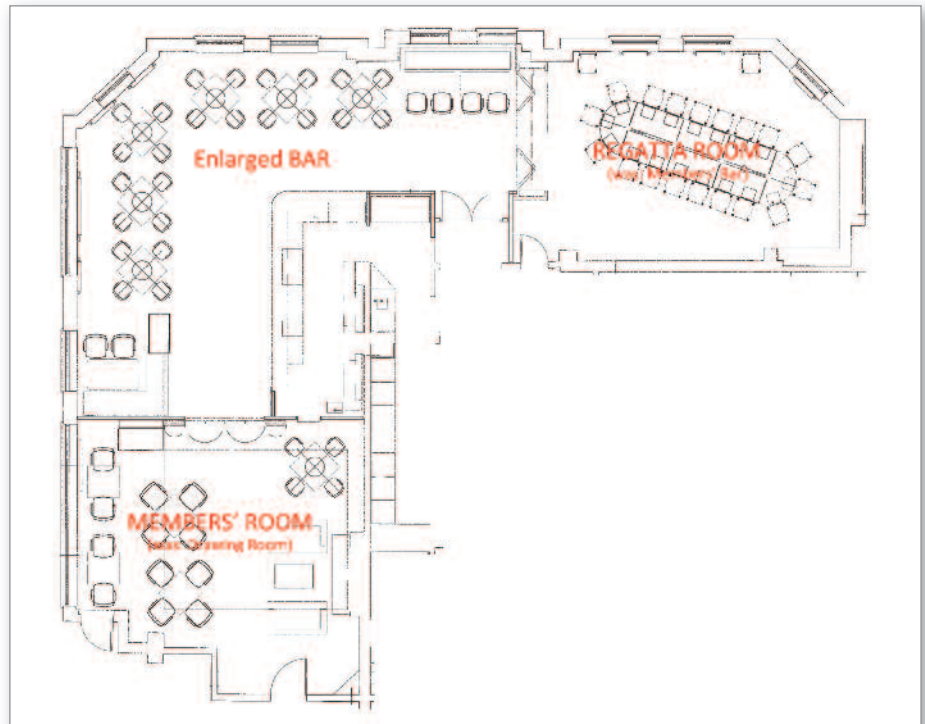
"All the furniture is being made for us by Brampton's, and we've spent a long time looking to make sure it's right for us, and not some sort of Edwardian retro. Having said that we will have two button-back Chesterfields, but they'll be covered in material not too dissimilar from the current bar furniture" added Paul.

The overall capital costs of the project amount to £280,000, which is being met from the Club's building reserves, and completion is scheduled for the first

week of September, just eight weeks from the start. Meanwhile a temporary bar will be set up for the summer in the Members' Balcony and together with the wonderful views from the Dining Room it will be business as usual for the members.

But despite their very best efforts Paul and his team admit that the changes won't suit everybody.

"Some won't notice any change, some won't like it at all, but I'm very much hoping that the vast majority will recognise our need to change and will ultimately like the result" he said.



‘Mississippi Million’ Row

2320 Miles, 10 States, 1 Skiff. This is the Mississippi Challenge that John Pritchard, former Cambridge Blue, will undertake, starting in August 2014.

John, Olympic medallist and Member of Leander, plans to take on the huge challenge of rowing approximately 25 miles a day for up to 100 days to raise \$1m for Right To Play, his chosen charity, of which he is Chairman of Right To Play UK. He is dedicated to educating and empowering children through sport and play, making the rowing challenge particularly appropriate. Faced with a formidable challenge, John will find himself rowing through 10 states in a Victorian skiff, beginning in Lake Itasca, Minnesota and ending in the Big Easy: New Orleans.

But this challenge is not one John plans to face alone: you have a unique opportunity to join this truly Herculean challenge. Split into legs of two days – each around 25 miles, intrepid adventurers are invited to help John succeed in his challenge by joining him on a leg, provided they can help raise funds to reach our target of \$1m.

