

DRAGON BOAT INTERNATIONAL

The Newsletter of the International Dragon Boat Federation

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This Issue: Prague Report - IDBF Congress - UNESCO Heritage List - Members News

The World Governing Authority for Dragon Boat Sport

國際龍舟聯合會

INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

Member of SPORTACCORD - the General Association of International Sports Federations

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FROM THAI LONG BOAT TO DRAGON BOAT

A JOURNEY
IN PICTURES



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TIME TO TELL YOUR STORY – HOW YOU BECAME A DRAGON BOATER

2012 will see not just the London Olympic Games but a World Dragon Boat Championship returning to Hong Kong, when the 8th Club Crew World Championships will be held on the famous Victoria Harbour course, the birth place of modern Dragon Boat Sport, 36 years after the very first Hong Kong International Races (HKIR) took place there in 1976.

2012 will also mark the 21st Anniversary of the founding of the IDBF during the 1991 HKIR and so to acknowledge the role played by Hong Kong the IDBF intends to publish the story of the development of dragon boating from a cultural activity in China to a modern competitive sport now enthusiastically pursued in nearly 70 countries and territories world wide - and that is where you come in.

The IDBF has always been paddler led in developing the sport and paddler governed as the International Federation that represents all dragon boaters and therefore we want to hear how, why and where you became involved in our great sport and who introduced you to dragon boating.

Over the next two years we will gather your experiences together and in 2012 publish them as the paddlers story of how a Chinese cultural activity developed into the dynamic and exciting modern sport that we practise around the globe today. Add pictures, personal anti-dotes and humourous stories and you will have a book only made possible by a 'team of dragon boat enthusiasts'; and one that can sit proudly on your book shelf.

So want to be involved ? Then email your story (and pictures too) to Henning Weikhorst - IDBF Marketing and Media Commission, at wiekhorsthenning@mac.com, with a copy to me please at mikehaslam@aol.com. We look forward to hearing your Dragon Boat Story..

CZECH DBA DELIVERS A GREAT 2009 WORLD NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIPS !

First it was going to be in Russia and then in Poland but finally it was the Czech Republic DBA who had the task of organising and hosting the 9th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships with just about 18 months to go and what a great job they made of it. Congratulations all round are due to Petr Klima and his Team for organising and delivering the biggest World Nations Championships so far seen in Dragon Boat Sport.

Held on the Racice Regatta Course, near Prague, from 26-30 August 2009, new records were set in terms of the number of competitors, the variety of racing classes and the number of representative crews entered and then there was the World Record time posted by the Philippines in the 200m Grand Final of 00.40.002 !

The full report on Prague 2009 and all the Grand Finals Results are published in this DBI but the salient facts of the Championships are that nearly 3000 athletes in 134 crews took part, across the Racing Classes, representing 24 IDBF Members from 5 Continents. (A further 6 IDBF Members entered did not make it due to financial constraints). Over 900 competitors were women and 600 were Juniors under the age of eighteen.

China won both the Nations Cup and the Premier Womens Trophy, whilst Canada retained the Senior Trophy and Singapore won the Junior Trophy at their first attempt. IDBF Race Officials from 17 Countries supervised the races and Teams from India and Iran attended their first World Championships. 216 races were held during the five days of competition which included races for the U16s (Junior B) and the U23s, for the first time. A total of 14 Countries won Championships' Medals.



MACAU UPDATE - 7th WORLD CLUB CREW CHAMPIONSHIPS - 28 JULY to 1 AUGUST 2010

The 7th Club Crew World Championships (7th CCWC), supported by the Macau Sports Development Board, will be held at the Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre, Macao S.A.R. China from Wednesday, 28 July through Sunday, 1 August, 2010. The Opening ceremony will take place on the evening of 28 July 2010.

Racing will be from Thursday 29 July to Sunday 1 August 2010 inclusive. Wednesday 28th July 2010, will be the reserve racing day in the event that the number of crews racing necessitates an extra day's racing. Crews are advised to arrive in Macao no later than Tuesday 27 July 2010 but crews arriving earlier will be catered for.

Participating crews are required to return a completed **Provisional Entry Form to the IDBF and the Macau Organizing Committee by no later than 4 January 2010**. Crews' entries must be sanctioned, by the IDBF Member Organisation to which that crews belongs, where one exists. Crews from countries or Territories where there is not an IDBF Member may compete subject to the agreement of the IDBF Executive Committee.

All other Entries are to be sent to IDBF directly, with all administrative information and returns going to the Macau 2010 Organizing Committee.

DIVISIONS, RACING & COMPETITION CLASSES. The 7th CCWC will be conducted under IDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing. Provided sufficient entries are received in each competition. A minimum of six (6) different IDBF Members are required for a competition class to be given world championship status and a minimum of three (3) IDBF Members per competition class are required to qualify for IDBF Championship status.

The Championships that will be contested are shown below. Entries from up to five (5) crews per competition class, per Country or Territory, will be allowed. **New for this CCWC and to encourage entries from developing Clubs there will be Small Boat Races over 200m and 500m only, for Open, Women and Mixed Crews. Crews may enter either the Standard Boat Races or the Small Boat Races but NOT both.** (Small Boat Mixed Crew is a min of 4 and max of 6 women paddlers).

Category	Premier Division	Senior A Division	Grand Dragons-Snr B	Juniors A & B	Under 23s
Open	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200,500, 2000m
Mixed	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m
Women	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m	200, 500, 2000m

Age Regulations:- (1) **Seniors: A** - Over 40; **Senior B** (Grand Dragons): over 50 as of 1 June 2010.
 (2) **Junior: A** - Under 18 but 12 or over; **Junior B** Under 16 but 12 or over as 1 January 2010.
 (3) **Under 23s** - Under 23 but 18 or over as at 1 Jan 2010. 6 crew members may be U18 – for the Small Boat 3.

BCS DIVISION. BCS Crews may also take part in a designated BCS Division with Championship Medals.

CHARGES. Charges for Accommodation and Lunches are on a daily basis but for this CCWC an **Admin Fee will not be charged**. However, the IDBF Registration Fee of USD 10:00 per person, will still be payable.

ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES Macau 2010 have made arrangements for a choice of accommodation from three-star to five-star Hotels. The accommodation packages range from USD 50.00 to USD 140.00 per person, per day. The championship's take place during the height of tourist season in Macao and accommodation can be quite difficult to obtain, therefore, crews are advised to confirm their accommodation requirements as early as possible. Participants are entitled to make their own arrangements for accommodation and transport but races will not be delayed for crews that are not staying in the official Hotels or travel under private arrangements.

Please go to the Official Championships website (www.Macau2010CCWC.com) for a list of the official Hotels.

RACE DAY LUNCHES. Lunches will be available to all competitors and their coaches, managers and registered supporters at the competition venue, various menus will be provided in the price range of USD 10 – 22 per set.

TRANSPORT. Airport shuttle buses, Terminal shuttle buses and a shuttle service to Race Course and Events Venue. The Organizing Committee will provide shuttle bus transportation for crews and their registered guests to and from official event hotels and the regatta course each practice day and race day and to from the Opening Ceremony and the Celebration Dinner party.

CELEBRATION DINNER. A complementary Celebration Dinner Party will be provided for all competitors and their coaches, managers and registered supporters.

DEADLINES FOR ENTRIES AND FEES

Provisional Entry.	14 January 2010
Accommodation Bookings – with Non-refundable deposit of USD200.00	01 March 2010
Confirmed Numerative Entry and deposit 20% of total of accommodation.	03 May 2010
Balance of accommodation costs – for the relevant Hotel.	07 June 2010
Named Entry and IDBF Registration Fees (USD10.00, per participant)	28 June 2010

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EDITORIAL- NOT JUST A SPORT BUT A CULTURAL HERITAGE RECOGNISED BY UNESCO - by Mike Haslam.

WELCOME, as always to DBI, the Official newsletter of the IDBF brought to you in PDF format.

As we approach the end of 2009 there is positive news and negative news. At the end of last year, with the election of Jose Peruana as the ICF President, I said that my hope was that after 10 years of acrimony the sport could return to the status quo that had existed between the IDBF and ICF pre-1999, which was one of mutual recognition and support.

2009 started well with two meetings with the ICF at which various suggestions were made by both sides for joint initiatives, including a combined World Championships in 2011.

That was positive but unfortunately the negative is that the new détente did not last long. The ICF have now broken off the discussions, claiming that the actions of the IDBF Executive President in the way he presents the views of dragon boaters were anti the ICF and its new President.

A view by the way, not shared by the IDBF Members who passed a vote of total confidence in the actions of the Executive President, at the recent IDBF Congress held in Prague – see separate report.

On the positive side thanks to the efforts of the Chinese Government, the Dragon Boat Festival, including Dragon Boat Racing, has recently been added to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) world cultural heritage of humanity list. Of the 166 such cultural activities recognised by UNESCO (see separate article) Dragon Boating is the only competitive activity.

This is a great acknowledgement of the history and traditions of our sport and maintaining the Chinese culture of Dragon Boating has always been listed in the IDBF Statutes as a prime objective of the Federation.

In advancing this objective the IDBF is applying for UNESCO recognition as a representative international organisation that maintains, enhances and spreads the culture and traditions of Dragon Boating to new areas of the world. The recognition process takes at least a year.

NEWS FROM THE 2009 MEMBERS CONGRESS.

Thirty-two Members were represented at the 2009 IDBF Members Congress held in the Duo Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic on 29 August 2009. Attending the Congress for the first time were Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, India, the Reunion Island and the United Arab Emirates. Apologies were accepted from Cyprus, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Norway and Sweden.

The Congress Delegates heard reports on the preparations being made for the World Championship Regattas in 2010 (Macau) and 2011 (Tampa Bay), as well as reports from the Executive President, the Treasurer and the IDBF Commissions. Mr Lim (Malaya) informed the Congress that it was planned to hold the 1st Commonwealth Dragon Boat Club Crew Championships in Penang, Malaysia the weekend before the 2010 Macau CCWC. IDBF Members from Commonwealth Countries would be invited to send crews. The Congress also received from the French delegates a presentation on a Dragon Boat and Kayak development project in Senegal, where there was a tradition of long boat racing.

NEW MEMBERS CONFIRMED & WELCOMED The Congress ratified as IDBF Basic Members, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Reunion Island, Serbia, Senegal and Thailand. A further twelve Basic Members were approved by the Congress as having qualified for IDBF Full Membership.

MADAM XIAO MIN – NEW IDBF PRESIDENT - THE FIRST WOMAN TO HOLD THE POST

After 8 years in office as the IDBF President, Mr ZHANG Faqiang (China) retired from the post at the 2009 IDBF Members Congress.

The Congress unanimously elected **Madam XIAO MIN** (China) as the new IDBF President. Madam Xiao Min is a Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Director of the Sport for All programme in China. She is presently also the President of the ADBF and the first woman to become the IDBF President.

In addressing the Congress, retiring President Zhang Faqiang acknowledged the support given to the IDBF by the Chinese Sports Authorities and the Chinese Olympic Committee, especially where gaining membership of the GAISF, now SportAccord was concerned.

He concluded that this support had been invaluable and that an important task now for the IDBF was to strengthen the sport by establishing good relationships within Sport Accord and with the IOC.

HUNG, MORRO & SCHERMI RE-ELECTED, DONYAMALI NEW IDBF VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr Ahmed DONYAMALI (Iran), President of the Iran Canoeing, Rowing, Water Ski & Dragon Boat Federation, was elected by the IDBF Congress as the Federations 4th Vice-President, following the retirement of Benjie Ramos Jnr, from the Philippines. Benjamin, formally from the world of Rowing was instrumental in establishing an independent Dragon Boat Association in the Philippines. The remaining three VPs were all re-elected for a further term of office until the 2013 Congress, namely:- Senior VP – Mason HUNG (Hong Kong); 2nd VP – Bob MORRO (USA) and 3rd VP - Claudio SCHERMI (Italy).

HONORARY PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Following their retirement from the IDBF Council, the Congress unanimously awarded the titles of IDBF Honorary President to **Mr ZHANG Faqiang** and Honorary Vice-President to **Mr Benjie RAMOS**, for their outstanding services to the sport.

IDBF MEMBERS SAY 'YES' TO HONG KONG FOR 2012 AND TEHRAN IN 2013.

After receiving detailed proposals and DVD presentations from Hong Kong and Tehran, to stage the Club Crew Worlds in 2012 and the World Nations Champs in 2013, the Congress Delegates voted overwhelmingly for the Cities concerned to host the respective championships.

The Hong Kong 2012 CCWC will be held in the Victoria Harbour, site of the original Hong Kong Races, to celebrate the 36th anniversary of the founding of the modern sport and the 21st Birthday of the IDBF and its foundation in Hong Kong in 1991.

Delegates were reminded by Mason Hung, the Senior IDBF Vice-President, that the racing conditions in Victoria Harbour would not be the same as those normally expected at a Club Crew World Championships but that the Organising Committee would do all that it could to ensure that the race course was as fair as possible. Hong Kong 2012 would be a return to the festival racing conditions in which Sport Racing developed and competitors should come to Hong Kong for the experience of racing on the course where the modern sport started and enjoy the traditions associated with the Sport in its historical setting.

The 2013 Nations Championship in Tehran will mark the first time that an IDBF world event has been held in the Gulf Region. Following a detailed and comprehensive presentation by Mr Donyamali and his Team, there were questions from Delegates concerning the regatta course and other facilities; the range of accommodation, available; the security of competitors during the event and the amount of personal freedom that the athletes could expect to enjoy, particularly the female competitors.

Mr Donyamali informed the Congress that the 2009 Asian Flat Water Canoeing Championships would be held on the Tehran Regatta course, so all the facilities would be fully tested and updated before 2013. He assured the Congress that the security of all participants would be of the highest order, that the accommodation on offer would be of good quality and that competitors would be treated with respect and made most welcome by the Iranian people. This would apply equally to women as well as men. In closing the discussion it was agreed that regular information on the culture of Iran and what was and was not socially acceptable would be published by the IDBF and the Tehran Organising Committee in the lead up to the actual Championships.

IDBF NOW WADA COMPLIANT – CONGRESS ADOPT THE NEW ANTI-DOPING POLICY

Prof Bob McNamara, Chairman of the Medical Commission, was pleased to inform the Congress that the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) had confirmed that the revised IDBF Anti-Doping Policy had been accepted and that the IDBF was now compliant with the WADA Anti-Doping Code.

The IDBF AD policy was formally endorsed by the Congress and comes into effect on 1 January 2010, This will mean that Out of Competition Testing will apply to IDBF athletes for the first time.

An IDBF pool of approximately 36 Elite Athletes will be established from those crews that qualified for the Premier Open, Women and Mixed 500m Grand Finals at the World Championships in Prague and the selected paddlers notified accordingly.

