

# LeanderNews



The Leander Club Newsletter Winter 2008



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Leander Olympic Champions – Mark Hunter, Steve Williams and Peter Reed.

## Beijing triumph

Even by Leander standards, 2008 has been exceptional. While our Olympians were achieving a record medal haul in Beijing, our development squad has dominated the domestic season. Looking back at Beijing, the numbers speak for themselves. Of the forty-three members of the British Olympic rowing team, fifteen were from Leander Club. All fifteen of us made the finals and thirteen came home with medals – three Bronze, seven Silver and three Gold.

The dominant manner in which Mark Hunter stroked the lightweight double to gold was sheer class. Everyone at Leander took huge pleasure in seeing Mark triumph in Beijing, after years of struggling to find the right doubles partner. It could not have happened to a better or more deserving man who has set a real example and given great service to the club. We are all thrilled to congratulate him and very pleased for his family.

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## Olympic success

It was another nail-biter in the coxless fours (once again, apologies for any heart-attacks!) but sweet relief for Peter Reed, Jürgen Grobler and myself to win gold after a turbulent season, wrought with injuries. This completed a British hat-trick in the Olympic coxless fours and it is a source of great pride for the club that of the twelve gold medals awarded for this event in Sydney, Athens and Beijing, ten have come back to Leander.

There was a distinct pink glow to the Olympic men's eight, containing six Leander athletes – Alex Partridge, Tom Stallard, Ric Egington, Josh West, Matt Langridge and Colin Smith – plus Mark Banks as half of the coaching team. Nowadays, for any one club to have so much representation in the eight is exceptional, but to top that by winning the silver medal in the blue ribbon event is sensational. All but Tom Stallard (now working for the McLaren F1 team) are likely to be back for another tour of Olympic duty and that is a fantastic experience base to have going forward to London.

Debbie Flood won silver in the women's quad. That the girls were so obviously disappointed shows what an exceptional crew they were, with the highest expectations of themselves. I'm sure everyone at the club understood and shared their disappointment but at the same time we are very proud of Debbie and everything that she does.

It was bronze for Anna Bebington at the end of an epic finish in the women's doubles, a 'postage stamp finish' with 0.3 seconds separating the first three boats. Inevitably, after such a tight finish

there was an element of disappointment but Anna had done incredibly well to overcome serious injury just to get to Beijing, let alone to be up there fighting it out for the medals.

In the men's doubles, Steve Rowbotham and Matt Wells won bronze (Britain's first Olympic men's sculling medal for over 30 years). Both are continuing into the next Olympiad, when they will be a great all-Leander prospect for 2012.

Katie Greves, stroking the women's eight and Lou Reeve in the pair were both outside the medals but did themselves and the club proud in very tough situations. The eight was hit by illness and raced the final with two reserves, but still performed well. Lou was the only Olympian who had to qualify for Beijing twice. Having lost her place in the 2007

Bronze medal women's eight, she bounced back and was selected for the then-unqualified pair. Qualifying that boat at the last opportunity before Beijing, Lou then exceeded all expectations to make the Olympic final and will take a lot of confidence from her Beijing experience. Lou was coached by Rob Morgan who, himself at his first Olympics, is another great success story, showing how Leander is developing its coaches as well as its athletes.

It was a fantastic Olympic regatta for both GB and Leander Club. This was Britain's most successful Olympic rowing for 100 years and Leander Club, with strong representation in all of the six medal-winning boats, once again stepped up and did the country proud.



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GB Olympic men's eight, containing six Leander athletes – Alex Partridge (bow), Tom Stallard (2), Ric Egington (4), Josh West (5), Matt Langridge (7) and Colin Smith (stroke) – plus Mark Banks as half of the coaching team.





## The domestic season

Our development squad consistently produced outstanding results. The first was at the Head of the River Race where the defence of our six-year winning run was not made easier by losing sixteen senior internationals on Olympic duties. All clubs lost their Beijing prospects, but inevitably Leander was by far the most severely depleted. However our development squad kept the flag flying and it is a measure of the success of the club's development programme that, in spite of everything, Leander not only retained the Head of the River but also finished third and ninth.

After the Head the momentum continued and there were multiple wins at Ghent, Wallingford, Metropolitan and Marlow, all pointing to a strong Henley Royal Regatta. Once again the club was without our Olympians, with fifteen of us away on training camps, but nonetheless Leander was still able to boat a large entry at the Regatta, with ten full and five composite crews.

