

Leander News



Leander Club

Winter 2013



Leander News

The official newsletter of Leander Club is published twice yearly, in May and November

Articles, photographs and ideas, as well as news of our Members, are always welcome and should be addressed to:

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Cover photo: The first GB men's eight ever to win the gold medal at a World Championships includes (back row) Tom Ransley (Leander), Alex Gregory (Leander), Mo Sbihi (Molesey), George Nash (Molesey), Will Satch (Leander) and (front row) Dan Ritchie (Leander), Pete Reed (Leander), Phelan Hill (Leander) and Andy Triggs-Hodge (Molesey).
© Peter Spurrier/Intersport Images

Our new President



Jeremy Randall
President

Jeremy Randall, popularly known as 'Rass', learned to row at Reading University in 1970 and by the end of his first year had graduated straight from the novice crew into the first eight.

After graduation in 1973 he was persuaded by his coach to trial for the Leander squad, and two years later he raced in the Leander crew that won the Britannia Challenge Cup in record time - a record that was to stand for almost twenty years.

By 1980 Leander had slipped into serious debt and the Club's future looked uncertain. Rass was among a small cohort of committed Members who formed a revolutionary group.

Together they forced an extraordinary general meeting, at which the Committee was unceremoniously kicked out.

One of the results was Rass' appointment as Honorary Secretary of Leander, at the remarkably youthful age of just 30. His appointment lasted for seven years, to be followed by a further seven years as Hon. Treasurer and four years as Chairman. More recently he served a further period as Hon. Secretary, and was finally elected President, a role he took up on 1 September, exactly 40 years after crossing the Club's threshold for the very first time.

First successes on the Road to Rio

As Leander captain Debbie Flood looks back over the last few months, she can reflect on another great year, as our athletes put on world-class performances, with more records broken, all helping the club continue its move forward in a positive direction.

Despite the lack of on-water time over the winter our athletes were poised and ready to go over the summer which started with the excitement of Henley Royal Regatta. No less than 47 of our athletes entered in eighteen crews across thirteen events, including the highest proportion of women ever representing the club. Henley is a very special event for our athletes, competing on home turf, and giving many of our internationals their chance to shine in front of their home crowd. And shine they did, with eight crews containing Leander athletes making the finals, and seven of those coming home to win in the Grand, the Remenham, the Queen Mother, the Stewards', the Princess Grace, the Ladies' and the Prince of Wales'. These were nail-biting finals, where sheer grit and determination was evident alongside skill and finesse, all adding up the most successful Henley in the history of the club, with many course records falling by the wayside.

We continued our season of records with 29 athletes from Leander being further selected to represent GB at the Senior World Championships in Korea – once again the highest number the club has ever seen. Coaches Mark Banks, Rob Dauncey and Jane Hall were also selected as coaches for Korea, kicking off a great start to the next four-year Olympic cycle for Leander. 2013 also marked the 25th year in which Mark Banks had coached for GB – an unprecedented record.

Leander athletes returned from Chung-ju with 3 golds and 3 bronze



Image courtesy of Peter Spurrier

Gold for the para-rowing four in Korea, featuring Pam Relph (extreme left)

medals, with yet more history being made by our GB men's eight in an outstanding race to the line, as well as the women's pair and our para-rowing four leading the world home.

As well as many of our development athletes stepping up into the senior team this year we had a further seven athletes represented at the U23 World Championships in Linz where Tom Marshall won silver in the lightweight four. On the junior front Seb Devereux represented GB at the Junior World Championships, coming 5th, and Oli Fredrick-Lees won a bronze and silver at the Junior Coupe, while the Home Countries also saw Oli Morgan winning in the men's quad for Wales. Congratulations to all our athletes who represented their country this year!

A successful season having been completed, the taken three weeks for our internationals and four weeks for our club athletes was enjoyed without structured training, before the new season began. The restart of training has seen an explosion of enthusiasm and drive, filling the gym with many new faces and creating a buzzing dynamic at the Club. Hard work, healthy competition and team building have coupled with an even greater development of our support services and commitment to athlete well-being in both our medical and 'life after rowing' outlook. Our coaching team is also expanding and developing in what is a very exciting time of growth for the rowing squad at Leander.

