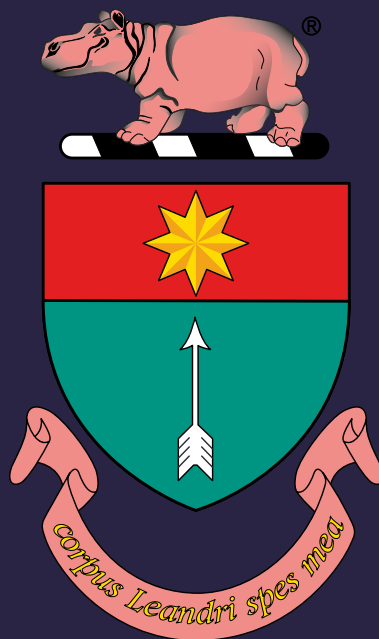


# LEANDER REVIEW



2024

# LEANDER Sponsors and Partners

**The Club benefits from the incredible support of its sponsors**



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

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



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

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



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.

Kanghua produces boats that can perform on the biggest of stages, specifically designed to the needs of the rowers.



We are 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/](http://www.leander.co.uk/2024/04/04/healthium-clinics/)



Digby Fine English is proud to be the official sparkling wine of the Club and its "Leander Pink" has become synonymous with the Club at HRR and throughout the year. Each bottle sold supports Leander in training young athletes who aspire to be the champions of tomorrow and a portion of the sales of Leander Pink from all outlets in the UK goes towards funding rowing at the Club.

## LEANDER TRUST

The Leander Trust provides grants to young athletes who by reason of social or economic circumstances may otherwise be unable or unwilling to access and sustain their involvement in rowing.

Over the years the Trust has supported many young athletes

who have been selected for the Great Britain team and gone on to become medal winning Olympians.

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 camp and regatta fees.

As ever, the Club is immensely grateful for the Trust's grants and is proud of its junior programme achievements, and looks forward to a continued close working relationship in the future.

**Acknowledgements:** Mike Sweeney (Sub-editor), Timma Marett, the coaches, Peter Greenslade, Kat Green.  
**Photographs:** Principally AllMarkOne, and also Ben Tufnell, Ali Brown, Timma Marett, Felicity Rutland.  
**Editor:** Felicity Rutland (felicity@leander.co.uk)

# 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



Joe Michels



Monica Relph



Felicity Rutland



Tony Reynolds



Vicky Thornley



Elise Cope



Luke Breen



Peter Greenslade

## In Attendance



Al Heathcote  
General Manager



Matt Beechey  
Chief Coach Men's Squad



Ross Hunter  
Chief Coach Women's Squad



Lola Anderson  
Club Captain

## The House Team



General Manager  
Al Heathcote



House Manager  
Steven Presland



Duty Manager  
Ellie Holden



Duty Manager  
Amber Chana



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/](http://www.leander.co.uk/meet-the-team/)

# LEANDER Miscellany

A round-up of some new and unusual events over Christmas 2023 and early 2024

**Turkey Sculls – Pink Post Jan**



**Christmas Fair – Pink Post Jan**



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](mailto:timma@leander.co.uk).

**Burns Night – Pink Post Jan**



**Penny Farthing – Pink Post May**



## From the Archives

**Anniversary of HRR win**



1973 crew: B: Peter Summers, 2: Johnny Pemberton, 3: Chris Dalley, 4: Chris Etherington, 5: Carl Purchase, 6: Tim Crooks, 7: Hugh Matheson  
S: Dick Lester, C: Robert Lee

Just before the 2023 HRR, Leander archivist Robert Treharne Jones wrote:

'Founded in 1926 by the legendary Steve Fairbairn, the 4¼ mile Head of the River Race over the

Championship course signals the end of the long distance steady-state training period before the regatta season gets under way, and this year marks 50 years since Leander first won the Head trophy in 1973.

London RC were early winners for many years, while composite clubs like Barn Cottage and Tideway Scullers made their mark in the post-war years before Leander's first win, and the newly-formed GB National Squad (albeit with several Leander men on board) won the lion's share of pennants for many years. Fast forward to the new millennium, and Leander became the dominant force but, since dead-heating with Brookes in 2018, it's the Oxford-based powerhouse which goes into this year's race as reigning champions, with Leander looking to overhaul them with their 15th win in the history of the race on 18th March.'

*"Leander may not have prevailed in the 50th anniversary year but we did this year!"*

# LEANDER *On the Tideway*

## Double Success

### Women's Head of the River

Leander was victorious at the Women's HERR!  
The winning crew of Abby Topp, Amelia Standing, Charlotte Fennell, Phoebe Snowden, Juliette Perry, Philippa Emery, Daisy Bellamy, Issy Powell, and cox Henry Fieldman took the win by 3.8 seconds in difficult weather conditions over Oxford Brookes in 2nd place. The 'B' boat finished in a creditable 9th position.



We would like to thank the organisers of WHERR for running a great race, and the many volunteers for giving up their time to make this event happen, and finally, Fulham Reach BC for hosting our Leander crews and as always being so accommodating.