It was an impressive demonstration of our strength that we entered Leander eights in each of the Grand, Ladies and Thames, all with a real chance of winning. It was also fantastic to see our 'Sporting Giants' – complete beginners this year – qualifying for one of just sixteen places in the Britannia Cup and making their Henley debut. Much credit goes to their coach Ted Bainbridge for guiding them up a very steep learning curve. In all there were five wins for Leander and, for the absent Olympians (avidly following via mobile phones) the sense of pride and inspiration was the perfect antidote to being unable to compete at Henley ourselves. Vicky



**Ian Lawson Leander's Vice-Captain and winner of the Diamond Sculls.**

Myers, Jo Cook, Rachel Loveridge and Lou Rowbotham made up half of the eight which won the Remenham Challenge Cup and Jane Hall stroked the women's quad to victory in the Princess Grace. After years of dedication it was wonderful to see Ian Lawson, coached by Geoff Baker, fulfil his dream of winning the Diamond Sculls.

Our Ladies Plate crew won in great style. The crew (Ric Francis, Colin Williamson, Henry Palmer, Nick Clark, Pete Randolph, Josh Davidson, plus veterans Clive Kennedy-Burn and Dan Marett and cox Zoe de Toledo) handled the pressure of being favourites very well. Their outstanding young coach, Ben Lewis, has now coached winning Leander eights in successive seasons. Ben has now moved to the USA to further his coaching experience. We wish him every success there, though he will be much missed.

Our young Thames Cup crew were certainly not favourites, having been beaten by the strong Tideway Scullers eight each time they had raced. In the final, they produced a searing start and

just held on for a courageous victory. Coached by Brian Armstrong and Livinia Cowell-Sherriff, the crew of Dave Jones, Tom Clarke, Dave Bell, Kevin Harry, Ollie Partridge, Will Satch, Al Webb, Ray Poulter and Chrisy Fox (cox) really came of age that day.

After Henley, Leander dominated the National Championships, winning all the men's open events and two other events besides. Leander was also well represented at the World, Under-23 and European Championships. Charlie Burkitt took another step closer to the senior national team by winning an Under-23 bronze medal, while Rachel Loveridge, Jo Cook and Vicky Myers all won silver at the European Championships.

What a season it's been for Leander Club! It has been a huge honour and privilege to be Captain in one of our most successful years ever. These superb results bear witness to the excellent system we have here at Leander. Our outstanding facilities and exceptional coaching team are the envy of all clubs, both here and worldwide. We are delighted to welcome to the coaching team Rob Dauncey (High Performance) and Livinia Cowell-Sherriff (Freshers) and we wish them both very well. All this is only made possible by the exceptional support of our entire membership and of Invesco-Perpetual. With this support, Leander can go from strength to strength. London 2012 provides a fantastic opportunity to show the world just what we can do.

**Steve Williams MBE**  
**Captain**

## Rough water ahead!

Having served on the Committee since 2000, including two years as Hon Treasurer and as Chairman since 2007, I am fortunate to have been involved during exciting and successful times. The past few years have seen us progress on many fronts and our rowing results in 2008 are unprecedented. Our membership has grown in each of the past four years and the new and much improved Regatta facilities are proving very popular. We continue to put much money and effort into looking after our members and maintaining our clubhouse standards. As we look towards the London Olympics in 2012 (and even to our bi-centenary in 2018) there is a real sense of momentum, as those of us who were lucky enough to attend the recent London Olympic dinner will confirm. All this is a tribute to our membership as a whole and to our loyal and hard-working professional staff, on and off the water. Inevitably, that sense of optimism is now tempered by real concerns about the impact of global financial turmoil. In line with our four year plan, the first half of 2008 saw very significant (and successful) rowing investment. Our first half trading results were acceptable and it seems that Leander's facilities were better supported during this year's Regatta than many others along the Henley reach. We have also completed much needed renovations to the exterior of the clubhouse (thanks to the existence of our modest Buildings reserve, built up over recent years).

However, we are now facing significant inflationary pressures (for example in energy costs and food supplies) and are



anticipating a possible reduction in the level of corporate business that is so important to underpin our economics. It is unrealistic to imagine things will become easier during 2009 and therefore we are looking very hard at our priorities and costs for next year.

I appreciate that the economic outlook affects us all personally in many different ways, but the reality is that each and every individual member has a vital role to play in enabling Leander to ride this challenge. We need your help in many ways, including:

- supporting our 2012 Appeal, details of which are enclosed with this Newsletter. In view of the economic outlook, the Appeal has now assumed even greater importance for funding our rowing in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.
- introducing new members to the club, a task which is hopefully both

pleasurable and relatively straightforward (especially now that our Ordinary membership criteria have been clarified and are available via our website or the Office)

- ensuring that you and your guests make plenty of use of Leander during the 2009 Regatta, when our Beijing Olympic heroes will be back competing in Leander colours on our home water.
- alerting us to any opportunities you might spot for additional corporate business during the year (small conferences, board meetings etc) or for corporate entertaining during the Regatta.
- considering whether you could join our vital band of volunteers and help us with some important 'hands-on' projects in coming months

The 2012 London Olympics are now firmly in view and we want them to be remembered by all members with pride and pleasure. Please do whatever you can to help us achieve that.

