

DRAGON BOAT INTERNATIONAL

The Newsletter of the International Dragon Boat Federation

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This Issue: Prague Update - ECCB Budapest - Living with Cancer, A Paddlers Story

The World Governing Body for Dragon Boat Sport

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INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

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Photo: Henning Wiekhorst



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IDBF AND ICF COMMENCE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS ON DRAGON BOAT WORLD CHAMPS



The ICF President, Jose Perurena and the IDBF Executive President Mike Haslam met in Lausanne Switzerland on 12th May 2009. They were accompanied by Simon Toulson, the ICF Secretary General and the IDBF Vice President Claudio Schermi.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere with the main point on the agenda being how both Federations could work together for the benefit of Dragon Boat Sport.

The Federations agreed that there are still significant problems to resolve regarding the responsibility for Dragon Boating at both national and international level. However, progress was made on the hosting of just one World Championships for the sport in 2011.

The format of this Joint venture has still to be decided but in principle both Federations agreed that this was in the best interest of Dragon Boat Sport and that working together on this project would help to strengthen the long term relationship between the two Federations.

The ICF President Jose Perurena concluded after the meeting 'We are very happy with the meeting. There are still many hurdles to overcome but if we can find a suitable partnership to jointly organise a Dragon Boat World Championship I believe this will be a very positive step forward for both Federations and all athletes concerned.'

IDBF Executive President, Mike Haslam commented after the meeting '

"The IDBF is very happy to work with the ICF in a positive manner. One World Championships for the Sport is the first step in this accord and also a way towards a fuller understanding of Dragon Boat Sport and its traditions by the sports community at large."

The ICF and IDBF have agreed to have further meetings this summer to work out the technical details for the co-operation between the Federations in organising the 2011 World Championships and they urge their respective Members to work together as allied paddle sports, in the best interests of both Canoeing and Dragon Boating.



PRAGUE UPDATE :

9 th WORLD DRAGON BOAT RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS RACICE, 26-30 August 2009



Regrettably the Prague Organising Committee have been unable to get the permission of the River Authorities to suspend tourist boats from operating on the Vltava River during the peak season and with repairs under the Charles Bridge raising safety issues, the 2000m races will now be held at the Racice Regatta Centre, along with all other race distances. This is a pity for whilst the race would have been difficult to organise on the river, being able to show case our sport in the middle of Prague, with the 2000 m turns under the Charles Bridge would have been great publicity.

Entries for Prague have been received, from the following 26 IDBF Members:- [Australia](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Canada](#), [China](#), [Chinese Taipei](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Germany](#), [Great Britain](#), [Hong Kong-China](#), [Hungary](#), [India](#), [Iran](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Macau-China](#), [New Zealand](#), [Norway](#), [Philippines](#), [Poland](#), [Russia](#), [Singapore](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [South Africa](#), [Sweden](#), [Ukraine](#), [USA](#).

Confirmation of entries is still awaited from the Netherlands and Switzerland but unfortunately, the following Countries have withdrawn due to financial constraints, Cyprus, France, Ireland, Spain, Turkey, Trinidad & Tobago, UAE.

Have a Ball ! The two main "social" events for Teams and Race Officials will be the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, 26 August 09 and the Celebration Party on Sunday, 30 August 09 held at the Regatta Site but every evening the athletes will be entertained by records on big LED screen showing all-day edit and music. Celebration Party tickets are USD 35 per person. Tickets include dinner, the first drink, live music entertainment and cultural programme

The Opening Ceremony will be held at the Racice Regatta Centre. [before the 2000m races at approx 12 noon](#) and will last approximately 30 min; in the evening there will be medals ceremonies and a cultural programme. Before the Opening Ceremony it is planned to have a demonstration Mixed 200 Relay Race. That is Teams of 2 mixed crews per Team, will race each other with crew 1 racing from the finish line to the start area and crew 2 racing back to the finish line to complete the team's race.

Crew Training. The Racice regatta course will be available for Crew Practice, during the period Saturday-Tuesday, 22-25 August 2009, inclusive. [Helms and Ages](#). Just to remind people before they set off for Prague that

Male Helms are not allowed to Steer Women's crews and that the Drummer in a Senior Crew and the Steerer in a Junior Crew do not need to conform to the relevant age limits. [For U23 Crews, for this Championships, up to 8 crew members below the age of 18, on 1 June 2009, will be permitted.](#)

Finally, another reminder - only IDBF Licensed Paddles with the 202a Manufacturers Licence Number actually showing on the paddle, will be permitted at the Championships. Competitors not in possession of a 202a paddle will be required to either borrow one or purchase one before racing !

SOME OLD, SOME NEW FACES - TO VOTE FOR AT CONGRESS

This year the IDBF President and four IDBF Vice-Presidents are due for election at the IDBF Members Congress in Prague, on 29 August 09.

Retiring after 8 years in the post, during which time he helped secure GAISF Membership for the IDBF, is IDBF President Zhang Faqiang. Nominated by the CBDA in his place, is Madam Xiao Min – the President of the ADBF and a Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

Of the four VPs, Benjamin Ramos of the Philippines is retiring and not seeking re-election, whilst Senior Vice- President, Mason Hung (Hong Kong, China) and Vice Presidents' Claudio Schermi (Italy) and Bob Morro (USA) are standing for re-election for a further term. To fill the very big gap left by Benjie Ramos, a nomination for Ahmad DONIAMALI, President of the Iranian Federation has been received. Mr Doniamali is also a Deputy Mayor of Tehran and he was instrumental in bringing Dragon Boating to Iran. Now most of Iran's provinces are involved in the sport, so his next ambition is to help develop the sport across the region, especially in the Countries that border Iran.

Future World Championship Regattas. Also on the Congress Agenda are updates on the progress being made in organising the 2010 CCWC (Macau, China) and the 2011 WDBRC (Tampa, USA). In addition Bid Presentations will be given by Hong Kong for the 2012 CCWC and Iran who will be seeking to host the 2013 World Nations Championships in Tehran.

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EDITORIAL- ONE SMALL STEP FOR THE IOC, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR THE IDBF - by Mike Haslam.

WELCOME, to DBI, the Newsletter of the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF). Lots of things are happening in our sport at the moment, with a great European Club Crew Championships recently held in Budapest and the World Nations Championships to come in Prague, at the end of August. But with the 40th anniversary of Neil Armstrong taking man's first step on the Moon, the best news on the political front is that the Sports Department of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have recently sent the IDBF application forms for IOC recognition for the sport. But there are strict criteria to be met and achieving that recognition will mean a lot of hard work by both the IDBF and its Members.

We are also a step away from having our updated Anti-Doping Policy accepted by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), one of the requirements for IOC recognition. Pity though that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) are not being so helpful. They recently told the IDBF that only those GAISF Members who are also Olympic Federations can seek an opinion from the CAS. That was news to us and I am sure that it is to the GAISF as well, because it means that majority of the GAISF Members have no sports legal advice bureau to call on.

Sadly we have lost Jennie Patterson, one of our most enthusiastic and determined Breast Cancer Survivors, who not only fought the disease for many years but also won a Bronze Medal with the Australian Senior Women at the 2007 World Champs in Sydney. Jennie's husband Geoff and Jo her identical twin Sister, will be in Prague at this year's Worlds, so join them there and celebrate Jennie's life with them over a cool drink – just as Jennie would have done – she was a party gal too.

Looking to the future, as you will see from the front page the IDBF and ICF met recently in Lausanne to discuss ways of working together. The first project is an intention to return to just one World Championships for the sport in 2011. Early days yet but with a new President at the ICF Helm, everything is possible and if those few ICF Members involved in our sport put their paddlers interests first, then I am sure that we can achieve this first goal.

Finally, don't forget to ensure that your Dragon Boat organisation is represented at the forthcoming IDBF Members Congress on 29 August 09 in Prague. The Congress is where the policy decisions of the IDBF are agreed and taken and the officers of the IDBF elected. So if you want to have an influence on your sport and decide what is done in your name, then make sure you have a delegate at the Congress.

GAISF PRESIDENT MEETS WITH IDBF REPRESENTATIVES – MAY 2009

Mike Haslam

Hein Verbruggen

Claudio Schermi

Hein Verbruggen the President of the GAISF (General Association of International Sports Federations), now also known as SportAccord,, met with IDBF EP Mike Haslam and IDBF VP Claudio Schermi at the new GAISF Offices in Lausanne in May 09. This was the first time that IDBF Representatives had met with the GAISF President since the IDBF was admitted into GAISF Membership in April 2007

Over cups of Green Tea Hein Verbruggen outlined his thoughts for the future development of the SportAccord/GAISF and its services in support of its Members. A friendly discussion then took place concerning the development of Dragon Boating during the past years and the IDBF hopes and aspirations for the future, in which Hein wished the IDBF well.

**CHINESE HONOUR HEIN VERBRUGGEN – BEIJING, 13 JULY 2009
GAISF PRESIDENT RECEIVES HONORARY CITIZENSHIP OF BEIJING**

SportAccord/GAISF President Mr. Hein VERBRUGGEN was awarded, in the Chinese capital, the Honorary Citizenship of the City of Beijing on 13 July 2009 This honour is the highest award conferred from the Beijing Municipal Government to a foreigner. Since 1983, only 24 people have received this title.

During his visit to Beijing, President VERBRUGGEN was received by LIU Qi, Secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, followed by an official meeting with Mayor GUO Jinlong of the Beijing Municipal Government.

President VERBRUGGEN received from the hands of Mayor GUO the Honorary Citizenship certificate, the medal and the golden key of Beijing. Henceforth a "Beijing citizen"; VERBRUGGEN said: "This is a real honour, which will allow me to make of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games an unforgettable and everlasting memory"

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO BECOMING AN OLYMPIC SPORT

The most asked question in our sport must be “when will Dragon Boating be in the Olympic Games “ The definitive answer to that is in the future but the end of the process and some of the hurdles along the way are clearly illustrated in a recent IOC Press Release on candidate sports for inclusion in the 2016 Olympic Games.

The IOC statement said : - *On the 15 June 2009 seven sports presented their vision for inclusion in the Olympic Games through briefings to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board. The seven sports — Baseball, Golf, Karate, Roller sports, Rugby, Softball and Squash — are presently vying for two programme slots at the 2016 Games.*

After reviewing the merits of all seven, the Executive Board will recommend two for inclusion at its next meeting in August 2009, with the IOC making the final decision in its October 2009. IOC President Jacques Rogge, said:-

“In the end, the decision will come down to which are the best fit for the Olympic Programme “

The presentations to the Executive Board are part of a broader effort by the IOC to strengthen the Olympic programme and improve the evaluation process. The reforms began with the decision, in 2002, to conduct a systematic review of the Olympic programme, after every edition of the Games, to ensure that it remains exciting and relevant. Sports have to show merit to join the programme and to remain on it.

The IOC also agreed, in 2002, to limit the number of sports in the Games of the Olympiad to 28. There are currently 26 sports on the programme, leaving two slots open.

Other changes approved two years later added more transparency and fairness to the evaluation process. The IOC established 33 criteria, with an emphasis on universality, popularity and image. The Olympic Programme Commission, composed of IOC members, representatives of International Federations and National Olympic Committees oversee the evaluation process. The examination of sports seeking to join the programme also includes on-site visits to actual competitions. The Commission will deliver a report assessing the candidate sports to the Executive Board in August.

“The fact that so many sports want to be on the Olympic programme reflects the global appeal of the Games. It is important to have a well-defined, transparent evaluation process that is fair to all,” said Franco Carraro, Chairman of the Olympic Programme Commission.

