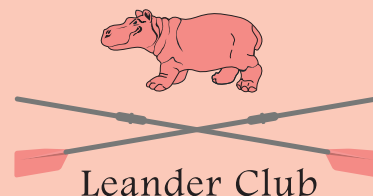


# Leander News



Leander Club Newsletter Summer 2012

[www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

## 99 and counting!

At the time of writing this, there are just 99 days to go until the start of the Olympic Games. By the time you read this, there will probably only be 99 days until we will know the results of the Olympic rowing finals. This should mean that 99 will then no longer be the number of Olympic medals that Leander athletes have achieved – as we are expecting to go well beyond the 100!

The Olympics are obviously the priority for me and a number of our athletes at this time, but Leander has had a busy winter in this Olympic run up.

This started with the amazing result at the Fours Head of the River Race where Leander won seven out of the 22 pennants available. Congratulations to the Elite 4x, Elite Lwt 4x, IM1 4x, Elite 4+ and W Elite 4x. Well done to all the athletes and coaches involved. This really was a fantastic achievement. Personally, after rowing the coxless four all year, we really noticed the difference with a cox and have had a great winning row. It was an unprecedented result and a fitting springboard for our Olympians, who were racing in their club colours for the last time before London 2012.

On the topic of congratulations, I must also mention our Olympic and World Champion, Mark Hunter. He was named rowing's Olympic Athlete of the Year for 2011 by the British Olympic Association at the GB Rowing Team's annual team awards dinner on 31 January. This is a just deserved accolade for Mark as he is a fine ambassador for rowing and more importantly Leander!

With six months to go before London 2012, the squads took the opportunity to get more consistency by training away from the blustery conditions at home. The men's squad went to a training camp in South Africa



and the women and lightweights went to Portugal. The high altitude in South Africa combined with cycling some grueling climbs made an interesting cocktail.

Early March then saw us on the Olympic regatta course at Dorney, taking part in the final leg of the GB trials for London 2012. In fact, Leander athletes made up almost half the rowers – an achievement in its own right. In addition to the 30 men and women who are established members of the GB team, there were another 12 members of the Club's

Development Academy also hoping to make their mark in a last-minute rush before the Olympics. Will Satch having previously rowed in the Leander Academy winning the Thames Cup, has joined the GB high performance programme and will be racing the pair this season. Will has had an accelerated journey from the Academy, a credit to his belief and commitment. Leander was a great facilitator for me joining the national team and I know that Will feels exactly the same.

*Continued on page 2*



Pre-race chat from Brian Armstrong.

*Continued from page 1*

As the only sport in which Great Britain has won gold at every Olympics since 1984, this has created a winning mentality as started by our most famous member Sir Steve Redgrave, and there is a lot of pressure on GB rowers to maintain that tradition. It's this mindset that will give us the best chance to deliver our greatest performances at the Olympic games. Leander athletes will make up at least half of the Olympic team. I am looking forward to writing the Autumn newsletter already.

While we were away at the GB trials, Leander's development athletes gave Cambridge a run for their money in their traditional pre-Boat Race fixture in London. Despite their relatively young average age, the crew acquitted themselves well against the more experienced opposition. Only when the two boats were under the lee of Harrods Depository, did Cambridge finally kick in and use the inside of the Hammersmith bend in their favour, going on to win by just over a length.

Unfortunately due to international commitments we were unable to put a women's crew out for the Women's Eights Head, but we will be challenging for the top spot again next year.

In the Men's Eights Head of the River, Leander 1 took an impressive second place. As none of the Leander internationals could race at the Head, it was great to see that even though we didn't win, we still had the fastest British



**Winning Wome's Elite Quad.**

crew. Our development eight following their challenge with Cambridge came a very creditable 16th overall.

This year's Boat Race created headlines all round the world, and put former Leander cox Zoe de Toledo at the centre of a media storm when a protestor swam across the course causing the race to be stopped by the umpire. Zoe is a fantastic cox and having done her best to avoid the protestor, unfortunately upon restart, Oxford clashed with Cambridge and a broken blade put an end to Oxford's race. An unfortunate end of the race for Zoe, but we hope to see her "back in the Pink" very soon.

