

LeanderNews

Leander Club Newsletter Summer 2010

'Heads over and heading on'

by Leander captain Rick Egington



As the country has ground to a halt on numerous occasions this winter, the athletes at Leander have not missed a session. As many people woke to the white blanket that covered all of England they looked out of their window and decided that it was a great opportunity to remain at home. With trials and ergo tests all looming, the gym, water and crew room at Leander were as busy as ever. Personally this was really great to see and shows how strong the desire to go and win in the coming racing season is. However the weather did cause some casualties as the Fours Head and the Christmas trials in Lincolnshire were both cancelled due to adverse weather.

The chance to escape a winter never before experienced by all of the athletes and some of the coaches was welcomed with open arms. The Leander Club camp headed off for Banyoles in Spain relishing the chance to banish frozen slides and bodies experienced back in Henley. Lake Banyoles was the regatta course for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic games. Ten days of great rowing conditions led to eased winter blues and helped prepare for February trials. The men's heavyweight squad including myself headed off to South Africa for a high altitude camp based around cycling, ergos and weights. The women and lightweighters ventured to Portugal for the first rowing camp of 2010.

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The major events for the Club before the racing season commences is the men's and women's Heads of the River. The women's eight the club fielded was subject to numerous changes in the week leading up to the race, and featured some new faces racing for Leander. They coped admirably with the disruption caused by various injuries and found their best row on the day of the head, coming home second to a strong composite crew of internationals.

Leading up to the men's head a fixture match was organised with Oxford, which was made even more interesting than normal by Charles Burkitt having a year away from Leander at Oxford and stroking the Blue Boat. I was counted out with a neck problem so was left to watch from the bank. The fixture used the first half of the boat race course. Some very aggressive steering was used and caused a dramatic race involving much clashing which was neck and neck for most of the course, Oxford eventually winning by 1 foot.

For the men's head four eights were entered ranging from club athletes right through



The eyes have it' – Rick Egington leads Leander I through Hammersmith Bridge

to internationals. The first eight were determined to recapture the head after a crew rowing as Tideway Scullers took the head in 2009. The loss of Pete Reed was not ideal and some last minute ergo tests disrupted preparation for the head. The race went ahead and we found a great rhythm set up by Alex Gregory and Matt Langridge as stern pair. However time showed that Molesey was a slightly faster crew over the course and they took the Head of the River title. This was a disappointment to everyone but we're already talking of what we have to do to turn things around for next year. Our second eight consisting of lightweights came home sixth which has been the highest placed lightweight crew from Leander in some years. Our third and fourth eights placed 11th and 40th respectively showing some encouraging signs for the summer season ahead.

With Scott McLeod taking on the role of executive chef things have never looked

better for the fuelling of the athletes and with the sponsorship from Tesco to supply provisions, this has brought around a big change in the relationship between crew and catering. Scott and his team provided a mammoth breakfast to Phil Turnham after he recorded 5.42 on his 2000m ergo test. Scott even took some time out of the kitchen to come out on the coaching launch with Mark Banks to get more insight into rowing. On the coaching side Matt Beechey has joined as a full-time coach, Matt originally was a lightweight international from Leander. Matt's easy smile and technical eye is sure to help accelerate the development of the athletes under his guidance.

Rick Egington

Captain



Olympians Lou Reeve and Debbie Flood featuring at stroke and 5 in the Women's Head crew



Mark Banks to be new Director of Rowing

Leander chief coach Mark Banks has been appointed as the new Director of Rowing at the Club.

During his tenure at Leander the Club has witnessed further success on the water, not only among the established internationals but also the club's development squad. Banks himself divides his time between Leander and the GB training lake at Caversham, and the world championship title won by the men's four he coached last year was the latest in a string of medal-winning crews he has brought on to world-class success.

The previous director of rowing at Leander was Ivor Lloyd, who took on the role of club chairman in the New Year.

"Mark's promotion is so well deserved and recognises the hard work he has put in running Leander's rowing programme over the last ten years, as well as managing and developing the coaching team, whilst carrying out international duties with the GB Team. We all wish him every success in the new role and I am sure he will take the position on to new heights in the future" said Lloyd.

"I am absolutely delighted to be offered this position at the most prestigious and successful rowing club in the world. I am especially pleased to take on this role in the lead-in to London 2012 where the rowing events are taking place virtually in our own back yard, and I hope to continue the team emphasis which has been so successful under Ivor Lloyd" said Banks.



Mark Banks

Director of Rowing
& Chief Coach

Leander Members' Forum

The Committee of Leander Club invites members to attend an evening forum on Thursday 19th May at 17:30 to discuss how the Club may better meet the expectations of its members.

The aim of the forum is to ensure that any events we hold at the Club, including the regatta, are positioned to attract the maximum support of members. As you know, we are committed to supporting world class athletes in the run-up to the London Olympics and beyond. However, the support of the membership, in particular through attendance at Club events, is crucial to us achieving this objective.

Your input is important. We want to ensure that we take maximum advantage of our unique facility while maintaining the atmosphere of our prestigious Club.