So there you have the end of the process and even today, when Dragon Boating is not even on the Start Line for inclusion, there will be 5 very disappointed sports come October 2009 – what price for the big money sports of Rugby and Golf making the cut! The first step for Dragon Boat Sport is that of IOC ‘recognition’ for the IDBF as an Olympic International Federation and this process has already begun, with the IOC Sports Department having recently sent the IDBF the application forms.

But before such recognition will be given there are many IOC ‘criteria’ that have to be met by both the IDBF and its Members. One of which is that at least 50 IDBF Members should be recognised as the governing bodies for Dragon Boat Sport in their own Countries or Territories.

Whilst the IDBF presently has 63 Members and steadily rising, not all of them have been recognised nationally. So that is the first task we all face - ensuring that we are the masters in our own Dragon Boat homes. Supporting two different national organisations for our sport, as some paddlers do, will not help the sport to achieve its Olympic goal, as another IOC criteria is that there is no conflict within the sport between different International Federations.

Once the IDBF has become an IOC Olympic Federation the process of applying for inclusion in a future Olympic Games can start. Again there are many criteria to be met, one being that 75 IDBF Members should be recognised national governing bodies for the sport. Finally, having got to the stage of being a candidate for inclusion, the sport will have to go through the selection process reported on in the IOC Press Release above.

Assuming that we meet all the IOC criteria – say 4 years for each stage and that the IDBF is not opposed by anyone (the ICF already claims to represent all paddling activities within the Olympic Family). Then assuming that there were no other candidates vying for Olympic Games inclusion, the IOC would make its decision around 8 years before the sport would actually appear in an Olympic Games.

That gives us a rough time scale of around 16-20 years, minimum, from 2010 before the first Dragon Boats would race down an Olympic Games Regatta Course.

No one said it would be quick or easy but Dragon Boating should not throw in the towel on achieving Olympic Games status, far from it. But as a sport we have to be realistic about how long it will take and what we have to do to achieve it. The IDBF was established by paddlers worldwide to develop and represent the sport and one big objective is the Olympic Games.

The process has started but to get there everyone in the sport has to paddle together in one dragon boat, with a collective determination to succeed. Be part of that crew, let the IDBF beat the drum for our sport and steer it to Olympic success!!

RECORD ENTRIES AT THE EUROPEAN CLUB CREW CHAMPS IN BUDAPEST

Sunny days over the weekend 10/12 July 09, in Budapest, Hungary, saw a record number of Clubs racing in 27 Championship Classes at the 13th EDBF European Club Crew Championships.

Nearly 1800 athletes in 89 crews from 51 different Clubs enjoyed the splendidly well organised European Clubs Championships, hosted by the Hungarian Dragon Boat Federation (HDBF). With a total of 134 races during the weekend the Race Officials had their work cut out to ensure that the race programme was completed. Apart from the 200m Races on Saturday when some unexpected collisions occurred due to some mis-aligning off the start by a few crews lanes 3 and 4, the races ran smoothly and to time throughout the weekend.

Even the sudden swamping of three boats in the last 700m of the Premier Open 2000m Championships on Friday evening (the only time it rained during the event) was dealt with smoothly. Though the sight of one crew deciding to swim with their boat back to the marshalling area, rather than bail it out and paddle it back, gave some of the more safety conscious officials some cause for concern.

Appearing for the first time at a ECCC were Clubs from France (Matmut, Rouen) and Austria (Schwarz Weiss Westbahn, Vienna) both of whom enjoyed the cut and thrust of the Premier Mixed Division which attracted some 20 crews in each competition class, whilst there were 19 crews in the Premier Open and 10 in the Premier Women's events. The Senior Division continues to expand with the largest entry to date of 12 Senior Open Crews and 9 Senior Mixed. Although smaller, the Senior Women, the Grand Dragons and the Junior Racing classes also continue to grow.

Overall crews from 10 European Countries took part in the Championships, evenly split between East and West but inevitably this year, the world financial crisis precluded some crews from other Countries from attending the event. No doubt some are saving their pennies for Prague.

But what of the racing? Well here too standards continue to rise as the times for the Grand Finals show (see separate page). With the majority of the crews coming from Eastern Europe and with the usual strong presence of crews from Germany, it was no surprise that most of the medals were shared between the Clubs from the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Russia, especially in the Premier Division, with Thames Foritude (Great Britain), Kiev DBC (Ukraine), Oki Smoki (Poland) collecting a medal or two in the Senior and Grand Dragons Divisions, The Junior Division Medals were also neatly wrapped up by Clubs from the Czech Republic, Germany and hosts Hungary.

All in all a great weekend that started in a blaze of flames (literally) at the evening Opening Ceremony and ended with an equally warm, friendly and enjoyable Sunday night closing ceremony.

As a warm up for the top crews hoping to make their National Teams at the forthcoming World Nations Championships in Prague, it showed the emerging strength and depth of European Dragon Boat Racing and as a stand alone ECCC it was a great success and a bench mark for other Organising Committees to follow in the future.



Photos by Henning Wiekhorst

13th EUROPEAN CLUB CREW CHAMPIONSHIPS, BUDAPEST – 10/12 JULY 2009 – GRAND FINALS**Prem Open 200 – 6 from 19 crews**

1	Neckar drachen	00.42.63
2	Dragon ász	00.43.24
3	Moravian Dragons	00.43.59
4	Neubrandenburg	00.44.06
5	Prague Dragons	00.44.25
6	Dragons Kojetin	00.44.76

Prem Open 500 – 4 from 19 crews

1	Dragonász	01.50.93
2	Dragons Nymburk	01.51.49
3	Neckardrachen	01.51.61
4	Prague Dragons	01.54.35

Prem Open 2000 m – first 6 from 18 crews

1	Moravian Dragons	08.00.64
2	Prague Dragons	08.01.40
3	Dragon team Kojetin	08.02.08
4	Szegedi Sárkányhajó	08.05.87
5	Athus DB C	08.07.12
6	Dunai Sárkányok	08.09.26

Prem Wmn 200 – 7 from 10 crews

1	Neckar drachen	00.50.38
2	Dragon ász	00.51.60
3	W.I.L.D. of Prague A	00.51.67
4	Uckermark Dragons	00.52.28
5	Dragons Kojetin	00.52.65
6	W.I.L.D. of Prague B	00.53.11
7	DB Tragedky	00.53.33

Prem Wmn 500 - 4 from 10 crews

1	Neckardrachen	02.07.55
2	W.I.L.D. of Prague	02.09.28
3	Dragons Kojetin	02.10.61
4	Dragonász	02.11.18

Prem Women 2000 m – first 6 from 9 crews

1	W.I.L.D. of Prague	09:06.14
2	Dragons Wings Kojetin	09:12.83
3	Neckardrachen	09:15.08
4	Dragonász	09:21.78
5	DB Tragedky	09:24.01
6	Rába DB C	09:37.85

Prem Mxd 200 – 6 from 20 crews

1	Neckar drachen	00.45.07
2	Dragon ász	00.46.45
3	All Sports Hannover	00.46.61
4	Wild of Prague B	00.47.04
5	Uckermark Dragons	00.47.49
6	Sportive Club	00.47.96

Prem Mxd 500 GF – 4 from 20 crews

1	All Sports Hannover	01.56.83
2	Dragon ász	01.57.29
3	Neckardrachen	01.59.45
4	Uckermark Dragons	02.00.12

Premier Mixed 2000m – first 6 from 19 crews

1	All Sports Hannover	08.15.95
2	Dragon ász	08.16.63
3	Sportive Club	08.19.92
4	Neckardrachen	08.20.13
5	Uckermark Dragons	08.22.11
6	Dunai Sárkányok	08.22.73

Snr Opn 200 G F – 6 from 12 crews

1	Russian Forward s	00.46.29
2	DBC Kiev	00.46.59
3	Dunai Sárkányok	00.46.89
4	Thames Fortitude	00.47.26
5	Dragon Aqua SE	00.47.56
6	Schwerin Uhu's	00.47.87

Snr Opn 500GF – 4 from 11 crews

1	Russian Forward s	01.54.83
2	OKS Smoki	01.56.22
3	Thames Fortitude	01.56.84
4	DBC Kiev	01.56.91

Senior Open 2000m – first 6 from 11 crews

1	Dragon Aqua SE	08:12.62
2	Russian Forwards	08:13.14
3	Thames Fortitude	08:16.85
4	Dunai Sárkányok	08:20.52
5	DBC Kiev	08:20.78
6	Schwerin Uhu's	08:21.39

Snr W omen 200m – Final Round

1	Uhu Elben	00.55.89
2	Dragon Aqua SE	00.57.19
3	Velky Holky Praha	00.58.43

Snr Wmn 500m – Final Round

1	Uhu Elben	02.18.94
2	Dragon Aqua SE	02.21.13
3	Velky Holky Praha	02.28.50

Senior W omen 2000m - 3 crews

1	Uhu Elben	09.32.26
2	Dragon Aqua SE	09.43.69
3	Velky Holky Praha	10.20.82

Snr Mxd 200 – 6 from 10 crews

1	Schwerin Uhu's A	00.48.34
2	Spójnia Warszawa	00.49.02
3	Dragon Aqua SE	00.49.62
4	Elb Meadow Masters	00.50.64
5	Dunai Sárkányok	00.50.84
6	Rába DB C	00.51.58

Snr Mxd 500 – 4 from 9 crews

1	Schwerin Uhu's	02.01.51
2	Elb Meadow Masters	02.03.83
3	Dragon Aqua SE	02.03.87
4	Dunai Sárkányok	02.05.69

Senior Mixed 2000m - first 6 from 10 crews

1	Dragon Aqua SE	08.25.71
2	Elb Meadow Masters	08.34.09
3	Schwerin Uhu's	08.34.90
4	Dunai Sárkányok	08.49.16
5	Spójnia Warszawa	08.50.19
6	Rába DB C	08.53.74

Grand Dr g s Open 200 - Final Rnd

1	OKS Smoki	00.48.67
2	Veteráni Kojetin	00.49.28
3	Domfelsen	00.51.47
4	KVS O Idies	00:51.75

Grand Dr g s Open 500 - Final Rnd

1	OKS Smoki	02.03.46
2	Veteráni Kojetin	02.05.54
3	KVS O Idies	02.12.40

Grand Dragons Ope n 2000m – 3 crews

1	OKS Smoki	08.45.07
2	Veteráni Kojetin	08.48.37
3	KVS O Idies	09.28.33

Grand Dragons Mixed 500

KVS Velky holky	02.17.74
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Grand Dragons Mixed 2000 – 1 crew

KVS Velky holky	09:27.37
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Junior Open 200 m – Final Places

1	Dunaföldvári STE	01.44.25
2	Sokol Znojmo Jnrs	01.45.34
3	SV Breitling Jugend	01.47.55
4	KSG Youngsters	01.47.99

Junior Open 500 m – Final Places

1	Dunaföldvári STE	04.19.98
2	SV Breitling Jugend	04.22.33
3	Sokol Znojmo Jnrs	04.24.21
4	KSG Youngsters	04.25.82

Junior Open 2000m - 4 crews

1	SV Breitling Jugend	09.03.01
2	Dunaföldvári STE	09.11.98
3	Sokol Znojmo Jnrs	09.54.42
4	KSG Youngsters	10.55.05

Junior Mixed 200m – Final Round

1	Rába DB C	00.50.55
2	Sokol Znojmo Jnrs	00.52.22
3	SV Breitling Jugend	00.53.06
4	KSG Youngsters	00.57.64

Junior Mixed 500 m – Final Round

1	Rába DB C	02.09.56
2	SV Breitling Jugend	02.11.62
3	Sokol Znojmo Juniors	02.12.62
4	KSG Youngsters	02.17.02

Junior Mixed ; 2000m – 4 crews

1	Rába DB C	08.54.82
2	SV Breitling Jugend	09.01.36
3	Sokol Znojmo Jnrs	09.13.21
4	KSG Youngsters	09.41.26

Living With Cancer - A Paddlers Story

In this issue of DBWI we have moved away from the normal type of article that appears in the Spirit of Qu Yuan, to pay tribute to one of those special Dragon Boaters that practice our sport as part of their fight against Breast Cancer.

