



# 國際龍舟聯合會 INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

## **DRAGON BOAT INTERNATIONAL**

**The Newsletter of the International Dragon Boat Federation  
"The World Governing Body for Dragon Boat Sport"**

**January 2005 – Winter Edition. Issue Number 8.**

**Visit the IDBF at - [www.IDBF.org](http://www.IDBF.org) or [www.dragonboat.com](http://www.dragonboat.com) - a warm welcome assured**

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### **Editorial - by Mike Haslam.**

**Well, what a great World Championship, Qingpu turned out to be !** A superb regatta course and facilities, a great Opening Ceremony, with a wonderful fireworks display, a very efficient organisation, extremely friendly and hospitable hosts and the very best of racing. What more could you ask?

A big thank you and very well done must go to the local Organising Committee in Qingpu and the CDBA in Beijing for their outstanding efforts in staging the 2004 IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships – see report overleaf.

**One gone and the next one following on** close behind. Yes the World Nations are back in 2005 this time on the Graunau Regatta Course, Berlin, from 3-7 August 05, as part of the *World Dragons Berlin* festival of dragon boat racing, which will celebrate 15 years of the IDBF's governance of Dragon Boat Sport. Again see separate article for more details.

**New kids on the block in the Boat Manufacturer's world.** Five new boat builders have applied to the IDBF to become Registered IDBF Spec Racing Boat manufacturer's. They are from Hungary, Canada, China, Malaysia and Australia, so watch this space and the email groups for more information. At the time of going to press Simon River Sports in Canada had passed muster and been given their Registration Certificate and arrangements are in hand for an IDBF Team to visit the Qian Long Aquatic Equipment Factory, Dalian, China to inspect their IDBF Spec boat and paddle products.

Similar arrangements are being made for the Hungarian, Malaysian and Australian builders over the next few months so there will be plenty of boat builders to choose from when you order your new boat and paddles this coming year.

**On the political scene the GAISF Council** have again confirmed its support for the IDBF and have stated that no GAISF Member can block a Membership Application from a new Federation from coming before the GAISF General Assembly nor can one Member (ICF) just claim that the activity of a new Federation (IDBF) as their own !

The International Va'a (outrigger) Federation (IVF) and IDBF have exchanged letters of understanding and support for each other as independent paddle sports and are planning a joint meeting to discuss projects of mutual support. What a nice change to the attitude of the ICF ! **Happy days. MJH**

### **WORLD DRAGONS BERLIN - 2005**

#### **BE WHERE THE DRAGON BOAT ACTION IS**

**Berlin is the place to be** if you really want to be where the real Dragon Boat action is in 2005.

**Why? because this is where you can take part** in or watch, the very best of Dragon Boat Racing, on the famous 1936 Olympic Games, Grunau Regatta course, with four, yes FOUR different dragon boat competitions on offer for Dragon Boat Racers of all standards. **From the Festival Racing Weekend Warriors, through the experienced Club Crew Racers to the very best of National Teams.** So why not be there and take part too !

**First up in this dragon boat extravagance is the 1<sup>st</sup> IDBF World Corporate & Community Championship (World Corcom) from 29<sup>th</sup> – 31 July 2005.**

World Corcom is a Championship specially designed for the Dragon Boat Festival Racer and not for the established Club Crews or National Team Crews. World Corcom is for crews from businesses great and small, in both the private and public sector, like Banks, Insurance Companies, Fire and Police Services and also the community at large, such as Youth & Community groups, fitness centres, sports clubs and special interest groups, including paraplegics and Breast Cancer Survivors (BCS). **Entries will be accepted directly from any interested Corcom Crew or through Dragon Boat Associations and IDBF Associate Dragon Boat Festivals and events.** (See separate article for more details).

**Second up and the centre piece of World Dragons Berlin 05, is the 7<sup>th</sup> IDBF World Nations Championship (WDBRC) from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2005.**

**Organised by the German Dragon Boat Association (DDV)** on behalf of the IDBF, the World Nations Championship, the oldest of the established IDBF Championships, is for National Team Crews only and features the very best Dragon Boat Crews, selected by their National Dragon Boat Associations' to represent their Countries or Territories in this jewel in the Dragon Boat World's crown.  
/ Euro Clubs and BIR

### **IS IT RACE TIME FOR THE OVER 50s ?**

**There is no doubt that Senior Racing** at IDBF Championship level is here to stay – 21 crews from 9 Countries competed in Shanghai – but the question now is whether or not it is time to introduce a Senior Racing Class for the over 50s ?

**At the moment Senior status starts at 40**, as at the 1st Jan each year and that will not change. The problem, if it is a problem, is that in the 40-49 age group there are now so many good 'Seniors' that the 50 pluses who, until now have made up a fair proportion of the Senior Crews, are finding themselves out of the Senior Boat as the 40 year old 'youngsters' come onto the scene!

Is it time to bring in a 50+ Senior Championship Class as well as the present 40+ group. (IDBF Regulations allow for such age group 'streaming' in both the Senior and Junior racing Classes, so that as the sport develops and expands, there can be Championships for the over 40s, over 50s, over 60s in one direction and the under 18s, under 16s and under 14s in the other.

**So in IDBF terms it is not a question of IF but WHEN?**  
And that really is a decision for you the paddler to make.

In some countries there are already enough Seniors for 2 competitive crews to be entered in a World Championship, in others not

Therefore, the big question is, " Would the introduction of an over 50s class help the general development of Senior Racing or adversely affect those countries who are trying to establish just one Senior crew if, suddenly, they are faced with an age group split to consider"

And, should the present 2 crew rule for Seniors remain but as one for 40+ and one for 50+ paddlers ? Or should the 50+ group be a third Senior Crew, in the World Champs. Or, perhaps, is it time to consider giving the Seniors their own separate Championship dates, together with the Junior Crews, leaving the Premier Crews in their own 'stand alone' Championship ??