*Corpus Leandri spes mea!*

Nick Aitchison

Chairman



## 'The most exclusive clubs in Britain'

Some members may not have seen the article entitled 'The clubs you cannot join' in 'Country Life' (28th October) or the follow-up coverage in the Daily Telegraph. Fifteen clubs, including Leander Club, were profiled as 'the more remarkable and exclusive clubs' in Britain. Some were better known than others and ranged from the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association through to the Masters of Wine. Notable absentees from the list included the MCC, the Royal Yacht Squadron and London clubs such as Boodle's and White's.



Among those with a sporting connotation were the Jockey Club, I Zingari (cricket) and the Royal Cruising Club. Country sports were well represented but perhaps the most intriguing was the Shuttlecock Club. This has nothing to do with badminton but is for those who have fallen off their sleds at the notorious Shuttlecock Corner on the Cresta Run.

The common thread between the clubs selected is the 'bringing together of enthusiasts and devotees or people who share in a great experience'. Whether or not we think of ourselves as 'exclusive', the article is a very strong reminder of the cachet that membership of Leander Club entails.

## The Leander Club 2012 Appeal

The 2012 London Olympic Games represent a once in a lifetime opportunity for British rowing and for Leander Club. For many years, we have been the largest source of new talent (and medallists) for the national team and at the Beijing Olympics, where Great Britain was the most successful rowing nation, thirteen of the twenty British rowing medallists were from Leander.



Leander's experience at the highest level, coupled with significant depth of talent in our squad, means that we are very well placed to continue the task of developing future Olympians, for 2012 and beyond. However, additional funds are urgently needed to support our athletes with the necessary world-class coaching, equipment, nutrition, physiotherapy and training camps that are essential for success.

The Appeal brochure is enclosed with this newsletter and you are kindly requested to support the appeal if you possibly can. By becoming a 'Leander Hero' our Members and other supporters of the Club will be able to make a real difference and to join our athletes on their journey towards Olympic success.



## England Cricket Team at

Not many Members will be aware that on two occasions in the last two years our squad has been given motivational and leadership talks by Floyd Woodrow, who until earlier this year has been a very serious player in the SAS at Hereford. Floyd now specialises in talking to elite groups on how they can ensure they perform to their best and create a bastion of excellence within their own particular environment.

When Floyd was asked by the England and Wales Cricket Board to put together an event for the England cricket team he immediately asked Leander whether he could bring them to Henley and whether we could arrange for them to go for a row. Floyd was keen for the cricket team to see how another sport created an environment of excellence and for them to have the opportunity

to participate in an event where they would be 'out of their comfort zone'. As well as spending time on the water the England coaching team met up with the club's coaches to see what could be learned from each other.

As none of the cricket team had rowed before a little help was on hand from six of our Olympic athletes – Alex Partridge, Josh West, Ric Egington, Matt Wells, Anna Bebington and Lou Reeve who kindly acted as coaches and mentors for the day. With twenty of the team all keen to have a row they were divided up into four groups of five so each eight had three of our Olympians in the crew to help sit the boat! The plan was to have two crews out in the morning and two in the afternoon. At the end of each session the two crews would race, with the winner of the morning



Josh West with England wicket keeper Tim Ambrose.



Victorious Crew.

meeting the winner of the afternoon in a final race-off! After a short session on ergos to learn about the shape of the stroke, the crews went afloat. With only an hour and a quarter to go, from 'never rowed before' to a race, the pressure was on! The morning crews were particularly well matched with their race ending with in a dead heat, resulting in a re-row! The afternoon race was more clear cut, setting up a final which saw Captain Pietersen's crew race former



## Leander



Captain Flintoff's crew over the Turkey Sculls course from the HRR finish to the club.

Fred Flintoff's crew soon established a half length lead and looked set for an easy win when with twenty strokes to go a massive crab by the 4 man (no names, but a very suitable prize was handed out that evening) allowed Kevin Pietersen's crew to win by a canvas, cheered on by the whole of the rest of the group including the management! The day was judged to be a great success and Kevin Pietersen presented the club with

a signed shirt inscribed 'from England 08 to Leander 08 with thanks'. I'm sure members will join me in wishing them all the best in their forth coming tour of India and for next summer's Ashes series.

Ted Bainbridge

## Pink Hippo Club

The raison d'être of the Pink Hippo Club is to provide funding to assist in the purchase of boats and equipment. Last year a sum of £13,750 went towards the purchase of a new eight. If you are not a member then please print off a form from the website or call the office - only £12 per ticket per annum with two draws a year.