Even amongst those special paddlers are some who stand out above the rest and one such was Jennie Pettersen, from Australia. Jennie recently lost her own battle with Breast Cancer but in the years since she was first diagnosed and in the Spirit of Qu Yuan, she not only fought for her own life but inspired many others in their own fight by taking part in Dragon Boating.

Jennie will be greatly missed but not forgotten. Here, in her own words, is her story as told to a student group in April this year. "Cancer is something that people do not expect to happen to them and no matter at what time in their life, it is a shock which has huge ramifications, not only to the person involved but also their family and friends. It takes a lot of adjustment to get used to.



Jennie (with trophy), Jo and Geoff

When I was seventeen years old, my aunty who had just turned fifty, was diagnosed with breast cancer and passed away three years afterwards. Seventeen years later, I was told at age thirty four, that I too had breast cancer. This was a complete bolt out of the blue as I had always been extremely healthy and played a lot of sport.

I initially had a lumpectomy but the pathology indicated that all the cancer had not been removed, so I underwent a mastectomy and removal of all lymph nodes under my arm. My prognosis was excellent. I needed no further treatment and went back to work. My life just carried on normally.

Nine months after my initial diagnosis my mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Due to our strong family history of hormone related Cancers, my identical twin Sister Jo and I were referred for genetic testing. While initially there was no conclusive evidence of the common breast cancer gene, Jo undergoes regular checkups.

During the next 16 months, I was told that I had a local recurrence within the scar tissue. This was removed and I began a course of radiotherapy and chemotherapy. My mother and I were undergoing chemotherapy at the same time. Unfortunately my Mother's ovarian cancer was very advanced before it is diagnosed and sadly she succumbed to the disease.

Four months after my chemotherapy was finished I was diagnosed with secondary lung cancer. The situation was extremely serious and I was advised to give up my job and do something that I really enjoyed. I didn't go back to work but concentrated on getting better. That was 9 1/2 years ago.

About 8 years ago during one of my monthly visits to the hospital, I noticed an advertisement for Dragons Abreast Australia. This was a group of breast cancer survivors who paddled a dragon boat for fun, fitness and to raise awareness of breast cancer. It sounded like the perfect sport for Jo and I. We joined our local club Port Hacking. It was fantastic.

To get out on the water in the early morning when it is so still and quiet and to paddle was exhilarating. From this time on our lives changed. We would go to regattas and paddle with the Dragons Abreast ladies from all over Australia. It wasn't about competition but about having fun and making new friends with others who had walked a similar path and really understood what you had been through.

Then, at the beginning of 2003 a CT scan showed a tumour increasing in size plus another two tumours. The next scan was to reveal something totally unexpected – a large tumour in my abdomen. I commenced a course of chemotherapy.

As I was a survivor I was eligible to paddle in the Dragons Abreast Challenge at the coming World Championships in Shanghai in 2003. We started to think how could Jo get to compete at this event too, we thought she could learn to sweep (Helm). But things didn't work out as planned. China was faced with the SARS crisis.

The next year in 2004, I decided I would train really hard and try out for a spot on the NSW team. I felt I had nothing to lose. Well I made it and competed at the National Championships. Following a win there Jo and I represented Australia at the World Championships in Shanghai. We had finally made our dream of competing in Shanghai for Australia. Jo won a bronze medal in the Premier Mixed Team.

The following year Geoff, my Husband, Jo and I competed at the World Championships in Berlin but the CT scan I had at the beginning of 2006 showed that the remaining tumour in my lung had grown and there was another tumour there. I underwent more chemotherapy and a course of radiotherapy. I kept up my training and at the 2006 Asian Dragon Boat Championships in Macau in September, I had the honour of carrying the Australian flag at the opening ceremony.

The women's team won a bronze medal. It was such an emotional time when we all came off the boat after the race and such an amazing experience standing on the podium wearing the green and gold of Australia and watching the Australian flag being hoisted next to the Chinese and Macau flags.

On our return from Macau a routine scan showed that I had fluid around my lung. I had it drained so I could take part in the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic - a 111 kilometre race along the Hawkesbury River. I was a member of a six person team paddling an outrigger canoe. Geoff and Jo were also in the team. We set off at 6pm and paddled through the night arriving 13 hours later. It was such a great experience under a sky filled with thousands of stars.

Over Easter the Australian National Championships were held at Penrith and NSW earned the right to represent Australia at the World Championships the following year in Sydney. Then in April a CT scan revealed I had a tumour in my liver. What I was really concerned about was would I be okay to trial. I was okay and I did my best trial ever, confirming my position in the team.

I then underwent a liver resection to remove 20 percent of my liver. As a result, three weeks later, I needed to have my gall bladder removed. I was so lucky that my spot in the team was held open. I started another course of chemotherapy and had one cycle before the World Championships. Jo and I won a silver and a bronze medal and Geoff won three silver medals. Jo and Geoff also won bronze medals in the Senior Mixed Championships.

The weekend after the Worlds was the Dragons Abreast Australia regatta on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. This was fantastic with over 1,600 breast cancer survivors from all over Australia, Canada, USA, New Zealand and Italy.

On returning from Queensland scans revealed the cancer had spread to my bones. At the beginning of 2008 I had two weeks of radiotherapy on my sacrum, head and lower right leg. I got over this quickly and got back in the boat for the Chinese New Year regatta. We were then starting to train for the World Club Crew Championships in Penang.

Then my whole upper body just swelled up overnight. I didn't know what was wrong. It turned out that a lymph node in my chest was pushing on the main vessel to the heart and it had caused a clot to form. Another course of chemotherapy followed. As soon as I was finished with the chemotherapy I was back in the boat to try and build up for Penang. This was a great regatta and we managed to place 4th which was very exciting.

Last month (March 2009) a scan showed that the cancer has spread right through my liver. I have started a new treatment that involves chemotherapy and a new drug. We have been training hard for the Australian Nationals this year and I have made it into the team.

We train three sessions a week in a dragon boat, two sessions in an outrigger canoe, three weight sessions at the gym and at least two cardio sessions. The great thing is that Geoff, Jo and I get to train together.

Whenever I go for chemotherapy I never think "I wish this chemo course was over"; I think "Great, here is another opportunity to get rid of the cancer". I have always said to my doctors "Don't give me a prognosis". I believe the mind is very powerful and I don't want it locking onto any sort of timeframe. I am not silly, I know my situation is serious as through my associations with cancer support groups I have seen others with a similar diagnosis to me. But everyone's journey is different.

In finishing I can offer some suggestions that have helped me through the past twelve years:- keep a positive attitude; live each day one at a time but do set goals for yourself; surround yourself with positive, supportive people; take time for yourself, and do something with your life that you really enjoy. Dragons Abreast Australia has given me so much to live for. As you have heard, it inspires me on.

I feel I am so lucky and have a wonderful life. I have had some great opportunities through breast cancer to meet some inspiring people. Geoff and Jo have been a constant source of support for me. Breast cancer has totally changed my life but for the best."

Jenny Petterson, died on 30 June 2009. In a moving tribute to her the Pacific Dragon Boat & Out-Rigger Club said on their website:- Jenny was a brave, remarkable lady, with whom the Pacific Dragons were blessed to share many happy and special times.

There is not one person in our club who in times of doubt, injury, sickness or when disheartened, has not thought of Jenny, her outlook of life and unwavering determination. Jenny would do more training in a week of treatment than most people do in a tough week of training.

Spending time with Jenny was like warm sunshine smiling on you, a breath of fresh air, a happy day dream or a fond memory. Paddling with her was fun and always special.

She was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. Her presence both on and off the water will be greatly missed, but often remembered. And so say of us in the Dragon Boat World who met her.

CULTURE CORNER – Traditional Racing, cira 1609, Wu-Ling, Hunan.

Part A: Selecting the Crew and setting up the Boat.

Culture Corner in this edition of DBI, takes another look back at a Dragon Boat Race held in present day Chang-te – formerly called Wu-ling, Hunan, that took place four hundred years ago.

A detailed description of this race as it was held around 1609 AD, was written by Yang Ssu-ch'ang, a native of Wu-ling, who lived from 1588-1641, took his chin-shih degree in 1610 and became the President of the Ministry of War in 1637.

The description of the race is contained in the Hsu Shuo-fu edited by T'ao T'ing in 1647- with the title of A Brief Description of the Dragon Boat Race in Wu-Ling and translated into English in 1943 by Chao Wei-Peng.

The Wei-Peng article published by the Museum of Oriental Ethnology, the Catholic University of Peking, Folklore Studies, is being reproduced in DBI over the coming issues. About the races in 1609, Yang Ssu-ch'ang tells us :-

The boats are all made of fir wood: it is chosen because it is light and easy to paddle. It is even better if dry wood can be obtained to construct the 'dragon bone'. The fate of the whole boat depends on the stiffness of the dragon bone. If the paddles are flexible and the boat does not advance it is the defect of the dragon bone.

Of next importance is the rope that is tied tightly around the stem and stern for many rounds and then interlaced as in weaving. This rope is made by twisting together strands of hemp and splits of bamboo. It is the muscle of the boat. It is good to make the stem and stern as tight as the two ends of a bow, so that, when advancing, the boat cannot sway; otherwise a defeat on the water would be likely.

The length of a standard dragon boat is 95 feet. The longest boats come up to 115 feet and the shortest are only 75 feet long. (Note: In the translation the word 'foot' always means the Chinese 'ch ih', that is 14.1 inches). Within these measurements the boats in Wu-ling are built. "Long boats but short horses" it is customary to say; the meaning is that the more paddles the boat has the better it is for racing. In fact that does not always hold true, as there are also long boats mastered only with difficulty and moving slowly. Such boats are worse than the short but swift ones.

Everywhere on the lakes and small rivers there are dragon boats coming up to the standard size or ordinary boats dressed as dragon boats to only move around on the water without taking part in the race. Most important for a boat actually taking part in the racing is to choose good paddlers.

The paddlers all come from the 'fisher' families south of the Yuan River. Famous families are the Tuan and the Jui and famous places are Te-shan and Te-shan-kang. The people are called 'water crows', who are as well accustomed to the high waves as their pillows and mat-beddings.

The strongest men are enlisted beforehand for money and rice and are picked to be used during the racing. Those who are afraid of incidents or whose wives have a pity for them and do not allow them to enlist can be made willing by giving them a piece of red cloth about three or five feet long. The crews of the small boats who do not earn their living by fishing but by cultivating vegetables do not race. Their paddles being small and feeble, are called 'vegetable oars'.

Good paddlers are selected in the following way: First on the same boat one man paddles forward and another backwards to put their strength to the test. This is called 'to be bust at both ends'. After that with about ten or more men, two wings are formed, one on the left and one on the right side of the boat, with each wing paddling quickly but each in the opposite direction so that the boat begins to turn around like a plate. In this way it should become clear whether the men can paddle harmoniously or not. This is called 'whirling'. As a rule the paddlers on the left side find it more difficult to paddle than those on the right side. It is just the same as in shooting: it is easier to draw the Bow with the right hand than with the left.

A rope of very thinly split bamboo is spanned over the middle line of the whole boat. At both ends of the rope a man is standing, the one is called the 'Headman' and the other the 'Endman'. At the middle part of it are standing three men, the Flagman, the Drummer and the Clapper. The number of the men singing to the movement of the paddles, standing at the middle part also, is not limited. At most three or four or less, to none at all. Under the bamboo rope are cross-bars, about two feet long, like those of a ladder. On the right and left side of these the paddlers are sitting. A boat longer than 110 feet has seats for 80 paddlers; a boat of 90 feet for 60 or more; a boat of 70 feet for 40 or more.

