



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LEANDER CLUB LIMITED

Held in the Marquee at the Clubhouse at 11.14am on Sunday 1st July 2018

The President, Jeremy Randall, called the meeting to order and welcomed all attending.

The Honorary Secretary, Chris Dalley, read the notice of the meeting. 28 Full Members and 12 Club Members were present. He advised that the meeting was quorate and that the President held four proxy votes.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Ashby, Robert Beecham, David Cruttenden, Pete Gostling, Christopher Hutton, Nigel Longley, Jennifer O'Reilly and Chris Skuse.

Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th June 2017

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting as posted on the Club website were approved; proposed by Sir George Cox, seconded by Harry Graves and carried *nem con*. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

To receive the Chairman's report, including financial report

The Chairman, Hugh Richardson reported:

We flourish as a rowing club because of our great athletes and those who support them; and as a club for those who love rowing, because of our staff and our membership. My pleasure in making a report to you is because it is the opportunity to record or collective thanks to the many people and organisations, including our members and staff, who make dedicated contributions to the club.

Our Director of Rowing, Mark Banks leads a coaching team which is at the heart of our success: full time coaches Matt Beechey, Ross Hunter, Ali Brown, James Loveday; part-time coaches Karl Reid, Clive Cooper and Livinia Cowell-Sherriff; Natasha our physio and volunteers such as our ever-helpful Welfare Officer Adam Moffatt.

A main purpose of our rowing programme is the successful development of athletes for the British team. We are grateful for the harmonious working relationship with the Director of Performance at GBRT and thank Sir David Tanner and his team for their support, encouragement and understanding. Sir David has had an outstandingly successful time as GB Director of Performance and we now welcome Brendan Purcell to that role.

Robert Treharne-Jones, the "voice of rowing" is a fount of knowledge and contributor to all our communications. We are fortunate to have him as our Press Officer.

I thank our Captain for 2017 Nick Middleton for his dedication and enthusiasm and welcome Vicky Thornley as Captain for 2018.

General Manager Paul Budd continues to give us remarkable dedication, hard work and loyalty. Ensuring the smooth operation of the Club throughout the year is one thing, but the seamless transition to organising the Clubhouse for our membership to use during Henley Royal Regatta is a huge effort dependent on close team-work and great attention to detail: a particular example of something Paul does superbly. Within the Club, the

warm and friendly service is achieved by our House staff: Head Chef Scott (Vas has recently taken over) and his kitchen squad; Office team Caroline, Philippa, Cheryl, Laura, Michelle; and with Sara managing the shop. Paul and his team have also had to shoulder the additional work and organisational pressures created by the special events of our Bicentenary celebrations which, as those of you who have supported them will well know, have gone off in great style. Special thanks to Paul and the Office.

We should recognise the important contribution made by our commercial partners: Invesco Perpetual and Parmigiani. Spire give us valuable support in-kind, and Digby's Leander Pink is a mutually successful licensing venture. Both commercial relationships and philanthropy help to bolster our rowing Academy.

Your Committee continues to work hard for you. The thirteen members this year included Jennifer O'Reilly and Craig Walton, and as a co-opted member, Mike Sweeney. I would particularly like to thank Anne Buckingham for her legal input, particularly in de-mystifying the dreaded GDPR.

A lot of the real work gets done in sub-committees. Much of this happens 'below-the-radar' so I make no apology for making this a bit of a prize-giving roll-call: **Rowing** Ian Roots, Rick Edgington, Alex Partridge, Ivor Lloyd; **Membership** Marcus Bateman and Debbie Flood; **Sponsorship and Marketing** Jane Hall, Pete Gostling, Matt Rossiter, Giles Cundall; **Regatta** Nicky Colwyn; **Social** Chris Lloyd, Irene Randall, George Rossiter, Lesley Nash, Lou Reeve, Emily Ashford; **Building and Facilities** Mike Gurney, Peter Smith, Ted Bainbridge; **Bicentenary planning** Ivor Lloyd, George Cox; **Finance** Charlie Wiggin; the **Athlete transition initiative** Mark Pilkington; and the **Newsletter** Ted Bainbridge.

Our Bicentenary year has been marked by some wonderful events, ably co-ordinated by Paul Mains. Still to come are the row-past on Henley Saturday, the Gateway opening on Sunday 30th September, and our formal Guildhall Dinner on 10th October. The commemorative book so well put together by Andy Trotman and others has been widely acclaimed: if you didn't subscribe there is still time to get a copy through the Shop.