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The last month has been another busy month for the Club with the highlight being the British Championships where attendance was compulsory for those seeking selection for any level of GB team. Leander won seven out of the eight senior classes (our women's quad having withdrawn due to illness), as well as nine of the other seventeen classes, and the Victor Ludorum trophy for the most successful club at the regatta. We recognise that our large share of the GB squad makes it easier to form complete crews at the top level, but the very high placings of our development athletes in U23 and U19 classes shows that our pipeline is full and performing very well.

I was sorry not to be cheering our crews but that same weekend I attended the very first US dinner for Leander members, across the pond in Boston, Massachusetts.

You can read full details about the dinner elsewhere in this newsletter but suffice it to say that the evening was a resounding success, thanks to all our



Members of our coaching team at Henley

Leander members who supported the event and, of course, organiser Phil Meers and his fiancée Therese Rohrbeck, to whom many congratulations on their recent engagement.

On behalf of all our athletes I really want to thank our coaching team for all their hard work through the year. Chris Collerton, Rob Dauncey, Livinia

Cowell-Sherriff, Matt Beechey, Jane Hall, Brian Armstrong, Karl Reid, Ted Bainbridge and Mark Banks have all been part of that winning formula, and a special mention must go to Livinia, who runs our junior programme, and who has recruited 13 out of the 16 juniors who have learnt their rowing from scratch at Leander! We wish Chris and Rob well with their new careers as they move on to pastures new, and also leaving us is our excellent physio, Abbie Morgan, who is moving with her husband to a new base with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth.

Joining the coaching team this year are Clive Cooper, James McCartney and Ross Hunter.

2013 will be a hard year to follow, with such outstanding results from our international and development athletes, but we all know that progress forward is the only option. We now move on into the winter with a great group of athletes, pushing each other forward, and a Club which provides the knowledge, resources and support to enable our athletes to strive towards their goals.



Images courtesy of Robert Treharne Jones

Leander won the Prince of Wales' for the fourth successive Henley

Will Satch ~ from schoolboy to world champion

Leander have always placed a great emphasis on helping young talented athletes such as Will Satch, who was just 17 years old when he was first recruited at Shiplake College, as Leander chief coach Mark Banks reports.

We were first contacted by the Head of Rowing at Shiplake when Will was in the Upper VIth, to ask if he could train with Leander as he was so much bigger than the rest of his rowing group, and seemed to have potential.

Seven years later, and Will was able to climb to the top of the medal podium at the World Championships, where he had just stroked the GB men's eight to the gold medal for the first time in history!

Will has many skills, not least his natural ability to set a rhythm for the rest of the crew, to allow them to perform to their best. He also 'buys into' the coaches and trusts them implicitly, starting with Brian Armstrong in his early days at Leander, and then Chris Collerton. When he moved to Caversham to row with the GB squad he was coached at the Olympics by Christian Felkel and John West, and this year by Jurgen Grobler with the eight.

In all that time I have never heard any

Image courtesy of Dettlev Seyb



Will stroking the men's eight to victory in Korea

coach say anything negative about him.

His successes include two bronze medals in the GB men's U23 eight, an Olympic bronze in the men's pair at London 2012, and now, of course, a world championship gold.



Will arrived at Leander from Shiplake College

Will is a highly ambitious, hard-training athlete, who epitomizes all the qualities needed to win medals at World and Olympic level - he is a credit to himself, his former school, his coaches and Leander.

Pink Hippo Club

Created to generate funds for our rowing programme, tickets for the Pink Hippo Club cost £12 each, payable by standing order, and a draw takes place every six months to determine the lucky winners.

The winners this time are:

1st Prize £300 NE Mavrikakis 2nd Prize £200 MJG Linington 3rd Prize £100 RJW Beer

The Highs and Lows of a Year at Leander

When Seb Devereux caught a boat-stopping crab in the hotly-tipped Leander Fawley quad, it caused one of the upsets of this year's Henley. But there's been much more to his first year as one of Leander's most promising young athletes, including winning National Schools and a place in the World Championship final, as Seb himself now explains...