Over the next few months the athletes will be split between those still competing for places at the Olympics, who due to training camps and World Cup events we will hardly see at the Club, and our development athletes, whose focus is on Henley Women's and Henley Royal Regatta. No matter which group we fall into, we know you'll be rooting for us, as much as we will be doing our best for our Club and our country!

**Richard Phillip Egington**  
**Captain**

## The Pink Hippo Club

### First Draw for 2012

The Pink Hippo Club was established to buy boats for the Leander Academy and has made a significant contribution to the fleet in the boat sheds over the years. Members may buy tickets in multiples of £12 through standing order arrangement. Details are available on the website together with a standing order form that may be downloaded.

There are two draws a year of equal value.

Congratulations go to the May 2012 Draw winners who will shortly receive their cheques:

**1st DG Stuart £300      2nd RC Douglas £200      3rd AJA Gillan £100**

The more participants the greater the prize share.



## Leander Crews at Henley Royal Regatta 2012

### Mark Banks – Director of Rowing, discusses the upcoming season

Being an Olympic year, when few potential Olympic crews/teams will be present at HRR, I have "raised the bar" for the top athletes in the Club's development group.

My objective is to enter a crew in the Queen Mother Quadruple Sculls and The Double Sculls Challenge Cups, both international events. The crews will be formed from six athletes in our sculling group namely: John Collins, Jack Hockley, Nick Middleton, David Read, Alan Sinclair and Tom Wilkinson. I feel it is good for the athletes, good for the coaches and good for the Club that our better athletes aim for the top events in Olympic year. All six scullers have performed with success at HRR in previous years and are coached by Chris Collerton and Matt Beechey. I am expecting, despite the absence of Olympic teams, that there will be several strong crews from overseas. This should ensure some top class racing in these events during the week.

I hope to see a Club presence in the Princess Grace Challenge Cup. This is likely to be a composite with athletes from other Clubs all of whom are seeking selection to the GB European championship team later in the year. Our three leading female athletes in this group are Rachel Gamble-Flint, Tina Stiller and Erica Bodman all coached by Jane Hall.

Athletes in our lightweight men's group will compete either as a quad in the Prince of Wales or Visitors' Challenge Cup. This crew should challenge strongly either as a quad or coxless four coached by Rob Dauncey. At the time of writing, this crew is likely to contain Leander athletes who should be strong candidates for the GB lightweight team in the next Olympiad. The situation lower down in our development group is not as encouraging. The Club's ban from the Thames Cup, Wyfold and Britannia Cup events over the past four years has adversely impacted on our ability to recruit into our programme. However, we will enter a Ladies Plate eight that will contain several 19 and 20 year olds. Despite their age and having to compete at a level above their development I'm sure they



Director of Rowing Mark Banks

will race strongly, especially as they are coached by the ever green and legendary, Brian Armstrong. The Club has fielded a Ladies Plate Eight each year since 2003. I think the only British club to have done so on a regular basis. As things look at present, I have to say it is unlikely the Club will have a Ladies Plate Eight in 2013.

At junior level we hope that the quad can gain some useful experience, particularly as they have only been in the sport a very short time. They are being coached by Livinia Cowell-Sherriff.

#### Olympic Games

As we move into the last 100 days, leading into the biggest event of an athlete's career, our athletes kicked off the summer series of World Cup regattas in Belgrade the first weekend in May. The results from the first World Cup demonstrate that the GB crews are shaping up nicely with medals in 12 of the 14 Olympic events with 17 athletes rowing for Leander. One of the most impressive medals came from Will Satch who in his first year in a senior boat won a silver medal. The athletes have gone through a very testing time both physically and mentally to

gain a place in the team and Leander athletes presently occupying 19 seats in the Olympic boat classes. We have several more on recovery programmes who, at full fitness, I would have expected to be racing in Belgrade. I hope they recover quickly and renew their challenge for a place in the Olympic team at the next World Cup in Lucerne at the end of May.