The Elite Pool Athletes will then be entered on the IDBF Data Base and be advised that they will be subject to random Out of Competition Testing until the 2011 World Championships in Tampa Bay, at which time a new pool of IDBF Elite Athletes will be formed. In the intervening period Elite Pool Athletes will be required to notify the IDBF Medical Commission of their whereabouts on a weekly basis.

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 12th IDBF MEMBERS CONGRESS.

In his report to the Congress, IDBF Executive President, Mike Haslam (Great Britain) said that the last two years had been ones of expansion and consolidation for the IDBF and the sport.

Expansion in that IDBF Membership had continued to grow and both the Club Crew World Championships and World Dragon Boat Racing Championships had increased entries and a wider range of competition classes to offer the paddlers.

Consolidation with the successfully introduction of the IDBF Coaches Awards Scheme and the continuing development of the Race Officials Training & Assessment Scheme. The number of IDBF Affiliate Festivals and Event Organisers around the world had steadily increased to over 25, as had the number of IDBF Boat Manufacturers and Paddle Makers.

The EP advised the Congress that on the down side the World Corporate & Community Championships had not made the hoped for impact in the general Dragon Boat Festival market. The 3rd WCorcom held in Miami in April 2009 had been well organised and enjoyed by all the crews that took part. However, it had been a small success rather than a large one and the future of this particular Championship was under review.

In paying tribute to Mr ZHANG Faqiang (China) the retiring IDBF President, the EP said that the . eventual success of the IDBF in gaining membership of the General Association of International Sports Federations – now known as SportAccord, was in no small way due to the personal efforts of Zhang Faqiang and the Chinese Olympic Committee in winning friends and influencing the Members of Sportaccord to support the IDBF.

The EP proposed a formal vote of gratitude to Zhang Faqiang from the sport, for his hard work on behalf of the IDBF and wished him well in the future, with the hope that he would not forget the many friends he had in Dragon Boating.

Also retiring as a Vice President of the IDBF, after many years of service to Dragon Boat Sport was Mr Benjamin Ramos from The Philippines. On behalf of the Federation the EP thanked Benjamin for his past work for the sport and wished him well for the future.

The EP advised the Congress that despite IDBF Membership of SportAccord, the IDBF Council were still receiving reports from IDBF Members that their own efforts to gain recognition as Governing Bodies for Dragon Boat Sport at National and Territorial level, were still being opposed by National Canoe Federations claiming to be responsible for Dragon Boating by virtue of their own Membership of the International Canoe Federation and quoting a letter from the IOC to the ICF, as the justification for making their claims over the governance of Dragon Boat Sport at 'national' level.

The EP stated that in general, IOC letters do not refer to the governance and conduct of a sport at World Championship level but only to those disciplines of sport that are included in the Olympic Games.

It was the IDBF Council's view the letters from the IOC are not in respect of non-Olympic disciplines of sport and that the process of recognition by the IOC as an Olympic Federation, is open to the IDBF.

In this respect the IDBF had recently received application forms for such recognition from the IOC and the IDBF Council had agreed that any application by the IDBF for Olympic Federation status would be conducted through the offices of the IDBF President and Senior Vice-President.

In closing his report the Executive President said that the IDBF Council had previously stated that as a International Federation the IDBF welcome any organisation that wished to take part in our sport provided that they recognised the status and standing of the IDBF as a GAISF Member.

Therefore IDBF Members should make it clear to their National Sports Authorities that SportAccord GAISF – an IOC recognised organisation, had ruled that Dragon Boating and Canoeing are two different sports and that the IDBF is the GAISF Member specifically for Dragon Boating.

The EP concluded that National Sports Authorities should also be advised that the Olympic Council for Asia had already recognised the Asian Dragon Boat Federation (ADBF) as having responsibility for Dragon Boat Sport in Asia and that Dragon Boating organised by the ADBF and conducted under IDBF Rules of Racing, will be included in the 2010 Asian Games.

In accepting the Executive President's Report, the Congress unanimously passed a motion put by the Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF) that the 2009 Congress fully supported the actions of the Executive President in representing the sport and putting forward the views of the IDBF Members. The Congress then agreed the following resolution.

RESOLUTION BY THE 2009 IDBF MEMBERS CONGRESS ON THE GOVERNANCE OF DRAGON BOATING

In the interest of fostering good relationships within the International Sports Community and as the independently established and recognized International Federation specifically for Dragon Boat Sport, the IDBF Members in their 2009 Congress held in Prague, adopted the following resolution on the governance of Dragon Boating.

1. Prime Purpose

In the best interest of dragon boat participants at both national and international level the IDBF shall concentrate its energies on developing dragon boat sport through its elected representatives.

2. International Relationships

With regard to International Sports Federations and Organizations the IDBF will seek to:-

- a. Develop friendly and open relationships.
- b. Seek agreements in areas of common interest.
- c. Establish a better understanding of Dragon Boating among international federations and international organizations.

3. The IDBF Members

The IDBF as the specific International Federation for Dragon Boating shall:-

- a. Maintain a unity of purpose amongst its members by working together for a common goal within a democratic organization
- b. Promote and support the independence of the sport at national and international level.

4. The Status of the IDBF and the IDBF Member Organizations

4.1 As the SportAccord-GAISF Member, International Federation specifically for dragon boat sport, the IDBF asks all organizations to accept and respect the status, standing and authority of the IDBF and its Member Organizations.

4.2 The IDBF states that between International Federations and organizations there should be mutual understanding and respect. In the event that a federation or organization fails to recognize the authority of the IDBF, the IDBF Members Congress reserves the right to respond in an appropriate manner.

5. Future Vision

The prime aim of the IDBF and its Members' will be to adopt forward looking and innovative approaches to establishing management systems and development goals that will ensure the sustainability of the sport at all levels.

Prague 29th August 2009

MEDIA BITS - NEW IDBF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WEB SITE FOR THE SPORT

Henning Wiekhorst, the publisher of Dragon Boat World International but wearing his **IDBF Marketing & Media Commission** hat, has developed a new IDBF web-site exclusively for World Championship Regattas where Organising Committees can post all the information that applies to their particular event and where the competing crews can be kept up to date on each Championship as it develops.

A results service will also be available from this web site during each Championship, as well as pre and post event videos about the regatta site and the Championship venue.

Go have a look at <http://idbfworldchamps.com> for examples of information that will be available to paddlers and crews about each World Championships as it comes on line.

DRAGON BOAT WORLD TELEVISION TAKES TO THE AIR

Another new service for Dragon Boaters, provided by Henning Wiekhorst, was the launch of Dragon Boat World TV, which started its full broadcasting service on the 1st October 2010. DBWTV consists of monthly magazine programme of updates, interviews and DVDs on the sport. The October TV magazine featured news and views from the World Champs in Prague.

DBW Television also includes a video service, named the VIDEO TUBE, where you can upload your own videos to the DBWTV library – want to try it out and see more ? Go to www.dragonboatworld.tv

IDBF WEBSITE UNDER RE-CONSTRUCTION

The IDBF website at www.idbf.org is currently under re-construction but still available for you to get information and downloads on the sport and the IDBF.

Features on the revamped website include a paddlers forum and a video page covering all aspects of the sport. The web page will be linked to other Dragon Boat websites like DRAGON BOAT NET, DBWTV and the IDBF World Champs web site.

With the IDBF Newsletter DBI, plus the many websites and our independent partners DBWI magazine and DBWTV a truly comprehensive media service is now provided for our sport.

FREE WEB PAGE OFFER FOR IDBF MEMBERS – SIGN UP AND LINK WITH IDBF.ORG

As part of developing its services the IDBF is now offering a free dedicated web site to all its Members through the IDBF web master Henning Wiekhorst. IDBF Members taking advantage of this service will be given their own site, without the need to pay a service provider and a range of templates to choose from for their web pages. Interested then email wiekhorsthenning@mac.com

Henning can also be your web master but this would be at a negotiated cost, dependent on the 'hands on' work required.

IDBF DATA BASE AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM UNDER DEVELOPMENT

It takes time but finally it is on its way. Having a central data base of participants attending World Championships and a registration system that can be carried forward from one event to another has been an ongoing IDBF project for a number of years now but finally the system is coming together under an IT working group led by Henning Wiekhorst in Germany and Andrew Den Hertog in Australia.

A pilot data base has been set up and is being tested for content, ease of use and compatibility with other IT systems and if all goes well the final data base will go live in 2010 in time for the CCWC in Macau. Once up and running crews will be able to register their race entries directly with the IDBF.

MEDIA NEWS - DBWTV AND DBTV - See them both On-line today !!

The new Internet based Dragon Boat television service - DBWTV, comes from the people who bring you Dragon Boat World International Magazine, so you know who is providing this exciting web based service !

DBWTV is supported in part by the International Dragon Boat Federation, but mostly it is a volunteer effort that needs locally based correspondents around the dragon boat world. So grab your video camera and a microphone and you can report on your team, your event or anything dragon boat related.

And what about DBTV? It's still there at TheDragonBoatChannel.com. Two sites are better than one!



DEADLINE PRAGUE – 2009 WORLD NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIPS – ASIA BACK ON TOP ?

China take the Premier Trophies, Singapore the Junior and a new World Record for The Philippines.

The Racice Regatta Course, near Prague, a venue for many international and World Rowing and Canoeing Championships, played host to a World Dragon Boat Championships for the first time from 26-30 August 2009, when the 9th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships, the 'Nations' Championships, were held there and what a great event was enjoyed by all.

The Czech Organising Committee and Czech DBA pulled out all the stops to make people feel welcome, well looked after and comfortable during their stay in the Prague area and the logistics involved in daily transporting 3000 people to the regatta course at Racice, over 50km from Prague, has to be admired, as was the friendly and helpful way in which the Czech officials went about their business. Despite the efforts of the Org Com and the IDBF to keep costs down to a minimum the global recession affected entries with six Countries withdrawing from the event due to a lack of funds.

The one thing that caused some misgivings was the depth of the racing lanes. The depth had been checked by the IDBF during the 2008 Czech National Championships but in the spring of 2009 work had been undertaken on the bed of the course. This had been checked prior to the World Junior Rowing Champs, six weeks before the IDBF Worlds and found to be to FISA standards, which like the IDBF requires a minimum course depth of 3m. However, soundings taken during the IDBF Champs showed that the depth across the course varied between 2.6m in the middle to 2.8m in the outside lanes.

How this depth had arisen was a mystery to all concerned but maybe water had seeped from the course since the Junior World Rowing Champs. Once this situation had been identified as a potential problem, the race draws were adjusted to ensure fair racing across the racing lanes. The event statistics reveal that those crews recording the fastest times in the heats were in most cases also the Gold Medal Winners and that 86% of all medal winners came from the top seeded lanes.

So what of the Championships themselves? The Race Programme was a challenging one to implement and supervise, with over 130 crews racing and new Racing Classes for the U23s and the U16s to consider. Increased entries in the Senior and Junior Divisions plus additional 2000m races meant the number of competition days was increased from four to five.

In the Premier Division 49 crews competed. China returned to prominence winning medals in all but two of the eleven competitions, including Gold in the Premier Open 500m (01.54.21) from the Philippines (01.55.57) and Russia (01.56.59). But it was the Philippines who stole the glory in the 200m Grand Final with a World Record time of 00.40.022 over China (00.40.125) and the Czech Republic (00.42.30). Germany, Canada and Slovakia completed the Grand Final line up. In the Prem Open 1000m Slovakia were the Golden Crew in 04.04.33 but a dead heat for the Silver saw Germany and the USA both record a 04.08.82.

China returned to winning ways in the Premier Women 200m with Gold in 00.50.83 from Canada (00.51.18) and the USA (00.51.67). They repeated their success in the 1000m with a 04.22.15 from the USA in 04.22.35 and Canada in 04.23.09. In the Premier Women 500m – a Blue Ribbon race, the Canadians took their revenge winning the Gold Medal in 02.05.35, from China (02.05.94) and the USA in 02.06.63. New girls Iran made their first Grand Final with a sixth placed 02.12.27 behind Germany (02.10.13) and Great Britain (02.11.75). Interestingly, Iran and Great Britain had the same National Coach in John Griffiths from the UK.

The Premier Division Mixed Golds went to the Philippines in the 200m (00.43.50), Canada in the 500m (02.02.42) and Russia in the 2000m (08.54.94). China took Silver in the 200m (00.45.95) and 2000m (09.01.03). Germany the 500m Silver in 02.05.04 and the 200m Mixed Bronze in 00.48.62 and Russia took the 500m Bronze in 02.05.32.

In the Senior Division with twelve competing Countries and the Junior Division with ten, new records in crew numbers were set, with a total of 34 Open Crews, 16 Women's crews and 27 Mixed crews, plus 4 Countries with 7 crews, competing in the inaugural U23s Championships dominated by the Slovak Republic with six Gold Medals.

Canada continued its dominance of the Senior Division winning 20 Gold Medals and 1 Silver. Only Australia, in the Senior A Mixed 500m (02.08.32) and Hungary in the Open 2000m (00.48.34), prevented Team Canada from making a golden clean sweep in the Senior A competitions. But in the Grand Dragons (Senior B), Canada did complete the golden sweep, taking all 11 Gold Medals. Germany was the next most successful nation with four Silver Medals and 3 Bronze, followed by Russia - three Silver, the Czech Republic - 2 Silver, 1 Bronze and the USA with one Silver and 4 Bronze Medals. Poland completed the table with a Bronze Medal.

The Junior Division saw a new top Team emerging with Singapore, competing for the first time, upstaging both China and Canada in the Junior A 200m and 500m Championships to win the overall Junior Trophy, with 4 Gold and 2 Silver Medals. Three of the Singapore Golds came in the Mixed Races, with China winning 2 Silver and 1 Bronze, Germany one Silver and a Bronze and Great Britain a Bronze Medal, their first at World Championships level. Singapore also won the Junior A Open 200m in 00.46.61, from Russia (00.49.02) and Germany (00.49.27).

Canada took the Open 500m title (02.05.44) from Germany (02.07.86) and Russia (02.07.87). China won the other two Golds (the Junior A Women 200m and 500m) with times of 00.52.40 and 02.12.17 respectively. In the Junior 2000m races the Czech Republic won all three Gold Medals, with Canada, Germany and Singapore taking the Silvers and China (two) and Singapore the Bronze. In the Junior B (U16s) competition, the USA took the title in a tie-breaking 500m race with a 02.16.460 win over Canada's 02.16.806 !

