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INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

# DRAGON BOAT INTERNATIONAL

“The Newsletter of the International Dragon Boat Federation”

OCTOBER 2002, Autumn Issue.

visit the IDBF at - [www.idbf.org](http://www.idbf.org) - a warm welcome assured

**Hello and Welcome** to this, the Autumn 2002 issue of *Dragon Boat International-DBI*, the official newsletter of the IDBF, the original and only established world governing body for the sport of dragon boat racing.

Following on from the Summer Edition in August, and a revamped title, this newsletter contains updates on IDBF Championships, the ongoing battle against the actions of the ICF President and news from the IDBF Council Meeting held in Rome during this year's Club Crew World Champs.

**Roma 2002 - the 3rd Club Crew World Championships**, were held from 5/8 Sept. Full results and pictures are available from the Italian DB Federation at [www.dragonboat.it](http://www.dragonboat.it)

Suffice to say in *DBI* that a great time was had by all, the weather was fine (most of the time) the racing was great and the hospitality of the Italians was just terrific (all of the time). There were inevitably a few problems along the way, most of which were beyond the control of the Organising Committee and all of which have been noted by the IDBF, in order that they can be avoided in the future.

The bottom line is that technically and organisationally the Championships were a great success, as far as the 80 or so crews from 16 countries were concerned. The Stoorm Club from Russia and the Prague Dragon Boat Club took the major honours between them in the 250m, 500m and 2000m Open Championship races, whilst the German Clubs from Neubrandenburg, Wuppertal, Kurpfalz and Scherwin between them, took the majority of the Gold Medals. Club Crews from Canada and the USA shared in the medals total.

The 2000m races were the highlight of the event with much excitement and mayhem as the crews raced around the outside lanes of the 500m course, at timed intervals, in an attempt to win medals against both the clock and the other crews. With some refinements to the racing rules, 2000m racing looks set to become a regular feature of the IDBF CCWC, at least ?

Mike Haslam.

## NEW IDBF MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS

Introduced with effect from 01 Jan 2003

**The IDBF Council** at its Rome meeting discussed proposals concerning the IDBF Bye-Laws on IDBF Membership, and in view of the threat posed to the sport by the unwanted actions of the ICF President, decided that a revision of the categories and terms of IDBF Membership was now needed to strengthen the independence of the sport and the status of the IDBF Members.

The revisions to the Bye-Laws and Competition Regulations will be published formally and circulated to all IDBF Member Organisations separately but for the general information of all concerned with the sport and especially for those countries and territories who intend to compete at the 2003 World Champs in Shanghai, the changes, what they mean and how they will affect you, the paddler, are published here.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2003 only autonomous, that is fully independent, National or Territorial Dragon Boat Associations (DBAs), as defined in the IDBF Bye-Laws, will be afforded Full Basic or Provisional (formerly Temporary) membership of the IDBF and thus by membership right, be entitled to send crews to an IDBF Championship Regatta. All such Members will also be required to recognise the authority of the IDBF as the sole world governing body for the sport.

Non-autonomous dragon boat groups, that is, those DBAs and organisations that are part of another sports federation, for example a canoeing or rowing association, will only be offered Associate Membership of the IDBF. This means that they can only take part in an IDBF Championships, by exception and at the discretion of the IDBF Council.

The revised Bye-Law also explains that in the event of a bona fide autonomous dragon boat association being formed in a country or territory, where an IDBF Associate Member already exists, that the IDBF Council will automatically recognise that autonomous association and that the right of selecting crews and sending them to an IDBF Championship will transfer immediately to the autonomous association concerned.

How do these changes affect the paddler. Well in simple terms it means that only pure dragon boat associations will now have voting rights within the IDBF and only those members can send crews to a World Championship by right. It also means that any present member who is not an autonomous DBA or who changes its status, for example by joining a canoeing federation, can now only compete in a World Championship at the discretion of the IDBF Council. /More importantly,

**More importantly**, it also means that when an IDBF Associate Member is replaced by a Full, Basic or Provisional Member that all crews from the Associate Member concerned, that want to compete in an IDBF Championships will have to be selected by (or at least be sanctioned by) the successor IDBF Member, and all entries to an IDBF World Championship will have to be sent through that Member.