Matthew Wells who is currently in the quadruple scull, is aiming for his fourth appearance at the London Games. His first appearance in 2000 as the GB single sculler, gaining selection after winning a Gold Medal in the single at the U23 World Championships earlier that year. He finished a creditable ninth in Sydney. In 2004 in Athens, Matthew was in the double scull when he finished seventh. He went on to gain a Bronze medal in 2008 in Beijing again in the double scull. If Matthew is in the quad in July in London he will have represented GB in all three sculling boats. Peter Reed and former Captain Mark Hunter are aiming for their second Olympic Golds. Alex Partridge, Matthew Langridge and Captain Richard Egington are aiming for a second Olympic medal. On the women's side Anna Watkins (Bebbington) is in the lead womens boat hoping to be the first to win Gold having already won Bronze in Beijing. Frances Houghton is going for her third Olympics having won silver medals in the quad in Athens and Beijing. Frances has occupied the three seat in the GB quad on a regular basis – a boat she has also won four World Championship Gold Medals in. Frances was also a gold medallist at the U23 World Championships with her long time crew mate Debbie Flood. Debbie along with Annie Vernon who have Olympic medals and World Gold medals, are both recovering from injury. We wish them both a speedy recovery and hope they regain a place in the team for London.

Mark Banks  
Director of Rowing

## The Tom Hoffman Library at Leander

Tom Hoffman began collecting books on rowing in 1961, whilst still at school, having caught sight of a number of 19th and early 20th century rowing books gathering dust in a Cambridge book shop; these he bought as a job-lot for four shillings and six pence. By 1984 he had accumulated about 600, and from that time began to apply a process of methodical search and refinement which has resulted, 50 odd years on, in what must be the finest collection in existence of books with a rowing interest in 1,750 volumes.

The process of refining the library developed from sourcing books through a network of booksellers, to replacing existing books with copies in better condition or acquiring second copies in later editions or different bindings. For example, R.C. Lehmann's 'Complete Oarsman' was published in 1908; the library has all four editions of this book, reprinted in 1919, 1924 and 1931.

In the 1990's internet search engines made sourcing more efficient, but by bringing all interested parties to the same source, the internet created something of a market which has resulted in auction-driven prices for the rarer books.

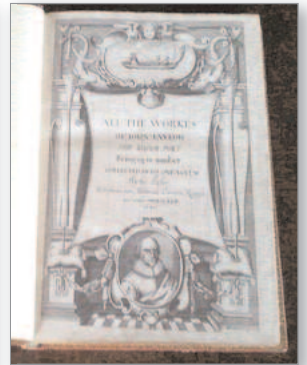
Since the 1990's, when Tom started to compile a bibliography on rowing, the collection has become structured while remaining comprehensive in character. It comprises of volumes from 34 countries, among which, a small representation from Pakistan, Burma, and Japan.

The subjects covered fall into 60-odd categories which may be summarised roughly under three headings: 'Racing', 'Non-Racing' and 'Other'. 'Racing' includes: technique, boat design, rigging, racing, coaching, sculling as well as race histories, university rowing, club histories, athletes' biographies, the psychology and physiology of rowing. 'Non-Racing' refers to: pleasure trips, professional watermen, bargemen, rowing memorials, almanacs. 'Other' comprises: encyclopedia, verse, fiction, art.



John Taylor – The Water Poet – 1630

Amongst the rarest in the collection are the works of John Taylor, the Water Poet 'COLLECTED INTO ONE VOLUME BY THE AUTHOR. WITH SUNDRY NEW ADDITIONS, CORRECTED, REVISED AND NEWLY IMPRINTED' IN 1630. John Taylor was a ferryman and poet well known to many, but looked down on by the Elizabethan literati: works include 'A Very Merry Wherry-Ferry-Voyage', 'The Sculler', 'A Discovery by Sea, from London to Salisbury'. Leonard Euler was a mathematician living in St Petersburg and his 'A Complete Theory of the Construction and Properties of Vessels' is dedicated to H.I.H Pavel Petrovich, son of Catherine the Great, future Emperor Paul 1st and eventual victim of an assassination. The book contains a section on vessels with oars, one of the earliest records of a discussion of the technical elements of oar-driven propulsion, c. 1773. The Annual Register of 1788 has an account of a boat race on the Thames between two eight oared cutters – Invincible and Chatham – from Westminster Bridge to Richmond Bridge, against wind and tide, for a purse of 50 guineas, during the course of which exertions were such that one of the Invincibles dropped dead and two became 'seriously ill'. Chatham won the race sounds familiar. Such is a small taste of this collection of 1,750 books which