For those crews who like a bit of a challenge then the increasingly popular 2000m races on Wednesday, provided just that with high drama on some of the turns and lots of excitement for the spectators as a number of crews took in water on their way around the course. The crews from Canada and Great Britain (Senior Open) Iran and Macau (Premier Open); Poland (Premier Mixed) and both Germany and the USA (Grand Dragons) all sank completely and others were practically submerged as they crossed the finish line ! Why there should have been so much swamping and sinking was a matter of some discussion with shallow water, heavy crews and crews being too close together rounding the turns and even the set up of the boats, all being put forward as ' the reason, why we sunk'. But at the end of the day over 100 crews took part in the 2000m competitions and enjoyed some great racing and surely having a good race and then socialize afterwards, is what it is really all about or as a certain Frenchman once said – "Its not the winning that's important but the taking part"

9th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, PRAGUE – 26/30 AUGUST 2009 – GRAND FINALS RESULTS

Prem Open 200 – 6 from 19 crews

1 Philippines	00.40.022
2 China	00.40.125
3 Czech Republic	00.42.307
4 Germany	00.43.511
5 Canada	00.46.629
6 Slovak Republic	00.47.292

Prem Open 500 – 6 from 17 crews

1 China	01.54.210
2 Philippines	01.55.575
3 Russia	01.56.594
4 Germany	01.59.550
5 Hungary	02.02.263
6 United States	02.02.490

Prem Open 1000m – first 6 from 16 crews

1 Slovak Republic	04.04.33
=2 Germany	04.08.82
=2 United States	04.08.82
4 Canada	04.09.28
5 Philippines	04.09.42
6 Russia	04.13.27

Prem Wmn 200 – 6 from 11 crews

1 China	00.50.833
2 Canada	00.51.181
3 United States	00.51.677
4 Germany	00.51.715
5 Macau	00.52.031
6 Hungary	00.52.391

Prem Wmn 500 - 6 from 11 crews

1 Canada	02.05.353
2 China	02.05.947
3 United States	02.06.638
4 Germany	02.10.137
5 Great Britain	02.11.752
6 Iran	02.12.272

Prem Women 1000m – first 6 from 11 crews

1 China	04:22.15
2 United States	04:22.35
3 Canada	04:23.09
4 Great Britain	04:25.55
5 Macau	04:26.41
6. Czech Republic	04:26.46

Prem Mxd 200 – 6 from 18 crews

1 Philippines	00.43.507
2 China	00.45.951
3 Germany	00.48.625
4 Macau	00.49.562
5 Russia	00.49.734
6 Poland	00:50.868

Prem Mxd 500 GF – 6 from 18 crews

1 Canada	02.02.424
2 Germany	02.05.041
3 Russia	02.05.326
4 Philippines	02.05.733
5 China	02.05.809
6 United States	02.05.857

Premier Mixed 2000m – first 6 from 14 crews

1 Russia	08.54.94
2 China	09.01.03
3 Czech Republic	09.04.00
4 Canada	09.04.57
5. Germany	09.05.06
6. Hungary	09.12.79

Prem Open 2000 – 6 from 16 crews

1 United States	08.49.54
2 China	08.56.58
3 Czech Republic	08.57.72
4 Great Britain	08.58.33
5 Slovak Republic	08.58.84
6 Germany	09.00.97

Prem Wmn 2000 – 6 from 11 crews

1 Canada	09.17.49
2 United States	09.23.09
3 China	09.23.23
4 Russia	09.33.87
5 Macau	09.35.58
6 Great Britain	09.37.17

Snr A Open 1000m – first 6 from 11 crews

1 Canada	04.06.31
2 Germany	04.10.82
3 Poland	04.15.32
4 Czech Republic	04.17.86
5 Russia	04.18.12
6 Hungary	04.18.39

Snr A Opn 200m – 6 from 11 crews

1 Canada	00.44.468
2 Russia	00.45.526
3 Australia	00.49.151
4 Czech Republic	00.49.160
5 Germany	00.50.163
6 United States	00.50.348

Snr A Open 500m – 6 from 11 crews

1 Canada	02.02.455
2 Russia	02.03.311
3 Germany	02.03.976
4 United States	02.04.355
5 Hungary	02.06.229
6 Great Britain	02.06.559

Snr A Wmn 1000m - first 4 from 6 crews

1 Canada	04.29.61
2 Germany	04.31.41
3 United States	04.31.88
4 Australia	04.33.65

Snr A Wmn 200m – 4 from 6 crews

1 Canada	00.52.388
2 United States	00.53.465
3 Germany	00.54.039
4 Australia	00.54.336

Snr A Wmn 500m – 4 from 7 crews

1 Canada	02.12.152
2 Germany	02.12.624
3 United States	02.13.116
4 Australia	02.14.254

Snr A Opn 2000m – 10 crews

1 Hungary	00.48.34
2 Russia	00.49.02
3 United States	00.49.62
4 Czech Republic	00.50.64
5 Australia	00.50.84
6 Germany	00.51.58
7 Poland	00.50.84
8 Japan	00.51.58
9 Great Britain	D.N.F
10 Canada	D.N.F

Snr A Mx 2000- 6 from 9 crews

1 Canada	00.49.807
2 Czech Rep	00.50.781
3 United States	00.51.000
4 Germany	00.51.028
5 Australia	00.51.492
6 Poland	00.51.559

Snr A Mxd 500m – 6 from 9 crews

1 Australia	02.08.321
2 Canada	02.09.313
3 Germany	02.09.509
4 United States	02.10.017
5 Czech Republic	02.10.571
6 Slovak Republic	02.11.108

Snr A Mxd 2000 - 8 crews

1 Canada	08.25.71
2 Czech Rep	08.34.09
3 Hungary	08.34.90
4 Germany	08.49.16
5 Australia	08.50.19
6 Great Britain	08.53.74
7 Slovak Rep	D.N.S.
8 Russia	D.N.S.

Snr A Wmn 2000 – 7 crews

1 Canada	09.41.78
2 Germany	09.50.91
3 Czech Republic	09.53.39
4 United States	09.55.53
5 Australia	09.58.52
6 Italy	11.44.27
7 Hungary	D.N.S.

IDBF TROPHIES - WINNING TEAMS

Premier Nations Cup	-	China
Premier Women Cup	-	China
Senior A Trophy	-	Canada
Junior A Trophy	-	Singapore

PREMIER WOMEN - 2009 POINTS TABLE

(AusDBF Cup)

IDBF Member	PREMIER WOMEN			Total Points	Final Place
	200m	500m	1000m		
China	14	11	14	39	1
Canada	11	14	9	34	2
USA	9	9	11	29	3
Gt Britain	5	7	8	20	4
Germany	8	8	1	17	5
Macau	7	3	7	17	6
Iran	3	6	3	12	7
Australia	2	5	5	12	8
Hungary	6	2	4	12	9
Czech Rep	4	1	6	11	10
Russia	1	4	2	7	11

GD Opn 200m – 5 from 8 crews

1 Canada	00.50.788
2 Russia	00.51.402
3 Poland	00.51.475
4 Australia	00.51.666
5 Czech Republic	00.52.813

GD Women 200m – Final Result

1 Canada	00.54.424
2 Australia	00.55.228
3 United States	00.56.614
4 Czech Republic	00.57.622

GD Mxd 200m – 4 from 7 crews

1 Canada	00.51.702
2 Germany	00.52.676
3 Australia	00.52.864
4 United States	00.52.871

GD Opn 2000 – 6 from 8 crews

1 Canada	09.08.90
2 Ukraine	09.16.98
3 Poland	09.18.67
4 Russia	09.22.79
5 Australia	09.24.08
6 Czech Republic	09.33.05

U23s Opn 200m – Final Result

1 Slovak Republic	00.48.096
2 Canada	00.49.208
3 Poland	00.49.818

U23 Mxd 200m – Final Result

1 Canada	00.50.949
2 Slovak Republic	00.52.133
3 Hungary	00.52.092
4 Poland	00.52.340

U23 Opn 2000m – 3 crews

1 Slovak Republic	09.15.14
2 Canada	09.17.65
3 Poland	09.27.99

Jnr A Opn 200m – 6 from 10 crews

1 Singapore	00.46.613
2 Russia	00.49.021
3 Germany	00.49.279
4 Canada	00.49.875
5 New Zealand	00.50.183
6 Poland	00.51.049

Junior Women 200m – Final Result

1 China	00.52.407
2 Singapore	00.53.768
3 Canada	00.55.165
4 Australia	00.55.046
5 Czech Republic	00.55.373

Jnr A Mxd 200m – 6 from 9 crews

1 Singapore	00.51.488
2 China	00.51.841
3 Great Britain	00.52.003
4 Germany	00.52.010
5 Poland	00.52.026
6 Canada 1	00.52.096

Jnr A Opn 2000m – 6 from 8 crews

1 Czech Republic	08.53.24
2 Canada	09.12.78
3 Singapore	09.15.51
4 Germany	09.16.96
5 Russia	09.44.79
6 New Zealand	09.54.51

GD Opn 500m – 5 from 8 crews

1 Canada	01.54.83
2 Russia	01.56.22
3 Poland	01.56.84
4 United States	01.56.91
5 Ukraine	08:20.78

GD Wmn 500m – Final Result

1 Canada	02.14.169
2 Australia	02.16.979
3 United States	02.18.565
4 Czech Republic	02.23.293

GD Mxd 500m – 4 from 7 crews

1 Canada	02.09.540
2 United States	02.10.592
3 Germany	02.11.052
4 Australia	02.11.734

GD Mixed 2000m - 6 crews

1 Canada	09.12.95
2 Germany	09.25.21
3 Russia	09.34.77
4 Australia	09.40.78
5 Czech Republic	09.57.35
6 Italy	10.35.27

U23s Open 1000m – Final Result

1 Slovak Republic	04.21.64
2 Canada	04.22.35
3 Poland	04.22.37

U23 Mxd 500m – Final Result

1 Canada	02.07.626
2 Slovak Republic	02.09.001
3 Hungary	02.10.435
4 Poland	02.10.707

Jnr B U16 Open 200m – Final Result

1 Canada	00.53.619
2 United States	00.55.041

Jnr A Open 500m – 6 from 10 crews

1 Canada	02.05.441
2 Germany	02.07.869
3 Russia	02.07.874
4 Singapore	02.08.308
5 Poland	02.08.520
6 Czech Republic	02.09.834

Junior Women 500m – Final Result

1 China	02.12.177
2 Singapore	02.13.492
3 Canada	02.14.903
4 Czech Republic	02.17.276
5 Australia	02.19.062

Jnr A Mxd 500m – 6 from 8 crews

1 Singapore	02.09.834
2 Germany	02.10.017
3 China	02.10.577
4 Canada 1	02.10.801
5 Poland	02.10.845
6 Great Britain	02.10.999

Jnr A Mxd 2000m – 6 from 8 crews

1 Czech Republic	09.08.49
2 Germany	09.18.99
3 China	09.23.67
4 Canada 1	09.28.49
5 Singapore 1	09.29.84
6 Great Britain	09.46.90

GD Open 1000m – Final Result – 5 crews

1 Canada	04:18.05
2 Poland	04:21.13
3 Australia	04:21.25
4 Germany	04:22.74
5 Russia	04:22.94

GD Wmn 2000 – 4 crews

1 Canada	09.53.97
2 United States	10.10.91
3 Australia	10.15.18
4 Czech Republic	10.30.50

GD Mxd 1000m – Final Result – 5 crews

1 Canada	04:19.20
2 United States	04:20.44
3 Germany	04:23.44
4 Australia	04:25.66
5 Czech Republic	04.26.48

U23 Mxd 2000m – 4 crews

1 Slovak Republic	09.27.46
2 Hungary	09.27.80
3 Canada	09.29.18
4 Poland	09.37.75

U23s Opn 500m – Final Result

1 Slovak Republic	02.03.984
2 Canada	02.06.265
3 Poland	02.06.971
4 Iran	02.08.988

U23 Mixed 1000m - Final Result

1 Slovak Republic	04.27.16
2 Canada	04.26.63
3 Poland	04.27.03
4 Hungary	04.27.81

Jnr B U16 Opn 500m – Final Result

1 United States	02.16.460
2 Canada	02.16.806

Jnr A Opn 1000m - 6 from 10 crews

1 Poland	04.20.09
2 Germany	04.20.15
3 Canada	04.20.45
4 Russia	04.20.46
5 Singapore	04.20.76
6 Czech Republic	04.20.81

Jnr B U16 Opn 2000m – Final Result

1 United States	09.46.21
2 Ukraine	10.07.06

Jnr A Mxd 1000m – 5 from 9 crews

1 Singapore	08.54.82
2 China	09.01.36
3 Germany	09.13.21
4 Poland	09.41.26
5 Great Britain	09.41.26
6 Canada 2	09.41.26

Jnr A Wmn 2000m – 5 crews

1 Czech Republic	09.41.57
2 Singapore	09.43.13
3 China	09.52.20
4 Canada	10.21.81
5 Australia	10.38.33

PREMIER NATIONS CUP - 2009 POINTS TABLE

(The Oliver Jesty Trophy)

IDBF Member	PREMIER OPEN			PREMIER WOMEN			PREM MIX		Total Points	Final Place
	200m	500m	1000m	200m	500m	1000m	200m	500m		
China	19	20	9	14	11	14	18	14	119	1
Canada	15	11	13	11	14	09	9	21	103	2
Germany	16	14	16	8	8	1	16	18	97	3
USA	7	12	16	9	9	11	12	13	89	4
Philippines	22	17	12	NE	NE	NE	21	15	87	5
Russia	9	15	11	1	4	2	14	16	72	6
Czech Rep	17	9	5	4	1	6	10	12	64	7
Macau	10	8	4	7	3	7	15	10	64	8
Hungary	8	13	6	6	2	4	11	11	61	9
Australia	13	7	8	2	5	5	8	7	55	10
Gt Britain	11	5	3	5	7	8	NE	NE	39	11
Slovak Rep	14	4	19	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	37	12
Poland	6	6	NE	NE	NE	NE	13	8	33	13
Singapore	12	10	7	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	29	14
Iran	5	2	10	3	6	3	NE	NE	29	15
Sweden	2	NS	NE	NE	NE	NE	7	9	18	16
South Africa	3	3	2	NE	NE	NE	4	3	15	17
Hong Kong	4	1	NE	NE	NE	NE	5	5	15	18
Ukraine	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	2	6	08	19
Norway	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	3	4	07	20
Japan	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	6	1	07	21
Italy	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	1	2	03	22
India	1	NS	1	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	02	23

NE = No Entrv. NS = No Start

SENIOR A - 2009 POINTS TABLE

(The Koo-Kwok Trophy)

IDBF Member	SENIOR A OPEN			SENIOR A WOMEN			SNR A MIX		Total Points	Final Place
	200m	500m	1000m	200m	500m	1000m	200m	500m		
Canada	14	14	13	9	10	9	12	9	90	1
Germany	7	9	10	4	7	6	6	7	56	2
USA	6	8	2	6	5	4	7	6	44	3
Australia	9	3	4	3	4	3	5	12	43	4
Czech Rep	8	4	7	2	3	2	9	5	40	5
Russia	11	11	6	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	28	6
Poland	5	5	8	NE	NE	NE	4	3	25	7
Hungary	3	7	5	NS	2	1	3	2	23	8
Gt Britain	4	6	3	NE	NE	NE	1	1	15	9
Slovak Rep	1	2	NE	NE	NE	NE	2	4	09	10
Japan	2	1	1	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	04	11
Italy	NE	NE	NE	1	1	NS	NE	NE	02	12