**LOTS of food for thought here**, so please let your IDBF Member Dragon Boat Association know your views and if there is enough support for a 50+ Championship Racing then there is still time for it to be introduced at the 2005 World Nations Championship in Berlin.

**So Seniors, have your say and let both your DBA and the IDBF know what you want from your sport!**

### **AND THE UNDER 21s OR EVEN UNDER 23s TOO?**

**A similar question can be asked about the over 18 and under 25 age group paddlers.**

Are we loosing good young paddlers from our sport who once they reach 18 have no where much to go in Championship Racing until perhaps they make the grade in the Premier Division in their mid to late 20s or even early 30s ?

**Over to you for debate!** Again let your DBA and the IDBF know your views.

### **World Dragons Berlin 05 /**

**Third in line is the 11<sup>th</sup> European Club Crew Championship (ECCC) taking place from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2005, in conjunction with the World Nations.**

The European Club Crew Championship is the oldest formal Dragon Boat Championship in the World, the first such Championship being held in 1990. Organised on behalf of the European Dragon Boat Federation, entries for the ECCC are restricted to Dragon Boat Club Crews based in Europe. A Club Crew is a crew that competes in Dragon Boat Races on a regular basis. **In Countries where there is an EDBF Member, then all entries to the ECCC have to be sanctioned by the Dragon Boat Association concerned.** 3 crews per Country, per Racing Class are permitted.

**Finally but not least in line are the Berlin International Races (BIR) taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2005, in conjunction with the European Clubs Races.**

**The Berlin International Races are open to any Dragon Boat Crew of any standard NOT already competing in the World Nations or European Club Crews Championships –see separate article for details.**

That means any of the Corcom Crews who raced in the World Corcom the previous weekend or indeed any Corcom Crew that would like to race in an International competition and any Club Crew from outside Europe or even those from Europe who do not make the cut for the ECCC or cannot race for the full weekend. With 200m racing on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August and 500m racing on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2005, it means that **BIR crews can race on either day or on both days, whichever suits them the best.**

If the other articles in this issue of *DBI* do not answer your questions and you interested in knowing more about any of the World Dragons Berlin 05 competitions, **then contact:-**

IDBF Executive President, Mike Haslam, by phone to + 44 1633 256796 or by fax to + 44 1633 666796 or by email to [mikehaslam@aol.com](mailto:mikehaslam@aol.com) or if you would like to enquire about a tourist package covering the whole period of World Dragons Berlin 05, then contact the

Sportsworld Event Agency, Germany by fax on + 49 4101 590481 or email on [info@sportsworld.de](mailto:info@sportsworld.de)

**WORLD DRAGONS BERLIN 05 –  
DON'T MISS IT !**

### **World Dragons Berlin 05 - Entry Dates**

**ALL Provisional Entries** for the World Corcom, World Nations, European Clubs and Berlin International Races are required by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2005.**

**Confirmed Entries** by 30 April 2005, with 10% entry fee deposits. For BIR entries required by 31 May 2005.

**Final Named Entries** by 30 June 2005. BIR by 15 July 05

## SHANGHAI SPLENDOUR – WORLD CHAMPS SHINE IN THE SUN

### Qingpu Org Com comes up with the goods and stages the very best of Championships.

Well it was always going to be an event to remember and it was certainly worth the wait, as the SARS postponed 5<sup>th</sup> World Dragon Boat Racing Championship finally came to town in Qingpu, Shanghai on 20 October 2005 (one year after the 6<sup>th</sup> Championships awarded by the IDBF took place in Poznan due to the postponed 5<sup>th</sup> – work that one out!!).

With an Opening Ceremony that was delightfully different to previous ones and a fire work display that took your breath away, the good folk of Qingpu turned out in their many thousands to give the Championship an exhilarating start – with full length TV coverage of the proceedings repeated every night during the Championship week. Friendly hosting and efficient organisation were the hall marks of the 'off the water' activity and after the initial concerns of some Teams that they would not get enough of the right food, which was not the case, a great time was had by all and many new friendships made.

On the water the facilities could not be faulted and a combination of IDBF Race Officials working closely with a team of local and national Race Officials made for a well-run and efficient competition organisation that ran smoothly and effectively throughout the four days of competition and without one formal or informal complaint from the Teams.

The Championship Racing too was of the very highest order and the first time since 1997 that full strength Teams from East and West had met head to head at a World Championship. Nearly 1800 competitors in 63 crews, representing 18 Nations battled for the Medals and World Champion status. The result was a dominance of the West in the Premier Division with 18 of the 24 medals going West. In the Premier Open, Canada, Russia and the USA shared the major spoils, with the Philippines winning one Silver Medal and the Czech Republic taking 3 Bronze Medals.

In the Mixed Races Russia and China took Gold. In the Premier Women's Division, the Great Britain Team proved themselves to be the best in the World, with 1 Gold and 2 silver medals to their credit, China and Canada took a Gold a piece, whilst in the Senior Division the Chinese Crews swept the board with 7 in the Gold Medals department, Canada and Russia collecting all but one of the Silver Medals (USA took that one). In the Junior Division it was a pretty even contest with China and Russia taking 2 Gold medals each and Germany one and these three also sharing the other medals, except for Canada sneaking a Bronze. It was good too, to see the Australian juniors on the water for the first time.

Equally welcome on the water, were our 'Pink Ladies' in the Breast Cancer Survivors crews, who as always enjoyed their racing, and Shanghai, to the full and brought tears to the eyes of many a hardened Dragon Boater with their very moving 'pink petals' ceremony held on the water after their last race, in memory of those who had lost their own race for life.

