

LeanderNews

Spring 2016

www.leander.co.uk



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
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Cover photo: Leander lead Oxford University by half a length as the crews
pass beneath Harrods Depository during their pre-Boat Race fixture last
month. Photograph: Robert Treharne Jones



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Captain's Report

Eight short years ago Alex Gregory was the spare athlete for the GB team in Beijing, but the Leander captain is now leading his club into the last few months before Rio as reigning Olympic, World and European champion.

Time flies when you're having fun! I must admit, however, that it's not always fun out there on the river during the winter months. But as long as the club is warm and our stomachs are filled, we rowers are a happy bunch, and more than prepared to put everything required into our training and racing. That's exactly what's been going on over the past few months, with mile upon watery mile racking up in the athletes' legs. This program, written by head coach Mark Banks, is designed to set us up in the best possible way for the intensity of summer racing which now seems only round the corner. With Henley Royal Regatta and the Olympic Games as highlights, it's certainly going to be a summer to remember!

Looking back over the winter, the annual battle down the Tideway at the Fours Head was a huge success for Leander, with six crews coming away with pennant wins. Heading the field in the fastest time of the day was a hugely impressive lightweight quad consisting of Richard Chambers, Will

Fletcher, Jamie Kirkwood and Jono Clegg, who dealt with the conditions superbly and justifiably came away with the Fours Head title. All three of Leander's women's crews won their categories, re-affirming the successes of the squad from the previous year. The elite quad of Vicky Thornley, Polly Swann, Emily Carmichael and Vicki Meyer-Laker won their event six seconds ahead of their competition with the women's elite four and IM1 quad also winning a pennant in an equally impressive fashion. The fifth pennant win came from the men's elite quad, while an IM1 quad of Matt Rossiter, George Rossiter, Harry Glenister and Barney Stentiford brought home the sixth pennant. It was fantastic to have these wins in this historic event, but we must also celebrate the fact that Leander entered 11 crews in total, a huge entry of extremely high quality.

A White Christmas wasn't to be, but the festive season wouldn't be the same without the annual Turkey Sculls, held

every year on the water in front of the Club. It's always a well-attended, welcome break from the serious rigours of training, and a chance for the Club to come together for a spot of festive fun. With the chance of winning a beautiful turkey, kindly donated by Copas Turkeys, the incentive to race is certainly there and everyone is always eager to compete! This year a quad containing Louis Taylor, Tom Mortimer, Alice White and Leander's very own coach, Ross Hunter, walked away with an enormous turkey each. As Ross keeps reminding us, winning the race was his chance to prove 'he's still got it'. What a great event to get us in the Christmas spirit and long may it continue!

Another significant event in the rowing calendar is of course the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race which is almost upon us. I feel very strongly about supporting these crews who compete in one of the world's most historic sporting events. This year the Ladies' Plate group competed in a fixture against Oxford over