NE = No Entry. NS = No Start

JUNIOR A - 2009 POINTS TABLE

(The SAVI Singapore Trophy)

IDBF Member	JUNIOR A OPEN			JUNIOR A WOMEN			JNR A MIX		Total Points	Final Place
	200m	500m	1000m	200m	500m	1000m	200m	500m		
Singapore	13	7	6	5	5	12-	11	12	71	1
Germany	8	10	10	NE	NE	6	8	7	49	2
Canada 1	7	13	7	3	3	4	5	4	47	3
China	NS	NS	NS	8	8	9	6	9	40	4
Poland	5	6	13	NE	NE	5	4	6	39	5
Russia	10	8	7	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	25	6
Czech Rep	NS	5	5	1	2	3	NS	3	19	7
USA	4	3	4	NE	NE	1	2	2	16	8
Gt Britain	1	NS	NS	NE	NE	7	3	5	16	9
New Zealand	6	4	3	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	13	10
Australia	2	2	1	2	1	NS	NS	NS	08	11
Ukraine	3	1	2	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	06	12
Canada 2	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	2	1	1	04	13

NE = No Entry. NS = No Start

PREMIER DIVISION MEDALS TABLE

(all race distances)

	Gld	Slr	Bze	Tot
CHINA	3	5	1	9
CANADA	3	1	1	5
PHILIPPINES	2	1	-	3
USA	1	3	2	6
RUSSIA	1	-	2	3
SLOVAK REP	1	-	-	1
GERMANY	-	2	1	3
CZECH REP	-	-	3	3

U23S MEDALS TABLE

(all race distances)

	Gld	Slr	Bze	Tot
SLOVAK REP	6	2	-	8
CANADA	2	5	1	8
HUNGARY	-	1	2	3
POLAND	-	-	5	5

SENIOR A MEDALS TABLE

(all race distances)

	Gld	Slr	Bze	Tot
CANADA	9	1	-	10
AUSTRALIA	1	-	1	2
HUNGARY	1	-	1	2
GERMANY	-	4	3	7
RUSSIA	-	3	-	3
CZECH REP	-	2	1	3
USA	-	1	4	5
POLAND	-	-	1	1

SENIOR B - GRAND DRAGONS

MEDALS TABLE

(all race distances)

	Gld	Slr	Bze	Tot
CANADA	11	-	-	11
USA	-	3	2	5
AUSTRALIA	-	2	3	5
GERMANY	-	2	2	4
RUSSIA	-	2	1	3
POLAND	-	1	3	4
UKRAINE	-	1	-	1

JUNIOR DIVISION MEDALS TABLE

(all race distances)

	Gld	Slr	Bze	Tot
SINGAPORE	4	3	1	8
CZECH REP	3	-	-	3
CHINA	2	2	3	7
CANADA	1	2	3	6
POLAND	1	-	-	1
USA	1	-	-	1
GERMANY	-	4	2	6
RUSSIA	-	1	1	2
GT BRITAIN	-	-	1	1
UKRAINE	-	-	1	1

AMSTERDAM – 9TH EUROPEAN NATIONS CHAMPS

13/15 AUGUST 2010. Paddlers for Paddlers

The Dutch Federation held its National Championships on the Bosbann Regatta Course in Amsterdam, on 11 Oct 09, in preparation for next year's for next years European Nations Championships due to be held there from the 13-15 August 2010.

"De Bosbaan" was built in 1934, under old International Rowing Federation (FISA) water depth requirements. Nowadays FISA only approves venues with a minimum depth of three meters – the same as the IDBF Regulations, so whilst the Bosbann is still a FISA approved rowing course the water depth is only 2.4 meters (8').



The history and properties of the race course were notified to the EDBF Members at the 2007 EDBF AGA, when the Delegates unanimously voted for Amsterdam and the Bosbann to host the 2010 European Nations Championships. Despite this some paddlers are still concerned about the water depth and so IDBF race officials were invited to this year's Dutch Championships to view the venue facilities and watch six-lane dragon boat racing on the Bosbann course. Their view was that whilst the water depth is below the IDBF minimum, the bed of the racing course is level - unlike some other shallow regatta courses and the racing lanes are wide, therefore the racing conditions should be equal across the course for all the crews racing.

The Amsterdam Org Com think it's important for competitors to have a reasonable priced hotel nearby to the Bosbaan and because during the summer it is very difficult to get a hotel room in Amsterdam, especially in 2010 when SAIL Amsterdam will start on 17 August and hotels will be at a premium.

The Org Com have therefore booked a 1000 beds at the Ibis Hotel in Badhoevedorp, which is only 15 minutes away by car. By bike it can even take shorter time to travel to the course. So don't wait to long to book you're accommodation.

To book accommodation and for any other information, visit the Amsterdam 2010 web site at www.enc2010.com.

PRAGUE PASS THE FLAG TO TAMPA USA FOR THE 2011 WORLD NATIONS CHAMPS



Race organizers from Tampa, Florida accepted the IDBF flag at the Closing Ceremony of the 2009 World Champs in the Czech Republic and will raise it again at the Opening Ceremony of the 10th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championship – the 'Nations' Champs in 2011. Tampa is located on Florida's west coast about 90 minutes from Orlando (and for the tourists amongst you Disney World.)

The Championship regatta course is located in the heart of the city, just steps from major hotels. Everything is so centrally located that the most transportation paddlers will need is a short ride from the airport. In fact your hotel room in Tampa might be closer to the racing than your team tent is at some other events!

Tampa is a world class destination renowned for its entertainment, restaurants, hotels and night life. Although a trip to Central Florida can be expensive, the organizers in Tampa are taking extra steps to help keep costs low, especially for nations that may otherwise have trouble sending a team.

Not to worry for those of you who want the full luxury experience, that will be available too, but one goal for the event is to bring as many nations as possible together under the IDBF flag. No matter if you are national team paddler or just a fan of great dragon boat racing, Tampa in 2011 is the place to be!

by Jeff Campbell.

THE 2009 WORLD NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIPS - AN ATHLETES PERSPECTIVE

Cheers of victory erupted from the Canadian National Junior Men's Dragon Boat Team. It was the fourth and final day of competition at the 2009 World Dragon Boat Racing Championships in Prague, Czech Republic, and the status of "World Champions" in the Junior Open 500m was theirs. "We finally did it!" said Trevor Ainley, only one of a few athletes who had attended the 2007 World Championships in Sydney, Australia.

"This was the most amazing experience of my life," stated Aron Nash, "This was the first time that the Junior Men's Team has won a gold medal and I finally knew what it felt like to be a world gold medalist." Hard work, determination and sheer gumption is what enabled 76 junior athletes, aged 14 to 18, to bring home a total of six international medals; four bronze, one silver and one gold.

Head coach Jonathon Hollins explained, "Many of the races were unbelievably tight...less than a foot separated first from sixth...It was unreal!" The success seen at these World Championships could not have been accomplished without the help of our sponsors and the support of family and friend.

Ryan Nash, a new comer and one of the youngest paddlers on the team now had his mind set on the future, "It will take a lot of hard work to be the best, but our goal for next time is to WIN IT ALL

by Aron Nash

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION IN SPORT - A RIGHT OR NOT ?



I have participated in Dragon Boating for many years and, as the Chairman of the European Dragon Boat Federation, I have been part of the IDBF team discussing Dragon Boat issues with the International Canoe Federation (ICF).

Earlier this year ICF Officials complained about the attitude of the IDBF Executive President, Mike Haslam, towards the ICF. An attitude which I consider is not anti Canoeing or anti ICF but pro Dragon Boating and pro the IDBF, which is as it should be.

The right of free speech and expression underpins western democracy but does it apply to sport is a question raised by this latest breakdown in communication between the IDBF and the ICF. My belief is that the freedom for individuals to express their views is paramount in any organisation, especially sport federations, so what are the facts of this matter. In a letter sent to the IDBF Executive President on 28 July 2009, the ICF President said:-

"It is with great dismay that I find myself having to write this letter. Since becoming President I have tried to be open and conciliatory towards yourself in regards to solving our differences over Dragon boat. However this has proven to be impossible due to your constant attacks on the ICF. What is certainly not acceptable is your attack on myself and other individual characters within our Federation. We will no longer work with you on Dragon Boat issues as your constant attack on the ICF in emails, letters and your newsletter is simply unacceptable to us. Should the IDBF change their management structure in the future we would gladly be willing to deal with this organisation to constructively work to develop Dragon boat"

The ICF President's letter was copied to all ICF Members by the ICF Secretary General, who in a covering letter said:-

"Should any IDBF member contact you or request that your National Federation join their Federation the ICF kindly asks you to decline their invitation and inform the ICF Headquarters immediately"

So what did the EP say and do that upset the ICF so much? According to the ICF the EP had been actively asking Canoeing Federations in Africa to join the IDBF. Misrepresented the IDBF status to Asian Federations and in email exchanges with other paddling Federations tried to discredit the ICF in a magazine article and made disparaging remarks about the ICF President. Finally the ICF letter said that in the Spring issue of DBI (April 09) the EP personally attacked the ICF Secretary General, and suggested that the ICF is simultaneously working in two directions at the highest levels.

A malicious attack on another federation or just telling the plain truth. The EP in reply to the ICF President said:-

"I was surprised and sadden to receive your letter. It would seem that you have been given copies of email exchanges between AIPSF Members, to which the ICF was not a party to. I think that says more about the person(s) concerned than me. The situation was that I was asked by the IVF (International Va'a Federation) for my opinion on various issues of interest to AIPSF Members (Association of International Paddle Sport Federations) and this I gave. Nothing was in the emails that we (you and I) had not openly discussed at our previous meetings.

In your letter you seem to think that I was responsible for an article that appeared in the Dragon Boat World International magazine. I can assure you that I was not the author of this article and that as an independent magazine DBWI publishes what it chooses to publish. Any issues that I wish to discuss with the IDBF Members are raised in the IDBF Newsletter – Dragon Boat International under my own name.

In our April Newsletter I did make reference to Simon and correspondence he had sent to some AIPSF members. As I explained to Simon this was not a slur on his name but merely a comment on what was factual, at that time. I returned from our meeting in May, encouraged by what we had discussed and hopeful that we could work together on the 2011 World Dragon Boat Championships. I do hope that the ICF will not withdraw from this project as to do so would not help solve our existing problems but just exacerbate them.

In closing you also appear to have received a copy of my email to the Indian CKF. This was sent following complaints from IDBF Members. As a result I advised the ICKF of the broader situation in International Dragon Boating and suggested that they work together with the DBF of India on dragon boat issues. I do not see this as confrontational but part of my role in representing the sport and informing organisations about dragon boating. It is also part of my job to invite any dragon boat entity to be part of the IDBF family.

At our May meeting we agreed that there were still significant problems to resolve regarding the responsibility for Dragon Boating at both national and international level. These issues have not gone away - India is a new example. As the Leaders of our respective Federations, let us continue to work together to remove these hurdles and not put more in the way of progress. Ignoring those who would make political capital out of the situation is the best way of dealing with them. I urge you to reconsider the position you have taken in your correspondence"

The IDBF Council and Congress subsequently expressed their full support for the work and actions of the Executive President and the 2009 IDBF Congress also issued a resolution on the governance of Dragon Boating. The door to further dialogue with the ICF remains open as does the IDBF proposal that ICF Members could take part in a combined World Championships in Tampa in 2011.

It is still to a hope that the ICF will accept the IDBF offer. However, at the time of writing no further correspondence had been received from the ICF. As the British Statesman, Winston Churchill said

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen"

by Alan Van Caubergh - EDBF Chairman.

INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT NEWS

SHOWCASING THE UNITED STATES - 2010 Nationals & Build up to the 2011 Worlds.



Tampa Bay 2010- Registration Open for 7th Annual DB Race

Get your team registered today to ensure your space in the event. The 2010 event is on May 1st and will be in Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park, with racing on the Seddon Channel.

The International Dragon Boat Federation will be attending this "test-run" event to ensure Tampa is on its toes for the 2011 World Championship, held right here in Downtown Tampa on the Seddon Channel. \$1,750 entry fee for up to 26 people: 3 free practices, and 3 races on May 1st; Boats, paddles, life vests all included; Party tickets included.

Poster Design Contest Deadline Extended. The annual poster design contest for the Tampa Bay International Dragon Boat Races has extended its entry deadline from November 1st to November 30th to allow for additional entries to be received. The poster contest each year yields over 20 entries from local and regional artists. One lucky winner is picked by a panel of judges and becomes the face of the event for the year.

The winner of the contest receives \$750 and the opportunity to be recognized nationally for their talent, as well as the opportunity to work with the Tampa Bay Dragon Boat Institute on future projects including the 10th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championship. The design is included on the event's posters, t-shirts, and event program cover.

All entrants to the poster contest will be displayed in a prominent location in the City of Tampa, and will be available for purchase at the silent auction that the Institute hosts during the Paddler's Party, scheduled for April 30th, 2010. For more information please go to:- <http://www.tampabaydragonboats.com/Events/ArtContest/tabid/104/Default.aspx>

2010 U.S. National Dragon Boat Club Crew Championships – 23/25 July 2010

The US Nationals will take place from July 23-25, 2010 on Chickamauga Lake, at the TVA Park at Chickamauga Dam. Dragon Boat club crew teams will race for best in Nation in each respective division. Hundreds of dragon boat clubs that have formed across the country will be invited to a scenic venue in one of the most visited cities in the southeast to enjoy all the city has to offer while experiencing high level competition in the sport of dragon boating."

The Chattanooga Dragon Boat Festival, which attracted 49 teams in its third year in 2009, will run in conjunction with the US Nationals. Festival teams will race on Saturday, July 24, 2010. Paddlers raise pledges in advance for T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital Foundation.

"We are ready to showcase dragon boating in this great city!" said Penny Behling of Dynamic Events LLC, organizers of the event with the United States Dragon Boat Federation. "Local sponsors, fundraisers, dragon boat teams and supporters of the annual festival are dedicated to ensure a successful event".

"We are very excited to be hosting this event next summer," said Scott Smith, President of the Greater Chattanooga Sports & Events Committee. "We are always looking for non-traditional sporting events with a nice economic benefit to attract to our city and this fits perfectly."

Ginny O'Hare, USDBF President said "On behalf of the USDBF, I would like to say how delighted we are to be preparing for Nationals 2010 in Chattanooga, TN. Dynamic Events has consistently shown their ability to put on quality dragon boat events as seen from their various festivals in the region over the past few years. They have played an instrumental role in growing the sport of dragon boating in TN and we are excited to see what 2010 will bring from the local dragon boat community".

