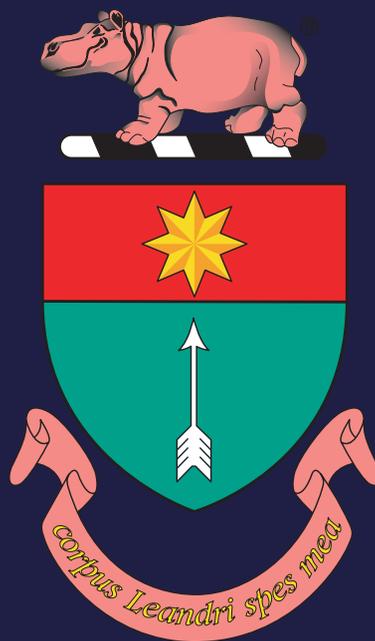


LEANDER REVIEW



2023

LEANDER Editorial

Welcome to the Leander Review 2023.

Summarising the year is certainly a challenge, and I am particularly grateful to my 'sub-editor' Mike Sweeney whose help has been invaluable.

It has been a very successful year, both on and off the water. Lessons from the 2022 Regatta have been learned, the major challenge now being to manage the Club's popularity in the evenings of the Regatta!

We look forward to further successes on the river and to a drink on the decking on a summer's evening.

Felicity Rutland, Editor (felicityrutland@gmail.com)

Contributors: Mike Sweeney, Al Heathcote, Timma Marett, Barbara Wilson, Ted Bainbridge, Jeremy Randall, Andy Trotman, the coaches, sponsors Colgan Foundation and Kanghua, Pete Bridge, Dick Lester.

Acknowledgements:

Photographs: Ali Brown, Jonny Johnson, John Prentice, Mark Blandford-Baker, AllMarkOne, Ben Tufnell/ British Rowing, Timma Marett, Kathryn Fell/Henley Standard.

Technical advice: Kat Green.

Website: www.leander.co.uk; Email: office@leander.co.uk
Telephone: (Office) +44 (0) 1491 575782

Sponsors

The Club benefits from the incredible support of its sponsors



In June 2023 we were delighted to be able to announce a sponsorship deal with Colgan Foundation, starting immediately and continuing for the next five years. This partnership is targeted directly at the Leander rowing programme, supporting the development of our young rowers in their search for

personal improvement and for international success.

Colgan Foundation is a nonprofit foundation founded in 1995 by ex-international American rower Sean P. Colgan, a Leander member since 2005.



"The goal of Colgan Foundation is to assist young people to reach their full potential." "Excellence in an endeavor like rowing can easily translate into excellence in other areas of life like business, medicine, etc. Winners are always winners."

Sean Colgan

We are very grateful to Sean and to his wife, Dr. Bibi Colgan, for bringing their values and support to the club.



Kanghua is a leading boat manufacturer which has been partnered with the Club's Junior Programme for a number of years. It has helped achieve victory in the Fawley Challenge Cup at HRR in both 2019 and now 2023.

Kanghua produce boats that can perform on the biggest of stages, specifically designed to the needs of the rowers. They rectify any issue within days.

The support the Club receives from Kanghua and the factory in China are second to none.



LEANDER People

The Leander committee meets eight times a year (including some members by Zoom), with weekly updates from the General Manager and the Chief Coaches

The Committee



Dick Lester
President



Pete Bridge
Chairman



Barbara Wilson
Secretary



Justin Hodges
Treasurer



Peter Gostling



Rob Clegg



Monica Relph



Marcus Bateman



Felicity Rutland



Joe Michels



Tony Reynolds



Vicky Thornley



Elise Cope

In Attendance



Al Heathcote
General Manager



Matt Beechey
Chief Coach Men's Squad



Ross Hunter
Chief Coach Women's Squad



John Collins
Club Captain

The House Team



General Manager
Al Heathcote



House Manager
Steven Presland



Duty Manager
Ellie Chambers



Office Manager
Michelle Thomas



Membership Sec
Cheryl Vyvyan



Finance Manager
Richard Neale



Comms Manager
Timma Marett



Events Manager
Nora Marczinka



Head Chef
Jamie Broadridge

For the other members of the Team see www.leander.co.uk/meet-the-team/

LEANDER *The Leander Trust*

Changing lives

The Leander Trust helps change the lives of young athletes through the Leander Junior Programme.

The Leander Trust has now been supporting the Leander Junior Programme for more than 25 years. Over that period, we have seen many successes on the water with athletes from the junior programme going on to senior international rowing. When Harry Leask won a silver medal at the last Olympic Games few will remember him as one of the Club's juniors.

This year, the Programme has been particularly successful in producing not only the winning Fawley Cup crew but also saw two of that crew being selected to represent GB at the Junior World Championships. Byron Richards in the single and Nat Gauden in the 4x.

This year also saw previous athletes from the programme represent GB in the U23 World Championships where Joe Willis won a gold

final in the 1x and was also a reserve athlete at the Senior World Championships.

Athletes joining the programme often have little or no previous rowing experience and combine their rowing with their education mainly at Henley College. While many are local boys, we have seen athletes leave home at 16



2023 Fawley Cup winners—Guy Hutchins, Byron Richards, Nat Gauden, and Freddie Foxwell

from as far away as Edinburgh and Nottingham to join the programme and study at Henley College while staying with families in Henley.

