

Leander Crews on Top Form

Henley Royal Regatta is one of the high points of the Leander season, and one that all the athletes look forward to. Visitors and athletes alike feel the build up to the Regatta from early spring as soon as work starts on the course and facilities.

Once the event entries are in and the qualifiers over with, the tension begins to mount and at the draw in Henley Town Hall you will see many Leander tracksuits waiting excitedly to see who they have drawn for the first races.

This year, spectators were not disappointed as Leander athletes were again involved in some fantastic races and had some well deserved wins.

Our success started with Nick Middleton and Jack Hockley who, following their win in the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup last year, teamed up with Alan Sinclair and John Collins to take the trophy for a second year. Coached again by Matt Beechey, this is the first time since the event's conception that it has been won by one club in consecutive years.

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Captain Richard Egington leads the way with a win in the Stewards' Challenge Cup.



Leander Ladies' Challenge Plate crew go out fighting.

Stop Press:

Just as this newsletter was going to press, we were delighted to hear that we had our most successful Head of the River Fours to date. More details in the next edition, but we had seven crews in the top 10 and won 5 pennants – Elite 4x, Elite Lwt 4x, IM1 4x, Elite 4+ and W Elite 4x. Well done to all the athletes and coaches involved.



The winning Elite 4x

Image courtesy of Jet Photographics

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In the Visitors' Challenge Cup, Jono Clegg and Jon Preston added another medal to their impressive domestic season in a composite crew, which they would row at the Under 23 World Championships a few weeks later.

There was a hard fought battle in the Ladies Plate final with a quality Leander crew going out hard but unfortunately just losing out to a crew from Germany.

Leander Internationals did not travel to Hamburg for the second World Cup race of the season, due to an e-coli outbreak amongst the squad. This meant entries for GB Internationals were decided earlier than normal due to the gap that had opened in the season.

From a personal perspective, I was certainly pleased to hear that I would be racing in the Stewards Challenge Cup, teaming up with fellow Leander crew mates, Matt Langridge and Alex Gregory as well as Tom James. In the final, Matt called an excellent race and Alex set a solid rhythm, which was too strong in the middle for the USA. Breaking the course record twice during the Regatta convinced me of what we might be able to achieve later in the season.

In the Queen Mother Challenge Cup, Tom Solsebury and Steve Rowbotham, coached by our Director of Rowing Mark Banks, had some epic racing, culminating in the defeat of the current World Champions in the Final. The

quad looked commanding and offered some of the best racing of the Regatta.

Pete Reed again took the challenge of the Silver Goblets with his partner Andy Triggs-Hodge and recorded a convincing win in this event.

The Leander Double Sculls of Marcus Bateman and Matthew Wells showed their class in the Final when they took on the Australians, confirming that British Sculling is really on the up.

Richard Phillip Egington
Captain

Leander helps GB dominate at the Worlds

The beautiful Lake Bled in Slovenia was host to the 2011 World Championships and once again Leander athletes made up the majority share of the British team. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to compete there.

The heavyweight Men's Coxless Four, which I was part of alongside fellow Leander members Matt Langridge and Alex Gregory and Tom James, were well prepared to deliver our most important performance of the season. After convincing wins at Henley and Lucerne the pressure was on for us to deliver. Our win was commanding albeit perhaps not

our best row, but one of the most precious moments in my career to date. Mark Hunter, after an interrupted World Cup season showed what he is made of, taking the Men's Lightweight Double crown with Zac Purchase in a closely fought battle with New Zealand. This turn-around just demonstrates the calibre of athlete Mark is, currently a Double World and Olympic Champion. Anna Watkins and crewmate Katherine Grainger also maintained their title as World Champions by leading their race from the start. Australia took Silver and New Zealand one of Bronze. Anna remains on course for an



Chambers and Emery on their way to gold in LM2-

exciting build up to the London Games. Kieran Emery, picked up an Under 23 and Senior World Championships Gold in the Lightweight pair. A fantastic achievement and the start of a long and exciting career for him.

The Men's and Women's eights were both involved in exciting races taking Silver and Bronze respectively with Leander athletes, Vicky Thornley and Dan Ritchie leading from the respective stroke seats. Alex Partridge and Phelan Hill made up the remainder of the Leander contingent in the Men's eight. Jo Cook, Lou Reeve and Katie Greves in the Women's. On the development side, Will Satch and Tom Clark added bronze medals to their tally



Men's Lightweight Four take on the World



Mark Hunter and Zac Purchase power their way to victory on Lake Bled

of Under 23 World's medals.