My special thanks go to those leaving the Committee. Brian Armstrong's long and valuable service will be properly recognised by Rass; Gill Perry-Mason has been our eyes and ears in the US and hugely helpful; and Chris Skuse brought powerful experience of safety, risk and financial control: we hope his sojourn in Vietnam will not last too long so that he can return to us one day soon. Their proposed replacements, Rob Clegg and Marcus Bateman, have formidable credentials which are in the summarised biographies before you.

My fellow Officers as Secretary, Treasurer and President – Chris, Peter and Rass – have provided experienced and diligent counsel which has been essential for me and invaluable to the Club. After five years as Honorary Secretary Chris will hand over to Fiona Dennis, whom we welcome.

Which brings me to Rass.

Today we can talk of Leander as the world's greatest rowing club, which celebrates its bicentenary. Forty years ago it came perilously close to financial disaster whilst achieving only a mediocre performance on the river.

Jeremy Randall is the last surviving member of the team of three who devoted themselves to rescuing the Club and restoring its position in international rowing. Following the "Pink Palace revolution" of 1983 Rass served as Hon Secretary of Leander Club for six years during which time an effectively bankrupt Club was made financially sound and, more importantly Leander commenced its climb back to its position as the world's premier rowing club. In 1993 he was elected Hon Treasurer and led the fund-raising for £3.7m to develop the clubhouse with state-of-the-art rowing facilities for athletes like Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent. The recruitment from Germany of Jurgen Grobler as Leander's Director of Rowing from 1991 allowed the Club to play a key part in the reestablishment of the success of the GB Rowing Team.

In 2000 Rass was elected Chairman of the Club and oversaw a period of phenomenal rowing success focussed on developing future athletes for the British international team. At the 2016 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Leander provided 25 athletes to the British Olympic Rowing Teams, which headed the medal tables. During his time in office his committee oversaw the transition from male-only membership to a club open to all who reflect its search for excellence on and off the water.

Ever willing to step up to the breach, Rass served again as Hon Secretary from 2010 until 2012, before being elected as President in 2013. He continues his active involvement, including raising money to fund Leander's extraordinary and UK-leading rowing programme. He was instrumental in introducing at the Club a development pathway for Juniors which reaches out to identify talent in non-rowing state schools. Leander

then provides the coaching and support for these Juniors, who had no previous experience of rowing, to achieve success at national level with some having gone on to win at the Olympics.

Rass has given countless hours to Leander Club and its beneficiaries. Over more than forty years he has played a central part in moving the Club from being an Oxbridge-focused, somewhat socially-elite “establishment” institution to one holding a leading position within UK rowing based on the excellence of its own rowing squads and coaches. The Club is the principal point of entry to the GB Rowing Team. This has been achieved by providing an open-entry opportunity for athletes while sustaining the Club’s extensive domestic and international membership; and at the same time respecting the Club’s wonderful heritage. Changes of this sort and scale are only achievable in a private members’ club through leadership of a very special kind. In the case of Leander, the one person readily identified as being that leader has been Rass. He has achieved his undoubted impact, considerable influence and the high regard in which he is universally held through gentle determination, unstinting commitment and his collaborative, persuasive and sympathetic manner. He is trusted and admired and stands head-and-shoulders above his colleagues. He is someone who makes and keeps friends through his immense good humour, charm, wit and consideration for others; all of which are deployed in a supportive and positive way that make him a natural and dependable leader.

Personally, and throughout the Club, we owe a very special thank-you to Rass.

(there was prolonged applause)

Turning briefly from people to more practical matters:

We have continued to invest in our facilities. The refurbishment of our dining room, costing some £240,000, was completed last summer and has been much enjoyed this year. For our bicentenary we enlarged our main gateway, and combined this with special gates in memory of Derek Drury. A special thank-you to former Captain Hugh Twiss for organising the gates and to those from the many crews that DHD coached who contributed to them; and also to the members who most generously supported the “200 Club” to fund the cost of the gateway itself. This summer we are reconfiguring the first floor to enlarge the crew room and expand the women’s changing areas at a cost of some £90,000. Members might be relieved to hear that we do not have any more major projects in mind in the near future!

The audited accounts which are being put forward for approval contain the highlights in the President’s report. We spend nearly £500,000 on our rowing programme. This is underpinned crucially by our members’ subscriptions. The overall surplus for the year was £70,000 before spending £244,000 on the dining room. The House side, which involved all use of the Clubhouse, had a modest year with a net deficit of £28,000 – a trend which has continued into 2018. Our shop contributed £22,000 and Regatta a net £28,000 on a turnover of £400,000. All-in-all this was a reasonable year financially reflecting a lot of hard work by our staff and many others, not least our diligent Hon Treasurer and his Finance sub-committee. Looking to the longer term, we continue to address the stability of our finances in an environment where commercial partnerships are increasingly challenging to obtain and retain.

