

# DRAGON BOAT INTERNATIONAL

The Newsletter of the International Dragon Boat Federation

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This Issue: In Memory of Sergio Orsi - 2008 Champs Results - 2009 World & Euro Champs Info

The World Governing Body for Dragon Boat Sport

國際龍舟聯合會

**INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION**

Member of the General Association of International Sports Federations

[www.idbf.org](http://www.idbf.org)





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傳統的現代化運動

Dragon Boat Racing - The modern sport with ancient traditions

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## The Newsletter of the International Dragon Boat Federation



Member of the General Association of International Sports Federations

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### IN MEMORY OF SERGIO ORSI, FORMER ICF PRESIDENT AND DRAGON BOAT FRIEND



**It is with deep regret that the IDBF learnt of the death in Italy of Professor Sergio Orsi**, the former ICF President. Sergio passed away peacefully on 22 October 2008. He was 90 years old. The condolences of the IDBF and Dragon Boat Sport go to his family at this time of sorrow for them.

Sergio Orsi was a true friend of Dragon Boating, who supported the formation of the EDBF and IDBF and attended Dragon Boat Races whenever he could, encouraging its development and giving his support to the IDBF in the corridors of power of the IOC and the GAISF.

Within the ICF he was a member of the Flatwater Racing Committee from 1958 to 1966 before becoming its Chairman until 1972. From 1972 to 1981 Sergio was the ICF Secretary General and then the ICF President until his retirement in 1998.

After his retirement he became an ICF Honorary President and both the GAISF and the International Olympic Committee decorated him for his work in Canoe Sport, recognition he richly deserved.

I first met Sergio during his time as the ICF Secretary-General and over the years we became firm friends, not just colleagues' and it was that friendship which led to his un-erring support for the development of Dragon Boating under the guidance of the IDBF. Sergio was always willing to give his advice and never accepted the change in the stance of the ICF towards the IDBF and he showed it in his support for the IDBF membership application to the GAISF.

Sergio Orsi was a man of honour, deep thinking and cheerful and truly one of life's gentlemen. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our Dragon Boat Family can be proud that Sergio considered himself to be an enthusiast of both Canoeing and Dragon Boating and he was to the forefront in recognizing the potential of our sport.

Mike HASLAM  
IDBF Executive President

*Photograph in courtesy of the ICF website*

**EDITORIAL - by Mike Haslam.**



**WELCOME as always to DBI**, the Official newsletter of the IDBF brought to you in normal PDF format and also as an insert in our Sister publication DBWI - Dragon Boat World International.

As we approach the end of another very successful year for Dragon Boating it is not the decisions taken by the IDBF that will affect Dragon Boat Sport over the coming years but those taken by the ICF during their forthcoming Congress in Rome in November. I make no comment except to say that a new ICF President will be elected this year and with him we would hope will come a new desire to accept the status of the IDBF as the GAISF Member specifically for Dragon Boat Sport and a return to the status quo that existed between the IDBF and ICF, when the late Sergio Orsi was the ICF President and that was one of mutual recognition and support. It is to be hoped too that a motion put forward to the Congress, that the ICF Dragon Boat Commission should be disbanded and those ICF Members who want to take part in Dragon Boating should do so with the IDBF, will be accepted.

If so then we can look forward to a period of time in the sport when the IDBF Council can concentrate all its time and resources into developing the sport on a wider basis and improving its services to its Members. If things do not change within the ICF then sadly the IDBF will have to continue to fight its corner which in reality nobody in the sport really wants to have to do. With luck and common sense, on both sides, we won't have to.

**DRAGON BOATS AT THE BEIJING OPENING CEREMONY - WELL STYLISED AT LEAST !**

For all those hoping to see Dragon Boats race at the recent Beijing Olympic Games, then be assured that they were there albeit as a representation during the Opening Ceremony as this article by Li Longren records.

**Olympic Dragon Boat Demo Wows Billions:  
Paddlers Perform Precisely at the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony.**

**Hundreds of performers swept their dragon boat blades** in intricate patterns set to computer-controlled sound and light before a thrilled live audience of 100,000 and a broadcast following of over a billion people worldwide during Beijing's Olympic Opening Ceremony.

As part of the superlative welcoming spectacle, a few of China's gifts to the world were presented with breath taking artistry: gun powder (fireworks), paper, movable type printing (centuries before Guttenburg) and the magnetic compass (for feng shui and eventually maritime navigation). The first hour or so of the show was devoted to a magical tour into the mysteries of China's ancient roots including Shaolin drumming (close to 1,000 performers in synch!), Kong Fuci (Confucius), the Silk Road trade route to "the west", and maritime exploration during the Ming Dynasty.

Connected with the maritime sequence were the stylized movements of hundreds of paddlers, constantly lifting then sweeping and waving their slender, fan-like paddles through the air and back down to the "water surface" using an artistic stroke. These kinds of spirited, freehand movement are only possible, of course, using dragon- boat blades, for oars used for rowing are rigged and attached to their watercraft and cannot be raised overhead.

The lyrical, aerial paddle movements reminded this writer of the intricate ceremonial "bird wing paddling" stroke patterns employed by paddlers of the Thai Royal Navy when they propel the majestic barges of the King and Queen of Thailand's entourage flotilla.

The Beijing troupe's finale consisted of moving into a formation which, when viewed from over-head, took the stylized form of a dragonboat: long and slender with double-ended, bow and stern. Whoever said that the ancient culture of dragon boat racing wouldn't be demonstrated and showcased at China's grand coming out party underestimated the power of the dragon and the spirit of Qu Yuan. Blades UP ! Li Longren

11 / 12 July 2008

Budapest, Hungary

13th European Club Crew  
Championships

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THE IDBF**

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**IDBF web site: [www.idbf.org](http://www.idbf.org)**

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**IDBF PARTNER WEBSITE  
DRAGON BOAT NET**

**offers paddlers their own free  
Paddle Space Blog, see link at  
<http://dragonboatnet.com/PaddleSpace/>**



### 3rd WORLD CORCOM & 2nd BCS DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIP IN MIAMI - 24-26 APRIL 2009

On April 24-26, 2009 Dragon Boat teams from around the globe will be gathering on Key Biscayne, next to Miami Marine Stadium, to compete in the "3rd World Corporate and Community Championships (WCORCOM) and the World Breast Cancer Survivors Championship (BCS).

The last IDBF World Corporate and Community Championships (WCorCom) was held on the Welland National Flatwater Course, Niagara, Ontario, Canada in 2007. The championships are primarily for 'Weekend Warrior' crews from businesses and communities representing major companies, military organizations, cities, police and fire departments, are the ones invited to Miami for Miami World Corcom 09.

The IDBF has worked closely with Dragon Boat Crews formed specifically by Breast Cancer Survivors (BCS) since 1995 and helped to establish BCS crew racing internationally. The primary aim of breast cancer survivor dragon boat teams is far deeper and more serious than mere sport and fun but when it comes to the actual racing these ladies train as hard and race as seriously as any other dragon boaters.

The site of the 2009 Championships will be the beautiful, calm waters in front of Miami's famed Marine Stadium. Racing will take place just a few feet from the shore. The area is the perfect location for the WCorCom. Dragon Boaters and the public will find the race site has the backdrop of beautiful downtown Miami and is a natural water sports setting that is unique in the world.