While their prowess on the water is easy to see, what is not often seen is their academic achievements which coupled with their rowing has in the past led to offers from prestigious universities in the USA.



2023 Junior world silver medal winning crew: Alex Patton (St Andrew BC), Nathaniel Gauden (Leander Club), Harry Ruinet (Claire's Court School), Jack Cadwallader (The Windsor Boys' School)

medal in the 8+, Stephen Hughes finishing fourth in the 4x and Miles Deveraux winning the B

Over recent years juniors from the Leander programme have been offered places at University of

California Berkeley, Dartmouth, Yale, Columbia, Syracuse, Princeton and Stanford. These are life changing opportunities and ones we should be justly proud.

Another important part of the Trust's work is supporting other junior (boys and girls) rowing programmes. Last year, this included Hinksey Sculling School which raced in the final of the Fawley Cup this year.

The Trust is reliant upon donations and legacies to fund this programme and we would like to be able to contribute more to the costs the athletes face but need your

support to do so.

While between the Club and the Trust the coaching costs, equipment, training camp and regattas fees are broadly covered the athletes still have to cover the costs of living in Henley as well as international selection and attending international regattas with the GB rowing team. The GB selection process can amount to over £4,000 a year for an athlete representing GB at the Junior Worlds.

If you would like to find out more about how you could support the Leander Trust either through a donation or a legacy gift please contact Jeremy Randall.

rass@leandertrust.org

LEANDER

Our Coaches

The right people for the jobs

In June 2021 we appointed Matt Beechey as Chief Coach of the Men's Squad and Ross Hunter as Chief Coach of the Women's Squad. Matt had first joined the coaching team in 2009 while Ross came on board in 2015.



Ross Hunter Matt Beechey

Their first few weeks in charge found them preparing our crews for the postponed Henley Royal Regatta, held in August 2021. At this Covid-impacted event, the Club had its most successful Regatta to date, winning eight Trophies.

Matt and Ross have created a very positive climate and culture for the squads training at the Club. They have also fostered a very open and welcoming attitude to other clubs. More than 15 universities, clubs and schools have visited the club during this year, many of which have trained alongside our Thames Cup and Wargrave crews.

"Both Matt and Ross were appointed following a rigorous interview process that pitched them against high quality external candidates, and they came through with flying colours, demonstrating they were the right people for the jobs."

**Pete Bridge
Club Chairman**

One of the most significant changes over the past five years has been the increase in the numbers of the women's squad. In 2018 we had just ten women training at Leander. In 2023 the number had increased to 30. For the 2023 season there were 30 men and 30 women training in our two main squads.

Ali Brown joined the coaching team in 2018, and is the High Performance Coach. He also runs our men's recruitment programme. Alongside this Ali has taken the lead on the rowing side of our social media.



Ali Brown

Richard Chambers is the Assistant Women's Coach; he is a World Champion and an Olympic silver medallist. He joined the Leander coaching team in September 2021. For the World Championships this year he was seconded to the British Team and was responsible for coaching the Women's Eight and Pair - all Leander rowers!



Richard Chambers

STOP PRESS! Jonny Jackson has just been appointed Head Coach at Reading Blue Coat School. Many congratulations, but we're very sorry to see him go.



Jonathan Jackson

Jonathan Jackson is in charge of our junior and development squads. He joined the team in 2020 and is also

undertaking a recruitment role within the club. In 2023 he gave the opportunity to more than 100 state school children to try indoor rowing and also ran an indoor rowing competition in Wokingham.



Ergo championships at Waingels College

For the past two years we have been running an Apprentice Coaches scheme. Jamie Axon and Cat Copeland were the first to be employed under this scheme. Jamie Axon went on to become the Men's Coach at Marlow Rowing Club and Kat Copeland is just finishing a year of maternity leave. This year's candidate, Emma Chenery, has just accepted a place coaching with RGS High Wycombe.



LEANDER *Au Revoir to the outgoing Leader*

A review of Mike Sweeney's five years as Leander President



Portrait by artist Fiona Land
Now proudly hanging in Leander

cancelled - the Tokyo Olympics were postponed - a new Chairman was elected - a new General Manager was appointed - the bar and the dining room were completely refurbished - the size of the outside decking was doubled - an outside bar and kitchen was built - the garden was remodelled - a new boat shed was erected. The Club has seen a significant increase in the number of its female rowers and it has made important changes to its coaching structure. Routine - No - Challenging - Yes.

Reflecting back over his five years Mike was asked to pick out a number of the most significant events - lowlights and highlights. His definite lowlight was the impact of Covid when the world changed in March 2020. Mike was so impressed with the way that the rowers and coaches coped, first with training in isolation (ergometers in the garage) and then with the constraints of ergometers in a marquee in the Leander garden. They had to endure months with no training on the water.

Mike was elected as President of Leander at the AGM in 2018, starting his five year term of office in September. After the excitement and flurry of all the special activities in the 2018 Bicentenary year he was looking forward to a rather more routine and less challenging period for his Presidency. Wrong!

In Mike's five years the Club was hammered by Covid for two years - Henley Royal Regatta was



ander President

In June 2020 Al Heathcote joined as the Club's new General Manager, being set some challenging targets by the Committee on his appointment - in particular, to boost the footfall into the Clubhouse and to develop the Club as a 'destination club' for all the Members and visitors. After the renovations inside the Clubhouse in 2020 the grand opening of the new decking and the outside bar took place on 5th June 2021 and was a great success.