More generally I would like to record my personal thanks to the great team at Leander for being able to cope with me as Chairman, and to you all for giving me the opportunity to make a contribution to the Club. My most significant thanks go to you, our Members, who support by your use of the club both formal and informal; by introducing new candidates for membership; by introducing potential business partners (especially any who understand the sport and the Club); and by your welcome suggestions on how we can improve the Club and how you might become involved to help us in whatever way.

From the floor, Robert Treharne-Jones informed members that we have “discovered” one more Leander Olympic medallist from the 1928 Games bringing our current total to 124.

To approve the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017

Peter Greenslade, Honorary Treasurer thanked Philippa Gutteridge for doing all the hard work, and proposed the approval of the accounts to 31st December 2017, as posted on the Club’s website. This was seconded by Kevin O’Sullivan and carried unanimously.

To appoint Auditors for the year 2018

Peter Greenslade proposed the reappointment of Messrs Villars Hayward as the Club's auditors. Seconded by Chris Dalley, this was approved by all.

To receive the Captain's report

The Captain Vicky Thornley reported:

It had been an amazing year. At Henley Royal Regatta in 2107 Leander had four winning crews and four other finalists. Will Satch and Matt Rossiter won Stewards' medals; an all-Leander line-up of Jack Beaumont, Johnny Walton, John Collins and Pete Lambert won the Queen Mother Trophy; there were three first-time winners in our Visitors four of Barney Stentiford, Finn Stevenson, Sam Twine and George Rossiter, coached by Matt Beechey; whilst the Prince of Wales Cup saw an all-Leander final won by Harry Leask, Rowan Law, Harry Glenister and Andy Joel, coached by Ross Hunter. This crew went on to come fourth at the Under 23 Championships, where we had nine athletes and one coach with the highlight being a gold in the Men's double for Seb Devereux.

Sixty-two athletes went to the World Championships and thirty-seven of them brought home a medal. From a young and relatively inexperienced team this was terrific result with the stand-out performances being a silver for the men's quad and a bronze for Tom Barras in his first year competing in a single.

At Henley this year we will have over ninety athletes competing, which is a great tribute to Leander's Development Academy and especially our dedicated coaching team. A big thank you to everyone.

From the floor Robert Treharne-Jones reminded the meeting that our Captain had modestly omitted to mention her own European Championship title and a silver gained at the World Championships.

To agree the annual subscription rates for the year 2018 as proposed by the Committee

The annual subscription was proposed as £330 for UK members, £165 for overseas members and £100 for Full Members under the age of 30. The motion was seconded by David Chick and approved unanimously.

Election of Officers and Committee

The President reminded the meeting that the members of Committee also served as Directors of Leander Club Ltd. Also, that following the resolution just passed at a General Meeting, the election of the President was to be for a single term not exceeding five years.

He had great pleasure in recommending that Mike Sweeney be the next President of Leander Club. Cambridge Blue, GB international and four-times Henley winner, Mike was for some years a Trustee of Leander Club. He has been Chairman of the GB Selection Board and was GB Team Manager for eight years. He served on the ARA Council for seventeen years, was Chairman of the FISA Events Commission for fourteen years and Chairman of Henley Royal Regatta for twenty-two years. Mike has made a great impact since being co-opted onto the Leander Committee and has recently been the chairman of the Membership sub-committee. He will make a great ambassador for our Club.

Fiona Dennis had kindly agreed to stand for Honorary Secretary. The other Officers and seven members of the Committee offered themselves for re-election. Marcus Bateman and Rob Clegg have been proposed for election. As these persons did not exceed the limit of membership of the Committee, the President declared them elected as provided for in Article 25.2.

Announcement of those persons invited to attend Committee meetings.

As required under Article 30.2.4 the Chairman announced that he had invited Vicky Thornley, Captain; Mark Banks, Director of Rowing; and Paul Budd, General Manager to attend meetings of the Committee.

Other business

Jeremy Randall looked back on his time on Committee. He thanked Hugh Richardson who has been the hardest-working chairman the Club has ever had. He expressed his gratitude to all those who had helped him over the years – he got the thanks while everyone else gave their support. In particular he valued the inspiration of Brian Armstrong who had been coach, chair of the RMG, and had done so much to improve our Club building. Rass felt the best thing had ever done was to find Ivor Lloyd to be Captain; this had led to the involvement of Jurgen Grobler and subsequently Mark Banks. The strength of the Club's achievements would be on show on the Saturday of the Regatta, when two Leander eights containing eighteen Olympians would process during the lunch interval with our own Robert Treharne-Jones giving the commentary. Now a next generation was needed to carry forward the success of the Club beyond its 200th year.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned to celebrate the naming of two eights in honour of Ron Needs and Sidney King.