First prize £300

AJL Thorpe

Second prize £200

P Baldwin

Third prize £100

BS Ulyatt

If you are not yet a member why not join now?

[www.leander.co.uk/downloads/hippiform.htm](http://www.leander.co.uk/downloads/hippiform.htm)



A promising newcomer on the ergo!



## Reflections from our new President

When I was first nominated to succeed Patrick Delafield as President, I knew he'd be a hard act to follow - but I never realised how hard! When Patrick handed over to me, Leander had just completed arguably the most successful season in the Club's whole illustrious history. As you will have read and as the records that adorn the Clubhouse walls now testify, that really is saying something. With thirteen Olympic medal winners, five Henley Royal Regatta victories and dominance at the Tideway Head and National Championships, we succeeded at all levels. 2008 was a phenomenal achievement: for athletes, coaches and everyone who has supported them, not just this year but in the long build-up that such success requires.

So where do we go from here?

The answer is upwards. At least that's the view of the Committee, our coaches and our management. We have two aims: to make Leander an even better club for our members, and to produce even more top-class crews and athletes for the very highest levels of competition. Far from being in conflict, the two objectives go together. Our unique strength nowadays is our ability to identify and nurture high-potential young athletes: providing them with the support, facilities and first-class coaching necessary to reach the top. That's a key role we now play in British rowing. But such a programme takes considerable investment, the funding for which comes largely from the members and from extensive use of our Clubhouse facilities. The better the atmosphere and amenities, the more the members want to use the club; and the



more we use it, the more income we generate and the more support we can give to the rowing squad. In turn, the performance of our rowers gives the club its unique offering to all our members: the opportunity to be, or remain, closely associated with sport at the very highest level. It's a virtuous circle.

We want to make Leander an even more convivial place to visit - with better amenities, more activities and more 'club atmosphere'. And we want to ensure that our members - all our members - feel engaged with rowing at the highest level. That's what makes us unique and it is the reason why so many people aspire to join us.

Sir George Cox  
President

## Annual Subscription for 2009

Leander Club subscriptions for 2009 will be as follows:

Ordinary & Associate Members £225

Overseas Members £112.50

Ordinary Members under 30 £50

*(including Overseas Ordinary members under 30)*

*The ARA's annual levy of £5.20 is added to all subscriptions.*

A joining fee equal to one year's subscription for that category is applied but is waived for Ordinary Members under 30. There is no subsequent joining fee payable by existing Members on reaching the age of 30.

Spouse Membership is available at half the full subscription rate (with no joining fee).

Subscriptions are payable by Direct Debit on 1st January each year.

## Stop press....

Four pennants won at Fours Head of the River -

Elite lightweight quadruple sculls,  
Senior 1 quadruple sculls,  
Elite coxless four and  
Women's elite coxless four.





## Pink Hippo Day Olympians Return

A poem commemorating our Olympic celebrations by Ceinwen Sanderson, 13th October 2008

Church bells are ringing out  
As Henley receives us, hurrying from the train,  
The trees turning towards Autumn,  
And the river, always the river.

We gather by the bank,  
See the oars in parade, join the applause.  
Then boats into the water –  
Quietly, no splash, disciplined –  
And they row away, behind the island.

All we have now is sound –  
Cheers, whooping –  
Someone welcomes them home  
In no uncertain terms!  
We strain to see, tip-toeing to gain height, then –  
'They're coming!'

At last, the boats appear, some oarsmen  
waving, The Eight in style, a racing start!

We clap keenly into the morning air,  
October sunshine, smell of the river.

By the bridge later, we watch them home  
To Leander, holy ground today.

Then join the crowd to see them pass  
On the pageant-circus of an open bus.

Led by an incongruous band,  
Part Glockenspiels, part Highland dress,  
They come. Pink banners, pink balloons,  
And the Leander symbol, hippos pink  
Waved by the athletes. And it's fun,  
It's moving, it's their just reward,  
This crowd, these cheers, this homecoming.  
Waving, smiling, on they come.

'There's Jürgen!' shouts a man, full of joy,  
Greeting Jürgen as our own, proud he  
shares our home.

Speeches are made, short, to the point,  
Short as the races these have run, but note is made  
Of daily training on their river-home.

And they give back, thanks to the town,  
For helping with friendly words on mornings  
Cold with frost, when river-rowers can feel lost  
And loneliness sets in. 'Leander is our home,  
The river is our home', their captain says.

More cheers, the clapping more intense,  
We greet each rower as they wave and smile  
Prior to mingling with the crowd and autographs,  
And lunch with children. And then,  
Leander's captain gives the word:

'Right, guys, one more thing –  
Hippos at the ready – NOW!'