*"It was a great day on the Tideway for our squad. Winning the Women's Head of the River is a fantastic achievement and a first time for all nine of them. I would especially like to thank the coaches, Harriet Taylor and Rick Egington for all their hard work."*

**Ross Hunter, Women's Coach**

### Men's Head of the River

In the absence of our international athletes, who were away on camp in preparations for the Olympics, it was an opportunity for our development club-based men to fly the flag for Leander at this year's HERR.



The Leander 'A' of Matt Rowe, Dan Graham, Douwe De Graaf, Sam Bannister, Miles Beeson, Tobias Schröder, Tom Ballinger, James Vogel, and cox Jack Tottem raced superbly to a new course record of 16:26.7 over a strong Oxford Brookes crew in second place. Leander Club last held the Headship in 2018 when we dead-heated, but it is 2015 since Leander were outright winners.

Our 2nd and 3rd boats, containing some scullers and our gap year athletes, were placed 5th and 9th respectively.

*"We are delighted with the results. Winning overall and placing all three boats in the top 10 was the aim. It is also the first time the Club has held both the Men's and Women's Headships since 2011."*

**Matt Beechey, Men's Coach**

## Annual Dinner 2024

The Club raised more than £3,500 for charity at its annual members' dinner on Friday 16 February. About 80 people attended the event, which featured a three-course meal and an auction.

The auction was in aid of the Leander Trust, which supports young people who row at various clubs in the Thames Valley, and the Henley Debt Centre, which offers a free debt counselling service.

The auction prizes included afternoon tea at Andy Trotman's house overlooking the river followed by a boat trip, and a pair of original Bernard Partridge cartoon prints from Punch magazine illustrating rowers. Watchmaker Bremont donated a limited edition Leander model featuring the pink hippo emblem as well as a tour of its technology centre and a flight over Henley in the company helicopter.

The event was hosted by former Club president Jeremy "Rass" Randall, who joked: *"There has been a surprise last-minute addition to the auction — Debbie McGee has allowed me to saw her in half. We will bid on it later."*

He was helped by former club President Mike Sweeney whom Mr Randall dubbed his *"glamorous assistant"*.

# LEANDER *The Club*

## From the General Manager



Time flies as they say, and now another year almost gone. But what a year for the Club! 2024 has been one of the busiest years on record. The Club racked up a grand total of seven weddings (the majority Full Members and a few recent ex-athletes), 18 Club-organised events, four Leander Trust book talks, the Olympians' Bus Parade, the Henley Arts Trail installation, the Illuminated Boat Parade, a Christmas Market and last, but clearly not least, a rather wet, but very successful Regatta!



The year kicked off with a highly successful Burns Night on the 26th January with haggis, tatties, neeps, piping and more than a dram or two of whisky. Tables were cleared at the end of the night and the band played on into the wee hours under the guise of a Ceilidh but to the casual observer seemed more like the Springboks V the All Blacks.

Club Members and Full Members alike were then treated to a full programme of events curated by our tireless in-house comms officer, Timma Maret. Collective office team brainstorming delivered some notable highlights including a fully attended and delicious curry night, a Boat Race lunch and the annual Deck Opening Party. The latter was a far drier affair than last year's deluge. In fact, the deck could have been mistaken for Ibiza as the sun set over the town and the river, bathing members, DJ and saxophonist in the first of summer's warm glow.

And now to HRR... After a lot of very useful feedback from 2023's event we made some tweaks to the week's offering and, along with the committee, feel we have hit a winning formula. What with the terrible weather, and FIFA's huge

mistake (I'm sure heads at FIFA HQ rolled) of scheduling the World Cup during regatta week, it looked like attendance might be down on 2023. What we all forgot is that we are British, and nothing will stop an English man or woman enjoying their summer calendar of archaic and institutional sporting events. The marquee was packed, Pimm's flowed and Members danced long into the night to university band; Bad Neighbours, the seven-piece brass band; Brassed Off and 80's glam rock band; SledgehammerA.



*"We look forward to the Annual Dinner and the attendance of some of our Paris Olympians, and also the Leander Christmas Ball. Those attending are encouraged to take a nostalgic look around the dining room before the builders move in in Spring 2025. Turn to page 18 to see what's in store!"*

**Al Heathcote**



# LEANDER *Henley Women's Regatta*

## Gladiator Style Racing



**Issy Powell, Sophie Houston, Philippa Emery, Abby Topp**

The Friday of Henley Women's Regatta started with a great set of time trials for our sweep boats all progressing through to their first round of racing. Our women's pair gained a bye into Sunday's racing where they defeated competition from University College Dublin, then Schuylkill Navy USA to progress to a final against Thames Rowing Club. After a good fight and strong race plan, the pair of Amelia Standing and Juliette Perry raced through to win the Redgrave Challenge Vase.



**Amelia Standing, Juliette Perry**

Our two women's eights also had strong racing progressions with the 2nd eight beating off international crews from Southern Methodist University and then faced tough opposition from Oxford Brookes 'B' who unfortunately knocked them out of the regatta.

Our 1st eight knocked out British crews of Thames 'B', Durham 'A' and Newcastle 'A' before facing, but not beating, a strong Oxford Brookes 'A' crew in the final.