In June 2021 the Committee was delighted to announce the appointment of Matt Beechey as the new Men's Squad Chief Coach and Ross Hunter as the New Women's Squad Chief Coach. At the August edition of Henley Royal Regatta, the Club had its most successful Regatta to date, winning eight Trophies.

The rowing events at the postponed Tokyo Olympics were held in July



2021 with Leander providing 24 athletes to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The best result was a Silver Medal in the Men's Quadruple Sculls - the first ever Olympic medal for GB in this class of boat. The Quad contained four Leander scullers

who had all come through the Leander Development Squad. The British Eight, containing six Leander athletes, won the Bronze Medal.



At the Head of the Charles in October 2022 the Leander women's eight won the Championship Eights event while the men's eight came fifth. To end the year the Club posted a stunning set of results at the Fours Head of the River by winning all six open events as well as the Junior men's quads.

In 2023 we have completed major improvements to the garden and we have constructed a new boat shed for all our small boats. Success on the water has continued with excellent results in the Head Races and at the local regattas.

Leander athletes have been key members of the Great Britain teams at the European Senior Championships, the World Junior

Championships and the World Under 23 Championships. At Henley Royal Regatta the Club had 60 athletes racing on Finals day.

At the World Senior Championships in Belgrade the British Team of 62 athletes included 30 of our Leander rowers. Leander athletes came home with five Gold medals, two Silver medals and two Bronze medals.

"I retired as President of Leander Club on 31st August 2023 after an exhilarating and challenging five years. However, there are further challenges ahead for my successor, not least being the management of access to the Club during the last few days of the Regatta.

We are now most definitely the best place to be at the end of the Regatta each day – we are just too attractive!"

Mike Sweeney CBE

LEANDER Meet the New President



Dick Lester

When did you first become a member of Leander?

I joined the Cadet scheme in 1969, won the Thames

Cup in 1970 and have been a member ever since. I won the Grand in 1975 stroking a Leander Thames Tradesmen composite crew.

Was there a defining moment in your rowing career?

Leander won the Thames Cup in 1968, 69 and 70 coached by Derek Drury and Donald Legget. The Club dominated the event for those years. The defining moment of my career was therefore to discover winning the Thames Cup did not guarantee success

at international regattas. Clearly, things had to change in order to step up on the international stage. Fortunately, the ARA as it then was wisely employed the services of Bob Janousek.

What has motivated you to stay so long and in so many different roles?

Since retiring from rowing in 1976 I have coached at Leander, Cambridge University and the National Squad and was a member of the International Selection Board in the 1980s. I have been a Steward for more than 40 years, served on the Regatta's Committee of Management and am a Trustee of the HRR Charitable Trust. For several years, I was legal adviser to the ARA and the Royal Albert Dock Trust. As to motivation, I never went looking for some of

these roles, they just found me!

How do you see your role as the President of the Club?

The organisation required to run a rowing club today is enormous by comparison with 50 years ago - increasingly so. Leander must continue striving for success on both land and water to maintain its large and successful rowing squad whilst also providing a first-class experience for the membership on land. The Club has an excellent team of coaches and staff supported by a dedicated Committee and I see my role as President to support these where best I can.

From the Editor: *With typical modesty, our new President has not even mentioned his Silver Medal at the Montreal Olympics!*

The Seventies Revival

Olympians from the 1970's and 1980's on the resurgence of British Rowing from 1968-1980

In the 1970s, British rowing at the international level emerged from the doldrums of the 1950s and 60s and we started to win medals again!

The story of this transformation was the theme of a Friday Supper evening in March. Taking us through the period from 1968 to 1980 were Mike Sweeney, Chairman of Selectors and Team Manager, Tim Crooks, World and Olympic Silver Medallist, Dick Lester, Olympic Silver Medallist and Charlie Wiggin, Olympic Bronze Medallist.

The evening proved to be a most interesting and entertaining event. Tim Crooks tried to pack into ten minutes his whole life story, Dick Lester gave us some previously embargoed stories about Bob Janousek's Montreal Eight and Charlie Wiggin surprised us all by describing his early days as a ballet dancer!



"There aren't many clubs in the world who could gather such rowing prestige under one roof."

Al Heathcote

This was one of the best evenings I have ever spent at Leander - three fascinating and entertaining personal stories brilliantly coordinated by Mike Sweeney, and a delicious meal as well.

Editor

LEANDER *On the Tideway*

Men's Head of the River

On Saturday 18th March, Leander entered three crews in The Head of the River Race from Mortlake to Putney.



Leander's top boat started second behind a strong Oxford Brookes crew containing eight World Champions from last summer's World Championships. Our eight contained a mixture of GB team members and club athletes. A tremendous battle then ensued between these two top class crews with Oxford Brookes finally prevailing but only by 1.9 seconds. Our two club based eights came in 5th and 12th – a very satisfactory result.

Women's Head of the River

On Saturday 4th March, 30 Leander athletes took to the Tideway for the annual Women's Head of the River. In what was an impressive display of women's rowing in the UK a total of 320 crews totalling 2,880 athletes raced down the Tideway course from Mortlake to Putney.

Leading the field as defending champions was the Leander A crew with two-time Olympian and Olympic silver medallist Karen Bennett in the bow seat. Conditions were favourable and with a clear run the Leander A crew stormed down the track to take the overall victory. Our club-based crew finished second overall with our young development crew finishing in a very worthy 7th place.