The bottom line is that unless your DBA is a totally independent of any other sport, then there are no guarantees that you can take part in an IDBF event and that includes IDBF sanctioned international races. **So be sure that your DBA is a Full, Basic or Provisional IDBF Member if you want to make that seat on the plane to an IDBF World Championship secure !**

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#### **NEW PAYMENT PLAN for IDBF Membership Fees**

**In revising the IDBF Membership**, the Council have also introduced a new system for paying IDBF Membership Fees. The IDBF Treasurer reported that there was a tendency for Members to only pay their membership fees in a year when they were sending crews to an IDBF Championship. As a result there were too many outstanding fees due to the IDBF !!

The Council have therefore decided that from 01 Jan 03 that IDBF Membership Fees will be due on a two yearly basis. This means that membership fees for both 2003 and 2004 are now due on 01 Jan 03.

Those Members who pay their fees in **before 1st April 03**, will **receive a 10% discount** on the total due and those who pay **after 1 July 03**, will be levied a **10% surcharge** and may also find that their crews will not be allowed to compete in either the 2003 or 2004 World Championships.

So the message is clear, pay your dues on time and receive a reward, pay late and your paddlers may suffer the consequences (and we don't want that, do we ??!)

#### **DO NOT FORGET THE NEW PAD SPEC**

**Just a reminder**, that the revised IDBF Paddle Specification (Spec 202) becomes fully operational from 01 Jan 03 and that all IDBF Registered paddle makers are required to produce paddles to Spec 202. Such formally approved paddles will bear the IDBF Approved Paddle Mark. So look out for it.

Spec 202 paddles with the approval mark can be used at the WDBRC in Shanghai without question. Older paddles with the EDBF Approval Mark can also be used and will have 'grandfather' rights until they fall apart ! All other paddles used in Shanghai will be subject to a full check against Spec 202 and if outside its parameters may be withdrawn for use.

#### **SHANGHAI, 5th WORLD DB CHAMPS**

27 – 31 August 03, Qingpu County

**The Official Invitation** and first Information Bulletin concerning the 5<sup>th</sup> IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships (WDBRC) has now been sent out to all IDBF Members and contains details of the entry requirements, competition classes and accommodation

**New at the WDBRC** will be races for the Senior Open Class over 1000m and for Senior Women over both 250m and 500m. Invitational Races will also be held for Breast Cancer Survivors (BSC). The IDBF Executive Committee are also considering holding new specialist racing classes for Traditional Paddling Styles in both the Dragon Boat and for other paddled craft, such as Outriggers and the like.

Accommodation will be arranged in local Hotels, which will be charged out according to the standard of the Hotel concerned (scale runs from A down to D).

For the purposes of planning your trip to Shanghai it is suggested that individuals budget on USD 40, per person, per day, for a Championship period of 7 days in Qingpu County. This figure should cover the cost of food and accommodation provided through the WDBRC Organising Committee and the admin fee charged to participants, which itself covers transport to and from the Regatta site during the Championship, entry to the races, lunch meals on site, accreditation and official social activities !

Further information and advice can be obtained from or via your IDBF Member. The CDBA, IDBF or WDBRC Organising Committee, will not respond to emails or enquires from individuals only from IDBF Members or their appointed Team Managers.

A Championship Web Site will be set up and in operation shortly and information updates will appear there, as they become available. Information will also be available on and through the IDBF web site at [www.dragonboat.com](http://www.dragonboat.com)

#### **2004 CLUB CREW WORLD CHAMPS**

**Up for Grabs !!**

**The 2004 CCWC due to be held in Japan** will now be held elsewhere due to circumstances beyond the control of the JDBA. The IDBF Council has agreed that IDBF Members may re-bid for the 2004 CCWC but that all bids must be submitted to the IDBF Executive President (Mike Haslam) by 30 Nov 02, in order that a decision can be made before the end of the year and everyone informed of the new location.

Potential Bids should be sent via the IDBF Member concerned, as soon as possible. Interest has so far been expressed by groups in Canada, South Africa and the UK but there is still time to bid !!