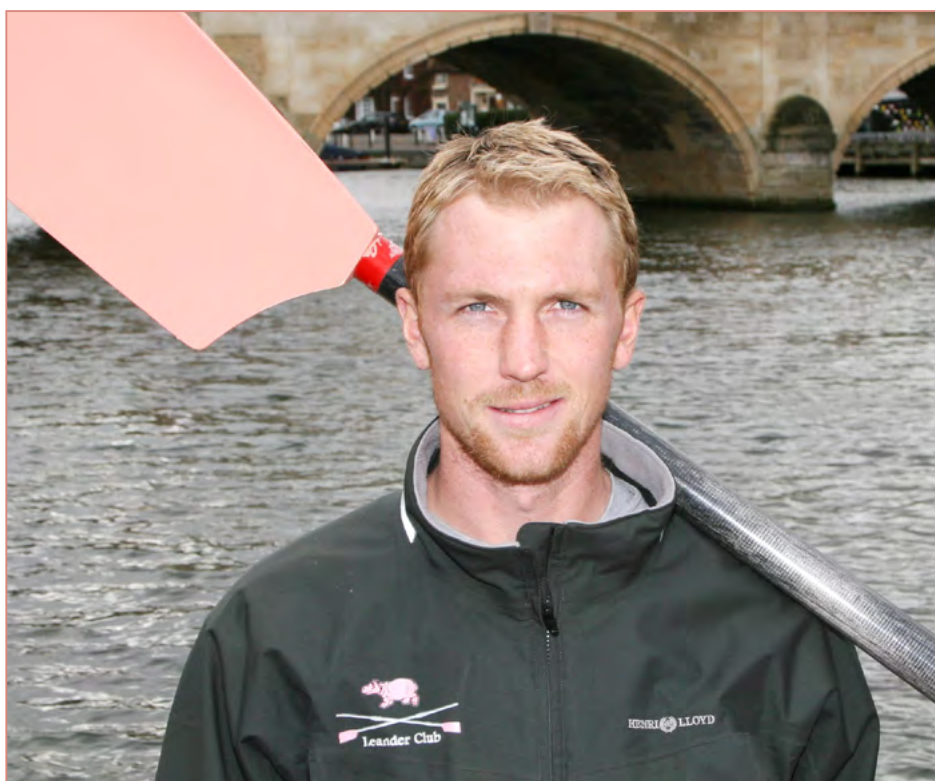


The GB men's eight manoeuvre onto the start last year in Aiguebelette

part of the Boat Race course. With the race only days away the Oxford crew was primed and ready, so it was great to see the Leander crew lead and win the race in a dominant fashion. This shows potential for a very fast crew and should give those involved a great deal of confidence, this year will be very exciting for those athletes involved.

Leander's GB internationals have had their heads down and eyes in the boat with focus on Olympic selection. The winter period is a serious time in this crucial year and although the calendar is almost identical to any other year, there is a sense of importance and tension in the ranks. The men under guidance of Jürgen Grobler took a trip in December to the Spanish mountains of Sierra Nevada which is a gruelling test of physical and mental ability and endurance. A part of their souls is left up there every year, but there's no better place to gain those crucial milliseconds that may be required in the closing stages of an Olympic final.

Miles make champions and, as we are constantly reminded, there is no short-cut to Olympic glory. The GB international women certainly know this



first hand when they make the journey on their winter training camps to Majorca and the Portuguese facility in Aviz.

The mileage is enormous and Leander's women are pushed to exhaustion and beyond. This necessary training will be seen in the coming months through selection

and there promises to be a huge proportion of the GB Olympic women's team consisting of Leander athletes. Olympic selection is just around the corner for Leander's GB hopefuls, so keep a look out for the team announcement in the next few weeks!



Alex with Molesey's Moe Sbihi, winning GB trials in 2015

Olympic Selection

As our GB international athletes progress through the final weeks of training before the Olympic Games they face the most stressful period of the entire Olympic cycle. A maximum of 48 seats are available and each athlete must vie with their teammates for seats in the boats that will contest the medals in Rio de Janeiro. Double Olympic medallist and three-times world champion Alex Partridge is ideally placed to write this very personal account about the most gruelling period in an athlete's life.

The whole Olympic cycle is focussed on the team working together, building each other to become better than we were before as individuals and, together, a greater entity than the sum of our parts.

The concept of selection for a boat remains the same, whatever the magnitude of the race. We are all familiar with that horrible bundle of nerves in the pit of our stomach. That bizarre dichotomy that we face in rowing, here we are about to battle it out with those who have been our closest friends and comrades in arms. We now have to transform our allies trusted faces and personas into whatever motivates us most to get us over the finish line first.

As many of us know all too well, in a crew you are only as fast as your slowest man. There is no Dan Carter, or Jonny Wilkinson to kick the ball over the posts in the dying minutes and win the game. There is no Ian Botham or Kevin Pietersen to smash us out of the Oval and carry us to victory. We live and die by how we move and breathe and think together.

