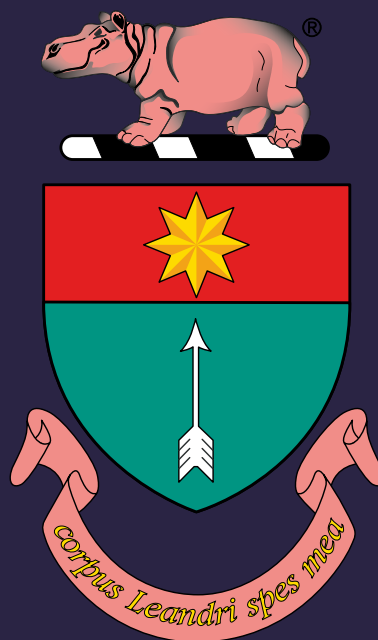


LEANDER REVIEW



2025

LEANDER Sponsors, Partners & Donors

The Club benefits from the incredible support of its sponsors, partners and individual donors



In June 2023 we were delighted to be able to announce a five-year sponsorship deal with Colgan Foundation.

This sponsorship is targeted directly at the Leander rowing programme,

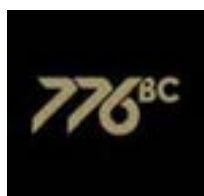
supporting the development of our young rowers in their search for personal improvement and for international success.

Colgan Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation founded in 1995 by ex-international American rower Sean P. Colgan, a Leander member since 2005.



LEANDER TRUST

The Trust has now been supporting the Leander Junior programme for more than 25 years and provides crucial funding in support of all aspects of coaching, equipment, training camps and regatta fees. It has supported many young athletes who have been selected for the Great Britain team and gone on to become medal-winning Olympians. As ever, the Club is immensely grateful for the Trust's grants and looks forward to a continued close working relationship in the future.



776 BC is a premium Australian sportswear brand that supports Leander Club athletes by supplying top-tier performance kit. Their products are known for quality, durability and technical design,

tailored for elite rowing. It is available for Members to purchase directly from the Club shop.



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 2023.



We are very grateful to our partners Healthium Clinics which provides GP and diagnostic care for our athletes, and a range of medical and aesthetic services at heavily discounted rates for our Members. See more at

www.leander.co.uk/2024/04/04/healthium-clinics/



Digby Fine English is proud to supply the Club's official sparkling wine "Leander Pink". This has become synonymous with the Club at HRR and throughout the year.

Recognising Individual Donors

The Club also benefits enormously from the generosity of a number of individuals who have not hitherto received public recognition. The Club aims to remedy this in the future unless anonymity is requested.

"Sponsorship, donations and legacies play a crucial part in the funding of the rowing programme and are therefore critical to the success of the Club. The support from our financial backers, those named and those silent, is much appreciated and is valued immensely."

Pete Bridge
Chairman

Acknowledgements: Mike Sweeney (Sub-editor), Steve O'Connor, Timma Marett, Peter Greenslade, Kat Green.

Photographs: Principally AllMarkOne (Rory Cruikshank), and Ben Tufnell

Editor: Felicity Rutland (felicity@leander.co.uk)

LEANDER People

The Leander Committee (Board of Directors) meets eight times a year (including some members by Zoom), with weekly updates from the General Manager.

The Committee



Dick Lester
President



Pete Bridge
Chairman



Barbara Wilson
Secretary



Justin Hodges
Treasurer



Monica
Middleton



Felicity Rutland



Tony Reynolds



Vicky Thornley



Elise Cope



Luke Breen



Peter Greenslade



Peter O'Hanlon



Jack Beaumont

In Attendance



Steve O'Connor
General Manager



Matt Beechey
Chief Coach Men's Squad



Ross Hunter
Chief Coach Women's Squad



Lola Anderson
Club Captain

The House Team



Steve O'Connor
General Manager



Steven Presland
House Manager



Cheryl Vyvyan
Membership Sec



Richard Neale
Finance Manager



Michelle Thomas
Office Manager



Timma Maret
Comms Manager



Ellie Holden
Events Manager



Amber Chana
Duty Manager



Dav Lama
Duty Manager

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

LEANDER Miscellany

A round-up of some events that are not covered elsewhere

Christmas Market

Pink Post Dec 2024



Henley Living Advent Calendar



Turkey Sculls - Pink Post Jan



Lapel badges British Rowing

Pink Post Dec 2024

BR lapel pin for those with a senior GB cap, personally numbered.



Sports Journalists Award

Pink Post Dec 2024

The award was collected on behalf of the GB Rowing Team by three Leander members



Quiz Nights

These popular and fiercely competitive evenings are held regularly.



New Year Honours

Pink Post Jan

Four Leander Club athletes were recognised by King Charles following their Olympic successes:

Erin Kennedy OBE
Lola Anderson MBE
Georgina Brayshaw MBE
Hannah Scott MBE



Six Nations

Pink Post Feb

All matches screened in the Bar



Golf Day - Pink Post Pre HRR



Silent Auction

The silent auction during HRR successfully raised £550 for the Leander Trust.



Steve Faldo Memorial Barge Race

Traditional slightly crazy barge race from Westminster Bridge to Tower Bridge. Hard work but **Leander WON!**



World's Toughest Race Atlantic Challenge

Pink Post Oct



This email newsletter is sent to our 3,500 Members every month. It shares all our racing and events information. Previous issues are available on the website, and are a wonderful and comprehensive summary of all that the Club does both on and off the water. If you have an email address and are not receiving these please send your email address to: timma@leander.co.uk.



Social media

Please join our community of nearly 30,000 followers on Instagram! [@leander_club](https://www.instagram.com/leander_club)



Members Benefits

For details of all Membership benefits, see website:

www.leander.co.uk/

Benefits-of-Leander-Club-Membership. Note the range of worldwide Reciprocal Clubs and the recently added membership of the Henley Leisure Centre.

New Artwork in the Bar -

Pink Post Nov

ROWING CHAMPIONS - assembled from 1,735 reused computer keycaps.



