
Irish Dragon Boat Association

NEWSLETTER



Edition 1

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IRISH DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first ever edition of the Irish Dragon Boat Association's (IDBA) Newsletter. Since the formal launch of the IDBA back in October 2010 we have been working hard to promote the sport throughout the whole 32 counties of Ireland. In our first full year of operation we have managed to purchase our own dragon boat and associated equipment to run dragon boat regattas and initiated our formal coaching scheme and race officials' workshop.

We currently have two clubs formed – Plurabelle Paddlers, Ireland's first Breast Cancer Survivor Club and now a second Dublin based club (Name yet to be confirmed), both of which train on the Grand Canal Dock; plus we have put over 90 novice crews through their paces as various regattas.

As the National Governing Body of the sport of dragon boating in Ireland we still have much work to do to introduce the sport fully and raise the necessary awareness. We look forward to an exciting 2012 where we hope to get ourselves fully established.

Julie Doyle – April 2012

MEET THE IDBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Julie Doyle
IDBA Chairman

An avid dragon boater Julie has been involved with the sport of dragon boating since 1992 and has had the privilege of dragon boating all over the world. Julie sat on the Executive Committee of the British Dragon Boat Racing Association for 12 years plus retained a committee position with Batchworth Dragons (British dragon boat club) for over 15 years until she upped sticks and moved to Ireland.

She is also a qualified IDBF International Race Official, a BDA Coach level 4, has represented Great Britain in dragon boating for the past 16 years and has a vast experience of organising dragon boat events in the UK. With her wealth of knowledge and experience Julie hopes to expand the sport of dragon boating throughout Ireland.

In her spare time Julie is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor.

Dympna was one of the first members of Plurabelle Paddlers, Ireland's first Breast Cancer Survivor Club and has now been dragon boating since October 2010. New to the sport Dympna has wholly embraced the sport learning to helm the dragon boat, becoming a Foundation Coach and is in the process of gaining her Participation Coach Award and Race Helm Award.

As well as coaching Dympna can be regularly seen with her official's hat on at our regattas. With a sporting background in basketball, she would like to use her sporting knowledge in introducing this exciting new sport to the rest of Ireland.

Dympna currently works voluntarily for Europa Donna.



Dympna Watson
IDBA Secretary

The Irish Dragon Boat Association's Executive Committee would like to say a huge thank you to both **Fiona Tiernan** and **Maria McNally** for the help and assistance they gave in setting up the Association from scratch. Unfortunately due to other commitments both are no longer in a position to give the time necessary for the Association to grow.

If you would be interested in sitting on the Executive Committee of the IDBA then let us know. Contact Julie Doyle – info@acaunsolutions.com.

HISTORY OF THE SPORT

Dragon boating is an ancient Chinese sport which dates back over 2000 years. In the third century BC a warrior and poet Qu Yuan committed suicide by drowning himself in the Mi Lo River after corrupt court officials banished him from the royal palace. Legend has it that following his death local fisherman took to the water to search for his body and to protect it from being eaten by fish they beat the drums in their boats and hit the water with their paddles. Then to give his spirit food and appease the water dragons they threw rice dumplings into the river. From this time onwards the Chinese came to commemorate Qu Yuan's death by holding a dragon boat festival in his honour and it is how the modern day dragon boat racing has developed.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT – MIKE HASLAM



Mike Haslam
IDBF Executive President

Mike Haslam, International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) Executive President, European Dragon Boat Federation (EDBF) President and British Dragon Boat Racing Association (BDA) President.

The founder of formal Dragon Boat Sport in the UK and internationally, Mike Haslam was the organiser of the 1981 World Canoe and Kayak championships held in Nottingham. His interest in dragon boats started then, when he organized ad hoc dragon boat races as part of the supporting programme, using wooden dragon boats provided by the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA), now the HK Tourism Board (HKTB).

As a Serving Officer, the British Army then took him to Germany to work for 3 years, where he wrote a report on Dragon Boating recommending to the International Canoe Federation (ICF) that they adopt the sport. The ICF declined to do this and so Mike went his own way.

In 1985, Mike took a trip to Hong Kong, looked at the traditional dragon boat scene there, returned to the UK to think about things and ran a few fun races in 1986 with the wooden boats. In July 1987 he founded the British Dragon Boat Racing Association and was elected as its first Chairman. He then organised the first British National Championships in October 1987, using the Hong Kong boats, which attracted 16 crews to London's Hyde Park.

In 1988, with support from the HKTA London where Kent Hayden-Sadler was in charge, Mike asked Chris Hare, along time friend, to make a HKTA style dragon boat in glass fibre. After much fundraising and a few tears, the dragon boat we now know and race as the International Standard Racing Dragon Boat (ISRDB) was born. It was officially launched on a BBC Television programme, en route to a 160 mile paddle from London to Nottingham to raise money for Bob Geldoff's Sport Aid Charity Fund Raising event.