If you are unable to attend the forum on 19th May, contributions would be welcome by email to info@leander.co.uk, marked for the attention of the Committee.

To book your attendance at this event, please email: info@leander.co.uk or call the office and speak with Sheila.

Striving for Success

Ivor Lloyd reports from the Chairman's Office

I am very honoured to have been asked to take over from Nick following his retirement. As our President says in his opening sentence "it's pleasing to report that the Club is in very good health, both on and off the water" and I thank Nick for giving the Club the springboard which can propel us towards even more exciting opportunities.

One of the great strengths of this Club is the continuity of policies that have been developed over successive years. Having read through a number of previous Chairman's reports, it is of no great surprise that they all have a similar theme:-

1. recognising the hard work of their predecessor
2. talking of the need for some change
3. identifying the need to strengthen the finances of the club
4. pledging their personal commitment to the continued development of the club's rowing programme
5.and, as has been expressed in our President's commentary, the continued improvement of our membership experience.

It is not my intention to diverge from these oft-stated goals. There is however one additional important objective. That is to ensure we are in best possible shape to seize the once-in-a-lifetime opportunities presented by the 2012 Games. We want to ensure the maximum benefit to our members, sponsors and athletes between now and the games - not forgetting the



Ivor Lloyd (Chairman)

celebrations afterwards. You will see in this Newsletter that in response to the increased workload we are proposing some minor restructuring of your Committee. The 'Games' are of course only one of the several stepping stones to our bicentenary in 2018.

The recent economic climate has, of course, put pressure on the Club. We strive to provide excellent amenities for our members and to support a highly ambitious rowing programme concentrating on the development of promising young athletes. The cost of meeting these objectives cannot be covered by subscriptions and we therefore have to raise substantial external income. And in today's highly competitive world that means running the Club in a highly efficient and very effective manner.

We are a club and will always remain so, but we have to operate with all the disciplines of a small business. To that end we are very fortunate to have remarkably

dedicated and highly professional teams on both the 'rowing' and the 'house' fronts. Together with a very active committee they form an even greater team that is continually looking at the opportunities to improve our operation and to develop our income opportunities. We are aware that the two demands can sometimes be in conflict, but I can assure you that we take a great deal of care in how this is managed. We never lose sight of the twin aims of making this a better club for its members and an even more successful club on the water.

As many will know, I have spent the past twenty five years as part of the 'rowing' group, and seen it deliver a programme in which the whole Club takes justifiable pride. I will not only continue to support this but will also now focus my efforts on the further development of a successful and sustainable business.

So going back to where I started, you will see that I am continuing down the path so well paved by my predecessors: retaining the continuity that is so important for long-term success while still striving to drive things forward.

I would like to thank all of our Members for their continuing support of the Club and also my colleagues on both staff and Committee. We have a very challenging - but very exciting - time ahead!

Ivor Lloyd
Chairman



Taking the long view

President Sir George Cox reports the Club in excellent health

As we enter another rowing season, it's pleasing to report that the Club is in very good health, both on and off the water. Like everyone else, we had to endure a tough economic climate last year, but came through it without cutting back on support for our rowing squad and whilst still making improvements to our clubhouse facilities. Indeed, we were even able to generate sufficient surplus to enable us to start re-building our reserves. The whole management, staff and coaching team must take great credit for this. Tight cost control for the Regatta forced a re-think of the arrangements, which actually resulted in improved member facilities, drawing much praise, and I am pleased to say we are planning further improvements to the catering facilities this year.

It is gratifying that membership also held up well - indeed increased - despite the economic environment. That, plus greater use of the facilities, makes a huge impact on our finances, and along with the support of our sponsors, enables us to continue to provide member facilities unmatched by any other rowing club and to support our ambitious rowing goals.

On the water, 2012 looms ever closer, with the Club intent on continuing its significant contribution to national success. Having played a major part in Gold Medal achievements at both the previous London Games (1908 and 1948) and at each of the last nine Olympics, that's a huge challenge! However, performances at the recent World Championships - particularly by the outstanding Coxless IV coached by Mark

Banks - give some scope for optimism.

At the same time, a great deal of effort is still being invested in the longer term. Come down to the Club any morning and you will see the stars of 2016 being coached and developed. In today's world, Olympic success comes from long-term commitment and planning. In the run-up to 2012, we will be holding a number of events to enable our Members to engage with these efforts and meet some of the athletes and coaches involved.

With membership in mind, there is an interesting proposal being put before this year's AGM. At present we have two categories of membership: 'Ordinary' and 'Associate' - neither of which appropriately describes the individuals concerned! The former, qualified by their distinguished record in the sport, are anything but 'ordinary'. And the latter are not people 'associated' with the Club, but individuals who pay the full subscription and whose support and use of the facilities are vital to our success.

It is therefore proposed to re-name the two categories - without any change to respective entitlements. I hope you will agree that this is a positive move.

But setting aside things like names, we want all our membership to feel closely engaged with what we are doing, to use and enjoy the facilities and to feel part of our success. When an athlete stands on the podium, we want everyone to feel they have played a part in getting them there. Because that's actually the truth of it.