## **IDBF SEEKS CAS ARBITRATION WITH THE ICF - NO RESPONSE YET**

**The IDBF is continuing** with its attempts to persuade the ICF President and his Board to face the democratic process offered by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, as a way of deciding what is or what is not a canoe and thus whether or not dragon boating is canoeing. The IDBF Executive Committee have invited the ICF Board to join them in CAS Arbitration, which should decide once and for all this important question, which is at the heart of the unwanted intrusion into our sport by the ICF but not the whole of the dispute.

As always things are not quite that simple and the ICF have so far failed to respond to this IOC recommended initiative from the IDBF. If the ICF Board do not agree to Arbitration then they put themselves in a bad position with the IOC, who after all as the sponsors of CAS would expect members of the Olympic Movement, such as the ICF, to put their arguments before the scrutiny of the Court, when they challenge the independence and authority of another International Federation, such as the IDBF. Watch this space for further updates on Arbitration or if this fails, what litigation through the civil courts, the IDBF may seek to finally send the ICF Board packing.

The IDBF of course thinks it has a strong case and has evidence to show that, technically, historically, culturally and geographically, the canoe and the dragon boat are completely different watercraft. Additionally, it is a matter of recorded fact that the ICF has never had a direct interest or input into the development, organisation, funding or administration of the sport of dragon boat racing, nor does its own Statutes make any reference to dragon boating as a discipline of canoeing, therefore there can be no legal or moral grounds on which the ICF President, Ulle Feldhoff, from Germany, can claim that dragon boating is just another discipline of canoeing.

## **NEWS FROM THE IOC**

**the ICF claims are unfounded**

**Recent claims made by the ICF**, repeated to a certain extent on their web site, would have you believe that the IOC has automatically recognised (or would only recognise) the ICF as the world governing body for dragon boat racing and that the inclusion of the sport in the Olympic Games could only be achieved through the ICF and not the IDBF. Sound familiar? **Well, it is just not true.**

In reply to written questions put by the IDBF concerning these and the issue of control of the sport, Mr Gilbert FELLI, the IOC Sports Director who deals with Relations with International Federations, had this to say concerning control of the sport “the fact that the ICF claims to run dragon boat is an issue that has to be dealt with by your federation and the ICF. We would encourage you to try and reach an agreement together in this respect”. (The IDBF have tried this but the ICF refused to negotiate). “Should this not be possible, we (the IOC) would recommend that you ask the Court of Arbitration to help you with mediation or arbitration” (The IDBF tried Mediation with the ICF, without success and is now trying arbitration). On recognition for the sport, Mr Felli said “I would like to inform you that regarding recognition of a new sport or discipline (of an existing sport), the IOC may take a decision on each individual case. The inclusion of a new sport in the Olympic Programme is not linked to recognition”

Pretty clear then, **the IOC has not recognised the ICF** as the controlling body for dragon boating nor has it recognised the sport of dragon boat racing nor will the sport necessarily be included in a future Olympic Games, even if the ICF were to be recognised as its governing body. **It would seem that the ICF President is being more than economical with the truth.**

## **WORLD GAMES 2005 – UPDATE**

**President Feldhoff, strikes again !!**

**As reported in the August Edition** of *DBI*, the IDBF have been asked to host Dragon Boat Racing at the 2005 World Games due to be held in Duisburg, Germany in July 2005.

At the invitation of the 2005 Games Organising Committee, Mr Alan van Caubergh, Chairman of the IDBF Technical Equipment Secretariat (TES) attended a meeting of Technical Delegates in Duisburg, last June and agreed with the 2005 Organisers and the General Secretary of the International World Games Association (IWGA) the IDBF involvement.

It was also agreed with the organisers of the Canoe Polo tournament, also being staged on the same Duisburg Regatta Course as the dragon boat racing, that ICF and IDBF politics should be put aside and that in the best interests of the competitors that the Canoe Polo and Dragon Boat Racing organisers would work closely together. Very sensible and mature you might say and you would be right and except for the actions of one man, that may have been the end of the story.