After dominating the heat and semi-final, in the Men's pair, Peter Reed and crewmate Andrew Triggs-Hodge were unfortunate to come up against the reigning World Champions from New Zealand and after a tough race they finished second. Chris Bartley, Paul Mattick and Richard Chambers took Bronze in the Lightweight Four, disappointing for them after the thrilling race from last year where they were Gold medallists but in this event where margins are so small, I'm sure they are looking



Anna Watkins and Katherine Grainger in their winning combination

GB CREWS in BLED (Athletes competing as Leander listed in **bold**)

Crew	Names	Heat	Rep	QF	SF	B final	Final
Men's eight M8+	Alex Partridge James Foad Cameron Nichol Nathaniel Reilly-O'Donnell Mohamed Sbihi Greg Searle Tom Ransley Dan Ritchie Cox: Phelan Hil	1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	SILVER
Men's quadruple scull M4x	Tom Solesbury Steve Rowbotham Sam Townsend Bill Lucas	3	2	>>>	4	7	
Men's four M4-	Matt Langridge Rick Egington Tom James Alex Gregory	1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	GOLD
Men's double scull M2x	Marcus Bateman Matt Wells	1	>>>	>>>	2	>>>	6
Men's pair M2-	Peter Reed Andy Triggs-Hodge	1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	SILVER
Men's single scull M1x	Alan Campbell	1	>>>	1	1	>>>	BRONZE

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Crew	Names		Heat	Rep	QF	SF	B final	Final
Women's eight W8+	Jo Cook Jessica Eddie Alison Knowles Lindsey Maguire Natasha Page	Lou Reeve Katie Greves Vicky Thornley Cox: Caroline O'Connor	2	1	>>>	>>>	>>>	BRONZE
Women's quadruple scull W4x	Debbie Flood Beth Rodford	Annie Vernon Melanie Wilson	3	3	>>>	>>>	7	
Women's double scull W2x	Anna Watkins	Katherine Grainger	1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	GOLD
Women's pair W2-	Helen Glover	Heather Stanning	1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	2
Women's single scull W1x	Frances Houghton		4	1	>>>	4	10	
Lightweight men's four LM4-	Richard Chambers Paul Mattick	Rob Williams Chris Bartley	1	>>>	2	>>>	>>>	BRONZE
Lightweight men's double scull LM2x	Mark Hunter	Zac Purchase	1	>>>	2	1	>>>	GOLD
Lightweight men's pairs LM2-	Kieren Emery	Pete Chambers	1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	GOLD
Lightweight men's single scull LM1x	Adam Freeman-Pask		4	1	>>>	3	>>>	6
Lightweight women's quadruple scull LW4x	Stephanie Cullen Kathryn Twyman	Imogen Walsh Andrea Dennis	1	>>>	>>>	>>>	>>>	1
Lightweight women's double scull LW2x	Hester Goodsell	Sophie Hosking	1	>>>	>>>	3	>>>	BRONZE
Mixed adaptive coxed four LTA4+	Pamela Relph Naomi Riches James Roe	David Smith Cox: Lily van den Broeke	1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	GOLD
Mixed double scull TA2x	Nick Beighton	Sam Scowen	2	2	>>>	>>>	>>>	6
Men's arms-only single scull AM1x	Tom Aggar		1	>>>	>>>	1	>>>	GOLD

The End of a Fantastic Season ~ With the Olympics to Come!

The past rowing season must surely go down as one of the most successful in the Club's history.

The year got off to a great start with wins in the three most important Heads: the Fours Head, the Women's Head and the Men's Head. Leander is the only club ever to have achieved this feat, and it is the second time in our history that we have done so.

Further success followed at HRR with Leander oarsmen and women involved in nine finals and six wins – in what was by general agreement a vintage year for the Regatta, with a strong overseas entry and fast conditions. The Club then went on to make a major contribution to the outstanding success of GB in International competition. As most members will have noted, GB ended up as the top rowing nation at the World Championships in Bled, winning a record ten medals and securing qualifying places in 13 out of next year's 14 Olympic events. There were 27 Leander athletes in this team, made up of twelve heavyweight men, five lightweights and ten women. This may well be a Club record.

We also had a further 11 representatives at the World Under-23 Championships.

Much credit must go to our coaching team, steadily building this platform over several years. But while World Championship and Olympic success represents the peak of our rowers' achievements, it is the earlier years of development that are our most significant contribution to British rowing. The Club nowadays provides an unparalleled opportunity for young athletes. Each year we select a squad of young rowers, often unproven, whom we believe have



President Sir George Cox

high potential. We cannot offer them subsistence, but we can provide un-rivalled facilities and top-class coaching, plus the opportunity to train with others in an inspiring environment. Rowing at Leander they compete at the highest levels of domestic competition, some as juniors, and many achieve Under-23 international representation. Down the line, the very best will eventually make it to the full GB squad. It is an impressive and in many ways unique programme, providing a steady stream of athletes ready to take the place of earlier medal winners. However, the cost of such a programme is way above what one could expect the membership to bear and it can only be funded by making the fullest use of the Clubhouse facilities, by responding to our Appeal, and by the generous support of sponsors.