LEANDER Annual Club Dinner 2025

A legendary evening of camaraderie and revelry

The 7 February found the dining room full for the Annual Club Dinner open to all Members.

Unlike the Annual Rowing Dinner, held following the Fours Head in November, which is an unashamed celebration of the Club's athletes' success on the water, the open Annual Club Dinner is an opportunity for members, their partners and guests to enjoy a formal black tie dinner.

A highlight of the evening is a light-hearted auction at which members can bid on diverse lots such as:

- Outing in a quadruple scull with some of our finest athletes
- Dinner in the Club-house with some specially chosen fine wines
- Cruise in a historic motorised dinghy with Champagne and cream tea to follow
- Some selected items of Leander memorabilia

Generous bidders contributed to a total raised of over £3,000 for



*Jeremy "Rass" Randall
Auctioneer extraordinaire*

the Leander Trust, which supports young athletes and outreach projects in the Thames Valley as well as young Leander athletes.

Then and now

Fastest Eight returns



Crew members: Andy Peach, Mike Chapman, Roger Stevens, Julian Gallivan, Paul Wright, Simon Berrisford, Steve Turner, Colin Guppy, Guy Rees (cox), coached by John Pilgrim-Morris

Forty years ago, Leander was not enjoying anything like the level of success we see today. The so-called 'Pink Revolution' in 1983 saw a new committee take

over under the Chairmanship of the late Tom Boswell, and with Jeremy 'Rass' Randall as the new Hon. Secretary and Ivor Lloyd as Captain.

When Leander won the Ladies' Plate in 1985 it was the club's first eight-oared victory at Henley for more than ten years.

In the 1985 final Leander beat Garda Siochana, Ireland, by a canvas with the lead switching several times – the winning time of 6 mins 26 seconds was faster than the winning time in the Grand by three seconds, making them the fastest boat of the Regatta. This was the first time in 36 years that this happened and has not been repeated since.

This 'fastest ever' Ladies Plate eight returned for a row-past on Regatta Saturday 2025, 40 years after their spectacular win - swiftly followed the next day by a win from the 2025 Leander Plate eight!

A Clutch of Coaches



Women's Squad Chief Coach
Ross Hunter



Men's Squad Chief Coach
Matt Beechey

We're delighted to announce that two assistant coaches have joined the team.

Jonathan Jackson (JJ), rejoins the team as Men's Assistant Coach, from his most recent position of Director of Rowing at Reading Bluecoat School.

JJ represented GB three times at the U23 World Championships and won the Fawley Challenge Cup as coach for Leander in 2023.

Tom Mapp is Women's Assistant Coach. He joins the team after leading the women's programme at Thames Rowing Club since 2021.

Before his time at Thames, Tom coached at Molesey Boat Club and with the GB Rowing Team's World Class Start programme in Cardiff.



Men's Assistant Coach
Jonathan (JJ) Johnson



Women's Assistant Coach
Tom Mapp



High Performance Talent ID Coach
George Nottidge



High Performance Club Coach
Harriet Taylor

Ross Hunter is also a Waterman and Lighterman. In 2006 he won the Doggett's Coat and Badge (see right).



Training at the Head of the Charles

LEANDER *On the Tideway*

Boat Race Fixtures

On Sunday 2 March, Leander Club took two women's eights and one men's eight into London to race Cambridge University crews on the Championship course.



Our women's eights won each of their two pieces against the Blue Boat and Blondie respectively while our men's eight (our Thames Cup squad) just lost two close races against Goldie.



On Sunday 30th March, three Leander women's eights each raced three pieces against the Oxford University Blue Boat, the Osiris crew and the Oxford Lightweight crew. Our A and B crews won all their races while our C crew (gap year and developers) won two out of three of their races.

Tideway Heads

For the second year running Leander won both the Men's and Women's Tideway Eights Heads of the Rivers.

Women's Eights Head of the River

The Leander A crew, comprising Annie Campbell-Orde, Philippa Emery, Eve Stewart, Lauren Irwin, Hannah Scott, Lauren Carey, Juliette Perry and Eleanor Brinkhoff delivered an outstanding performance.

They secured victory with a margin of 7.9 seconds over Thames Rowing Club, despite challenging weather conditions.



Our other three eights finished 7th, 8th and 11th (initially 6th but awarded a time penalty).

"Yesterday was a wonderful display of the strength and depth of our women's team. I am hugely proud of each crew's performance, one of which being the development eight who made the top 10."

Harriet Taylor
Crew Coach Leander C

Men's Eights Head of the River



In a time of 17:06, Leander's A crew took the win for the second year in succession, winning by 12 seconds over Oxford Brookes. The winning crew from stroke to bow was: Matt Rowe, Will Stewart, Archie Drummond, Miles Beeson, Josh Bowesman-Jones, James Vogel, Levin Gräf, Dan Graham and Cox Jack Tottem.

Leander B improved their finishing place from the previous year, finishing in a strong 4th spot.

Finally, finishing in an encouraging 10th place was our C crew, primarily full of our gap year boys with a couple of seniors.

"It was a great row from the crew and a brilliant day for the whole club. We thank the HERR team for holding such a great event and thanks to Fulham Reach boat club for hosting us on the day."

Matt Beechey
Men's Head Coach



Scullers Head

Congratulations to Georgie Robinson Ranger who was the fastest female sculler at the Vesta Scullers Head in September.

LEANDER Regatta Season

Carrying momentum forward into the heart of the racing season

Ghent International Regatta



Leander Club athletes delivered a series of remarkable performances across various boat classes at the Ghent International Regatta in May 2025. Men's and women's crews were entered in eights, fours, quads, double sculls and single sculls.

The men's eight impressed by winning Gold on both days ahead of a Polish men's eight.

The young second crew excelled by coming third on the Saturday and second on the Sunday.

Leander women fielded two matched eights for the first day of racing, finishing first and third, beating Polish and German national team crews.

The first boat won again on the Sunday with the second eight taking fourth place.

