

Edition October 2018

# European Championships in Brandenburg



**Regional Focus:**

**Ireland**

**Spotlight:**

**Brian Hartley Award**

**The Indian Story**

**Others:**

**A Side-View on  
other Sports -  
Outrigger**



## Dear Paddlers and Readers,

Again, the second time in a row, I have to apologize for publishing this magazine later as scheduled. The simple reason is, I'm building up some other businesses, which are demanding my intensified attention at the moment.

To be honest, this magazine is not making much money and the little that comes in, is eaten up by traveling. The magazine does cause a lot of work and eats up much of my time - issue by issue! There would be enough reasons not to publish a magazine as DBWM. But don't worry, I will continue with pleasure! I have so many good friends within the dragon boat community, as well as a strong bond to Hong Kong and its culture, which really keeps me going. The only thing I'm asking for, is the understanding for a once in a while delayed publishing, although I will try to keep the schedule of getting the magazine to you each January, April, July and October.

The last edition of July 2018 was very well received and in addition to the mailing list with over 2000 recipients, it was downloaded almost an additional 700 times from Dragon Boat Net. It is not known to me how many times the recipients forward the DBWM to friends and other readers, but as I have heard, sharing takes place too. By this I'm sure the readership is over 3000 readers strong and hopefully continues to grow.

Also when the last edition of DBWM was published I recognized the number of visitors to Dragon Boat Net jumping up to almost 5000 visitors in that month.

These are numbers possible advertisers might be interested in. - So, if you are a paddle- or boat-maker, if you are a sport-equipment supplier, if you are an event organizer or if you are running a hotel close to water-sport-facilities, if you are an airline wishing to transport teams to a dragon boat world championship or if you are an insurance etc.,etc., please feel free to contact me via e-mail addressed to [wiekhorsthenning@mac.com](mailto:wiekhorsthenning@mac.com)

I wish to thank you for all the comments and contributions so far, which again encourage me in making DBWM. However, it is never enough and it is always an issue to fill each magazine with content. Therefore I continue to asking for your help, contributions and comments.

Tell me about the latest news in your club or simply introduce your team and its activities. If you are engaged in your countries' federation, why don't you write me about how dragon boating came to your region, how it developed and what is the today's standing. What are the obstacles you were facing? - Be assured, sooner or later your article and photos will be covered within the „Regional Focus“.

If you are a single paddler who wants to have a voice, here is your magazine! How did you come to paddle and what does it mean to you? It is the small stories, that make up the spices and herbs of a magazine and the beauty of our sport. - So, please don't be shy!!!

To the big ones, like in example the IDBF, EDBF, ADBF, Pan American DBF and Oceania DBF your press-releases would be very much welcome. Why don't you use this magazine as publishing-platform to promote your course and to inform your audience, the paddlers, about what you are doing for them? - So think twice! This magazine is to inform its readers and to promote the sport of Dragon Boating!

Very best and friendly regards to all of you, as well as wishing you already a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain

Yours

Henning

**DRAGON BOAT NET**  
[www.dragonboatnet.com](http://www.dragonboatnet.com)  
**The Paddlers Site**







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## The DRAGON BOAT WORLD's Magazine (DBWM)

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# In the Spirit of Qu Yuan

## Why Dragon Boats? Why Drums?



Although dragon boats have been around for about 5000 years or even longer, used in rituals to please river dragons during a festival of “rain-making” at the beginning of the summer, the legends of Qu Yuan spread the traditions and celebrations as we know them today and of which dragon boat racing forms a major part.

Since the events surrounding Qu Yuan's death, the dragon boat races symbolize the attempts to rescue him or his corpse from the floods of a river. The question is, what is the connection between Qu Yuan and the dragons?

Qu Yuan lived during the Warring States period, about 2300 years ago, and drowned tragically in the Mi-Lo River in Hunan province. At the time, China consisted of six kingdoms, with the Chu and the Chin being the biggest. After several wars, the Chin emerged undefeated and formed an empire. It is believed Western languages settled on the name “China” from that time.