'One team, one dream!' was a phrase often laughed at during my era in the British team, but in many ways it was true. We strove to create a team and group that could achieve our dreams with any one person in that group, in any boat, at any time. It's done on the water, in the gym, on the rowing machine, up the mountain, and often in weather and at times when the rest of the world is tucked up in bed. Team members push each other on and motivate each other to get through the hard, dark times when your legs and body are screaming at you to give up. You care and look after each other when the coaches



Alex with his Olympic bronze medal after London 2012

can't or don't. This creates a bond, a friendship, and a camaraderie like no other. It is one of the reasons why, as oarsmen and women, we keep coming back. It's not all a bed of roses and there are the highs and lows, fights and disagreements as in any relationships in life, but on the whole it is a pretty awesome environment to be in as a member of the British team towards the Olympic Games

It's a great place to be, we can agree, but members of any Olympic squad will remember this time - Final Selection. It's the one of the few occasions in four years where the cracks start to appear, and all the gloves come off.

I cannot pretend to know exactly what is going through any of the men's minds right now, as they return from pre-trials camp amongst the cork trees of Aviz in Portugal. What I can do is give an insight into my own thoughts at that time some four years ago.

Different athletes fall into different groups at this crucial time. One group, often small, know they are already going to the Olympics, barring injury, and in what boat. A second group know they are going but are fighting for the last seats in a particular boat. Lastly there is the group which is right on the cusp of the team, aiming for the last spots in a boat or as spares.

I have sat in all three groups and know all too well the stress, and roller-coaster ride that this period brings in your mind.

Wherever you are in the fight it all comes down to a few milliseconds either side of the line in a few finite tests. Ultimately they decide whether you get to the Olympic Games and, as one of my old rowing coaches used to say, 'it doesn't matter what result we think we want to get, we've got to make the start line first.'

In 2012 I sat in the group fighting for a final place in the men's coxless four. It had been

a long hard year, and we knew the top boat would be the four. I had been in the eight the year before, but my ambition was to give myself the best shot to win the elusive Olympic gold in London, and provide the swansong to my rowing career. In many ways it did not matter what boat it was. I just wanted to make sure I was in the best possible shape and position within the team for that to happen. Achieving this meant winning the final trials.

At this time four years ago we were based in exactly the same camp from which the men have just returned. We spent two weeks in a hotel that is an architectural masterpiece, next to the idyllic damned lake of Aviz, in the Alentejo region of Portugal. Miles of flat water and sunshine, but one element which chief coach Jürgen Grobler looks for in the perfect training camp location – pure isolation! A rower's prison, in the middle of nowhere, with nothing to distract you from the job in hand. Eat, sleep, row, repeat.

It's a great place to train and focus and get right all the 'one-percenters' that make up the difference between winning and losing, particularly if you are one team. But at this camp you are not! You are 10 – 12 different units, all building the skills, tools and nuggets of motivation to move your boat faster than the guy you have raced with for the last three, or sometimes ten, years of your life.

Everyone has their own way of getting the best out of themselves. For me it was probably the extreme. Very simply, I needed to be better than everyone there, otherwise going to the Olympics was pointless.

A ranking hierarchy develops over time – the more pieces you do against each other the more often the results come out the same. For the guys at the top of this ranking it's great! Your confidence develops, and you feel you can deliver the result you expect. If anyone throws something unexpected, you know you can deal with the move and come through.

But for those athletes further down the ranking, your neck is on the line, and you want to change the natural order as much as you can. For some it is a 'nothing to lose' scenario; for others it is 'everything to lose'. This is where the gamesmanship comes in.

The team will be doing piece-after-piece, mile-after-mile, side-by-side and everything is on the clock. There is no hiding from that clock. Speed is speed. But what you can hide is the effort needed to create that speed. This is the one unknown from crew to crew, and you can see how the game is played. "How was that for you?" becomes the most common question on everyone's lips. "Yeah, it was OK" the standard response.

Some members of the team are better than others at this gamesmanship. For me it was pretty simple – get the speed and get the nose in front. I will always want to be in front and was therefore a perfect target for anyone looking for a wind-up. In steady paddles, or low rate pieces, if other crews crept past, I was wound up a treat. This was OK, because I just put it in the locker, to motivate myself better for the next time.



