



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LEANDER CLUB LIMITED**  
Held in the Marquee at the Clubhouse at 11.15am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

The President, Mike Sweeney, called the meeting to order and welcomed all attending.

The Honorary Secretary, Fiona Dennis, read the notice of the meeting. There were 28 Full Members and 11 Club Members and one spouse member present. She advised that the meeting was quorate and that no proxy votes had been received.

Apologies were received from David Knowles, Jennifer O'Reilly and John Verrill

**Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting as posted on the Club website were approved unanimously and there were no matters arising from the minutes.

**To receive the Chairman's report, including financial report**

**The Chairman, Hugh Richardson, reported:**

This year I will start with the practical matters.

**Facilities** projects: Bicentenary gateway and Derek Drury gates- special thanks to Hugh Twiss and contributors to the gates and to those Members who most generously supported the "200 Club" to fund most of the remaining cost (£79,000). We also extended and refurbished the women's changing rooms (£80,000). Our thanks to Brian Armstrong for over-seeing both projects.

This summer, we plan to renew the boat hard in front of the Clubhouse (£17,000) and extend the boating pontoon (£15,000, including piling). Currently, there are no major projects planned, however we will be undertaking the regular external decoration of the Clubhouse to help maintain the condition of the fabric.

**Finances** and 2018 audited accounts, which are being put forward for approval:

We have followed the same communications procedures this year as in recent years, and the accounts have not been posted to members, but have been available on the website. The accounts presented are in the Companies Act abbreviated format but a fuller income and expenditure account is included in your papers. In future I suggest that we should routinely make the fuller income and expenditure account available, subject to organising the headings to ensure no commercially sensitive information is disclosed. We will also make sure that the notice of AGM in the Newsletter refers to the availability of the accounts on the website.

The financial highlights noted in President's report: Members' subscriptions crucial underpinning; Rowing programme (£470,000 spend); surplus of £7,000 reported for year, after £80,000 on women's changing room; House (use of Club) had a modest year with a net deficit of £35,000 (something which has improved at the start of 2019); shop contributed £28,000, and regatta a net £31,000 on a turnover of £432,000: all-in-all a reasonable year financially, reflecting a lot of hard work by many staff and others, not least our diligent Treasurer, Peter Greenslade, and his finance sub-committee and our finance administrator (Philippa); net financial reserves at the end of 2018 amounted to something over £300,000; continue to look to longer-term and secure finances, particularly as commercial partnerships are increasingly challenging to obtain and retain.

**Strategy guiding future:** Inevitably, finances are often a significant part of your Committee's discussions- which, in turn, are coupled with deliberations about sustaining our membership, what Members want from their Club, and how we can best respect our heritage and ensure a flourishing and successful club embracing both a leading rowing programme and a welcoming and enjoyable social meeting place. Currently, we have a group thinking hard about how best to guide the future of our Club and to respond to the challenges that exist. Looking ahead, our sport might- for example- see changes in the formats of international competition; which, in turn, could have implications for the GB international team which Leander seeks to support through its high-performance development programme. Coupled with the continuing challenge of our wish to recruit athletes with the greatest potential, we have to plan thoughtfully with a view to maximising Leander's best chances of success- recognising that, through our contribution to the GB Rowing Team and athletes transferring to the GB training base at Caversham during the year, it can often mean that our crews remaining available to compete at Henley towards the end of the domestic season are a reflection of the development group training at the Club, which now also includes an increased number of women athletes. On the Membership side of life, given the size, age range and geographic spread of our Membership, one of the challenges for us is how to we can best become aware of Members' needs and how best to provide a welcoming and enjoyable environment and experience for a fairly diverse Membership- possibly with different expectations. As we develop our thinking, we would very much value hearing your views and ideas- so please do not hesitate to let us know your thoughts and recommendations about the Club.

The really interesting and important aspect of Leander that you want to know about- the Club's Rowing programme and its achievements- are reserved to be dealt with in a few minutes' time in Vicky Thornley's Captain's report.

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- so my pleasure in making a report to you is because it is the opportunity to record our collective thanks to the many people and organisations, including our Members and staff, who make dedicated contributions to the Club:- Director of Rowing, Mark Banks: his real importance to Leander is in leading a coaching team which is at the heart of our success; full time coaches, Matt Beechey, Ross Hunter, Ali Brown, James Loveday, and part-time coaches Clive Cooper, and Livinia Cowell-Sherriff, Dave Loveday, Nick Middleton, Rob Morgan and Imogen Walsh; physio (Natascha) and our volunteers. Ali Brown also contributes as our in-house reporter and photographer; and Ross Hunter as a Safety officer.