Qu Yuan is said to have been the Chu Emperor's advisor and was widely regarded as a wise and honourable man who always cared for the people. But others close to the Emperor were jealous of Qu Yuan and caused their leader to doubt him. When the Emperor disregarded Qu Yuan's advice, he was defeated by the Chin, captured and imprisoned.

The loyal Qu Yuan was troubled and wrote a poem called Li Sao (The Lament). The poem is still regarded today as a model for classical Chinese poetry.



Some legends say the new Chin Emperor was angered by the poem and ordered Qu Yuan into exile. Unwilling to leave and heartsick, Qu Yuan decided to drown himself.

Other legends describe Qu Yuan as a former adviser to the Chu who was sent into exile and then wrote the Li Sao as a kind of farewell letter before he drowned himself full of agony because of all the betrayal.

# In the Spirit of Qu Yuan



There are also different versions about the reaction of the fishermen and people with boats when they heard about Qu Yuan's drowning. In one way or another, all versions include fishermen and people with boats rushing out into the river to rescue Qu Yuan or at least save his corpse. To prevent the fish from biting him, the people in the boats hit drums and made other noises to scare the fish away.

Since then people commemorate Qu Yuan with annual boat races on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar. The day is known as the Dragon Boat Festival or the Poets Day.

Well, until now we have already learned that the drums were not used for giving boat crews a rhythm to follow when paddling or rowing. No, the drums were simply there to make noise, and that's it!

Don't feel offended by the word "rowing" at this stage! Why? Well think twice:

If someone is drowning and needs rescuing, you wouldn't think about what kind of boat you were going to use, you just would take the first one available!

So the boats involved are likely to have been those of daily use, like boats for fishing, trade and transportation. So why are these boats now called dragon boats? It seems turning normal fishing boats into dragon boats must have developed later, together with the tradition of competitive racing.

There are two possibilities, and in combination they might explain why the boats are regarded as dragons.

In his Li Sao, Qu Yuan describes his journey from earth to heaven as riding on a dragon. It may be a mark of respect to conduct the annual races on dragons. In addition, the dragon is the highest and strongest being people in China can imagine. In the past, Chinese emperors were the highest and strongest men, keeping law and order in the country as well as defending it from attackers. This made them a dragon of the people.

More widely, dragons are associated with good spirits that strive always to win. Turning boats into symbolic dragons may have been a tactic to stimulate the spirit of the paddlers.

Combining the above with the fact that Chinese people really do worship Qu Yuan as much as the famous Confucius, and both perhaps even more than their emperors, will give you the reason why the boats turned into dragon boats.

For the drums and with respect to the search for Qu Yuan they simply belong to history and it only appears logical that they are used for communication to the crews in the heat of a competitive race.

Qu Yuan is honoured as a great man of the people, who believed in loyalty, honesty, respect and true committed friendships.

To the Chinese people who have spread these values across the world by giving us the wonderful sport of dragon boating, which truly hosts the Spirit of Qu Yuan, we simply have to say a big and heartfelt **THANK YOU**.

*For those interested, you can read the Li Sao on Dragon Boat Net under the following link:*

<https://dragonboatnet.com/insights/li-sao-the-lament> (just click on this link!)





# Readers Comments



The July 2018 edition's articles "Sport Politics explained" with regard to the ongoing ICF-matter and the Regional Focus on India have triggered quite some reactions, for which DBWM is very thankful.

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## From India:

Dear Mr. Henning Wiekhorsth,

I have gone through your DBWM of July 2018 in which at page 26 and 27 you have published about DBFI sent by Mr. Parveen Kumar showing himself as Secy. Genl. Of DBFI. It is brought to your kind notice that he has been removed as Secy. Genl. of DBFI during August 2016 ...

Surjit Singh Bajwa  
Life President  
DBFI

*Editors Note: The above only shows a small part of the e-mail, which Mr. Surjit Singh Bajwa has sent to me in early September. He wanted to give me a comprehensive report for this edition of DBWM. Due to personal reasons, he was not able to write it on time, but announced to send it in for the January 2019 edition. Please also attend to the article "The Indian Story", which I have moved into DBWM's Spotlight.*

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## From Egypt:

Thanks for the news letter especially the article about Sport politics.