I arrived in Henley in September 2012, having just moved to Henley College so I not only had the chance to row for Leander, but also enrol on the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence Course. The first major benefit was the free slots in my timetable when I could train, and the second was learning what I could do to help me achieve in my sport. For instance a lecture on nutrition gave me advice on what foods I needed to be eating, as well as how and when I needed to eat, which made a huge difference to the way I felt and made me feel confident for racing.

What made Leander such an easy place to settle were the seniors, who were friendly and supportive once they saw that I trained hard and achieved the performances set in front of me.

My first race for Leander was the Diamond Jubilee Regatta last year, for which I had been training very hard in a U19 double with a friend called Paul, so come race day we were feeling confident. Throughout our three races we got stronger and faster until we eventually won, which made me very excited for what the rest of the year had to offer.

The winter season had some low points, starting with the Fours Head, where a foreign crew crashed into us on the way to the start. We raced back to repair the damage but lost our starting slot, and couldn't race among our opposition, but we still did very well.

The biggest low was when I missed senior GB trials due to illness, however my coach Livinia helped me through and motivated me to achieve my best in the GB Juniors, where I placed top in the 5000m ergo. In the sculling trials I raced a double with one of my close friends, Ollie Fedrick-Lees, placing 2nd on the first day, and 1st on the following day - we came home incredibly pleased!

I then gained selection to represent GB in Munich regatta where I paired up with Sholto Carnegie, of Marlow RC. We qualified for the A final, where we managed to step up our game to win, and the next day we doubled up in the GB quad and won another gold medal!

I then raced championship singles at National Schools Regatta, where I went on to win the gold! It was a very important day for me and my coach, before I refocused for Henley - the biggest



Images courtesy of Robert Treharne Jones

Disaster at Henley as Seb's blade snaps in two

event of the year. After the crew was selected we went straight out to camp in Banyoles, Spain, where I had simply the most fun. Our quad became so close through the days of hard training, and we no longer wanted to win as individuals - we wanted to win as a crew.

We were all so excited to race at Henley, and after winning on the first day we drew Maidenhead in the next round. We knew it would be a tough race but we were confident having beaten them earlier in the season. But two strokes into the race I dropped my blade! I got it back, tried to take another stroke and caught a crab. My blade then got caught under the boat and snapped clean in half. That was it, our chances for success at Henley were over and it was all down to me.

Support from my coach and crew made me feel better but I knew I had to put it behind me and move on. The very next week I gained selection for the Junior World Championships and started to train in a double again with Sholto, leaving HRR behind and allowing me to focus on doing the best I could. Once again we reached the A final and achieved our target, finishing fifth - a great end to my rowing year!



Seb receives the National Schools sculling trophy from Annamarie Phelps, Chair of British Rowing

After the Gold Rush

When Polly Swann kicked off her season partnering Olympic champion Helen Glover, she can scarcely have imagined how successful they might be. But after three successive gold medals on the World Cup circuit the pair went to Korea as firm favourites for the world title, as Polly herself describes...

"What if you lose? What if you hit a buoy? My legs hurt! I can't breathe in this humidity... I don't think I can do this. I'm so nervous. What if they are faster than us...?"

Sitting on the start line in Korea and the hours preceding that moment was the most nervous I have ever been. This was the most important race of my life and I felt the pressure. Our pre-paddle a few hours earlier had been nervy and disjointed. I kept forgetting steps in our carefully planned and practised pre-race routine. The warm up was not our best rowing and we were now sat on the start line with our competitors surrounding us all ready to race. All ready to take our scalps. And I was bricking it.

The weather had been hot and humid, which had really been a struggle for me in the first rounds of the regatta. I'd had a restless night's sleep, and with adrenaline now rushing round my system I felt lethargic and sleepy. To be honest, all the thoughts and feelings that you wouldn't want to be thinking just before the most important race of your life were racing around my head.