John Taylor – 1630, Leonard Euler – 1790, Annual Register – 1788

Tom Hoffman has most generously donated to the Leander Trust to be kept at the Leander Club in what will be known as The Tom Hoffman Library which, after more generous donations by Club Members, has now been prepared to house the collection under the terms of the agreement, it will be a reference library to which bona fide researchers will be given access by appointment to study books and documents on the premises. When the library is in situ the catalogue will be published on the Leander Club website, along with procedures for access and other regulations which will govern the way the library is to be administrated.

## Exciting times for Leander

The run up to the Olympic Games is always an exciting time. However, this year the Games are on our doorstep. GB is entering what I believe to be its strongest rowing squad ever and that team is likely to contain the biggest Leander representation in the Club's history – life doesn't get much more exciting than that!

This situation is the result of years of hard work by the athletes, by the coaches who have nurtured their talent and by the Club which has supported the athletes' development.

Already in the gym and on the water you can see the 2016 aspirants taking shape. That is where the Members and the support that they provide, play such an important part in our success on the water.

We are therefore keen that Members should share the excitement of the build-up, the competition and (hopefully) the celebration of the outcome. To that end we have organised a whole series of Olympic-related events and activities.

For some time now, we have been holding a number of 'Meet the Athletes' dinners. These have offered an unrivalled opportunity to meet and talk to numerous World and Olympic Champions and medallists. The final event was hosted by Olympic Gold Medallist Ben Hunt-Davis MBE on 17th May.

Then on 10th July the Olympic Torch Relay passes through Henley. The flame will be ferried across the river from the River & Rowing Museum by a Leander VIII, landing at the Club at about 9.30 am and then be carried on its way through the Club grounds and off towards Bisham. It should be a great spectacle, and a really historic occasion. I'll be there with my family. Why not join us? And book breakfast at the Club while you are at.

Then on to the Games themselves. Not everyone has been able to get tickets, of course. So we are installing a big screen at the Clubhouse with plenty of room for viewing – and cheering. It will be in operation for the Opening Ceremony and for each of the four days of rowing finals

(1-4 August). Apart from being in the stadium or at Dorney, it'll be the next best thing – and much more atmospheric than sitting on your sofa at home in front of the telly! A special brunch is also being made available. You can book now or simply turn up. Either way, I can promise you a really exciting occasion in great company.

And after the Games? Well, following after Beijing the riverbank and streets in Henley were packed as our returning Leander Olympians went for an exhibition row on the river then took on an open-top bus tour of the town. As anyone who was present will tell you, the atmosphere was terrific. So we are doing the same again. Come along this time, on Saturday 25th August, to cheer our athletes and while doing so, book a family celebratory lunch at the Club.

Then finally to round things off, we have our very special 2012 Dinner at the Mansion House on 10th October, hosted by the Lord Mayor. The 2008 post-Olympic dinner was greatly enjoyed by all who attended, but this is something different: a one-off occasion, not to be missed. It is certain to be a sell-out, so book early.

For the majority of us (though admittedly, not me) a home Olympics is a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. As a Member of Leander, you have a bigger personal interest in the event than most people. Your support has helped get some of our best medal prospects to the starting line. Through the above events we want to be sure you get the most out of it.

You can already feel the 'buzz' about the place. Come along, join in, be part of it.



Sir George Cox  
President

## Night~Night!

The return of the legendary Night Tray to Leander has rekindled long-forgotten memories of life at the Club before more recent developments changed much of the historic ambience for ever.