Dragon Boat Egypt is suffering and under attack from the K&C Federation in Egypt, they want to take control of Dragon Boat claiming that the Dragon boat is under the Canoe federation.

We are the founder of the Dragon Boat Egypt, and we have put in so much efforts, and now they just want to take it over.

We will take the legal procedure to deal with this situation, and my China Embassy is also involved in helping us to make a win win situation.

Thanks

Ehab Gouda and Mary Lai  
Dragon Boat Egypt





## From Australia:

Hi Wiekhorst.

Just finished reading your article about all the problems with IDBF trying to gain membership of IOC and the objections to the IDBF application by ICF.

This has been going on for years.

I first became associated with dragon boating in 1983. I joined a team as a paddler of the Fremantle-Swan Dagon Boat Club, of Western Australia. It was my first venture into Hong Kong(HK) to participate in the Hong Kong International Festival organised by the Hong Kong Tourist Association and I think that year also in racing in Macau. In 1984 we raced in HK but before doing so we went to Taipei, Taiwan to race in the Taipei International. I believe our team was the first to win the Taipei International. The back to Macau, then finished off in HK.

The Fremantle – Swan Team raced in HK 10 years. My first visit there were 7 international teams and it gradually got to about 30 international team.

In 1994 was in the first group of 9 dragon boaters to become an IDBF Race Official and our first event was IFBD World Championships first in Yueyang, China in June 1995. I had the pleasure of the position of Chief Judge. I am no longer an IDBF RO as I asked to be removed in August 2015 over a matter at the CCWC in HK in July 2012 and a subsequent matter in August 2015. I am no longer an IDBF RO. It was never my intention to resign, I just wanted to fade away on account of my age and allow younger ones to step up to the plate so to speak as with any sport it always needs younger ones to come on to help keep a sport alive and grow.

Personally I don't think that dragon boating will become an Olympic sport, it may become a member but that is as far as it will go. Rightly or wrongly there will always be opposition by ICF. I think dragon boating has got to big for its own good. I hear that the IOC is endeavouring to lessen off sports, so that smaller countries will be in a position to host an Olympic Games. Water sports; canoeing, kayaking and rowing will not give up water space in the first week of an Olympic Games. Accommodation needed for how many countries? Will teams/boat sizes be limited? Prior to that, would IDBF have to conduct a selection process? If any dragon boater has ambitions to go to an Olympic Games, take up Rock Climbing, Soft Ball; that will do me, providing I can have a runner, Japan 2020.

Thank s for your time.

Kind regards

Ray Woodcock  
Chairman  
Dragon Boats Australia (Inc)





**From Philippines:**

## **FINDING JUSTICE FOR PHILIPPINE DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION**

In 2011, then Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President Jose Cojuangco Jr., removed Philippine Dragon Boat Federation (PDBF) as the national federation for dragon boat in the Philippines by citing an IOC directive that orders PDBF to be placed under Philippine Canoe Kayak Federation (PCKF). Seven years later, after Cojuangco is removed as POC president, IOC denies issuing such a directive.

In an email dated March 29, 2018, IOC denies issuing a directive to put PDBF under PCKF. The said email too establishes the fact that IOC does not involve itself in sports outside the Olympic program. Hence, it is impossible for IOC to issue a directive on how to govern the sport of dragon boat.

But despite the IOC pronouncements, justice remains extremely elusive for PDBF. The present POC leadership refuses to undo what the former POC president did. And to make matters worse, International Canoe Federation (ICF) supports the stand that dragon boat must be placed under ICF and its members. Even with the Court of Arbitration (CAS) opinion that International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) is the world-governing body for dragon boat, ICF refuses to acknowledge the legitimacy of IDBF and PDBF over dragon boat.