After organising a few races in Holland and Belgium, Mike was instrumental in founding the European Federation in 1990 and then, following earlier meetings during the Hong Kong International Races, he helped to set up the International Dragon Boat Federation in 1991, at which time he was elected as the IDBF's first Secretary General. Meanwhile back home in the UK, he set up and organized the first BDA Charity Race Series, which eventually led to the development of the commercial side of the sport, not to mention over 2 million pounds raised for Charity within 4 years of the BDA's foundation.

By 1992, with the help of a few kindred spirits in the UK and Europe, notably Kent Hayden-Sadler, Mike had turned an idea into probably the fastest growing water sport in the world, with 40,000 participants now taking part in Dragon Boating in the UK each year.

At least another 300,000 also race in Europe and there are now nearly 70 IDBF Member Countries on all five Continents. This makes a dragon boat family in excess of 50 million people worldwide most of which, naturally, are in China and South East Asia, where the sports roots lie. As you might guess, Mike spends most of his spare time organizing events, administering the sport, officiating at races and, when he finds time, coaching and competing too. He also occasionally writes a few words for email groups and dragon boat newsletters too!

Mike has been involved in sport as a competitor, coach, organiser, administrator and official from his school days until the present time. A soldier by profession (recently retired) he is a qualified systems analyst and has played sport at representative level in soccer, swimming, athletics, canoeing and dragon boat racing. A qualified outdoor pursuits instructor, swimming instructor, canoeing and dragon boat coach, as well as an international race official in both sports, Mike was a member of the British Olympic Team in 1976 and 1980, as a Manager of the British Olympic Canoeing Squad and in 1984 as the Quartermaster for the whole GB Team, a position he also held for the England Team at the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

Born in April 1943, near Brighton, Sussex, Mike is married to Phyll MacKeddie (a Senior IDBF Race Official and Mike's Golf Coach). They live in Newport, South Wales.

It is without doubt that without the efforts of Mike the sport would not be where it is today.

Taken from article submitted by IDBF Executive President, Mike Haslam.

NEW WEBSITE – www.dragonboat.ie

We are currently working with the students at IT Carlow who are producing a website for the Association as part of their Media Studies course. We hope to have it launched before the end of May 2012.



www.dragonboat.ie



In the meantime "Like" Irish Dragon Boat Association on Facebook and keep up to date with what is currently happening in the Association.

MEMBERSHIP

So why is it important to become a member of the Irish Dragon Boat Association?

Currently the IDBA is being run voluntarily and is being financially supported by its committee, but goodwill can only achieve so much. As a new sport to Ireland we do not yet satisfy the criteria set down by the Irish Sports Council to receive any funding from them, so we need membership monies to allow the sport to develop and grow.

What is the membership used for?

- General running of the IDBA.
- Information and advice on dragon boating.
- Providing and managing a development programme for the sport, including provision of equipment.
- Development and publication of a range of literature e.g. Water Safety Policy.
- Development and management of the Coaching and Officiating Awards Scheme.
- Representation of the IDBA with national, government and international organisations.

Benefits of membership

- Public Liability Insurance cover provided by the IDBA.
- IDBA Newsletter 3 times a year.
- Members discounted entry fee to IDBA organised events (Club Membership only).
- Right to compete internationally.
- Right to hold office on the IDBA Executive Committee.

Membership classes available

Individual Membership	€30	Junior Individual Membership	€20
Club Membership	€200	Associate Membership (Activity Centres)	€250

IDBA MERCHANDISE

As the new season is upon us again, the IDBA is now restocked with its merchandise, so check it out at our Merchandise Stand at Events or you can order direct – info@acaunsolutions.com.

In stock:

- IDBA emblmed Baseball Caps / Beanie Hats / Polo Shirts / Hoodies
- Captioned T-shirts "Dragon boating is having the craic!"
- Dragon key rings and necklaces
- Dragon Boat Seat Grips

RULES AND MORE RULES

EDBF Implements New Anti-Doping Policy

All Premier Division paddlers should be aware that the anti-doping regulations have been sharpened and will be implemented in time for the EDBF Nations Championship in Nottingham this summer. In brief, the main policy points affecting premier athletes are summed up below.

In Competition Testing

With Effect from 1 January 2013, the minimum number of In Competition tests will be increased from four (4) to six (6) tests during a World or European Championships Regatta (Nations or Club Crews). The selection of competitors and testing procedures will remain the same as presently published in the IDBF Anti-Doping Policy. **Out of Competition Testing**

Out of Competition Testing will be introduced from 1 June 2012 for the European Nations Championships (ENC), as follows:

1. On receipt of a National Teams Named Entry Form (22 June for the ENC) one (1) Premier Division paddler, per Team will be randomly selected from the Team List. These athletes will constitute the IDBF Elite Athletes Pool for the year in question.
2. The EDBF Member Association concerned will be notified of the athlete's name and be required to arrange for the athlete to undergo an Out of Competition, urine based test. The test is to be carried out by the National Anti-Doping Agency concerned, at a time and place chosen by the ADA but the test must be carried out at least two (2) weeks before the date the ENC starts (27 July 2012) to enable the results to be received before the Championships commence in Nottingham.
3. The cost of the test will fall upon the EDBF Member, who shall ensure that the results of the test are forwarded to the EDBF Chairman and a confirmation of receipt received from the EDBF before the first race of the Championships.
4. Failure by the athlete concerned to undergo a test or a non-receipt of the result of the test by the EDBF Chairman, before the first race of the Championships, will result in the athlete concerned being excluded from competing.