The boat moves in accordance with the flag signals. The paddles move in harmony with the sound of the Drum, up and down uniformly. Those who paddle disorderly would be dismissed. The crew are called 'chiao Chiang shou' or men who disturb the paddles. Most pleasant is the sound of the Boards clapping in time with the paddling just as if the sound were produced by the paddles. Only in Wu-ling are Clapping Boards used. In some other districts their role is playing the Gong but this was not so from the beginning in earlier times.

But what of the race venue and the races themselves? More of that in the next issue of DBI!

You can download the full IDBF Newsletter for free from

www.dragonboatmagazine.com

www.idbf.org

A LOOK AT HOW THE IDBF WORKS: THE ROLES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE TREASURER

In the last issue of DBI we looked at the roles of the four IDBF Vice-Presidents. In this issue we cover the roles of the Secretary-General and the Treasurer.

The Secretary-General (SG) is the person who keeps the administrative wheels of the IDBF turning. He or she is responsible for keeping and maintaining the registers, documents and files of the IDBF, including the records of IDBF Dragon Boat Championships.

In support of the Media and Marketing Commission the SG can make the arrangements for the production of IDBF books and other publications, as well as making the administrative and technical preparations for meetings of the Congress; Council and the IDBF Executive Committee.

This means drafting the agendas for meetings of the Council and Congress and preparing and sending out any documents relating to the items on the agenda. After each such meeting the SG is responsible for sending the Minutes of Congress to the IDBF Members and circulating Council and Executive Committee Minutes to all concerned.

Together with the Executive President the SG prepares the Council's working programme and co-ordinates the work of the Council. The SG helps to put into effect the resolutions passed by the Congress and the Council and circulates by email any urgent information that cannot be held for later publication in an official IDBF bulletin.

Finally the SG deals with the general correspondence of the IDBF and provides the Executive President with copies of all letters relating to policy or principle.

The Treasurer is the person who deals with the financial affairs of the IDBF and deals with the money! To help the Treasurer there is an IDBF Finance Sub-Committee consisting of the Executive President; the Senior Vice-President; the Secretary-General and, of course, the Treasurer.

The Finance Committee is responsible for the financial control of the IDBF, on a day to day basis, including making financial decisions and for monitoring the IDBF budget, between meetings of the Executive Committee and the IDBF Council but it is the Treasurer who prepares the budget submission to the Congress.

The Treasurer is also responsible for seeing that the annual expenditure keeps within the limits laid down in the IDBF Budget and for collecting membership subscriptions, boat and paddle licence fees, etc.

Finally, the Treasurer keeps the financial records of the IDBF, prepares the annual accounts and obtains the report of the auditor, for presentation to the Congress as part of the bi-annual IDBF financial report.

The Auditor is always an IDBF Full Member appointed by the Congress, to conduct the audit of the IDBF accounts and assets. The Auditor examines the details of the financial state of the IDBF and the working papers of the Treasurer. The IDBF Auditor then gives an annual report to the Council and bi-annually to the Members Congress, on the Treasurer's work and the IDBF's accounts.

China National Dragon Boat Regatta at Fujian (25-26 July 2009)

- a personal report of Edwin Hou (Hong Kong)

There are several National Regattas in the year. I was lucky to join one last month in Fujian Province, at Shaowu City, a small town in the mountainous area 110 km from the famous Wuyi Shan National Park. It was great experience, and the journey brings not only lots of good memories, but also insights, friendship and understanding on the sport.

I was originally invited to be Race Official, but eventually I chose to be a paddler to get my first ever and first hand experience of racing on the land of the dragon. Top teams from Guangdong, Fujian, Hubei and Zhejiang Provinces competed with one team from Macau, 2 teams from Taiwan and us, The Hong Kong Friendship Dragon Boat Team, a mediocre corporate one made up mainly by the "Railway & Friends", plus 4 odds from Stanley.

Nowadays, in Hong Kong, or North America, etc, events can easily gather one or two hundred teams. However, in China, this is another story, especially for national level events. Usually there is a restriction to 12 teams only. The reason is, each team need to race 3 distances in 2 days, usually 250m, 500m and 5000m. And during the long distant event the organiser hope all teams race together in the same round. Moreover, all teams from outside get hosting. This is a matter of resources.

The venue was on the main river right at town centre, walking distance from the hotel, under the Ming Dynasty city gate and wall more than 600 years old, which are just overlooking the pontoon and marshalling area. Adding factors of its vicinity, water quality, and river bank settings, all together make it one of the best venue for paddlers, the crowd and for organisers and ROs.

Local rules apply, instead of IDBF rules. As such, it was great experience competing in standing position and really amazing to see our elite rivals stood up right from the beginning for the 250m dash. Seeing a "yellow card" (a wooden board actually) raised for official warning was bonus for me as this is not IDBF procedure. I also feel a bit jealous for the use of flare as the 5-minutes-to-go signal as well as the starting signal, as it will be impossible in my home town.

Unfortunately, after the first half of the day, due to sudden mountain torrents and flood discharge, and the race course was all destroyed, the 250m event had to be shift to the 2nd day and the long distance race cancelled. But that did not wash off the joy of the trip, though we only came 9th, I really missed our fellow paddlers from Mainland China who are so enthusiastic and friendly, the big crowd, the finish boat (decorated with Chinese roof tiles), the atmosphere of the venue, as well as the gorgeous scenic views of Wuyi Shan National Park .

PARLE VOUS FRANCAIS - A DRAGON BOAT WEEKEND IN ROUEN

Before setting off on their Double Fifth Tour, our intrepid two Mike's (Haslam and Thomas) made the short trip from London to Rouen in France, over the weekend 16/17 May 09, to run a Dragon Boat skills course for the Marmout Dragon Boat Crew. This was the start of the crew's build up to competing in the European Club Crews Champs in Budapest.

The weekend consisted three sessions on the water to check and improve paddling technique and to introduce performance paddling to the crew in preparation for taking part in Sport Racing. The skills of helming (Steering) a dragon boat were also practised and assessed, for some crew members, culminating in the IDBF Crew Helm's test of competence.

Off the Water, presentations were given and discussions took place covering boat handling; the basic commands, the Crew Briefing, safety on the water, the buddy, buddy system, risk assessments and the wearing of PFDs. The capsizing routine and self-rescue techniques were also discussed but the water conditions precluded a practical test !.

Finally the course covered such areas as the Governance of Dragon Boat Sport, running a training Session; the induction of a new crew to the sport and the role and importance of the Boat Helm Coach to a novice crew. This presentation covered the importance of a Boat Helm or Coach being able to relate to crew members, that is, demonstrate and teach the basics of the dragon boat paddling technique and have the knowledge and confidence to take a crew through a controlled capsizing exercise.

In short, all part of the ability and experience needed to introduce newcomers to dragon boating as a recreational activity or as a competitive pursuit. In conclusion a good weekend was had by all and both the instructors and paddlers left for home tired and even more enthused for the sport. Oh, yes the course was conducted in English with the English speakers in the Crew translating into French – no the boats did not go the wrong way !!

TURKISH DELIGHT – UPDATE ON DB DEVELOPMENT IN TURKEY

by Hakan Yavuz.

The Istanbul Dragon Festival, organized by my company HSB sport in 2008, was the first event organized for Turkish society as an independent Sport Racing event. And it was pretty successfully with around 50 teams – nearly 1000 participants, in the first year. From our gate counts around 2000 spectators also watched the races. This year at the Second Istanbul Dragon Festival, on 30/31st May 09, the number of competing crews was almost double the 2008 figure.

This year also we began to work outside of Istanbul and started a dragon club in Ankara. We have to date, organised 10 different events for social, corporate groups and municipalities in Ankara, Adana, Sapanca and even in the Black Sea region, in the mountains of Gumushane. Within the city of Istanbul, the number of dragon events from the 2008 season until today has been around 30.

We presently have 12 dragon boats but without getting more boats it will be impossible to develop the sport throughout Turkey. However, with the boats we have in Istanbul we have encouraged the people who are interested in the sport to set up a dragon boat club in the center of Istanbul, at the Golden Horn.

Since setting up the Club we have organized regular training session for Dragon Boat Teams from the Festival. But the Club is not just open for Turkish citizens. Any visitor to Istanbul, who is accustomed to doing dragon boat training in their own country is welcome as our guest and can train at the club, Actually we have had quite a few guest paddlers this year

Our community of Dragon boaters is growing up. We started with our own HSB sport crew. Soon other organizations and firms formed crews and entered the Istanbul Festival Races. So every day we become more and more professional and the number of people interested in dragon boat sport also grows. Next step is the formation of the Turkish Dragon Boat Federation but that will take a little more time yet, as sport politics in Turkey gets in the way of any new sport that wants to establish its independent identity. Nothing new there then! (Ed)

MORE RACE INFO FOR 2009

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

www.dragonboatcalendar.com

and at

www.dragonboatnet.com
for articles, forum group, video clips, merchandize and more

IDBF SECRETARIAT

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the 'Paddlers' magazine

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www.dragonboatmagazine.com

IDBF CALENDAR OF AFFILIATE FESTIVALS AND MEMBERS DATES AUGUST - DECEMBER 2009www.idbf.org

1-2 Aug 09	Litschau Dragon Boat Races	Litschau	Austria	www.dragonboat.co.at
1-2 Aug 09	Viewsonic Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival	Long Beach, California	USA	www.lbdragonboat.com
2-Aug-09	Nottingham Riverside Festival Dragon Boat Challenge	Nottingham	England	www.dragonboatfestivals.co.uk
2-Aug-09	British National League Race 6	Worcester	England	www.dragonboat.org.uk
6-Aug-09	Dragon Boat Races - World Fire & Police Games	Vancouver BC	Canada	
8-Aug-09	Dover Regatta	Dover	England	www.dragonboatfestivals.co.uk
8-Aug-09	New York Hong Kong International DB Festival	Queens	USA	www.hkdbf-ny.org
15-Aug-09	Enkhuizen Dragon Boat Race	Enkhuizen	Netherlands	www.ndbf.nl/kalender
15-16 Aug 09	Victoria Dragon Boat Festival	Victoria BC	Canada	www.victoriadragonboat.com
15-16 Aug 09	BCS Canadian Champs	London, Ontario	Canada	www.dragonboatcanada.org execdirector@dragonboatcanada.org
15-16 Aug 09	Madgebuerger Drachenbootefestival	Madgeburg	Germany	www.drachenboot.de
15-16 Aug 09	Biel / Bienne Dragon Boat Cup	Biel	Switzerland	www.dragonboatcup.ch
22-23 Aug 09	Canadian National Championships	Montreal	Canada	www.dragonboatcanada.org
22-Aug-09	Koge Dragon Boat Regatta	Koge	Denmark	www.dragebaadsregatta.dk
22-Aug-09	SDBA-AUTCHAM 10K Challenge	Marina Reservoir	Singapore	www.sdba.org.sg
22-Aug-09	International Cancer Cup Dragon Boat Festival	Seattle	USA	www.teamsurvivornw.org
26-30 Aug 09	9th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships	Prague	Czech Republic	www.dragonboat2009.com
5-Sep-09	Solidarity Regatta	Gdansk	Poland	www.borsoft.pl/dragons/federacja
5-6 Sep 09	Rome International Dragon Boat Festival	Rome	Italy	www.dragonboat.it
6-Sep-09	Paddle for Cancer	Lac De Joux	France	www.paddleforcancer.ch
11-13 Sep 09	Golden Dragon Festival Races	Kiev	Ukraine	www.dragonbato.org.ua
12-Sep-09	Cambridge Dragon Boat Festival	Cambridge	England	www.dragonboatfestivals.co.uk
12-13 Sep 09	GWN Challenge	Toronto	Canada	www.gwndragonboat.com
12-13 Sep 09	Dubuque Dragon Boat Festival	Dubuque	USA	www.dubuquedragonboat.org
12-13 Sep 09	Portland Dragon Boat Races	Portland, Oregon	USA	www.dragonsports.org
13-Sep-09	British National League Race 7	Milton Keynes	England	www.dragonboat.org.uk
19-20 Sep 09	Quebec Cup	Montreal	Canada	www.22dragons.com