Welfare officer: Adam Moffatt- thank; now ably replaced by Keith Settle.

Athlete support contacts: Debbie Flood and Alex Partridge. Medical and risk adviser: David Zideman. Sport psychologist: Amy Turner. Cardiologist: Will Orr.

Athlete transition initiative (aims to help athletes plan life after rowing): Mark Pilkington and Rod Murray.

British Rowing- principally in Leander's case through GBRT- is a major factor in our purpose and rowing programme through so successfully developing athletes for the British team; working in harmony with the Director of Performance at GBRT and all his team is central to achieving the best for many of our athletes- express our gratitude to Brendan Purcell (who joined in June, 2018) and GBRT for its support, encouragement and understanding.

Captain for 2018 Vicky Thornley, who has continued to distinguish herself as our Captain in 2019, will report to us on our Rowing.

**House** General Manager, Paul- has shown remarkable dedication, hard work and loyalty. Ensuring the smooth operation of the Club throughout the year is one thing, but the seemingly seamless transition to putting on HRR for the membership is a huge effort dependent on close team-work and great attention to detail: a particular example of something Paul does superbly. Paul has let it be known that he plans to step down after Regatta next year. Finding his replacement is a big and important challenge for us. Within the Club, the warm welcome and friendly service is achieved by

House staff; head chef Scott (Vas) and kitchen squad; office team Caroline, Philippa, Cheryl, Laura, Michelle + shop Sara. Paul and his team also had to shoulder the additional work and organisational pressures created by the Bicentenary and its special events, which- as those of you who supported them will know well- went off in great celebratory style: a special thank you to Paul and the office team.

We should recognise the important contribution made by our commercial partners: Invesco Perpetual, and Parmigiani; with Spire hospital group and Kanghua boats as examples of in-kind support; and Digby Leander Pink as an example of a licensing venture: changing scene- philanthropy vs commercial. After its three years of involvement, Parmigiani has not continued its sponsorship in 2019, but we are grateful for its generosity up to 2018.

**The Committee** was joined this year by Marcus Bateman and Rob Clegg, together with Mike Sweeney as our new President

A lot of the real work gets done in **sub-committees**. The extent of these and the level of participation by those who are not main Committee members or staff may not be well known, and is certainly not often publicly appreciated. So, I make no apology in making this a bit of an annual prize-giving roll call by mentioning them now (my apology is to anyone I omit!) - both to thank them but also to inform you about what happens below the radar (**Rowing** (Ian Roots, Alex Partridge, Ivor Lloyd) **Membership** (Peter Ashby, Ivor Lloyd, James Orme, Jeremy Randall), **Partnership and fundraising** (Jane Hall, Pete Gostling, Matt Rossiter, Giles Cundell), **Regatta** (Nicky Colwyn and Anna Troup), **Social** (Irene Randall (together with her ladies' lunches team), George Rossiter, Lou Reeve, Emily Ashford, James Burkitt, Brian Smith), **Building and facilities** (Mike Gurney, Peter Smith, Ted Bainbridge), **Bicentenary planning** (Ivor Lloyd, George Cox- led with great organisational energy and commitment by Paul Mains), **Finance** (Charlie Wiggin and Justin Hodges), **Newsletter** (Ted Bainbridge) Eva Kovach as our **US Ambassador**, taking on that role from Gill Perry Mason. Geoff Leggett in the Library and Tony Gordon with the Archive.

**Bicentenary Book**- the first 200 years: Andy Trotman and his team of writers and photographers- short-listed for The Telegraph's sports books awards.

Special thanks and recognition should go those leaving the Committee after several years of service, both recently and in earlier periods:

**Andy Trotman**, ever interested and enthusiastic, long-standing supporter of the Club. **John Verrill**, when made, his contributions have always been incisive. **Paul Mains**, energetic involvement, particularly in leading the Regatta group and, more recently, the Bicentenary- we will miss his diligent and effective participation at Committee.

Andy, John and Paul, in very different ways, have served with challenge and distinction.

**Officers** (Secretary, Treasurer, President): Fiona Peter, Mike – source of experienced and diligent counsel, which has been essential for me and valued by the Club

**New Committee members** being proposed for membership from September:

**Peter Gostling (Goz)** Peter has been a member of Leander since 2000 and is a three-time Henley winner having started rowing at Sudbury Rowing Club in Suffolk. Peter has been involved on the Partnership and Fundraising sub-committee since 2016 and is involved professionally within sports marketing and sponsorship.