**Leander: Lauren Carey, Meg Hewinson, Jamie Ford, Emily Shephard, Ella Bramwell, Phoebe Snowden, Annie Sharp (Oxford), Lizzie Witt (IC)**

Racing in the Avril Vellacott Cup for Championship 4-, we had two women's crews. Leander 'A' defeated Molesey 'B' before facing Leander 'B' which had beaten Upper Thames 'B' the previous evening. Leander 'A' continued to defeat challenges from Oxford Brookes 'A' to meet Molesey 'A' in the final. An outstanding performance meant they won by a substantial four-length margin.

Our sculling squad started racing on Saturday with a strong time trial from all. We had two women's quads and a women's double.

Having progressed through the time trial, the double gained great experience racing Molesey 'BC' despite not being about to overhaul them. Our two quads had great campaigns with Leander 'A' gaining a bye to face Leander 'B' which had beaten Reading University to progress. Leander 'A' continued to a great final in the Borne Challenge Cup against a composite from the GB performance sculling

academy, despite a great race displaying exactly what side-by-side racing entails, our quad fell short of victory by just a quarter of a length.

*"With just over a week to go until Henley Royal Regatta our women's squad was excited to finish off their season having gained invaluable experience throughout the year."*

**Ross Hunter  
Women's Coach**

# LEANDER *Henley Royal Regatta 2024*

One of the most important rowing events on the international stage



**WINNERS HRR 2024**



In this Olympic year the British Team for Paris, including 24 Leander rowers, did not race at Henley Royal Regatta. However, we entered 12 Club crews made up of 59 athletes and reached Saturday's semi-finals across 10 events.

Six crews went through to the Sunday finals and we came away with four wins. With the threat of lightning later in the day the racing was brought forward and started at 9.30am.

The first win of the day came in The Double Sculls Challenge Cup where Jamie Gare and Cedol Dafydd recorded a comfortable two-length win over an American composite double.

Twenty minutes later, in the open event for women's fours – The Town Challenge Cup – our four

of Lauren Carey, Sophie Houston, Philippa Emery and Abby Topp led the crew from Rowing Canada 'A' for most of the race but eventually lost by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a length.

Our next victory came in The Visitors' Challenge Cup where our 'A' crew of Bruce Turnell, Joshua Bowesman-Jones, Pete Lancashire and Calvin Tarczy led all the way to win by a length over a combined Oxford Brookes and Taurus Boat Club crew.

In the final of The Queen Mother Challenge Cup for open men's quads our crew faced tough opposition from a composite German crew. Leander were down at the Barrier but ahead at Fawley. The race remained very close but Leander crossed the finish line first by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a length. The crew was Rory Harris, Tobias Schröder, Stephen Hughes and Liam Smit.

The fourth win of the day was provided by our intermediate men's quad in The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup. The crew of Jack Keating, Oliver Costley, Levin Graf and Miles Devereux had a great race with the Dutch crew from Sköll, coming through to win by just one length.

The penultimate race of the day was the final of The Stewards' Challenge Cup where our Leander crew fought a very tight battle with the four from Oxford Brookes University. We led at the Barrier and at Fawley but could not stop the Brookes crew from taking the lead and the eventual win.

*"It was a great day displaying our strength in depth across the men's squad with 18 Club men in finals and 14 coming home with a red box. Winning all the men's crew sculling was also very special."*

**Matt Beechey, Men's Coach**

**Photographs:** AllMarkOne

### HRR winning crews and finalists



**Double Sculls Challenge Cup**  
Jamie Gare, Cedol Dafydd



**The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup**  
Miles Devereux, Levin Graf,  
Oliver Costley, Jack Keating



**The Queen Mother Challenge Cup**  
Liam Smit, Stephen Hughes,  
Tobias Schröder, Rory Harris



**The Visitors' Challenge Cup**  
Peter Lancashire, Bruce Turnell,  
Joshua Bowesman-Jones, Calvin Tarczy



**The Town Challenge Cup**  
**Finalists:** Lauren Carey, Sophie  
Houston, Philippa Emery, Abby Topp



**The Stewards' Challenge Cup**  
**Finalists:** Matt Rowe, Sam Bannister,  
Dan Graham, Douwe De Graaf

## Boat Naming

### BOAT NAMING AUCTION FOR ATHLETES' EQUIPMENT



Visitors to Leander during the regatta were invited to place bids to have their chosen name inscribed on the club's top men's Empacher eight. The winning bid was from our US-based Members, Bill and Mary Way, who chose the name Fit Via Vi, which translates as 'the way is by strength'.

During a ceremony at Leander on Sunday 7 July, led by Leander Club Chairman, Pete Bridge, Mr Way, CEO and founder of Fit

Via Vi, a financing and production company, christened the boat with a bottle of Digby Leander Pink. Fit Via Vi will be the top men's eight for the next five years.

A second boat naming took place just before the Olympians Celebration on 21 September. The winning bid, for the top women's quad, was from James Sumsion, who chose the name Makutu. Makutu will be the top women's quad for the next five years.