In particular, we have benefited enormously from the support of Invesco Perpetual and Tesco over the past year, and the addition of our two new sponsors, Brakspears and Gant,

should help underpin the programme for the immediate future. I believe that attracting such quality of support in the current economic climate represents a major achievement on behalf of the Club.

Inevitably, the London Games are now starting to loom large in our thinking. The recent results at the World Championships augur well for British success and there will undoubtedly be a heavy contingent of Leander rowers in the team.

We want the members to feel fully engaged with this effort, and have already started a programme of events to give members and their guests the opportunity to meet athletes and coaches (and past Olympians) during the build-up. Not everyone has been able to get tickets for Dorney, of course, so during the Games we are planning to have a programme of activities at the Clubhouse, with several large screens installed, expert local commentary and refreshments served throughout the day. The atmosphere should be terrific – and no problems with travel! After the Games, we are holding a celebratory dinner at the Mansion House hosted by the Lord Mayor, who (in the shape of David Wootton) just happens to have a miniature pink Leander oar in his chain of office!

It should be a fantastic year, and we want members to share the atmosphere and excitement. Remember, when you see Leander athletes on the podium, it is your support which has helped to put them there.

Sir George Cox
President

Finding and Developing Juniors

In my article in the last newsletter I wrote about my initiative, as Foundation Coach at the Club going into local non-rowing schools to identify potential junior rowers. This short article is by way of an update.

My activities have continued over the summer months. In addition to seeking out new talent for the Club Junior Programme this initiative also provides an opportunity for young people, in non-rowing schools, to see if they have the attributes to be a top class rower. At a non-rowing school these young people may not ever get the opportunity to try rowing as a sport.

We have always had juniors at the Club; Nick Clark and Tom Wilkinson, for example, were identified from a similar initiative at Henley College in 2002. Over the years many juniors have trained and raced at the Club but not in the current numbers. Our gap year intake fluctuates and, by the very nature of 'gap year', these athletes stay for

only one year, so the importance to the Club of finding younger athletes we can develop and encourage to stay for longer has become much greater.

Since my article in the summer newsletter we have developed links with several more local non-rowing schools, and over the past few months we have formed links with and tested at the following:

- Icknield Community College
- Forest School
- Waingels College
- Maiden Erlegh
- John Madejski Academy
- Henley College
- Chiltern Edge

I visited the four schools on the top of the list at the end of the summer term and tested youngsters in the age range of 15-18 years old. The testing is open to any student and the teaching staff freely encourage as many students to take up the opportunity. The results are fed back both to the sports teacher in charge and to the students direct. An invitation is then extended to the students to attend a second round of tests. A simple training programme is provided for them to follow, to improve their fitness before this second test. At this stage, students who have been at the Club since January are retested to measure their progress. Following this second round of tests, invitations are issued to those who I feel could most benefit from a six month coaching programme. During this period the students are on the water for one hour at weekends and they do two land training sessions mid-week at the Club after school. Those students that we are unable to invite to join the six month Club coaching initiative - and unfortunately we cannot provide places for everybody - are encouraged to join other local rowing clubs.

The beginners who joined us in January raced over the summer. First, at Poplar and Reading Amateur regattas, racing against opposition far more experienced than they were. All raced well, with Brendan Edwards (Forest School) winning J15 single sculls and Oliver Lees (Shoreham) making the Final of Novice Sculls and winning J16 at Reading Amateur.

Several juniors who have come to us over the past few years move on to attend Henley College, finding accommodation with local families. Many more from other clubs come at weekends and holidays to



get extra coaching and a chance to train and race in crew boats. Coming to the Club at weekends helps them to develop their rowing and the most successful progress to to gain selection for the GB France match or the Coupe de la Jeunesse.

This summer we had two Leander-developed juniors racing at the Junior Worlds: Luke Moon (Kings Canterbury) and Joe Guppy (Eastbourne RC). As you can see, the Club actively supports and nurtures

athletes who are beginners or those who are more advanced and aspiring to gain selection for GB. All the new beginners come from schools that don't have a rowing programme. Our aim is to develop and teach youngsters - regardless of their background - who have shown us that they have the qualities and desire to rise up the performance ladder and perhaps become a world-class rower.

This is something the Club has always done

on a small scale, but we are now putting far more effort into this programme. It is part of our contribution to the future of British rowing. And from a personal point of view it would be hard to think of a more rewarding role.

Livinia Cowell-Sherriff
Foundation Coach

Go row at Leander – Joseph Guppy

I first started rowing in 2006 when I was 13 years old at Eastbourne Rowing Club, which is a small coastal rowing club in the South East.

I was addicted to rowing almost from my first stroke and quickly decided that I would like to take my sport to the highest level, which was not going to be possible at Eastbourne. After being turned down by a number of London Rowing Clubs in 2009, my coach contacted Leander.