19-Sep-09	Bosbaan Dragon Boat Race	Amsterdam	Netherlands	www.ndbf.nl/kalender
19-Sep-09	EHDC Dragon Boat Festival	Amsterdam	Netherlands	www.ehdc.nl
19-Sep-09	School & Corporate Cup	Gdansk	Poland	www.borsoft.pl/dragons/federacja
19-Sep-09	Mimosa & Coffee Mini race	Tampa, Florida	USA	www.tampabaydragonboats.com
19-Sep-09	Lake Mercer Dragon Boat Festival	Princeton	USA	www.gwndragonboat.com
26-Sep-09	Polish National Championship	Malbork	Poland	www.borsoft.pl/dragons/federacja
26-27 Sep 09	San Francisco International Dragon Boat Festival	San Francisco	USA	www.sfdragonboat.com
27-Sep-09	National League Race 7	London	England	www.dragonboat.org.uk
27-Sep-09	SDBA Masters 500m Series Race 4	Bedok Reservoir	Singapore	www.sdba.org.sg/
3-Okt-09	Philadelphia Dragon Boat Festival	Philadelphia	USA	www.philadragonboatfestival.com
3-4 Oct 09	British National Championships	Nottingham	England	www.dragonboat.org.uk
3-4 Oct 09	South Florida Dragon Boat Festival	Miami	USA	www.miamidragonboat.com/
3-4 Oct 09	SAVA Sprints International	Singapore River	Singapore	www.sava.com.sg
10-11 Oct 09	Italian Cup	Florence	Italy	www.dragonboat.it
10-11 Oct 09	SDBA Small Boat (5 crew) - 500m Championship	Singapore Marina Reservoir	Singapore	www.sdba.org.sg
11-Okt-09	Chinese Arrival International Festival Races	Port of Spain	Trinidad	www.chinesearrivaltt.org
11-Okt-09	NK & BouwCup Ballast Nedam	Amsterdam	Netherlands	www.ndbf.nl/kalender
17-Okt-09	Orlando International Dragon Boat Festival	Walt Disney World Orlando	USA	www.gwndragonboat.com
17-18 Oct 09	Gulf Coast International Dragon Boat Regatta	Houston, Texas	USA	www.texasdragonboat.com

WORLD & CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTAS 2010-2013

29 Jul-1 Aug 2010	7th Club Crew World Championship	Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre,	Macau, China	www.idbfworldchamps.com
Late April	9th Asian Championships	Wujin City, Jiangsu Province	China	www.adbdragon@126.com
13-15 Aug 10	9th European Nations Championship	Amsterdam Bosbann Lake	Netherlands	www.edbf.org
18-20 Nov 10	16th Asian Games Dragon Boat Regatta	Zengcheng Lake, Guangzhou	China	Email: adbdragon@126.com
2011				
24-28 Aug 11	10th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship	Tampa Bay, Florida	United States	www.idbfworldchamps.com
To be set	13th European Club Crew Championship	Kiev	Ukraine	Email; secretary@edbf.org
2012				
To be set	8th Club Crew World Championship	Hong Kong	Hong Kong, China	For ratification by the 2009 IDBF Congress
	10th Asian Championship			Bids to idbdragon@126.com
	9th European Championship			Bids to secretary@edbf.org
2013				
To be set	11th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship	Tehran	Iran	For ratification by the 2009 IDBF Congress



Updated List of IDBF Licensed Boat- and Paddle Makers



BOAT BUILDER	Model	Country of Origin	Email or Fax Contact
Bizzon Dragon Boats	1222	Czech Republic	krlkzsk@yahoo.co.uk
Boat & Home	1222	Canada	boatandhome@hotmail.com
BuK Boats	1222/ 912	Germany	Buk-Gmbh@t-online.de
Champion Boats	1222/ 912	China	cd@dragonboat.cn
Donoratico	1222	Italy	Fax + 39 056 577 4290
Gemini	1222	Poland	dragonboats@gemini.gda.pl
KTH Seagull Boats	1222	Singapore	sales@seagull.com.sg
Olym Elite Boats	1222/912	China	info@olymp-sports.com
Pei Sheng Boats	1222	China	psfrp@163.com
Pel Kayaks	1222	Netherlands	Ben.Pel@zonnet.nl
Plastex Composite	1222/912	Poland	plastex@plastex.home.pl
Regata 2000	1222	Hungary	regata.bt@chello.hu
Simon River Sports	1222	Canada	lou@simonriversports.com
Swift International	1222/912	China	timyang@swiftinternational.biz
202a PADDLE	Licence Number	Country of Origin	Email or Fax Contact
Apex Composites	3021/22/23	Canada	apex@bellnet.ca
Braca Sport	3061	Lithuania	braca-hu@bracasport.com
Burnwater	3011/12	USA	arinchang@burnwater.com
Champion Paddles	3191	China	cd@dragonboat.cn
Chinook Paddles	3131	Canada	info@chinookpaddles.com
Dutch Composites	3241	The Netherlands	info@doubledutch.eu
ES Dragon Paddles	3101	Germany	Brigitte.Schmidt@beiersdorf.com
Grey Owl Paddles	3081/82/83	Canada	info@greyowlpaddles.com
G' Power	3121	Poland	info@gpower.pl
Kajner Sport	3301	Hungary	info@kajner.hu
Kanoe Sports	3291	Singapore	Patrick@kanoesports.com
Kialoa Paddles	3251/52	USA	kialoa@bendcable.com
Kober Moll	3221	Germany	info@kober-moll.com
Land & Ocean Comps	3111	China	lando@land-ocean.net
Ocky Oars	3071	Australia	edmcilwain@bigpond.com
Olym Elite Paddles	3211/12	China	info@olymp-sports.com
Seatec Paddles	3242/43	Singapore	info@seatecpaddle.com
RAAB Paddles	3141	Czech Rep	raab@cmail.cz
RK Company	3311	Czech Rep	rkcompany@centrum.cz
Simon River Sports	3091/92/93	Canada	lou@simonriversports.com
Stanley Residents Assoc	3271	Hong Kong	stanleydragonboat@ymail.com
Swift International	3151	China	timyang@swiftinternational.biz
Talon Technology	3201/02/03	Australia	geoff@talon.com.au
Trivium Paddles	3051	Lithuania	info@triviumpaddles.com
Typhoon 8	3041/42	Hong Kong	lister@typhoon8.com
Zijie Sports Oars	3261	China	zijiesports@yahoo.cn
ZRE Racing	3031	USA	zaveralb@mkl.com

TRADITIONAL BOAT RACING ASSOCIATIONS IN UGANDA LOOK TO THE IDBF FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND POSTERITY OF BOAT RACING



Text and Photos by Robert Kanusu, Marketing Director Uganda Dragon Boat Federation. May 19, 2009

Before a cheering crowd lies the bed of boats. Ten traditional boats swing gently back and forth in the wind blown waves that lap the edge of the Lake Victoria on a beautiful peninsula popularly known as Botanical Beach, located in the British colonial capital city of Uganda, Entebbe.

Sometimes the waves push the crowd into a friendly frenzy as they skip backwards from the waters edge to dodge the kiss of the Lake Victoria's caressing waters. It is a sunny Sunday evening and the lively music wakes up the water spirits.

Eventually, the whistle blows and the chief official calls for the crews to assemble. The ecstatic crowd of spectators stream to the edge of the water to witness the start of their historic sport. The team leaders perform their rituals, eating coffee beans, sipping the local brew and then blowing it into the air. Others take sips of the Lake water and kiss their paddles.

A moment of silence is observed as if to allow them to recite their prayers and to invoke their spirits and the lake gods, to give them strength and good luck in the races to come. The atmosphere is so tense that even the spectators are wiping the sweat from their faces.

Before a kite crosses a given point, the official flaps a symbolic wooden clipper to start the race. Sitting in their boats are crews of five - four sitting opposite each other and one at the back, as the Helm, to steer the boat, a mini Dragon Boat in fact !

The Helm gives directions to the four paddlers and often draws water in a cut out plastic container, splashing it on the big four as a wake up call.

The hotly contested race of ten boats covers a distance marked by floating jerricans. There is no standard rules nor guidelines to govern this legendary water sport. But the distance is mutually agreed upon by the competing crews and it varies depending on the geography of the venue. But for this particular event the race distance is approximately 2000 metres.

A host of rescue speed boats are hovering around the racing boats and give morale to the crowd while at the same time boosting the racers. Horns, whistles and calls echo the charged cinematic atmosphere both on the water and on land.

Prizes, awards and pride are the driving force propelling the crews down the course. Each one sees its fortune in smartly winning the race.

Three boats emerge from the pack and push forward fast with determination at rib breaking speed. However five miss the turning mark before the return leg of the race to the finish line and are eventually disqualified !!

Two of the leading crews move too close to each other about thirty metres from the finish line and the leading crew does a u-turn obstructing the chasing opponent.

There is a clash of paddles between these two crews and they fail to reach the finish line whilst the third crew anticipating what

will happen smartly push on to the finish line and are declared winner. Without further ado the men's race is declared concluded.

In the Ladies Race there are two boats racing, one of which – the renowned Nalongo crew, negotiate their prize money on spot. The ladies race distance is reduced to approximately 1000 metres so as not to over stretch them. The crowd give them a similar reception to the men's race and speedily the crews complete their race landing safely back at the jetty with the winning crew even bragging at their success by holding their paddles in the air a full two metres before the finish line and letting the boat just glide across the line in a stylish finish.

The organization was a weekend festival with several artists from the town entertaining the crowd. The boat racers, DJs, food and drink was enjoyed by the multitude who celebrated with great enthusiasm well in to the night. A gate fee of \$ 2.5 was charged to cover the cost of organizing the event.

The Future:

The Chairman of the organizing committee, Haji Katamba Ojuku regrets the lack of formal guidelines and standards to help with the development of the sport and accepts that the paddling expertise and standard of the crews is presently at a low level.

“We need support to enable us to modernize the boat racing. There is an urgency to bring this legendary sport to the current generation, and not only leave it to the fisher folk,” Katamba appeals.

He says, in that way people will seek regular training, call for regular competitions and demand high level organization to sustain the audience.

But Prince Eric Nadiupe, an Officer of the Fisheries Department in Uganda and member of the Uganda Dragon Boat Federation, assured the crews and the organizers that the Uganda Dragon Boat Federation in conjunction with the IDBF has been formed to mainstream traditional boat racing through the use of Dragon Boats and to give the sport an international face.

My suspicion about whether these people would love to join the Dragon Boat Family ended there and then. After my 15 minute presentation, the officials from the traditional boat racers associations, the crews and the spectators looked at the new sport and its approach, standards, guidelines, safety measures and organization as the only hope for the future of boat racing in Uganda.

We look forward to the day the Dragon Boats will touch the Lake Victorian waters and invoke the water spirits to fly high and low. IDBF have already allocated four Dragon Boats from its development pool to go to Uganda but the problem now is to raise the money to get them there.

Container and transport costs to get the boats to land locked Uganda, via Kenya, are not cheap but this money must be found if the Dragon Boat is truly going to be taken to a new generation in Uganda.



2009 DOUBLE FIFTH TOUR – CHINA, PENANG, MACAU, HONG KONG.

If you really want to find out what Dragon Boat Racing is all about, then you have to go to South East Asia and particularly China during the 'Double Fifth' Dragon Boat Festival celebrations.