*"Donations are the easy part. Coaching the boat to achieve world class times and running the club are the hard jobs."*

**Bill Way**

*"We love what Leander is doing in not only developing world class athletes but reaching out to introduce this wonderful sport to those who would not normally find their way to a boathouse."*

*"We're delighted to support the exceptional women's rowing team through this five-year boat naming sponsorship arrangement. At Makutu, our commitment to innovation and excellence aligns with the values upheld by Leander Club."*

**James Sumsion,  
CEO, Makutu**

# LEANDER Regatta Season

## Practice, preparation and success before HWR and HRR

### Wallingford

The Leander squads started the regatta season at Wallingford with the Leander men winning the open eights, fours and singles while the Leander women won the open eights, fours and pairs. The junior men won the junior quad sculls.



Wallingford



Ghent

### Ghent

At Ghent International Regatta in May the Club won the Victor Ludorum Trophy with the men's squad winning six medals and the women's squad winning five medals. Success continued for the women's squad at the Metropolitan Regatta at Dorney Lake with wins in Championship eights and fours.

### Marlow International

A selection of our men's squad raced at Marlow International Regatta with the top performance coming from our winning men's quad, showing impressive form in their preparations for Henley Royal Regatta.



Wallingford



Ghent



Marlow

## Careers Advice



The Leander Careers Group has been set up by a voluntary group of athletes, Club and Committee Members with a view to supporting current athletes with their post-rowing careers.

The goal is to develop a long-standing programme that benefits both Leander Athletes and Club Members.

The mission: to provide athletes with career experience to prepare them for life after rowing, alongside Members getting to know the Club athletes better, bringing our club community together.

If you are keen to get involved or help with mentorship, information or experience in the workplace, please find out more by contacting [elise.cope@leander.co.uk](mailto:elise.cope@leander.co.uk).

# LEANDER World Events

## All over the world

### European Championships – Szeged, Hungary

For the European Championships Great Britain entered 60 athletes in the Olympic events with Leander providing 26 competitors. Eleven of our athletes brought home Gold medals while eight of our athletes won Silver medals.



**M8+ European Championships Gold**

### World Cup I – Varese, Italy



**M2- World Cup 1 Gold**

At World Cup I Great Britain entered 50 athletes in the Olympic events including 26 athletes from Leander. Nine of our athletes won Gold medals while 12 of our athletes brought home Silver medals.



**W8+ World Under 23 Championships Gold**



**W4X World Cup 1 Gold**

### World Cup II – Lucerne

At World Cup II Great Britain entered 48 athletes in the Olympic events including 25 athletes from Leander. Eleven of our athletes won Gold medals while eight of our athletes brought home Silver medals.

### World Under 23 Championships – St. Catherine's, Canada

The GBR Under 23 Team were remarkably successful at the World Under 23 Championships in Canada.



**W8+ World Cup II Silver**

42 athletes were selected to race for Great Britain including 12 from Leander. Eight of our athletes won Gold medals while one athlete brought home a Bronze medal.



# LEANDER *Paris Olympics and Paralympics*

## Great Britain back at the top



The hugely successful British Olympic

Team in Paris included 24 Leander rowers. There were fifteen women, seven men and two men reserves, spread amongst seven crews. Leander athletes won seven Gold medals, four Silver medals and nine Bronze medals.

Pride of place goes to the two Gold medal winning crews, the men's eight and the women's quad. The men's eight included Sholto Carnegie, Jacob Dawson, Charlie Elwes and was stroked by Tom Ford. Before the start their main challengers appeared to be the Americans and the Dutch. Indeed, the Dutch led to 500m but at this point the British eight drew level. After 1,000m the British slowly moved ahead but the margin over the Dutch was never more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a length. The final verdict was just  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a length.

The women's quad included Hannah Scott, Lola Anderson and was stroked by Georgina Brayshaw. The Dutch again were seen as their greatest opposition and led at 500m with the British half a length behind in third place. At the 1,000m we were still half a length behind but now in second place. We were still half a length behind with 150m to go before mounting an amazing sprint over the last 20 strokes to win by around two feet!

Silver medals were won by the women's four and by the men's pair. The four included Esme Booth and Sam Redgrave. After a steady start we had moved into second place by 1,000m and were only four feet down on the Dutch. Over the second half of the course there was a tremendous battle, occasionally the bows of the British boat nosing ahead but more often than not the Dutch leading by a few feet. In the surge for the line the Dutch held on to win by around four feet.

The men's pair of Ollie Wynne-Griffith and Tom George were one of the favourites for this event but faced stiff opposition from the pairs from Switzerland, Romania and



# pics 2024

Croatia. The British pair led for the majority of the race with the Romanians pushing them hard all the way. Approaching the finish it looked as if the British pair would get to the line first but an astonishing sprint from the Croatians and a slight wobble from the British meant that the Croatians won by just 0.45 seconds.



The British women's eight included seven Leander rowers – Heidi Long, Rowan McKellar, Emily Ford, Lauren Irwin, Eve Stewart, Harriet Taylor and stroked by Annie Campbell-Orde. The cox was Henry Fieldman. As expected the Romanians led at 1,000m

with the Canadians second and the British third. By 1,500m it was clear that the Romanians were going to claim the Gold medal but that there would be a great battle for the other two medals between the Canadians, the British and the Americans. The British eight won the Bronze medal just 0.67 seconds behind the Canadians.