The site is located just minutes from Miami's business district; Miami Beach's famed South Beach, great shopping and many wondrous attractions. The weather in Miami in April is ideal for outdoor events with the average high 79° and the average low 70° little rain and no hurricanes.

**WCorCom Information Bulletin No.1 will be issued shortly and will be available at [www.idbf.org](http://www.idbf.org)**

### 9TH WORLD DRAGON BOAT RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS River Vltava, Prague – Racice Regatta Center, Czech Republic 26th to 30th of August 2009

**The 2009 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** to be held on the River Vltava, Prague and Regatta Centre, Racice, Czech Republic, from the 26th to 30th of August 2009, inclusive. The Opening Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 26th August in Prague after the 2000m Championships held on the Vltava River. The 200m, 500m and 1000m Championships will be held at the Regatta Centre in Racice, near to Prague.

**The 9th WORLD DRAGON BOAT RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS** are for Representative Teams from IDBF Member Association. Competitors are representing their Countries or Territories and therefore the IDBF Nationality Regulations apply for these 'Nations' Championships.

Teams are recommended to take advantage of the Championships Package Offers which will be tailored to meet the different needs of Teams. Teams may, however, make their own accommodation arrangements and pay for other services and Regatta Fees, separately. The organizers can arrange for Teams to make use of a Camp & Caravan Site in Prague.

Daily transfers to the race site as well as transportation from/ to airport are included in the Official Championships Packages. Teams making their own accommodation arrangements, will also have to make their own transport arrangements during the Championships but may book such transport as a separate service from the Organising Committee.

The Racing Classes that will be contested are listed below provided sufficient entries are received for each competition class. A minimum of six entries from different IDBF Member Associations are required per competition class for World Championship status, while at least three entries per competition class are required to qualify for IDBF championship status.

| Division | Premier                     | Seniors (1)                 | Juniors (2)                 | Under 23s (3)               |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Open     | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m |
|          | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m | 200m, 500m<br>2000m         | 200m, 500m<br>2000m         | 200m, 500m<br>2000m         |
| Mixed    | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m | 200m, 500m,<br>1000m, 2000m |

(1) Senior A over 40 as of 1st June, 2009, Senior B (Grand Dragons) over 50 as of 1 June 2009

(2) Junior A under 18 but over 11 as at 1st January 2009; Junior B – under 16 but over 11.

(3) Under 23s: under 23 but over 17 as at 1st January 2009

**2008 WORLD CLUB CREW AND ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, MEDAL WINNERS****Prem Open 200m – 32 crews**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Moravian Dragons | Cze | 00.43.71 |
| 2. Nymburk          | Cze | 00.44.20 |
| 3. Rip the Fondue   | Can | 00.44.66 |

**Prem Women 200m – 21 crews**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Jiujiang Windsor | Chn | 00.48.99 |
| 2. Montreal Women   | Can | 00.49.57 |
| 3. Jaymor Cascades  | Can | 00.50.88 |

**Prem Mixed 200m – 31 crews**

|                      |     |          |
|----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Mayfair Predators | Can | 00.45.03 |
| 2. SCC Sudbury       | Can | 00.45.53 |
| 3. Gorging Dragons   | Can | 00.46.75 |

**Senior Open 200m – 10 crews**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Russian Forwards | Rus | 00.44.22 |
| 2. Sony G&G Dragon  | Can | 00.44.92 |
| 3. Elb Uhus         | Ger | 00.46.10 |

**Senior Women 200m – 8 crews**

|                        |     |          |
|------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. CSDC G&G            | Can | 00.50.44 |
| 2. Brisbane River Drgs | Aus | 00.51.39 |
| 3. Outer Harbour DBC   | Aus | 00.52.03 |

**Senior Mixed 200m – 9 crews**

|                  |     |          |
|------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Sony G&G      | Can | 00.45.89 |
| 2. Schwerin Uhus | Ger | 00.46.42 |
| 3. CSDC G&G      | Can | 00.46.87 |

**Grand Ds Open 200m – 5 crews**

|                       |     |          |
|-----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Eat Trout G&G      | Can | 00.47.34 |
| 2. Heat Open PDBC     | Can | 00.48.47 |
| 3. Burleigh Fire Drgs | Aus | 00.50.79 |

**Grand Ds Women 200m – 8 crews**

|                      |     |          |
|----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Heat Women PDBC   | Can | 00.55.09 |
| 2. Wasabi PC         | Usa | 00.55.43 |
| 3. Adelaide Sea Drgs | Aus | 00.55.45 |

**Grand Ds Mxd 200m – 11 crews**

|                    |     |          |
|--------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Eat Trout G&G   | Can | 00.47.17 |
| 2. Heat Mixed PDBC | Can | 00.47.92 |
| 3. Uhu Masters     | Ger | 00.47.92 |

**Junior Mixed 200m – 6 crews**

|                         |     |          |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. National Jnr College | Sng | 01.37.11 |
| 2. KPC Jnrs Auckland    | Nzl | 01.42.29 |
| 3. Rampage Delta StR    | Can | 01.42.82 |

**Junior Open 200m – 9 crews**

|                         |     |          |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Festu –Ccdussh       | Rus | 00.47.18 |
| 2. National Jnr College | Sng | 00.47.23 |
| 3. Forward Sports Club  | Mal | 00.52.07 |

**Prem Open 500m – Grand Final**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Nymburk          | Cze | 01.57.10 |
| 2. Moravian Dragons | Cze | 01.58.17 |
| 3. Camarines DBT    | Phl | 01.58.37 |

**Prem Women 500m – Grand Final**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Jiujiang Windsor | Chn | 02.03.40 |
| 2. Montreal Women   | Can | 02.08.31 |
| 3. Jaymor Cascades  | Can | 02.09.23 |

**Prem Mixed 500m – Grand Final**

|                      |     |          |
|----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Mayfair Predators | Can | 01.58.87 |
| 2. Gorging Dragons   | Can | 02.00.37 |
| 3. SCC Sudbury       | Can | 02.01.02 |

**Senior Open 500m – Grand Final**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Russian Forwards | Rus | 01.51.87 |
| 2. Sony G&G Dragon  | Can | 01.58.95 |
| 3. Elb Uhus         | Ger | 02.03.17 |

**Senior Women 500m – Grand Final**

|                        |     |           |
|------------------------|-----|-----------|
| 1. CSDC G&G            | Can | 02.11.50  |
| 2. Brisbane River Drgs | Aus | 02.13.38  |
| 3. Outer Harbour DBC   | Can | 02.15.35. |

**Senior Mixed 500m – Grand Final**

|                        |     |          |
|------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Sony G&G Dragons    | Can | 02.02.37 |
| 2. CSDC G&G Dragons    | Can | 02.04.95 |
| 3. Brisbane River Drgs | Aus | 02.05.03 |

**Grand Ds Open 500m – 2 Times**

|                   |     |          |
|-------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Heat Open PDBC | Can | 02.05.86 |
| 2. Eat Trout G&G  | Can | 02.11.86 |
| 3. Pond Scum      | Can | 02.12.15 |

**Grand Ds Women 500m – 2 Times**

|                      |     |          |
|----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Heat Women PDBC   | Can | 02.22.31 |
| 2. Adelaide Sea Drgs | Aus | 02.23.14 |
| 3. Wasabi PC         | Usa | 02.23.88 |