Medallists from the GB rowing team return from Beijing

Combine all this with the fact you are eating three meals a day with each other, and with it comes the joyful banter and tricks over the dinner table. The stealing of the last bit of tomato ketchup, putting salt in someone's sugar at breakfast, and the classic covering of the food with Tabasco sauce when you've left the table. All these tensions build, when actually all you want to do is to have the trials over, the decisions made, and then everyone can get on with the job in hand.

This is the time when the cracks appear and the stress takes its toll. I don't think I've ever raced final trials where at least one member of the crew was carrying an illness exacerbated by this stress.

In 2012 season the fight for the four was between six athletes. Come final trials, I was racing against three other pairs and I had to beat them all, despite having won medals with them all throughout my rowing career. They were my close friends, with whom I had shared many a high and low. These were the guys who had picked each other off the floor in the dark days of high altitude camps. All I really wanted to do was to have had the decision made and be preparing for the showdown at Dorney Lake, just 100 days away. Yet there I was on the start line, conjuring up every reason I could imagine for why they were now the enemy. Every accidental wrongdoing, every flaw I could think of, was my motivation to get down the track ahead of them.

I suspect this is a different mind-set and experience to many of my readers, and perhaps a reason why I may not have won the ultimate prize. This selection period is one of the unique intricacies about our beautiful sport. When we go to battle on the Olympic start line we must move, breathe and think as one. We must be the ultimate definition of individual units of power, swinging in perfect harmony, but to get to this place we must fight each other tooth and nail every time we are asked.

In a few weeks' time we will see the final crew announcements for Team GB at Rio 2016. As our proud men and women stand there in their red, white and blue ready to fly the flag in the shadow of the Sugar Loaf mountain, we should wish them all the best



Alex with the GB men's eight at Dorney Lake

of luck, but we should also appreciate those who are not standing there – those whose Road to Rio ran out, but who contributed such a large part to pushing the rest of the team on. We should appreciate the intense stress and fight this period has put on the

athletes to get there, but they should know that this fight will only make them stronger to face the rest of the world and fulfil their Olympic dreams.



Alex, with Pete Reed and Steve Williams, inside the last 250m at the World Championships 2007

Credit: Peter Spurrier

Credit: Peter Spurrier

Women's Eights Head



The GB development crew face the cameras before the start of this year's race

Leander's women athletes were on top form at this year's Women's Eights Head in London, where they raced a GB development eight to first place.

Emily Carmichael, Fiona Gammond and Katherine Douglas joined forces with athletes from Reading RC and Tees RC, with Leander cox Erin Wysocki-Jones steering them down the 4 ¼ mile course from Mortlake to Putney.

A bitterly cold day greeted the capacity entry of 320 crews, with Imperial College

leading the fleet in the absence of the GB senior crew who won last year's race.

GB U23 coach Pete Sheppard assembled the crew from talented athletes who are looking ahead to the Tokyo Games in 2020. Already there is towpath talk of the crew being entered as a second GB crew at the World Cup in Lucerne later this year.

"It was a good solid performance - we did what we needed to do" said stroke Katherine Douglas.

The crew had only practised together in the boat for three sessions after weeks spent in pairs, and also had the disadvantage of starting among the new entries, down the field, without the benefit of the fastest ebb tide.

Imperial finished second, with Molesey third, and Oxford Brookes fourth, while fifth place went to Cambridge University, who were in the final stages of preparation for the Women's Boat Race.

Lancaster Volvo Reading



Our latest business partnership means that our coaches now benefit from a £45,000 state-of-the-art Volvo XC90, on loan from Lancaster Volvo Reading. The vehicle will be used chiefly for ferrying our boats around the countryside, and our picture shows the full-laden trailer returning from training camp in Spain. There's more news to come from Lancaster Volvo Reading via their Affinity schemes, which include savings, servicing, finance offers and accessory deals, and full details will be available shortly via Hippo Happenings.

Kanghua Racing Boats



The Leander Academy sponsors include Kanghua Racing Boats, with whom we have recently signed a deal worth more than £60,000 with their UK distributor, ES Rowing Services.

Kanghua, based in China, is a new breed of racing boat, introduced to the UK and Europe in April 2013 and offering elite-level performance at club-level prices.