The least expected medal at the Olympic Regatta came from the British women's double which included Becky Wilde. This was all the more surprising as they only qualified for the Olympics at the final Qualification Regatta. They raced brilliantly throughout and came away with a thoroughly deserved Bronze medal.



**Photographs:** AllMarkOne



The women's pair of Chloe Brew and Rebecca Edwards came 5th in their semi-final.

The two men's reserves were Leander members James Robson and Will Stewart.

In the Paralympics two weeks later the British PR3 mixed coxed four, coxed by Leander's Erin Kennedy, continued their long unbeaten run, winning Gold yet again.



*'Participating in the Paris Olympics this summer was an extraordinary journey. The years of dedication and teamwork with incredible teammates made our victory all the more meaningful. Within the games, the power of sport to bring people together is clear, and the opportunities it creates were truly inspiring. Being part of this incredible environment has forged memories that will last a lifetime.'*

**Lola Anderson**

# LEANDER *Multiple Medals!*

## Lola Anderson – Club Captain and Olympic Gold Medallist



Lola Anderson went to school at Surbiton High School where she took up rowing, a sport that she very quickly proved to be good at. In 2015 she competed for Great Britain in the Coupe de la Jeunesse, an annual European international event for juniors. Lola raced in the junior women's quad sculls and won two Gold medals. In 2016 she competed in the World Rowing Under 19 Championships in Rotterdam where she won a Silver medal in the junior women's quad sculls.

Lola went to Newcastle University to study English Literature, graduating in 2018. She continued to train and to scull, becoming a member of the British Under 23 Team. In 2019, racing in the Under 23 composite quad, she won Gold at the Henley Women's Regatta. She then went on to the World Under 23 Championships in Sarasota-Bradenton, USA, winning the Gold medal in the women's quad.

In 2020 Lola joined Leander Club and in 2021 she became a member of the National Squad, training at Caversham. At the

2021 World Cup in Sabaudia, Italy she won a Bronze medal in the women's single sculls and at Henley Royal Regatta she won The Princess Royal Challenge Cup. In the final she beat Lauren Henry from Leicester Rowing Club by three feet!

In 2022, in Munich, Lola became European Champion in the women's quad sculls. At the World Championships in Racice, Czech Republic, the British women's quad won the Bronze medal. However, in 2023 at the World Championships in Belgrade, with two changes to the crew (including the inclusion of Lauren Henry), the British women's quad raced from behind in the final to overtake the Dutch crew a few strokes before the line to win the Gold medal.

Lola was elected Captain of Leander Club for 2024. She continued training at Caversham with her quad. They entered the first World Cup in Varese, Italy but only managed fourth place. However,

swift improvement saw the quad win the European Championships in Szeged, Hungary and then the Gold at the World Cup in Lucerne.

The win by the British quad at the Paris Olympics was an absolutely epic race with the Dutch crew leading all the way only to be



overhauled literally 'on the line' by Lauren, Hannah, Lola and Georgie – what a finish!

During the run-up to the Olympics the media caught up with the story of Lola and her father.



Apparently, inspired by the 2012 London Olympics, Lola wrote in her diary that she wanted to win an Olympic medal. Doubting herself, she ripped out the page. Her dad found it and kept it. Seven years later he handed the note back to her before sadly passing away. Lola dedicated her rowing career to him, becoming World Champion in the women's quad in 2023, securing Britain's first gold in that event since 2010.



**Written in March – look what happened in August!**

*"We want to finish this year knowing we've had our best row and given our best performance on the day. We don't have expectations on the results. I want to end the season with something to be proud of and the peace of mind that we have done our best."*

**Lola Anderson**

**Erin Kennedy MBE – Paralympic Gold Medallist**



Erin Kennedy is best known as the coxswain of the indomitable Paralympic mixed coxed four and for talking publicly about her journey with breast cancer and her fight to return to international competition.

the only cox to ever hold all three major titles at once – Europeans, World and Paralympics.

In May 2022, Erin was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and, perhaps unsurprisingly for those that know her well, decided to fly out to the World Cup in Serbia the following day to compete. This set the tone for how she wanted

Erin made her return to international competition in May 2023 exactly a year to the day after her diagnosis, following recovery from a double mastectomy just four months earlier. Her PR3 mixed coxed four won the European Championships in Bled, Slovenia and the World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.

Erin is an Oxford University graduate, becoming a member of Leander Club in 2015. She joined the GB Rowing Team just two years after graduating and guided the PR3 mixed coxed four to Gold in her first World Championships in 2018 in Bulgaria. This golden success was repeated at the World Championships in Austria in 2019. The following year the COVID pandemic swept the world and the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics were postponed.



to deal with her diagnosis and with the full support of her team, despite being on chemotherapy at the time, competed in and won the European Championships in Munich in August 2022. She then took a break from rowing to focus on her treatment plan.

In 2024 Erin coxed the PR3 mixed coxed four to the Gold medal at the Paris Paralympics. If she retires now her run of victories over seven years will be almost impossible to beat by any other cox in the future.