If you'd like to explore new and remote landscapes of varied scenery, have your own seat in a lovingly hand-crafted Victorian skiff, and raise money for a positive cause, register your interest now at www.MississippiMillion.com



Obituaries



John Brockway

1939 – 2013

Elected to membership 1986

I cannot remember ever hearing a rower speak about 'Brock', or as he would later become known, 'B', without using the word 'legend'.

Brock's own rowing career started on the River Lea so many years ago, but it was as the devoted and much loved boatman for GB Rowing across three decades that his name became even more widely known. B must have driven the boat trailer hundreds of thousands of miles around the world, ferried truckloads of weary rowers up and down the hill in Silvertta, and made countless baguette runs to the bakery for second breakfast! All of which would be accomplished, of course, without ever using a SatNav.

Every rower will tell you that B was the rock of any training camp or championships. He was tireless in doing all of those behind-the-scene tasks that are vital for the squad to function and thrive, loyally making sure everyone had exactly what they needed to go out and row at their best. There was no ranking as far as B was concerned – I know from my

first year in the team as a reserve – everyone got the same golden service, whether you were top of the team or a spare, whether or not you were from 'The Leander Rowing Club', which he loved so much.

But as crucial as these "official duties" were, what B brought to the team was far more than this. His mischievous sense of humor, schoolboy pranks, funny stories and titbits of gossip were just what we needed. Those few minutes spent with B before and after a session were the highlight of the day, never failing to give us all a much-needed laugh, and always keeping our spirits high.

B loved his practical jokes – the more elaborate the better. The intricate steering wheel B constructed in the front passenger seat of the minibus to gently suggest to one very senior athlete he was hogging that seat a bit too much; pulling the leg of the wine buffs amongst the coaches with a cheap bottle of plonk he meticulously mocked up as the little known vintage "Twyford Roundabout"; and his finest moment of all – B's very own Olympic gold medal – the photo of David Tanner being presented to Princess Anne at the Ambassador's Reception at the Athens Olympics, with B in the middle ground between them, enthusiastically showing his home support for our leader.

These, and so many more of B's pranks, will forever be part of GB Rowing folklore – they were the perfect antidote to the brutal training regimes and the Great Escape from the tension before the big race.

Matt Pinsent summed up B perfectly for us all when he described him as "The Best Boatman in the World".

Steve Williams



Nick Bevan

1942 – 2014

Elected to membership 1962

Education was the strong thread that wove itself through Nick Bevan's life. After school at Shrewsbury, where his father was a Housemaster, he went up to Balliol to read Geography and earned his Blue in the 2 seat of the winning Oxford crew in the 1963 Boat Race.

After spending five years in the Army, serving in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, Nick opted for another year at university to take a Certificate of Education, this time at Cambridge.

Returning to teach at Shrewsbury, Nick laid down his marker on the river, before following in his father's footsteps and becoming a Housemaster. But after 8 years he felt it was time for a change, and for the next sixteen years Nick was a passionate advocate of boarding at Shiplake.

He worked tirelessly from early morning administration, through chapel and appointments with prospective parents, watching sport and coaching rowing, finally onto the evening meetings with prefects, teachers and coaches. Of course he also had to support his and Annabel's

children, Oliver and Emily, at their plays, concerts and matches. Enjoying the astounding view from Court Mead, these were happy times for the Bevan family.

As a Headmaster there were many balls to juggle; requiring immense stamina. Throughout the holidays Nick was often at his desk, tidying up loose ends from the previous term and eagerly discussing future plans. One of Nick's priceless skills was his ability to lift his head from the day's pressing challenges; to stop, think and create a new vision.

His year as Chairman of the Society of Headmasters of Independent Schools certainly raised Shiplake's profile. Yet Nick had his eye on membership of the Headmaster's Conference, the premiership of independent schools. With teaching standards on the up and much improved facilities, the application was approved. Just over four decades after its foundation Shiplake had joined the great names of English independent schools.