In the battle for the **Nations Cup**, Canada defied the odds and came out as top Premier Nation for the third time in a row, whilst the newly presented Koo-Kwok Senior Nations Cup, was lifted on high by China. (Finals Results – see other page)

**2005 World Champs in Pictures – Courtesy of EDWIN HOU – visit his website for more pictures and links at**  
[http://www.lingnan.edu.hk/~cfhou/dragon\\_wc2004/page\\_01.htm](http://www.lingnan.edu.hk/~cfhou/dragon_wc2004/page_01.htm)

The Opening Ceremony



The Dragons at Rest



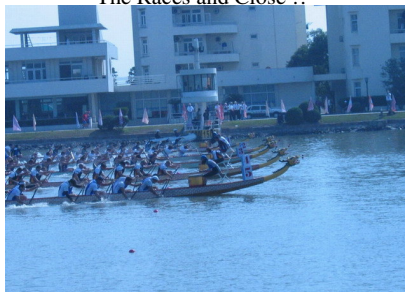
The Medals and Les Femmes



The Crews at Rest !



The Races and Close !!



The Winners – Team Canada





<b>2005 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, SHANGHAI, GRAND FINALS RESULTS</b>
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Prem Open 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 Canada</b>	<b>00.43.12</b>
2 Philippines	00.44.03
3 Czech Republic	00.44.56
4 Russia	00.45.11
5 Great Britain	00.46.62
6 Australia	00.47.39

Prem Open 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 Russia</b>	<b>01.51.68</b>
2 Canada	01.52.14
3 Czech Republic	01.52.18
4 Germany	01.52.85
5 Australia	01.53.77
6 Italy	01.54.17

Prem Open 1000m – Grand Final

<b>1 United States</b>	<b>03.51.50</b>
2 Canada	03.51.84
3 Czech Republic	03.52.20
4 Germany	03.53.57
5 Russia	03.54.47
6 Philippines	03.54.71

Prem Women 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 Canada</b>	<b>00.50.94</b>
2 Great Britain	00.51.40
3 China	00.51.80
4 Germany	00.52.23
5 Australia	00.52.61
6 Russia	00.53.01

Prem Women 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 Great Britain</b>	<b>02.03.96</b>
2 China	02.04.27
3 Germany	02.04.52
4 Canada	02.04.98
5 Australia	02.05.86
6 Russia	02.06.76

Prem Women 1000m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>04.10.93</b>
2 Great Britain	04.11.97
3 Canada	04.12.31
4 Germany	04.15.26
5 Russia	04.16.84
6 Australia	04.21.09

Prem Mixed 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 Russia</b>	<b>00.44.83</b>
2 Germany	00.46.56
3 China	00.47.08
4 Canada	00.47.48
5 Australia	00.48.00
6 Switzerland	00.48.43

Prem Mixed 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>01.57.67</b>
2 Canada	01.58.03
3 Australia	01.58.34
4 United States	01.58.70
5 Germany	01.59.08
6 Russia	01.59.78

Open 2000m Demonstration Race

<b>1 Czech Republic</b>	<b>09.57.65</b>
2 Macau	10.43.73
3 Germany Mxd B	10.51.71
4 Germany Mxd A	11.04.74
5 Russia	11.12.82
6 Macau Wmn	12.45.93

Senior Open 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 Canada</b>	<b>00.44.66</b>
2 Russia	00.47.12
3 United States	00.47.65
4 Canada A	00.48.30
5 Great Britain	00.48.85
6 Germany	00.47.59

Senior Open 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>01.55.01</b>
2 Russia	01.56.56
3 Canada	01.57.15
4 United States	01.57.94
5 Germany	02.00.92
6 Italy	02.03.08

Senior Open 1000m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>03.50.00</b>
2 United States	03.51.62
3 Canada	03.54.80
4 Russia	03.55.47
5 Germany	03.57.68
6 Great Britain	04.00.33

Senior Women 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>00.52.03</b>
2 Canada A	00.52.44
3 Germany	00.52.86
4 United States B	00.53.31
5 Australia A	00.56.18
6 Australia B	00.56.99

Senior Women 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>02.03.79</b>
2 Canada A	02.05.99
3 Germany	02.06.97
4 United States B	02.08.05
5 Australia A	02.07.61
6 United States A	02.19.95

Senior Women 1000m Demo Race

<b>1 Canada</b>	<b>04.24.20</b>
2 Germany	04.25.63
3 United States	04.40.76
4 Australia	04.42.38
5 Great Britain	04.52.41
- Russia	Did Not Start

Senior Mixed 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>00.47.35</b>
2 Canada A	00.48.63
3 United States A	00.49.07
4 Canada B	00.49.78
5 Germany	00.50.20
6 Australia A	00.50.79

Senior Mixed 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>01.54.94</b>
2 Canada A	01.55.84
3 Germany	01.56.57
4 United States A	01.57.73
5 Canada B	01.58.26
6 United States B	02.01.03

BCS Overall Placings (200m + 500m)

<b>1 Team Soar USA</b>	<b>7.06.46</b>
2 Int Hope Abreast	7.54.37
3 Int Spirit Abreast	7.54.97
4 Int Inspiration Abreast	8.07.22
5 Paddlers in Pink	8.09.50
6 China BCS	8.16.29

Junior Open 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 Russia A</b>	<b>00.47.79</b>
2 Germany	00.48.92
3 China	00.49.34
4 Canada A	00.50.23

Junior Open 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 Russia A</b>	<b>01.56.88</b>
2 China	01.57.35
3 Germany	01.58.74
4 Canada A	02.00.95

Junior Open 1000m Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>03.55.34</b>
2 Germany	03.57.34
3 Russia A	03.57.55
4 Canada A	04.42.38