In 2021 Erin was back with her PR3 mixed coxed four and together they won the European Championships in Italy followed by winning the Gold medal at the postponed Tokyo Paralympics. Erin is a world record holder and is also

Erin was awarded an MBE in the 2022 New Year's Honours List for Services to Rowing.

*"When I was diagnosed, I didn't think "am I going to die?", I thought, "what am I going to do about rowing?"*

**Erin Kennedy**

# LEANDER *Head of the Charles, USA*

## The Greatest Head Race in the World



### Women's Eight

**Henry Fieldman, Annie Campbell-Orde, Philippa Emery, Sam Redgrave, Esme Booth, Emily Ford, Lauren Irwin, Rowan McKellar, Chloe Brew**

After Leander's success at the Head of the Charles in both the last two years the Club took 23 athletes to this year's event – arguably the greatest Head Race in the World.

It is an expensive trip, only made possible by the Colgan Foundation and by other generous Leander Members, to whom the Club is extremely indebted.

The appearance and success of our crews at the Head sends a powerful message to all our current American Members and also to our future American Members!

For the second time in three years, the Leander women took the overall win in the Women's Championship 8+ event. Seven Olympic medallists returned to Leander to race in their club colours. The crew was challenged by USA favourites; Yale and the University of Washington, who put up great fights to finish second, third and fourth.

Olympic Bronze medallist Becky Wilde and her Paris 2024 doubles partner, Mathilda Hodgkins-Byrne (Upper Thames), took an impressive win in the Women's Championship doubles.



*"We've all trained together for a few years and came together maybe three weeks ago, so we haven't had much training. It's really nice to come away with a medal – we knew we had some tough competition and were just constantly waiting for the finish line."*

**Lauren Irwin, Three seat**

Olympic Champions Lola Anderson and Hannah Scott finished fourth place in the Women's Championship doubles.



The winners of the Men's Championship 8+ was Cambridge University. The Leander crew finished 14th after a time penalty.

Former Leander athletes, Henry and Louisa Palmer (nee Rowbotham) raced with their two children, Callum, 12 and Skye, 10,

in the Mixed 2x and Parent Child 2x events. Skye set the record for being the youngest ever HOCA competitor, beating her brother's record.



**Photographs:** AllMarkOne

*"Thank you to the organisers and volunteers for an incredible racing experience and our Leander Members who have supported the opportunity for our athletes to compete."*

**Ali Brown, Coach**

**Prize Giving**

The Women's Eight was joined at the Prize Giving by Leander Members and supporters



# Income Generation

**New Sub-Committee – Chairman Peter Greenslade**



The Sponsorship, Donations, and Legacies Coordination Committee was established in 2024

under the Chairmanship of Peter Greenslade. Its purpose is to oversee and manage the solicitation, acceptance and administration of sponsorship, donations and legacies to Leander Club, ensuring transparency, accountability and alignment with the Club's mission and values. It will also co-ordinate the Club's support for external organisations.

It has had a very wide-ranging and productive year, coordinating a number of new initiatives and overseeing the stewardship of our sponsors and generous donors.

The naming of boats was particularly popular and successful (see page 9) and this is now a firmly established objective for all new boats. There will be opportunities for members to name boats in 2025.

The focus on donations and legacies has also led to the establishment of a relationship with a US charitable and not-for-profit organisation called Chapel & York.

They have recently completed their due diligence and the Club is now officially listed as able to receive donations from members and supporters and to enable tax relief to be claimed in the US. Please contact peter@leander.co.uk or gm@leander.co.uk for further details.

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

# LEANDER Club Projects for 2025

## There is much afoot in 2025

We look forward to the coming year with excitement. Firstly, having had a year off from major projects (the deck, garden and boathouse left us needing a fallow year) we have left the very best till last.

Planning has been granted to return the front of the Club to its former glory. By reinstating the balcony and the floor to ceiling windows it will provide diners with unfettered views of the river and boating crews and add much needed space for events and regatta week. Spratley Architects have been instructed on the design and development and have provided the drawing opposite. We feel this will be a welcome addition to the Club's facilities and improve the aesthetics of the Club in general. Stage 1 (construction of the external structure) will start in early spring with the minimally disruptive second stage (installation of façade/windows) taking place after regatta.

### Timeline of Balcony Build

2024:	
October	Project begins
Autumn	Design
December	Tender
2025:	
January	Tender analysis
February	Appoint contractor
March	Build off-site
Summer	Installation (minimal disruption to Club)
September	Grand opening!

2025 will also see a re-launch of the Pink Hippo Club. Historically this has been a way of generating much needed funds for buying equipment for the Club; a small donation will be



taken annually via direct debit or credit/debit card and would enter the Member into a prize draw for various cash prizes. The new iteration will be similar but will be an online draw and will offer plentiful and diverse prizes such as Club dining, Club stays, offerings for regatta and shop memorabilia and clothing. We hope to be able to tell you more detail in early January.

Last and not least, the 2025 Regatta will follow a similar format to this year with a few more small tweaks. These will come in the form of a greater security presence on the busier nights, an increase in offering and size to the floating bar and even more seating for lunches, teas and dinners. We will also make a much needed change to the daily coffee offering (which seems to be niggly number one for many Members!).