The U.S. National Dragon Boat Club Crew Championships is a precursor to World Dragon Boat Racing Championships in Tampa in 2011. Bring your Best! More information is online at www.racedragonboats.com

SUE SMITH – Roving Dragon Boat Ambassador,

Sue Smith was one of the founders of the IDBF in her role as the President of the American Dragon Boat Association, which later amalgamated with the US Dragon Boat Federation. Sue now roves the world and this is a flavour of her travels last year and this.

"My life is still spiced with dragon boat races, family celebrations, volunteer projects and travels. Last February I went on a trip to Mali, West Africa to connect Engineers Without Borders and Mali Rotary Clubs on a sanitation project there.

Then I backpacked thru Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana and Sierra Leone. This winter I will be in Central America for work projects including one for Rotary in Guatemala and one for Volunteer Obstetric Services for Humanity (VOSH) in Honduras

I am serving as Social Chairman for Engineers Without Borders-Chicago Chapter, proudly introducing salsa and dragon boat racing into their lives. My own 2008 dragon boat racing schedule spanned four states including the Denver Nationals."

(Ed: Busy girl !)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - Up and Running and Very Hot !

The Abu Dhabi Dragon Boat festival in the UAE took place on 9/10 October this year. The photo taken by the event organiser Jason MacKenzie, of the UAE Dragon Boat Association, deserves a poster all of its own. (By the way, there is no truth in the rumour that the crew changing facilities are shown in the background !)

The successful completion of the Abu Dhabi Dragon Boat Festival 2009 was another big step forward for dragon boating in the UAE and the middle east region. The two day event was held at the Shangri la Qaryat al Beri and was attended by over sixty teams competing in five categories.



Although the racing was the main attraction of the weekend the festival was a community event that offered thousands of spectators a variety of activities to enjoy whilst watching the races. The celebration party on the beach was particularly popular with Abu Dhabi residents.

Now it is time for our resident teams and overseas comrades to begin to look forward to the **Dubai International Dragon Boat Festival on April 2nd and 3rd 2010**. For anyone interested to enter a team in this event please contact Jason Mackenzie at jmmackenzie@hotmail.com.

ITALY. FLORENCE - ITALIAN DRAGON BOAT CUP 2009 – SABAUDIA TAKE THE TITLE.

Canottieri Sabaudia Win the Cup and the Pink Ladies from Florence win BCS Races



In two days of Dragon Boat Racing in Florence over 450 competitors took part in the Italian Cup 2009, a great success for participants and technically well organised too.

Cup Races. Day one, the 500 metre races, were dominated by the Circolo Canottieri Sabaudia, coached by National Coach Vincenzo Juliano. Sabaudia won the Women, Mixed and Open events. On day two, the 200 metre races, Sabaudia also won both the Womens and Mixed events but were overtaken in the final of the Open 200m in dramatic fashion by the more experienced home team, Canottieri Comunali Firenze led by Mario Leoni, in a time of 00.44.64. The finals results for the 500m were:-

500m Premier Open

1° Canottieri Sabaudia	2'02"61
2° Firenze "Aquila"	2'03"51
3° CUS Pavia	2'04"39
4° Dragolago	2'08"71

Premier Women

Canottieri Sabaudia	2'23"21
Ellot/Dragolago	2'24"25
Misto Italia	2'31"72
Mariner Roma	2'39"78

Premier Mixed

Canottieri Sabaudia	2'08"42
Dragolago	2'09"78
Comunali Firenze	2'10"26
Elliot	2'12"63

PINK Ladies Races. Dragon Boating has had a high-impact with Breast Cancer Survivors resulting in teams from Florence, Rome, Cagliari, Catania and Venice, competing in the Pink Ladies competition, with good results for the Florence Dragon Lady who won the 500m races in a record time of 02'48 "00 and almost flying down the course to win the 200 meters too. At the end of the BCS races emotions were stirred by the flower ceremony, when pink flowers are thrown onto the water, in memory of friends and colleagues who lost their fight to conquer the disease.

The weekends Racing took place in front of the headquarters of the Canottieri Comunali Firenze, with over 5000 spectators watching the racing during the two days of competition. The Club also organized a race for university and corporate crews in which the Florence Taxi Drivers and University of Florence beat the Marco's Lions to just 28/100 of a second

The races marked the 75th anniversary of the Organizing Club the Canottieri Comunali Firenze and were attended by Luigi Ignesti - Regional President of Italian Olympic Committee; Sandro Tacconi -Sport Director of the Office of the Tuscany Region and hosted by the President of the Organizing Club, Canottieri Comunali Firenze, a past Treasurer of the ICF.



The races were also attended by Claudio Schermi, IDBF Vice President and President of the Italian Dragon Boat Federation (FIDB) - who also Helmed Catania crew in the 500m races and paddled with the Mariner in the 200m open.

In a speech during the event, Claudio Schermi said:-

"We are happy to collaborate with all those who want to organize Dragon Boat activities but only the FIDB has the right to claim full cultural and sporting autonomy for the Dragon Boat movement in Italy. The Italian Dragon Boat Federation doors are open to welcome all those who recognise the status of the FIDB and accept that only by working together in one organisation can the sport benefit and grow further in Italy."

GREAT BRITAIN - Moon Walk for Breast Cancer by BDA Chairwoman – Jan Foster

A big 'thank you' comes from Jan Foster to everyone who supported her for the London Moon Walk. She completed the walk in approx 7.5 hours and was very pleased to see her Husband Steve and Son James at the finish to help her to the car, home and bed!!



London Moon Walkers - Jan is second from the right

Jan and her 'moon walkers' (pictured below) arrived at the event in plenty of time - and the weather was kind. Jan said on her arrival at the Start Line "I have never seen so many women in bras all at the same time - and a few men too!!"

The first 21 miles went OK but then Jan hit the dreaded 'wall' known by all marathon devotees, which led to her second observation of the day – "I have no idea how my legs managed to carry me to the finish - but they did" - But it wasn't until Jan got home that night that she had the courage to check her feet and complete her day with a final understated comment "a few blisters but actually not too bad at all!" (Really !!) Jan raised about £600 herself and together the group from Mill Ride raised over £3000.

Sun Lik Beer and Raging Dragons make History in London's China Town (By Becky Wan)

Raging Dragons and Sun Lik Beer made history when they successfully showcased the Red Lotus (a 40ft dragon boat) in London's China Town on October 19th 2009! A Big thanks to all those involved from start to finish and a special thanks to The Golden Harvest for being so accommodating and looking after us.

The night before, Red Lotus was towed from her home at the London Regatta Centre (LRC) arriving in China Town at 11:30pm where she was met by team members. This small team then carefully manoeuvred her along Gerrard Street and parked her with great skill inside the Golden Harvest for the night.

Early next morning, China Town was lined head to tail with white vans unloading their Goods, plus nine Rage members carefully lifting a 40ft boat out of a restaurant! With great team work the boat was out, on its stands, head, tail, seat and drum all in place - she looked fantastic



Not long after the set up was complete the 'Son's of Rage' begin to put on a macho display to draw in the crowds! The guys start to compete one after another on the Concept 2 machine to see who can generate the highest Watts (the Club record is 324 Watts). This demonstration of power and dragon boat technique pulled in a constant flow of curious spectators - many of them even joined in!

In the afternoon China Town starts to liven up and with many people passing by more begin crowding round the boat, possibly because we deployed our secret weapon - the Sun Lik Beer girls with free beer samples!

By early evening the Chinese Press (TVB Chinese Channel and Sing Tao) arrived to cover this historic event. They were most impressed and couldn't believe that there in China Town was a 40ft long dragon boat - simply breathtaking!

Watch the video of the day and the Raging Dragons promotional video at www.ragingdragons.co.uk:



DENMARK – Alive and Kicking

We are pleased to inform the Dragon Boat community that the Danish Dragon Boat Federation (DDF) is alive and kicking! We have restructured the organization and are now working to promote Dragon Boat Sport but it is an uphill struggle as we have not had any teams competing internationally since the Viking Team from Copenhagen stopped racing at that level.

We are also facing some cultural barriers as the best paddlers presently come from either the rowing clubs or the kayak & canoe clubs but both of these sports have a tradition of promoting individual sportsman so mastering a team of 11 to 21 paddlers who are prepared to work hard in a crew for dragon boat racing has been virtually impossible to find from these sources.

Our new approach is cooperation with schools (boarding-schools) in an effort to develop an interest among young potential paddlers. We can benefit from the fact that dragon boats will be known among the students, and the schools can use Dragon Boating as a way of showing their students the importance of teamwork but it's a long haul.

In the meantime we are using "dragon boat festivals" in our promotional work. These festivals mostly have the function of fundraising events in order to generate money for activities other than dragon boat racing – but that's life!

Our webpage is www.dragonboat.dk. At the moment only it is in Danish, but we will have some pages in English soon. E-mail to: Chairman Jørgen Rasmussen - formand@dragonboat.dk

Osaka Dragon Boat Association participates in Aqua Metropolis Osaka 2009

By Nat Kawakita, JDBA and ODBA, Osaka, Japan

On September 20 and 21 Osaka Dragon Boat Association (ODBA) in Japan, the sole such organization in Osaka, under the Japanese Dragon Boat Association (JDBA) hosted a dragon boat event as part of the Aqua Metropolis Osaka 2009 organized by local governments and businesses.

The organizing committee invited ideas and plans on how citizens could appreciate and enjoy rivers and waterfronts in our city known for rivers, canals and 808 bridges. The ODBA responded by proposing a Dragon Boating tour around this water-friendly City of Osaka. The proposal was awarded the official status of a participatory event.



(Photo: The boats paddle their way by the famous billboard on Dotonbori Canal)

Our plans were to offer citizens paddling opportunities on two dragon boats each on two courses each day: one to paddle 14 km (about 9 miles) of the Water Corridors of rivers and canals encircling the inner city in about four hours, the other shorter 9 km (about 5.5 miles) around a small island surrounded by two rivers in two hours.

As it was a very rare opportunity to paddle a dragon boat inside a big city, about 120 citizens accepted our public invitation including families and school kids. Ninety out of 120 participants had never or hardly ever had a dragon boat experience before. Thirty were ODBA team members and assigned to be either on board to help citizen paddlers or standing by to replace paddlers who might become too tired to continue.



The 14-km course started from a landing facility in Nakanoshima Park area, and then went on to the Higashi-Yokobori Canal which is mostly under an express motorway and many bridges - not very scenic. A positive side of this part of the course was that the drumming was very appealing due to sound reflections in the concrete jungle. Going through a lock was also a unique experience to many of the paddlers. Past these "concrete spectators" was the Dotonbori Canal along which were promenades. Drumming and weird looks of the dragon boats attracted tourists and spectators on bridges and promenades, and families smiling from apartment windows. They waved to us and we did the same.

Like any spectator sport, the more spectators there are the more excited the players get. After a short "comfort" stop at another pier, the two dragon designed baby duck looks on) dragon-boats and three accompanying rescue boats passed through another lock to the Kizu River and went on to the

Dojima River, where one sight-seeing boat after another passed by. We often had to stop the dragon boats to let these pleasure boats pass.

To let the paddlers know that while leisurely paddling is fun, racing is also what dragon boating is about, the two dragon boats raced for the final 250 meters of the 14-km course. In spite of our concern all the citizen paddlers came back safe and sound to where they started. We awarded them a certificate of completion of paddling.

We at ODBA were happy two days after the event was successfully over when the organizing committee of Aqua Metropolis Osaka 2009 awarded us the Osaka Prefecture Governor's Award as our dragon boating was the most favourite event based on popular votes by the visitors. Our months of elaborate planning and preparations were surely rewarded.

While competitions may be the main stream of dragon boat activities, leisurely paddling is a good entry into this great sport. We are hoping that those who came to participate in our program will be getting more into dragon boating in the future. We are talking about hosting a similar event next year.

NEWS FROM WADA – the World Anti Doping Agency WADA Publishes Revised International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions

Montreal, November 3, 2009 – Following approval by its Executive Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has now published the revised International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE). This Standard will take effect on Jan. 1, 2010.

The ISTUE was revised as a result of the adoption of the 2010 Prohibited List. The ISTUE had to be amended to accommodate some of the changes to the List to be implemented on January 1, 2010, in particular the removal of inhaled salbutamol from the List. From 2010, salbutamol, salmeterol, platelet-derived preparations and glucocorticosteroids, when administered by some routes, will require a Declaration of Use.

In order to avoid frequent changes to the ISTUE, the name of the substances that require a Declaration of Use are no longer included in the ISTUE, but are clearly indicated instead on the Prohibited List.

WADA Launches New Web Site at www.wada-ama.org.

Montreal, November 3, 2009 – The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) launched its new Web site today to coincide with its upcoming tenth anniversary on November 10, 2009. The new Web site features improved navigation and reorganized content to better fulfill its users' needs.

An entirely new section, called "Anti-Doping Community", has been created to cater to the particular needs of WADA's key stakeholders, including athletes, the sport movement and governments. In this section, each of these groups will find information specifically related to their anti-doping responsibilities and areas of interest. Any questions or feedback please contact info@wada-ama.org

1st PUTRAJAYA INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL 2009

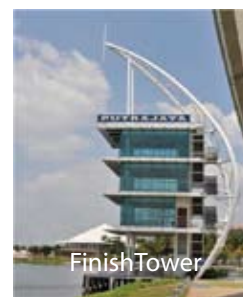
The inaugural 1st Putrajaya International Dragon Boat Festival was held at Putrajaya Lake Water Sports Centre, a world class facility, from 5th - 7th June 2009. The festival is affiliated to the IDBF and supported by the Ministry Of Tourism, Malaysia and Putrajaya Corporation.

Putrajaya is a new Federal Government Administrative Centre of Malaysia to replace Kuala Lumpur, the principal business and financial centre. Putrajaya is a thoroughly modern and vibrant city constructed with detailed planning, innovative urban design and creative land-scapes. The name "Putrajaya" is in honour of Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Alhaj, for his invaluable contributions to the nation.

Of the city's total land area, about 38% is being developed into parks, lakes and wetlands while the remaining is reserved for government offices, commercial and residential areas. Putrajaya is just around 30 minutes drive from Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and 45 minutes from Kuala Lumpur City.

A total of 1500 athletes from 8 countries and territories namely Japan, Macao-China, Indonesia, Singapore, United Kingdom, Hong Kong-China, China and Malaysia took part in 84 races, with 17 international crews and 40 local teams from Malaysia.

These included the Pink Spartans from Singapore and BCWA (Malaysia) with 4 Breast Cancer Survivors crews who added their much valued enthusiasm to the event.



Pink Spartans Singapore

There were both International and Malaysian races over 500m and 2000m, with the most popular competitions were the Putrajaya International Challenge and the International and Malaysian Open Races. The races ran smoothly and to time throughout the festival and all in all, a great weekend was enjoyed by all the participants.

The 2nd Putrajaya International Dragon Boat Festival will be held at the same venue in the middle of June 2010.



British Dragon Boat Team Leading



Racing To The Finish Line



National University Of Singapore

REUNION ISLAND UPDATE - Plenty of enthusiasm and a collision too !