The men's quad improved from fifth to Gold over the two days of racing while the women's quad claimed Silver on the Saturday.

The women's four won Gold on the Sunday while gap year athlete Daniela Pryce-Hughes, racing in the women's single sculls, excelled by winning Silver on the Saturday and Gold on the Sunday.

Metropolitan Regatta

At the Metropolitan Regatta, held on Dorney Lake on 31 May and 1 June, the Club recorded multiple wins and podium finishes across 12 boat classes.

Our two men's eights finished second and fourth behind a very strong Cambridge crew while the women's eight, with a very tough lane draw, came sixth. The men's quad won Gold against strong opposition while the women's quad claimed Silver.



In the women's fours the composite crew with University of London claimed Gold by clear water while the second four came third.



The first win of the day came from a dominant row from Dan Jones and Alex King in the men's double sculls, who led from start to finish.



Marlow Regatta

At Marlow Regatta on Saturday 21 June, Bryn Ellery and Dan Jones brought home the win in the Championship Doubles, with our other crews in the mix in the finals.



Our gap year crew raced superbly in the time trial for the Championship Eights, qualifying in first spot. In the final, the boys were disappointed with their row but still produced a respectable result, coming fifth against strong competition.



The men's quad qualified for the final of the Championship event in third spot from the time trial and a few hours later came third in the final.



Archie White and Ryder Aptu raced in the Championship pairs event and finished third.

LEANDER *Henley Women's Regatta*

As the Regatta grows so does the competition!



In a stunning final race of Henley Women's Regatta, the Leander/UL/Durham women's crew took the win against a formidable crew from Thames Rowing Club. The composite crew led out of the blocks and showed their power and tenacity in challenging conditions, to continue to inch away every stroke. The Thames crew however, did not give up and mounted a ferocious sprint towards the end of the race but it wasn't enough to cross the line ahead of the composite crew.

In the women's fours event, the Leander women progressed to the Sunday final. As previous winners, their aim was to defend the title. The crew fought hard but unfortunately were unable to match the pace of Molesey.



In the women's single, Amelia Hempelman-Adams progressed through the early rounds with ease, only to meet Olympic Champion Imogen Grant in the final. Amelia led off the start but Imogen's experience showed through as she was able to hold a higher cruising pace through the middle of the course.



"For many Leander crews, Henley Women's Regatta is the pinnacle racing of the season. Each year as the regatta develops and grows, so does the competition and depth in women's rowing."

Ross Hunter
Chief Coach Women's



LEANDER *in the Community*

Leander Club is more than a world-class training ground for elite rowers; it's proudly a part of Henley's vibrant community.

"We're deeply connected to the town and committed to giving back through events, partnerships and initiatives that celebrate and support local life."

Steve O'Connor
General Manager

When our Olympic athletes return, we celebrate with a town-wide bus parade, cheered on by thousands of local supporters.



We're committed to protecting the river that defines both our sport and our town. As part of this, we serve on Henley Town Council's river sub-committee, supporting initiatives to improve river health.

Events and Activities at The Club



Each year, we take part in the Henley Arts Trail and love seeing the clubhouse transformed by the work of talented local artists and sculptors.



We also donate our venue annually to the organisers of the Illuminated Boat Parade - see photo above - a spectacular event that continues to grow and has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity.

Leander hosts monthly meetings for both the Henley Business Partnership and the Henley Female Network, helping to foster local connection and collaboration.

On Remembrance Day, we lay a wreath in tribute to those who served.



We field a team of athletes for the Henley Hawks Rugby Club Tug-of-War (see below).

In December, as part of the Henley Living Advent Calendar, we source a fantastic act each year for the public to enjoy.

We also host the 'Love Local' Christmas Market, welcoming local



makers and creators into our clubhouse to celebrate and showcase their talent to the wider public.

Tug-of-War



Twelve rowers from Leander Club took part in a tug-of-war match at Henley Rugby Club. They were

supporting Henley's entry into the House of Lords vs House of Commons tug-of-war match which is set to take place on 2 June next year, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research.

The Winning Leander team was organised by member Andy Trotman who chairs the event in

London. They received coaching from Steve Potter, a retired member of the RAF tug-of-war team.

"Leander very generously gave us the athletes for the afternoon. Steve said they were 'fantastic and enthusiastic, which makes it so much easier to coach.'"

Andy Trotman

LEANDER *The Club in 2026*

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond



NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Steve O'Connor joined us in April from the River and Rowing Museum, where he was instrumental in transforming what the museum had to offer the town. Prior to that, he ran Fulham Reach Boat Club in London where he developed a thriving and busy community club almost from nothing.

Steve lives and breathes rowing - we're very excited to have him at the helm.

Pete Bridge
Chairman

This year has seen important progress both on and off the water. The Club successfully delivered another outstanding Henley Royal Regatta, celebrating exceptional performances from our athletes and the wider Leander community.

We were delighted to welcome more than 10,000 regatta-goers to the Club throughout the week, creating an incredible atmosphere of excitement and shared passion.

We also marked the opening of our new balcony - a space that symbolises renewal and creates a fitting vantage point from which to enjoy the sport that unites us.



Our unique purpose of identifying, developing and supporting athletes on their journey to the national team continues to set us apart. Walking through the Club and seeing the names on the honours boards, each representing a chapter in British rowing history, is a daily reminder of the responsibility and privilege of carrying that legacy forward.

Most noticeable throughout the Club is its sheer sense of pride and community. From the athletes on the water to the members who fill the Club with warmth and support, there is a shared belief in excellence - not just in performance, but in how we represent the Club and the sport.



Looking ahead, we are now shaping a new long-term strategy to ensure Leander retains and strengthens its position as one of the world's leading sporting institutions.

Exciting plans are afoot to refurbish the gym - to go ahead as soon as funding is in place: at the end of 2025 we are 30% of the way there.

Our aim is to honour the Club's remarkable heritage while ensuring that future generations of athletes, members and supporters continue to find inspiration and belonging here at Leander.