China. In China this year over 200,000 participants, in five major Cities, took part in National Dragon Boat Races during the official Chinese Dragon Boat Festival day – a Public Holiday in China and they were watched by many hundreds of thousands of spectators.

In towns and cities across China probably a few million more took part in local races to mark the sacrifice made by Qu Yuan, for the love of his Country and its people, over 2300 years ago. Now that is more than just sport, it is a tradition.

As part of the Double Fifth celebrations IDBF Officials were invited to Penang, Macau and Hong Kong to be part of the International Festival Races being held in these three Cities and to run IDBF Race Officials and Coaches Courses en route.



Penang. First up was the Penang International Festival Dragon Boat Races – a Founder organisation of the IDBF and now an IDBF Affiliate Festival. Under the patronage of the Penang State Tourist Development Board, Penang staged last years very successful Club Crew World Championships (CCWC) so it was to be expected that with many crews looking for new places to travel to and given the global recession, that entries would be down this year. Never-the-less around 800 competitors were in Penang and the support of the Tourism Board was much appreciated by the competing crews.

The racing was of the normal high standard expected at the PIDBF and 35 crews from 8 Countries and Territories took part. Top honours went to the Army Crew from Thailand, who although pushed hard by the local Pacific West Crew won the international titles.

A nice feature of the PIDBF this year was the International Technical Forum held the day before the races and hosted by PIDBF Chairman YB Danny Law Heng Kiang, at which IDBF Officials Mike Thomas and Mike Haslam, as well as representatives from the various crews, gave presentations on how Dragon Boating had developed in their own areas and the ways in which they were making sure such development would continue.

Just as interesting were the contrasts in this development, such as starting from scratch in the United Arab Emirates to a transitional development from 'traditional boat' racing to 'dragon boat' racing in Thailand. All in all, a great weekend was enjoyed by all on 23/24 May 09 and the race course at Teluk Bahang Dam was just as good, if not better than for the CCWC!

Macau. Next up on the 'Double Fifth Tour' was Macau, where the 2010 CCWC will take place on the purpose built Dragon Boat course at Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre, home too of the Macau China Dragon Boat Association.



This year however an IDBF Team, led by IDBF Executive President Mike Haslam and Mike Thomas, Chairman of the IDBF Competition & Technical Commission, had been invited to assess the facilities and organisation of the Macau International Dragon Boat Races (MIDBR), on 28 May 09, as a 'test event' for the 2010 CCWC.

As always at the Macau International the hospitality, hosting and social programme were second to none and making this possible is the continuing support of the Macau Sport Development Board of Macau SAR, under its President Alex, Vong Iao Lek, not just for the International Races but to the Macau Dragon Boat Association too.

What a sport we would have around the world if government sports authorities outside of South East Asia, gave the kind of support that is given in Macau.

Although the International Races were held on 28 May 09, the Macau Dragon Boat Races are actually spread over three days with over 80 local crews contesting the 250 m Small Boat Races and 55 crews the 500m Standard Boat Race over the weekend of 23/24 May 09. The winning crews then going forward to join the 18 international crews racing on the 28 May 09, the actual 'Double Fifth' this year.

Again excellent racing was the order of the day on the Double Fifth, with the very strong crews from Nanhai Jiujiang, China,

dominating both the Open and Women's 500m races. However, the local Macau Select Team and the Philippines Team gave them a good run for their money and shared most of the Medals on offer.

With crews from Singapore, Hong Kong, the UAE and USA also competing and with a really superb celebration dinner, fully hosted by the Sport Development Board, the Macau International Races were a great advert for Macau and a great curtain raiser for next year. There is no doubt that the 2010 CCWC will be a great event to be at and Macau a great place to race in and enjoy. Make sure you are there. For sure you will regret it, if you miss it !



Macau



To complete the visit to Macau, on 29 May 09, in the pouring rain, Mike Thomas ran an IDBF Helming and Participation Coach Courses for candidates from the Macau DBA. With the expertise of Joe Wei Lei – the Macau National Coach, some aspects of Performance Coaching were also covered, with the dozen or so, soaking wet students – after all the course was more practical than classroom theory ! Wet, tired and happy, all the candidates were successful, at one level or another, and mission Macau was accomplished.

Hong Kong. Following Penang and before the short ferry trip to Macau, the IDBF Touring Team, now joined by C&TC Member, Dick Lim, stopped off in Hong Kong on 25 May 09, to discuss with the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Association and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, their bid to stage the 2012 CCWC in Hong Kong, the birth place of modern dragon boating. Hong Kong last staged an IDBF World Championship Regatta in 1997, in the lead up to Hong Kong becoming a Special Administrative Region of China.

Following the reorganisation of the HKDBA, in 2008, it was felt that 15 years was long enough to wait for another World Championships and that a CCWC on the traditional Victoria Harbour site would be a great way to showcase the sport in the centre of Hong Kong. To do this and produce a course as fair and as flat as possible, will not be easy but with the support of the HKTB, Dragon Boat Association Chairman, Dr Raymond Ma is confident that it can be done.

Before travelling to Macau, the IDBF Team ran an IDBF Race Officials Course for the HKDBA, on 26 May 09, which resulted in 20 Race Officials qualifying as IDBF Grade 1 International Race Officials. With similar courses being run in China, Iran, France, Japan, Poland, Penang, Macau, Indonesia, the Ukraine, the USA, Great Britain and the Netherlands, in recent years, as well as National Race Officials assessments at every World and European Championships, the number of IDBF qualified Race Officials now run into the hundreds.



Hong Kong

The Race Officials Scheme has indeed been a great success and with Boat Helm and Coaches Awards now being offered by the IDBF too, the sport is rapidly developing on all fronts. If you are interested in hosting an IDBF Race Officials or Coaching Course then contact the IDBF Secretariat at idbfdragon@126.com.



Returning to Hong Kong for the weekend of 30/31 May 09, the IDBF Team had further discussions on the 2012 CCWC bid and attended the Hong Kong International Races as observers and members of the International Jury. Held on the River in Sha Tin, the location of the 1997 World Championships, the 2009 HKIR were a model of efficient organisation and constant excitement as race after race, many with 8 boats racing, came down the course every 12 minutes or so.

Some 90 crews, both local and international contested the two days of first class racing and there was also a great carnival atmosphere amongst the crews, who were spread down the side of the regatta course, in their team tents, for almost 500 metres. With racing finished and the prize giving to come, the crews were treated to a cultural programme of entertainment, the highlight of which had to be the Chinese belly dancer - judging by the coverage she got on YouTube !!

Female Dragon Boat racers to represent China

By Zheng Limin CCTV.com.03 April 09

In China for over 2000 years, Dragon Boat racing has been traditionally practiced by male teams only. Well, things have changed. Women are now at the forefront of this team sport. Today we are talking to a female paddler at the National Team Selection trials.

Huang Huanhuan, 18 years old, and just one of the 20 girls who paddle for the Zhaoqing city Dragon Boat team. She's new to the sport of Dragon Boat Racing

Huanhuan and her teammates started training for the National Team Selection Trials at the end of last year. That certainly paid off, because they came in first place in the 1000 meter final here. Thus, all 22 girls were able to advance to the individual testing portion. "My coach said the male paddlers won't have to go through, but us girls have made it.

Competitive dragon boat racing has only been open to women for the past 25 years. The women here know that if they want to win, they'll have to endure more than their male counterparts. They need to be twice as strong.

Huanhuan said, "I felt so bad during that period of transition, because my movements were wrong and I couldn't learn the right movements for dragon boat racing having previously tried canoeing.

Our coach stopped helping others and only taught me, but I still didn't get it. At times I felt like my coach wanted to give up on me." Despite the difficult learning curve, Huanhuan eventually got the movements down right. She might have been the slowest learner on her team, but she is easily the strongest.

During the individual testing, Huanhuan amazed every one: She's the only female here able to bench 70 kilograms -- that's about the same weight as one of her teammates.

Like all the competitors here, Huanhuan treasures the opportunity she has to try out for the National team. But don't let her strength and love for a traditionally male dominated sport fool you. She keeps up with all the latest hairstyles, and complains that she hasn't had the time to get hers cut. She also misses home.

"Each spring festival, I would spend it with my coach and their family. I've been here for two years and I haven't once gone back home. I miss my family so much. I spent past three spring festivals with my coach family." Huang told us.

To watch the CCTV report go to http://v.cctv.com/html/media/sportsscene/2009/03/sportsscene_300_20090304_6.shtml

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ICF MEMBERS CLUB CREW CHAMPIONSHIPS, ULSAN, KOREA – 10/12 JULY 2009

Held on the same weekend as the IDBF European Clubs Championships, was the ICF Club Crew Championships in Ulsan, Korea, organised by the Korean Canoe Federation, who recently tried (unsuccessfully) to claim jurisdiction over the sport in Korea, from the Korean Dragon Boat Association. The event was billed as the 'World Club Crew Championships' for the sport by the Organising Committee. In total 17 Clubs competed in the Champs from 8 countries.

The official results from the Ulsan website, published below, show that only 8 Clubs contested the Premier Open events (Senior Men in ICF parlance) - 5 from Korea; 2 Russian from Vladivostok and Romi DC from Hungary.

In the Premier Mixed races (ICF speak Senior Mixed) seven Clubs competed, none from Korea but Vladivostok Tigers and Romi DC where joined by the Hong Kong Canoe Union, Taisho University and Team Katana from Japan, with Owl United and Preussen Drachen Potsdam, from Germany. Three Clubs contested the Premier Women's races, namely the Korean Canoe Fed, Chinese Taipei Team and the Wasabi Paddling Club from the USA.

The actual standard of the racing is difficult to judge, the kindest thing is to say is that the crews were racing in a Korean type of Dragon Boat, so the times recorded may not truly reflect the abilities of the crews. However, the Korean Canoe Fed won 2 Gold Medals in the Premier Open and Romi DC took 4 Golds across the Prem Open and Mixed Races.

The Senior Division (Masters to the ICF) basically saw Preussen Potsdam, Owl United and UIMC Dragons Korea, racing each other in the Open and Mixed Races, with Prussen winning all three race distances, twice.

Backing up the Club Crews were another 17 local crews, including 3 crews from Korean based western corporate companies, such as the Lloyd's Register. These crews competed in what were called the Amateur Open Races.