**Grand Ds Mxd 500m –**

|                       |     |          |
|-----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Heat Mixed PDBC    | Can | 02:04:71 |
| 2. Burleigh Fire Drgs | Aus | 02.06.90 |
| 3. Wasabi PC          | Usa | 02.08.81 |

**Junior Mixed 500m –**

|                          |     |          |
|--------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. National Jnr College  | Sng | 02.03.74 |
| 2. KPC Jnrs Auckland     | Nzl | 02.08.43 |
| 3. Lighthouse Youngsters | Ger | 02.10.07 |

**Junior Open 500m –**

|                         |     |          |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Festu –Ccdussh       | Rus | 02.04.42 |
| 2. National Jnr College | Sng | 02.04.57 |
| 3. Forward Sports Club  | Mal | 02.18.99 |

**Prem Open 2000m – 28 crews**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Moravian Dragons | Cze | 09.40.75 |
| 2. Camarines DBT    | Phl | 09.41.51 |
| 3. Nymburk          | Cze | 09.43.44 |

**Prem Women 2000m – 20 crews**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Jiujiang Windsor | Chn | 10.38.50 |
| 2. Montreal Women   | Can | 10.44.91 |
| 3. Jaymor Cascades  | Can | 11.07.38 |

**Premier Mixed 2000m – 25 crews**

|                      |     |          |
|----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Mayfair Predators | Can | 09.48.53 |
| 2. SCC Sudbury       | Can | 09.58.60 |
| 3. Gorging Dragons   | Can | 09.59.96 |

**Senior Open 2000m – 8 crews**

|                     |     |          |
|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Russian Forwards | Rus | 10.24.78 |
| 2. Sony G&G Dragons | Can | 10.25.22 |
| 3. Elb Uhus         | Ger | 10.35.70 |

**Senior Women 2000m – 7 crews**

|                      |     |          |
|----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Outer Harbour DBC | Can | 12:04.34 |
| 2. Uhu Elben         | Ger | 12:04.91 |
| 3. Currumbin Divas   | Aus | 12.05.12 |

**Senior Mixed 2000m – 9 crews**

|                       |     |          |
|-----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. CSDC Dragons       | Can | 10:07.65 |
| 2. Sony G&G Dragons   | Can | 10.12.60 |
| 3. Elb Meadow Masters | Ger | 10.18.39 |

**Grand Ds Open 2000m – 2 crews**

|                   |     |          |
|-------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Eat Trout G&G  | Can | 10.04.35 |
| 2. Heat Open PDBC | Can | 10.29.72 |

**Grand Ds Wmn 2000m – 7 crews**

|                         |     |          |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Heat Women PDBC      | Can | 11.52.22 |
| 2. Sunwing Flyers       | Can | 11.52.75 |
| 3. Wasabi Paddling Club | Usa | 12.14.50 |

**Grand Ds Mxd 2000m – 9 crews**

|                       |     |          |
|-----------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Heat Mixed PDBC    | Can | 10.34.75 |
| 2. Burleigh Fire Drgs | Aus | 10.39.23 |
| 3. Eat Trout G&G      | Can | 10.46.78 |

**Junior Mixed 2000m – 6 crews**

|                         |     |          |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. National Jnr College | Sng | 10.01.19 |
| 2. KPC Jnrs Auckland    | Nzl | 11.08.43 |
| 3. Rampage Delta StRR   | Can | 11.10.95 |

**Junior Open 2000m – 6 crews**

|                         |     |          |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. National Jnr College | Sng | 10.04.47 |
| 2. Festu – Ccdussh      | Rus | 10.17.97 |
| 3. PG DBA - Heng EE     | Mal | 11.47.71 |

**ASIAN DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS****Open 200m – Standard Boat**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia   | Ina | 00.42.15 |
| 2. Philippines | Phl | 00.42.36 |
| 3. Malaysia    | Mal | 00.44.74 |

**Women 200m – Grand Final**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. China       | Chn | 00.47.63 |
| 2. Indonesia   | Ina | 00.48.49 |
| 3. Philippines | Phl | 00.49.07 |

**Mixed 200m – Grand Final**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Philippines | Phl | 00.43.65 |
| 2. Indonesia   | Ina | 00.44.94 |
| 3. China       | Chn | 00.45.88 |

**Open 200m – Small Boat**

|              |     |          |
|--------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia | Ina | 00.55.37 |
|--------------|-----|----------|

**Open 500m – Standard Boat**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia   | Ina | 01.49.79 |
| 2. Philippines | Phl | 01.50.00 |
| 3. Thailand    | Thl | 01.55.70 |

**Women 500m – Grand Final**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia   | Ina | 02.06.25 |
| 2. China       | Chn | 02.06.77 |
| 3. Philippines | Phl | 02.06.85 |

**Mixed 500m – Grand Final**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia   | Ina | 01.54.60 |
| 2. Philippines | Phl | 01.55.74 |
| 3. Macau       | Mac | 01.59.26 |

**Open 500m – Small Boat**

|              |     |          |
|--------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia | Ina | 02.24.59 |
|--------------|-----|----------|

**Open 2000m – Standard Boat**

|              |     |          |
|--------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia | Ina | 09.26.96 |
| 2. Macau     | Mac | 10.00.42 |
| 3. Iran      | Irn | 10.09.07 |

**Women 2000m – SB**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia   | Ina | 10.53.69 |
| 2. Philippines | Phl | 10.55.00 |
| 3. Macau       | Mac | 10.55.70 |

**Mixed 2000m – SB**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Indonesia   | Ina | 09.36.62 |
| 2. Philippines | Phl | 09.59.25 |
| 3. Macau       | Mac | 10.03.81 |

**Women 500m – Small Boat**

|                |     |          |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Philippines | Phl | 02.36.23 |
|----------------|-----|----------|



**THE WORLD COMES TO PENANG**  
**30 July – 3 August 2008**  
**6TH WORLD CLUB CREWS and 8th ASIAN DB CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**Over 3600 competitors, in nearly 200 crews from 24 Countries contested in the 6th World Club Crew Championships and the 8th Asian Dragon Boat Championships held in Penang, Malaysia.**

In the Club Crew World Championships, Canadian crews dominated the Senior Division with Czech Republic Crews taking the Premier Open Gold Medals. In the Asian Championships Medals table Indonesia were dominant in the Gold department and they also took the trophy as Best Nation overall, with the Philippines in second place and Macau third.

Without doubt both the CCWC and the ADBC set new records in crew numbers participating across the Racing Divisions with 28 Open Crews, 21 Women's crews and 32 Mixed crews in the CCWC Premier Division.

In the Asian Championships a record 13 Countries competed, including new ADBF Members Iran and India, with both Thailand and Cambodia racing in the Championships for the first time. Iran even won their first Championship Medals with a Bronze in the Standard Boat Open 2000m.

Organisationally, the Penang based officials from the Penang International Festival Races, led by Geh, did a fine job looking after the every needs of the competitors with good value for money for food and accommodation and a transport system that met and looked after the crews from their arrival in Penang until their departure. A great welcome beachside party and a wonderful celebration dinner added much icing onto the Penang 2008 cake!