I recently watched my world final on video and there's a shot just before starter's orders that pans to our pair. Suddenly I have a huge smile on my face. I don't remember much of that final - I like to think my brain has a selective memory to filter out pain - but I vividly remember what I was thinking in that moment.



Image courtesy of Peter Spurrier

Helen Glover (Minerva Bath RC) and Polly Swann (Leander)

"Hang on Polly. A year ago you missed the Olympics because of your back, all you wanted was to have the chance to race and now you're sitting on the start line of the World Championships rowing with an Olympic Gold medallist, as favourites to win. You've got the opportunity to be the best in the world at the sport you love - why would you want to change that? Ok...now I'm ready."

I'm not sure what triggered my mood to change from being a nervous jittery wreck to a confident athlete, ready to take on the world but I have no doubt in my mind that that change gave me the ability to give my best performance on the day, to have the most determined and relentless race of my life.

As the rest, as they say, is history.....



Images courtesy of Robert Treharne Jones

Helen and Polly on their way to the world title

New Arrivals

Olympic champion Anna Watkins and her husband Oli are delighted to announce the safe arrival of William James Watkins on 20 September 2013.

William, who weighed in at healthy 9lb 11oz, is reported to be a very well behaved baby, much to his parents' great surprise! Anna and Oli are very much enjoying discovering the wonders of parenthood.



Olympic and world champion Alex Gregory and his partner Emily are proud to announce the arrival of Jasper's little sister Daisy Delilah Gregory, born on the 25 September 2013. Daisy has settled into the family with ease, and Jasper is a very proud big brother. His daughter has already been told she is going to be tall so Alex is hoping to get her on the election list for Leander membership as early as possible!



Thank you, Gant!

As the year closes we must say farewell to Gant, whose sponsorship has done so much to help the club move forward since they 'joined our journey' in the lead-in to London 2012. We have much enjoyed our relationship with the premium clothing brand, but recognise that priorities change and it is time to go our separate ways. We hope that Gant have enjoyed being a part of the Leander success story – our athletes are certainly better dressed as a result!

Thank you, One and All!

I wish to congratulate all our athletes who were selected for Great Britain this year, in particular those who represented GB for the first time, those who won medals, and especially Polly Swann, who won gold at her very first senior World Championships.

Leander Club wants to place on record that, although we get credit, this should be shared with our partners at GB, and also the athletes' previous clubs and schools, as well as their coaches. Our athletes would not have had this success without their massive contribution.

Congratulations to you all !

Mark Banks

Chief Coach and Director of Rowing (formerly Hollingworth Lake RC)

Chris Bartley (King's School, Chester)

Jack Beaumont (Maidenhead)

Matt Beechey (Worcester)

Ro Bradbury (Westminster School)

Cameron Buchan (Kent School)

Richard Chambers (Coleraine)

Jono Clegg (Sir William Borlase's School)

Charles Cousins (Rob Roy)

Zoe De Toledo (St Paul's Girls School)

Seb Devereux (Marlow)

Katherine Douglas (Oxford Brookes)

James Edwards (Bishops Diocesan College)

Will Fletcher (Tyne)

Matt Gotrel (Loughborough University)

Alex Gregory (Evesham)

Katie Greves (Headington School)

William Hakim (Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School)

Jane Hall (Kingston Grammar School)

Phelan Hill (London)

Andy Holmes (Castle Semple)

Frances Houghton (King's School, Canterbury)

Stewart Innes (St Edwards School)

Matt James (Warwick University)

Jamie Kirkwood (Cambois)

Pete Lambert (Jeppe High School for Boys)

Matt Langridge (Northwich)

Tom Marshall (Shrewsbury School)

Vicki Meyer-Laker (Nottingham University)

Tom Ransley (York City)

Pete Reed (University of West of England)

Lou Reeve (Downe House School)

Monica Relph (Rob Roy)

Pam Relph (Birmingham University)

Dan Ritchie (Herne Bay)

Will Satch (Shiplake College)

Alex Sinclair (Inverness)

Polly Swann (Edinburgh University)

Vicky Thornley (Bath University)

Jonny Walton (Leicester)

Annual Subscriptions for 2014

Leander Club subscriptions for 2014 were approved at the Annual General Meeting as follows:

Members (non-rowing) and Full Members - £270

Overseas Members - £135

Full Members (UK and Overseas) less than 30 years of age - £65

The British Rowing annual levy will be £6.00 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 138.00 (including the levy). The first will have been taken on 1st October 2013 and the second will be taken on 1st April 2014.