They throw their hippos out, and to the crowd,  
Pink arcs of gift, of giving back,  
While over all the splendid day  
A light plane sails, its banner trails  
Into the cloudless Autumn skies,  
And here below the river ever runs, as  
'Henley welcomes its Olympians'

© Ceinwen Sanderson 13th October 2008



## What brought you to Leander?

Tom Clark and Nick Clark each won at Henley Royal Regatta this year. Both joined our squad as youngsters and here they look back on their Leander careers so far.

### How did you first get involved in rowing at Leander?

**TC**

*In 2007 I left Royal Grammar School Worcester, where I had done fairly well at rowing. However, I hadn't made the GB Junior team or even won a heat at Henley and I felt I could do better. I'd heard about the opportunity to row at Leander in the 'gap year' so I decided to defer my place at university and to see if I could take my rowing a stage further.*

**NC**

*In 2002, I was 17 and studying at Henley College. At the time I was a very keen squash player, approaching regional standard. I knew absolutely nothing about rowing. I'd done well in some ergometer tests at the college and so I was invited down to Leander for more testing. On the way into the club I bumped into James Cracknell. He was very friendly and introduced himself, but at the time I had absolutely no idea who he was, so I just smiled! Anyway, those tests went well and even though I had never rowed I was invited to join the squad.*

### What were your first impressions when you arrived?

**TC**

*Turning up at Leander in September 2007 was a daunting experience, lots of big guys and a hard training programme designed to thrust me quickly into senior rowing. The first six weeks was a trial period and it was tough adjusting to the increased training load, which was a lot more than I had done at school. As most of the newcomers stayed in the crew dormitory for the first two months, we had a good chance to get to know each other and it didn't take too long to settle in.*

**NC**

*I spent my first 10 months trying to balance rowing and squash. I had to get properly fit and to learn to scull from scratch. But in those first months I progressed enough to make the GB team for the 2003 'Coupe de la Jeunesse'. This was my first taste of international competition and I picked up a bronze medal in the single sculls. I was still 18 and that was the moment when I decided my future lay in rowing.*

### What's training at Leander really like?

**TC**

*The atmosphere is amazing. Everyone gives everything and competes very hard in training, but there's a great team spirit and we all support each other. In my first few months it felt quite surreal, particularly when I found myself doing an 18km ergo session wedged between*



The winning Thames Challenge Cup crew.

*Steve Williams and Ian Lawson! Seeing the internationals training around us made me appreciate what a great opportunity this was. It is hard but very enjoyable.*

**NC**

*Training at Leander has always been tough, but also fun and it gives you confidence too. The facilities and support that the squad gets makes you realise you are in the best possible environment to achieve your goals.*



Nick Clark and Tom Clark.

## What was your first big breakthrough?

**TC**

*Having settled into serious training during last winter, racing was the next challenge. I was in the lowest group, with the other newcomers. Some had never rowed before and others were youngsters like me, with a bit of experience. The plan was to enter the Thames Cup at Henley, and also to do well in the Head of the River Race. Selection was fiercely competitive but I managed to secure a place in the crew. In the Head we came*

*ninth, that was just amazing for me, never having achieved any notable results before.*

**NC**

*During 2004, I was making the big adjustment to rowing as a senior and we reached the semi-finals at Henley. But it was the next year that I started a run of four Henley victories in successive years, starting with the Britannia Cup and right through to winning the Ladies Plate this year. And in the meantime I was in the GB under-23 team two years running, reaching the finals both times.*

## What was the highlight of the 2008 season?

**TC**

*Obviously it was winning the Thames Cup, but it was the training and the build up too; when you aim for something really hard, put the work in and then achieve it, well that's an amazing feeling. In the final we were up against the Tideway Scullers, who we had yet to beat this season. We threw everything at them off the start and grabbed a half length lead. It was down to just six feet at the finish, but it was enough. What made it really special was the fact that, like most of my crew, I had never achieved anything like this before.*

**NC**

*The highlight was racing in that Ladies Plate crew. It was stacked with characters, all with strongly differing opinions, a nightmare for our coach, Ben Lewis!*

*We faced the Dutch World University Championships crew in the final, but the start was delayed for 20 minutes by an almighty thunderstorm. Once under way, we gained  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a length quite quickly but somehow we never quite settled into our race rhythm. Zoë, our cox, was screaming at us to relax as we were still rating 40 at the half way mark! Somehow it worked and we held off the Dutch to win by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a length. Our celebrations must have looked pretty ridiculous but it was a case of sheer relief!*

## What does the future hold now?

**TC**

*I'm now back for my second season at Leander and well into the winter training. My target this year is to try for GB under 23 selection and to start to make the move up to Ladies Plate standard. Beyond that, who knows?.*

**NC**

*The 2008/2009 season is now well underway and we already have plenty of good solid training under our belts. My goals for this season are to win Henley for a fifth consecutive year, and to make the European Championships team. I want to challenge for a place in the GB senior team for the World Championships, if not this season then as soon as possible.*



## First impressions, from our new General Manager

I am not sure at what point I will feel obliged to stop calling myself 'the new boy', but after two months it still seems an appropriate title as I am still finding my feet. I consider it a huge privilege to have been appointed as the new General Manager and I am equally privileged to have been elected as an Ordinary Member - another apt title, as most of my rowing was indeed very ordinary, although long ago I did represent GB as a Junior.