Recently, the conflict reached the very doorstep of the Office of the President of the Philippines. The office of Special Assistant to the President asked the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) why PDBF has not been reinstated and why the conflict in dragon boat remains unresolved after seven years. PSC, in a memorandum signed by its legal counsel, responded that PDBF cannot be reinstated as a National Sports Association (NSA) because its International Federation (IF) is not recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The response of PSC is very controversial as there are existing NSA's whose IF's are not recognized by IOC. There are at least ten NSA's whose IF's are not recognized by IOC yet are recognized by PSC and POC.

What will be most crucial are the decision and action of the office of SAP. With all the valid arguments for the reinstatement of PDBF as an NSA, the office under the president of the Philippines can resolve the conflict, once and for all. It is the hope of the Filipino dragon boat community and general public that justice will finally be served to PDBF with the help of the Philippine government.



Text and Photos by  
"The Stray Cat"





## News about DBWM

Different to all previous editions of this magazine, DBWM contains now active links.

While before you had to copy or type given links into your browser, you can now click on them and you will directly get to the respective web address. With e-mail contacts it works too.

Try it out and drop me a line:

[wiekhorsthenning@mac.com](mailto:wiekhorsthenning@mac.com)

Hit the logo below and you will come to another website of mine, where you can buy tents and other camping stuff:



Technically there is also the capability to include videos to DBWM. However, this would result in a much bigger file-size of DBWM, which might cause problems when the magazine is sent to you by e-mail. That's why I decided not to include videos to the PDF. If there are videos to show, I will upload them to Dragon Boat Net and put a link in the magazine.

Another intention for the near future is to redesign the layout in order to become more friendly for mobile devices. The main point will be changing the two-column-layout to one column.



## 1st EDBF Dragon Boat Awards

A Gala Dinner will take place at the EDBF Dragon Boat Forum in **Seville, Spain** on the evening of Saturday, **1st December 2018** in the Salon Sevilla in the Hotel Barcelo' Renacimiento. During the Gala Dinner we will have the **1st EDBF Dragon Boat Awards**.

- 1) EDBF Male Dragon Boat Legend – n.1 Male athlete still active within the sport.
- 2) EDBF Female Dragon Boat Legend – n.1 Female athlete still active within the sport.
- 3) Best European Dragon Boat Club still active within the sport.
- 4) Special Project Award - Please nominate a National Federation who is working on a special project.
- 5) Environmental Project Award - Can be an individual, club, team, Federation's project.
- 6) EDBF Dragon Boat Special "QU YUAN" Awards to the highest European Personality supporting and practising dragon boating.

Other Awards will be given to EDBF honorary officials and to our new sponsors.

### Event Sponsors

- The Spanish Dragon Boat Association
- The official travel agent Las Corte Ingles
- The Hotel Barcelo' Renacimiento
- Peisheng Boats
- Hornet Paddles
- Tegysport Starting Systems

Unfortunately DBWM can't make it to go there, but if somebody going to the event can tell how exciting it was plus sending a photo, it will be a pleasure to publish that.



**龙舟竞渡**  
**WELLINGTON**  
**DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL**  
**— 2019 —**

**SAT 9 MARCH: ADULTS**  
**SUN 10 MARCH: SCHOOLS**

\*\*\*\*\*

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## 5th Day of Dragons in Datteln / Germany



It's a long time ago, that I visited the Dragon Boat Races organized by KEL-Datteln, close to Dortmund in Germany. At the time KEL's main activities were in things of canoeing and dragon boating was just picked up as additional sport.

Meanwhile - as I heard - the participation in canoeing dropped a lot, making dragon boating most important for the club and resulting in the dragon boat races not being attached to the former canoe-days, rather than nowadays being its very own event named the Day of Dragons.

Beginning of the year I meet George at the German Long-Distance-Champs on Lake Baldeney in Essen. In olden times he was the chief-organizer for KEL's dragon boat races. It was nice to see an old friend and without looking on my calendar I promised to visit the meanwhile 5th anniversary of the „stand-alone“ Day of Dragons in Datteln. When giving the promise I was not aware about the date-clash with the ENC in Brandenburg!