*"I sign off by saying thank you all once again for your endless support to the Club and its athletes!"*

**Al Heathcote**

### Al Heathcote

As many of you may know, Al Heathcote is leaving us early in the new year after nearly five years at the Club. Arriving in the thick of the first COVID lockdown, Al had to contend with furlough and a cancelled regatta. Needless to say, he managed both with his customary aplomb and has ensured that the Club has gone from strength to strength over the time he has been with us.

Al has helped to transform Leander into the destination club that it is today and we are all extremely grateful for all of his hard work. He will be a tough act to follow and we will all miss him – and Ditch – when he goes. On behalf of the Committee and the rest of the Club, we wish him all the very best.

**Pete Bridge, Chairman**

# LEANDER *Rowing Book Talks*

## The Leander Library Rowing Book Talks in aid of The Leander Trust

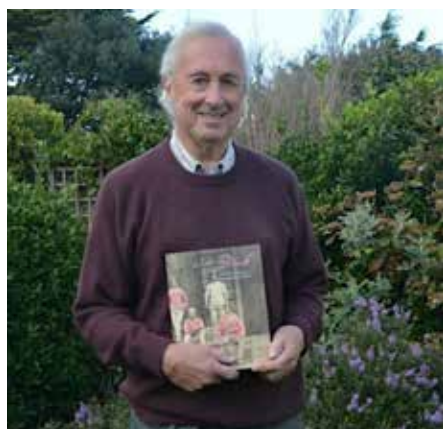


The series of rowing book talks organised by Leander Club librarian, Irene Hewlett – to raise funds for the Leander Trust – continued during the year.

The Rowing Book Talks are open to all and run in aid of the Leander Trust. The ticket price includes a generous finger buffet in the beautiful dining room at Leander Club overlooking the River Thames.

### **In the Pink, History of the Water at Westminster School**

Chris Seward, the author and Leander Member, told us about the history of rowing at the school.



### **An Olympian at War**



John Beresford came to the Club to talk about the book he wrote about his father Jack Beresford, the eminent rowing Olympian who won five medals at five Olympic Games in succession in the 1920s and 1930s.

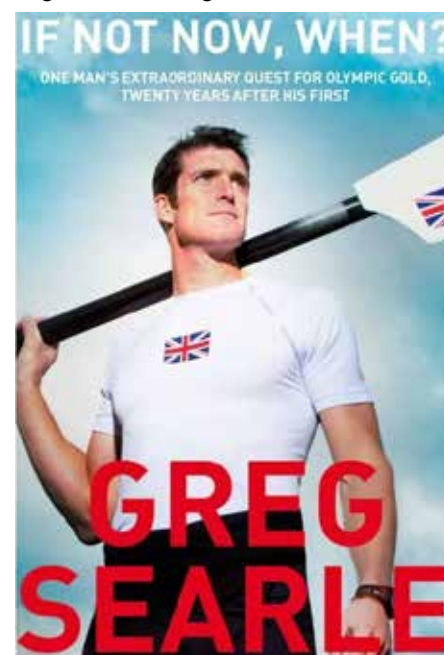
### **The Leander Trust**

At the start of Jack Beresford's talk, Ryder Apatu and Byron Richards, young rowers in the Leander junior rowing programme, came to tell the audience how rowing had changed their lives. They told their stories of how they had moved to Henley supported by the

Leander Trust to develop as high-performance oarsmen and how they are now hoping to study in the USA on rowing scholarships. It was truly inspiring to hear their stories.

### **Greg Searle MBE**

***If Not Now, When?*** is a poignant exploration of obsession, the unrelenting drive for excellence, and the pursuit of one's passions, regardless of age.



### **Daring Desborough**



Leander Members and co-authors, Sandy Nairne and Peter Williams, presented ***Titan of the Thames: The Life of Lord Desborough***. Lord Desborough led an extraordinary life, including taking part in the famous dead-heat Boat Race of 1877.

# LEANDER Clubs and Societies

More ways to enjoy the Clubhouse – see [www.leander.co.uk/groups/](http://www.leander.co.uk/groups/)

## INVESTMENT CLUB



Leander President Dick Lester awarded the 'Investor of the Year' Trophy to Andrew Boyle at the 2024 Investment Club AGM.

The Club meets every six weeks for a convivial and semi-serious look at the state of the World and its stock markets, while at the same time reviewing its portfolio of shares. This is followed by supper, another objective being to enjoy the Club's excellent facilities and menu.

## BOOK GROUP



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

## YOGA CLASSES



## WINE CLUB



This new club is a forum where those interested in enjoying wine together and learning more about it can enjoy a variety of wine tastings and dinners – as well as the opportunity to buy some interesting wines at discounted prices.

The club is the initiative of long-standing Member David Banford. It is aiming to be as differentiated as possible to what is available in the high street and online.

# Pink Hippo Shop

## A treasure trove of something for everyone

The Clubhouse shop stocks a wide range of top level sportswear, stylish clothing, accessories and gifts all branded with Leander Club logos. UK P&P and International tracked delivery is available.