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 us 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 2014

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 29th June 2014 at 11 am.

Chris Dalley

Honorary Secretary

Lest we forget



Next year's centenary of the events which sparked the Great War offer a poignant reminder of the Leander members who died during the conflict and whose names are recorded in perpetuity on the Roll of Honour at the Club.

Henley resident Mike Willoughby, a former heating engineer and hot air balloonist, gave up flying some eight years ago, and has spent his retirement researching the local war memorials and the soldiers who perished during the period of hostilities.

"It was only when I discovered that my maternal grandfather had a younger brother who died on the Somme that I got really hooked on identifying the soldiers on the local memorials and identifying those that had been left off" he said.

Mike's research has formed the basis for the Henley "Lest We Forget" project, a four-year plan for which, unsurprisingly, Mike is project coordinator.

While investigating the Henley memorials he visited Leander where, while photographing the Roll of Honour, he met general manager Paul Budd and discussed a possible project related to the Club.

"Since then I have identified all of the men, and discovered all of their last resting places, except one.

Lieutenant Edward Majolier died in London, but I still can't find where he was buried, and neither can numerous other people who have tried - but I won't give up!" he said.

Mike and his wife Lesley have so far visited 108 Leander Members' graves, the majority in Belgium and France, as well as others in England. On each grave he has placed a poppy cross with the Leander badge affixed.

"There are a total of 136 names on the Leander Great War memorial, and 186 more on the Henley Town Hall memorial. This means that Leander's losses were almost equal to that of a small town" he said.

"I am getting great pleasure and satisfaction out of this project especially as this appears to be the first time it has been attempted" he added.

Such is Mike's enthusiasm for the project that he recently spent his wife's birthday visiting Cheltenham College as guests of their archivist, photographing a stained glass window in memory of Lieutenant H.R. Stables, who appears in photographs alongside Captain E. Wedd

M.C. in the College memorial albums. "I did take my wife to dinner and the theatre afterwards, so it wasn't all work!" he said.

During the next four years the Leander News Letter will be publishing biographies of some of those Members who lost their lives so long ago, based on Mike's research, including their rowing achievements, their military histories, and their last resting places.

"I very much look forward to building a very useful resource for Leander, and a fitting memorial to the men, not only for the centenary of the War, but also the Club's bi-centenary in 1818" he said.



On each grave he has placed a poppy cross

Head of the Charles Dinner

Last month our President and Captain were principal guests at the Harvard Club in Boston, where US-based Member Phil Meers had organised the largest ever Leander overseas dinner to mark the Head of the Charles Regatta.

More than 100 Members and guests attended the evening, which commenced with a drinks reception hosted by the British Consulate-General, Susie Kitchens, at her Residence in Chestnut Street. Then followed a logistical challenge as the city ground to a halt in the wake of the Boston Red Sox victory against the Detroit Tigers in their vital end-of-season game!

Despite this brief hiatus the guests managed to reach the Harvard Club, where they enjoyed an excellent dinner in the historic ambience of the Grand Hall, with its famous log fire blazing away to help ward off the autumnal chill.

Club Captain Debbie Flood, who had been racing that afternoon in Championship Women's Sculls, enthralled those present with an account of her rowing career as a



Debbie Flood

double Olympic medallist, and finished by describing her duties as captain. She had taken the trouble to bring her Olympic Torch with her, which proved a very popular photo opportunity.

Jeremy 'Rass' Randall, attending his first election, then invited all present to stand in memory of absent friends, making particular mention of Harry Parker and Hart Perry.