Sir George Cox
President

Distant Members' Breaks

Distant Members (those living over 50 miles away) may take advantage of the dinner, bed and breakfast package at £55 per head (subject to availability). This offer is targeted at weekday nights but may be available at weekends. Enquiries to the Office..

Hippo Happenings

Full details of events are contained in the monthly e-shot Hippo Happenings. If you do not receive this update please ensure we have your latest email address by emailing cheryl@leander.co.uk

On the 'rowed' to 2012!

What was the name of the Spandau Ballet No 1. hit single during the 1984 Olympics? The answer to this question (found at the foot of this article) is relevant to every one of us in the run-up to London 2012!

I want to use this opportunity to tell you about sponsorship and 'The Road to the 2012 Olympics' for Leander Club. Firstly I need to offer a big thank you to our existing sponsors, without whom it would not be possible for the Club to produce the current quality of athletes, year in, year out. Sponsorship comes in many forms and I would find it impossible to name all those sources of support which are frankly too numerous to mention.

But I need to offer a special thanks to Invesco Perpetual for their continuing support and commitment. They have now been associated with Leander for many years, and without their contribution we could not have the standard of equipment and kit that we now proudly boast.

This is also my first chance to welcome Tesco, our most recent sponsor, who have generously committed to feeding our athletes by supplying food from the local Henley store. Believe you me, feeding a squad of Leander oarsmen and women who, on average, consume a massive 7000 calories a day is no small task! Accordingly we have much pleasure in renaming the crew room 'The Tesco Crew Room', and you will shortly see a painted spoon above the doorway proclaiming its new identity.

And so we move rapidly towards 2012! As I put pen to paper (or, more accurately, finger to keyboard), there are 849 days left before the opening ceremony in London. The significance of this event for Leander cannot be underestimated and, within the walls of the clubhouse, we are calling this 'Leander's Olympics'. It's a safe bet that the



Golden moments in Beijing, but what does the future hold for 2012?

Olympics will not come back to the UK in our lifetime and it therefore gives us all a unique opportunity to get intimately involved. In typical Leander fashion the planning machine is already geared up and ready for action under the leadership of Ivor Lloyd, our new chairman.

As we all know rowing has been one of the most successful British sports in the Olympic Games, with at least one gold medal in every Games since 1984. Leander coach Brian Armstrong has recently trawled the archives and discovered that, since the inception of the modern Games, our athletes have won a total of 99 medals, so 2012 represents our chance to tip over the magic ton!

Leander athletes have always formed the major proportion of the GB rowing team where, at the last Games, half the men's heavyweight team came from our Club. Thanks are due to GB men's coach Jurgen Grobler, as well as Mark Banks and the entire Leander coaching team for such a fantastic contribution, both at club and international level, as we go forward to the

Games. If Banksie and his team were a Footsie 100 company and had a quotable share price they would be top of the leader board!

So what now? Obviously Dorney Lake is the centre for rowing during the Games and we will all try and be there to support our team. But away from Dorney Lake, if you are involved with rowing, then the Club, with its unique heritage, must be the most exciting place to be. Planning is still in its early stages but I would just like to highlight some of the things we are considering. Obviously the membership of the Club must come first and will be given priority consideration at all times. Beyond this we have a duty to maximise the commercial and experiential opportunities that present themselves, not only in the next two years, but also in the years to come.

We have already started a low-key 'hearts and minds' campaign with organisations within the Thames Valley to spread the word that Leander offers a unique facility and heritage when it comes to planning



corporate events, including conferences and dinners, in the build-up to the Games. It is my absolute conviction that there will become a 'tipping point' in the collective conscience when we will realise the Games are upon us and what are we going to do to be involved and celebrate. At that point the Leander planning group will be ready to respond to this surge of interest in a seamless and effortless manner that satisfies all the stakeholders in the Club's interests. Come this year's Henley Royal Regatta we hope to have a discrete space set aside where we can share our plans, so if any ideas come to mind when reading this please send them in for consideration. No idea is a bad idea!

As I see it the year ahead for 2010 is Planning Year when we can establish our roadmap. 2011 is sure to be Implementation Year, putting the plan



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Leander's top athletes hope to realise their Olympic dreams

into action and spreading the word, raising the Club's profile, and proclaiming the opportunities we can offer around the World Cup circuit, Henley Royal Regatta and, of course, the World Junior

Championships at Dorney, the dress rehearsal for the Olympics, which also offers a dry run for Leander. And so to the climax of 2012 - of course the regatta circuit will be 'business as usual' but Henley itself will be a special occasion, falling just a few weeks before the Olympic Games.

So that's where we are and where we hope to be - of course all your interests, opinions and, indeed, concerns, will be gladly received but I hope will you join me in the growing enthusiasm for what is sure to be the most exciting period in the history of Leander Club.

And the answer to my leading question? The anthem which was used to celebrate Steve Redgrave's first Olympic title all those years ago on Lake Casitas is 'GOLD'!

Jezz Moore

Committee Member

Leander Olympic Medallists' Gala Dinner



Wednesday 6 October 2010

Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London

Join us for a unique occasion both to celebrate the Club's Olympic history and to show our support for our current athletes with eyes on success at the London Games in 2012.