Promises need to be kept! As a result I found myself in first traveling by car some 600 km from my place to Brandenburg. On the evening of Friday the 24th of August I left the ENC after the day's racing was finished and headed about 450 km back to Dortmund, where I arrived during the night.



On Saturday I covered the event and stayed one more night, sleeping in my car at temperatures of only 6° C. On Sunday, August 26th I arrived back to the ENC at 11:00 o'clock, to continue my work here. - Quite some driving, isn't it?





However, the 5th Day of Dragons always takes place at the club premisses of KEL located at the shore of the Dortmund-Ems-Canal. When a cargo-ship approached, racing was interrupted until the vessel has passed. Also occasional rain- and thunder-storm-patches forced the event to pause too, but never longer than 10 minutes. In total the weather was still okay and all 39 races with a total of 35 participating teams went smooth. There was only one capsized, which was no problem at all.

The race-distance was 250 m and the canal is wide enough to paddle on four lanes, plus one traffic-lane. The teams categorized into two classes, Fun- and Sport-Racing and within each having the small and standard boats. There were lady-teams, mixed and men.

The complete results can be downloaded from [www.kel-datteln.de/daten/text/t1535283586.pdf](http://www.kel-datteln.de/daten/text/t1535283586.pdf)

In the evening of course medals and trophies were given, followed by a hot after-race-party with live-music, nice food and plenty of beer.

The entire event was extremely well organized and only can be recommended. So please mark Saturday, August 31st, 2019 in your calendar.







## Pink Paddlers the 5th time on Rügen Island



On the German island of Rügen in the Baltic Sea Bernd Bolder and Ute Lüdke founded about 25 years ago a school for water sports, named UST Rügen / Rügen Piraten.

Meanwhile the school has grown and many of the premisses have been rented out to related companies, such as a hostel or restaurant and also further extensions of the school. All of these are run by family members. The range of offered training courses and activities includes Wind-Surfing, Kite-Surfing, Sailing, Canoeing, Stand-Up-Paddling (SUP) and of course Dragon Boating.

The school is located at a bay, which kind is named „Bodden“. A „Bodden“ is a special bay of shallow water, which was formed during ice age. It provides calm waters and such bays are quite unique, existing only in the Baltic Sea.



Once you leave the calm and protected Bodden, you will find yourself in more rough sea-conditions. For a water-sport-school this provides all conditions needed, calm and rough waters, making it an ideal location.

All together the school offers everything needed, including accommodation, catering and, most important, experienced and certified coaches, helms and the like.

Since five years, each early October, they hold a training camp especially for Pink Paddlers whom they call the „Pinkis“. This year the camp took place







from October 5th to 7th with a well planned variety of activities. Also the weather planed well! There was no rain at all and the conditions came close to being perfect.

With 40 participants having checked in the day before, on Friday morning it was time get started. After an brief introduction all Pinkis got on two dragon boats just paddling 4 km to next village at shore. Even the sun was shining there was also quite some wind and waves. Once arrived, they were given a healthy snack before returning to the school for lunch. In the afternoon a second „on-water“ training session was held, this time focussing on paddling techniques.

In the evening the day was concluded with a healthy buffet in „Drontes Bar“, the restaurant belonging to the school. With the casual talks during dinner, intentionally one topic was the combination of sportive activities combined with suitable and healthy nutrition.

The Saturday began with a big pan of scrambled eggs for breakfast, aiming on providing enough energy for the following, heavy training on water again. When lunch was finished the Pinkis were given the chance to also try out other paddle-sports like SUP and Outrigger Canoeing. The dinner was similar to the day before, but this time followed by a party with live-music.

As fast the training-camp had started on Friday, as soon it had become Sunday with another paddling session, before everybody had to leave again. In total the whole weekend was so intense fun, that nobody realized the time passing by. While saying farewell, all Pinkis were already looking forward to next years Pink Paddlers Training Camp at UST Rügen.