Their sponsorship means that our juniors will benefit from the use of two quads, two doubles and four singles, and our picture shows the Leander junior quad racing in a Kanghua boat for the very first time, at last year's Fours Head.

Winter Training Camp



Leander's development academy are pictured at their traditional training camp in January. Staged on the Estany Banyoles, near Girona, Spain, the venue for the 1992 Olympic regatta offers a welcome respite from the chillier conditions that often prevail on Henley Reach at this time of year. The athletes relish the chance to get away from home and focus entirely on their rowing while, for the coaches, camp means having the water to themselves, so that they can follow each crew individually and offer the intensive tuition that helps ensure success.

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 26th June 2016 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 28 June 2015
3. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes
4. To receive the Chairman's Report (incorporating finance report)
5. To approve the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015
6. To appoint Auditors for the year 2016
7. To receive the Captain's Report
8. To agree the Annual Subscription rates for the year 2017, as proposed by the Committee at £310 for UK members, £155 for Overseas Members and £95 for Members under the age of 30
9. To authorise for the coming year only a further increase in the Direct Debit authority not to exceed £35 (in fact £20 plus actual mailing cost) to be collected for those Members receiving the Bicentenary Book (see note below)
10. Elections to Officers and Committee:
 - a) The Chairman, Ivor Lloyd, retires by rotation and is not eligible to stand next year.
For the vacant role of Chairman:
Hugh Richardson proposed by Jeremy Randall, seconded by Sir George Cox
 - b) Should motion 10a be carried, for the newly vacated role of Honorary Treasurer:
Peter Greenslade proposed by Kevin O'Sullivan, seconded by Alex Gregory MBE
 - c) The following nominations have been received for Elected Membership of the Committee:
Ms Fiona Dennis proposed by Rod Murray, seconded by Peter Knowles
John Verrill proposed by Charles Lowe, seconded by Will Verrill
11. Any other business

Note: The Committee has commissioned a book to celebrate the bicentenary of Leander's foundation in 1818. The book, details of which can be found on the page opposite, will be made available to all Members at a pre-publication price of £20. It is proposed that this sum, plus postage costs, will be collected by Direct Debit along with the annual subscription in January 2017. Such a change to our Direct Debit authority must be approved by Members at the AGM, and a resolution to that effect is included in item 9.

Leander- the First 200 Years

A new book has been announced to mark the bicentenary anniversary of Leander's foundation in 1818.

Editor-in-chief Andy Trotman, a Leander committee member and former publisher, has recruited a formidable array of photographers and writers to help ensure that the publication reflects the history, prestige and success of the last 200 years.

They include Christopher Dodd, the doyen of rowing history writers; Sir George Cox, former Leander president and chair of the GB selectors in the 1980s; Tom Weil, who possesses arguably the most extensive array of rowing memorabilia in the world; and Robert Treharne Jones, Olympic commentator and rowing photographer.

Together they plan to produce a truly stunning volume, with images and stories that tell the story from the Club's early beginnings in Lambeth to its present-day position as the most successful sport club in the world. This story will be set against the history of how our sport, particularly at the highest level, has developed over the past two hundred years.

Anticipating that the vast majority of members will want a copy, it has been decided that the most efficient way of meeting the demand is to make the book available to all Members at 50% of its cover price at the time of publication; this will be done by the simple expedient of adding a sum not to exceed £35 (in fact £20 plus actual mailing cost) to the annual subscription for 2017. Should any Member wish to opt out of this arrangement they may do so by simply returning the slip which will be included in the November issue of Leander News or by sending an email to membership@leander.co.uk.

In the meantime the editorial board looks forward to receiving suggestions, photographs, stories and anecdotes for possible inclusion. The Editor can be contacted via the Club Office or by email at book@leander.co.uk.

Turkey Sculls



Leander athletes celebrated their end-of-year in traditional style with the Turkey Sculls, a series of 250m dashes upstream, in scratch quad sculls. With most of the club's senior athletes taking part in GB trials at the weekend it was left to the development academy to fly the flag back home, where this year's winners were (L to R) Louis Taylor, Tom Mortimer, Alice White and Ross Hunter. As a reward for their efforts the winners received prize turkeys, kindly donated by the Copas Partnership, who have sponsored the event for many years.