First Impressions? The word 'professionalism' comes to mind, as it sums up the club's attitude both on and off the water. We have an impressive clubhouse in good decorative order, with up to date facilities for the members and crew and with an ambience, context and river view that few other clubs can rival. Added to this I have inherited a very dedicated and professional management team who all seem to care a great deal about the club and what it stands for. The combined energy and commitment of the committee has also been evident to me from the start. The last pieces of this 'jigsaw' are the athletes and their support staff. Their success in 2008 speaks for itself, and they have a dedication and focus that you cannot but admire. So, I think the word 'professionalism' heads the list.

The second word that springs to mind is 'challenge'. My predecessor Charles Barker has obviously achieved much during his tenure, but times are rapidly changing.



The economic climate has suddenly hastened the imperatives to contain costs, refresh and update the service we provide and plan realistically for uncertain times. Success on the water also brings its own demands if we are to fund future success. I am very conscious of the challenges that I have inherited to balance the needs of both the wider Leander membership and of our crews.

Lastly I must mention the word 'friendly'. The committee, staff, crews, coaches and all those members I have met so far have, without exception, been most welcoming and helpful to their 'new boy'. So, all in all, I am very pleased to be here at Leander Club and I am looking forward to my first year unfolding and to working together to build further our exceptional reputation.

**Paul Budd OBE**  
General Manager

## Stop press....



Thanks to the vital input of Olympic Champions Steve Williams and Peter Reed, together with the organisational skills of Robert Treharne Jones, Leander Club has been able to support this year's BBC 'Children in Need' charity.

A day's rowing with Williams and Reed, followed by lunch at the Club and the opportunity to follow the 2009 Boat Race in an official launch comprised the package which raised £10,000 in Terry Wogan's auction on Radio 2.

"Thank you for helping us raise so much money for such a great charity" said the BBC spokesperson.



## Making the best of your club

Our recent membership attitude survey was notable for two things – the high number of responses received and the consistency of the generally very positive comments. Four primary reasons emerged for being a Leander member:

- use of our excellent facilities during Henley Royal Regatta
- enjoyment of the degree of 'cachet' that membership brings
- involvement with the highest levels of the sport today
- use of the facilities year round and the chance to meet other members

The first three appear self-evident, given the positive feedback received on this year's Henley arrangements, the recent naming of Leander as one of the fifteen most remarkable and exclusive clubs in the Britain and our outstanding rowing results in 2008. However, most of us will concede we could do more in terms of using the facilities year round. Obviously the more use we can make of our clubhouse, the less pressure there is on our finances. Any improvement in our trading goes towards keeping our subscriptions at a reasonable level and towards maintaining the building.

The clubhouse makes a unique setting for a wide range of private dinners, parties, reunions, Christmas parties and weddings (incidentally we now hold a civil weddings licence). Our eleven individually furnished en suite bedrooms are competitively priced and we offer inclusive weekend breaks. If you are planning a function, please speak to Sheila Harrington in the office. You will be very well looked after and will be supporting your own club.



club – whether it is for Sunday lunch or dinner midweek, you will be made most welcome.

Finally, may I remind you that a very effective way to support the club is to introduce new members, vital for the club's long-term social and financial health. Our numbers are growing, but if every member had themselves introduced just one new member over the past six years, we would by now be in a pretty unassailable financial position. Please help us in this vital task!

Ted Bainbridge  
Hon Treasurer

For those of you with business connections, please remember Leander makes an excellent venue for small conferences, board meetings and 'away days'. Increasingly, companies are taking the opportunity to include a motivational talk from one of our Olympians or to book a 'try rowing' session for delegates. With the raised profile of Leander and rowing, our Regatta facilities are an idea location for very competitively-priced corporate entertaining. As the London Olympics draw near, it is worth remembering that we offer the only corporate entertaining opportunity with a direct link to Olympic sport. Once again we can provide top athletes or other experts as hosts or speakers.