A RIGHT ROYAL AFFAIR!



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant which is to be held on Sunday, 3rd June 2012 on the River Thames between Hammersmith and Greenwich will see up to a thousand different vessels, including dragon boats follow the Royal Barge. The Pageant will take in some of the most spectacular views of the City of London. Susan Rowe from Plurabelle Paddlers here in Ireland has been selected to be part of the Internationally Abreast team. We wish Susan and the rest of the team good luck with their 13 mile paddle which will certainly be an event to remember.

COACHING UPDATE

As part of its development plan, the IDBA are running the following coaching courses:

- **IDBF Crew Helm Award**
- **IDBF Race Helm Award**
- **IDBF Foundation Coach**
- **IDBF Participation Coach**
- **IDBF Race Official**
- **REC3 First Aid Course**



If you are interested in taking part in one of the above courses, then please email us at info@acaunsolutions.com. Courses will be run as and when there are sufficient numbers for the course to run and can be carried out in a location to suit the group.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday, 2nd June 2012 - Paddle for the Planet Day

World Wide

Sunday, 24th June 2012 – Barrow Dragon Boat Regatta

River Barrow, Carlow Town Park, Graiguecullen, Carlow

4th – 8th July 2012 - IDBF 8th Club Crew World Championships

Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong

Sunday, 8th July 2012 – Hodson Bay Dragon Boat Regatta

Baysport Watersports Centre, Hodson Bay, Athlone

26th – 29th July 2012 - EDBF European Nations Championships

National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, England

15th & 16th September 2012 – Dublin 2nd International Dragon Boat Regatta

Grand Canal Dock, Ringsend, Dublin 4

24th – 28th July 2013 – IDBF 11th World Nations Championships

Szeged, Hungary

August 2013 - World Police and Fire Games

Lagan Water Sports Centre, Belfast, Northern Ireland



IRISH DRAGON
BOAT ASSOCIATION

2012 – YEAR OF THE CHINESE WATER DRAGON



Our very own Plurabelle Paddlers will be heading to Nottingham, England in July 2012 to take part in the international Race Category at the European Championships. Watch this space on news on how the girls get on.

EVENT ROUND UP

Drogheda Dragon Boat Regatta

Held on the River Boyne in Drogheda teams came together to raise funds for the Boyne Fisherman's Rescue and Recovery Service.

Results:

1st Place – Clarke's Bar

2nd Place – River House

3rd Place – Integral Gym

Athy Dragon Boat Regatta

With a community spirit that did Athy proud, 14 teams raced at this inaugural event. Scottish pipers, Irish dancers and traditional Irish bands lit up the Emily Square alongside the dragon boat regatta. With one of the closest finals ever the Barrowline Bandits took the win by a dragon's breathe (literally) on the line over the Barrowline Crom Abu.

Results:

1st Place – Barrowline Bandits

2nd Place – Barrowline Crom Abu

3rd Place – Athy Barrow Crusaders

Best Fancy Dressed Team – The Mighty Ducks

Team Raised the Most Money for Charity – One In Four

Swiggy Dragon Award – Gymnasts BRAND Athy (Team sponsored by BRAND Athy)

NEWS

Friday, 27th April 2012 saw Plurabelle Paddlers on Nationwide on RTE 1. As a sport we could not ask for better publicity than 6 minutes on prime time TV.

If you missed it, catch it on RTE player – Nationwide, 27th April 2012 at 17:30 mins.

Check out the Sunday Times (13th May 2012) for a feature on the Irish Dragon Boat Association and Plurabelle Paddlers.



Pictures from Beat on the Boyne Dragon Boat Regatta, Drogheda – June 2011

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP PROPOSED FOR THE DUKE & DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE

The 2011 Congress unanimously approved the Council's recommendation that IDBF Honorary Membership should be offered to Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge and Catherine the Duchess of Cambridge, in acknowledgement of their interest and participation in dragon boating, over the past number of years. This interest had been highlighted by the recent dragon boat race between the Duke and Duchess, requested by them, on the 4th July 2011, during their Tour of Canada.

The dragon boat race, organised by Dragon Boat Canada Member, Dragonboat East, Nova Scotia, and featuring paddlers from the Canadian National Team, was covered extensively by the world's media and featured many pictures of the Royal Couple racing in their dragon boats, thus promoting dragon boating in Canada, the Sport in general and the IDBF image, to a global audience.



We would like to issue our Newsletter 3 times a year, so if you have any news, articles or dragon boat photos you would like to contribute to the next addition, please email the Editor – Julie Doyle at info@acaunsolutions.com.