Obituaries

Richard Hylton-Smith

1912 – 2015

Elected to Membership 1966

Leander's longest-lived member, Richard Hylton-Smith, died at his Henley home on New Year's Eve, at the age of 103.

Born in Fulham he followed his father in the motor trade, joining him at his car dealership in Kensington before serving in the 23rd London Armoured Car Company and the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers during the Second World War. He took part in the Sicily landings and the troop movement that followed the D-Day landings, arriving in Normandy on the third day of the invasion. He finished his military service with the rank of major, and then had to re-establish the family business alone. It had closed down during the war and lost its premises, while his father had retired.

A member of both Quintin and Auriol Kensington Richard won the Wyfolds at the age of 34 with Quintin in 1947. He would later describe this as the "biggest moment" in his rowing career.

The following year, his attempt at the Stewards' was denied by a crew containing



The Hylton-Smith brothers, Ken and Richard, in a double scull on the Leander raft

Ran Laurie and Jack Wilson, who later won gold in the men's coxless pairs at that year's London Olympics. His attempt at the Goblets in 1949 came to an end when his boat struck the booms just before Fawley.

He celebrated his 90th birthday in a double scull, partnering his younger brother Ken, the former Leander secretary. It was to be his last outing on the river, his last competition having been the 1965 Head of the River Race.

Richard Hylton-Smith was the senior member of the Lensday lunch club and had two parties to celebrate his 100th birthday as well as receiving the traditional congratulations card from the Queen. He was joined at Leander by fifty members of his family, friends and fellow members before enjoying a family-only affair in Ascot. There would be three more birthdays celebrated at Leander before his long life reached its conclusion.



Sid King

1937 – 2016

Elected to Membership 1991

Born in Harrow, Sid followed his three elder brothers by winning a scholarship to Bedford Modern School. His academic leanings were towards the sciences, but he

was keenly involved in drama and music, and became a choirboy at Elstow Abbey Church.

However his first love was always rowing. He coxed and crewed from the age of 13, and rowed at 4 for his school eight in the PE at Henley in 1955. Thereafter his National Service was spent in the RAF, more as an oarsman than airman – he only flew when travelling between regattas!

His rowing life continued at Durham, where he was awarded his palatinate colours and, having qualified in physics and geology, he chose to become an industrial engineer with 3M in Swansea. There he met his future wife, Jean, and after their marriage he moved to the Midland and London before returning to Wales, where he spent

the rest of his working life with British Steel.

His rowing career continued as a veteran with Mumbles RC, and having qualified as an ARA Umpire, he was elected to Leander for services to rowing in 1991. Proud of his Henley links he was also a member of Stewards' and was a regular visitor to Regatta, with Jean, until his final illness prevailed.

Sid King was a kind and generous man to his many friends – he hated humbug, had a dry wit and was an accomplished raconteur. On his last Christmas Day spent in his nursing home he would not take a drink until being assured that every one of his fellow residents also had a glass of champagne.

George Hayter

1939 – 2015

Elected to Membership 1962

After National Service in the Royal Navy, George Hayter went up to Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1959. There he learned to row, racing in the 1st May Boat for three years, including 1962, when he rowed at 6 in the crew which bumped up on four consecutive days to go Head of the River. It was the first time a Queens' crew had ever achieved this feat, and the eight went on to win the Ladies' Challenge Plate at Henley.

In December 1961 George had trialled unsuccessfully for the Blue Boat, but after graduation he rowed for Leander, competing in the Grand eight in 1963 with another Queens' man, Michael Morley.

He returned to Queens' to coach crews during summer terms over several years. Most recently he returned with several grandchildren in the 50th Anniversary year of Queens' Headship in 2012. He punted along the Backs, on the Saturday of Mays week, to watch the racing from Ditton Corner.