Those lucky enough to reside at the Club during Regatta were a fairly exclusive group comprising mainly Stewards, such as Graham Ricketts, David Jennens, Hart Perry and George Moody. Keen to make sure their evening's entertainment was not interrupted prematurely by the closure of the bar they loaded a silver tray with spirits and mixers and retired to what was the Committee Room to while away the night with stories of rowing and much else besides.

Membership of the Night Tray was signified by a silver lapel badge – surely the most exclusive of Regatta emblems, with very few of these objets d'art surviving to the present day.

The group would occasionally invite guests to join them, but a stout constitution and an even stouter liver was often called for if the stories are to be believed. Not that Members were unaware of the potential risks in overstaying their time together in this way, as George Moody reported in later years.

"No-one was allowed to go to bed before the fastest Barrier time and everyone had to be in bed by the fastest Fawley time" he said. This meant that everyone should retire between about 2.00 am and 3.30 am. But not every night – on one occasion the talk went on longer than most and a curious event occurred and the Boat Tents suddenly turned bright red. One Member of the Tray startled his fellows by exclaiming "The boat tents are on fire". This was not the case – it was just that dawn had broken.



For whatever reason the original Night Tray went missing and had to be replaced, and the refurbishment of the Clubhouse more than 20 years ago meant the loss of much of the atmosphere that Members of the Tray so valued. The tray itself disappeared to the USA, courtesy of the late Hart Perry, to be returned only last year to Leander, where it now takes pride of place in the Eton Room, where it started its life all those years ago.





## Gant and Leander Club - Pink Chinos Exclusive to Leander Club Members

GANT has drawn its inspiration and influence from the classic Ivy League sports. Its heritage is rooted in the active lifestyle of the American East Coast, home of the Harvard-Yale Regatta. By celebrating one of the world's most graceful and classic sports, together GANT and Leander Club are breathing life into old traditions.

As part of the Gant and Leander Club partnership, Gant has manufactured a limited run of bespoke Leander Pink chinos.

- Classic Gant chino in a slim fit
- Specially designed and made in Leander Pink
- Stitched Gant logo on back pocket
- Heavily brushed cotton with a soft feel
- Two side pockets, two back pockets
- Zip fly and button closure
- 100 % Cotton
- £75.00

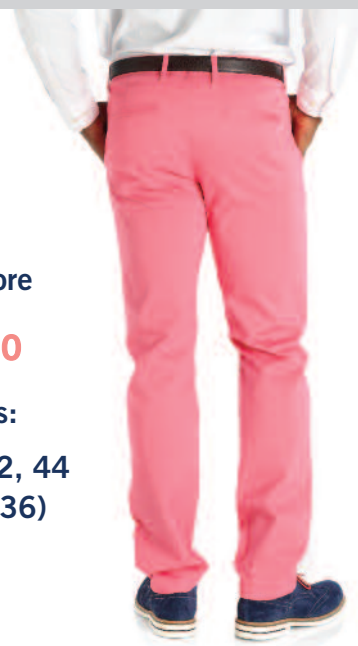


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(In Leg Sizes "32, "34, "36)



## 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 24th June 2012 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 26 June 2011
3. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes
4. To receive: a) The President's Report b) The Captain's Report c) The Hon Treasurer's Report
5. To approve the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2011
6. To appoint Auditors for the year 2012
7. To receive the Chairman's Report
8. To agree the Annual Subscription rates for the year 2013 as proposed by the Committee at £260 for UK Members, £130 for Overseas and £65 for under 30's
9. Election: The following nomination has been received for the post of Honorary Secretary:  
Mr D Saoul: Proposed by Mr T Wilkinson Seconded by Mr M Beechey

The following nominations have been received for Committee Membership:

#### Nominee

Ms G Batten  
Mr G Cundell  
Mr PD Greenslade  
Mr H Richardson  
Mr P Taylor

#### Proposed

Mr M Hunter  
Mr CD Lloyd  
Mr JR Verrill  
Mr MD Williams  
Mr B Armstrong

#### Seconded

Mr TJ Hunter  
Mr GCM Leggett  
Mr KJ O'Sullivan  
Mr I Reid  
Mr J Clay

10. Any other business

**JD Randall – Hon Secretary**

## Leander hits the High Street



Leander is currently featuring in the window of the new Gant flagship store in Regent Street