The Ulsan final results, with the best individual times recorded, and entries are shown below.
* (ICF Senior Class = IDBF Premier Racing Class. ICF Masters Class = IDBF Senior Racing Class)

Senior Men 200m – 6 crews	Senior Men 500m – 6 crews	Senior Men 2000m – 5 crews	Masters Mixed 200m – 2 crews
1 Korean Canoe Fed 00.50.78	1 Korean Canoe 02.11.61	1 Romi DC 09.46.66	1 Preussen Drachen 00.54.56
2 Romi DC 00.52.49	2 Festi Vladivostok 02.16.11	2 Festi Vladivostok 10.38.69	2 Owl United 00.55.87
3 Festi Vladivostok 00.51.34	3 Kyeong Nam CF 02.27.64	3 Jeon Nam Canoe 11.50.37	
Senior Women 200m – 3 crews	Senior Women 500m – 3 crews	Senior Women 2000m – 3 crews	Masters Mixed 500m – 2 crews
1 Korean Canoe Fed 01.00.27	1 Korean Canoe 02.37.87	1 Chinese Taipei 12.28.45	1 Preussen Drachen 02.01.11
2 Chinese Taipei 01.01.41	2 Chinese Taipei 02.41.43	2 Wasabi PC 12.29.32	2 Owl United 02.25.68
3 Wasabi PC 01.04.12	3 Wasabi PC 02.42.97	3 Prussen/Owl Comb 12.31.02	
Senior Mixed 200m – 6 crews	Senior Mixed 500m – 6 crews	Senior Mixed 2000m – 4 crews	Masters Mixed 2000m – 2 crews
1 Romi DC 00.50.98	1 Romi DC 02.09.70	1 Romi DC 09.29.86	1 Owl United 11.28.79
2 Vladivostok Tigers 00.53.00	2 Vladivostok Tigers 02.15.27	2 Vladivostok Tigers 10.38.98	2 Preussen Drachen Disqualified (11.12.99)
3 Taisho University 00.53.47	3 Taisho University 02.20.55	3 Taisho University 11.11.78	
Masters Men 200m – 2 crews	Masters Men 500m – 2 crews	Masters Men 2000m – 2 crews	There were no Junior Races.
1 Preussen Drachen 00.54.85	1 Preussen Drachen 02.44.93	1 Preussen Drachen 11.15.94 T	
2 UIMC Dragons 01.04.54	2 UIMC Dragons 02.52.85	2 UIMC Dragons 12.41.45	

WORLD GAMES INVITATIONAL RACES, KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN – 17/18 JULY 2009

Dragon Boat Races were held on the Lotus Lake, Kaohsiung on 17/18 July 09 but not as an Official World Games Sport but as an 'Invitational Sport' of the Organising Committee. The races were for Mixed Crews only from a maximum of 12 Countries. As a Member of the IWGA the ICF claimed rights over these races but only managed to get 9 Countries to compete. It is assumed that the Club Crews from Germany, Hungary, Russia and the USA, who competed at the ICF Champs in Ulsan, Korea a few days earlier, went on to Kaohsiung, some with combined crews and competed there as 'National Teams'. The fact that Russia swept the board taking all four Gold Medals, gives us a clue.

The other competing Countries were Chinese Taipei, Canada, Japan, Sweden and the Ukraine. All the Countries represented in Kaohsiung have Dragon Boat Associations who are IDBF Members and most of the crews also race in IDBF events. It is just a pity that the ICF did not join forces with the IDBF, as they did for the World Games Invitational Races in Duisburg, in 2005. That way the maximum of 12 Countries could have competed, with the strongest crews, showing that the sport is not as small as the entry in Kaohsiung may have appeared to make it, to the broader world of sport. Maybe the next time when the World Games goes to South America, if Dragon Boat Sport is invited.

The results from the Kaohsiung Finals and the entries were as follows.

Mixed 200m – 9 crews	Mixed 500m – 9 crews	Mixed 1000m – 8 crews	Mixed 2000m – 9 crews
1 Russia Rus 00.46.16	1 Russia Rus 01.57.07	1 Russia Rus 04.03.85	1 Russia Rus 08.36.90
2 Hungary Hun 00.47.06	2 Hungary Hun 01.57.48	2 Germany Ger 04.04.16	2 Taipei Tpe 09.07.88
3 Chinese Taipei Tpe 00.47.14	3 Germany Ger 01.58.00	3 Hungary Hun 04.04.51	3 Canada Can 09.32.38
4 Germany Ger 00.48.74	4 Taipei Tpe 02.03.12	4 Taipei Tpe 04.26.95	4 Sweden Swe 09.38.46
5 Utd States Usa 00.50.46	5 Sweden Swe 02.10.28	5 Sweden Swe 04.27.00	5 Germany Ger 09.51.36
		6 Utd States Usa 04.29.07	6 Japan Jpn 10.39.48
		7 Japan Jpn 04.29.50	7 Hungary, United States and the Ukraine disqualified
		8 Canada Can 04.41.25	

OCEANIA - Dragon Boat Federation Forming

By Dave Elliot, NZDBA Chairman

Over the weekend of July 11th and 12th, members of the Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AUS DBF) and New Zealand Dragon Boat Association (NZDBA) board of directors met to set a strategy for Oceania, to develop the Constitution of the new Oceania Dragon Boat Federation (ODBF) and to move the sport of dragon boating in this part of the world into the 21st Century.

Three of the AUS DBF board members - President Kelvin (Kel) Watt, Technical Director Melanie (Mel) Cantwell, and Administration Officer Janine Lette - made their way across the ditch, we would like to say, without a hitch to the weekend event in Wellington. Unfortunately Kel's bags were lost and so he spent the weekend recycling his gear.... There was not a hint of Waltzing Matilda or sheep jokes and whilst we would have liked to show our Ozzie friends the gourmet delights of a hangi, we instead settled for a night of Indian cuisine, which proved to be a good substitute.

The weekend was devoted to the establishment of the ODBF culminating with a full review of the Draft Constitution and Statutes and ODBF By-laws, which had been submitted by a previous AusDBF President, the late Jon Taylor. Discussions on the structure of ODBF and other issues were held at length with both AusDBF and NZDBA board members in full agreement. As Chair of the ODBF steering committee it has been an honour for me to play a part in the birth of the ODBF as a Continental Federation in this beautiful part of the world and to assist taking dragon boating to the next level of our sport.

The ODBF will be registered in Australia, with both Australia and New Zealand being the founding countries which will develop dragon boating in the Oceania region. Congratulations to the incoming ODBF Board who were elected and allocated Director portfolios. As a Continental body, ODBF will be formally ratified by the IDBF Council meeting at the IDBF World Dragon Boat Championships in Prague in August 2009. The incoming ODBF Board will inform its members in due course regarding the future development plans and any upcoming events that will provide opportunities for all dragon boaters on both sides of the Tasman.

NEW ZEALAND - Shirley Dragons Competing at Worlds

TV3 (NZ) recently did a story on the Shirley Boys High School team in their endeavors to make it to Prague this August. (See) <http://www.3news.co.nz/Video/Sports/tabid/317/articleID/112186/cat/70/Default.aspx#video>

[Steve Goy writes] I am a father of one of the boys in the boat in this story and am working with other parents to raise the funds needed to send them to Prague. We are trying to get as many people and organizations as possible behind their campaign and the more people who follow this link the higher the story ranks in the TV3 ratings and the more likely the story will be followed up or run again. This can only be good for the efforts of the boys by helping raise their profile but is good for the sport generally, and as they will be representing New Zealand. As [the TV3 report] says the boys are "trying to raise around \$175,000 to get to Europe for a dragon boating regatta and have been training in the dark and in sub-zero conditions." Four times a week the Shirley Boys High School students have been training, sometimes even before dawn. "We've had minus four," says Shirley Coach Russell Stocks, "and the water lapping over was freezing on top of the boat. Really, really cold." [Steve continues] We are still looking for a major sponsor. If you have any questions, or contacts for support, please contact me.

Kind regards, Steve Goy (steve.goy@clear.net.nz)

ICF President Speaks Honest Word About Olympic Dragon Boats

One very honest statement came out of the ICF Championships in Ulsan and that was a reply from the ICF President, Jose Perurena, in answer to this question put by an interviewer:-

"What do you think is the place of Dragon Boat among the other Non-Olympic Canoeing disciplines such as Whitewater Canoeing, Canoe Polo, Canoe Freestyle and Canoe Sailing?"

Mr. Perurena: "Unfortunately, in the Olympic Games there is a limit on the maximum number of athletes for each sport, so it's very difficult to introduce other sports. In Dragon Boat there are 25 athletes in one boat; therefore, we would need 330 athletes in all. That makes it very difficult to enter a new discipline into the Olympic Games with this number of athletes."

330 athletes is the maximum number allocated by the IOC to the ICF for their present Sprint and Slalom disciplines. No room for Dragon Boats.

However, through the IDBF the situation is completely different because as an independent Sport – as opposed to a discipline of another sport, Dragon Boating stands as much chance of success as any other new sport applying to go into the Olympic Games and this process has already started with the IOC recently sending to the IDBF the application forms for IOC recognition.

WESTERN CAPE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL, SOUTH AFRICA, 19-22 MARCH 2010



The Western Cape Dragon boat Association is proud to be hosting our second IDBF Affiliated Dragon Boat Festival at the beautiful country venue of Club Elani – Misverstand in Moorreesburg, just an hour outside Cape Town along the West Coast.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to International teams to participate and enjoy the Western Cape's countryside hospitality. Included in the Entry Fee of approx \$125.00 per person are the Racing Fee and Administration costs; Welcome Dinner on Friday night, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday plus Lunch and Celebration Dinner on Sunday.

The approximate cost of accommodation at the Club Elani will be between \$15.00 – \$20.00 per person per night. Camping facilities are also available. Tour packages can be arranged to include accommodation in Cape Town, sightseeing tours & Transport to and from the Airport and race venue. Further details will be shown on our websites at www.dragonboat.org.za, www.capesplendour.co.za and www.clubelani.co.za

BRAZIL – DRAGONS ON THE WATER

By Guillermo Piernes. Writer and journalist and now a new Dragon Boat Racing official in Brazil

The dragon boat's ancient spirit has arrived with great success on South American seashores.

What an experience! The arrival of the very long and narrow boats happened on 15 February 2009, at the Santos beach, Sao Paulo, Brazil when the first Dragon Boat Festival was organized by Ricardo Faro, from Selva Aventura and Fabio Paiva from Canoa, Brazil.

It rained softly but the festival was fun for everybody. Several Chinese community members helped with the organization of this colorful spectacle which was a long day of friendly competition and fun between 24 teams. The dragon boats were rigged with decorative Chinese dragon heads and tails, in the Brazilian national flag colours of green and yellow. The decorative regalia and the drums attracted much attention at the popular beach, with many taking pictures of the unusual boats and their enthusiastic participants.



Three of the teams of paddlers included top athletes in rowing and canoeing, with several South American, World and Olympic competitors. Some teams were formed by Chinese community members, military police academy, firemen, schools, and Brazilian families and groups of friends.

A Santos Chinese fast food restaurant provided the dinners held before the race and food for the support teams during the historic day. A film was shown on international dragon boats in China and the event organization gave a lot of information to the anxious participants. The local authorities also gave strong support to the festival and the joyous atmosphere of the day was contagious.

The races were held over 200 metres on quite calm bay ocean waters and the first Dragon Boat races were followed by television crews and photographers who continued to record each moment, from the initial teams with their war chants to the final comments from the winners. As a matter of fact, everybody felt like a winner after taking part in this first historical Dragon Boat Festival.

It was an unforgettable day and now other events are scheduled in different Brazilian regions. Dragon boating has arrived to establish a long and happy relationship with the playful and sporting side of the huge South American population.

Third Annual Independence Dragon Boat Regatta

Schuylkill River, Philadelphia, PA, June 6, 2009

On June 6, 2009 the U.S. Army's Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Battalion participated in the Third Annual Independence Dragon Boat Regatta in Philadelphia, PA. The day started with welcoming remarks from Ken Wong, chairman of the Philadelphia Dragon Boat Association. Mayor Michael Nutter, Philadelphia Representative Mike O'Brien and Lieutenant Colonel Ron Tuczak participated in the traditional ritual of dotting the eyes of the dragon head prior to the race. Twenty Soldiers, both recruiters and Future Soldiers made up the first-ever U.S. Army paddling team at these races. The Mid-Atlantic Battalion's paddling team joined more than 50 professional and amateur paddling teams and received a bronze medal in the Men's Finals division.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Dragon Boat News

Volume 1 No.10 August 15, 1990

HONG KONG ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On Monday 4 June 1990 Dragon Boat Racing, as a true international sport, was born. The Annual Conference for Dragon Boat Race Organizers/ Team Representatives formally proposed the formation of an International Dragon Boat Racing Federation.

Mr. R. L. Wilson, Race Controller of the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival - International Races 1990, was elected Chairman of the Meeting, and later, Chairman of the Steering Committee formed to draft a constitution for the newly proposed Federation. The delegates discussed the directions Dragon Boat racing is heading in the future, and standards which will allow Dragon Boat racing to grow, while at the same time preserve the traditional and cultural aspects of the sport. They also discussed the effect of cash prizes on the sport, as well as, the inclusion of Dragon Boat Racing in the 1993 World Games, and 1994 Asian Games.