At this point I was still only 15 years old and extremely inexperienced. I had little or no idea of what it took to row at a high standard, never mind on a river! As soon as I came to Leander I was immediately looked after in all aspects of my life. Most importantly, I was provided with world-class coaching. It was clear from the very start that the athletes were treated very well and that was one of the highest contributing factors to the success of the Club. I was given a boat to use and was also regularly put out in quads and doubles with more experienced athletes. Without these regular outings and this early experience I would never have achieved what I wanted.

Over the next two years Leander regularly allowed me to stay and train at the Club on weekends and in half-terms until it was suggested that I trialled for Great Britain. With Leander's guidance and technical coaching I was selected to represent GB at the Munich Junior International Regatta. At Munich, I raced in a number of different boat classes from doubles to quads. We did not do as well as I would have liked with my best result a 2nd in B finals. Following this, I returned to Leander and continued to train towards final trials.

I was disappointed with my initial performance at final trials but this improved with some help and guidance from my coaches. After five tough days of trialling I was selected to represent Great Britain in the double scull for the World Rowing Junior Championships, where we made the final and finished 6th.

I have no doubt in my mind that without Leander and without the help and coaching that I received there I would have never been at the standard required to represent Great Britain or have the correct mind set in order to participate in the trials that are both physically and mentally demanding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support.



Paul Budd reports from the GM's Desk

Join Leander's Journey, our campaign which is described on the next page, isn't just proving enormously successful in generating corporate funding for our rowing programme, proving a catalyst for change here in the office. The focus to attract additional corporate business and new sponsors has now given us the confidence to invest in better income-generating processes to sustain our trading revenue growth beyond 2012. It is our firm belief that we can generate more corporate income without compromising the service we provide, thereby better supporting our athletes, as well as maintaining and improving our Clubhouse for Members.

Striving for Excellence on and off the water

Leander has now adopted a new strapline 'striving for excellence on and off the water'. In many eyes excellence on the water is already well demonstrated but here in the Clubhouse we aspire to the same level of recognition. This is an evolutionary process but already our determination for continual improvement is having an effect. Our previously patchy Wi-Fi coverage has now been replaced by a commercial grade system which is proving very reliable. Hippo Happenings has had a complete make-over during the year and this change has in turn generated a dramatically increased hit-rate on our website, as well as keeping our Members better informed. The homepage of the website itself has been re-designed and we are looking to make further improvements in its layout and functionality, including a Members-only area and the online payment facility. Finally, we are shortly to reconstitute the Building Committee, which will evaluate improvements necessary to reach out to our Bicentenary in 2018.

Supporting the Rowing Programme

We all know that money is more scarce in these difficult times and many clubs are seeing a decline in both revenue and membership. I'm pleased to say that the reverse is true at Leander, but to ensure we maintain the initiative we have now recruited a full-time Sales and Marketing Manager, Matthew Sprigmore, who will be helping us lift our communications and sales profile which is so essential to maintain our vision of excellence.

Feedback from Members

To help ensure we are providing the facilities and services Members want, we aim to carry out a short survey via email in the year, to give Members an opportunity to voice their opinions about existing Club services and let us know how they would like to see things change or improve. A significant number of Members are not yet receiving Hippo Happenings as we do not have their email address. To keep our membership records up to date, may I ask you to keep the office informed of any updates in your contact details by emailing membership@leander.co.uk or telephoning the office on 01491 575782.

Accommodation during the Olympics and Paralympics

We would like to offer Members the first opportunity to book our eleven en-suite bedrooms during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Olympic dates are from 27 July – 12 August and the Paralympics will take place between 29 August – 9 September. Please telephone the office on 01491 575782 for more details.

Added Value to Members

In our last edition I wrote about the added benefits of Leander membership, particularly regarding Members' concessions and reciprocity, both of which are well described in the Membership section of our website www.leander.co.uk. If you have not already taken up complimentary membership of the Country Gentleman's Association I really do commend it to you. The CGA is sponsoring one of our athletes, and by supporting them you are also supporting our athletes.

Membership Cards

Members are reminded that cash can be 'loaded' onto their membership cards at reception or at the bar, and that subsequent purchases of food and drink at the Club attract a 5% discount. Please hand your card into the office to set this up if you have not already activated it.



Paul Budd OBE
General Manager



Join Leander's Journey (JLJ)

Following the launch last March of *Join Leander's Journey*, at a gala event hosted by Sir Matthew Pinsent, our corporate fundraising programme is now in full stride.

We have already staged three events, all of which have proved extremely enjoyable and popular with our Members as well as corporate sponsors. The two-fold aim of these events is to bring Members directly into contact with some of our Olympic hopefuls and to raise money to support our rowing programme in the four-year run-up to Rio de Janeiro 2016.