Oxford and Cambridge

In pre-Boat Race fixtures our men's top club eight raced the Oxford University Blue Boat from Putney to Chiswick Steps. In a hard fought race, with the lead changing hands three times, Oxford won by just over a length in difficult windy conditions.

In their set of three races with the Cambridge Women's Blue Boat our first eight lost the first piece by one third of a length but then won the next two pieces by 1 length and by a third of a length respectively.

Annual Club Dinner 2023

Fun with a serious purpose



Leander members raised £4,000 for charity at their Club Dinner on Friday, 20th January, when

two of the club's rowing legends enthralled a packed house with tales from their sporting careers.

Olympic medallists Debbie Bruwer, who won silver in Athens and Beijing, and Angus Groom, a silver medallist in Tokyo, have both retired from international rowing. Both drew parallels between their sport and their new lives, even for non-rowing members of the

audience! Debbie now manages the Henley Debt Centre, which received half the proceeds of the evening, while Angus works in a team at Oxford exploring the causes of leukaemia.

The other charity to benefit from the auction was The Leander Trust, which supports young rowers including the Junior Rowing Programme at Leander.

LEANDER *The Club*

From the General Manager



The club has had an enormously busy year, and right from the get go, with a sold out club dinner in January and the very popular 70's rowing era dinner talk. The spring came and went but the weather didn't. What felt like the 100 year storm kindly landed on our doorstep on the day of the Coronation tying in nicely with the Deck Opening Party. Expectations of the sun setting on the deck whilst the JG Collective played rocking tunes into the night were quickly dashed as the heavens opened and Just. Didn't. Stop.

Despite this, more than 400 Members and guests attended and, with blitz spirit, consumed an unrationed hundredweight in beef sirloin and salmon en crouete in the rain.

Other members' events of note hitting the diaries before Henley Regatta were Six Nations rugby viewings, the Space Series talks, a wonderful fine dining dinner and the Boat Race unlimited roast.

The regatta came round very quickly. The Committee, in combination with the house staff worked tirelessly to enact many of the changes and suggestions made by members after 2022.

As I think everyone now attests; the Tuesday is the new Wednesday, the Wednesday the new Thursday and so on... Tickets sold thick and fast and we had a full house for Lunches (almost) throughout the week. The new Digby Floating Bar was well received and we think the new format worked well in general.



Some changes to look forward to for 2024 may include a new entry solution for the busy Friday and Saturday evenings, more and better casual food options, more seating for marquee lunches and a coffee van!

Post-regatta saw some unseasonably damp and dreary weather leaving the deck largely unused in the key summer months. This was a real pity considering the excellent evening pizzas and more varied range of beers and drinks available. Here's to a much sunnier 2024...!!

The latter half of the year and lead up to Christmas is an exciting and busy time for the club as we host the athletes and full members for the Annual Dinner. Of particular note is the first appearance of the Leander Christmas Ball which promises to be a spectacular affair of fine foods, wine, dancing and general merriment.



"We look forward to a fun, eventful 2024 and, as always, thank our members for their tireless devotion to the support of our wonderful club!"

Al Heathcote

LEANDER *Henley Women's Regatta*

Record entry, record results



Henley Woman's Regatta

Leander Club put forward a record entry for this year's HWR. Nine crews were entered along with two composite entries in the women's double and women's pair. This was also the first time Leander had crews entered across all women's Championship events.

Racing began on Friday with time trials for all crews. All our Leander crews made it through to the knock out stages of racing. Quarter-final racing on Saturday went well leading to seven crews needing to be ready for semi-finals on Sunday morning. Four of these crews made it through to the finals.

The women's composite double of Kathryn George and Vwairé Obukohwo (Twickenham Club) faced off against a GB development crew in the final and showed their strength and power to win overall.



The women's composite pair of Abi Topp and Phoebe Snowden (UL)

raced well in the final but were unable to match the speed of the UL/IC crew. Both of these athletes then joined forces with the U23 group to race at HRR.

In the final of the Championship quad sculls Leander 'A' beat Molesey by just over five seconds and in the Championship fours Leander 'A' beat Durham University by 10 seconds.

"I am extremely proud of all of our Leander athletes this weekend. These results are the culmination of a hard winter's training and I couldn't be happier for them all.

As a club we are grateful to Henley Women's staff and volunteers for again putting on a brilliant event this year. I am also pleased that this was the first opportunity we could showcase the Colgan Foundation who are our new club sponsors."

Ross Hunter



LEANDER *Henley Royal Regatta 2023*

One of the most important rowing events on the international stage



Princess Grace Challenge Cup

Lauren Henry (Leicester), Hannah Scott, Lola Anderson/Becky Wilde, Georgie Brayshaw



A record 104 Leander athletes competed at this year's Henley Royal Regatta – 73 athletes competed in the semi-finals and 60 reached finals day. An impressive 23 Leander athletes took home medals.

The first win of the day was The Princess Grace Challenge Cup. This GB women's national squad crew contained three Leander athletes and was a comfortable winner over the Canadian national squad crew racing as Shawnigan Lake.

The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup, the intermediate men's quad event, was won by Leander's development squad athletes and was coached by club coach Ali Brown. In the final the crew beat Hollandia Roeiclub from the Netherlands.