Reunion Island maybe but a dot in the vast Indian Ocean but Dragon Boating is beginning to make a big impact there, thanks to the efforts of Jean Claude Kwong (JC), the Founder of the Dragon Boat Association on the Island.

Having raised the money towards four IDBF Spec Dragon Boats and with a further two donated from the IDBF Development pool, JC was ready to bring the sport to his tropical paradise and introduce both the racing and the cultural traditions associated with them.

The Races proved to be a great attraction with over 140 keen paddlers getting together to race and around 500 spectators watching the days action, which was pretty good considering they were up against a Vintage Car Rally and a bicycle road race all on the same day.

The event attracted TV coverage of the cultural ceremony, plus two pages of pictures in the local TV magazine and a newspaper article on the success of the festival. The Mayotte team "maririzic" means "chances" won the 200m final, beating a strong fire department team.



Unfortunately for JC, the Reunion Island also experienced its first dragon boat collision as JC describes – "On the day, we had a good northern wind and a strong current in the sheltered water of the harbour. One boat goes to the right side of the course (due to the wind), the Steerer tried to correct his course but forgot to push the steering oar to the neutral position and this caused the middle boat to turn to the left side to avoid collision but in doing this the second boat comes into a collision with a third dragon Boat !!

Despite this mishap JC is confident for the future development of Dragon Boat Racing in the island and the RIDBA have decided to put on a Dragon Boat Regatta at the "Jeux Nautiques" - Nauticals Games" at the occasion of the "Fet de la Ville" ("festival in the town") on the last week of November 2009. Sounds like a good place to go dragon boating. For RIDBA info – go to www.dragonboat974.sport.fr

DBI FOCUS ON NEW ZEALAND - from the NZDBA Web News



ROUND THE FOUNTAIN 2km - Harbour Fun Day

Sunday 31st January 2010 Wellington Harbour

This is a fun day from the lagoon, around the fountain, around two buoys and back into the lagoon. It's a 2km course. It tests out your endurance and gives your team some pre-festival racing, great training and FUN! 2km with turns involved has been chosen as this is an internationally recognised race distance. You may want to go to a world championships after conquering this.

NZCT WELLINGTON DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL - 27/28 Feb 2010

One of the biggest Festivals in the country. New festival owners Wendy Smyth and Angela Sargeant love the excitement of this event so much that they bought the company! Both have been involved in dragon boat teams for over 20 years each. Wellington can sure throw a mean party for the competitors when it wants to. The course is set just metres off Frank Kitts promenade.

NOT JUST A RACE WEEKEND but a festival with all the extras. Be part of the opening and closing ceremonies which include a uniform parade and team chant competition. Food stalls, crafts, jewellery, face painting, chinese lion dancers, jugglers, and sometimes even Army tanks, this is an event that will keep you entertained all day long.

If you would like an information and registration pack, please email crew@dragonboat.org.nz or phone 04 471 0205 and advise your team name and postal address for a pack to be sent.

OTHER EVENTS AROUND NEW ZEALAND

**For details on Auckland events - www.aucklanddragonboating.co.nz
For details on South Island - www.aoraki-dragons.co.nz
For details on the NZDBA Nationals, 27/28 Mar 2010 - www.nzdba.co.nz**

TYPES OF NZDBA TEAMS

School Teams Secondary schools teams are the life blood of this sport. This is where we find the Dragon Boaters of the future and the racing is fierce and fun to watch in this competition. Teams are split into Girls only, Boys only, and Mixed crews. Schools from all around the Wellington and Wairarapa regions enter in the following divisions:

Girls Only Competition (12): Wellington East Girls College, Samuel Marsden Collegiate, Wellington Girls College, St Orans, Wairarapa College, St Matthews Collegiate, Sacred Heart Girls College, Chanel, Chilton St James, Queen Margaret, St Catherine's, St Mary's and Wainuiomata College.

Boys Only Competition (8): Scots College, Rongotai College, St Patrick's College, Wellington College, Hutt International Boys School, St Patrick's College Silverstream, Bishop Viard College.

Mixed Competition (15): Wairarapa College, Wellington High School, Onslow College, Hutt Valley High School, Solway, Makoura, Aotea, Paraparaumu, Upper Hutt, Heretaunga, Kuranui, Naenae Taita, Tawa and Wainuiomata Colleges.

Parents And Teachers In A Boat. This is a new category designed to encourage schools to combine teachers and parents in a boat so they can show students the benefits of a healthy sporting life style.

Pink Ladies - Breast Cancer Survivor Teams. Breast Cancer Survivors who are getting out and enjoying life after cancer while promoting awareness about breast Cancer. These teams can also enter into the Senior Women's category in the Sports division.

On the road to Nationals

Many of the NZDBA Board had not had the opportunity to visit the Lake Hood, Ashburton, venue for the 2010 Dragon Boat Nationals. So during the October Board Meeting on 30 October 09, they viewed the lake and walked the site, viewing various options such as the placement of lanes, start/finish lines, marquee positioning, vendors, marshalling etc.

The lake is a brilliant venue, and the Board Chairman was so impressed he declared the lake of a standard was fit enough to host a world event. That sentiment in itself will give NZDBA confidence to bid for such a world event in the future.

DBI SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

Extracts from Dragon Boat Canada's Newsletter

NATIONAL TEAM UPDATE

Team Canada worked hard to secure incredible results at the World Championships this past August in Prague Czech Republic. Many thanks from DBC and the athletes for the dedication and expertise of the Coaches and the organization and commitment of the program Directors and Managers. Full Crew and Coach Lists are posted on the DBC website www.dragonboat.ca. The Protocol for the Selection of the 2011 National Team and the details regarding the Trials taking place July 2, 2010 in British Columbia will be circulated this winter.



Dragon Boat Canada launches regular News Bulletins.

The new DBC bulletin will be distributed quarterly and it is hoped that it will be an effective method of distributing information to its Members. DBC, the IDBF Member National Governing Body for Dragon Boating in Canada wants to make sure that they provide all Dragon Boaters with as much information as possible on the sport.

The News Bulletin will talk about events, such as the 2009 Nationals and the 2010 World Championships, and keep paddlers notified regarding rules and technical updates in future editions. A news bulletin is great vehicle for letting members know what is happening in Canada in regions outside their own.

This is a new format for DBC, so they want to know what people think and want to hear from their readers. If paddlers have any specific topics or sections that they would like to see included then contact the DBC office. Reader feedback will be a great help in insuring that the news bulletin is something informative and worth-while, so let DBC hear from you – email. info@dragonboat.ca

BCS Book Out Now! The Pink Dragon Ladies have published a book that starts with the story of their first ever division win at last year's International Breast Cancer Races in Windsor, Ontario. Three team members had stage 4 cancer and still competed. Only one is with us today. The book tells the story of Windsor and the impact it had on this amazing group of women. It evolves from this point to individual stories about personal experiences with their battles as well as the impact dragon boat racing has made upon them. Order online at: www.pinkdragonladies.org

SUDDEN IMPACT BLACK – One Crews vision for the season

When asked by our coach, Kamini Jain as to what our expectations and goals were for this season, the common theme was to compete in the Competitive A Division and participate in the National Dragon Boat Championships and CCWC race off. This was the vision and mission of Sudden Impact Black for the 2009 Dragon Boat racing season and this vision became a reality on Aug 22, 2009 when we left the marshalling dock and went out for our first 500m race.

Everyone was excited and also a bit apprehensive as we were not familiar with our neighbours from the East and had not competed in a closed course but had heard, seen and practiced the day before some of what was to be expected. Our race was close with all 4 boats and we quickly discovered that at the Nationals, "every race counts"

Our time placed us in the C Division semi, which was a bit disappointing, however we analyzed the race, shook it off and focused on improving our time and winning the remainder of our races. Our determination paid off and we won the semi and final races and improved our times throughout the entire weekend.

The learning curve was extraordinary and the experience invaluable. We cheered on Edmonton during their premier Open Race-Off and saw the determination and the disappointment during and after their race. We could only imagine what it would be like to race-off for the last coveted spot to represent your club against the best clubs in the world.

Attending the Nationals has now given us the experiences to take home and build upon what we learned, improve and "step it up" for next year. We are looking forward to seeing our new found friends from the East and extending to them the same welcome and hospitality that was extended to us.

by Susan Mott

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010 AND BEYOND

Over 60 Club Crews helped to make the 2009 National Championships held in Montreal this past August a great success and so DBC is very excited to have the National Championships and National Team Trials heading to Whistler next year. The event will be taking place 2-4 July 2010. Whistler is enthused about the event coming to town and is working with us to make the event awesome.

The 2010 event will see the inclusion of both Great Grand Dragon (59 and older) and Breast Cancer Survivor Division in addition to Junior, 18-23, Premier, Senior (40+) and Grand Dragons (50+).

More details will soon be available including accommodation packages. Check out the link to Flight Centre – it is a great chance to support your National Team program! DBC is proud to announce this new relationship with FCM. Part of the proceeds of your travel purchases with FCM go directly to assist in the support of Canadian Dragon Boat National Team athletes.

A LOOK AT HOW THE IDBF WORKS

THE DUTIES OF THE IDBF COMMISSIONS

Continuing the series on looking at the different roles carried out by Members of the IDBF Council, in this issue of DBI we look at the roles of the Commissions.

Appointment of Individual Members. The Members of the Commissions are appointed, not elected, following nominations made by the IDBF Members or the Council and agreed with the Chair of the relative Commission. Generally the same person may only be a member of one Commission at any one time, exceptions can be made at the discretion of the IDBF Executive.

Each Commission consists of up to twelve (12) members, including a Chair holder and two Vice-Chair-holders. A nominated Member of the Council may also be assigned to a Commission to give advice and assistance to the Chair Holder, as necessary.

The duties and fields of activity for each commission are set by the Executive Committee as the need arises and published in full in the Bye-Laws. All the IDBF Commissions are required to work closely with Commissions of the Continental Federations that cover the same activities.

There are presently four IDBF Commissions covering Competition & Technical areas; Marketing and Media relationships; Medical and Sports Science issues, IDBF Protocol matters and the Culture and Heritage of the sport. But what do they actually do? Well in summary:-

Competition & Technical Commission (C&TC).

The C&TC is responsible for formulating the IDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing and for laying down the specifications for the Dragon Boats and accessories used in IDBF competition. The C&TC gives advice to IDBF Members on the type and range of technical installations appropriate to Dragon Boat Racing competitions, the equipment and officials required at International Competitions and advice on matters affecting the safety and welfare of competitors.

The C&TC is also responsible for developing both the IDBF Coaches Awards and Race Officials Schemes and organising training programmes and examinations for both schemes. The appointment of Race Officials for IDBF Championships and if requested, for IDBF sanctioned competitions, is also a responsibility of the C&TC, which it carries out through the Race Officials Secretariat, a small working group of Race Officials appointed by the Chairman of the C&TC.

Marketing & Media Commission (M&MC).

The M&MC gives advice to the IDBF Council on non-technical and non-competitive matters, such as sponsorship; merchandising strategy; marketing policy; finance. The Commission formulates product licensing agreements for the IDBF; produces corporate designs and IDBF logos and, when required, represent the IDBF in sponsorship negotiations, concerning the Federation, its events or services.

The M&MC also provides an information service to IDBF Members on sponsorship, marketing and the media and provides a media service for IDBF World Dragon Boat Regattas, in conjunction with each Organising Committee.

A prime role of the M&MC is to develop and maintain an IDBF internet web site, as well as maintain a media information service on the work of the IDBF and prepare for publication the IDBF Newsletter, books and other documents concerning the sport.

Medical & Sport Science Commission (M&SC).

The M&SC advises the IDBF, its Commissions and Members on general medical matters and on all aspects of sports medicine, sports psychology and sports science and in particular on questions of sport hygiene; the scientific training of athletes; the dangers of drug abuse and the effects of dope on the body and for the health safety and general welfare of competitors.

In conjunction with the C&TC the M&SC issues instructions concerning drug testing and doping control at IDBF organised and sanctioned competitions, as well as organising symposiums at which M&SC matters of mutual interest to officials, coaches and competitors can be discussed.

At IDBF World Championship Regattas the M&SC supervise the arrangements made by the Organising Committee for doping control and appoint a doctor to be a direct witness of all drug testing and doping control procedures. Finally the M&SC maintains records on all drug testing carried out at IDBF sanctioned competitions and championships and where instances of drug abuse have been detected report the full details to the IDBF Executive Committee.

Protocol, Culture and Heritage Commission (PC&H).

The PC&H is responsible for promoting the cultural aspects of the sport, such as the Eye Dotting Ceremony, Lion and Dragon Dances and for ensuring their correct presentation at IDBF events.

The PC&H has the role of informing IDBF Members, event organisers and other organisations about the cultural aspects and traditions associated with dragon boating as well as the historical and heritage aspects of the dragon boat and dragon boat racing.

Academically the PC&H is responsible for researching the history of the sport; and maintaining a library of historical documents; a record of heritage artefacts and articles of interest associated with the Dragon Boat and Dragon Boating in general.



'DRUM BEAT'

Where You Have You Say About Your Dragon Boat Sport



EVALUATING THE ICF DRAGON BOAT PROGRAMME

In this issue of DBI, Mike Thomas, Chairman of the IDBF Competition & Technical Commission (C&TC) makes a 'product evaluation' of the ICF Dragon Boat Programme.



Most Dragon Boaters are aware that the International Canoe Federation (ICF) has a Dragon Boat Commission that claims to be equal to the IDBF as an International Federation in organising and developing Dragon Boat Sport on a world wide basis.

This is not a discussion on the wider politics of this situation but whilst accepting that the ICF is involved in Dragon Boating, the C&TC does not agree that the ICF dragon boat programme is equal in any way to the IDBF.

As the C&TC Chairman part of my role is to evaluate international dragon boat events and assess them across a number of areas to check if they are operating to standards of organisation and safety acceptable to the IDBF and equally that the competition levels are acceptable to the paddlers: in summary, that the event organisers are offering a quality service. Essentially it is the paddlers who are the clients and they are the ones who 'pay to race' and they have every right to expect the highest standards and value for money.

A good way to put the ICF claims of equality to the test would be to do a product evaluation on the ICF Dragon Boat programme, in much the same way as IDBF sanctioned events are considered. The assessment follows:

Product Name: The ICF Dragon Boat Commission. Established 2003, first event 2005.

Product Range: Starting in 2005 with the Club Crews, ICF Championships for Nations and Clubs have been held on alternate years (the opposite years to the IDBF pattern). Only a few international races are shown on the ICF web-site. The ICF does not list any Dragon Boat Festivals or Event Organisers as affiliated organisations. In 2006 a European Championship was held but in 2008 it was cancelled due to low entries. One event has been held in both Asia and Africa.