On the technical side of life the Race Programme was a particularly challenging one to write, with nearly 200 crews to cater for in 46 Championships' Classes. The deep-water reservoir provided a great regatta course and a fine stage for the superb racing that took place throughout the weekend, even though at times a strong wind on Friday caused delays in the time-table when the starting pontoons broke loose from their moorings. Despite this and a few teething problems on day One of the regatta, Mike Thomas and his team of IDBF Officials delivered a double Championships to the very high standards that have come to be accepted as the 'norm' at IDBF events.

Landside the facilities were basic but adequate with a huge tented village provided for the competitors in which to shelter from the sun and rain (thankfully there was very little of the latter). Here an almost carnival atmosphere developed at times as competitors mingled with crews from other Countries and chatted away, in the intervals between their races, exchanging dragon boat stories; racing tips and advice on 'how they trained' at home.

With so many entries, coupled with an expanded Race Programme and the addition of the Asian Championships Races, Penang 2008 became a four day Regatta, with the 2000m Championships all being held on the first day – Thursday. Some exciting racing, was not without its very near misses on the turns and indeed a bump or two on some but a successful first day saw two Czech Republic Crews, the Moravian Dragons and their compatriots from Nymburk taking Gold and Bronze in the Premier Open 2000m, with the Camarines DBT from the Phillipines winning the Silver Medal.

In the Premier Women's Championships, Jiujiang Windsor (China); Montreal Women and Jaymor Cascade (Can) took the Medals, with Canadian crews making a clean sweep of the Premier Mixed 2000m in the shape of Mayfair Predators (Gold), SCC Sudbury (Silver) and Gorging Dragons (Bronze). In a foretaste of things to come Canadian crews took most all of the medals in the 2000m races, with an odd crumb of a Medal or two going to Australia. The Juniors from the National Junior College in Singapore, followed by KPC Juniors from Auckland, New Zealand and Rampage Delta St Roberts Ramage from Canada, wrapped up the Medals in the Junior Mixed 2000m, and NJC repeated their Gold Medal success in the Junior Open 2000m, with Festu Ccdussh from Vladivostock, Russia and local Penang Juniors, winning the Silver and Bronze Medals.



In both the 200m and 500m Club Crew Championships the pattern remained pretty much the same with Moravian Dragons, Nymburk taking Gold and Silver in the 500m, with Rip the Fondue (Can) in Bronze position. The result was reversed in the 500m with Nymburk finally getting a Gold Medal to complete their set, with Moravian taking the Silver and Camarines DBT the Bronze Medal. In the Premier Women's 200m and 500m, the Medals went the same way with Jiujiang Windsor; Montreal Women and Jaymor Cascade making a clean sweep of their Medal colours.

In the Senior, Grand Dragons and Junior 200m and 500m the pattern was pretty much the same as for the 2000m.



## 1st FRENCH NATIONAL DRAGON BOAT 'CHALLENGE' - ANNECY – 20/21 SEPTEMBER 2008

two weekends of Dragon Boating with Mike Haslam – IDBF Executive President

The first French Dragon Boat Championships were held over the weekend of 20/21 Sept 08, in Annecy – a beautiful lake side City on the French/Swiss border and about 40 minutes by road from Geneva. Whilst in Sabaudia at the European Championships, the organisers of the French Championships invited me to come and see how things were developing on their patch and I was very happy to do so but France being France and given the way sport is governed in France, the races could not officially be called a 'National Championships'.

This was because the races were being organised by the Annecy Canoe Club and as the French Canoe Fed does not have a Dragon Boat Committee a 'National Champs' could not 'officially' be held and so with French flair and pragmatism the 'championships' became a National Dragon Boat 'Challenge' instead !

However, the Dragon Boat Association in France does exist and sensible collaboration between the Association, the Canoe Club and the French Canoe Federation ensured that the races were well organised and attended, 12 Clubs took part – including a guest crew from Meilen in Switzerland, and a good time was had by all.

During my brief stay I was most impressed by the enthusiasm everyone involved showed for Dragon Boating and also the progress being made in developing the sport in the region by the dragon boat organisation already established there. I am sure that in a few years France will make its mark on Dragon Boat Sport in a big way.

Like Dragon Boat enthusiasts everywhere, no one in Annecy wants to see 'politics' spoiling the sport and getting in the way of developing it and it was gratifying to dine with officials from the Canoe Federation and the Dragon Boat Association and 'chew the cud' on how best to jointly move things forward nationally and internationally. Annecy was a weekend well spent in the company of fellow Dragon Boaters who want the best for our sport.

### 500m Results - Annecy.

#### A Final

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. CKC Annecy    | 02.16.01 |
| 2. CNA Adultes   | 02.20.40 |
| 3. Vaux en Velin | 02.22.00 |
| 4. Gerardmer     | 02.31.50 |

#### B Final

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Meilen (Swi) | 02.30.50 |
| 2. Besancon 1   | 02.41.50 |
| 3. Besancon 2   | 02.42.90 |
| 4. Belbeuff     | Disq     |

#### C Final

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Annecy/Meilen B | 02.33.80 |
| 2. Chambéry        | 02.41.40 |



## 1st LIMASSOL INTERNATIONAL RACES - CYPRUS – 18/19 OCTOBER 2008

**After having had to postpone the event in 2007**, when the boats destined for Cyprus went missing in the UK 'presumed stolen' - and later found, the first Dragon Boat Races ever to be held in Cyprus finally got underway over the weekend 18/19 October 08, when the 1st Limassol International Races were held as part of Limassol's annual sports festival. Crews from Russia (Russian Forwards) and Dubai (Dubai Sea Dragons with paddlers from 6 Countries on board) made the races truly 'international' and a British crew from the nearby Royal Air Force base at Akrotiki, added to the international flavour and brought a sense of humour to the event.

Five local crews completed the pack, including a very strong crew from the Cyprus Canoe Federation (CCF), to make the racing, held within the breakwater on Limassol's central seafront, both competitive and very enjoyable,

There was a great relaxed atmosphere throughout the weekend with the International Crews helping the local crews out with additional paddlers and giving them 'paddling tips'. With everyone mucking in to get the boats ready and loaded for each race, the Event Organiser (Andy Ergonmous) and the three IDBF Officials running the races (Bryan Hartley, Murray Jones and Mike Haslam) were not subjected to the normal stresses of race officiating and had a little time in hand to enjoy the sun, sea and sand and even a beer or two !

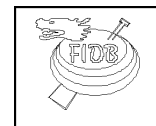
The actual races were won by the Russian Forwards with the CCF Spartans pushing them all the way in the finals of the 200m (0.50.26 v 0.53.20) and 500m (2.08.20 v 2.10.10). Dubai Sea Dragons, a mainly Women's crew (three men) made the final on both days but lost to the girls from the Russian Forwards in the Ladies 200m race.

Next year plans are already being made for a bigger and better event at the same time in October but in a different location. Having established a good working relationship with the CCF - a much appreciated side benefit to the Limassol Races, in which the CCF helped with manpower and equipment, the intention now is to hold a joint international regatta in 2009 for canoes/ kayaks and dragon boats at the Famagusta Nautical Club in Limassol. Of the four IDBF Development Boats (two BuK and two Champion) sent to Cyprus, two are now based at the Nautical Club. This kind of co-operation between Canoe and Dragon Boat organisations is the way forward for both sports and can only enhance the reputation and development of both sports in Cyprus.