## Paul Budd reports from the GM's Desk

### The Summer Season

In the Calendar of Events we sent out in November we identified all the known key dates through to the autumn that were connected with this very special year. We have been pleased to see that this 'taster' generated a considerable level of interest from the Membership and we have already taken a significant number of bookings for these events. The response from Member's making early bookings has been encouraging but there are still places available and if you have not booked you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

### The Olympic Torch Relay – Tuesday 10th July

Now that the veil of secrecy has lifted we can announce that the Olympic Torch will be rowed over the Thames from the River and Rowing Museum to Leander Club and will then be carried through the Club grounds before heading on its way to Bisham Abbey. The Torch enters Henley along the Fairmile at 9 am. It will be carried across the Thames in a Leander Eight from the River and Rowing Museum powered by young hopefuls from the Henley Clubs and land at the Club raft. It will then pass through our grounds and leave Leander at 9.58. Road traffic will be disrupted so why not come to the Club early for breakfast and watch from the balcony or decking. Either book in beforehand at the Clubhouse for a full breakfast or purchase a bacon butty and a cup of coffee from the garden stall. You will need your Membership card to gain entrance for your friends and family on what is sure to be a popular occasion. We also plan to use this occasion to formally unveil the splendid Olympic Honours Board that is being constructed in our Reception area. We hope the day will attract former club Olympic medal winners who will form an arch of blades through which the Torch will pass.

### The Olympic Games

The first week of the games is Rowing Week at Dorney and if all goes well the Club should have athletes competing on each of the finals

days (Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th August). We will have big screens in the club available throughout the games so why not join us for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as the key racing days? Racing is scheduled for the mornings and a brunch can be booked or you can take pot luck with snacks. It is difficult for us to gauge how busy we will be but we will do our very best to accommodate whoever turns up. It will help us to help you if you can pre-book, but it is not essential.

Please see the website nearer the time for changes to traffic routes in.

### Celebrate the Journey

Not many people get to dine in the famous Egyptian Room in the Mansion House. To do so in a year when the Lord Mayor is a Leander Member and when we are hosting the Olympic Games with (probably) unprecedented numbers of Leander athletes competing must surely be regarded as an event not to be missed. We will be running coaches from the Club and the dinner will finish in time to catch most last trains out of London. Bookings are already strong so do book early to avoid disappointment using the enclosed flyer.

### Notes from the House

#### Regatta Dress Code

Those of you who have studied the members regatta packs in detail, will see that following comments from members, we have clarified two important aspects of protocol:

Whilst recognising that Stewards Enclosure require ladies to wear dresses that cover the knee, Leander has always been a little more relaxed in this respect. Dress for ladies and gentlemen remains very traditional but ladies dresses are only required to be 'around Knee length' for entry into the Club. Those wearing very much shorter, or very revealing dresses will continue to be declined entry, as will gentlemen without jackets or with open necks.

#### Mobile Communications

The types of mobile communication devices continues to expand and the blanket 'no mobile' rule is now rather unsatisfactory,

both at Regatta and in the Clubhouse throughout the year. The golden rule is not to disturb others. Silent operation of electronic devices is quite acceptable (electronic tablet devices make less noise at the breakfast table than Newspapers). Loud and protracted mobile conversations, especially in seated areas, remain against the spirit of considerate behaviour and members are asked to brief their guests accordingly

### Websites

The increasing popularity of electronic communications have been at the forefront of our thinking as is improving member information services. The surge in 'hits' on the Club website following receipt of the monthly Hippo Happenings has encouraged us to revamp the website which is planned to go live well before Regatta. We have done our best to simplify the navigational aspects of the site and to sharpen up the images and text. Linked to this the website will be details of our Facebook and Twitter pages.

### The Decking

If it is going to be a hot dry summer I can think of few places more delightful than the Club decking overlooking the river. Why not gather some friends and come along this summer. You will be assured of a warm welcome.



