

Burton Leander RC



Burton Leander RC

Founded: 1847

Area: East Midlands

Colours: White, Scarlet and Black

Membership: Juniors – 30% • Seniors – 70%
• Male – 75% • Female – 25%

Rowing offered: Competitive and recreational, with facilities for beginners and rowers with mobility difficulties.

Water: Over 6k of rowable river; two regatta courses – one 1,100m and one 450m sprint course.

Boathouse: Refurbished gym, Olympic weights room, lift and changing facilities for less mobile visitors and wheelchair users.

Contact: rajephcote@hotmail.com

Captain: Rob Jephcote

Coach: Ray Jones

2 March 2007 stood out as a day of celebration for Burton Leander RC, as it marked the official reopening of the Club, following several years' hard work by its members and supporters.

The completion of a Community Club Development Project, which started in 2003, was marked with visits from representatives of organisations who had greatly supported the Club – in particular Sport England and the Amateur Rowing Association.

Along with several local dignitaries, Derek Mapp and Steve Town of Sport England, and Di Ellis of the ARA, were shown the Club's improved facilities – including a renovated

clubroom, gym, landing stage and kitchen and refreshments area.

A lift and changing facilities for wheelchair users and less mobile members and visitors were also officially opened, these will be seen by all as a worthy investment if they help to encourage less mobile members and visitors to come along to the Club.

Founded in 1847, Burton Leander RC has seen much success over the years. 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of Henley success, when the Club won the Wyfold Challenge Cup.

More recently, Burton Leander RC has enjoyed local and national success. The National Championships at Strathclyde in 2006

Burton Leander RC was revamped and officially relaunched just a few weeks ago, with refurbished facilities, access for adaptive athletes and more. **Helen Roe** reports on the Club's continued progress. Photos by **Ian Bennett**.



“The National Championships at Strathclyde in 2006 provided Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for Leander members...”

provided Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for Leander members, as Ashley Prestige won the Men's U23 Single Sculling event, Liam Rose picked up Silver in the J18 Single Scull, and club captain Rob Jephcote partnered by Simon Ludlow came home with Bronze from the Men's Double Sculls competition.

Rose was also a medal winner at the 2006 National Schools Regatta in the Single Scull and, alongside his NSRA friend and rival

George Caines, won the Junior Double Scull at the GB vs France regatta at Abbeville sur la Somme, France.

In 2001, the Club became one of the 50 rowing clubs to become involved in Project Oarsome which, alongside the East Staffs Borough Council SRB project, has provided the equipment, coaching and resources required to allow the Club to move forward with a strong Junior Development programme.



‘Fun-raising’

The Club is grateful to all its major supporters – in particular the ARA, Sport England, East Staffs Borough Council's SRB project and the Burton-on-Trent Consolidated Charities Club. But members too have worked hard to raise funds in a number of ways, including:

- 24-hour sponsored ergo sessions.
- Bag-packing in supermarkets.
- Bingo, quiz and themed nights.
- Sunday morning breakfasts at the Club.

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Shopping list

An invoice for one of the Club's first boats is still in Burton Leander RC's possession. Minutes from a club meeting in 1867 insist that the Club should purchase an eight with costs not to exceed the princely sum of £10. Today's 'shopping list' is somewhat different with £85,000 of the £110,000 provided via funding from Project Oarsome and the East Staffs SRB project being spent on 4 ergometers, an eight, two quads, two doubles, four singles, 16 sets of blades, three playboats, a trailer and safety launch.



Burton Leander has consequently developed strong links with two local schools – Paulet and Padget – and has welcomed many new juniors into the sport of rowing. Many have already represented their club at local and provincial level, and the promising J14 double of Chris Duffill & Alex Ganley built on the back of 12 regatta wins (both in single and double sculls) to go on to compete excellently at the 2006 National Championships.

2003 saw the Club invited to apply to the ARA for consideration to Sport England for CDP



Burton Leander RC through the ages

Burton Leander RC was formed in 1847 under the name of 'The Leander Boat Club.' This was later changed to Burton Leander upon affiliation to the ARA. Originally the Club was based at the Old Mill on Newton Road and it didn't move to its present day location until the purchase of the premises from Burton Rowing Club (established in 1865) in 1920 for £1,238.

funding. Work started in March 2003, and funding most gratefully received from Sport England between then and 2006 totalled £153,462. The total project cost in excess of £229,000 – the new landing stage alone costing in the region of £52,000. The Burton on Trent Consolidated Charities contributed £20,000

towards the landing stage project, and the Club is now the grateful and proud owner of one of the longest landing stages in the area. ■

Liam rows to glory

Junior sculler Liam Rose enjoyed an excellent season in 2006, winning silver medals at both the National Schools and National Championships in a single scull, plus a GB call-up to compete in the GB vs France junior regatta in Abbeville sur la Somme, France. Rose and his NSRA doubles partner, George Caines, won Gold and played an important part in the GB squad's victory.