During 2012 we will host three more occasions where Members can *Meet the Athletes*

Thursday 2 February

Double Olympic Gold medallist and now polar explorer and Everest climber Steve Williams OBE

Thursday 22 March

Television presenter and past President of Oxford University Boat Club Dan Snow

Thursday 17 May

Olympic Gold medallist and London 2012 Ambassador Ben Hunt-Davis

Places for these events are strictly limited and you are therefore advised to book early – all of our JLJ events so far have completely sold out with a waiting list for Members.

In addition a number of other events are planned in and around Henley over the summer months – all with an Olympic flavour. These include the Olympic torch relay, which will pass through Henley on 10 July, the Tree of Light spectacular to be staged during June/July, and also a rather special Henley Town and Visitors Regatta on 28 July. Further details of all these events will be made available as plans evolve.

The Olympic Rowing Finals will take place over four days, from Wednesday 1 to Saturday 4 August. Many Members have expressed their disappointment at being unable to purchase tickets for Eton Dorney, and although the Club is unable to offer any assistance in this regard we shall be offering Members the chance to view the finals on big screens at the Club. Current form would suggest that we are likely to have Leander athletes competing in finals on all four days. We shall be offering a pre-paid brunch service on each of the four days or you may simply turn up on the day and enjoy the moment, subject to availability.

The major challenge for the Club is to get some idea of how many Members will wish to attend and whether you would like to gather for the Opening and Closing ceremonies, or for the whole rowing week. The General Manager would be very pleased to hear from any Member (preferably by email at manager@leander.co.uk) with their views on what they would like the Club to do over the Olympic period.



A day in the life of Anna Watkins (Tuesday 25th Oct)

6:00 Woken abruptly by the doorbell. It's the UK Anti-Doping testers. My parents' dog is staying with us and he goes nuts thinking it's burglars. I have to sit still for ten minutes then they take two blood samples. There's a lot of filling in forms. I hope I'm awake enough to check the procedure is as it should be.

6:30 Go back to bed, optimistically.

6:40 Alarm goes off. Clean teeth, put kit on, grab bags and leave the house. In the car eat a couple of hot cross buns and drink some apple juice.

7:30 Arrive in Marlow (women and lightweight squad river base). Fill up water bottle and stretch and get a briefing from our coach Paul Thompson.

7:45 Hit the water. Today it's singles. A lovely calm day, not too cold yet, and we have a clear technical focus for the session. The river is really busy because it's half term and the Sir William Borlase school kids are out in great numbers, enthusiastically bashing up and down in novice octuples.

9:30 Coffee and breakfast break. I have a latte and a cheese and ham toastie.

10:45 Ergo. Urgh. I have the NOW 34 album on my iPod and it gets me through.

12:00 Shower. We are off to Sandhurst for a leadership training afternoon and one of the girls has forgotten her ID and I've agreed to give her a lift so we end up going to Sandhurst via her house - in London! Eat lunch on the way - a baguette, fruit juice and some jelly beans.

1:45 Arrive at Sandhurst to tea and biscuits and a briefing about the Army approach to leadership. We then go outside and do some tasks - the kind of thing that involves ropes and lateral thinking. I love it as does everybody else and we have a really enjoyable afternoon. We agree to listen to each other more and take more time to plan our strategy.

6:00 Get home, check emails and tackle some of my vast pile of admin.

7:00 Oli my husband gets home. Have a cup of tea and put the world to rights.



Anna and Katherine with their Gold medals

8:00 Oli cooks dinner whilst I pop to the supermarket for a few things. We have a salad with potatoes, tomato, avocado, bacon, croutons and a poached egg. He's a good cook!

9:00 A bit of TV then bed.

Anna Watkins is an Olympic Bronze medallist and reigning World Champion in the Women's Double Scull, a former World U23 Champion and a product of the GB Rowing Team's Start Programme. She has been a member of Leander for six years.

At the 2011 World Rowing Championships in Bled, Anna and crewmate Katherine Grainger maintained their title as World Champions by leading their race from the start.

Anna's focus for the next 10 months is on getting selected in the Double Scull and then achieving Gold at London 2012.

Anna said:

"The support I receive from Leander is a crucial part of my preparation for 2012 and I encourage people to Join Leander's Journey. This funding really does make a difference to the athletes, both current internationals, and importantly the athletes of our future."



Anna practices in her single

On the road to 2012

When Great Britain topped the medal table yet again at this year's World Championships in Slovenia, local businesses were even more keen to play their part in the sustained success of local rowers.

But Marlow businessman Jim Platt had even more reason to forge links with athletes in Britain's most successful sport as a member of Leander Club he has personal connections with the team that supports the Club's successful athletes on and off the water.