We have had many well-attended member events this year, ranging from the large-scale London Olympic dinner in October to sold-out evenings with 'Frank Sinatra' and 'Noel Coward'. But please don't wait for a special event to visit your

## Club Dress Code

The dress code throughout the club is defined as 'smart casual' i.e. no trainers, jeans etc. A jacket and tie for men and equivalent attire for ladies should be worn for formal dining (which includes Sunday lunch) in the Members' Balcony or Dining Room.

## Past glories and enduring friendships – a reunion luncheon (April 2009)



Although our current rowing success is justifiably a source of great pride, Leander's strong tradition and sparkling history is equally impressive. After nearly 200 years, it is sobering to remind ourselves that today's triumphs will in time become just another entry in the annals of our club.

For most of us, our rowing now comprises distant, but not necessarily dimmed, memories of races lost and won, friendships made and of the equal pleasure and pain our sport entails. Leander has always been the meeting place for oarsmen to recall more energetic days, and we frequently host reunions for specific crews and clubs. Recently, the 1951 European Championship crew held their reunion at the club and took to the water with their old skills still much in evidence.

However we also wish to provide a more general opportunity for our older members and their guests to meet, outside of the bustle of the Regatta.

Therefore our President, Sir George Cox, will be hosting a Reunion Luncheon on Saturday April 25th 2009 at which we hope to see as many of you as possible. A two course lunch will be served and the price (including pre lunch drink and wine) is £23.50 per head. Full details appear in the Calendar of Events.

## A Lensday Farewell Lunch

We have recently said farewell to both Charles and Judi-Ann and two events were held to mark their departure. In August, a reception was held for them both, attended by many members as well as a variety of guests representing several organisations with which Leander regularly co-operates. The club presented Charles with a laptop computer and Judi-Ann with some jewellery as their leaving presents.

The second event was a special lunch, held by the Lensday Group, to thank them both. Ralph Denne expressed the gratitude of the 30 Lensday members present and recalled the exceptional contribution that both had made. He emphasised the warmth, humour and knowledge that characterised Judi-Ann's twenty years service, as well as the professionalism that had enabled Charles to establish very high standards during his four years as General Manager at Leander.

The club is very grateful to the many members who contributed to the Fund set up to mark Judi-Ann's departure.







## Christmas Suggestions from the Pink Hippo Shop

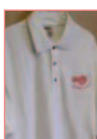
The Pink Hippo Shop exists to generate income which goes directly into the Boat Fund. We aim to contribute £30,000+ per annum to the fund. Every purchase you make from the Pink Hippo Shop helps towards this.

In 2009 you will see some changes to the clothing and gifts on sale in the Pink Hippo Shop. We will continue to have two main brands – Pinks for Members, and Happy Hippo for general sale but each brand will have a touch more focus.

To kick-start the changes and to boost our rowing fund contributions for 2008, we're happy to offer you some great savings on these Christmas treats while current stocks last.

**The following products are heavily discounted. Available at the club or club website. [www.leander.co.uk](http://www.leander.co.uk)**

**White polo shirt**  
white cotton polo shirt for men or women embroidered on the left breast with Happy Hippo and the words Leander Club. Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL.  
Was £25.00 **Now £18.50**



**Baseball cap.** bright pink  
Was £12.00 **Now £8.00**



**Short sleeved rugby shirts,** navy and white band  
Was £32.50 **Now £25.00**



**Childs white bibs with pink hippo logo.**  
Was £8.00 **Now £5.00**



**Toddlers T shirt** navy  
Was £9.50 **Now £7.00**



**Baby grow** 0/3 month  
Was £12.00 **Now £8.00**



**Pink sweatshirt**  
Was £28.50 **Now £15.00**



**Bernie Cookson's Leander cartoon placemats** – set of 6.  
Was £39.50 **Now £32.00**



**The ever popular straight sided hippo mug**  
Was £11.50 **Now £8.00**



**Frolicking hippo bone china teapot**  
Was £49.50 **Now £35.00**



**Frolicking hippo bone china cup and saucer**  
Was £18.50 **Now £12.00**



**Frolicking hippo bone china egg cup** Was £5.79  
**Now £3.50** (4 for £12)



**Gold plated sterling silver hippo pendant.**  
Was £55.00 **Now £39.50**



**Sterling silver outline hippo with oars brooch**  
Was £62.00 **Now £52.00**



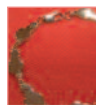
**Sterling silver outline hippo without oars – brooch**  
Was £40.00 **Now £35.00**



**Hippo sterling silver earrings**  
Was £29.50 **Now £25.00**



**Sterling silver fun hippo bracelet**  
Was £69.50 **Now £60.00**



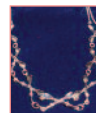
**Portfolio with calculator and hippo on the face**  
Was £9.50 **Now £6.00**



**Hand made silver oar Brooch**  
Was £37.50 **Now £30.00**



**Sterling silver necklace with crosses oars**  
Was £86 **Now £75.00**



**Papier mache money pig**  
Was £9.50 **Now £7.00**



**Picture frame clock**  
Was £12.50 **Now £7.00**



**Touch screen clock**  
Was £12.50 **Now £7.00**



**Hippo playing cards**  
Was £9.50 **Now £5.50**



**Sportline waterproof watch with a hippo face**  
Was £25.00 **Now £18.00**



**Hippo car stickers**  
Was £1.00 **Now £0.50**



**To see more great gifts go to [www.leander.co.uk](http://www.leander.co.uk)**

Congratulations to our crews and coaches on an outstanding year.