It is an opportunity to celebrate over 100 years in which Leander Club has produced a staggering total of 99 Olympic medallists and to meet those who hope to be representing GB in 2012 - and taking that figure to well over 100.

You and your guests can enjoy a generous reception followed by a superb three-course meal with wines and port, in the company of both existing and aspiring Olympic Champions.

The cost will be £99 per head and we fully expect the occasion to be a sell-out. In order to reserve places, please contact Sheila Harrington on 01491 575782 or by email sheila@leander.co.uk If you would like to have a Medallist or Squad Member on your table as one of your personal guests we can endeavour to arrange this, but again early booking is recommended.

Do please join us for this, the only occasion when we can guarantee the opportunity to meet and show our support for the athletes who are destined for fame in 2012.

Dress code: Black tie/Leander evening dress. 7 for 7.30pm

Leander Olympic 2012 Appeal 'The Leander Heroes Club'

The 'Leander Heroes 2012 Olympic Appeal' has so far raised nearly £90,000 in pledges in our quest to produce athletes who are capable of rowing at the highest levels. However we have a long way to go to fulfil our Appeal ambitions.

No less than 38 Leander athletes were recently invited to attend the GB Rowing trials in Hazewinkel'

Overall we have 72 Leander athletes under training and we have a number of young men and women who are showing high potential for the future.

Remember that at Leander we have a constant stream of athletes at various levels of capability and training who will provide the next generation of top performers at National and International level not only for the Olympics but beyond.

With the increasing need to provide higher and higher levels of coaching, training

facilities and equipment, inevitably the costs rise commensurately.

The 'Leander Heroes 2012 Olympic Appeal' has been launched to ensure that Leander can continue to be one of the 'High Performance Centres of Excellence' chosen by British Rowing. Leander is a very special Rowing Club with a very special membership.

Our Leander Athletes are our active, rowing, performance representatives and deserve the greatest possible level of support from us, the members, to ensure that Leander Club continues to maintain the enviable reputation as the premier rowing club in Great Britain and possibly in the World.

We are extremely grateful for those Leander Heroes who have donated to the 2012 Appeal so far.

If you have not yet contributed to the Appeal and wish to do so, please fill in the

enclosed 2012 Appeal standing order mandate and send it to Mr Paul Budd, General Manager, Leander Club who is administering the Appeal funds.

Become a 'Leander Hero' and make a difference

Donations to the Leander 2012 Appeal will be used exclusively to support Leander's Elite rowing programme for the London Olympics and beyond. As such they are not eligible for Charity status including Gift Aid. All donations made directly to the Appeal fund go exclusively to Leander Club.

However for those preferring to make donations that qualify for Gift Aid, the Leander Trust exists to help fund younger athletes throughout British Rowing, which of course includes our younger Leander Athletes".

2011 Subscriptions

One of the annual challenges facing the Committee is proposing a subscription level nine months ahead of when it is due! We have to do this because we need to notify Members in this Spring Circular, which goes to press some weeks in advance of the Annual General Meeting, where we can seek formal approval. As you can imagine, this involves taking a view on things like inflation rates, likely costs 11-20 months hence and the general economic outlook - which is particularly challenging at the present time. However, we are already aware of likely inflationary increases in utility and property costs, and of the already announced increases in national insurance. At the same time, we are mindful of the other financial pressures on Members.

We have concluded that an increase which simply reflects the anticipated inflation in our cost base is the most appropriate, and we are therefore proposing a subscription level for 2011 of £240, plus the British Rowing levy which is currently £5.20.

It is quite possible that British Rowing will increase their levy later in the year, but we are normally aware of this by the time the Winter Circular goes to print, so any increase will be notified at that time.

For overseas members the figure will be £120, and for members under 30, £57.70 plus the British Rowing levy in both cases. We recognise that for some Members paying the full amount in one payment in January presents difficulties. In such cases, Members may for 2011 apply to pay in two stages, one in mid-October 2010 and the other in mid-March 2011. This option will only be available to Members paying the full subscription by direct debit. Any Members wishing to do so should apply to the Membership Secretary by letter or e-mail (cheryl@leander.co.uk).



Leander attracts young talent

Alex Perkins, 16, rowed at Henley Royal Regatta in the Kent School eight in the Temple Challenge Cup in 2009 and is considered a very talented Junior in US Rowing. During the regatta he expressed an interest in taking a gap year when he finishes at Kent to come and row at the Club. We invited him to come and spend a week with us to see what we do and what rowing at Leander is all about, this is his story.....

Over my spring break, I found myself afforded the extraordinary opportunity to travel to the UK and spend 10 days rowing at Leander Club. As the weeks before my trip disappeared, the excitement began to sink in. When the day for me to leave the Kent School and travel to Henley on Thames finally arrived I was filled with excitement.

I landed at Heathrow and was greeted by Ted Bainbridge who I had met the previous summer where he coached a Leander Crew for the U.S. elite nationals. It was straight off to the Club for the first session and to meet who I would be staying with. Alex Leigh, Nick Middleton, Graham Hall, and Fran Nicholls, all of whom are current Leander athletes, kindly allowed me to stay at their home for my visit which gave me the opportunity to see how the crew lives as well as how they train.