He then described the Club's long history and forthcoming bi-centenary in 2018, as well as thanking Phil Meers who had organised the event. He expressed the hope that the dinner might become an annual fixture, and also wished to see a not-for-profit entity launched, to enable tax-efficient giving by US Members in support of the Club. He also announced the launch of the Leander Cup, which it was hoped would be awarded at future dinners to the most promising college crew.

The evening ended with an auction of Leander memorabilia which raised nearly \$1500 in aid of 'Team River Runner' - an organisation which has helped those injured in the Boston Bombing to get out on the water.



Rass Randall

1952 Olympians

Two veterans of the 1952 Olympics took to the water at Leander last month, when Peter Brandt and Sir John Macmillan revived their partnership which had first begun at Eton more than 64 years ago.

As schoolboys they both competed at Henley as members of the Eton eight but it was when they both went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, that their rowing prowess came to the fore. Despite a lacklustre performance in the Double Sculls at Henley they won the 1952 Olympic trials, putting out Olympic champion Richard Burnell and his partner in the process.



Images courtesy of Robert Treharne Jones

The Helsinki Olympics proved to be an anti-climax after London 1948, and the GB rowing team came away without any medals, but Brandt and Macmillan went on to compete at Henley the following year where they doubled in both the Grand and the Stewards', missing the final in both events.

"I've spent many years coming second over this course" remarked Macmillan ruefully, as the men boated.

In his Army career he was rather more successful, rising to the rank of Lieutenant General and retiring in 1991, after spending seven years as GOC Scotland.

Debs' delight

When a delegation from Henley recently visited Bled, Slovenia, to cement their twinning relationship it wasn't just the local culture and scenery that caught their eye.

The British ambassador, Andrew Page, turned up for his official engagements in a (chauffeur driven) Mini,

suitably emblazoned with union jacks, to help promote the UK abroad. Part of a promotion deal agreed with BMW, who now own the Mini brand, the car is on loan to various British embassies for three months at a time, but the Leander captain, Debbie Flood, herself a Mini owner, took a real fancy to this very special car. The only problem? She knew she might have trouble fitting it in as extra baggage on the flight home!



Obituaries



Hansel Beechey-Newman (centre, front row) with members of the 1956 St Edmund Hall 1st VIII

Hansel Beechey-Newman

1933 – 2013

Elected to membership 1983

Hansel Beechey-Newman, who was elected to Leander membership in 1982 for services to rowing, began rowing at Magdalen College School in 1946 where, in spite of being relatively light, he eventually earned a position in the first eight. Rowing was not a major sport at the school, so Hansel and others formed the Sculloars Boat Club, which privately funded attendance at regattas to which the school was not sending crews. Following National Service he went up to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1954 and joined the boat club, where he made the first eight. He immediately pressed to implement some of the training and discipline he had learnt in the RAF, and in Torpids the following term the Teddy Hall first eight won their blades by getting a bump on each of the five days over which the event was run at that time.

Hansel was elected captain in 1955 and continued to work to improve rowing at the college. According to a fellow member of the first eight "he organised and set up the rowing club to become the most successful of all the Oxford Colleges at the time".

After Oxford Hansel went into management consultancy based in London, but after two or three years of this he opted for a better life by moving with his young family to Falmouth in Cornwall, where he became a jeweller, gemologist and valuer.

Before long he became involved with the local rowing club, Greenbank, who raced in flash boats (fixed seat wide hulled boats for four oarsmen). Hansel persuaded them that if they moved to sliding seat rowing they would be able to widen their competition, and he bought them an old four from the local police force.

Greenbank started competing on the wider WEARA circuit and in spite of tougher competition the senior men's four continued their previous success, winning the WEARA championship 11 times between 1978 and 2000.

Hansel was also behind the club's appearance at Henley in the early '70s – the first Cornish club to do so – and was Treasurer of WEARA from 1978 to 1985.

Hansel and his wife moved to France in 2004, returning to Falmouth in 2011. Although by then suffering from Parkinson's, he made a final pilgrimage to Henley last year, meeting up with old friends from the RAF and St Edmund Hall BC.

A few months before he died Hansel passed on his Sculloars tie to one of his sons – a rare item indeed!