Which is why Leander Chief Coach and Director of Rowing Mark Banks was recently the proud recipient of a brand new Hyundai Santa Fe, courtesy of Jim Platt's motor dealership in Marlow.



"During my coaching activities with the GB team as well as Leander I cover thousands of miles a year, both in the UK and further afield on training camps. Platt's support has made an enormous difference to my travel arrangements, especially considering the amount of kit I have to carry around the country" said Mark.

"The GB team, and Leander athletes in particular, deserve all the support they can get if they are to achieve their targets at Eton Dorney next Summer" said Jim.

"But what people forget is the effort required behind the scenes from the whole infrastructure required to achieve this success, and that's why I'm proud to play my part in supporting the team towards their Olympic dreams" he added.

The Pink Hippo Club

Second Draw for 2011

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. Alternatively members may return the enclosed form.

There are two Draws a year of equal value. Congratulations go to the November 2011 Draw winners who will shortly receive their cheques:

E G M Moody - £300

R M Mays-Smith - £200

G E Preston - £100

The more participants the greater the prize share

Annual Subscriptions for 2012

Leander Club subscriptions for 2012 were approved at the Annual General Meeting as follows:

Members (non-rowing) and Full Members – £250

Overseas Members – £125

Full Members (UK and Overseas) less than 30 years of age – £60

The British Rowing annual levy will be £5.60 and will be added to the subscription for all categories of membership. Subscriptions are collected by Direct Debit on 1st January each year unless you opt for the twice yearly scheme. Only in the case of Overseas Members without a UK bank account will cheque or credit card payment be accepted.

Members who have set up a split Direct Debit arrangement with the Club will make two payments of £127.80 (including the levy). The first will have been taken on 1st October 2011 and the second will be taken on 1st April 2012

It is gratifying to note that Club membership has continued to grow during the last year and there are now well in excess of 3,600 members, of which approximately 1,000 are non-rowing members. The Committee are always pleased to receive applications for both rowing (Full) and non-rowing membership and members are encouraged to propose suitable candidates. If you would like to seek guidance on eligibility, you can contact me in confidence by email at confidential@leander.co.uk

The incentive scheme where proposers of successful applicants are invited to dine with the new member and their respective guest (a table of four) at the Club's expense, is still in operation.

A joining fee equal to one year's subscription for the category is applied to new members but is waived for members less than 30 years of age.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the Year 2012.

Notice is hereby given that 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 am.

The minutes of the 2011 AGM together with the abridged accounts may be viewed on the Club website www.leander.co.uk

Jeremy Randall
Honorary Secretary

Heavy metal...

US-based Leander member Sean Colgan has spent a great deal of his life travelling. First for the 10 years on the US National rowing team, then for his business. So when the organizer of a military tour approached him to join the America300 Warrior Tour AKA "Heavy Medal" tour this Spring to bases in the South Pacific, he didn't hesitate. The tour connects US soldiers in remote, combat and hardship bases to leaders from 'back home.'

Colgan, has the distinction in the United States and arguably the world of being the only national rowing team member who has been on every competitive squad: junior, lightweight, sculling, sweep (port and starboard) and heavyweight...a rare accomplishment for bowman of the World Championship and Olympic Men's Eight in 1980, which was, of course, the boycott Olympics.

Colgan's adaptability and versatility as a rower, as well as his interminable energy and spirit, meant he was perfectly suited to



Sean Colgan (bow) with the World Champs 8 in 1979. Amsterdam.

support military troops in their struggles abroad and joined by a small band of Olympic skiers (Nelson Charmichael, Caroline Lalive, Caylin Richardson and, Robi Powers, organiser) headed out to undisclosed Pacific bases in Guam and Japan to meet face to face with troops, many of whom had not seen civilian visitors in 18 months, in May of 2011.

"I woke every morning to do PT (physical training) with the troops," says Colgan, who at 56, kept up with the young men and women of the US military in obstacle courses,



CrossFit exercises, running and more. He felt this made friends early on the base, which created an amiable environment for learning

more about the troops, as well as sharing his own story.

On a lighter side, adds the irreverent Colgan "never try drinking with a Marine...you will lose."

Sean Colgan returns annually to Leander to host two dinners during the Henley Royal Regatta, where he frequently finds himself apologizing to the staff for extending his stay. His friends share his spirit (and a good bottle of wine), and Colgan loves the setting. "There are so many highly-motivated people at Leander, and I like spending time with them," he shares.

Janit Stahl is a writer for www.row2k.com who covers US youth, collegiate and national selection regattas as well as the Henley Royal Regatta annually.

Overseas and Distant Members

The Committee is keen to keep in touch with those Members who live many miles from Henley, many of whom organise their own Leander gatherings around the world.

Despite the distances involved the Committee recognises that many value their membership more than some of those living closer to home, and is keen to maintain contact, possibly by getting together local groups in other countries to act as a focus.

