

# Irish Dragon Boat Association NEWSLETTER



Edition 20

December 2021



## Irish Dragon Boat Association Limited

The Rookery

Lisnavagh

Rathvilly

Co. Carlow

R93 AK38

Ireland

Tel: +353 59 916 1685

Mob: + 353 85 7422902

Email: [info@dragonboat.ie](mailto:info@dragonboat.ie)



Irish Dragon Boat Association



[IDBA@IrishDragonBoat](https://twitter.com/IDBA@IrishDragonBoat)



[@IrishDragonBoatAssociation](https://www.instagram.com/IrishDragonBoatAssociation)

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



**Julie Doyle**  
Editor / IDBA Chairman

Another year has passed us by without us being able to run dragon boat regattas due to the on going COVID-19 pandemic, but we remain hopeful 2022 is the year we learn to live with COVID and carry on with life as normal.

With lifting of restrictions, the Autumn proved very busy for us at dragon boat HQ with numerous helm courses and an invite to take part in getting the people of Carlow active with the Healthy Carlow initiative. Thanks to the County Carlow Local Sports Partnership for trusting us to introduce so many youth and women to our sport.

Fingers crossed we can meet in 2022 at a regatta or two. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## BACK TO FULL BOATS AT LAST!!!

As from 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 we were able to get back to normal dragon boat activities with a full compliment of paddlers; this meant 22 in the standard boat and 12 in the small boat. What a delight it was for 'business as usual'!

We are very aware the COVID-19 numbers in Ireland have increased dramatically over the last number of weeks, plus with the Omicron variant it is understandable people are becoming more concerned again. There has currently been no changes from the Government in regard to outdoor sports, so it means we can still keep doing the sport we all love. However **PERSONAL CHOICE = PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY!!** The return to training should be an opt-in basis with participants taking personal responsibility to decide whether they are happy to return. It is important that athletes are not penalised if they wish to opt out.

As a reminder, social distance where possible, keep washing your hands, wear face masks indoors or on public transport and try to reduce the number of daily contacts you have. Also when dragon boat training remember to sanitise the equipment after every use, face masks must be worn by unvaccinated persons and keep logs of who has attended training incase you need to contact trace.

**Anyone who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been a close contact should not take part in club training and remain at home.**

## HEALTH & SAFETY REMINDER

With minimal dragon boat activities over the last 18 months, please remember to review all club health and safety procedures and documentation, to include:

- Review and update health & safety information.
- Review and update club risk assessments.
- Check the status of club first aid qualifications & carry out a check of the first aid kit.
- Recap on the dragon boat capsized drill with all club members.
- Schedule a date in 2022 for a capsized drill for the club.
- Check buoyancy aids to ensure they are still 'in date'.
- Check all equipment is in good working order.
- Ensure you have adequate sanitization materials at the club for both equipment and athletes.
- Ensure you maintain a register of who attends each training session for contact tracing purposes.

## COURSES GALORE!

The early part of the autumn saw us flat out as we delivered 5no. IDBF Helm Courses and 1no. IDBF Foundation and Participation Coach Courses in Limerick (Limerick Dragons), Mayo (Graine Mhaol DBC, Donegal Dragons & Medbs Dragon Warriors), Carlow (Carlow Dragons & Nore Dragon Paddlers) and Belfast (Lagan Dragons). It was good to see the enthusiasm for our sport was still there after months of inactivity.



Colette McTigue - Graine Mhaol DBC



Tara O'Brien – Graine Mhaol DBC



Una Faulkner at the Helm – Donegal Dragons



Lagan Dragons, Belfast at their new club location

# HEALTHY CARLOW

During the month of November the IDBA worked in partnership with Carlow Dragon Boat Club to deliver a series of dragon boat taster sessions for local schools and women; aimed at getting the people of Carlow active. Who knew the weather could be so good in November in Ireland. We were delighted with the uptake which showed our sport is open and attractive to all. The initiative was funded by Healthy Carlow and supported by the County Carlow Local Sports Partnership.

We now look forward to inviting the schools along to the Barrow Dragon Boat Regatta in 2022 for some healthy head to head racing, as the highlight from the taster sessions was the racing against their team mates at the end of each session.

## Healthy Carlow provided the funding for this Dragon Boat November Initiative



**Gaelcholáiste  
Ceatharlach  
81 Students**



**St. Mary's  
Knockbeg  
College  
46 Students**



**Carlow  
Regional  
Youth  
Services  
14 Youth**



**Women  
Taster  
Sessions  
54  
Participants**





## IDBF INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT HALL OF FAME

The International Dragon Boat Hall of Fame aims to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the men and women who have made a significant contribution to the sport of dragon boating. Whether it is their excellence on the water or their efforts behind the scene, they have demonstrated their commitment to building our sport and inspired others to achieve their best.

The IDBA is delighted to announce that our own Chairman, Julie Doyle was inducted into the inaugural IDBF Hall of Fame in the Developer Category.



### Julie Doyle

Ireland

- Member of British Dragon Boat Team for 16 years
- Established the Irish Dragon Boat Association
- General Secretary EDBF and Vice President IDBF

**Category: Developer**

Congratulations on your induction into the IDBF International Dragon Boat Hall of Fame for 2021.