Junior Mixed 200m – Grand Final

<b>1 Germany</b>	<b>00.48.61</b>
2 Russia	00.49.12
3 Canada A	00.50.28

Junior Mixed 500m – Grand Final

<b>1 China</b>	<b>02.00.15</b>
2 Germany	02.00.48
3 Russia	02.02.06

IDBF NATIONS CUP – top 6 Points

<b>1 Canada</b>	<b>95</b>
2 Russia	73 (best on 500m)
3 China	73
4 Germany	69
5 Great Britain	58
6 Australia	57

**CALLING ALL DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL ORGANISERS**

**BECOME AN IDBF “ASSOCIATE”**

**AND SEND YOUR CREWS TO - WORLD DRAGONS BERLIN 05**

The IDBF will be holding the first World Corcom (Corporate and Community Dragon Boat Championship) in conjunction with the World Nations; the European Club Crew Champs and the Berlin International Races, which together form *World Dragons Berlin 05*, from 29 July – 7 August 2005

The IDBF would like you to send Dragon Boat Crews to take part in the World Corcom Championship which is designed primarily for Dragon Boat Festival Crews who do not race regularly, although it is accepted that there are Festival Crews who are regular participants in the sport too.

The Race Programme will be designed to cater for these different levels of ability and experience, so the World Corcom can be the ideal Championship for your own Crews to aspire to and a guaranteed entry for them, via your own event, **will greatly enhance your own Dragon Boat Races.**

**So what is IDBF Associate Status?** The Associates Scheme is designed to enable Dragon Boat Festival Organisers and Dragon Boat Event Organisers - who run a number of different races, who want to become involved in IDBF Dragon Boat Sport, to send crews to the IDBF World Corporate & Community Championships and other Corcom races at Continental and National level, as the IDBF Corcom scene develops.

Already the 1<sup>st</sup> European Corcom Championship is planned for Prague in 2006 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Corcom will take place in Welland, Niagara in 2007.

An IDBF Associate will be entitled to send as many crews as they like to a World Corcom in any of the Entry Classes on offer and, subject to certain conditions, to the IDBF Club Crew World Championship on alternative years.

IDBF Associates will also be authorised to display the IDBF logo on their race literature but not on any merchandize - that comes at an extra negotiable cost.

The IDBF will ask that all IDBF Associates' link their web sites to the IDBF site, thus offering more dragon boat racing to the dragon boat community at large and a wider net work to Associates, on which their own events can be promoted.

In countries where sport racing is not fully developed IDBF Associates' will be asked to run a Sport Racing Division within their own events, in co-operation with their National Dragon Boat Association. The IDBF hope is that such partnerships will help to develop National circuits of races for Sport Crews, which will also benefit IDBF Associates.

**Interested in becoming an IDBF Associate?** Then contact [mikehaslam@aol.com](mailto:mikehaslam@aol.com) for an application form and full details of the cost, terms and conditions of becoming an IDBF Associate, plus a copy of the supplementary Racing Rules and Competition Regulations for IDBF Associates.

**WORLD DRAGONS' BERLIN 05 – BE WHERE THE REAL DRAGON BOAT ACTION IS !**

**1st IDBF World Corporate and Community Championship, - 29 -31 July 2005**

**Yes, you too can become a ‘World Champion’** in one or more of the many Racing Classes on offer at the IDBF World Corcom, which will take place on the famous Grunau Regatta Course in Berlin, over the weekend 29<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005, with Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 05 as an extra back up day, if needed. **Outline Programme is:** Fri 29 July – Practice Day. Sat 30 July – morning practice, afternoon Prelims. Sun 31 July – World Corcom Champs. Mon 1 Aug 05 – back up day.

**But that's not all**, crews competing in the World Corcom are also most welcome to stay in Berlin, or tour around Germany, and then compete the following weekend in **the Berlin International Races for Club Crews, on 6-7 August 2005**. The BIR will be held on the same regatta course and in conjunction with both the EDBF European Club Crews Championship (5-7 August) and the **IDBF World Nations Championship on 4-7 August 05**.

**Who Can Enter ?** Entry to the IDBF World Corcom Championship is open to any dragon boat crew that represents a **Corporate or Community group**, as described below, and subject to the Entry Conditions shown in the World Corcom Information Leaflet – see [www.Dragonboat.com](http://www.Dragonboat.com) or IDBF.org (Membership of an IDBF Dragon Boat Association is not a pre-requisite.) The crew categories are:- **Corporate Crews:** Privately owned or controlled businesses, large or small, such as Banks, Insurance groups, manufacturers and service businesses in short all commercial enterprises are Corporate. Government Agencies, Public Services such as Fire Fighters, Police, Armed Services are also classified as Corporate. **Community Crews:** Youth & Community Groups, Charities or Crews representing Charities, First Aid Groups (St John's Ambulance), Fitness and Sports Clubs – who **are not** water sports based clubs, for example, Dragon Boat, Rowing and Canoe Clubs, *the IDBF Club Crew World Championships' are designed for such clubs*. Medical Services, Special Interest groups, such as Breast Cancer Survivors (BCS), Paraplegics and Disability groups. Entry Fees will vary from USD 600 per crew of 16 people to USD 1200 for 28 people according to the Boat Raced – Small or Standard. **Interested in entering a crew** – then email [mikehaslam@aol.com](mailto:mikehaslam@aol.com) or visit the IDBF web site for more information.

### **GAISF COUNCIL AGAIN SAYS YES to the IDBF and RECOMMENDS RATIFICATION**

**At its October 2004 meeting** the GAISF Council again considered the IDBF Application for GAISF Membership (despite continuing opposition from the ICF) and declared that no GAISF Member had the right to stop an application for membership from going forward to the General Assembly.