We have had some interest from overseas members wishing to organise local Leander get-togethers. Some successes to date have included meeting up at European Regattas and informal dinners at one of our reciprocal clubs.

The following members have kindly agreed to act as focal points in this respect and if you are nearby and interested in the occasional gathering please make contact with them direct:

Any Member who has further information on local groups in other countries, or who would like to be involved in such an initiative, is invited to contact the Club for more details.

North America – East Coast
Mr Charles Hamlin
37 North Great Road,
Lincoln MA 01776 USA
Email: chamlin@cambridgewater-tech.com

North America – West Coast
Dr Richard Yonge
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Suite 204, San Francisco
CA 94109 USA
Email: dryonge@aol.com

Australia
Mr Patrick Moore
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VA 3122, Victoria
Email: patrick@lisan.com.au

Channel Island
Mr Jonathan Perree
Apartment 1, Sable Argente Apartments
La Route De St. Aubin,
St Helier, Jersey JE2 3SF
Email: beanthinking@gmail.com

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The Bremont-Leander Limited Edition Watch

Members attending the Regatta earlier this year may have noticed that the award-winning luxury British watch maker, Bremont, has teamed up with the Club to produce 99 beautifully engineered mechanical timepieces which serve to commemorate the outstanding tally of 99 Olympic medals won by Leander since the 1908 Olympic Games at Henley. Uniquely, the watch will feature a Stroke Rate Counter allowing owners to take the 'rate' of crews they are watching, in addition the rotor which can be seen through the display back of the watch has eight oar cut-outs incorporated into the design, (see pictures). These timepieces are now in the early stages of production, with the first watches being delivered in the spring next year.

Bremont is a British company, based in Henley-on-Thames, which offers a range of highly developed, engineered timepieces of exceptional quality with high aesthetic value. The brand ethos is based around precision engineering and robustness. The Bremont Leander watch will be one of the first in the company's range to be fully assembled at the company's workshop in England.

Bremont only makes COSC certified mechanical chronometers and the company now finds itself in the world's top 20 chronometer producers. All watches are hand-made to exacting standards with great resource put into the innovation in construction. Examples of this include the three piece Trip-Tick® stainless steel cases that are 2000 Vickers in hardness and seven times more scratch resistant than normal watch grade steel, and the nine layers of scratch resistant anti-reflective treatment applied to both sides of their anti-reflective sapphire crystals.



Bremont is proud of the ruggedness of its watches and as such they are all sold with a three year warranty. Each watch will be individually numbered and Members will have the opportunity to reserve the number of their choice subject to availability. Only 99 Leander watches will be built making this the latest addition to Bremont's highly sought after collection of limited edition pieces. The watch is priced at £3945 which includes a rather special donation to the Club in support of the rowing programme.

The sale of each watch will also make a significant contribution to the Club's rowing programme as Bremont is donating £1000 for each watch sold to help in the development of young athletes. This very generous donation is one that will make a real difference to our young athletes aspiring to row in the 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games. Owners will not only have a unique handmade British watch built to the highest standards but at the same time will be supporting our future rowing athletes.

Members wanting to see more information or to place a pre-order to reserve their chosen serial number may either do so online at www.bremont.com/leander or call Bremont



on +44 (0)845 0940 690 who will be pleased to discuss your watch. Bremont has also offered to gift a pair of its beautifully engineered cufflinks with any order made before Christmas so should a Member wish to buy one of these watches as a Christmas gift they can use the cufflinks as a Christmas Day present, with a promise of a spring delivery for the actual timepiece. The RRP for these is £175.

The Bremont Leander watch is a unique, limited edition timepiece of the highest quality of watch making which will give owners many years of pleasure. It will make a significant contribution to our rowing programme for the next Olympics and we hope that Members will support this initiative.

Bremont was awarded the 'Best Watch Brand 2011' in the UK Jewellery Awards, and back in November 2008, Bremont was awarded Best Emerging British Luxury Brand at the prestigious Walpole Awards for British Excellence. Bremont is also known for its collaborations with luxury car company Jaguar, and Norton Motorcycles.

Oar~some Girls in Double World Record Bid to raise £1m

Six ordinary girls, coached by Committee member and Olympic Champion Toby Garbett, are launching an extraordinary endeavour; to row the Atlantic unaided in a double world record attempt, to raise £1 millions for charities and highlight an awareness campaign to help end human trafficking in their Row For Freedom.

Competing to become the fastest female crew and the first six-woman crew to achieve the feat, the team will row 3,000 miles from the Canary Isles to Barbados in a boat aptly named The Guardian sponsored by ManpowerGroup, as part of the world's toughest rowing race, the Woodvale Challenge.