The 776BC range is worn by Leander athletes. Designed for performance, comfort and made from superior wicking material the range includes All in Ones, baselayers, leggings and shorts for both men and women.



You can still snap up these few remaining Limited Edition sweatshirts exclusive design from Crewdog. Celebrating the Olympics – available in sizes XS–XXL.



## Brand new for 2024 which also make great gifts:

Champagne stopper in rose gold



Bar Tool from Murano



Water bottle with sports top made from reclaimed ocean plastic (PBA free)

Happy Hippo limited edition bone china mugs from Dunoon



Cosy LC bobble in a new design

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

# LEANDER What's Next?

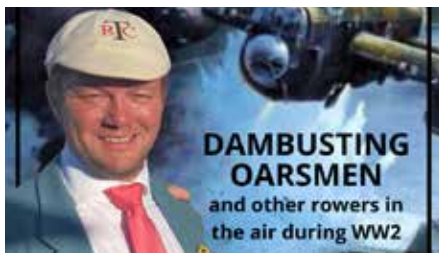
Events scheduled for post publication, what you may have missed and what to look forward to  
**An evening with Vicky Thornley – 27 November**  
**Quiz Night – 11 December**  
**Christmas Ball – 20 December**  
**Leander Annual Dinner – 7 February 2025**



**Henley Living Advent 6.15pm and Christmas Market 6.00-8.30pm – Wednesday 4 December**



**Dinner Talk – 5 December**



**Christmas Ball – 20 December**



**Turkey Sculls – 21 December**

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

**Christmas Eve Lunch (no turkey!)**



The 2025 Club Dinner will take place on Friday 7 February. This black tie event is open to all Members – Full Members, Club Members, Joint Club Members and guests.

**NB Leander AGM 2024/25**

Please note that this is one week earlier than in previous years, on Sunday 22 June 2025, 11.00am.

**STOP PRESS!** The President is delighted to announce that he has just received the following letter from H.R.H. The Princess Royal in reply to the Club's invitation:



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Princess is delighted to accept Patronage of the Leander Club for an initial period of three years. Her Royal Highness sends you and all at the Leander Club her best wishes.

# and Who's Next?

**Is this becoming a Leander tradition?**



In 2022/23 Michelle Thomas, Leander member of staff, was Mayor of Henley. This year, it is the turn of Leander Member Rory Hunt!

Rory greeted the Olympic medallists at the Town Hall during their celebratory bus tour.

*"However much training they do, for four years of their lives, it comes down to a six-minute race. It is quite remarkable what they and their coaches have achieved. Thank you to the community of Henley for supporting them."*

**Rory Hunt, Henley Mayor**

# LEANDER *Annual Rowing Dinner*

At the Annual Dinner on Saturday 16 November Miriam Luke MBE, 2000 Olympic Silver medallist, was the guest speaker. After a superb meal in a happy and packed dining room, the Club President Dick Lester thanked a number of people for their services to the Club and introduced the two speakers. The Club Captain Lola Anderson gave an excellent summary of a brilliant year, thanking Leander for its essential support to the exceptional athletes and teammates who had accompanied her on her Olympic journey. Miriam responded with an entertaining account full of witty anecdotes about her own rowing journey, and her connection with Leander as its first female Member of the Committee. She looked forward to the future with greater parity at HRR, as at Leander.



*Photographs by Emma Dodd for the Henley Standard, and Ali Brown*

# LEANDER Membership Information

## Annual Subscriptions for 2025

At the recent Annual General Meeting of Leander Club subscriptions for 2025 were approved as follows:

Full Members and Club Members	£385.00
Full Members less than 30 years old	£115.50
Overseas Members	£192.50
Joint Club Members	£192.50

The British Rowing Annual Levy, currently £10.00, will be added to the subscription for all classes of membership.

Subscriptions will be collected by Direct Debit on 1 January 2025 unless you have opted for twice-yearly payment.

Members who have set up a split Direct Debit arrangement will make two payments of £192.50. The first payment of £192.50 (plus the BR levy) will have been taken on 1 October 2024 and the second payment will be taken on 1 April 2025.

If your credit card has been renewed this year, please advise our membership team of the new details.

## Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting of Leander Club Limited for the year 2025 will be held at the Clubhouse, Henley-on-Thames on Sunday 22 June 2025 at 11 am.

**Please note that the AGM is being held one week earlier than in previous years.**

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 28 March 2025.

At the 2025 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 13 June 2025.

## General Data Protection Regulations

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

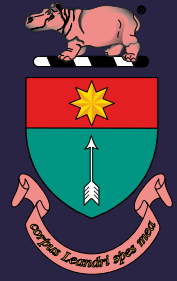
- To manage membership accounts
  - To circulate information about the Club and its events, by mail or electronic means
  - For athletes in training, to record and monitor training performance.
- The Club has a legal obligation to supply information at the request of HMRC, the police and the courts.

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 2024**

**BACK COVER:** The Olympians' Bus Tour of Henley – 21 September 2024

# LEANDER REVIEW



LEANDER CLUB  
Henley-on-Thames  
Oxfordshire RG9 2LP  
[www.leander.co.uk](http://www.leander.co.uk)



November 2024