Countries and Organizations present were: American Dragon Boat Association; Assodragon Italy; British Dragon Boat Racing Association; Cathay Pacific/Air New Zealand Dragon Boat Team Canada; China Dragon Boat Association PRC; European Dragon Boat Federation; False Creek Dragon Boat Team Vancouver; False Creek Racing Canoe Club, Vancouver; Indonesian Rowing Association; Japan International Dragon Boat Championships; Kingston Royals Dragon Boat Club, UK; Macau Dragon Boat Team; Manly Warringah Dragon Boat Team, Australia; Penang International Boat Festival Committee, Malaysia; Perth International Dragon Boat Club, Australia; Singapore Dragon Boat Association; Sydney Dragon Boat Association, Australia; Swan East Fremantle Dragon Boat Club, Australia; Taiwan Dragon Boat Team; Toronto Dragon Boat Team; Silver Dragons, Toronto, Canada; United States Dragon Boat Association; Western Australian Police Dragon Boat Club.

The first order of business was a review of Dragon Boat Racing worldwide.

New Zealand reported 2 major and 3 smaller regional Dragon Boat Festivals were held in 1990. Canada held races in Vancouver (5th year of local races and 2nd for international) and Toronto (2nd year of races mostly mixed teams). Toronto Chinese Association is planning their first International Dragon Boat races.

Indonesia will hold races in 1991 for local racing only. They would like to include Dragon Boat racing in the 1998 Asian Games in Jakarta if an International Federation of Dragon Boat Racing was established. The UK has 260 registered crews. A total of 50 Dragon Boat races will be held across the country this year. They have recently appointed a paid secretariat to coordinate Dragon Boat Racing in the UK.

Macau has 24 registered Dragon Boat crews. At the moment there are no International Races in Macau. In 1990 Penang, Malaysia held Dragon Boat races for the 12th consecutive year. Osaka, Japan held International Dragon Boat Races for the 3rd year. All Dragon Boats in Osaka are made of fiberglass.

Singapore has been organizing Dragon Boat races since 1978. Overseas teams were first invited to participate in 1980. Australia reports 7 full time Dragon Boat Clubs in Western Australia, all governed by the Western Australian Dragon Boat Association. A total of 90 crews participated in the Sydney Dragon Boat Festival 1990.

Taiwan has held Dragon Boat races every year since 1974 with the Taiwan Dragon Boat Club as the organizer. In the USA Dragon Boat racing is growing rapidly. Races are now being planned for many cities and small towns across the country. The European Dragon Boat Federation (EDBF) was formed on 9th May, 1990. Mr. Mike Haslam was elected Chairman of EDBF. The following countries are members of the Federation: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, West Germany, Great Britain.

All members had their own national Dragon Boat races. Holland, Switzerland, and Great Britain will hold international races in 1990. Assodragon was formed 2 years ago in Italy. They hope to organize an international race in the future in Rome.

Hong Kong held the 15th Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival - International Races in 1990 with 115 local teams and 22 overseas teams participating in the event. To celebrate the actual Dragon Boat Festival races were organized in 17 locations, with total entries as follows: Large Dragon Boats (50 pax) 54 entries, Regular size Men's (22 pax) 455, Regular size Women's (22 pax) 79, Mini Dragon Boats (10 pax) 109. Together with entries at the International Races, over 23,000 persons took part in races in Hong Kong this year.

The China Dragon Boat Association was formed in 1984. Since its formation, two national conferences have been held and a 3rd conference was scheduled to be held in June 1990. Four National Dragon Boat races have been held since 1984, and the 5th National Dragon Boat Race was held on 13th June 1990. Teams from 15 provinces were expected in this year's races.

The China Dragon Boat Association supported the formation of an International Federation of Dragon Boat Racing since this would benefit and enhance the development of Dragon Boat Racing. However, they felt that National Dragon Boat organizations should be formed first in countries where they did not have one at the moment. As regards Taiwanese involvement in the International Federation, the issue could be handled in the same way as in the Olympic Games.

The Chairman then invited members to express their views on the proposed establishment of an International Federation. Mr. Mike Haslam (European Dragon Boat Federation) strongly supported the idea of forming an International Federation.

The EDBF fully appreciated the traditions and the cultural background of Dragon Boat racing and felt that these aspects should be maintained. However, there was also a demand to develop the sport side of the festival as well. An International Federation should monitor this development and act as a forum for exchange of information.

Singapore Dragon Boat Association and the British Dragon Boat Racing Association both supported the idea but also recognized the need for national governing bodies. The formation of an International Federation could provide guidelines and advise to these national bodies. Toronto Dragon Boat Team recognized the need for the establishment of a national federation in Canada, adding that Dragon Boat racing should remain as a Chinese cultural event.

The Chairman summarized saying that there appears to be a need for an International Federation to:

1. Define Dragon Boat racing.
2. Protect traditions, cultural aspects and regional differences.
3. Ensure that the development of Dragon Boat racing is along traditional lines.
4. Maintain primacy of international competition between club based crews.
5. Prevent Dragon Boat racing from being controlled by organizations or individuals whose primary interests lie elsewhere.
6. To provide and foster international and national bodies to represent the interests of Dragon Boat racing.
7. To coordinate and publish an international regatta program.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, pointed out that Dragon Boat racing was spreading rapidly in countries outside Asia and there had already been proposals to include Dragon Boat racing in the Asian Games and the World Games. In view of this, he felt an International Federation should be formed to represent the interest of Dragon Boat racing.

A vote was held as to whether an International Federation of Dragon Boat Racing should be formed. 18 countries supported the formation of an International Federation while 2 (Macau & Indonesia) abstained. The PRC supported the idea in principle but felt that national bodies should be formed first.

The Chairman remarked that since an International Federation of Dragon Boat Racing was to be formed, a Steering Committee should be set up to discuss and prepare a draft constitution. The draft constitution would then be circulated to members for comments to be followed by a founding meeting to be held within 12 months. It was unanimously resolved that the following would form the Steering Committee:

Chairman:	Mr. R. L. Wilson.	Hong Kong Amateur Rowing Association
Members:	Mr. Mike Haslam	European Dragon Boat Federation
	Ms. Sue Smith	American Dragon Boat Association
	Mr. Alan Smythe	Cathay Pacific/Air New Zealand Dragon Boat Team
	Mr. Tang Chee Yuen	Singapore Dragon Boat Association
	Mr. Hajime Yuki	Japan International Dragon Boat Championships
		China Dragon Boat Association (representative to be confirmed)

A questionnaire would be circulated seeking views on matters such as objectives, membership, voting rights, etc. Response to be sent to the Chairman c/o Hong Kong Tourist Association, 35/F. Jardine House, Hong Kong.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion of any other business. **Mr H. Yuki** (Japan International Dragon Boat Championships) raised the subject of offering cash prizes in Dragon Boat racing. This was started by Singapore and a couple of other countries are planning to do the same next year. Mr. Yuki strongly opposed the offer of cash prizes in Dragon Boat racing. This sentiment was shared by both **Ms Ada Tsang** (Toronto Dragon Boat Team, Silver Dragons, Canada) and **Mr. Yan Yao** (Taiwan Dragon Boat Team).

Ms. Tsang remarked that Dragon Boat racing was a tradition with a strong cultural background and therefore should not involve any monetary element. She suggested that the money be allocated to other areas such as hosting teams instead. Mr. Yan Yao (Taiwan Dragon Boat Team) also objected to the offer of cash prizes.

Mr. Tang Chee Yuen (Singapore Dragon Boat Association) explained that Singapore was celebrating their 25th anniversary in 1990 and the Tourism Board had generously offered money to the winning teams, the purpose was to offer some financial help to the organization/club of the winning teams.

Alan Smythe (Cathay Pacific/Air New Zealand Dragon Boat Team) also remarked that the cash prizes which he was planning to introduce were intended for the organization/club to which the winning teams belonged. The Chairman pointed out that cash prizes could not be counted on by Dragon Boat organizations/clubs as compensation for the expenses incurred in fielding teams overseas, since no teams could be sure of winning. It was unanimously resolved that the Steering Committee would discuss this further.

Mr. H Yuki (Japan International Dragon boat Championships) proposed to include Dragon Boat racing in the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games, with countries sending their national crews to compete. However, at the moment, the Asian Games were strictly governed by the rules and regulations of the Olympic Council for Asia, which meant that countries outside Asia would be excluded from the races.

Mr. Yuki had drawn up a petition on the grounds that if an International Federation of Dragon Boat Racing was formed and accepted by the Organising Committee of Asian Games, then all members of the International Federation, which included countries outside Asia, should be eligible to participate. Members of the meeting were invited to sign the petition.

Mr. Mike Haslam (European Dragon Boat Federation) remarked that the Organising Committee of the 1993 World Games had expressed a keen interest in including Dragon Boat as a demonstration sport. It was resolved that the Steering Committee would consider the type of Dragon Boats to be used in the World Games and ways of preserving the traditions and culture of the races.

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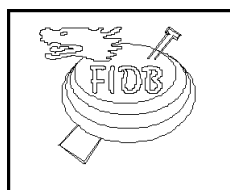
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ELITE BOAT



Sharp Edged Paddles – Better Performance or is it just in the Mind !!?

Over the past few years since the introduction of the IDBF Spec 202a paddle, Race Officials have noticed that some paddlers have been 'sharpeing' the edge of their paddle blades as they are convinced that it gives their paddle a cleaner entry into and exit from the water and thus some sort of competitive advantage.

The 202a Spec is based on a minimum blade edge thickness of 4mm and a radius of 2mm at the tip of the paddle and thus race officials have banned sharpened paddles from being used at IDBF Championship Regattas.

The tip radius of 2mm in the original Spec was partly a safety issue and therefore sharpening a paddle to potentially a razor sharp point is a cause for concern. The thought of 20 sharp edged paddles hitting other paddlers in a collision or a clashing of blades on say a 2000m race or even being used as a weapon in an argument between crews, is not something that would go down too well with the Health & Safety people around the world and would constitute yet another factor to be taken into consideration in event risk assessments.

Keeping the 'blunt' edge to the paddle is the IDBF policy but the question is how thin can a blunt edge be before it is actually a sharp edge? There is of course the opposite 'safety' argument for making the blade edge thicker but the IDBF have resisted that move!

But what is the science in all of this. Do sharper paddles really make the boat go faster or is all in the minds of the paddlers.. The IDBF Competition & Technical Commission hears similar opinions regarding the IDBF Spec Racing Boats - the hull shapes are all the same and strictly controlled but some manufacturers boats go faster according to the crews and of course it is the manufacturers 'boat design' not the size and weight or ability of the crew of course. The effect of 'wash hanging' in dragon boating (if it actually exists) is another unproved either way mind game, that goes on amongst the crews.

So where does the truth of the sharp edged paddle lie. Well in Australia there has been research into the hydrodynamics of paddles based on work done by one of the worlds leading surfboard fin makers there, who spent half a million dollars of government money on developing the perfect fin for the surf board – very close in technical terms to the dragon boat paddle moving through the water,

From this research it has been concluded that the entry of the paddle into the water is hardly an issue, after all how many fish have really pointed noses - maybe a swordfish or two. What the research has shown is that the vortices set up by a sharp paddle edge are horrendous and what in fact develops is serious suction just behind the tip of the blade, the worst possible location!

So the science says that there is nothing to be gained from a sharp paddle edge other than a nicer sound than you get from the 'plop' of the thicker paddles entering the water. Of course there will always be those that think a sharper paddle is a faster paddle, such is human nature. Have a nice day.



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