The family would like to thank the many rowing friends who sent letters of condolence, several of whom credited him with having first interested them in the sport.

Tim Beechey-Newman

Simon Porter

1944 – 2013

Elected to membership 1966

Rowing was a sport that Simon Porter enjoyed throughout his life, having learned to row at Bryanston School, for whom he raced in 1961. From Bryanston he went up to Keble College, Oxford, and raced with them at Henley in 1964. Two years later he was in the Isis crew that lost to Harvard by just 3/4 length in the final of the Thames Cup, when one of their crew collapsed at the 3/4 Mile post. The following year Simon was rowing for Keble again, in the Ladies' Plate. On coming down from Oxford he joined London Rowing Club, for whom he was a regular competitor for many years. He was a founder member of London's 6s & 7s Club for those members who had rowed competitively for the club during the 60s and 70s.

In recent years he was a very active member of London's Masters crews, competing in all the Heads and in many other races. He also rowed at the Head of the Charles race in Boston USA in 2008 and 2010. His last competitive race was in November last year when he sculled in the London crew which won the Masters Quadruple Sculls at Teddington Head.

Fit, very resilient, probably the strongest man in the boat and mentally very tough indeed, he never gave up, almost to the point of stubbornness. Simon suffered from a very sensitive skin and before every single outing he had to cover his hands in cream and then wear thin gloves to avoid his hands being completely shredded. Every outing was painful on his hands but he never once complained.

No task was ever too much for him at the Club. Two small examples – as the Club's fire officer our fire prevention and safety is now bang up to standard through his diligence and perseverance. And last November he spent the whole day just cutting back the totally overgrown long hedge behind the Clubhouse – a job that was several years behind schedule.

We all miss him, but all of us who knew him are richer for the fact that he lived.

Robin Hulf



Ian Welsh

1933 – 2013

Elected to membership 1955

Ian Welsh, who died on 2 July aged 80, was one of the country's leading oarsmen in the mid 1950s, having achieved significant successes at Henley and the Boat Race, and representing GB in the European Championships and Olympic Games.

He learned his rowing at Shrewsbury, competing in their 1950 and 1951 Princess Elizabeth crews, where he was a contemporary of John Hall-Craggs and Bill Masser, with whom he would later row in the 1956 Cambridge crew. After National Service in the Parachute Regiment he went up to Queens' in 1953 to read Law and Economics. The college had a strong squad and won the Ladies' Plate at Henley in 1955, with Ian at 7. He was awarded his Blue in 1956, and rowed at 5 in the winning Cambridge crew of that year. During that summer, this crew raced in Rio de Janeiro and convincingly beat the leading contenders to represent Brazil in the 1956 Olympics. He then rowed at 7 in the GB eight contesting the European Championships at Bled, and subsequently at 3 in the GB eight at the Melbourne Olympic Games. He was fittingly appointed captain of the GB Rowing Team for the Games. He was in 1958 a leading figure in the attempt to put together Leander crews for the Commonwealth Games of that year, and coached the Cambridge Boat Race crews between 1964 and 1966.

He was immensely proud of having served with the Paras, and brought their mental and physical toughness and no-nonsense approach to his rowing. He was a tower of strength in all the crews he rowed in.

He qualified as an accountant, and enjoyed a successful career with Arthur Andersen, where he became a partner. On retirement, he moved to the North Norfolk coast and devoted himself to sailing in various boats and exploring the numerous creeks and inlets of Blakeney Harbour. In recent years he had suffered poor health, but the vigour of his outlook on life remained undimmed. He is survived by his wife, Dee, and their son, daughter and five grandchildren.

Mike Delahooke



John Veats
1929 – 2013
Elected to membership 1970

With the death of John Veats just a week after Henley, the rowing world lost a dedicated and committed member of its fraternity.

John began his winning ways at Lensbury RC colours in 1950, starting a successful rowing career in eights, fours and pairs, and representing his club at Henley every year between 1951 and 1958. From his captaincy of Lensbury 1955-1958 and then throughout his working career in Shell, the Institute of Directors, and Compass, John went on to fulfil many official and administrative roles in rowing and associated sport activities.