**The Council voted unanimously for the IDBF** Application and have recommended to the GAISF General Assembly, to be held 20/24th April 2005, that the IDBF be ratified as a GAISF Member. Also, for the second time, Dragon Boating was endorsed by the GAISF Council as coming under the governance of a separate international federation, namely the IDBF.

All over bar the shouting you might think but that is certainly not the case, as yet again, the ICF have declared that the IDBF have got it all wrong and that Dragon Boating is really Canoeing and that the ICF are the best federation to govern the sport.

Sadly, the ICF have written to the GAISF Council telling them that they do not accept the authority of the Council, on this matter. The ICF are also pressurising their Members to start running races in opposition to the IDBF Members in countries such as Germany, Poland, Spain and the USA. Both the IDBF and the DBAs concerned have responded by telling ICF Members to keep off the dragon boat patch both nationally and internationally.

**So beware of Trojan Horses**, there are events out there that are being run by Canoe Association is direct opposition to those organised by Dragon Boat Associations and the IDBF. The setting up of the **IDBF Associates** Scheme (see separate article) **will help you to decide Who is Who !**

### **WHEN IS A HEAD NOT A HEAD ?**

**In a recent email Edwin HOU asks**, “ Is there any article so far discussing and comparing dragon heads? I am happy to read and explore this dimension. The Dragon is an auspicious icon in Chinese culture but it is a demon in Western culture. More and more western manufacturers and teams are using the western dragon head, which is not quite right. Will the IDBF say something about it? I have taken some pictures of the dragon heads in my Shanghai album, intentionally for people to appreciate and use for future design of boats”.

Edwin, the IDBF Boat Spec requires boat builders to make traditional styles of heads for their Dragon Boats and your photo will be added to the list. As for Dragon Boat Crews and Events, we have the same message as you – **go East not West for your Dragon Boat Head!** Edwin can be contacted on [edwin108@netvigator.com](mailto:edwin108@netvigator.com)

### **ICF DRAGON BOAT CHAIRMAN SAYS HE DOES NOT REALLY CARE ABOUT ALL DRAGON BOAT PADDLERS - JUST ABOUT DRAGON BOAT CANOEISTS !! Is that good or bad news,? asks the IDBF EP Mike Haslam.**

In a recent article published in *the Dragon Boat World* magazine, on how the ICF sees Dragon Boat Sport and the ICF's involvement, Francois Ryffel, the Chairman of the ICF Dragon Boat Committee, tells DBW:-

**" the ICF wants to provide dragon boat services for our members"** and that, "A lot of (ICF) Federations asked us about dragon boating" I don't want to get specific" (on numbers) but "at world level, 90% of dragon boaters are (sprint) canoeists" **and** "Why do we need another federation? We are the official paddling organisation all over the world"

**and then**, "The IDBF is an isolated organisation. It is just a question of time before they lose what little support they have" "In the last ICF Congress we had 131 Nations, how many does the IDBF have " **and finally**, "I don't want to kill the IDBF or take over anything, **I just don't really care about them.**

**So there you have it**, the ICF really does not care about all those hundreds of thousands of dragon boaters that practise our sport, at all levels, with the IDBF and its Dragon Boat Associations and in Festival Races around the world. The ICF, according to Ryffel, is only really concerned with 'world level' paddlers who also happen to be sprint canoeists and the unspecified number of ICF Canoe Federations (actually it is less than 10) who want to become involved in the sport.

**Really, Mr Ryffel** and if the ICF does not want to " kill off the IDBF or take over anything" then why are they still trying to block the IDBF GAISF Membership Application and saying that they will write to every GAISF International Federation; ICF Member Canoe Fed and every IDBF Member Dragon Boat Association opposing the IDBF and everything it does, and seeking every ones 'take over' support for the ICF.

**See separate article, on the next page, for the response to the 'friendly views' of Mr Ryffel.**

### **23 MILLION DOLLAR PLEDGE TO IDBF**

Letters from the Canadian Federal Government, Ontario Provincial Government and the City of Toronto, pledging **a total of 23 Million Dollars** Canadian, towards the cost of building the Racing Course for the 2006 IDBF Club Crew Worlds, in Toronto, have been received by the IDBF.

Pledges of financial support to bring the Regatta Course in Welland, Niagara up to IDBF standards for the 2007 IDBF World Corcom, have also been received by the IDBF. **Thank you Canada**, your support for the IDBF and our Sport, is very much appreciated.

## MORE FROM THE ICF MYTH FACTORY

**In the last issue of *DBI*** there was an article headlined the 'ICF Myth Factory' written in reply to an earlier article that appeared in the *Dragon Boat World* magazine, in which Francois Ryffel, the Chairman of the newly formed ICF Dragon Boat Committee, was telling the DBW readers all about the ICF views on the sport and the ICF opposition to the IDBF. Most of the Ryffel statements were economical with the truth – myths in most cases. DBW magazine has again given Mr Ryffel a platform from which to peddle his myths and thus the reason for the title of **this second 'right of reply' article.**

Once again I find myself having to write an article about the continuing myths being put out, by the ICF, about its incursion into Dragon Boating, only this time it seems that *Dragon Boat World* magazine is beating the Dragon Boat Drum a little for the ICF. In the Winter 2004 issue of the magazine, the Editor says that the ICF is setting up a parallel series of championships, to the IDBF.

Well, the IDBF deals in facts not fantasy and the facts are that the so-called 'Championships' that the ICF is planning are exclusively for National Canoe Associations and not Dragon Boat Associations. So they can hardly be called World Championships or Continental Championships, as they are for Canoeists NOT Dragon Boaters. ICF DB Championships maybe but World Championships, hardly !