## 8th EUROPEAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIPS – SABAUDIA, ITALY 5 – 7 September 2008



### BIGGEST EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS YET - OVER 1200 COMPETITORS FROM 14 NATIONS

The 8th European Nations Dragon Boat Championships held in SABAUBIA, ITALY, from 5 -7 September 2008, proved to be the biggest yet, with 75 crews from 14 Countries contesting the medals, the biggest haul of which went to Team Germany, who dominated the Senior Divisions but were just pipped at the post by Russia in the Premier Division, where Russia retained the Nations Cup they won in both 2004 and 2006. Germany last won it in 2002.

**New to the European Nations Championships** this year were Spain and France and whilst the French were on a look, see and learn about the sport trip, the Spanish had come to Sabaudia with a medal or two in mind and they achieved their goal with two Bronze Medals in the Premier Open 2000m and 500m.

**On balance a good Championships** despite some technical problems during the 2000m races in the Control Tower and a debate about where the 2000m races should start. The biggest problem was caused by the wind down the course which, when combined with 6 Dragon Boats on the Start line, caused the stake boats' anchor points to be pulled out of line, causing the Starter to have to operate 'free starts' for many races during the weekend.

Despite this and some frustrating congestion on the embarking pontoons – only two instead of the required four, good close and fair racing was the order of the day and Alan van Caubergh, Pete Newton and their team of IDBF Race Officials worked very hard to ensure that the Race Programme was met and the races on time.

Full results are shown on the EDBF website at [www.edbf.org](http://www.edbf.org) and photos from Sabaudia are available from Enrico Paoletti and Henning Wiekhorst. Visit Enrico's website, then scroll down or select Dragon Boat Sabaudia or Dragon Boat Sabaudia 2000m from the menu. Henning's photos can be seen in the Photo Galleries of [www.dragonboatnet.com](http://www.dragonboatnet.com).

### MEDAL WINNERS - 2008 EUROPEAN NATIONS DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Premier Open 200m – 10 crews

|   |          |     |          |
|---|----------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany  | Ger | 00.43.16 |
| 2 | Russia   | Rus | 00.44.13 |
| 3 | Slovakia | Slo | 00.44.22 |

#### Premier Open 500m - 11 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany | Ger | 01.49.01 |
| 2 | Russia  | Rus | 01.49.27 |
| 3 | Spain   | Spn | 01.50.47 |

#### Premier Open 2000m – 10 crews

|   |          |     |          |
|---|----------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Slovakia | Slo | 08.41.34 |
| 2 | Russia   | Rus | 08.42.66 |
| 3 | Spain    | Spn | 08.43.40 |

#### Premier Women 200m – 8 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia        | Rus | 00.51.23 |
| 2 | Germany       | Ger | 00.51.82 |
| 3 | Great Britain | Gbr | 00.51.97 |

#### Premier Women 500m – 9 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia         | Rus | 02.05.67 |
| 2 | Great Britain  | Gbr | 02.06.14 |
| 3 | Czech Republic | Cze | 02.09.05 |

#### Premier Women 2000m – 8 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia        | Rus | 09.50.70 |
| 2 | Great Britain | Gbr | 09.53.30 |
| 3 | Sweden        | Swe | 10.04.77 |

#### Premier Mixed 200m – 10 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia         | Rus | 00.44.72 |
| 2 | Germany        | Ger | 00.45.88 |
| 3 | Czech Republic | Cze | 00.45.89 |

#### Premier Mixed 500m – 10 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia         | Rus | 01.53.68 |
| 2 | Germany        | Ger | 01.54.97 |
| 3 | Czech Republic | Cze | 01.55.76 |

#### Premier Mixed 2000m – 10 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia  | Rus | 08.55.12 |
| 2 | Germany | Ger | 09.09.18 |
| 3 | Hungary | Hun | 09.14.76 |

#### Senior Open 200m – 7 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Poland  | Pol | 00.46.18 |
| 2 | Russia  | Rus | 00.46.51 |
| 3 | Germany | Ger | 00.46.63 |

#### Senior Open 500m - 7 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia        | Rus | 01.54.13 |
| 2 | Great Britain | Gbr | 01.54.80 |
| 3 | Poland        | Pol | 01.55.88 |

#### Senior Open 2000m – 7 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Czech Republic | Cze | 09.09.17 |
| 2 | Poland         | Pol | 09.09.53 |
| 3 | Great Britain  | Gbr | 09.11.15 |

#### Senior Women 200m – 5 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany        | Ger | 00.54.02 |
| 2 | Czech Republic | Cze | 00.55.74 |
| 3 | Hungary        | Hun | 00.58.19 |

#### Senior Women 500m – 4 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany        | Ger | 02.11.07 |
| 2 | Czech Republic | Cze | 02.16.33 |
| 3 | Italy          | Ita | 02.20.58 |

#### Senior Women 2000m – 5 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany        | Ger | 10.20.07 |
| 2 | Czech Republic | Cze | 10.12.88 |
| 3 | Hungary        | Hun | 11.23.55 |

#### Senior Mixed 200m – 6 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany | Ger | 00.48.33 |
| 2 | Poland  | Pol | 00.48.54 |
| 3 | Italy   | Ita | 00.49.12 |

#### Senior Mixed 500m – 9 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany | Ger | 01.57.50 |
| 2 | Italy   | Ita | 01.58.68 |
| 3 | Poland  | Pol | 01.58.98 |

#### Senior Mixed 2000m – 6 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany | Ger | 09.39.50 |
| 2 | Hungary | Hun | 09.46.68 |
| 3 | Poland  | Pol | 09.47.46 |

#### Junior Open 200m – 5 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany       | Ger | 00.49.25 |
| 2 | Great Britain | Gbr | 00.50.21 |
| 3 | Poland        | Pol | 00.50.28 |

#### Junior Open 500m - 7 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Poland        | Pol | 01.57.72 |
| 2 | Germany       | Ger | 01.58.46 |
| 3 | Great Britain | Gbr | 02.01.84 |

#### Junior Open 2000m – 7 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany       | Ger | 09.19.42 |
| 2 | Poland        | Pol | 09.30.51 |
| 3 | Great Britain | Gbr | 09.56.93 |

#### Junior Mixed 200m – 6 crews

|   |                |     |          |
|---|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany        | Ger | 00.50.04 |
| 2 | Poland         | Pol | 00.50.86 |
| 3 | Czech Republic | Cze | 00.51.91 |

#### Junior Mixed 500m – 5 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany       | Ger | 01.59.62 |
| 2 | Great Britain | Gbr | 02.02.28 |
| 3 | Poland        | Pol | 02.02.66 |

#### Junior Mixed 2000m – 7 crews

|   |               |     |          |
|---|---------------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany       | Ger | 09.15.27 |
| 2 | Poland        | Pol | 09.42.46 |
| 3 | Great Britain | Gbr | 09.44.73 |

#### Grand Ds Open 200m – 4 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia  | Rus | 00.49.62 |
| 2 | Italy   | Ita | 00.50.22 |
| 3 | Germany | Ger | 00.50.66 |

#### Grand Ds Open 500m - 4 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Germany | Ger | 02.01.14 |
| 2 | Russia  | Rus | 02.01.39 |
| 3 | Italy   | Ita | 02.03.42 |

#### Grand Ds Open 2000m – 5 crews

|   |         |     |          |
|---|---------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Russia  | Rus | 09.24.57 |
| 2 | Germany | Ger | 09.30.53 |
| 3 | Italy   | Ita | 09.32.86 |

## CHINA COMMEMORATES DRAGON BOATING WITH AN ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY. DRAGON BOATS CONFIRMED FOR THE 2010 ASIAN GAMES

During the IDBF Council Meeting held in Penang, IDBF President Zhang Faqiang was delighted to inform the Council that with effect from this year the Chinese Government have made the Double Fifth Dragon Boat Festival day a formal Public Holiday throughout China and in 2009 they have announced that large scale Dragon Boat Festivals would be organised in Cities around China but particularly in Beijing and Shanghai. The 2010 Asian Games Organising Committee have confirmed that Dragon Boating will be included in the Games in Guangzhou. Zhang Faqiang also announced that Dragon Boats will be featured at the 2010 World Exhibition in Shanghai.