However, *DBI* has learnt that a certain Mr Ulle FELDHOFF, the ICF President, who just happens to live in Duisburg, has recently been leaning on the 2005 Games Organising Committee. As the ICF President, he has told them that the ICF is the controlling body for dragon boating and has therefore insisted that the 2005 World Games Dragon Boating must be organised by the German Canoe Federation (DKV) with the ICF, and not through the IDBF. He is of course once more being economical with the truth and **the IDBF has now formally complained to the IWGA** about the ICF President. **Here we go again, watch this space too for further updates !!**

# INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT NEWS

## FROM THE MEMBERS AND UPDATES FROM THE IDBF COUNCIL

### IDBF COUNCIL SNIPS

The IDBF Council have agreed to look at ways in which crews from non national or territorial groups, such as the Khmers Kampuchea Krom Federation might be able to compete in a WDBRC.

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A proposal from the Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF) to change the present rule on the composition of Mixed Crews from a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 female paddlers, in the boat, to an even number of both sexes (that is, 10/10 or 9/9 etc) was turned down on the grounds that such a change would not enhance or improve mixed crew racing. The Aus DBF has a right of appeal at the 2003 IDBF Congress.

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A proposal from the Executive President (EP) that more age group categories, at IDBF Championships for the under 21s and over 60s, should be introduced, was not accepted by the Council on the basis that more classes would not help the development of young peoples or senior racing as, at the moment, there were not enough competitors in these age groups to make the competition classes viable.

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The Council approved the 'Model Bye-Laws for IDBF Controlling Associations' tabled by the EP, for inclusion in the IDBF Members Handbook. Copies of the Bye-Laws are available from Mike Haslam on [mike.haslam@ntlworld.com](mailto:mike.haslam@ntlworld.com). The Council also approved the draft revision of the Technical Manual for IDBF Approved Dragon Boats and the Paddle Specification 202.

### NEWS FROM THE AusDBF

The AusDBF Board has confirmed that Australia will definitely bid for the 2007 IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships. A formal letter of intention to bid will be sent to the IDBF Secretary General by March, 2003 and the AusDBF will make a formal presentation to the IDBF Congress in Shanghai on 29 August 2003. At this stage both Sydney and Melbourne are busily preparing internal presentations for the AusDBF Council Meeting in November 2002. The successful bidder will be decided at that AusDBF Council Meeting.

AusDBF has been in regular contact with the ASC (Australian Sports Commission) since making a request for formal ASC recognition late last year. Progress has been slow as other ASC issues have received a higher priority than AusDBF request.

The participation of Waikato at the AusDBF National Champs had raised a number of issues. The AusDBF Board considered a motion to continue to invite international crews but that they should be restricted to their own international category. This Motion was not carried but a further Motion that AusDBF Nationals would be closed to international crews was carried.

The Aus DBF Board are developing National Guidelines for sweep (helm) accreditation, race officials training and risk management. Draft documents covering sweep accreditation and officials training have been produced and are being circulated to all states for comment.

**LINK YOUR WEB SITE TO THE IDBF**  
Contact Charles Lee at  
[webmaster@dragonboat.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@dragonboat.org.uk)

### STATS FROM CANADA !

**DBI is reliably informed that** on the last weekend in June, the number of crews competing in Canada was as follows:- Toronto:200. Vancouver: 180 Ottawa:180, giving a total of 560 crews racing at these 3 festivals around the June 21 Summer Solstice.

In addition it was noted that the Toronto festival had the highest number of participants, whereas Vancouver ran with the largest fleet of Dragon Boats (3 sets of 8) on a 9 lane course compared to the 6 lanes at Toronto Centre Island.

There were in addition 84 crews racing at three smaller festivals in Ontario that weekend, at Parry Sound, Blind River & Richmond Hill, to give a final weekend total of 644 crews or 16,000 paddlers !!

Must be something in the Canadian water!?! By the way, the number of paddle strokes taken over the weekend was - only kidding, but any real stats mad person that wants to try and work it out is more than welcome !!!

2003 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Toronto, Vancouver & Portland Oregon Festivals, the oldest continuous festivals using authentic boats on the continent. So why not make a date and put one or other or all of them on your calendar for next year.

### 2005 WORLD MASTERS GAMES TO BE HELD IN CANADA - WITH DRAGON BOATS TOO ?

**Stop Press News** is that Edmonton in Canada was recently awarded the 2005 World Masters Games. The Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival Organisers are attempting to have dragon boat racing considered for inclusion on the program, presumably as an IDBF sanctioned competition. Could be a busy DB year !