On this point, I would guess that the number of Dragon Boat Crews in Membership of their National Canoe Associations is very limited. Germany, Switzerland, Canada, maybe USA and Spain would be the base. Outside of that the ICF might be looking to generate crews by putting pressure (are putting pressure) on their members to take part in ICF events but unless they cross a lot of palms with silver, the response will be very limited, I fancy, and the level of competition? - Well only the German and maybe Canadian Canoe Associations are capable of producing a crew worth racing at an ICF event.

DBW magazine then quotes ICF hit man Ryffel as saying,

**"The IDBF is an isolated organisation. It is just a question of time before they lose what little support they have"**

The Ryffel statement about an isolated organisation, loosing support - apart from being completely untrue, shows exactly to all who care to take note, how arrogant and self important the man has become. He professes later in the article that he really does not care about the IDBF, which means that he really does not care too much about the sport either.

The truth is that the GAISF Council has now twice recorded at their Meetings full support for the IDBF, recognising it as the International Federation for Dragon Boating. The IDBF Application for Membership is due for ratification at the GAISF General Assembly in April 2005.

**In addition the ICF does not have support from China, the homeland of Dragon Boat Racing.** But the IDBF does, with its Headquarters co-located with and supported by the Chinese Dragon Boat Association. **Plus the Chinese Olympic Committee** (and other Olympic Committees) **only recognise the IDBF and not the ICF, as the governing body for Dragon Boat Sport.**

On the Membership front the IDBF has attracted interest from 12 new countries in 2004, none of which have any interest in taking part in dragon boat racing with the ICF.

Unfortunately, DBW helps the ICF myth making when the Editor says:- **"But the single most significant event may be the newly minted dragon boat competition at the 2005 World Games in Duisburg.** This ICF driven inclusion of dragon boating is likely meant to jump start the take-over bid and demonstrate ICF's muscle and influence with established international sports bodies "

Well, entry to the dragon boat races is at the invitation of the local Organising Committee and not from the IWGA (World Games Association). **Originally the invite came to the IDBF in April 2002** but in September that year, ICF President Feldhoff, who lives in Duisburg, insisted that the Org Com, give the races to the ICF, which they very reluctantly agreed to do, telling the IDBF 'well the man is powerful in Duisburg, what else could we do? **(Try saying No!).**

Then in May 03 when the ICF signed the Joint Agreement with the IDBF the World Games Races became a joint venture too, and plans were made for paddlers from both Federations to attend.

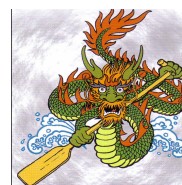
Then in April 04, the ICF declared that the Duisburg Races will be **for 'canoeists from ICF Members only'** (The EDBF incidentally, organised the invitational dragon boat races at the 1993 World Games in The Hague, so as always the ICF are trying to muscle in on the IDBF Members).

As a matter of interest the President of the IWGA has already declared that this will be the only time that the ICF will be allowed to claim Dragon Boat Racing at a World Games. In future, if there is any Dragon Boat Racing it will come under the IDBF banner. That sounds to me like more support for the IDBF, not less.

The next item on the ICF calendar mentioned in DBW is the so called Club Crew Championships in Barcelona. Well, what the ICF is hoping will happen here (asking crews to do) is to go straight from Duisburg, where they will be called 'National Teams' to Barcelona the following weekend, where they will be called Club Crews!! (Two myths for the price of one!)

**It seems to me that you will need a big cheque book and a lot of faith in other crews turning up for these ICF events,** especially with the IDBF Festival of Dragon Boating - **World Dragons Berlin 05, running from 29 Jul to 7 Aug 05, which is where the real Dragon Boat action will be in 2005,** with a feast of Dragon Boat Racing for crews of all levels from the novice Festival Racers to the top elite paddlers in the World. **(See separate *DBI* articles.)**

/So let us return

**MORE ICF MYTHS****Hey buddy – don't mess with me !**

**So let us return, for a moment, to Mr Ryffel and his ICF myths.** He tells DBW magazine that the ICF:-

**"wants to provide dragon boat services for our members"**

This is proof positive that he is not interested in the majority of the World's Dragon Boat paddlers but only the minority of canoeists who dragon boat with the IDBF and its Members. A sports 'mugging' as one paddler (a committed Canoeist) recently said to me.

**Ryffel also said that "A lot of federations asked us about dragon boating" I don't want to get specific (on numbers) " But at world level, 90% of dragon boaters are (sprint) canoeists.** Well, well Mr Ryffel, how long has Pinocchio's nose grown now ?

The truth about this urban legend is that out of the 136 ICF Members very few, probably less than 10, have ever asked the ICF specifically, to get involved in Dragon Boat Racing and of these only 2 (Germany and Switzerland) are the driving force behind the formation of the ICF Dragon Boat Committee.

As for the 90% of sprint canoeists at World level, it is just not true. Some countries at IDBF World Championships may have a few or even more than a few sprint racers in their crews but many have none (China and most Asian Teams for example) **and even if it were all true, so what. The sprint people enjoy and have always enjoyed, their Dragon Boat Racing with the IDBF and not the ICF**, so why would they now want to meekly follow the ICF, who can offer them nothing new in return, apart from a very unconsultative top down approach to Dragon Boat Sport.

Finally Ryffel somewhat arrogantly says:-

**"Why do we need another federation? We are the official paddling organisation all over the world"**

Really ? Since when? The ICF is certainly not the official paddling organisation all over the world (what ever 'official' means) and never has been. Just a small reminder here about the GAISF and Chinese Olympic Committee's etc recognition of the IDBF.

**Indeed, even the ICF recognised the status of the IDBF as "the established independent International Federation for Dragon Boat Sport" in the May 2003 ICF/IDBF Joint Agreement !**

There are other paddle sports out there too. The International Va'a (Outriggers) Federation (IVF), for example, who are also just about to shake the ICF tree and at National level, Pirion Boats in Japan, Peacock Boats in Bangladesh, Swan Boats in Thailand and other Traditional Asian Long Boats (TALBs) in India and other Asian countries, all of who have their own Traditional Boat Federations'.