## GAISF PRESIDENT SAYS IDBF SHOULD NOW CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING THE SPORT

IDBF President Zhang Faqiang met with Hein Verbruggen, President of the GAISF, in Beijing before the Olympic Games. Frank and fair ideas were exchanged on the role of the IDBF. Mr Verbruggen's view was that the IDBF should concentrate on developing Dragon Boat Sport on a wider basis now that it was the GAISF Member with specific responsibility for Dragon Boating. He felt that with the support of the Chinese Sports Authorities and the National Olympic Committee the IDBF was able to bring the sport to a world-wide audience and that the promotion of the sport was of prime importance. Dragon Boating was featured four times at the 2008 GAISF AGA, once during a presentation on Beijing 2008, then in a video shown by the 2012 London Games Organizing Committee, also in a 2009 World Games video show and finally in the presentation made by the City of Denver, the host venue for SPORTACCORD 2009 and the next GAISF AGA. These were all positive promotions for our sport and an indication of the standing the IDBF now has in the world of international multi-sports organisations.

## VISIT BY LORD COE – PATRON OF THE BRITISH DRAGON BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION (BDA)

Lord Coe, or Seb Coe – as he prefers to be known, in his role as Chairman of the 2012 London Olympic Games Organising Committee, recently visited Teeside in the North East of England to look at potential training facilities for competitors coming to London 2012. One of the facilities was the Teeside Watersports Centre and the river regatta course in Stockton - the venue of the European Dragon Boat Champs in 2004.

As Seb is also the Patron of the BDA, his visit was too good an opportunity for Dragon Boaters in the North to miss, especially as the local Powerhouse Dragon Boat Club, in the shape of husband and wife duo Graham and Allyson Butterfield, were hosting and organising Seb's visit to the Teeside Centre. Thus it was that Mike Haslam, as the BDA Chairman and some 50 Dragon Boaters from both Teeside and the Amathus Club in Liverpool, including members of the BCS Crew 'Pool of Life' met with Seb during his visit and enjoyed every minute of it.

For those that do not know, Seb Coe won 'back to back' Athletic Gold Medals in the 1500m races at the Moscow and LA Olympic Games but was expected to win the Gold in the 800m too – his best distance, but in the 800m he had to settle for Silver and Bronze. The most talented and famous runner of his generation – he held World Records in the 800m, 1500m and the 1 mile, at the same time. Some of his record times still stand today.

*Below Seb Coe arriving at the Centre and then meeting the BDA Dragon Boat Gang !*



## 2009 OCEAN TO CITY BOAT RACE – AN RÁS MÓR, CORK, IRELAND - 30th OF MAY 2009.

This exciting and challenging event covers a 15 mile course from Crosshaven in County Cork to Lapps Quay in the heart of Cork City, Ireland and is open to Dragon Boats and all types of fixed seat rowing boats.

Because this race takes place on the Sea, Dragon Boat Crews are restricted to 16 paddlers per Dragon Boat and all crew members must wear buoyancy aids –that is PFAs (Personal Flotation Aids).

For crews that do not have their own boats, there are two Dragon Boats – complete with paddles and PFAs available for hire at a charge of ?25 per head. This is in addition to the Entry Fee, which is also ?25 per head.

Due to the tides in 2009 a later start time is planned for approx 4.15 pm (to be confirmed), which should make for an exciting race and an even bigger party afterwards. **The 2009 Entry forms are now available on the race website at [www.oceantocity.com](http://www.oceantocity.com)**

For further information or enquires contact **Siubhán McCarthy**, via e-mail at [info@oceantocity.com](mailto:info@oceantocity.com) or telephone + 353 21 4847673 or write to **Ocean to City - An Rás Mór c/o Meitheal Mara, Crosses Green, Cork, Ireland. Remember the date – Saturday 30 May 2009, Ocean to City Race, Cork, Ireland - See You There!**

## FOCUS ON DRAGON BOAT DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN and TURKEY



Photo by Tommy Lo

**This month DBI takes a look at how Dragon Boating is developing in a region of the World where Dragon Boating is a fairly new if not a new sport.**

**First Iran**, where great strides have already been made in developing the sport widely within the country and in competing with success at an international level. Second, Turkey where low key festival races have taken place in recent years but now there is also an enthusiasm to develop the sport fully in Turkey and to enter the international Sport Racing arena.

**Iran's involvement in Dragon Boat Sport started in 2005**, when a Women's crew competed at an ICF event in Taiwan. The first National Championships for both Men and Women were held in 2006. Then following the admission of the IDBF as a member

of the General Association of International Sports Federations in April 2007, Iran quickly became an IDBF Member and later that year, during the Sydney World Championships, two Iranian Officials passed their International Officials Examination.

In the short time since, Iran has established itself as a keen supporter of the IDBF and has become a good influence in the Dragon Boat family with Iranian dragon boat officials appointed to both the IDBF Competition and Technical Commission and the Marketing & Media Commission. Conversely, in early 2008 the IDBF conducted in Tehran both Coaches and Race Officials Training and Assessment Courses, with courses for Performance Coaching agreed for the future.

It is important that this co-operation between the IDBF and the Iranian Federation continues at all levels, as Iran has a major role to play in the development of the sport within Asia as a whole but particularly in introducing the sport to those Countries that border Iran.

Without doubt the introduction of Dragon Boating to Iran and the success of Iranian crews in international Dragon Boat Sport, would not have been possible without the foresight of one man to see the potential of Dragon Boating. That man is Mr Ahmad Donyamali, the President of the Iranian Federation and the Deputy Mayor of Tehran. Without his enthusiasm, motivation and determination to see the sport develop in the community at large, Dragon Boat Racing would still be unknown in Iran.

And what of the future for Iranian Dragon Boating? For Iran to become a major player in Dragon Boat Racing internationally, the success of a Bronze Medal by the Mens 2000m Crew at the 2008 Asian Dragon Boat Championships has to be repeated and improved at the World level.

To gain 'World Championship Medals' requires a National Coaching Scheme that identifies potential high achieving Dragon Boat athletes and then develops them to an Elite level within the sport. To this end the Iranian Federation has already embarked on a National Development Programme and are looking to appoint experienced National Coaches for their elite competitors, together with Regional Coaches and Race Officials to promote and sustain the sport's development within the community at large but particularly amongst schools.

There is no doubt, in looking at the work already undertaken by Mr Donyamali and his Iranian Officials and from the performance of the Iranian Team at the 2008 Asian Dragon Boat Championships, in Penang, that the future for Iranian Dragon Boating is very bright indeed. Iran will become a major force in Dragon Boat Sport both on and off the water and the 2010 Asian Games in China is the first target!