Photographs: John Prentice and AllMarkOne

The Town Challenge Cup was won by our GB women's national squad crew, containing two of our senior Leander athletes. In the final they found themselves up against the Leander development crew who had done extremely well to reach the final.

One of the most thrilling finals of the day was in The Queen Mother Challenge Cup for international men's quads. The GB national

crew contained two of our Leander scullers and found themselves up against the reigning World Champions from Poland. The final result was a half a length victory to the British crew.

The Silver Goblets and Nickalls' Challenge Cup for men's pairs was won by Leander's Tom George and Ollie Wynne-Griffith beating the Canadian national crew in the final.



Another Great Britain versus Canada clash took place in The Grand Challenge Cup with the British eight, containing four Leander athletes, winning comfortably over the Canadian national eight.

Leander's Chloe Brew and Rebecca Edwards won the final

of The Hambleden Pairs and our junior quad, coached by Jonny Jackson, finished the day in style by winning The Fawley Challenge Cup.

Leander were also in the following finals but unfortunately finished runners up to some impressive crews: The Ladies Plate (3 feet) and The Wargrave, The Double Sculls,

The eight winning crews (with Princess Grace CC opposite)



The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup
Rory Harris, Rowan Law, Oliver Costley, Miles Devereux



The Town Challenge Cup
Rowan McKellar, Heidi Long, Helen Glover (Marlow),
Rebecca Shorten (Imperial College)



The Grand
Will Stewart, Morgan Bolding (Brookes), Jacob Dawson, Sholto Carnegie, Rory Gibbs, Tom Digby (Brookes), James Rudkin (Newcastle), Tom Ford, Harry Brightmore (Brookes)



The Queen Mother Challenge Cup
Callum Dixon (Twickenham), George Bourne,
Matt Haywood (Nottingham), Tom Barras



The Fawley Challenge
Guy Hutchins, Byron Richards, Nathaniel Gauden,
Freddie Foxwell



Silver Goblets and Nickalls' CC
Tom George,
Ollie Wynne-Griffith



Hambleden Pairs
Chloe Brew,
Rebecca Edwards

Photographs: John Prentice and AllMarkOne
The Stonor and The Remenham Challenge Cups.

"Thank you to the Members for their continued support of the Leander programme and the Colgan Foundation for their sponsorship of and partnership with the Club."

Richard Chambers

LEANDER *World Events*

European Championships – Bled, Slovenia

For the European Championships Great Britain entered 42 athletes in the Olympic events with Leander providing 23 competitors. Our athletes brought home six Gold medals, 14 Silver medals and 2 Bronze medals.



W8+ European Championships

Natasha Morrice, Emily Ford, Lauren Irwin, Karen Bennett, Esme Booth, Samantha Redgrave, Hattie Taylor, Annie Campbell-Orde, Henry Fieldman (cox)



M 4x World Cup II

Callum Dixon (Twickenham), George Bourne, Matt Haywood (Nottingham), Tom Barras



World Under 23 Championships

Leander athletes and coaches selected to represent Great Britain at the World U23 Championships



W4- European Championships

Heidi Long, Rowan McKellar, Helen Glover (Marlow), Rebecca Shorten (Imperial College)

World Cup II – Varese, Italy

At World Cup II Great Britain entered 42 athletes in the Olympic events including 26 athletes from Leander. Our athletes won four Gold medals, 13 Silver medals and two Bronze Medals.

World Under 23 Championships – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Nine Leander athletes competed at the World Under 23 Championships winning two Gold medals and one Silver medal.



M8+ World Cup II

Will Stewart, Morgan Bolding (Oxford Brookes), Jacob Dawson, Sholto Carnegie, Rory Gibbs (Oxford Brookes), Tom Digby (Oxford Brookes), James Rudkin (Newcastle), Tom Ford, Harry Brightmore (cox) (Oxford Brookes)

World Cup III – Lucerne, Switzerland

Great Britain entered 48 athletes in the Olympic events at the final World Cup in Lucerne, including 29 athletes from Leander. Our athletes won 11 Gold medals, nine Silver medals and two Bronze Medals.



W 4x World Cup III

Hannah Scott, Georgie Brayshaw, Lola Anderson, Lauren Henry (Leicester)



M2- World Cup III

Ollie Wynne-Griffith, Tom George

LEANDER World Championships



At the World Senior Championships in Belgrade, Serbia the British Team of 62 athletes included 30 of our Leander rowers. GB finished with nine crews winning medals and qualified 13 boats for the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. Great Britain was placed second on the overall medal table and tied first on the number of gold medals.

The World gold in the Men's eight was won in impressive style by Great Britain and included four Leander athletes – Jacob Dawson, Sholto Carnegie, Charlie Elwes and Tom Ford.



The Women's quad raced neck and neck with the Netherlands over the whole course, only hitting the front in the last few metres to win the Gold medal. The crew included Leander's Hannah Scott, Lola Anderson and Georgie Brayshaw.

Also winning a Gold medal was Erin Kennedy who coxed the British PR3 Mixed Coxed Four.



Silver was the reward for Tom George and Ollie Wynne-Griffith in the men's pair and Bronze for Heidi Long and Rowan McKellar in the women's four.