## OLYMPIC GAMES

### Gold Medals

Men's Coxless Four  
S.D. WILLIAMS MBE  
P.K. REED

Men's Lightweight Double Scull  
M.J. HUNTER

### Silver Medals

Men's Eight  
A.M. PARTRIDGE  
T.A. STALLARD  
R.P. EGINGTON  
A.J. WEST  
M.K. LANGRIDGE  
C.M. SMITH  
Coach: M. Banks

Women's Quadruple Scull  
D.K. FLOOD

### Bronze Medals

Men's Double Scull  
M.W. WELLS  
S.C. ROWBOTHAM  
Women's Double Scull  
A.R. BEBINGTON

Women's Eight (5th) K. GREVES  
Women's Coxless Pair (6th) L. REEVE  
Coach: R. Morgan

## HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

### Winning Crews

#### Ladies Challenge Plate

J. DAVIDSON  
P.E.M. RANDOLPH  
C. KENNEDY-BURN  
N.J. CLARK  
H.A. PALMER  
C.E. WILLIAMSON  
D. MARETT  
R. FRANCIS  
Z.M. DE TOLEDO  
Coach: B. Lewis

#### Diamond Challenge Sculls

I.J. LAWSON  
Coach: G. Baker

#### Remenham Challenge Cup

L.J. ROWBOTHAM  
R.A. LOVERIDGE  
J.M. COOK  
S.V. MYERS

#### Princess Grace Challenge Cup

J.L. HALL

### Thames Challenge Cup

D.R. JONES  
T.M.C. CLARK  
D.A. BELL  
K.J. HARRY  
O.J.C. PARTRIDGE  
W.S. SATCH  
A.K. WEBB  
R.R. POULTER  
C.M. FOX  
Coaches: B. Armstrong and  
L. Cowell-Sherriff

## UNDER-23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Bronze Medals

Men's Coxless Pair  
C.D. BURKITT  
Coach: C. Collerton

Men's Eight (5th)  
J. DAVIDSON

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lightweight Women's Quadruple Scull (4th)  
J.L. HALL

Lightweight Men's Quadruple Scull (7th)  
S. JONES  
M. BEECHEY

Lightweight Men's Pair (12th)  
C. BARTLEY

## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Silver Medals

Women's Eight  
R.A. LOVERIDGE  
J.M. COOK  
S.V. MYERS

Women's Double Scull (5th)  
D.K. FLOOD

Men's Eight (6th)  
C.D. BURKITT  
T. BROADWAY  
R.M. BATEMAN  
J.E. ORME  
T.F. BURTON  
T. G. WILKINSON  
P. HILL

Men's Coxless Four (7th)  
G. LAUGHTON

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Gold Medals

#### Men's eights

T. BROADWAY  
P.E.M. RANDOLPH  
M. STEEDS  
R.M. BATEMAN  
C. KENNEDY-BURN  
T.F. BURTON  
J.E. ORME  
R. FRANCIS  
COX: P. HILL

#### Men's Quadruple Sculls

G. LAUGHTON  
A. ARDRON  
N.J. CLARK  
T.G. WILKINSON

#### Men's Coxless Four

A. MOFFATT  
A. ARDRON  
P.E.M. RANDOLPH  
M. STEEDS

#### Men's Coxed Four

R.M. BATEMAN  
C. KENNEDY-BURN  
N.J. CLARK  
J.E. ORME  
COX: Z.M. DE TOLEDO

#### Women's Coxless Four

J.M. COOK  
R.A. LOVERIDGE  
L. J. ROWBOTHAM  
S.V. MYERS

#### Men's Double Sculls

I.J. LAWSON  
R. HUNTER

#### Men's Coxless Pairs

T.F. BURTON  
T. BROADWAY

#### Lightweight Men's Coxless Pairs

A. DAX  
D.R. JONES

#### Men's single scull

I.J. LAWSON

#### Leander Coaches:

M. Banks, R. Morgan, C. Collerton,  
B. Lewis, G. Baker, B. Armstrong,  
L. Cowell Sherriff, J. Moore,  
D. Currie, E. Bainbridge.