Nick presided over an era of immense change. Wooden shacks were replaced by state-of-the art buildings, e-mails replaced memos, while girls joined the school in the Sixth Form. Business Studies, Media Studies, Sports Studies and Theatre Studies all arrived on the curriculum. Computers were on every desk. Shiplake College not only survived but thrived and gained a national reputation as one of the best small schools in the country.

Nick headed into retirement in 2004 but was inevitably lured back into education, serving as an educational consultant and joining St Edward's School as a rowing coach but his retirement was marred by health problems.

In 2013 Nick suffered a major stroke and even the physiotherapy brought out his competitive spirit. He suggested that he and some other patients should use their time on the exercise bikes to notch up the miles between Oxford and Cambridge.

Inevitably Nick received hundreds of messages of good will. He was eager to answer them all but he became frustrated by the slow progress of his one-fingered

typing. In November it was discovered that the stroke had been triggered by renal cancer. A painful chest infection rapidly developed into pneumonia. Nick was transferred back to the John Radcliffe Hospital and died on Sunday 12th January.

Tim Shaw

1929 – 2014

Elected to membership 1967

Born the eldest of three sons in Chelsea, Tim later attended Royal Grammar School, Worcester, where his father was appointed Director of Music and Tim was introduced to rowing.

After National Service with the Royal Engineers he went up to read chemistry and physics at Queen's College, Oxford, where he became Captain of the Boat Club, coxing his crews to victory on many occasions.

His subsequent career as a Research Scientist, based in Cheltenham also gave him the chance to act as technical advisor for Steam Heritage. This involved advising how best to achieve performance from varied locomotives, by sitting in the reserved carriage behind the tender, measuring emission gases from the locomotive while his wife Nan was handing him the various pipes, tubes and other necessary paraphernalia.

In 1952, he joined Thames Rowing Club and lived in the clubhouse for many years, coxing and coaching there before being appointed Captain. Tim was elected to membership of Leander in 1967.

It was his love of rowing which eventually led him to become Helmsman and Trials Officer during the sea trials of the reconstructed Greek trireme, Olympias, in the late 1980s.

As author of various nautical/archaeological reports of the trials, he was invited by the Royal Institute of Naval Architects to talk on "Rowing in Ships and Boats" and earned a bronze medal. Surprised and honoured to receive this award he

commented : "But I am a chemist!"

The evening before he died, still working on calculations for a new oar system should a new trireme be built, he casually commented "Tomorrow is a big day" - it would be the day of his 84th birthday. Little did he realise what a big day it was to become.

He is survived by his wife Nan, whom he married in 1985

Heather Barrington-Ward

1930 – 2013

Elected to membership 1998

Simon Block

1935 – 2013

Elected to membership 1958

Paul Bourne

1928 – 2013

Elected to membership 1951

Dalton Cowap

1920 – 2013

Elected to membership 1939

Marcus English

1928 – 2014

Elected to membership 1951

Terry Hughes

1964 – 2013

Elected to membership 2005

Jeffrey Lever

1923 – 2014

Elected to membership 1966

Sir John Mayhew-Sanders

1931 – 2013

Elected to membership 1953

Peter Pulvermacher

1923 – 2013

Elected to membership 1984

David Rolt

1926 – 2014

Elected to membership 2000

Michael de Ruyter Schat

1941 – 2014

Elected to membership 1985

David Secker-Walker

1932 – 2014

Elected to membership 2012

Leander Committee and Working Groups

Leander Club is a vibrant and successful organisation. We employ a number of talented professional staff, but the governance and direction of the Club's affairs remain with our Committee. Full Members and Members offer themselves for election at the AGM and serve as volunteers.

Leander needs a steady flow of new blood with fresh ideas to bring their energy, wisdom and experience to the benefit of the Club.

Much of the business is managed in Working Groups, which meet regularly to



look after Financial Management, Rowing, Sponsorship, Regatta, Membership, etc. Other small groups have a limited, time-bounded remit but all groups involve a wider circle of volunteers and may require a lesser time commitment.

Membership of a Working Group is a good way to get to know how your Club works and to contribute to its future. If you live within striking distance of Henley and would like to know more, please email Chris Dalley, Hon. Secretary, at confidential@leander.co.uk or speak to any Committee member.