Photographs: Ben Tufnell/British Rowing

Narrowly missing out on the podium but securing an all-important Olympic qualification spot were the Women's eight who finished fourth. This crew was 100% Leander - Natasha Morrice, Rebecca Edwards, Lauren Irwin, Karen Bennett, Esme Booth, Emily Ford, Hattie Taylor, Annie Campbell-Orde and cox Henry Fieldman. Emily Ford and Esme Booth made history as the first British women to qualify two boats at the same regatta, racing in both the eight and the pair.

Fourth place was also achieved by the men's quad (Tom Barras and George Bourne).



LEANDER *Head of the Charles, USA*

The Greatest Head Race in the World

After the successful appearance of our two Leander eights at the 2022 Head of the Charles the Committee decided that Leander should be represented at the 2023 event. We again entered both our men's eight and our women's eight, but this time added a men's double – all racing in the Championship events. This trip across to Boston is an expensive exercise (24 rowers and 2 coaches) and we are deeply indebted to Sean Colgan for reaching into his own pocket and for recruiting a number of our American members to lend support.



Training at Boston University Boat Club

The crews boated from Boston University Boat Club in the basin area of the River Charles and the location of the Start Line. The team



Men's Double

Rory Harris, Oliver Costley



Men's Eight

Iwan Hadfield, Dan Graham, Matt Rowe, Sam Banister, Douwe De Graaf, Miles Beeson, Tom Ballinger, Calvin Tarczy, Sonya Gladstone (cox)

arrived in Boston on the Monday and trained on the course for the next few days. Training is not easy with the number of crews sharing the water and with the challenges of the course with its many bridges and sharp bends.

Racing in a number of the events started on Friday, curtailing water training even more. Land training on ergometers was allowed but only at specified times because of the number of other clubs sharing the boathouse. The weather on the Friday was better than forecast with very little rain. However, the rains came with a vengeance

on Saturday afternoon. It was a pretty miserable day out on the water. Happily the Leander Men's double were comfortable winners of the Championship Double Sculls despite the afternoon conditions.



Training at Boston University Boat Club

"To be able to send so many athletes and coaches to Boston for a second year shows the incredible support the athletes receive from the Committee, the Colgan Foundation and our Members. We were also delighted to engage with some of our American Members at the inaugural Leander HOCR reception.

To win Championship doubles in our first year of sending a sculling boat is a brilliant achievement. To come 4th in the championship eights was a slight disappointment, the guys put it all on the line in the first half of the race to challenge the US national eight, but it keeps them hungry going into a long season."

Matt Beechey

The weather improved significantly on Sunday and there was no rain. Our two eights rowed and raced very well, coming fourth in their respective Championship events. Both events were won by USA National crews. Our women's eight were beaten only by two USA National crews and a Danish National crew.

Photographs: Mark Blandford-Baker

Leander Reception at The Head of the Charles

On the Saturday night the club held a reception at the prestigious Somerset Club. It was attended by around 60 American based Leander members and their guests who came to meet the crews and coaches. It was a most enjoyable and memorable evening.

"With the improvement in our performance from last year and a win from the double, the races proved most rewarding. The experience was incredibly valuable, and we hope to have the opportunity to race on the Charles again and move further up the positions. The week of training was very productive and the race taught us all a great deal about ways to improve. We would like to thank the Colgan Foundation and all the donations that made our trip to the US possible. We are so thankful to have your support in furthering our rowing experiences. We will walk away from the Charles with great memories and lessons from racing to take with us in the future."

Sonya Gladstone
Men's Eight Cox



Women's Eight

Abi Topp, Amelia Standing, Daisy Bellamy, Pheobe Snowden, Juliette Perry, Philippa Emer, Murnyn Greene, Eleanor Brinkhoffe, Henry Fieldman (cox)

Paris Olympics Here We Come?

Leander Chairman Pete Bridge reflects on the Club's preparations for the 2024 Olympics



With only eight months to go before the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics in July next year,

Leander Club athletes have been working very hard to ensure Team GB has the best chance of success on the water at Vaires-sur-Marne.

Leander athletes helped almost all of the 13 boats that qualified for the Olympic Regatta via strong performances at the World Championships in Belgrade earlier this year. 12 of our athletes won medals and several narrowly missed out with fourth place finishes, setting us up superbly for



2024. A special mention must go to Esme Booth and Emily Ford for qualifying for both the women's pair and the women's eight.

At the winter trials this year, Leander had a record number of athletes invited, well ahead of any other club. This means that we are eagerly anticipating adding to our haul of 138 medals won at the Olympics and Paralympics since 1908. Good luck to all of our men and women – we will celebrate with them next summer!

LEANDER Club Projects and HRR 2023

Transformation of the garden despite the relentless rain

The club has embarked on some ambitious projects over the last few years and we hope that you have all enjoyed reaping the benefits.

We are particularly pleased that the deck and bar are still the top relaxing spots for members in Henley over the summer months.

Watch this space for a facelift and new dining options for 2024.



The main effort this year was to find a solution for our outside spaces (specifically boat storage) that took into account the pressures of regatta. Works started early 2023 to landscape and level the lawn.

An exact replica of the Somme, 1917, was the result 4 weeks later, as the rain continued to pour. Work was put on hold to let the ground

drain and construction started on the boatshed. A clever design has left us with a multi-functional space that allows for small boat storage for up to 40 sculls for most of the year and a kitchen, stage and bar for regattas.