"It has been a privilege to join Leander Club this year as General Manager. Having spent much of my life in rowing, from a junior club rower through to leading both Fulham Reach Boat Club and the River & Rowing Museum, I have seen how this sport brings out the best in people. To now help lead Leander, the most successful club in rowing's history, feels both an honour and an extraordinary opportunity."

Steve O'Connor

Memorable Moments and Remarkable Achievements



On the water, our athletes showed incredible talent and determination, winning three events - The Ladies' Challenge Plate, The Queen Mother Challenge Cup and The Visitors' Challenge Cup. They also raced in another three finals - The Wargrave, The Remenham and The Town Challenge Cups.

The Leander men's club-based eight produced a superb performance to claim victory in the Ladies' Challenge Plate. In Sunday's showdown with Oxford Brookes University, Leander got off to a flying start, moving quickly into an early lead. Despite the sustained pressure from Brookes, the crew held their rhythm and composure along the enclosures, crossing the line just over a length clear to secure a memorable victory.

The Leander / Thames composite crew produced a commanding performance to claim victory in the Visitors' Challenge Cup. Their opponents in the final were Oxford Brookes University and a highly anticipated final lived up to expectations. The composite crew got off to a blistering start, surging into an early lead within the opening strokes. They maintained

the lead throughout the race and held firm to cross the line with a length and a half margin.

The Leander / Nottingham composite quad, racing as the GB men's quadruple scull, faced top level competition against a number of national crews. Facing the Australian National Quad in Sunday's final our crew made the faster start, edging into an early lead and maintaining a slight advantage through the halfway mark. However, over the second half of the course our quad moved clear, eventually crossing the line two and a half lengths ahead to secure an emphatic victory.



Visitors' Four

The Leander women's club-based eight produced a very classy performance in the Wargrave Challenge Cup. In the final

they faced a highly competitive Molesey crew. However, despite producing a polished and composed performance, they were ultimately unable to match the pace of the Molesey crew, who crossed the line ahead.

In the Town Challenge Cup the British women's four contained two Leander members. Having impressed throughout the week, the crew earned their place in the final where they faced the Dutch National Women's Four. A fierce battle ensued with the Dutch claiming victory by just one third of a length.

Racing as a Leander / Molesey composite, the British women's eight, containing five Leander athletes, delivered a superb performance in the Remenham Challenge Cup. In Sunday's final, they faced the formidable Dutch National Eight. The Dutch eight flew off the start, establishing a lead of one length by the Barrier. The British eight mounted a comeback through the middle of the course but ultimately ran out of water, crossing the line three-quarters of a length down. This was an exceptional contest between two world-class eights.

HRR winning crews and finalists



The Ladies' Challenge Plate

Jack Prior, Alex Abuhoff, Thibaud Turlan, James Cartwright, Hermione Hill, Kenny Coplan, Levin Gräf, Ethan Blight, George Reed



The Visitors' Challenge Cup

Tristan Wenger (Thames RC), Cameron Beyeki, Harry Geffen, Calvin Tarczy



The Queen Mother Challenge Cup

Cadol Dafydd, Callum Dixon (Twickenham RC), Matt Haywood (Nottingham RC), Rory Harris



The Wargrave Challenge Cup

Finalists: Amy Salesky, Isy Hawes, Jordan Kingston, Sian Hinton-Woodier, Emily Downing, Charlotte Fennell, Issy Sellers, Liv Ceaser, George Farthing



The Town Challenge Cup
Finalists: Daisy Bellamy (Reading RC), Heidi Long (Oxford University), Lauren Irwin, Eve Stewart



The Remenham Challenge Cup
Finalists: Jack Tottem, Meg Slabbert (Molesey), Heidi Long (Oxford/Leander), Eve Stewart, Lauren Irwin, Martha Birtles (Oxford Brookes), Ameila Standing, Daisy Bellamy (Reading), Eleanor Brinkoff

LEANDER Food, drink and hospitality

Exclusively for Leander Members and their Guests



Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

The Club welcomes Members and their guests to any - or all! - of these, as well as Sunday lunch, Private Dining or simply a drink in the Bar. www.leander.co.uk/eat



The 'Pink Party' to mark the opening of the deck in May, and the 'Red, White and Crew party' to mark the closing of the deck for the winter also showed the Club's hospitality at its best. Both were fantastic opportunities to gather together local members from across the generations.



Celebrating British Farmers, From Plate to Pint

We believe great hospitality starts with great sourcing. That's why we're proud to champion British farmers in everything we serve, from the ingredients on your plate to the beers behind the bar.

As part of our commitment to UK agriculture, we now pour three



varieties of Jeremy Clarkson's Hawkstone beer, brewed with barley

grown at Diddy Squat Farm.

This partnership is one of many ways we're working to source food and drink as locally and seasonally as possible. Whether it's fresh produce from nearby growers or British-reared meat, we aim to serve dishes that respect the land, the labour and the legacy behind them.

So next time you dine with us, know that every bite and sip supports the farmers who make it possible.



Henley Royal Regatta - some amazing statistics

Our hospitality team, as always, rose to the occasion magnificently during the Regatta. They kept everyone refreshed and in high spirits, serving up an astonishing 2,500 jugs of Pimm's, 10,000 pints of beer and 820 bottles of Digby!



The kitchens were bustling, preparing and serving more than 4,000 lunches, teas, and dinners to our members and their guests.

Private Dining



LEANDER Rowing Book Talks

Book Talks in aid of The Leander Trust

The series of rowing book talks organised by Leander Club librarian Irene Hewlett continued during the year. The Book Talks have now raised more than £8,500 for the charity.
email:librarian@leandertrust.org

On the Water

Hans Maarten van den Brink, author of this originally Dutch novella, visited Leander on 27 March, to talk about his book.