**Dragon Boat Racing in Turkey** is just beginning to make an impact on the community at large with the very successful 'Istanbul Dragon Festival' held this year and the setting up of a Steering Committee for a Turkish Dragon Boat Federation by the Istanbul Festival Organiser Hakan Yavuz and Tom Holleman, an expat Dutchman, who owns and runs Do it! Adventure Turkey, in Antalya.

Earlier dragon boat races have been organized since 2004 by Okan Cam in Istanbul as part of the annual Euroasia Corporate Games and using IDBF Spec Dragon Boats but it is the arrival of Hakan Yavuz and his enthusiasm for the sport which has lit the 'blue touch paper' for the development of Sport Racing in the Country.



As with most countries this is not a smooth road, with local sporting authorities already assuming that Dragon Boating comes under the control of the Turkish Canoe Federation (TCF) who have been aware of what has happened in the sport so far and are keeping a watching brief on developments but have not involved themselves practically in the sport. Recently, however, the TCF have been approached by the ICF Dragon Boat Committee and asked to organize an ICF European Championships and this is a ripple on the dragon boat pond which will not be at all helpful in the development of the sport.

In the meantime Hakan and Tom have registered the TDBF Steering Committee with the IDBF and have held talks with government officials about developing the sport and the path to take towards having the Turkish Dragon Boat Federation recognized 'officially' as an independent paddle sport.

Plans are also in hand to hold a Golden Horn Regatta in 2010 and for next year arrangements are already well advanced for the 2nd Istanbul Dragon Festival which will be held over the weekend of 30/31st May 2009 and will go 'international' as an IDBF Affiliated Festival – so put the dates in your diary and plan a trip to Istanbul next year.



## THE RIVER AMAZON RAFT RACE – AND NOW THE GREAT AMAZON DRAGON BOAT RACE

In June 1998 Mike Collis moved to Iquitos from Birmingham, England, for what he thought would be a quiet life. In 1999 Gerald Mayeaux was appointed as the Director of Tourism for Iquitos. Gerald asked Mike if he had any ideas to promote tourism in Iquitos. Mike told him that for more than 25 years he had organized raft races in England. Gerald asked Mike to organize the first raft race on the Amazon.

The first Amazon Raft Race took place on the 29th July 1999, on the Nanay River. 43 crews competed in the 12 mile, one day race from Santa Clara to Bella Vista Nanay. The winning team completed the course in just over 2 hours and 30 minutes. The second race, one year later, was on the same course with over 60 teams from 14 different countries competing. In 2003 the course was extended to 26 miles over 2 days, from the village of Nina Rumi to Bella Vista Nanay. The winning team completed the course in 4 hours and 20 minutes.

This race format continued into 2004 and 2005 when it was decided to go for the "Big One" in 2006 – a race of 85 mile (142 km). This race, the first over such a distance, attracted rafters from 11 countries. The fastest foreign team led by Dale Baskin represented the South American Explorers Club in Quito, Ecuador.

The 2007 Great River Amazon Raft Race attracted rafters from Australia, USA, England, Scotland, Peru, Canada, Switzerland, New Zealand, Holland, Germany, and Mexico. The fastest foreign team were "Los Fantasmas Bronceados" representing the False Creek Paddle Club of British Columbia, Canada with an overall time of only 17 hours 31 minutes. (Now where have we heard that name before !!)



Last year's winning team, "Los Invencibles," were from the village of Padre Cocha, and completed the course just shy of 14 hours over 3 days. The average time for all teams was approx 18 hours for the 3 day race.

**Now for 2009, Mike is looking to organise a Great Amazon Dragon Boat Race, presumably down the same course and has asked for IDBF help in putting on this exciting adventure.**

**But first he has to get Dragon Boats to race in !**



**Once that problem has been solved the Great Amazon Dragon Boat Race is on! So watch DBI and the dragon boat websites for further information and details on this project as it develops !!**

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## WORLD GAMES DRAGON BOAT RACES, KAOHSUING CITY, TAIWAN – 17/18 JULY 2009

**Recently the IDBF has received a number of enquiries concerning the status of the Dragon Boat Races scheduled for the 2009 World Games in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan.**

**The situation on this even is that earlier this year the IDBF were informed by** the International World Games Association (IWGA) that Dragon Boating **is not an Official Sport of the World Games** and that the Dragon Boat Races at the 2009 World Games offered by the Organising Committee would be Invitational Races only.

As an IWGA Member the ICF have taken the unilateral decision not to work with the IDBF on this occasion (they did for the 2005 World Games) but to restrict entries to crews from ICF Canoe Federations and to organise the races for **Premier Mixed Crews** only – called Senior Crews in the ICF, just to confuse things further.

DBI can only assume that the reluctance by the ICF to work with the IDBF is the ICF trying to convince the IWGA and the Organising Committee, that they are the International Federation for Dragon Boating and not the IDBF.

**IDBF Members have therefore been effectively excluded by the ICF from the 2009 World Games Races**, which have been restricted by the Organising Committee to a maximum of 12 Countries. The races will take place on two days (17/18 Jul 09) and only over two race distances, for Premier Mixed Crews.

Selection for the crews wanting to compete in Kaohsiung City has already taken place because an ICF condition of attendance was that any ICF Member Country that wanted to compete in 2009 had to attend the 2008 ICF Members Championship Races recently held in Poznan, Poland and as that event has now passed (see separate DBI article) then the ICF Members who can compete in the World Games Races have already been selected.

**So that is the situation regarding participation in the 2009 World Games Races – they are restricted to 12 Mixed Crew entries from ICF Member Countries only.**

**At its meeting on 30 July 2008 the IDBF Council** took note of the IWGA notification and the ICF selection policy and under the IDBF Competition Regulations have classified the World Games Races as a 'Closed Competition' which means that the event is considered by the IDBF to be a restricted International Regatta not of World status.

## DRAGONS AT THE 1st ASIAN BEACH GAMES – BALI, INDONESIA – 19-21 OCT 2008

**Dragon Boat Racing under IDBF Racing Rules and Regulations was one of 19 Official Sports** included in the 1st Asian Beach Games held in Bali, with the Dragon Boat Racing being held in Bali's, Kuta Beach area.

Organised under the Technical Direction of the ADBF, the racing took place from 19-21 October 08, over 250m, 500m and 1000m, with Racing Classes for Men and Women. The Championship Director, Budiman Setiawan, a Member of the IDBF Competition & Technical Commission, together with a team of 20 IDBF Race Officials, supplemented by local officials, were responsible for organising and conducting the 30 race programme.