Other inductees included:

#### Developer Category

Lu Jindong (CHN)  
 Mike MacKeddie-Haslam (GBR)  
 Mike Thomas (GBR)  
 Robert Wilson (HKG)  
 Bob & Peggy Morro (USA)  
 Peter Jarosi (HUN)  
 Dr. Don McKenzie (CAN)  
 Jonathan Taylor (AUS)

#### Athlete Category

Kamini Jain (CAN)  
 Kevin McFadden (USA)

## NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

- Deborah Bonner from Donegal Dragons won the 'Generations Category' in the IDBF's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Competition. Deborah will now get her photo published in the IDBF's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book.
- The IDBF's Limited Edition 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Merchandise is still available to purchase if anyone is interested, please visit <https://regattasport.com/shop/108-idbf>.

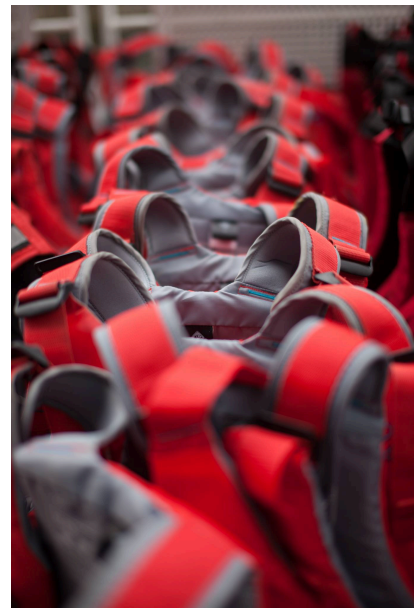
- Dymphna Watson, IDBA Secretary delivered a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary message to the IDBF.
- The IDBF's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Book is now in the final stages of production and will be available to purchase in April 2022. Many hours have been spent on this project and I can personally say that the graphic designer has brought the book to life. It will be the dragon boat item of choice next year. We are hoping to have them available to sell in Ireland, so I will keep you posted.
- Unfortunately the 15<sup>th</sup> IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships, which were to be held in Hong Kong in November 2021, had to be cancelled due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Very strict rules enforced by the Hong Kong Government were making it impossible to host the Championships, plus athletes were very nervous about committing to travel.

## GOVERNMENT'S CAPITAL SPORTS GRANT

We are pleased to announce that the following dragon boat clubs have been awarded grants under the Government's 2020 Sports Capital and Equipment Programme. The Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP) is operated by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and provides grants to assist in the development or refurbishment of sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment. It is part funded from the proceeds of the National Lottery.

Irish Dragon Boat Association - €3,998  
 Carlow Dragon Boat Club - €5,514  
 Donegal Dragons - €6,311  
 Tir Chonnaill Warriors - €21,850  
 Limerick Dragons - €7,258  
 Medb's Dragon Warriors - €9,013

The IDBA will be using its grant to replace its bouyancy aids as they have now come to the end of their life span.



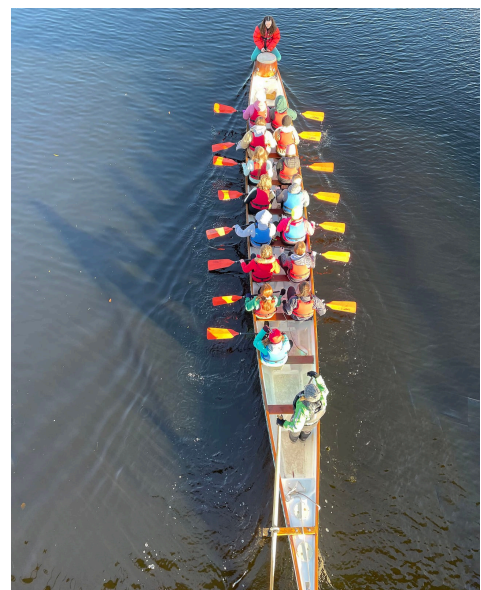
## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 12.00hrs**  
**IDBA Ltd Annual General Meeting**  
 Video Conference Meeting

**18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
**13<sup>th</sup> IDBF Club Crew World Championships**  
 Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota, USA  
 (This event is open to any Irish club team who wishes to compete.)

**24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022**  
**14<sup>th</sup> EDBF European Nations Championships**  
 Kyiv, Ukraine

**We are in the process of agreeing dates with Waterways Ireland for the rest of the year, but as yet the dates are unconfirmed. As soon as they are confirmed and we know we can run them safely we will advise you accordingly.**



## A FEW EURO WILL GO ALONG WAY TO HELP

As some of you may or may not be aware super Typhoon Odette ripped through the Philippines last week causing much human and economic destruction in its path. Unfortunately the PADS dragon boat club have lost everything with their club house and equipment being totally destroyed by mother nature. As well as its members losing their own homes.



This paradragon club was formed in late 2016 with a mission to:

- To work for an inclusive compassionate society where Persons with Disabilities (PWD's) can realise their full potentials as co-equal partners in nation building.
- To serve as an advocacy arena where concerned individuals and institutions work together to promote the rights and entitlements, as well as issues and concerns of the disability community.
- To function as a knowledge and resource centre for the disability community and their families.
- To allow the disability community to act as advocates in the areas of disability inclusion.
- To operate as a volunteering platform where national and international volunteers can be involved in promoting and realising the rights and entitlements of the disability community.

For five years, by being part of PADS, a disabled person could find hope and a reason to live - today that has all gone. Everything has gone.

As dragon boaters we are part of a worldwide community and I hope we can support one another in times of hardship. If you feel you can help PADS with establishing a new club house and equipment, please visit their website and make a donation.

<https://pads.org.ph>

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick...](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick...)

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 edition, please email the Editor – Julie Doyle at [info@dragonboat.ie](mailto:info@dragonboat.ie).