Shortly after dropping my bags, it was time for my first training session of the trip which was an ergo and weights session. Despite the jet lag from flying all night it was a very constructive session with a number of technical faults being immediately addressed. Addressing technical faults became a feature of the

rest of the week both on the land and on the water! After a good night's sleep, the following morning was my first water session.

Ted and I made our way down to the boat bay where he showed me the boat I would be rowing and explained the traffic patterns on the river. Once I had my sculling boat in the water and I was pushing off the dock it hit me, "wow I have not been in a sculling boat in 3 years or even more and not in a single in for 4 years – having spent all this time in eights and fours." Regardless of this, Ted gave me instruction on many technical aspects



Alex Perkins looks forward to a gap year at Leander

of rowing a sculling boat and made it clear that within a few days he expected me to be sculling with square blades down the river – this was going to be a real challenge but one I succeeded to do by the end of my stay! As sessions continued to pass, I found myself becoming more and more comfortable in the scull. I instantly saw the great technical improvements that training in a sculling boat provides a sweep rower. By the end of the trip my confidence in a sculling boat had improved tenfold.

Under the watchful eyes of multiple coaches, I found by the end of the ten days that I had made countless technical improvements in all aspects of my sculling. When I returned to America for the Kent training camp in Florida, these technical improvements showed in my sweep rowing. In the short amount of time that I spent at the club, the amount of history that I encountered was incredible.

I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to row at the Club. In addition, I would like to thank everyone for the hospitality and assistance that I received during my stay. The ten days that I spent rowing at the Club were some of the most amazing days of my life. Once again, I would like to thank everyone who helped make it possible for me to train at Leander.

After training camp in Florida Alex is now stroking the Kent School varsity eight which hopes to come to HRR this year.

Paul Budd reports from the General Manager's desk

Although the bad weather at the beginning of January gave us a sluggish start to the year Members' attendance at the Club recovered quickly and is generally up on last year's level. It has given the staff great pleasure to see familiar faces return to the Clubhouse and we look forward to welcoming many more of you as the Spring and then the Summer progress.

If the recession has confirmed one thing within the hospitality industry it is that great value for money is the key to customer retention. We have been looking very closely at the cost of our menus and our events and whether you have a 'Crew Meal of the Day' in the bar for £5 or attend the Fine Dining Evenings at £29.50 we think they both represent exceptional value. The Annual Dinner in November at £35 surely also fits into this category as does a two-course more formal lunch for under £20 including the traditional Sunday lunch?

The bar and wine list also strives to provide value. We must have one of the cheapest pints of Hoppit in Henley and our house wine is very competitively priced and of good quality. Our limited range of top-end cellar wines offer really exceptional value, and we are currently looking into ways of improving the price of our mid-range wines. If there are other areas where you believe we should do more then I am only too pleased to hear from you, by telephone, letter, email or in person.

Of course what also helps us to keep the prices down is volume and this is where the membership must play their part. Whether it is attendance at Club events, arranging family gatherings or reunions, introducing prospective members or potential corporate clients we need your help to keep the Club vibrant and to help us to support the high performance rowing programme. We remain grateful to those of you who support the Club with their subscriptions but are not able to join us in person, but for those of you who could attend but don't we would love to see you or hear from you particularly if you have constructive ideas we can consider to gather more members in.

For those of you that haven't been here recently I have to report that the Clubhouse is in good order! We have recently repainted from the foyer through the majority of the first floor and we have made a start on the second floor. We have installed flat screen televisions in the bedrooms (which now offer Freeview channels) and we have replaced some of the carpets and completed other minor bedroom refurbishments. We are all set for the summer season. Finally we have started the process of negotiating membership concessions that we hope will be of interest to members.



Paul Budd OBE
General Manager

The Pink Hippo Club First Draw for 2010

The lucky winners of the first 2010 Pink Hippo Draw are:

1st Prize £300 Lord Terrington 2nd Prize £200 Mrs J Shepherd 3rd Prize £100 Mr M A Arnold-Gilliatt

The Hippo Club is established to buy boats for our athletes.

Entry in the draw is £12 a year for the two draws and standing order mandates are available online or from the office.

Leander Club Claret – Home Orders

The Club's popular claret, produced by the highly-respected Sichel et Fils, is now available in the Club with a bespoke Leander Club label. In response to Members' requests the shippers, Ellis of Richmond, have undertaken to supply the wine by mail order directly to your door at £85 per case plus delivery (to UK mainland addresses only). This is an attractive price which also generates a £5 per case donation directly to our rowing programme. The wine should be ordered directly from Ellis of Richmond using the form on the Club website. (We regret that orders cannot be accepted at the Club Office)



Leander mourns loss of two great men

Bert Bushnell

Henley Standard



Bert Bushnell, who has died at the age of 88, was the last surviving British rowing gold medallist from the 1948 Olympics. Partnered by Richard Burnell in the double sculls, the GB men beat Denmark over the regatta course in Henley – the last occasion on which the Olympics was staged in Britain.