The triumphant Queens' crew after winning the Ladies' Plate 1962 – Bow: Alistair Simpson (Blue 1964); 2: Peter Webb (Blue 1963); 7: Michael Morley (Leander 1963); 4: Ian McCallum; 5: John Maasland (Blue 1963); 6: George Hayter (Leander 1963); 3: Brian Swann; Str: Martin Beckett (Blue 1963); Coach: Dr K A Williams (Leander); Cox: James Horsfall.

He remained close friends with many of the 1962 Mays crew, who he met at Henley every summer and at the Boars Head Boat Club dinners. Three years ago a reunion at Leander saw the winning Queens' men from the 1962 crew, and the Thames Cup winning crew the following year, dine with the two trophies as centre pieces on the table in the Members' Dining Room.

George is survived by his wife Annabel whom he married in 1968. They had four children and twelve grandchildren. Warm, calm and loving, he was above all a family man, never happier than when surrounded by his family.

Edward Hayter



Bryan Layton

1938 – 2015

Elected to Membership 1986

Bryan Layton, who died on 4 December 2015 after some years of poor health, was best known throughout the rowing fraternity as the proprietor of AE Clothier, the Cambridge-based gentlemen's outfitters.

Aged 17, after only a year's training elsewhere, he took over the King's Parade shop from his father, who had died suddenly. One of many such shops at the time Bryan moved steadily into the College

business, stocking numerous sports blazers, ties and scarfs, and becoming official retailer for Leander in Cambridge. The blazers were made by G J Horne but when John Horne died in the early 90's Bryan took over the business which has since been run by Bryan's widow, Gillian. Although the shop was closed at Christmas (as previously planned) the business will continue.

Following his father into Cambridge '99 RC, Bryan first coxed a boat in the town bumping races at the age of 10, although he stopped rowing in his early twenties. When his sons were rowing his interest in the club was rekindled, his support and generosity helping the Nines, a small provincial club, to some very successful years at Henley. He remained a member all his life, serving on the committee for a number of years, including the chairmanship from 1979 – 2001.

Until a few years ago Bryan was often seen at Henley in the Stewards' Enclosure, where many, if not most, of the blazers had been supplied by him.

Always cheerful, he was not afraid to make some cutting remarks, even to his

customers, especially if they were strangers to the system and simply fancied a Blue, Pink or 1st May tie!

Tim Hosea

1952 - 2015

Elected to Membership 2007

Orthopaedic surgeon and medical officer to the US national rowing team

Tom Underhill

1954 - 2015

Elected to Membership 1985

Bernard Cookson

1937 - 2016

Elected to Membership 2002

Freelance artist who designed the series of classic Leander cartoons

Sir Anthony Durant

1928 - 2016

Elected to Membership 1993

Former MP for Reading West and President of the River Thames Society

Lest We Forget

The Leander Battlefield Tour is currently underway in France, and a full report of their visit will feature in our next issue. Meanwhile we now include the stories of two Leander members whose memorials the group will visit at Ypres and on the Somme.



The Hon. Eric Fox Pitt Lubbock was born on 16 May 1893 in Dover, the son of John Lubbock, the 1st Baron Avebury. He went to school at Eton in 1905 where he was a contemporary of Ewart 'Dink' Horsfall, and appeared regularly in fours and sculling races. He achieved Upper Boat Choices (colours) on two occasions but was never selected to appear at Henley.

In 1912 he went up to Balliol College, Oxford, where he rowed in his college eight

and university trial eights, but did not achieve a seat in the Blue Boat. Nevertheless he was elected to Leander in 1914, just months before enlisting as a Private at the outbreak of hostilities. Shortly afterwards he was commissioned into the Royal Flying Corps, where the average survival rate was a mere 22 days,

Within a year he was awarded the MC (October 1915) "for conspicuous gallantry and skill, when he attacked a German Albatross machine at a height of 9,000 ft. with machine-gun fire".

Two years later he was a captain in No. 45 Squadron, flying a Sopwith Camel, when he and his observer were shot down above Railway Wood, near Ypres. As they were behind British lines the bodies were recovered and the men buried in Lijssenthoek the next day.