**The facts are that the ICF represents but two** of the many traditional paddled water-craft that exist in the World today. Namely the Kayak and the Canoe both of which originate from North America and both of which were developed almost exclusively, as a sport, by Europeans who then formed the ICF and still very firmly control it.

The IDBF (Dragon Boats) and the IVF (Outriggers) have necessarily been formed to organise and represent two other traditional paddled water-craft, which have originated from very different parts of the World. Neither of them has any historical, geographical, cultural or social links with the Canoe and Kayak or indeed the ICF.

I could go on but it is labouring the point. For the ICF to claim control of all paddled water-craft - just because the ICF is an Olympic Federation, is as bizarre as Judo now claiming that all martial arts disciplines are Judo, because they were the first martial art to gain IOC recognition.

**Personally, where GAISF is concerned**, I fail to see how the ICF can think that having only one paddle sport voice in the corridors of international sports power, instead of 2, 3, 4 or more, is better for paddle sport, as a whole - can you ? The martial arts sports have many voices within GAISF and are actively trying to get more into the Club. **Now that, to me, is what being a partner paddle sport is all about. Helping - not mugging each other!**

**So, as was said in the Dragon Boat World Editorial, what do you think about it all ?**

If you want to make your feelings known to the ICF Dragon Boat Committee, then why not send them an email directly from the ICF website - see below - copy to IDBF.

A website incidentally with a very small proposed dragon boat race programme and one that gives the impression, in the 'History' section of the modern sport, that the ICF has been involved in Dragon Boating development for years and years. Not a mention of the IDBF of course.

In fact all the facts and figures it quotes (and pictures too of the IDBF Racing Dragon Boat) are the exclusive work of the IDBF and its Members.

Talk about misrepresentation of the facts, here it is clear for all who wish to see it, that the ICF Dragon Boat Committee is being very economical with the truth, but then what is new ?

Want to let them know how you feel about things ? Then go to [www.canoeicf.com](http://www.canoeicf.com) click onto the Dragonboat Section, then click on Structure and you will see the pictures of the ICF Dragon Boat Committee and their email boxes to write to. Don't forget, copy to IDBF please.

Have a nice day and see you on the IDBF water in 2005.

**The Spirit of Qu Yuan.**



**6th ASIAN DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS, MIANYANG, CHINA**  
**“Great hospitality and friendships made – and great racing too!”**

**If you thought that the floor-show and fireworks were good in Shanghai, then you should have been in Mianyang !**

The Opening Ceremony of the 6th ADBF Asian Dragon Boat Championships was truly superb. Remarkable and dazzling are the words to describe the glittering cultural song and dance show, followed by a fireworks extravaganza that marked the Opening of the Asian Championships. The good citizens of Mianyang turned out in force too to watch the 2 days of mid-week racing, on 27/28 October 2004, with crowds that must have been well above 60,000-70,000 packing both sides of the City centre river course, on which the Championships, sponsored and hosted by the Mianyang City, were held.

On the race course the main battles centred around the Chinese Crews and the Philippines who carried on from their good performance at the World Championships in Qingpu, the weekend before by taking the Gold Medals in the 250m and 500m Open Championships and Silver in the 1000m, with China (Mianyang) taking the Gold and Silver (Guang Dong) in the 250 and 500m. New boys in the Asian Championships – Australia, opened their account with 2 Bronze Medals in the 250m and 1000m, with Macau taking the 500m Bronze. Hong Kong – who did not make the World Champs and Japan, Malaysia and Taipei completed the 9 Nation line up. In the Mixed Championships China (Guang Dong) took double Gold, with Macau taking both Silver Medals and Hong Kong (250m) and Australia (500m) a Bronze apiece. The Women's races were a two-way competition between China and Macau, with China (Guang Dong) taking the winners honour.

**6<sup>th</sup> ADBF CHAMPIONSHIPS – GRAND FINALS RESULTS.**

**Open 250m.**

1. Philippines 0.48.24
2. China 0.48.72
3. Australia 0.53.06
4. Macau 0.53.21
5. Hong Kong 0.53.36
6. Taipei 0.54.27

**Open 500m**

1. Philippines 1.34.44
2. China A 1.36.77
3. Macau 1.41.61
4. Taipei 1.46.35
5. Australia 1.46.40
6. China B 1.46.42

**Open 1000m.**

1. China A 3.21.10
2. Philippines 3.25.20
3. Australia 3.32.90
4. Macau 3.36.70
5. China B 3.40.10
6. Hong Kong 3.45.20

**Women 250m.**

1. China 1.04.20
2. Macau 1.05.61

**Women 500m**

1. China 2.05.23
2. Macau 2.07.69

**Women 1000m \***

1. China 8.10.51.
2. Macau 8.14.96

**Mixed 250m \***

1. China 1.45.48
2. Macau 1.47.31
3. Hong Kong 1.50.77
4. Australia 1.51.46

**Mixed 500m**

1. China 1.43.88
2. Macau 1.44.90
3. Australia 1.48.12
4. Hong Kong 1.52.50

\* Mixed 250m and Women 1000m – times shown are the total of two rounds of competition.

**NEWS FROM THE IDBF COMMISSIONS**

The IDBF Executive Committee and Council both met in Qingpu before the World Champs to hear reports from the Commissions; discuss and action many matters to do with our Dragon Boat Sport and its development.