Paul Budd OBE  
General Manager



## An evening with.... Steve Williams, Thursday 2nd February 2012



From left to right – Penny Whitfield, Hugh Whitfield, Matthew Iredale, Julian Bewick, Mark Hunter, Martin Iredale, Anne Iredale, Pete Reed and Frauke Oltmanns



Steve Williams OBE



Steve Williams OBE and Club Captain Rick Egington share a joke



Rick Egington and Jayne Bristow



Olympic hopeful Rachel Gamble Flint and Kieran Emery with our sponsors from GANT



Mark Banks and Martin Unsworth with our sponsors from Brakspear

## An evening with.... Dan Snow, Thursday 22nd March 2012



Rhiannon Jones, Mark Banks, Dan Snow, Lou Reeve, Tina Stiller



Ivor Lloyd, John Pilgrim-Morris and Jill Thorp



Speaker Dan Snow with Alan Spong



Martin Unsworth and Emily Taylor



Paul Budd, Carol Lewis, Rob Lewis



GANT sponsors Edward Harbison, Jayne Bristow, Dan Snow and Tracey Stone



Mr and Mrs De Vere Green

## The Bremont~Leander Limited Edition Watch

Further to our last newsletter where we launched the fabulous Leander Bremont Watch, Nick English from Bremont presented the first production Leander watch to Vice Chairman Edward Bainbridge.

Remember that Bremont kindly donate £1,000 to Leander for each watch sold and so far we have already sold 15. Now they are in production, you can easily expect delivery in time for this years Regatta so any Member who would like more details of the watch please call Bremont on 0845 0940 690.



## 'Father of the House' ~ George Moody

The death of George Moody at his home in the West Midlands has robbed Leander of its most senior Member who, after 77 years of unbroken membership, could truly be called Father of the House.

After school at Brighton College George went up to Oriel to read modern history and was elected to Leander membership after rowing in the crew that went Head in 1934.

On the strength of their performance at Summer Eights the Head crew twice competed at Henley in successive years before George moved to London, where he joined Thames Rowing Club, with whom he raced twice more at Henley.

His own athletic career complete he returned to his West Midlands roots to involve himself with the family business interests in Stourbridge where the Moodys owned the County Express newspaper, as well as Mark & Moody, a popular stationer's in the town. Longevity was evidently the hallmark of his family - his mother, Mary Moody, became the world's oldest company chairman, still attending annual board meetings until her death in 1985, aged 104!

For the rest of his life he was to live and work in the town of his birth, but made

regular visits to Oxford to coach Oriel crews and involve himself in the life of his alma mater. He later managed to bridge the divide between newspaper publishing and rowing by becoming, in 1958, the West Midlands representative on the council of the ARA, a position from which he only stepped down some 23 years later, as he approached his 70th birthday.

In 1967 his services to rowing were recognised when he was elected Steward of Henley Royal Regatta. Two weeks prior to the event he would take up residence at Leander and spend his days eyeing up the crews in training, keen to spot a winning combination before even the first race was complete, and bemoaning the lack of rowing coverage in the national press. He ended his regatta days in the Judges Box where, when asked why it required three Stewards to judge the finish of a two lane race, his reply was typically dry.

"That's one to decide who has one, two to decide by how much, and the third to write it all down" he said.

Later in life his friendship with the late Hart Perry resulted in his becoming a trustee of the National Rowing Foundation at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut.

George Moody was physically a big man, but his reserved nature did not allow the casual observer the chance to see the bigger picture of his interests, which included those many people with whom he came into contact in business and in rowing. His dry delivery allowed an even drier sense of humour, all adding to his image as one of the great gentlemen of the sport.

In recent years he did not enjoy the best of health but, with the assistance of his able carers, was still allowed to visit Henley for at least one day each year. It was his ardent wish that he should reach his 100th birthday, but sadly that wish was denied him by the narrowest of margins.



**Eric George Hatfield Moody,**  
born in Stourbridge  
6 March 1913,  
died at his home in  
Stourbridge,  
10 May 2012.



## ‘Ain’t no mountain high enough’

### Leander Members go extreme!

As Members of the world's most successful rowing Club perhaps it shouldn't be a surprise that some of our athletes go on to embrace some of the toughest challenges life can offer.