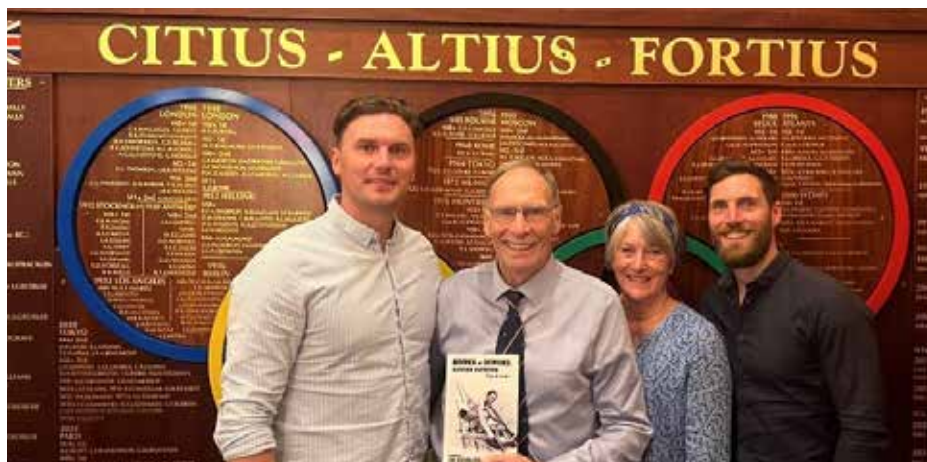


On the Water is a short novella initially published in 1998, since translated into 14 languages and now in its 20th edition. It has been nominated for many awards.

Two young oarsmen are trained as a coxless pair by a mysterious German coach in the golden summer of pre-war Amsterdam. Through the pressure and rapture of physical exertion, teamwork and victory Anton and David forge an intense relationship. But on the wintry eve of Holland's liberation, Anton stands on the bank of his beloved river and mourns a lost world: David has disappeared and the boathouse is now derelict and deserted.

"Rarely have sport and literature combined so seamlessly to produce such an absorbing and satisfying novel as this small miracle of a book."

Daniel Topolski
The Guardian, 2001



The Crooks family

Tim Crooks

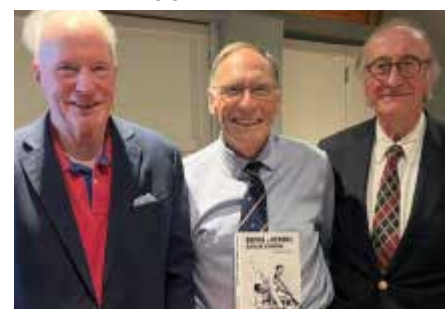
On 25 September, the legendary Tim Crooks, rowing Olympian and author of the brand-new book *Driven by Demons: Bipolar Olympian* visited Leander Club to talk about his book.

Tim is a true sporting hero and legend. Not only was he a very successful rower but, following his rowing career, he won **BBC Superstars**. He was an incredibly driven individual, however, and throughout his life he felt harrowed by mood disturbances which were diagnosed as bipolar disorder when he was 44 years old.

Tim started writing his book seven years ago and hadn't felt it was coming together. Sparring with a friend led to him understand that his story should be one about how his mental illness had driven him in his life and rowing career.

Tim hopes that the book will help others understand their mental struggles and that it will become a book that mental health professionals will read to understand how bipolar disorder affects top sports people.

Among the guests at the book talk were three members from the GB Montreal Olympic eight, Tim, Lenny Robertson and Dick Lester, plus Tim's old Radley College housemaster and his great friend Charlie Wiggan.



Lenny, Tim and Dick

Next - The Long Win

On 19 November, Olympian Cath Bishop talked about her book - *The Long Win: The Search for a Better Way to Succeed*, drawing together her personal and professional experiences across Olympic sport, international diplomacy, coaching and developing leadership and culture.



LEANDER *World Events*

European Championships – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

For the European Championships Leander provided 24 team members, 16 of whom brought home Gold medals – four in the men's eight, six in the women's eight and two in the men's quad. The women's eight doubled up in the women's four and the women's pair with Heidi Long, Lauren Irwin and Eleanor Brinkhoff adding Bronze medals to their medal tally for the weekend.

World Cup I – Varese, Italy

At World Cup I, Great Britain entered 50 athletes in the Olympic events including 24 athletes from Leander, ten of whom brought home Gold medals – four in the men's eight and six in the women's eight. The men's quad with two Leander men on board won the Bronze medal.



World Cup II – Lucerne, Switzerland

For World Cup II Great Britain entered 27 athletes in the Olympic events including eight men and nine women from Leander. The Gold medal winning men's quad contained two Leander rowers



while Eleanor Brinkhoff won a Bronze medal in the women's pair.



World Under 23 Championships – Poznan, Poland

42 athletes were selected to race for Great Britain at the World Under 23 Championships including nine men and eight women from Leander. 12 of our athletes won Gold medals across the men's and women's eights and the women's four.



LEANDER World Championships

A new Olympic cycle begins



The team selected to represent Great Britain at the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai consisted of 48 rowers with Leander providing 16 of the men and 13 of the women, a total of 29 athletes in the Olympic boat classes. Leander athletes won one Gold medal, nine Silver medals and six Bronze medals.

The British men's four (above) was one of the standout crews of the Championships, comfortably winning the Gold medal with all four of the crew being members of Leander. On the team sheet Dan Graham was listed as just Leander while the stern three – James Robson, Douwe de Graaf, George Bourne – were also listed as Cambridge University Boat Club from this year's winning Boat Race Crew.

In the Silver medal winning women's quad (below) all four



women raced as Leander. Our Club Captain, Lola Anderson, was joined by Sarah McKay, Hannah Scott and Rebecca Wilde. In the final our quad allowed the Crew from the

Netherlands to take a lead of over a length by the 500m mark which proved to be too much for them to pull back, although they were overlapping as they claimed the Silver medal on the finish line.



Two of the men's Silver medal winning quad (above) hailed from Leander – Cedol Dafydd and Rory Harris. After a successful season the quad were one of the favourites for this event but, in similar fashion to the women's quad, they allowed the Italian quad too much of a lead by the 500m mark and had to settle for an excellent Silver medal.