Tempest of the Hellespont

Touched by the love story of Leander, sculptor Jilly Vainer has now crafted a limited edition bronze hippopotamus, one of which is now on display in the Members' Balcony. "For me, the symbol of the hippopotamus represents the great strength of the storm that fateful night which swallowed up Leander as he swam to his beloved Hero" says Jilly.

With a fine verdigris patina, and mounted on granite, each of the 20 bronzes is priced at £2,650, of which 15% will be donated to the Leander Boat Fund.

Prospective purchasers are invited to contact Jilly direct by phone on 07788 872 779 or email at jilly.vainer@virginmedia.com.



Missing HRR Records

The Leander library currently lacks a copy of the single volume Henley Royal Regatta records for 2000-2004. Any Member willing to make their own copy available to complete our collection is invited to contact our librarian, Geoff Leggett, via the Club.

Pink Hippo Club

The winners of our Spring Draw are:

1st Prize £300
Andrew Hatzis Esq.

2nd Prize £200
Ray Painter Esq.

3rd Prize £100
WC 'Tommy' Thomson Esq.

NOTICE OF A GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting of Leander Club will be held in the Marquee at the Clubhouse, Henley-on-Thames, on Sunday 29 June 2014 at 11.00 am

AGENDA

1. To read the Notice convening the Meeting
2. To approve the changes to the Rules naming "Club Members"
3. To approve the change to the Rules to remove the term limits on Officers' service
4. To approve the changes to the Rules concerning the operation of sub-committees
5. To approve the removal from the Rules of references to "Pink Members" and the Vice-Chairmanship
6. To approve the change to the Rules to modify references to "ARA"
7. To approve the various changes to the Rules to tidy up the text
8. Any other business

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Leander Club will be held in the Marquee at the Clubhouse, Henley-on-Thames, on Sunday 29 June 2014 following the General Meeting at 11.00 am

AGENDA

1. To read the Notice convening the Meeting
2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 June 2013
3. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes
4. To receive:
 - a. The President's Report (incorporating finance report)
 - b. The Captain's Report
5. To approve the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013
6. To appoint Auditors for the year 2014
7. To receive the Chairman's Report
8. To agree the Annual Subscription rates for the year 2015, as proposed by the Committee at £286 for UK members, £143 for Overseas Members and £69 for Members under the age of 30
9. Elections:
 - a. The following nomination has been received for the post of Honorary Secretary:
Mr CJ Dalley, proposed by Mr H Head seconded by Mr C Rodrigues
 - b. The following nominations have been received for Elected Membership of the Committee:
Ms Gill Perry, proposed by Mr CF Kane Jnr, seconded by Mr C Hamlin
Ms Anne Buckingham, proposed by Mr K Emery, seconded by Ms Livinia Cowell-Sherriff
10. Any other business

PINK HIPPO SHOP – NEW PRODUCTS

COMING SOON – Notebooks, merino wool jumpers, coasters, place mats and trays, new ribbon cufflinks, Merrythorpe hippos, flip flops, silver coffee spoons, silver hippo earrings...

NEW WEBSITE : www.shop.leander.co.uk



Leander pink or blue cycle top £70



Mens' and ladies' sports vests and T-shirts – from £22



Lambswool slipover – £55



Quarter polo and grey polo – £30



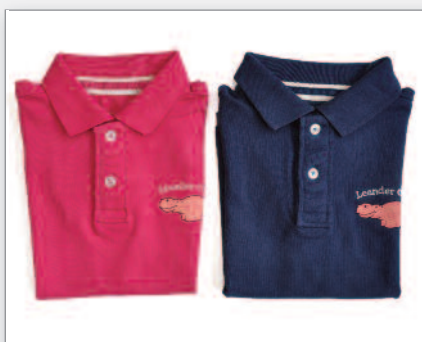
Navy, white and pink zephyrs – £39.95



Grey and white logo T-shirts – £20



Leander leggings – £55



Kids' cotton polos – £18



Panama hats – from £50