For example, we were exceptionally proud to receive a Club blade from intrepid explorer and Leander Member Jock Wishart. This was one of the oars used on the rowing expedition he led last year to the magnetic North Pole, when they accomplished a 450 mile row in a specially designed boat-cum-sledge, in just 29 days.

However, Jock is not our only intrepid explorer! James Cracknell had his own Polar adventure to the South Pole as well as an Atlantic crossing in 2009, and last year, three Leander Members rowed down the Zambezi. Their self-funded 1000km row was in aid of the charity Village Water, which facilitates the provision of clean water to remote villages in the Zambian bush.

Another former Olympian who has also got the taste for adventure is Steve Williams. In 2011, he joined former Wales rugby international Richard Parks for the North Pole and Everest legs of Richard's 737

Challenge (to reach seven summits and three poles in seven months).

However, Steve is not the first Leander Member to attempt Mount Everest. In 1924, Andrew (Sandy) Irvine joined an ill fated expedition. It is believed that Irvine and companion George Mallory, died while



descending the mountain, although it is unclear whether they had reached the summit. Mallory's body was discovered in 1999 but Irvine's has never been found.

Finally, it's not just epic journeys that have brought out the best from our Members and put our blades in extraordinary places. Lt Col Graham Gadsden DSO, won the Grand for



Leander in the mid-1930's and as the Commanding Officer of the 112th Wessex Field Regiment, carried his pink blade with him during the D Day assault on the Normandy beaches, treating it as if it were the Regimental Standard!

This tale was revealed in a letter from a fellow Member who served with him.



## Recommended Read

A new book written by Chris Dodd has just been published by the River & Rowing Museum. Entitled *Pieces of Eight* it tells the remarkable inside story of the 1976 GB VIII which won the silver medal at the Montreal Olympics. It was an event which marked a turning point in the fortunes of British rowing. Made up of (at the time) an unlikely combination of Thames Tradesman and Leander oarsmen, the crew had a far from smooth path to success. However, it enabled coach Bob Janousek

to demonstrate that after years in the Olympic wilderness, GB could still aspire to success at the highest level – provided it had the necessary mind-set and approach. It was an event that was to set GB international rowing on the path leading to its current world-leading position. It is a fascinating read for anyone with an interest in rowing, or indeed sport in general.



## SHOPPING IN OLYMPIC YEAR

We have some fantastic new products arriving in the Pink Hippo Shop for this very special year at Leander and in the UK. To celebrate the 2012 Olympics in style we have introduced a great new logo featuring a Union Jack Hippo and 2012 embroidery.

Starting with our sporty limited edition polo shirt in white with Leander club on the collar. This garment is made from a technical fabric that wicks moisture away from the body keeping you cool and dry. Retailing at £35 it is a must for all sports fans.

You can also add to your collection of 2012 souvenir clothing with a handy sleeveless gilet as modelled by Jack Hockley. Available in the Pink Hippo shop or from our website for £45.

There will be plenty of other exciting 2012 products available at regatta and on our website so keep your eyes open to pick up a truly unique memento of the Games.

Away from the Olympic theme we have introduced two beautiful exclusive cricket jumpers to the Leander collection. Again Jack models our Members' only version, which has been knitted especially for Leander with the Club pink thread. In addition it features the LC logo Members' only logo – a real treat at £90

We have also created a non-members cricket jumper with navy and pink V and Leander Club text, to keep you warm and fashionable in this unseasonal weather. Grab this exclusive garment for £69.50

We have been working hard to offer you a great range of clothing and gifts which are available in the Pink Hippo shop and from our website. Hopefully you will find something to tempt you and continue to support our athletes in this most prestigious and exciting year.



Navy Gilet  
Price £45.00



2012 Polo Shirt  
Price £35.00



Pink Hippo T-shirt  
Price £17.00



Leander Cricket Jumper  
Price £69.50



Full Members Cricket Jumper  
Price £90.00

To order any of the items above or any other Leander Club gifts please visit our shop website at [www.leander.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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.