Born in Wargrave, where his father ran a boatyard, Bert attended Henley Grammar School where he won many athletics trophies. But his real talent lay in rowing and he competed for the first time at Maidenhead Regatta in 1939.

Unable to retain his amateur status as an athlete while working in the family business, he was apprenticed as a marine engineer and worked on motor torpedo boats during the war and participated in the evacuation of Dunkirk.

At Marlow Regatta in 1946, Bert received an invitation from a visiting Argentinian group to tour, train and race in South America. Throughout the winter of 1947, he remained unbeaten in races there and after

winning the Diamonds at Henley and the Wingfield Sculls in London, Bert had high hopes to race the single at the Olympics.

But instead he was selected for the double sculls with Richard Burnell. At 6ft 4in the Oxford Blue weighed 14½st – a giant compared with Bert's 5ft 10in frame which tipped the scales at just 10½st, but some deft re-rigging offered some compensation. In front of a home crowd Bushnell and Burnell beat off the Danish duo of Parsner and Larsen and won the gold medal in 6:51.3.

After the Olympics, Bert retired from rowing and returned to work at the family business in Wargrave. He later set up his own boatyard in Maidenhead and ran a fleet of hire cruisers, eventually selling the business in 1979 and retiring to the Algarve, only returning to Britain after he was widowed in 1988.

Bert Bushnell died in hospital in Reading on 9 January. He is survived by his three daughters and six grand daughters.

Teddy Selwyn



Teddy Selwyn, the founding father of the legendary Barn Cottage Boat Club, has died at the age of 87.

Before his first birthday Teddy arrived in Remenham, the village where he was to spend the rest of his life, after the retirement of his father, a vicar in the north of England.

His schooling at Radley was not marked by great success on the water, and he expressed unhappiness when he failed to be selected for even the 2nd VIII. But his passion for rowing was evident, and he later joined Henley Rowing Club, competing at various local events, including Marlow, as well as the Royal Regatta itself.

During the Second World War he flew light bombers during the Mediterranean campaign, but after demobilization he was back on the water, helping to encourage new rowers at Henley, where 'he always seemed to be around' according to one observer.

But it was in the late 1950s, well before the development of a GB national squad, that Teddy helped to foster the idea of bringing the best oarsmen together. The result was Barn Cottage, named after his home in Remenham Lane, where the scheme produced crews that dominated the rowing scene at the time, taking the Head of the River Pennant for several years.

Off the water Teddy was able to pursue his business interests in London where, with his trademark bowler hat and umbrella, he commuted daily by train from Henley, eventually becoming a Lloyds underwriter, but he suffered great losses as a result of the economic crash twenty years ago.

In later life Teddy became a stalwart of the Lensday Club, men of a certain age who meet for convivial midweek lunches at Leander. There, as in so many other areas of his life, he could express himself volubly on matters of interest to anyone with an ear to listen.

Remenham Church was packed for Teddy's funeral in December, when his many friends gathered to bid farewell.

An Engaging Place to eat!

Leander proved once again how it is an 'engaging place to eat' when Associate Member Michael Broom popped the question to girlfriend Morag at the Leander Valentine's dinner!

Mike and Morag first met at Henley Royal Regatta in 2006, so rowing is close to both their hearts, and Mike had originally decided to propose at this year's Regatta. But after asking Morag's father for the necessary permission at Christmas, and having already taken delivery of the ring he had designed, Mike decided that he could not wait until July.

So, having requested out-of-season access to the Stewards' Enclosure, Mike took Morag for a stroll along the river between the main course and dessert. Mike proposed under the mountain ash that is normally in the Fawley Bar, where they had first met. Morag was suitably surprised and impressed by the diamond ring sparkling in the torchlight, and of course said 'Yes!'

On returning to the Club, the band, who had been warned of Mike's plans beforehand, congratulated them and they received a rousing round of applause from all present. This was followed by their first dance to "Tonight's the night" by Rod Stewart.

"It was a fantastic night at Leander and one that we shall remember for the rest of our lives" they said afterwards.

Mike and Morag, who both live in Henley, will tie the knot on 21 August.



Apsley Tailors

APSLEY TAILORS was founded in 1889 and remains owned by a member of the founding family. They are a solely bespoke tailoring company with no off-the-peg clothing and all garments are made by hand.

They have been in their showroom in London, at 13 Pall Mall, for several years and also have a regular client base that includes a number of London Clubs and the military. While not in the business of offering cheap tailored clothing Apsley does offer exceptional value for money.

The essential difference between Apsley and Savile Row is that a £2,500 suit from Savile Row takes 14 weeks to build. At Apsley it will cost around £600 and take about four weeks to build with a minimum of two fittings only.

SUBSTANTIAL CLUB DISCOUNT. Leander Club has negotiated a substantial discount for its members reducing a bespoke Club blazer by 18% to £475 (less buttons) and offering a 12% discount on a range of other clothing including suits, top coats, sports jackets and tuxedos. You will need to produce your Leander Club Membership Card at the Pall Mall shop to attract the discount.