The race route is no stranger to the plight for freedom; while Christopher Columbus sailed it on his discovery of America in the 15th century, and in the 1800s it was used to transport slaves between the UK and the USA. Today there are more people in slavery than ever before. It is estimated that 27 million people, half of these children, are modern day slaves and victims of human trafficking, which is one of the world's largest organised crimes and generates £20 billion each year. Row For Freedom is a direct response to this shocking injustice.

The brainchild of Julia Immonen, founder of Sport Against Trafficking (SAT), Row For Freedom pledge to raise £1 million for charities supporting the victims of human trafficking. Working with ECPAT UK (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking), Row For Freedom is campaigning the UK Government for safe and supported accommodation and a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking. Julia said: "We'll be rowing 24 hours a day, 2 hours on – 2 hours off, for about 40 days to expose the very real problem of human trafficking. Last year more than 700 victims



OAR-INSPIRING: The Row For Freedom team – from left, Katie Pattison-Hart, Debbie Beadle, Julia Immonen, Kate Richardson and Andrea Quigley. (Helen Leigh not pictured)

were identified in the UK and without proper support and care, these victims can again fall prey to traffickers and suffer additional physical, sexual and mental abuse."

David Arkless, President – C&GA, ManpowerGroup and President – "End Human Trafficking Now!" commented: "As a Global Corporation, ManpowerGroup believes that every individual should have the right to work in a safe and dignified way, without being exploited in any way. Our core company values lead us to fight against the exploitation of any human being, especially the vulnerable."

Departing on their epic journey in December 2011, the team comprises Julia Immonen, Debbie Beadle, Katie Pattison-Hart, Kate Richardson, Andrea Quigley and Helen Leigh. The girls are charity workers, models and athletes, hailing from all corners of the globe, and have each been inspired to harness the positive power of sport to raise awareness and much needed funding for projects to tackle human trafficking.

Team member Debbie Beadle works for leading children's rights charity ECPAT UK, which campaigns for the rights of child victims of trafficking. One of the young victims Debbie works with said:

"I think it is amazing that these women are doing this. It will help people to listen to us and understand what we go through. I just hope they come back safe."

Row For Freedom has already received a huge amount of support from celebrities and politicians. Adventurer Bear Grylls said: "I so admire the determination of these ordinary girls trying to do something extraordinary for the injustice of human trafficking. They embody the spirit of adventure – huge ambition, huge hardship and huge hearts."

Culture secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

"I would like to congratulate you on the successful launch of Sport Against Trafficking and wish you every success in your mission to harness the positive power of community and sport to raise public awareness and funding for human trafficking."

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE PINK HIPPO SHOP

It doesn't seem possible but Christmas is just around the corner. After a fabulous summer in the Pink Hippo shop we are looking forward to the festive season and we are sure our wonderful collection of gifts will guarantee smiles all round this year. Either pop into the Pink Hippo shop or log onto the shop homepage to be just a few clicks away from parcels arriving straight to your door.

Last but not least Remember your Leander Christmas cards and pink Hippo wrapping paper and you will have all the ingredients to make Christmas 2011 one of the best.



Kids love the pink fluffy hippo with navy Leander ribbon and LC embroidered on the paw, and his baby hippo key ring. Smarten the young ones up with our superb Leander polo shirts in blue and cream featuring the happy hippo logo. Our ladies' hot pink hoodie also comes in a youth size for sporty youngsters. (photo A)

For the athletes in your house we have a full range of technical rowing kit exclusively designed for Leander. The lycra-based fabric dyed to the exact Leander pink colour features the famous hippo. This performance wear is available in leggings, vests, short sleeve and long sleeve tops, as well as shorts, to keep you warm and dry on the water, in the gym or out cycling and running. To compliment this range we also have a lightweight vest in pink and white, again featuring the Leander hippo, so whichever way you chose to keep fit we have it covered. (photo B)



For the gentleman in your life we have a lovely range of cufflinks which have been added to this year's collection. (Spoilt for choice Why not go for one of our new styles?) This year we have introduced the smart and stylish ribbon cufflink in navy and pink with the hippo logo. We also have an elegant white oval cufflink featuring the Leander shield. Both have torpedo fittings and come beautifully presented in a Leander box. We also have two styles of fun Leander socks – the first is our brand new outline hippo style (comes with matching tie) and our perennial favourites, the navy and pink stripe Henley sock. (photo C)



On the Club website you will see examples of the gorgeous silver charm bracelets which can be paired with a sweet hippo charm to start off your collection. You may also love our hot pink hoodies. In photo D you can see the leather wallets which have been hand crafted in New York for Leander. (photo D)



Lamb's wool pullovers in navy for members and non members will keep you warm and snug over the coming cold months. (photo E)

Please note: To ensure we are able to meet the publicised last posting dates for Christmas the cut off dates for receipt of your orders are:
USA and Rest of World – 1st December, Europe – 8th December, UK Mainland – 14th December.

To order any of 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.