Looking forward to 2024 we have no immediate plans for any major projects. Instead, we will be looking to upgrade some of the more tired areas of the club particularly the second floor.



Timeline of Boatshed Build

To follow the fascinating garden/boatshed/bar transformation see <http://bit.ly/boatshedbar>

Social Media

Instagram @leander_club_social
@leander_club for rowing news.



The Pink Post

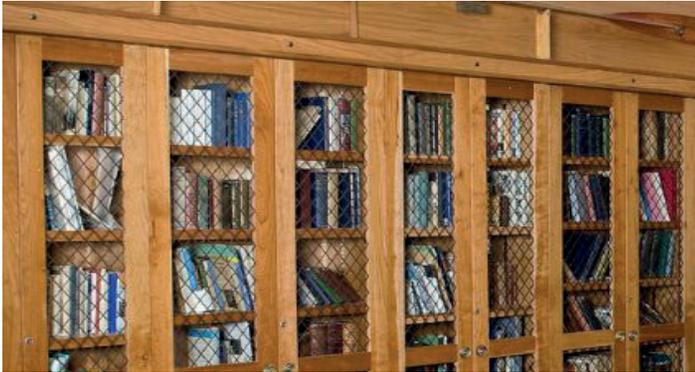
This email newsletter is sent to our 3,500 Members every month. It shares all our racing and events information. Previous issues (from April 2022) are available on the website, and are a wonderful and comprehensive summary of all that the Club does both on and off the water.

"Those concerned we are running out of steam for exciting new ideas for the club, fear not! We have some great ideas still in the planning stages and will let you know in due course when, and if, they come to fruition."

Al Heathcote

LEANDER Books, Books and More Books

Leander has a rich literary history based in its beautiful Library

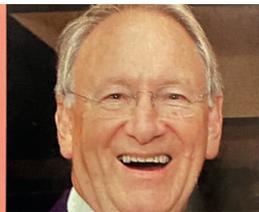


The first in a series of rowing book talks organised by Leander Club librarian, Irene Hewlett - to raise funds for the Leander Trust - was "Lessons in Chemistry", the multi-award winning novel - a sell-out.



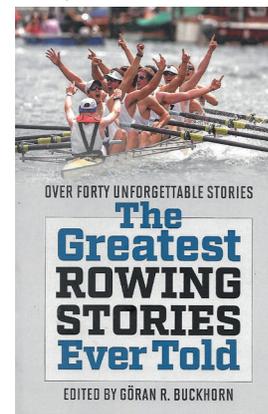
The second, "Water's Gleaming Gold", is the true story of Hugh 'Jumbo' Edwards, an extraordinary oarsman, Olympian, pilot, war hero and British rowing coach.

The third and last talk in the series (18 January 2024) is "Leander Club, The First Two 200 Years", by editor Andy Trotman.



"The Greatest Rowing Stories Ever Told" is another book with Leander connections which the Club is keen to promote. It is a new rowing anthology which includes contributions from a number of Leander Members and past Members.

The collection includes stories of the great rivalries, the pageantry of the regattas, the poetic solitude of the single sculler, and many other aspects of a sport entering its third century.



the regattas, the poetic solitude of the single sculler, and many other aspects of a sport entering its third century.

Illuminated Boats // Reciprocal Clubs

"A marvellous spectacle"



Over 50 boats took part in what is surely destined to be an annual event, with 2000 spectators, many of them enjoying the hospitality at Leander. The buildings and houses from the Bridge to Fawley Court were brilliantly and colourfully lit, and the boats were magnificent. The judges - including Leander's Andy Trotman - and the commentators - including Leander's Robert Treharne-Jones - were based at the Club, and significant sums were raised for the three charities of The Rivertime Trust, Leander Trust and Macmillan Cancer Research.

Visit the finest Members' Clubs around the World

We have a number of reciprocal agreements with like-minded private member clubs that allow us to both visit and stay. For a full list of the 18 clubs and the reciprocity guidelines see www.leander.co.uk/reciprocal-clubs/

Leander welcomes suggestions of other suitable clubs.

Two new reciprocal clubs have recently been added

The Cornell Club, New York



The Royal London Yacht Club, Isle of Wight



LEANDER *Rentacrew Dinner*

Rentacrew celebrated its third 50th anniversary in the space of 3 years

RRC Saturday the 21st October was a momentous day for Rentacrew Rowing Club as it celebrated its 50th anniversary in true RRC style .

In fact, it was the third such 50th anniversary dinner because no-one can be certain when the club was founded (1971-1973?), and since RRC loves a good party, 50th Anniversary Dinners were held in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

RRC, originally formed to enable Leander athletes to row at regattas after HRR, was seen as 'pot-

hunting' and frowned upon by the management, with The Amateur Rowing Association threatening to ban it on more than one occasion!



RRC officially parted company with Leander in 1976 and since then has been 'kept afloat' by a band of enthusiasts who enjoy the privilege of keeping two boats at Leander and, in exchange, take on tasks to support the

club, such as refurbishing memorial benches or painting blades.

The guest list read like a Who's Who of Leander Rowing from

the early seventies, Tim Crooks, Dick Lester, Jurgen Groebler and Mark Banks being amongst the more notable.