Operating Procedures: ICF events operate under ICF DB Rules and Regulations. The ICF Rules with a few changes appear to have been derived from our own IDBF Competition Regulations and Racing Rules. As far as I can determine the ICF rules do not contain a Water Safety Policy or advice especially for Dragon Boat Racing nor do the ICF appear to have a Coaching Scheme specific to Dragon Boating.

Equipment Programme: ICF Specifications for both Dragon Boats and Paddles are referred to in the ICF DB Rules, however, there are no ICF dragon boat builders or paddle makers shown on their list of manufacturers. The ICF technical specification has not been published, unlike the IDBF, which currently has a world wide base of 27 paddle makers and 15 boat builders all making equipment to IDBF technical specifications.

Customer Base: The ICF has over 140 Members but only about 18 have ever taken part in the ICF Dragon Boat Racing programme. Of these less than 12 have attended more than one event. Of those ICF Members who have taken part in an ICF event, 7 are also IDBF Members and some of their paddlers compete in both IDBF and ICF races. All but two of the remainder have independent Dragon Boat Associations and are IDBF Members. IDBF Membership currently stands at 65 of which 40 are active at international level within the IDBF programme.

Development Programme: The ICF has no published development programme for Dragon Boat Sport or advice on how to start a Dragon Boat Club or national organisation, unlike the IDBF who offer support in setting up both and help with providing dragon boats.

Product Promotion: The ICF does have a Dragon Boat Section on its web-site but does not publish a Dragon Boat magazine. It promotes its dragon boat events through the web-site and in the ICF canoeing news.

The Organising Committees of ICF events also promote events through their web-sites and email information. These Organising Committees brand the events as 'World Dragon Boat Championships' which is misleading as ICF events are restricted to crews from ICF National Canoe Federations only and as such are 'closed competitions' not open to all Dragon Boaters in the world. A more appropriate title and description of these events is needed to clearly indicate to paddlers that they are ICF Championships and not the IDBF World Championships.

Product Cost and Quality: The financial costs to the paddlers of competing in an ICF event are about the same as those found at an IDBF Championships and the general level of organisation, hosting and accommodation is on a similar level too. However, the quality of the ICF Championship product, in terms of competitive strength and depth, does not compare favourable with the equivalent IDBF Championships.

Historically, the number of Countries and crews attending ICF events has been low. For example, the ICF Club Crew championships held in Korea on 10/12 July 2009 - promoted as the "World Club Crew Championships", attracted an entry of just 17 Clubs from 7 Countries.

Most of these competing teams were from Korea. Interestingly or misleadingly, the ICF web news on 7 July 2009 claimed that "40 teams from 15 countries, 4 continents, would attend this big event in Korea". The racing programme actually consisted of 15 Competition classes. Nine of these were in the ICF Masters category, attracting entries from only 2 or 3 crews.

In the ICF Senior category (which is equivalent to the IDBF Premier) two of the competitions had just 4 or 5 crews racing and the remaining four senior competitions only had entries from 6 crews. (By comparison on the same weekend in Budapest, Hungary, 51 Clubs (89 Crews) competed in the EDBF European Club Championships. The Clubs came from 10 Countries.)

There were another 17 crews who raced in Korea but these were local festival crews, some from western based businesses, racing in the appropriately titled 'Amateur Open Races'. They were not part of the Club Crew Races.

The times recorded in Korea in all the Competition classes were not of 'world class' standard with the Korean Canoe Federation, in their first Championships, winning both the Senior Men 200m and 500m (IDBF Premier Open) with times of 0.50.78 and 02.11.61 respectively. At the Budapest EDBF Championships the times for the equivalent races were 00.42.63 and 01.50.93.

Last year in the IDBF Club Crew World Championships, in Penang, 192 crews from 19 Countries took part. (There were also another 36 crews from 13 Countries competing in the Asian Championships held in conjunction with the Club Crew World Championships.)

The winning Club Crew time in the Premier Open 200m, in Penang, was 00.43.71. In fact the semi finals composed of 24 club crews all of whom recorded times of sub 50 seconds. In the Premier Open 500m Semi Finals the slowest time of the 24 crews was 2.04.62. Had the Gold medallists from the ICF Championships taken part in Penang they would have contested the tail-races and not been in consideration for a World Championship Gold medal.

Times in IDBF races are improving each year, and in the IDBF Worlds in Prague this year the winning crew in the 200m was even faster, with a 00.40.02 and in the 500m the winning time was 01.54.21.

Conclusions: By any measure the 2009 ICF Club Crew Championships did not compare favourably with either the 2008 IDBF Club Crew World Championships or the 2009 EDBF European Club Crew Championships. Whilst the ICF may claim to be on an equal footing with the IDBF in developing and organising the sport and in the size of its competitor base etc, the facts of the matter show otherwise. The strength and depth of ICF Dragon Boating is very small when compared with the IDBF programme.

The claim that the ICF is helping to develop the sport does not stand up to scrutiny either. Some of the interest in the ICF programme comes from Dragon Boaters who have fallen out with their IDBF Member in one way or another and have gone to their ICF Member and started a Dragon Boat Section for them. The USA is a recent example of this. It does little to develop our sport but simply fragments it.

The feedback on ICF events from paddlers who have attended ICF Championships is that the quality of the racing is not high and entries are low. It appears that many of the crews competed because it was a new venue in which to race; because they were offered financial support from their Canoe Federation or because they did not qualify in their own National Championships to be selected for an IDBF World Championship and by their own admission, went medal hunting at an ICF event instead.

Finally, a true story just to illustrate the point. A crew who were not selected for an IDBF World Championship competed instead at an ICF Championship; there were only 3 entries in their competitions. The crew were placed last (third) in all their races but when they returned home they informed their local media, with great excitement, that they had won Bronze Medals at the "World Dragon Boat Championships". They did not mention how many crews actually raced. Bronze Medallists, true of course, but this is hardly indicative of their actual racing ability or the true strength and size of the sport.

The next ICF Championship is due to be held in Budapest, in September next year and is for National Crews. It will follow the ADBF Championships in April 2010; the IDBF Club Crew Worlds in Macau in late July and the EDBF Nations Championships in Amsterdam, in mid August.

Dragon Boat Racing under IDBF Regulations and Rules will also be in the Asian Games in November 2010, so there is plenty of top class Championship Racing to choose from on the IDBF calendar next year. In my opinion you can only call yourself a World Champion if you compete against the best and the above should clearly show that you can only do that at an IDBF Championships.

by Mike Thomas.



DRAGON BOAT WORLD
TeleVision
www.dragonboatworld.tv

Dragon Boat Festival is on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List

News report: Dateline Abu Dhabi - a historic moment as the dragon boat festival is added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) intangible cultural heritage of humanity list.

The Tango of Argentina and Uruguay, the traditional Ainu dance of Japan, France's Aubusson tapestries and the Dragon Boat Festival from China, were amongst the 76 elements inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

These 76 inscriptions were decided on 30 September 09 by the 24 Member States of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage, during its 4th session in Abu Dhabi.

The Representative List already included 90 masterpiece elements. It is now augmented by 76 first elements inscribed according to criteria defined in the operational directives of the Convention. These elements must help enhance the visibility of the intangible cultural heritage and raise awareness regarding its importance; they must benefit from measures to promote their continued practice and transmission and must have been nominated by States with the active and widest possible participation of the communities concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent.

Proposed by the Chinese Government the submission for inclusion of the Dragon Boat Festival on the Representative List said "Beginning on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, people of several ethnic groups throughout China and the world celebrate the Dragon Boat festival, especially in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River.

The festivities vary from region to region, but they usually share several features. A memorial ceremony offering sacrifices to a local hero is combined with sporting events such as dragon races, dragon boating and willow shooting; feasts of rice dumplings, eggs and ruby sulphur wine; and folk entertainments including opera, song and unicorn dances.

The hero who is celebrated varies by region: the romantic poet Qu Yuan is venerated in Hubei and Hunan Provinces, Wu Zixu (an old man said to have died while slaying a dragon in Guizhou Province) in South China, and Yan Hongwo in Yunnan Province among the Dai community.

Participants also ward off evil during the festival by bathing in flower-scented water, wearing five-colour silk, hanging plants such as moxa and calamus over their doors, and pasting paper cut-outs in their windows. The Dragon Boat festival strengthens bonds within families and establishes a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature. It also encourages the expression of imagination and creativity, contributing to a vivid sense of cultural identity."

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee decided that the Dragon Boat Festival, including its associated Dragon Boat Races, satisfied the criteria for inscription on the Representative List because:

1. The Dragon Boat festival, comprising ceremonies, dances, performances, games, and the preparation of food and beverages, is carried out in an atmosphere of harmony that strengthens social cohesion, and is regarded and transmitted by the community from generation to generation as part of its cultural identity;
2. The inscription of the element on the Representative List would contribute to the visibility of intangible cultural heritage at the local, national and international levels, promoting dialogue and respect among cultures by offering an example of hospitality that consolidates affection among people;
3. The nomination included a set of existing and proposed safeguarding measures to be carried out by committed groups, communities and official State bodies encompassing documentation, educational activities, promotion and support to poetry associations and boat builders;
4. The festival was nominated with the involvement of communities, groups and the local government of the city of Xukou, and consent has been given on behalf of the communities concerned;
5. The element is inscribed on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage administered by the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture.

See also Dragon Boat Video at: <http://www.idbf.org> - click on the News section. and http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=46523&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.



*Dancing in sacrificing rites n Confucius Temple
©2008 by Qufu Municipal Cultural Affairs Bureau*

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

Part B: Setting Up the Course and Race Tactics.

Culture Corner 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 and became the President of the Ministry of War in 1637.

The description of the race is 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 boat race is held at the centre of the district. The most distant places from where boats are still coming are Yu-chia-kang fifteen Li along the river down-stream and Pai-sha-tu thirty five Li up-stream. On the day of the festival within about fifty Li a deafening noise is made by flags and drums on boats going to and fro. The race course runs for about ten Li of distance along the Southern shore from Tuan-chia-tzui to Ch'ing-ts'ao-tzui and along the Northern shore from Shang-shih-kui to Hsja-shih-kui

The surface of the river is wide here and well suited for a Race Course. The Southern shore is covered with green grass, thick forests and snowy white sands. On the Northern shore are high buildings with beautifully painted balustrades and old city-walls with numerous battlements. The spectators are crowded there: They are just like what Liu Yti-hsi saYs in his song'

Though there such terms of racing as 'with and against the long river' and 'to divide the river into south and north', in fact such races cannot be taken for the standard of making a final decision. Victory or defeat is finally decided when two boats are made to race across the river simultaneously from North to South. The one that reaches the Southern bank first is the victor. To this Fan Tsao (a poet of the Tang period) probably hints in his Boat Race Poem

"The boats start from the northern bank;
Their destination is far on the southern one"

In the fifth month the water-level of the Yuan River rises and sinks irregularly, so that the distance of the two river banks differs from one moment to another. Never-the-less those experienced in boating are well aware of this and can direct their boat precisely on the right way.

First of all each boat does its best. to overtake the rival and then the Paddlers begin to strike at the opponents; otherwise a boat would be defeated by unnecessary fighting. The distance is measured by the drum strokes. On rising water about 380 strokes are needed to cross the river, on falling water about 360' strokes. At different places of the bank, of course, the distances differ slightly.

While racing one boat tries to overcome the other by various strategies. Sometimes one goes first to the mid-stream to wait for the rival. Sometimes one advances secretly with flags 'folded and drum-beating stopped to contend to get the first arrival. Sometimes one suddenly advances and suddenly stops to tire the rival out by frequent struggles.

Sometimes two boats, one lying in a right angle to the other hold each other. Sometimes, in order to bring boat A into a competition with boat B, Boat C first incites them and when the first two boats are engaged with one another, Boat C returns.

This is known as 'to send off the boats. Sometimes, that is in the case that boat A is stronger than boat B, B may go away first and A follows it. This is called 'to 'pursue a boat'. The distance that the two departing boats are keeping from one another is measured by the length of the Boat.

Boat A starts when Boat B has moved a half or a whole boats length, sometimes even five or ten boat lengths..... (to be continued)

16th ASIAN GAMES DRAGON BOAT RACES – GUANGZHOU 2010

Dragon Boat Racing will be included in the Asian Games for the first time, when the 16th Asian Games are held in Guangzhou, China. The races will be held from 18-20 Nov 2010, over 250, 500 and 1000 metres for Premier Open and Women's crews, under IDBF Racing Rules & Regulations. Mason Hung (Hong Kong) the IDBF Senior Vice-President has been appointed as Technical Director.

Any Questions on World Championships?

Go to:

<http://idbfworldchamps.com>

An IDBF Service for You!



FILIPINO WORLD CHAMPIONS IN PRAGUE – THE QUEST FOR GOLD

By Judith Pagsuyuin-Hakim
Secretary General, Philippine Dragon Boat Federation

Having travelled with the Philippine National Team for the past 3 world championships, I am still no expert. Each of the events brought new experiences and knowledge. Every championship gave opportunity for the athletes to seek new frontiers of the sport and to surmount every obstacle.

The recent Championships in Prague, Czech Republic, ours and my 4th World Championships, will be forever etched in my heart. We had the shortest possible time to prepare for it, in terms of logistics and finances. I now attribute it to destiny. We were meant to be there.

The back to back gold medal victory in both 200-meters of the Premier Open and Premier Mixed events gave us a feeling of being proud to be a Filipino. Initially, we dreamt of singing our National Anthem once. We couldn't be more proud to sing it again at the awarding ceremonies.

Truly, we took the world by storm as fellow athletes from various countries began trooping to where we are to be able up to trade with our uniforms or whatever item that has a Philippine flag on it. Exchanging uniforms after the event is one of the fond traditions of our sport.

We also brought along with us some extra uniforms and souvenir shirts which we sold to raise additional needed funds. Printed in our shirts is our battle cry, "What can you do in 00:41.91?" This was actually our world record time in the 200m from the 2007 Sydney World championships.

As records would have it, the 200-meter event truly belongs to the Philippines. We broke our own record by clocking 00:40.022 in the Premier Open in a heart-stopping race against the great China team (Ed. China clocked a 00.40.125 – Yes, that close !)

What's more, we set a new record in the Premier Mixed with a time of 00:43.50. Our Mixed Team had 9 outstanding female athletes who competed for the first time in a World Championships. We capped our journey in Prague with a medal tally of 2 Gold and 1 Silver medal, beating our previous tally in Sydney of 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze. It was a tough challenge for everyone.

SURVIVING PRAGUE

Good thing the heavens were literally on our side. It was hot and sunny during the competition days and the Organizers even reminded everyone to drink lots of water or fluids and cautioned us regarding heat stroke.

At the University where the male athletes are billeted had several apple trees where they could harvest for free. Accommodation at the campus included breakfast, while the Organizers offered lunch packages. Our athletes took turns in cooking our dinner. Again, it was a big help for our delegation that we brought with us a 50-cup rice cooker, 1 sack of rice and canned goods. We did minimal marketing of chicken, beef and vegetables. However, our women athletes had a bigger sacrifice in terms of logistics and finances.