**Anna Troup** Stroke of the winning Oxford Blue Boat (1991) and winner of both HWR and the Home Countries Regatta. Now an age group world medallist in long distance duathlon and triathlon and an elite ultra-runner. Member of the OUWBC team since 2003 which she is now Chair of, and a Director of the Boat Race Company. A legally-trained financial services professional, she is a member of our Regatta sub-committee.

I also wish to note the generous benefaction of £10,000 under will of Tony Carruthers. There will be a boat-naming in honour of Tony after this AGM, which I hope as many of you as can will join.

More generally, I would like to record my personal thanks to the great team at Leander for allowing me to serve as chairman, and to you and all of our Members for giving me this opportunity to make a contribution to the Club.

My most significant thanks go to you, our **Members** (support by your use of Club (formal and informal), proposing new Members, introducing potential business partners (preferably who understand rowing and the Club), welcome suggestions on how we can continue to improve the Club and also on how you might become involved in helping us in whatever way.

### **To approve the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018**

Peter Greenslade, Honorary Treasurer presented the accounts for approval. thanked Philippa Gutteridge for doing all the hard work, and proposed the approval of the accounts to 31st December 2018, as posted on the Club's website. This was seconded by Jeremy Randall and carried unanimously.

### **To appoint Auditors for the year 2019**

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. Vicky Thornley reported:**

2018 was a very special year for Leander. 200 years in existence and looking for our 200<sup>th</sup> win at Henley Royal Regatta and the athletes delivered once again. Our 200<sup>th</sup> win came courtesy of Tom Ford, Jacob Dawson, Adam Neill and James Johnson, who led the race at every marker to take the title in the Stewards' Challenge Cup.

We went on to take our Henley wins to a total of 205 over the course of the regatta. The Queen Mother was won by John Collins, Johnny Walton and Tom Barras as part of the GB men's quad. Leander's Jess Leyden helped the GB women's quad take the Princess Grace trophy. The Double Sculls was a great head to head, with Jack Beaumont and Angus Groom taking on the Irish lightweight double, the O'Donovan brothers. The all Leander GB double showed their class and led the Irish all the way, which took Jack Beaumont's number of Henley wins to an incredible seven!

The GB women's four containing Leander's Emily Ford and Emily Ashford took the title in a new event to the Henley programme, The Town Challenge Cup. The sixth and final win for Leander was in the Visitors' Challenge Cup. Barney Stentiford, Ross Jarvis, Tim Clarke and James Stanhope, coached by Matt Beechey took the title with a dominant 2 length win over the University of London. Ross Jarvis and Tim Clarke decided to hang up their oars after Henley and this was a great way to end their rowing careers.

The Great Britain squad included nine Leander athletes at the Under 23 World Championships in Poznan, Poland. The stand out performance was Rowan Law, who won gold as part of the men's quad. Five other athletes won medals and Ross Hunter coached Ruth Siddorn to a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place in the women's single.

There were thirty-one Leander athletes selected for the World Championships. The men's eight included Tom Ransley, Tom George, Alan Sinclair, Oli Wynne-Griffith, Will Satch and cox Henry Fieldman who won bronze after a closely fought race. The all Leander men's four of Tom Ford, Jacob Dawson, Adam Neill and James Johnson also won a bronze medal, the first senior world championship medal for all four men. The men's double scull, Jack Beaumont and Angus Groom, both Leander athletes, finished 4<sup>th</sup>, half a length off the bronze medal. Harry Leask, finished an

impressive 4th in the men's single scull in his debut at a senior world championship. He performed with a confidence well beyond his years, and showed why Leander is the best club in the world, at developing athletes for success at world level.

#### **To agree the annual subscription rates for the year 2020 as proposed by the Treasurer**

The annual subscription was proposed at £340 for UK members, £170 for Overseas Members and £105 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 summarised the details of those standing for election in three sections. Firstly, the present Officers who are all standing for re-election,

Chairman; Hugh Richardson, Treasurer; Peter Greenslade, Hon Secretary; Fiona Dennis  
Secondly, the current Committee members; Marcus Bateman; Mrs Anne Buckingham; Rob Clegg; Chris Dalley; Mrs Jennifer O'Reilly; Craig Walton.

Finally, Anna Troup and Pete Gostling who are standing for election this year.

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 Vicky Thornley, Captain; Mark Banks, Director of Rowing; and Paul Budd, General Manager are invited to attend meetings of the Committee. He also confirmed that Pete Bridge will be co-opted on to the Committee in September.

#### **Any other business**

The Committee was asked if they had considered the Henley Royal Regatta proposal to increase to six days. The President replied that this was a decision for the Regatta, at present we are unable to comment further on any potential change.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 11.45.