**Mike Thomas, Chair of the C&TC** (Competition & Technical Commission) said that the lack of qualified Race Officials needed to be addressed and reported that the C&TC would organise training and assessment courses for National and IDBF Race Officials on request to the Race Officials Secretariat. Contact Bryan Hartley on [bryanhartley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bryanhartley@tiscali.co.uk)

He also proposed and the Council agreed, a **2 year extension of 'grandfather rights' until 01 Jan 2007**, for IDBF/EDBF paddles approved before Spec 202a was introduced. This would enable paddlers to use such paddles at the 2005 World Champs in Berlin and the 2006 Club Crews World Champs in Toronto.

**Sharifa Khan, Chair of the M&MC** (Marketing and Media Commission) reported on the brochure recently produced to promote the IDBF, with outside organisations and appraised Council of the sponsorship of the World Championships.

She then outlined the Marketing objectives for the IDBF as being to build a 'brand name' for the IDBF and its mission and to increase the exposure of Dragon Boat Sport internationally. The first steps towards achieving these objectives would be to review and update the IDBF Website and the production of a promotional DVD on the sport.

**Bob McNamara, Acting Chair of the (M&SC)**, Medical & Sports Science Commission, in accepting his appointment, informed Council that the IDBF Anti-Doping Policy had been revised and that it was proposed to raise the acceptable blood alcohol level from zero tolerance to one of 0.10g/L, in line with that acceptable for driving a motor Vehicle. The Council approved this change.

# INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT NEWS

## FROM THE MEMBERS AND UPDATES

### PENANG BIDS FOR 2008 CCWC

Bids can now be received for the 2008 Club Crew World Champs and first out of the blocks was the Penang Dragon Boat Association, organisers of the famous Penang International Dragon Boat Festival, one of the oldest on the calendar of modern Sport Racing.

The decision on who gets 2008, will be made at the 2005 IDBF Congress in Berlin on 5 August 05, so there is still time for other Bids to come in but, as it stands now **Penang are in the frame**.

Talking of Penang, **do not forget** that the **26th Penang Int Races** will be held on **10 – 12 June 2005 at the Teluk Bahang Dam, Penang**.

Further details from Mr.Chin Yin Fat  
Email: [chinyinfat@yahoo.com](mailto:chinyinfat@yahoo.com) or tel:- 604-2624951 or Fax: 604-2616137

### INT RACE DATES FOR 2005

Sydney IR - 9/10 April  
Singapore IR - June TBC  
Penang IR - 10/12 June 05  
Hong Kong IR - 18/20 June 05  
Toronto IR - 25/26 June 05  
Vancouver BCS - 24/26 June 05  
New York - July TBC

**LINK YOUR WEBSITE TO THE IDBF** E-mail Adrian Lee at  
**[Adrian.Lee@dragonboat.com](mailto:Adrian.Lee@dragonboat.com)**

### MEMBERS CONVENTION 2004

The IDBF Members Convention was held in Qingpu and delegates were updated on the venues and organisation of the 2005, 2006 and 2007 IDBF World Championship Regattas as well as receiving a financial report and full briefings on the ICF situation and the IDBF GAISF Membership Application. Delegates were also briefed on IDBF plans for the future development of the sport and asked to contribute ideas.

### NEWS FROM THE 2004 ADBF CONGRESS

The ADBF 2004 Congress was held in Mianyang, China on 27th Oct 2004. Seven Countries and Territories were represented with apologies from another seven. Australia was welcomed to the Congress as a new Full Member.

Mr Benjamin Ramos was elected as a new Vice-President and Mr Lai Chew Hock was elected to serve as a Member of the ADBF Executive.

A report was received on the inclusion of Dragon Boating in the East Asian Games (2005) and on the preparations being made for the 7<sup>th</sup> ADBF Champs in Macau in 2006.

The Congress heard about plans to accept the ADBF into membership of the Asian Olympic Committee and for Dragon Boating to be included in the 2010 Asian Games.

In discussion the Congress looked at ways of expanding the sport in Asia and attracting new Members to the ADBF. A lack of finance was seen as the biggest problem. More promotion and publicity for the sport at all levels, was needed. The development of the Small Dragon Boat was also discussed

The Congress noted the situation with the ICF and confirmed its support of the IDBF. The Congress stated that the ADBF does not encourage other organisations to organise dragon boat races but does invite them to join ADBF events.

Hong Kong was awarded the 2008 Asian Dragon Boat Championship.

### IDBF SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

Secretary-General ; Mr LI Jei  
Director of Admin : Mr LEI Jun  
Administrator: Ms Qin YI

### NEWS FROM THE 2004 EDBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The EDBF 2004 AGA was held in Győr, Hungary on 20 Nov 2004. Eleven Countries were represented and apologies received from seven.

Manfred Russ (Senior Vice Chair), Claudio Schermi (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair) and Alan van Caubergh (Sec-Gen) were re-elected for further terms of Office.

The Ukraine DBA was approved for Governing Membership and Austria, Belgium and Greece as Temporary Members.

The Czech Republic, Poland and Russia were elected to the EDBF Council and the **2006 European Nations Champs** and **Corcom Champs** awarded to the Czech Republic and will be held in the Prague area.

The **2007 EDBF Club Crew Champs** were awarded to Rostov, in Southern Russia on the Black Sea.

In discussion on the problems being caused to the sport in Europe by the ICF, the delegates agreed that EDBF Members must maintain solidarity of purpose within the Federation and also support the IDBF.

Members reported that the ICF were putting pressure on Canoe Associations in Europe to work in direct opposition to the EDBF. The situation was potentially particularly difficult in Eastern Europe, where canoeing received a lot of financial support from governments.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Indoor Paddling Regatta –NY

New York's indoor paddling regatta will be held on 19 Mar 05, from 1000-1400, at 8 Henry Street. Open, Snr and Jnr comps over 250m and 500m on Concept 2 paddling machines. Info from Ben Lau - [ibenlau@optonline.net](mailto:ibenlau@optonline.net) Sponsors Eastern Region DBA .