The support from the Philippine Sports Commission could only cover 25 people and because our journey was primarily to defend the world title, it was the Open (Men's) Team that had priority. The Federation and the athletes had to find measures in its quest to set a milestone and give equal opportunity to its female athletes who were deserving of a slot in the world championships.

Our Female Athletes could not afford the package offered by the Organizing Committee so they stayed in a hostel and needed to commute to get to the nearest accredited hotel in order to join the Men's team bus going to the Racice Regatta Course located 45 minutes away from the city.

HEROES RESCUED

Prior to the trip, contact had been made with the Philippine Embassy in Prague through the Department of Tourism. Endorsements for processing of visas were also obtained. Logistical support was then requested from our Embassy to support our delegation.

They were there from the time we arrived at the airport to welcome us. They cheered, waved flags and brought food during the racing days. They hugged and waved us goodbye at the airport. If only for that, I am truly proud that I am a Filipino. For all the support extended, I will forever be grateful. Thank you to Sir Mersole, Sir Adrian, Bong, Ryan and everyone.

Our delegation had the distinction of having no less than our Ambassador, H.E. Regina Irene Sarmiento, rallying behind our athletes at the world championships. We thank Her Excellency for her great support.

The fluctuation in the foreign currency conversion rate has further shrunk our financial resources. As the Organizers would only accept Czech Round, Iris our Federation treasurer and I went to the Embassy to request to be referred to a reliable money exchanger. We had in tow a fellow delegate from Japan, Mr. Makoto Shobu, who was impressed by the idea of getting in touch and support of the Embassy.

And since there was no event for our female athletes in the 1000-meter event, this gave them a day to visit our Embassy in Prague where they were treated to a sumptuous lunch. The office is located just a few steps into the famous Prague landmark which is Old Town Square leading up to the Charles Bridge. What a magnificent place! And we thank Sir Ryan for being our tour guide. I was more than happy to see the delighted faces of our female athletes. All the ordeals they had to go through seemed to have been blown away with the wind.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Our dragon boat community has great belief in our National Team. For the first time, a Send-Off party was organized at the Rowers Den located at CCP Complex as a show of support for our bid in the world championships. During the local regatta, club team members also purchased the souvenir shirts intended to inspire our athletes. UNILAB gave multi-vitamins.

We sought financial assistance and found benefactors, supporters and friends along the way. Fellow athletes and colleagues also gave monetary support. No support is too little.

Our women's team made a courtesy call to Senator Manny Villar just 2 days before the team's travel to Prague. He promised to give support once we report back to him after the competition. Yet before we left his office, he gave 50,000 that helped us settle the bill for the travel insurance.

Fortunately, a long time supporter, Ms. Jane Co from Pacific Star Travel also provided loaned air tickets for our women athletes through a deal with PDBF President Marcia Cristobal.

Looking back, it took Sports Unlimited show of ABS-CBN Channel 2, during their coverage of the dragon boat racing event in Camarines Sur hosted by Governor LRay Villafuerte in May of this year, to call the attention of the Philippine Sports Commission and the public regarding the world record of our Philippine Dragon Boat Team. PSC Chairman Harry Angping responded positively and gave the go-signal for our trip.

With barely 3 months, our team also made a sacrifice with the support of the Administration of La Mesa Dam that enabled them to train two to three times a day for the month of July, unaffected by constant rains that hit the country during that period. Members of the team are immensely thankful to a long-time supporter, Ms. Loida Valenzuela, their food caterer in La Mesa Dam. Thank you for taking care of our athletes each time at the peak of their training.

SENTIMENTS OF A DRAGON

While in Prague, I was team manager for the Men's Team while Ms. Marcia Cristobal and Ms. Annabelle Tario took care of the Women's. Even without them telling me, I knew they were shelling out some personal money for the expenses.

My regular solitary walks to the metro station to buy some food, attend the Congress or visit the Embassy filled my mind with so many thoughts for our National Team.

Much as I hate to romanticize it, I could not help but feel like one of the generals who is sending a troop to a battle. Our athletes are world class and they deserve all the support they could get.

We lacked the time to be more prepared. We did not have competition uniforms or the latest paddles. What we lacked in material things we had in spirit. The federation officials and coaches did everything they could.

Some of the other athletes mistook us for a junior team. They could not believe we were competing in the Premier events, as we did not have the height. We had a lost medal chance in the Premier Mixed 500m, finishing fourth, yet we found comfort in the claps and handshakes of the other teams. Even the 5th ranking in the Premier Open 1000m was something to be proud of too.

Comparatively, I knew this was by far the most difficult world championships. We did last minute efforts in raising the funds. I am grateful the Organizers trusted us. I am grateful our Embassy donated additional funds. Our women's team also came up with proceeds of their shirt sales.

I exchanged the remaining \$50 dollar bill I had in my pocket. I cried after stepping out of the office when I finally settled our outstanding balance. It was while the final ceremony was taking place on the final racing day. And I was the Organising Committees last customer, so to speak.

Figuratively and literally, our delegation took their hats off to our Ambassador and the rest of our kababayans, we gave them our uniform caps with embroidered Philippine flag.

There are no regrets. What remains is the great intention we carried for Dragon Boat sport. We all have great memories of the World Championships that will last for a lifetime. Nothing is truly impossible.

So many emails and text messages were sent before, during and after the Championships but amid all the texted and emailed messages sent across the globe, one statement was clear and witnessed by fellow athletes from various nations, "we have the heart of the champion".

(Send your comments/reactions to phildragonboat@yahoo.com)



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CAMBODIA - Phnom Penh Annual Water Festival Boat Races, 1/3 November 2009

REUTERS Chor Sokunthea. AP Photos Heng Sinith



(Left) Cambodia's King Sihamoni claps as the participants in traditional dragon boats pass by during the first day of the 3 day annual Water Festival boat race on the Tonle Sap river in Phnom Penh, 1st November 2009.



(Right) Cambodia's King Sihamoni greets Prime Minister Hun Sen (2nd L) as President of Senate Chea Sim (2nd R) looks on while they attend the first day of the annual Water Festival boat races in front of the palace in Phnom Penh.



Hundreds of traditional wooden dragon boats gather and paddlers participants stand by during the first day of the Water Festival Boat Races on the Tonle Sap river in Phnom Penh.



A crew heads to the start line where other crews are already waiting before a race in the water festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

IDBF CALENDAR OF AFFILIATE FESTIVALS AND MEMBERS DATES DEC 2009 - APR 2010
www.idbf.org

21-Nov-09	Singapore River Regatta	Singapore River	Singapore	www.sdba.org.sg
21-22 Nov-09	National 5 Crew DB Challenge	Marina Reservoir		
6-Dec-09	DBNSW Race 3	Penrith, NSW	Australia	www.dbnsw.org.au
13-Dec-09	SDBA Masters 500m, Race 6	Bedok Reservoir	Singapore	www.sdba.org.sg
31-Jan-10	Round The Fountain 2km Race	Wellington Harbour	New Zealand	email: crew@dragonboat.org.nz
27-28 Feb-10	NZCT Wellington DB Festival	Wellington Harbour	New Zealand	email: crew@dragonboat.org.nz
27-28 Mar 10	NZDBA National Champs	Lake Hood, Ashburton	New Zealand	www.nzdba.co.nz
2-3 Apr 10	Dubai Int DB Festival	Dubai	UAE	Em: jmmackenzie@hotmail.com

THE LIFE OF AN IDBF OFFICIAL - a view from Boat Marshalling by Julie DOYLE

For all you hard fast paddlers out there (Yes, that does include me as well) who think being an IDBF Official is easy, then think again.

Firstly you have to gain officiating experience in your own domestic dragon boat scene; then take an examination in either English or Chinese on the IDBF rules and regulations and then an interview or is it an interrogation with a panel of distinguished IDBF Level 4 Officials.

So to the life of an IDBF Official.....

- First up in the morning and first at the race site.
- Daily checks of your work station to make sure that everything is in good working order and that you have an up to date race programme before racing commences.
- Processing 60+ races a day with a 5 minute turn around between races ensuring that the right crew get in the right boat in the right lane and in sufficient time.
- 10+ hours on your feet, especially if you are in Boat Marshalling.
- Outside in either the scorching sun or pouring rain.
- No lunch breaks - you are normally the lucky ones if you get food.
- Only sufficient time to run to the loo and back again.
- Trying to communicate in 'x' number of different languages.
- A battering ram for those frustrated crews.
- Last off the race site and normally last to bed after a few jars in the evening.



Why do we do it? Because we love our sport.

To think at the very first World Championships in 1995 in Yue Yang, China I had a man who helped me "glue up" the results – How times have changed.

Calling All Female Race Helms!

Having become one of the first female Race Helms in the UK it has always been a passion of mine to see more women helming. So why does the female of the species make a better helm?

- Generally lighter in body weight, so less dead weight to carry down a race course.
- Generally we have more actual helming skills than men, as with less strength we have to use our skill rather than brute force to manoeuvre the boat in a race.
- Women have a better ability to multitask in helming the boat and giving the race calls.
- Generally prettier than most men!

Under the IDBF racing rules and regulations women have to helm the women's races, but come on you female helms lets see more of you in the big boys races.

BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - 4/5 OCTOBER 2009 *Photos; Henning Wiekhorst*

The Organising Committee of the British Championships in Nottingham, were very pleased when they heard that a crew from Canada would be flying in for the competition and were highly delighted when they made it in time for the Heats of the 500m races !! (They were disqualified for not having a Drummer)



How do I Tackle a Really, Really Long Distance Race ?

That was a question asked on the Dragon Boat Forum, by Dan Grubbs who then went on to explain why he had asked the question in the first place:-

"I belong to a group of paddlers in the Midwest of the USA who are going to assemble a team to paddle a DB in the Missouri River 340 -- that's a 340-mile race from Kansas City to St. Louis on the Missouri River. We've all been in this race in various craft, including in small team boats (4-person canoe). We are using this effort as a fund raiser for a Shriner's Hospital in St. Louis.

Now, other than creating a bit of personal seat padding, what would you anticipate would be the challenges of paddling a Dragon Boat for 340 miles. We have checkpoints at which we have to stop and sign in that equates to about every 40-50 miles. I'm thinking that we simply pair two people up and let them switch sides when they personally need to while underway. We don't want to do a mass switch as I'm sure we'd tip over. We'll be supported by a ground crew that will meet us at each checkpoint to re-supply us with hydration and nutrition."

What are your thoughts about doing this? Well Will Murphy (Soar, USA) replied with a few :-

" First, I would check the rules on whether you can continue if someone drops out. With 20 paddlers -- well, you said you've done the race so you know attrition is significant in a race of that length. You already know that nutrition and hydration are critical.

If several of you can steer, that gives you the ability to get a relatively fresh paddler in once in a while, and to provide a break from paddling for those who need it. If you are using a drummer, same thing. I have never done the race, but if there are portages, you'll need to be prepared for that. We have a sturdy cart that breaks down. I can send specs if you wish, or put you in touch with the fabricator here in South Florida.

Lights on the boat, obvious if you are paddling at night and a sleep strategy - everyone should be on board for that (no pun intended). Then repair supplies, spare paddle(s) and a First Aid kit on board too. What a great challenge - kudos to you and your team for taking it on! *Will Murphy.*

A word or two also came from yours truly, on a practical way of passing the time the Eurodragons crew used during the first 3 Gorges Race in the early 1990s. This race was over 50kms or so and the crew paddled to a system where each pair of paddlers took a 20 stroke rest in sequence down the boat.

That is, after about 30 minutes of warm up paddling, the first pair would count up to 20 loudly and then stop paddling, at which time the second pair would start counting up to 20 and then stop paddling (the first pair started paddling again) and so on down the boat. The remaining pairs of course keep paddling, so that each pair in the boat get a rest in sequence. The Drummer helps by keeping the pairs rotating down the length of the boat.

It does not sound much, just 20 seconds rest every 100 seconds but it is surprising in a long race how when doing this the body soon gets into a good work and rest mode, as well as getting the crew to work really well together as a unit - both bodies and brains !! I also use this as a way of getting novice crews to think and work together in a training session.

Not sure how it would work out over a much longer distance but on the 3 Gorges Race over the 50kms, we found that once we were really into this rhythm, the boat went faster, the crew felt stronger, did not get bored (they started to joke about each pairs 'counting technique' and developed styles of counting, with the Drummer becoming the 'conductor') and then the time just flew by - every 20 seconds in fact !! *Mike Haslam.*

2010 CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTAS

30. Apr.-2. May 2010 (ADBF Congress 2. May)	Wujin City, Jiangsu Province, China	9 th Asian Nations Champs	adbfdragon@126.com
29 Jul -1 Aug 2010	Macau SAR, China	7 th Club Crew World Dragon Boat Championships	dragon.mo@gmail.com www.sport.gov.mo
13/15 Aug 2010	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	9 th European Nations Championship:	secretary@edbf.org www.edbf.org
18-20 Nov 2010	Zengcheng Dragon Boat Lake, Guangzhou, China	16 th Asian Games, Dragon Boat Regatta	adbfdragon@126.com

IDBF STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTAS - 2009

6th EUROPEAN CLUB CREWS CHAMPS, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY - 10/12 JULY 2009

51 Clubs from 10 EDBF Members in

Austria; Czech Republic; France; Germany; Great Britain; Hungary; Netherlands; Poland; Ukraine; Russia.

89 crews competed in 29 Racing Classes for a total of 134 race entries. Approx 1800 athletes.

ICF MEMBERS CLUB CREW CHAMPS, ULSAN, KOREA - 10/12 JULY 2009

17 Clubs from 7 ICF Members in

Chinese Taipei; Germany; Hong Kong; Hungary; Japan; Korea; USA.

(17 local community and corporate crews also competed in non-championship races).

17 crews competed in 15 Racing Classes for a total of 56 race entries. Approx 325 athletes

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

9 ICF Members Represented from

Chinese Taipei; Canada; Germany; Hungary; Japan; Russia; Sweden; Ukraine; USA.

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

WORLD DRAGON BOAT RACING CHAMPS, PRAGUE, CZECH REP - 26/30 AUGUST 2009

24 IDBF Members Represented from

Australia; Canada; China; Czech Republic; Germany; Great Britain; Hong Kong; Hungary; India; Iran; Italy; Japan; Macau; New Zealand; Norway; Philippines; Poland; Russia; Singapore; Slovakia; Sweden; South Africa; Ukraine; United States of America.

134 crews competed in 54 Racing Classes for a total of 216 race entries. Approx 2900 athletes



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and at

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for articles, forum group, video clips, merchandize and more

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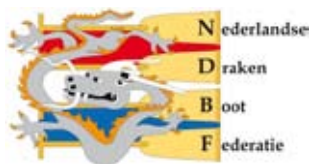
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