Photographs: Ben Tufnell



Will Stewart, Archie Drummond, Miles Beeson and Matt Rowe raced in the men's eight (above), virtually a completely new crew for this new Olympic cycle. The eight won their heat in convincing fashion. However, in the final the crew from the Netherlands led from the start leaving the battle for the Silver medal between Great Britain and the USA. Both these crews were just overlapping the Netherlands on the finish line with the British claiming the Silver medal.

The British women's eight (below) contained seven Leander members – Eleanor Brinkhoff, Juliette Perry, Amelia Standing, Lauren Irwin, Eve Stewart, Heidi Long and cox Jack Tottem. In the final the British crew had a slow start and were still lying fourth at the 1,500m mark. Happily, they produced a fantastic sprint over the last 500m to clinch the Bronze medal by just 0.17 seconds.



LEANDER *Pink Hippo Shop*

For those who like numbers (and shopping!)

Did you know that the shop stocks 162 products, works with 24 different suppliers and, to display and access them for sale, there are 122 different storage/display locations in its Clubhouse shop?

So, there's something for everyone and each purchase goes towards



supporting our athlete programme.

Highlights this Christmas include the newly created Unisex clothing category on the

website, stocking for example these organic cotton navy joggers (sizes S – XXL); brand new chunky knit woolly hats for children (childrenswear) and these beautifully made leather purses



for ladies - boxed, with debossed logo and pink stitching (Ladies Accessories).



Shop in the Clubhouse or on the website 24/7. (Last posting dates for Christmas can be found by clicking on 'Ordering Information'.)

<https://shop.leander.co.uk/>

The Shop is keen to commission more pieces exclusively for our female Full (rowing) Members. If you have any suggestions, we would be happy to receive them. Please email shop@leander.co.uk by the end of January 2026.

Athletes' Careers Group

Committed to supporting current athletes through their rowing careers and beyond



The Leander Careers Group is a voluntary group of ex-athletes and members, helping current athletes with their post-rowing professions by providing career guidance, business coaching and mentoring.

Many athletes have a good idea of their career path, but this is equally matched by those not knowing what to do next.

Leander members globally have been instrumental in the success of the group by explaining their industry sectors or potential career paths to athletes wanting to understand more before deciding which path to pursue.

Our athletes naturally bring with them an outstanding work ethic, resilience and commitment to excellence that is unparalleled

– traits that are recognised by successful organisations, as synergies between high performing athletes and high performing leaders are well documented.

We have created a page on the website, listing the athletes looking for support: <https://www.leander.co.uk/athlete-careers/>

If any Members would like to help the athletes with mentorship, information, introductions or experience in the workplace please contact elise.cope@leander.co.uk

Athletes' Focus Group

We have been working with the athletes on how we can support them on and off the water. We have invested in athlete workshops led by experts to help in creating a positive and high performance culture at the club.

Vicky Thornley and Monica Middleton

LEANDER TRUST

Underpinning the Junior Rowing Programme



Leander Trust announces the first winners of the Michael De Ruyter Schat Prize.

The Michael De Ruyter Schat Prize has been awarded for the first time in memory of Michael De Ruyter Schat whose generosity to the Leander Trust has enabled the Trust to underpin the junior rowing programme at the Club. Michael was a very enthusiastic supporter of the junior programme at the Club and wanted to help the most promising young rowers achieve their full potential.

The prize is awarded by the Trustees on the recommendations of the Club's coaching team. For 2023 it was jointly awarded to Byron Ricards and Nat Gauden who were in the winning Fawley Cup Crew and who were both in the U19 worlds squad for 2023. For 2024 it was awarded to Archie White who was in the Club's Fawley Cup crew.

All three of the award winners joined the Club's junior programme from state schools and all three are now at university in the USA on supported places because of their rowing. Byron is at the University of Washington, Nat is at the University of California Berkeley and Archie is at Columbia University.

We look back on the last 25 years of the junior programme and their achievements.



Since its inception in 2000, Leander Club's junior program has supported 108 athletes from non-private school backgrounds, helping them achieve remarkable success in rowing and beyond. Of these athletes, 22 represented Great Britain at the World Championships: 12 at the Junior level, 15 at Under-23, nine at the Senior level—including an Olympic silver medallist at Tokyo 2020.

Together, these athletes earned:

- 10 medals at the Under-23 level, including four golds
- Five medals at the Junior level, with one gold
- Four medals at the Senior level, highlighted by an Olympic silver

Additionally, they have collectively achieved 18 Henley Royal Regatta victories, dominating at one of rowing's most prestigious events.

Leander's impact extends far beyond rowing. At least 37 of these athletes have gone on to university, with 12 securing spots at prestigious U.S. institutions such as Harvard, Princeton, Syracuse, Brown, and Washington.

From there, many have transitioned into impactful careers, from private equity in New York, investment banking and engineering management, to leadership positions in global companies like IBM, Santander, and Databricks.



Some are shaping the future of rowing as chief coaches at leading schools and clubs, including St Edwards School, Leander Club, Pangbourne and Hartbury, while others hold notable roles, including a cyclor with Ineos Britannia America's Cup. Leander Club's junior program has not only cultivated exceptional athletes but also empowered its alumni to excel in diverse fields, leaving a lasting impact well beyond the world of rowing.

Have a lasting impact on the Club's future



Help Leander's athletes by leaving a legacy in your will

Leander has always benefitted from the generosity of Members, both through bequests in their wills and through donations in their lifetime. Indeed, this generosity has been essential to the development of the Club. Bequests in wills have however often been entirely unexpected, and we wish we had known!

The 1818 Legacy Society

Many clubs, universities, schools, and other organisations have a type of legacy society that recognises those who are leaving them a bequest. It is for these reasons that Leander has established the **Leander 1818 Society** under the Chairmanship of Mike Sweeney, the name reflecting the year in which the Club was formed.

Membership Rewards

In its first year, each 1818 member and a guest will be invited to the Club dinner on 6 February 2026 as our guests. In future years the intention is that there will be an annual lunch at the Club for members and a guest, at which the Society Chairman will be present and where members will be brought up to date with recent developments at the Club and its plans for the future.