FITTINGS AT LEANDER CLUB – Alternatively, for the convenience of local and visiting members Apsley Tailors have a fitting day at Leander Club each month. Dates are published in Hippo Happenings. There is still time for that new blazer for Regatta!





HRR 2010 ~ the countdown has begun

At the time of writing there are the first signs of construction of the tentage, fencing and grandstands along the course. The expectation and excitement starts to build from here on in until we all collapse in exhaustion after shutting the bar late on Finals night.

Although we will not see any Regatta construction work within the Leander curtilage until mid-June the planning for this year is firmly under way. In the last Newsletter I outlined the changes we anticipated under the new Contractor, Crown Group (Seasoned Events and Piggotts Tents) and in the detailed planning that has taken place since then their very positive approach continues. To give you an idea of their attention to detail

and determination to get it right, they invited the Head Chef and me to attend a food tasting, to make the final menu selections, in London in early February. In just over 6 hours we tasted in excess of 200 dishes and the proposed wines! Seasoned Events then hosted a lunch at the Club for a number of members to taste sample meals and to listen to members' ideas and comments on the previous year's performance. We remain quietly confident that you will see a considerable improvement in the standard of food this year.

Two key changes for this year are, firstly, that the Club Dining Room is now operating a high-class restaurant style service with a more extensive four-course

menu and less crowding. Full details are in the regatta brochure. There is now a very clear differentiation between the Dining Room and Marquee offerings. Both will offer excellent value for money.

Secondly we will be providing a more extensive food offer in the evenings in the Riverside Bar. This bar was a particular favourite with members in the evenings and this year there will be no need to head off down town for a late meal.

We anticipate the key days filling up quickly and we advise members to book early.

Paul Budd OBE
General Manager

Banksie at Leander?

At the start of the month the Committee was startled to receive an email from the Treasurer with the heading 'Damage to the Club', reporting graffiti that had appeared the previous night. It spoke about the need to get it removed as quickly as possible, and showed a picture of the so-called damage.

Our keen-eyed President recognising it as the work of the renowned street artist Banksie, immediately turned his thoughts to boosting our Olympic Appeal, and set off for the Club armed with his Banksie reference book and camera. However, he was horrified on arrival to find that it had already been removed!

Entering the clubhouse with murder uppermost in his mind, he was met with a lot of blank faces who hadn't a clue what he was talking about. Then someone pointed out the date. April 1st.



The picture was created by Nick Middleton, one of our athletes skilled in the use of PhotoShop.

Leander Rowers on the Ball

Monday 12 April marked the end of the Henley Five-a-Side Premier League, and Leander Club is now the home to the 2009/2010 League Trophy! A 20-week-long football competition involving ten teams all from the local area, teams were made up from groups of work colleagues or local companies so, as a bit of post-training fun, some of the Leander athletes decided to enter.

Leander FC, a squad made up of no less than three Olympians, five world medallists and eighteen Henley medallists managed to win 17 of their 20 games and finish six points clear at the top of the table. So how many Leander rowers does it take to win a Five-a-Side football match? Well, the answer is 10 because the coaches insist that the rowing always comes first. Due to these commitments nearly all the Leander team members were unable to play every game and other club members were called upon to 'stand up' in an effort to finish off the season.

This achievement seems not only remarkable due to the fact that half of the team were already completing 2-3 training sessions a day as part of the national team or Leander Club program before turning up for the games but also as we all know rowers are generally huge athletes and not gifted with an abundance of grace, ball skills and co-ordination. In fact for the first few games the rumour going around the league was that a

Basketball team had misread the website and entered themselves by mistake! However this rumour didn't last long as by the halfway point in the season Leander FC were unbeaten and were in the lead by 12 points.

Once the word had spread through to the other teams that a group of rowers who had entered the league for "a bit of fun" were very likely to win the Trophy they all started to recruit members from local football clubs in an effort to close the gap! Although this did help to create a much more competitive second half to the season it also coincided with most of the trials, assessments and training camps in the rowing calendar.

Shortly before receiving the trophy one of our players who need not be named, also an Ambassador for West Ham Football Club had been visiting Upton Park stadium and been tempted to recruit a few of their players to strengthen our side for the last few games. Then, he remembered that they were

currently fighting a battle to avoid relegation in the FA Premier League and wondered if in fact he should be offering them our services instead!

As the end of the season drew to a close three other teams, now much stronger thanks to their new recruits were all putting in strong challenges for the title. Luckily for the Leander side's years of competing for the club and country at the highest level had equipped them with a steely mentality to

always hang on for the finish and as it always does the line finally came.

Another Trophy for Leander, although perhaps not the kind we have grown accustomed to over the years, but perhaps an important one nonetheless. A chance for the club to show its more social side and participation within the community and that the friendships made on the river extend beyond our pink walls.

Ross Hunter

Club's 'Wise Owls'

At the start of April, the President hosted a lunch for the Club's 'Wise Owls' – past Presidents, Chairmen, Captains and Trustees: individuals who have not only played a part in the shaping of Leander but also in several cases, a significant role in the development of British rowing. With something like 650 years of experience in the sport gathered together, it is hardly surprising that there was no shortage of opinions after lunch!