Seven Men's teams (Indonesia, Myanmar, China, Philippines, Macao, Japan & Thailand) and four women's teams from Indonesia, China, Macao & Thailand competed in the Races. Indonesia came out on top of the Medals Table - repeating their earlier success at the Asian Championships in Penang, by taking 4 out of the 6 Gold Medals on offer, with Myanmar picking up the other two. The Medals won in Bali were:

### Men - 1000m - Women:

1. Indonesia  
2. Myanmar  
3. Philippines

1. Indonesia  
2. China  
3. Macao

### Men - 500m - Women:

1. Myanmar  
2. Indonesia  
3. Philippines

1. Indonesia  
2. China  
3. Thailand

### Men - 250m - Women:

1. Myanmar  
2. Indonesia  
3. Philippines

1. Indonesia  
2. China  
3. Thailand

Inclusion in the next Games due to be held in Muscat, Oman in 2010, is by no means assured as the Muscat Asian Beach Games Organizing Committee (MABGOC) has decided to trim the number of sports in 2010. MABGOC director, Habib A. Macki said they had decided to include only 11 sports, compared with Bali's 19. "In Bali, there are many hotels and you can accommodate many athletes," he said. "We don't want to build that many hotels because there will be not much use. Therefore, we will concentrate on only 11 sports and a certain number of athletes," he added. DBI Comment:: Could it be that 'taking part' is no longer the driving force in the Olympic Movement ?

## PUTTING A BRAVE FACE ON IT - ICF MEMBERS CHAMPIONSHIPS, POZNAN, POLAND

The ICF held its 2nd Members Championships in Poznan, on the 26/28 Sept 08, on the Malta Regatta Lake. The event was billed as a 'World Championships' by the Organising Committee, with the \* Senior Mixed Races a pre-requisite for those ICF Members wanting to compete in the 2009 World Games Invitational Races, due to be held next year in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan – the venue of the first ICF Members Championships in 2006.

So it must have been a big disappointment - not only for the ICF but also the City of Poznan, when only 10 ICF Members (7 from Europe) entered the qualifying races for the World Games Races - including the 2009 hosts Chinese Taipei. A Canadian Club and a crew of students from Japan completed the Mixed Crew entries. Four Countries or less, entered the other so-called 'World Championships' on offer by the ICF in Poznan.

The races themselves were of a good standard - not surprisingly as most of the European competitors had also raced in the EDBF Championships in Italy earlier in the month and were now looking for that World Games spot.

However, putting a brave face on it the ICF website reported:- **Top Organisation on the ICF Dragon Boat World Championships** - and said "Poznan succeeded in making this event top notch! National Teams with 600 women and men athletes from three continents took part in the Event with great enthusiasm. Russia, Hungary and the German Teams were the most successful".

**For the record the entries and main Poznan results are shown below. The entries speak for themselves.**

\* (ICF Senior Class = IDBF Premier Racing Class. ICF Masters Class = IDBF Senior Racing Class)

### Sen. Men 200m – 4 crews

1 Russia Rus 00.44.63  
2 Germany Ger 00.51.76  
3 Ukraine Ukr 00.52.50

### Sen. Men 500m - 4 crews

1 Russia Rus 01.53.13  
2 Ukraine Ukr 01.55.48  
3 Germany Ger 01.55.84

### Sen. Men 1000m – 4 crews

1 Russia Rus 03.52.9  
2 Germany Ger 03.56.06  
3 Ukraine Ukr 03.57.64

### Masters Mixed 200m – 3 crews

1 Germany Ger 00.47.97  
2 Poland Pol 00.48.53  
3 Canada Can 00.50.17

### Sen. Women 200m – 4 crews

1 Russia Rus 00.50.88  
2 Germany Ger 00.51.82  
3 Ukraine Ukr 00.51.97

### Sen. Women 500m – 4 crews

1 Russia Rus 02.07.14  
2 Germany Ger 02.07.49  
3 Poland Pol 02.12.54

### Sen. Women 1000m – 4 crews

1 Russia Rus 04.21.35  
2 Germany Ger 04.24.16  
3 Poland Pol 04.35.69

### Masters Mixed 500m – 3 crews

1 Germany Ger 02.01.11  
2 Poland Pol 02.05.20  
3 Canada Can 02.05.63

### Sen. Mixed 200m – 8 crews

1 Hungary Hun 00.45.64  
2 Russia Rus 00.46.02  
3 Germany Ger 00.47.02

### Sen. Mixed 500m – 8 crews

1 Russia Rus 01.54.42  
2 Hungary Hun 01.54.66  
3 Germany Ger 01.57.32

### Sen. Mixed 1000m – 8 crews

1 Hungary Hun 03.57.75  
2 Russia Rus 03.57.85  
3 Germany Ger 04.00.09

### Masters Mixed 500m – 3 crews

1 Germany Ger 04.09.99  
2 Poland Pol 04.12.00  
3 Canada Can 04.17.00

### Masters Men 200m – 4 crews

1 Poland Pol 00.46.16  
2 Ukraine Ukr 00.47.08  
3 Germany Ger 00.47.51

### Masters Men 500m - 4 crews

1 Poland Pol 01.56.08  
2 Germany Ger 01.57.84  
3 Hungary Hun 01.58.28

### Masters Men 1000m – 4 crews

1 Germany Ger 04.02.20  
2 Hungary Hun 04.02.80  
3 Poland Pol 04.03.02

The Masters Women's races were cancelled, no entries. There were 2 Junior entries Poland and Germany.

The Junior Men, Women and Mixed Races were all won by Poland – best 500m time was 01.56.80. Germany were second in all Junior races.

## IDBF STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTAS – 2008

### 6th CLUB CREWS WORLD CHAMPS – Penang, Malaysia, 31 July/ 3 August 2008

#### 89 Clubs from 19 IDBF Members in

Australia; Canada; China; Czech Republic; Dubai UAE; Germany; Macau; Malaysia; Japan; New Zealand; Hong Kong; Indonesia; Ukraine; Philippines; Singapore; South Africa; Russia; Thailand; United States of America.

**152 crews** competed in 35 Racing Classes for a total of 425 race entries. **Approx 3000 athletes.**

### 8th ASIAN NATIONS CHAMPS – Penang, Malaysia 31 July/ 3 August 2008

#### 13 ADBF Members Represented from

Australia; Cambodia; China; Chinese Taipei; Hong Kong; India; Iran; Indonesia; Japan; Macau; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand.

**36 crews** competed in 15 Racing Classes for a total of 146 race entries. **Approx 650 athletes**

### 8th EUROPEAN NATIONS CHAMPS – Sabaudia, Italy, 4/6 September 2008

#### 14 EDBF Members Represented from

Russia; Ukraine; Germany; Poland; Hungary; Sweden; Norway; Great Britain; France; Italy; Spain; Czech Republic; Slovakia; Switzerland.

**75 crews** competed in 36 Racing Classes for a total of 218 race entries. **Approx 1400 athletes**

### 2nd ICF MEMBERS CHAMPS – Poznan, Poland, 26/28 September 2008

#### 10 ICF Members Represented from

Russia; Ukraine; Germany; Poland; Hungary; Sweden; Chinese Taipei; Canada; Japan; Luxembourg (classified as non-competitive).

**24 crews** competed in 32 Racing Classes for a total of 116 race entries. **Approx 450 athletes**

### 1st ASIAN BEACH GAMES – Bali, Indonesia, 19/21 October 2008

#### 7 ADBF Members Represented from

Indonesia; Myanmar; China; Philippines; Macau; Japan; Thailand.

**11 crews** competed in 6 Racing Classes for a total of 30 race entries. **Approx 260 athletes**

#### MORE RACE INFO FOR 2008

For a list of Dragon Boat events world wide have a look at:-

[www.dragonboatcalendar.com](http://www.dragonboatcalendar.com)

and at

[www.dragonboatnet.com](http://www.dragonboatnet.com)  
for articles, forum group, video clips, merchandize and more

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