Members will also be invited for a tour of the Club and attendance at the regular Leander book talks and to a drinks reception during Henley Royal Regatta. There will be other events at the Club to which 1818 members will be welcome.

As a recognition of membership, members will also receive a lapel badge recognising their legacy intent, and an annual newsletter.

Special arrangements will be made for Members of the Society who are unable to attend events at the Club.

Who can join the 1818 Society?

All Members are invited to consider leaving a legacy to the Club. A decision to make a bequest in a will is of course very personal, and there is no obligation to tell us your intentions, although an indication of the minimum amount being considered would be helpful. However we would welcome the opportunity to thank you and to keep you informed of our plans, but anonymity can be maintained if desired.

If you are able to support the Club through membership of the 1818 Society then it gives the Club the most flexibility if your donation is made to Leander's General Funds,

but we would be equally grateful if you prefer to be specific about how you would like your bequest to be used, within the Club's strategic objectives.

Whether you are thinking of revising an existing will or writing one for the first time, we would be very pleased to discuss the method of giving with you.

If you have already left a legacy to Leander in your will, then please tell us. We would like the opportunity to thank you and to offer you membership of the 1818 Society.

We will not solicit support but simply make information available to those who might be considering a bequest, help them through the process and, most importantly, recognise their support via membership of the 1818 Society and its related benefits. Legal advice should be taken before any decisions are made.

The Leander Trust

We work closely with the Leander Trust to ensure there is no conflict between us. The Trust is well established and supports young athletes (not just Leander athletes) and outreach projects in the Thames Valley. Bequests to the Trust are also exempt from Inheritance Tax. (Information from legacies@leandertrust.org). The 1818 Society will operate alongside the Trust to provide an opportunity for potential donors to support Leander in its broadest sense rather than simply young athletes (defined as in full time education by the Trust).

Legacy Society

Donations during your Lifetime

Gifts during a member's lifetime have the added advantage that donors can see the impact that their gifts are having, as well as giving the Club the opportunity to recognise and thank them. Such donations are always welcome and have been essential to the Club's progress and success. They have not hitherto received public recognition, but the Club aims to remedy this unless anonymity is requested. If you would like to discuss this with us, as an alternative to a bequest in your Will, we would be more than pleased to talk or meet in confidence.

Sponsorship, Donations and Legacies Committee

The Committee oversees and manages the administration and stewardship of sponsorship, donations and legacies to the Club, ensuring alignment with its mission and values. It also co-ordinates the Club's support for external organisations. In particular it coordinates Boat Naming (this page), the relationship with Chapel & York, with the potential for US citizens to claim tax relief on donations (page 23), the 1818 Legacy Society (pages 20-21), and the initiative to recognise publicly the generosity of individual donors (page 2).

Who to Contact

In the first instance please contact

Peter Greenslade

Chair, Leander Sponsorship, Donations and Legacies Committee

or **Mike Sweeney CBE**

*Chair, 1818 Legacy Society
President HRR*

How to contact us:

- via the link on the website www.leander.co.uk/legacies
- Email legacies@leander.co.uk
- Telephone the Club on 01491 577782
- Write to the Club at Leander Club Henley-on-Thames Oxfordshire RG9 2LP

Boat Naming

Moments that connect our past, present, and future



During the Regatta we had the honour of naming two boats.

The first was in tribute to our long-standing Member, Ted Jackson.

"I have been a member for over 60 years and I am very pleased. I didn't expect it, but I have really enjoyed today."

Ted Jackson



The second, the 'Beryl Crockford', was proudly christened by Beryl's husband and former Club Captain Duncan Crockford, who won the naming rights for the double.

"Beryl was an exceptional woman. This struck me as a golden opportunity to perpetuate her name in a most appropriate way."

Duncan Crockford

We are delighted that the naming rights to a further double have also been won. The boat is to be called Quiver and it will be formally named in the New Year.

Further opportunities

Two quads will be delivered in the New Year and they will need names! For details please email: peter.greenslade@leander.co.uk

LEANDER *Head of the Charles, USA*

The World Stage

Photographs: AllMarkOne



The men's eight in training

For this year's Head we entered a men's eight and a women's eight, both racing in the Championship Eights events. However, because the World Championships in Shanghai had been held in the last week in September, all our GB rowers were still enjoying their annual three-week break and were not available for our crews racing in Boston. This particularly impacted the composition of our women's eight compared to 2024.

"Racing at the Head of the Charles is an expensive business, only made possible by generous support from the Leander Members, to whom the Club is deeply indebted."

**Peter Greenslade
Sponsorship Committee**

Men's Eight

Against a highly competitive field, including top crews from Cambridge, Washington and Harvard Universities, the Leander men's eight finished in 16th position. Although they rowed with technical quality and cohesion, a more aggressive start would have made a significant difference to their final result. Nevertheless, the experience gained has been invaluable at the start of a new season.



Women's Eight

The women's eight fielded a young and developing line-up, with several senior athletes unavailable due to illness and injury. Despite these challenges and the use of an unfamiliar boat, the crew approached the race with composure and determination. A late collision and subsequent penalty affected the result, but the athletes handled the setback with maturity and professionalism. Despite the result, and disappointment, lessons have been learned.



LEANDER *Friends of Leander in America*

Recognising the Importance of our American members

Leander Reception for US members at HRR

During the Regatta we held the first-of-its-kind Reception at the Club for 50 of our US Members, further strengthening the bonds within our international Leander family.



with strong attendance from both athletes and USA-based members, and a well-received presentation from Steve O'Connor. We need a bigger venue next year!

Tax Efficient Donations

We are delighted to have established a relationship with a US charitable and not-for-profit organisation called Chapel & York.

Head of the Charles Reception

On the evening of Friday 17 October a Reception was held at the historic Union Club in Boston, a Leander Reciprocal club. US-based Leander Members were invited to meet our crews and coaches. The event was a resounding success,



Leander is now able to receive donations from members and supporters in the US on which they have the potential to claim tax relief.