Lubbock's mother Alice, who had recently lost her husband, commissioned a stone memorial to be made in the shape of his aircraft, to be placed in the family burial ground at High Elms, Kent.



Eric Lubbock's grave at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, 12km west of Ypres

The memorial disappeared mysteriously in 1981, but came to light some 15 years later, and has recently been acquired by the present Lord Avebury and returned to High Elms.



Leander committee member Andy Trotman prepares to read Laurence Binyon's Ode of Remembrance at the Menin Gate, where the list of 54,395 Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient includes Gilchrist McLagan, cox of the 1908 gold medal eight.



Mervyn Richardson was born on 21 June 1894, at Killynether Castle, County Down. Both his father and grandfather had seen military service, and on going to school at Radley he became an efficient member of the OTC.

As a member of the Boat Club he made two appearances at Henley, the first in 1912, where he rowed at 6 in the school's Ladies

Plate eight. (The Ladies', when first established, was a trophy for competition by all academic crews – a status which remained unchanged until the 1960s.) Having beaten University College Oxford, Radley were then put out by Eton who went on to win the final. The following year, as Captain of Boats, he kept the same seat in the eight at Henley, but were beaten by Christ Church, Oxford, in their first heat.

On leaving school Richardson went on to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and was commissioned in 1914. He joined 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, commanding IV Platoon in 'A' Company, where his letters home from the trenches complained of 'feeling fearfully tired, being in the most awful state of filth, and no wash for ten days'.

Richardson was killed on 19 March 1916, after being caught by shells among the barbed wire which he had been checking with one of his men.



Mervyn Richardson's grave at Point 110 New Military Cemetery, on the Somme

His headstone at Point 110 New Cemetery reads 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course. Leander'.

Clubhouse Tours



The historic Leander clubhouse, first built in 1896, is home to a wonderful collection of trophies, pictures and other memorabilia, much of which is rarely seen by Members, and our clubhouse tours, held on the first Monday of each month, have become increasingly popular in recent months.

"Very enjoyable and informative", and "the best guide in the business" is how some Members and guests have described the experience, after visiting parts of the clubhouse they don't often see, to find out how the club developed, how it achieved its pre-eminent position in rowing, and how it maintains its place today.

Each tour includes a maximum of 20 guests, with places bookable in advance, at a cost of £15 per person, to include an informal fork supper in the Bar afterwards, with the opportunity to make a donation to the Rowing Development Fund.

Bookings are essential, and can be made via Laura Andrew, our Events Manager.

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 of our Spring Draw 2016:

1st Prize £300
Simon Tross-Youle
10465

2nd Prize £200
AGB Young
2452

3rd Prize £100
Geoff Baker
4805

PINK HIPPO SHOP

<http://shop.leander.co.uk>

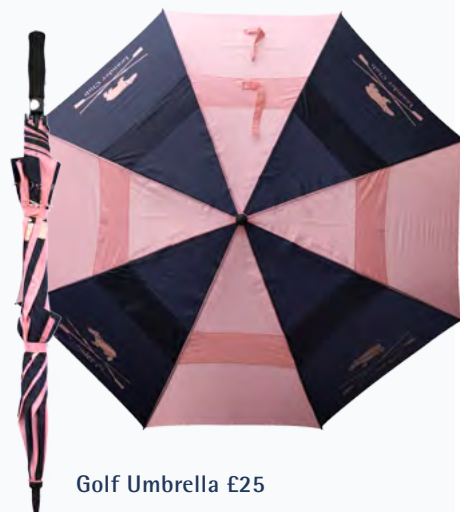
To see the full range of shop items, please have a browse on the website.
For any enquiries, please call the office number or email shop@leander.co.uk.



Ladies Leggings £58



Quarter Zip Fleece £39.50



Golf Umbrella £25



T-shirt £20, Boater £50, Fleece Gilet £38, Headband £15, Braces £38



Zephyr £42



Softshell Gilet £39.50, Members Double Wool Pink Scarf £45,
White Polo £35, Ladies Pink Polo £35, Ladies Silk Scarf £20



Alex Gregory Base Layer £35

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