I first met John in 1953 when we were both working for Shell. He was pinning Lensbury crew lists on a notice board and a colleague said 'he was the man' if I wanted to join the rowing club. The following weekend I reported at the boathouse in Putney and so began a friendship which lasted for 60 years.

I did not think I would ever row with him in the same crew, but over the years we did row together, and it was while competing with him

that I came to appreciate his skill for immaculate timing and steering. It was generally recognised that he was the best at steering a coxless boat, no matter where we were rowing.

He was elected to membership of Leander in 1970, and thereafter was elected a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta, became a FISA umpire, and was also Chairman of the ARA from 1981-89.

A member of the Organising Committee of the World Rowing Championships in 1975, he was also Vice-Chairman of the same committee in 1986, when he had to step in to take over from Peter Coni, the Chairman, who suffered a heart attack just a few days before the regatta.

In 1989 he was elected a Vice-President of British Rowing and in 2000 he was elected an Honorary Life Vice-President.

John was my colleague, my mentor, my fellow oarsman, my captain, and above all, my friend. He will be sadly missed.

Ray Hedger



Image courtesy of row2k.com

Harry Parker
1935 – 2013
Elected to membership 2002

After a two-year bout with cancer, Harry Parker, perhaps rowing's most legendary oarsman and coach passed away on June 25. There may be no other living oarsman or coach whose passing leaves so vast a gap in the rowing world.

Among his achievements as men's heavyweight coach at Harvard for so long Harry coached the last collegiate crew to represent the US in the Olympics, in 1968 – and 26 years later, in 2004, he took the Harvard varsity to the Lucerne World Cup to row as USA2, where they made the final by defeating the GB and French Olympic crews; the French crew later went on to make the final at the Olympics.

He was also coach of the first US women's crew to compete in the World Championships in 1975, and coach of the bronze medal women's eight at the 1976 Olympics. "His enthusiastic support helped put women's rowing on the map," noted one expert.

Along the way, there were 22 undefeated regular seasons, and eight official national championship victories, when 'the Crimson' went undefeated against all major competition.

His competitiveness was colossal and unflinching, his demand for excellence sustained, clear, and pure. For a man who was known to be hard to know, somehow we all call him by his first name – no more needed to be said. For more than fifty years, if someone mentioned 'Harry', it meant Harry Parker. This was true anywhere in the rowing world – there aren't many folks who earn that distinction.

Harry kept coaching truly right up to the end. Just days before his death he got a three hour pass from the hospital to coach the reunion outing for the 1980 Olympic crew, which Harry had selected and coached, but which never competed because of the US boycott of the Games.

Thank you Harry, God speed, and rest in peace – tremendously well rowed.

Ed Hewitt row2k.com

John and Morag Murr
1925 – 2013
Elected to membership 2003

Nigel Brown
1935 – 2013
Elected to membership 2004

Peter Gray
1937 – 2013
Elected to membership 1986

David McClure Fisher
1939 – 2013
Elected to membership 2009

Conrad Rainbow
1926 – 2013
Elected to membership 1977

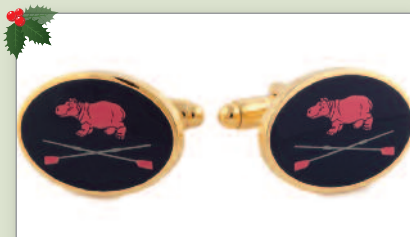
James Vant
1948 – 2013
Elected to membership 2000

Ron Webster
1929 – 2013
Elected to membership 1948

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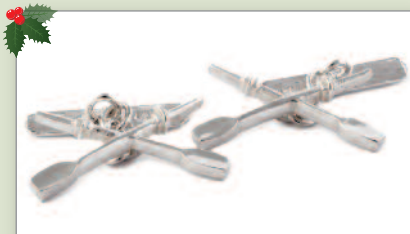
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The Pink Hippo Shop would like to thank you for your support and wish you a very Happy Christmas and successful New Year.