Contact:

peter.greenslade@leander.co.uk
or steve.oconner@leander.co.uk

Umpire Training

Flag Wavers United

British Rowing held one of its Rowing Umpire assessments in the Library at the Club in September.

To train to be an umpire, see <https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/courses-qualifications/umpiring/>

Left: Showing potential umpires how it's done



"We passed nine candidates who all accepted their provisional British Rowing National Umpire Licence. Many thanks to Leander Club, once again for their support in keeping our sport ticking over."

Roy Prosser
British Rowing

LEANDER Clubs and Societies

INVESTMENT CLUBS



President Dick Lester awarded the Investor of the Year trophy to Rafal Opalinski.

The appetite for Investment Clubs is so great that there is now a second group, the Leander Blades Investment Club.

The groups meet at the Club every six weeks for a semi-serious look at the state of the World and its stock markets, whilst reviewing their portfolios of shares. The primary objective is to learn from each other and prosper both financially and from good company and conversation, followed by supper.

BOOK GROUP



This very active group meets every six weeks for drinks, discussion and supper. It is a strong community of like-minded book-lovers who meet to discuss ideas and books.

YOGA CLASSES



Maddy runs a 60-minute class at 8am on Mondays and Fridays. She teaches classes for ageing well - a great way to start the day.

WINE CLUB



Our third wine club event was held in November, where Lidl wine guru Richard Bamfield compared English and French wines.

The Leander Wine Club is an unofficial group and everyone is warmly welcome! We are planning a trip to a vineyard in the Spring.

We are very keen to welcome new societies and clubs. If you have an idea for one that would be engaging for our Members, please contact us on:

events@leander.co.uk

The last races of the season

Last but not least!

The Wingfield Sculls

The Wingfield Sculls took place on the Tideway Championship Course on Sunday 26 October. This is an event that is steeped in history, dating back to its first race in 1830, with many famous winners in British sculling folklore.

Leander athletes were the winners in 2022 (Seb Devereux) and 2023 (Lola Anderson).

This year the men's winner was George Bourne, racing for Leander but wearing some curious light blue kit.



The Fours Head - Saturday 15 November



After two years where the Fours Head was cancelled, the 2025 event took place with our Leander crews almost repeating the outstanding success of 2022, where our crews won all six Championship events. This year we took 12 boats and won five of the Championships events only missing the M4+ by 0.1 sec. **STOP PRESS:** The Leander Juniors came third in the inaugural Junior Fours Head.

LEANDER *What's Next?*

Events scheduled for post publication, things you may have missed, what to look forward to

Cath Bishop Book Talk

The last booktalk of
the year
Wednesday 19
November



Henley Living Advent Calendar



Wednesday 3 December

We are hosting this
wonderful annual event
(to which the public are invited)
but we won't know in advance
who is performing!



Pink Hippo pop up shop

Town square, Monday
8 December - 9am - 4pm
Part of Henley's
Christmas Market



Turkey Sculls

Sunday 21 December

Marking the end of
training for the year.

Hotly contested racing, soup and
bacon rolls, with Copas turkeys to
the winners.

Burns Night

Saturday 17 January 2026
Check website for details.

Christmas Eve



Club Closure: from 2pm on 24
December until Friday 2 January.

Leander Annual Club Dinner

Friday 6 February 2026

Tickets are now available for the
annual black tie dinner- open to
all Members and their guests - see
website.

AGM

Sunday 21 June 2026, 11.00am

Refurbishment of the Gym



The existing Gym offers a solid
base, with a layout and equipment
now ready for an exciting
upgrade.

The proposed refurbishment will
be a major focus in the New Year,
supported by fundraising.

Full details of the campaign, how
contributions can be made, and
the recognition supporters will
receive, will be on the website after
Christmas.

Thanks to Members' generosity,
we are already 30% towards the
estimated target.



Floor plans are being developed,
and new equipment is being
explored, including the option of
Leander-branded dumbbells!



*"The planned updating and
refurbishment - to provide a first
class facility and equipment -
will enable the Club's Athletes
to train in a gym fit for future
Olympians."*

**Dick Lester
President**

LEANDER *Annual Rowing Dinner*

At the Annual Dinner on Saturday 15 November Stan Louloudis (Olympic Bronze medal 2012 and Olympic Gold medal 2016) was the guest speaker. After a superb meal in a packed dining room the Club President, Dick Lester, thanked a number of people for their services to the Club and introduced the speakers. The Club Captain, Lola Anderson, gave a very well-received summary of the year and its highlights, paying tribute to Stan's inspiration. Stan responded with an entertaining account of his rowing career, an early success being to win the P.E., after which he joined Leander. The President concluded by pointing out that Stan's achievements were all before the age of 25 and that he was someone "who not only wins gold medals but inspires others to win gold medals".



Photographs by Emma Dodd for the Henley Standard

LEANDER Membership Information

Annual Subscriptions for 2026

At the recent Committee Meeting of Leander Club subscriptions for 2026 were approved as follows:

Full Members and Club Members	£400
Full Members less than 30 years old	£120
Overseas Members	£200
Joint Club Members	£200

The British Rowing Annual Levy, currently £11, will be added to the subscription for all classes of membership.

Subscriptions will be collected on 1 January 2026 unless you have opted for twice-yearly payment. Members who have set up a twice-yearly payment arrangement will make two payments of £200. The first payment of £200 (plus the BR levy) will have been taken on 1 October 2025 and the second payment will be taken on 1 April 2026.

If your credit card has been renewed this year, please advise our membership team of the new details. email: membership@leander.co.uk.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2026

The Annual General Meeting of Leander Club Limited for the year 2025 will be held at the Clubhouse, Henley-on-Thames on Sunday 21 June 2026 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 27 March 2026.

At the 2026 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 12 June 2026.

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 online 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, October 2025

BACK COVER: THE NEW BALCONY

LEANDER REVIEW