Our Parliament of Owls.



New Stock arriving during Spring in the Pink Hippo Shop

The Leander Pink Hippo Shop has lots of new and exciting products arriving now in plenty of time for Regatta 2010. We have overhauled the clothing range to include hoodies, soft shell jackets and a range of specially designed T-shirts. We have also sourced some new children's designs including cute T-shirts, bibs and hoodies. The new clothing range will feature our updated shop logo featuring the long standing favourite 'happy hippo' with crossed oars to keep the rowing feel.

In the Pink

For Ordinary members we have a good supply of fine quality pink pashmina and men's V-neck pullover for the chilly summer evenings. We have also introduced a new fresh navy polo shirt with white trim embroidered with the white crossed blades and LC logo. These three items are offered post free by web-order until the end of May.

Gifts

The gift range has been updated and will include some new mug designs exclusively created for Leander as well as a hippo pen, water bottle and beautifully scented

candles. You will also be able to get your hands on some very cute hippo booties for the baby in your family and a lovely cuddly pink hippo.

Silverware

New silverware will feature in the range including an elegant solid silver hippo on the rod brooch and an exclusive blade bangle and cufflink set. The hippo on a rod logo will still feature on some of the perennial favourites such as the compact mirror, business card holder and money clip which are all now fully back in stock.

For Gentlemen there will be a much wider choice of cufflinks in the shop.

New for this year we have fun silver metal hippo heads, sophisticated double crest cufflinks on a chain and some funky new pink hippo cufflinks.

Sales help our Athletes

There is a great range of new clothing currently in stock at the Pink Hippo shop, with gifts and children's products coming in all the time. Keep an eye on the website which will be updated as the new stock arrives. Please come and see us at Regatta not forgetting that all the proceeds from the shop go to supporting our athletes so happy shopping!



New Unisex Hoodie with back embroidery **£32.95**

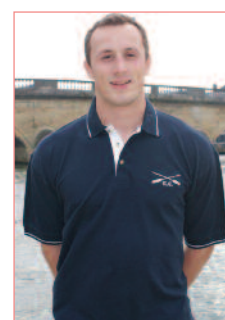


Soft Shell jackets for men and ladies with new logo **£69.95**

For the Members



Members pink cashmere pullover and pashmina. **£60 each**



New members polo shirt **£25**

Gifts



Leather Hippo Baby Booties **£16.00**



Rowers Mug **£15.00**



Sterling Silver Hippo Brooch **£59.00**

To order any or the items above or any other Leander Club gifts please visit our shop website at www.leander.co.uk.

You can place orders on-line, call our friendly team on **01491 575782** or email us at shop@leander.co.uk.

We also love to meet our customers in person so the shop at the Clubhouse is always open during office hours, or the duty manager will be able to help during evening and weekends.



Some key events for your diary:

Saturday 25 September

Antique Silver Roadshow Supper

Ian Pickford, silver expert from BBC's Antiques Roadshow will be at the Club to discuss some of the silver trophies in the Dining Room cabinets over dinner. He lectures widely and his writings include a now standard reference book on silver flatware. He is the editor of Jackson's Silver and Gold Marks. There is also an opportunity to reserve an early evening slot (please contact the club for a ticket) to bring a single piece of silverware to discuss with Ian in private. £39.50 per person includes a drinks reception, supper and presentation. 7.30 for 8pm – Lounge suit

Wednesday 6 October

Leander Olympic Medallists' Gala Dinner at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London

Join us for a unique occasion both to celebrate the Club's Olympic history and to support our current athletes with eyes on success at the London Games in 2012.

It is an opportunity to celebrate over 100 years in which Leander Club has produced a staggering total of 99 Olympic medallists and to meet those who hope to be representing GB in 2012 – and taking that figure to well over 100.

You and your guests can enjoy a generous reception followed by a superb three-course meal with wines and port, in the company of both existing and aspiring Olympic Champions.

The cost will be £99 per head and we fully expect the occasion to be a sell-out. In order to reserve places, please contact Sheila Harrington on 01491 575782 or by email sheila@leander.co.uk. If you would like to have a Medallist or Squad Member on your table as one of your personal guests we can endeavour to arrange this, but again early booking is recommended.

Do please join us for this, the only occasion when we can guarantee the opportunity to meet and show our support for the athletes who are destined for glory in 2012.

Dress code: Black tie/Leander evening dress. 7 for 7.30pm

Saturday 6 November

Annual Dinner with live screening of the World Championship Finals live from New Zealand

£35 per person – 7pm for 7.30 – Black Tie/Leander Evening Dress.

Drinks reception and a traditional three-course meal followed by a chance to view the World Championship Finals taking place in New Zealand. Numbers may have to be restricted and early booking is advised.

Saturday 11 December

Club Christmas Dinner with local Cartoonist Martin Newman

£45 per person – 7.30 for 8pm – Lounge suit.

Sumptuous festive dinner with an opportunity to have a cartoon produced at your table by acclaimed local artist Martin Newman. Martin will conclude dinner with a short talk on his work (including the now famous Churchill Insurance dog). Dancing to follow.