"A highlight was Tim Crooks playing the last post on a Flugelhorn, donated as a raffle prize. Another popular auction prize was the chance to sit in the RRC Quad at two, for a spin to the lock and back. Perhaps more would have been raised if people had been asked to bid to avoid such an outing! "

Rass

Societies, Clubs, Classes and Fitness

More ways to enjoy the Clubhouse- see www.leander.co.uk/groups/

BOOK GROUP



This is the Club's most active social group, providing a forum for a strong community of like-minded book lovers. Members normally meet every six weeks for drinks, discussion and supper.

INVESTMENT CLUB



YOGA CLASSES



PINK HIPPO CLUB

The winners of the Christmas Draw are

- | | | |
|-----|------|---------------|
| 1st | £300 | Mr JHN Towers |
| 2nd | £200 | Mr AE Wells |
| 3rd | £100 | Mr JF Adey |



USE OF GYM

Members are reminded that they have use of the gym in the Clubhouse, included in their membership. See www.leander.co.uk/2023/01/31/gym-opens-to-all-members/

LEANDER *Pink Hippo Shop*

A treasure trove of something for everyone

Great care is taken to source the best quality for the Pink Hippo shop. It's an excellent place to find a complete collection, from the latest training gear to personal treats to gifts for others.

The latest training gear



776BC range developed exclusively for Leander.

Clothing



Leander Wine Cognac Gin



Award winning
Leander Pink
Leander Club Claret
Leander's own Grande
Champagne
Vintage Cognac
Leander Club Pink Gin

Gifts



Accessories



Full Members Only



See the Pink Hippo Range at the Club. Purchases can also be made via the website, see <https://shop.leander.co.uk/> Order on line 24 hours a day!

What Next?

Events scheduled to take place post publication, and what to look forward to soon

First Christmas Market - ideal Christmas shopping



Turkey Sculls

This fast and furious mixed ability event, on 21 December, is a 200m course from the HRR finish line to the club, for the chance to win a Copas turkey. Some people take it more seriously than others!

First Christmas Ball - Sold Out!



Leander Club Annual Dinner

The 2024 dinner will take place on Friday 16 February. This black tie event is open to all Members - Full Members, Club Members, Joint Club Members and guests. Tickets on sale shortly.

Christmas Eve lunch

A long luncheon with a special Christmas Eve menu!

Burns Night - 26th January

This black tie event will be complete with piper, haggis, whisky and possibly even a few reels.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
SUPPORTING THE BEST

The Club is hosting a fundraising 'Ukraine Talk' and supper for the Army Benevolent Fund on Thursday 21st March 2024.

LEANDER *Annual Rowing Dinner*

The Club's Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 18th November with Jeremy Randall as the main speaker. After a superb meal in a packed dining room the Club Captain John Collins gave a brilliant summary of Leander's very successful year on the river, and Jeremy then entertained us with anecdotes about his life (?) and love of Leander.



Photographs by Jonny Johnson and Kathryn Fell for the Henley Standard

LEANDER Membership Information

Annual Subscriptions for 2024

At the recent Annual General Meeting of Leander Club subscriptions for 2024 were approved as follows:

Full Members and Club Members	£375.00
Full Members less than 30 years old	£112.50
Overseas Members	£187.50
Joint Club Members	£187.50

The British Rowing Annual Levy will be £7.90 and will be added to the subscription for all classes of membership. Subscriptions will be collected by Direct Debit on 1st January 2024 unless you have opted for twice-yearly payment. Only in the case of Overseas Members without a UK bank account will credit-card payments be accepted.

Members who have set up a split Direct Debit arrangement will make two payments of £187.50. The first payment of £187.50 (plus the BR levy) will have been taken on 1st October 2023 and the second payment will be taken on 1st April 2024.

If you currently pay your Membership subscription by debit or credit card, please be aware that we will be in touch with you in early January to resubmit your card details as our Membership management system is changing.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting of Leander Club Limited for the year 2024 will be held at the Clubhouse, Henley on Thames on Sunday 30th June 2024 at 11 am.

In accordance with the Articles of Association Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for a three-year term and may be re-elected, subject to not exceeding six consecutive years in total. Elections for Officers shall be conducted in accordance with Articles 22 to 25, as appropriate. For all persons the maximum period for which they may hold any specific office (other than the office of President) is six consecutive years. A person who serves as an Officer for three years or more may serve on the Board for a maximum period of nine consecutive years.

Nominations for Committee must be lodged with the Hon Secretary at the Clubhouse by 5pm on Friday 29th March 2024.

At the AGM, Members may vote by proxy. A proxy form is available to download from the website, and a signed authority must be lodged with the Hon Secretary at the Clubhouse by 5pm on Friday 21st June 2024.

Nominations for appointment to the Committee are welcomed - there will be two vacancies arising at the next AGM.

General Data Protection Regulations

The Club holds personal data on each Member. This data is used:

- To manage membership accounts
- To circulate information about the Club and its events, by mail or electronic means
- For athletes in training, to record and monitor training performance.

The Club has a legal obligation to supply information at the request of HMRC, the police and the courts.

The Club employs a professional IT company to safeguard your data. Members may view their own data via the on line log in, or by request to the Club office. Members have the right to ask that all their data be deleted, but should be aware that the Club makes no other provision for services to members.

Barbara Wilson
Honorary Secretary, April 2023

BACK COVER: The Club, with the Digby Floating Bar, HRR 2023.

Photograph: Timma Marett.

LEANDER REVIEW



LEANDER CLUB
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire RG9 2LP
www.leander.co.uk



November 2023