If you want to join, mark the weekend on October 3rd, 2019. For more information check the website [ustruegen.de](http://ustruegen.de)

*(Many thanks to Sabrina Stübe for sending in the original German article and the photos)*



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23. – 26. August 2018  
EUROPEAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Brandenburg an der Havel / Germany



## 13th ENC 2018 in Brandenburg

From August 23rd to 26th the national dragon boat teams from 18 European nations competed for medals upon the EDBF's call to do so at the European Nations Championships on the regatta course „Beetzsee“ in the city of Brandenburg in Germany.

About 1500 paddlers participated and made up 189 crews in the standard boat and 232 crews for the small boat.

After 179 races over the distances 200m, 500m 1000m and 2000m, the results provided the ranking of the strongest dragon boat nations in Europe.

Regarding the numbers of medals in total, the hosting nation Germany won the most, followed by Ukraine and Hungary. Only Armenia, France and Switzerland went home with empty hands, but hopefully gained a lasting and joyful memory on this very pleasant and smooth Championships.

Under perfect weather conditions throughout the racing days, one got the feeling to attend a very well organized event, for which of course the EDBF-Organizing-Committee and the DDV need to be awarded for.

But also the regatta course itself provided a good and professional infrastructure, as well as extremely friendly staff.  
- I've never before come across

## Medals Table:

total				
1.		Germany	38	21 8
2.		Ukraine	27	17 5
3.		Hungary	10	5 6
4.		Italy	6	18 17
5.		Sweden	4	1 7
6.		Moldova	2	5 2
7.		Russia	2	1 10
8.		Czech Republic	1	6 7
9.		Great Britain	-	10 14
10.		Ireland	-	4 -
11.		Netherlands	-	1 1
12.		Cyprus	-	- 3
13.		Serbia	-	- 2
14.		Poland	-	- 1
15.		Spain	-	- 1



# News Scanner



such friendly and disciplined security guards, which were always willing to help.

Very important to mention are the work and efforts of the Race-Officials. They form the solid foundation such an event is standing on! Their chief Andries Boneschansker gave out the motto: „We should do our job as professional as possible, in ideal case without anybody feeling or seeing us.“ - And that's exactly what they did! - One thing they take justified pride in, is that this was the championship with the lowest number of complaints ever!

While DBWM wants to thank all helpers, volunteers and officials for their support and granting me access to all areas of the event, special thanks for their support have go to Claudio Schermi as the President of the EDBF, to Ute Becker as the President of the DDV and to Andries Boneschansker as the Chief Race Official.

Please accept the following photos as my thanks:



Ute

Andries



Claudio



Mike H. / Alan / Mike T. / Claudio

*Dear RO's, unfortunately I don't have pictures of all of you, but be sure, sooner or later I'll catch you :-)*



Murray



Sue  
&  
Andrew















**Germany won the  
European Nations Cup**

**Congratulations from DBWM**







## EDBF stands firm on ICF/ECA talks

Before DBWM reported about the joined statement of ICF, IDBF, ECA and EDBF, which was published as a result of talks held in Rome, March 14th, 2018.

Taking the history of the relations between the International Canoe Federation (ICF) and the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) into account and therewith also the one between ECA and EDBF, that joined statement triggered quite some fear about our Dragon Boat Federations „selling out their souls“.

After having attended as a guest the 29th EDBF Ordinary Congress, held in Brandenburg the day just after the ENC, I'm very happy to report, that the fear has vanished!

At the Congress it was made clear, that the IDBF is recognized by GAISF, Arbitration of Sport, AIMS and the IOC as the World Governing Body, and the EDBF therefore would not give away what it has achieved. The EDBF is the only Governing Body of the sport of dragon boating in Europe.

The Congress agreed to endorse the EDBF-President to go and discuss with the ECA President, what the ECA wants in terms of developing the dragon boat sport and, consequently, to draft out a "green paper" for further discussion at the EDBF Convention with the Executive Committee and Council. The Congress agreed there was a need to see something actually in writing first then to follow up further accordingly.



## 18th EDBF ECCC 2019

The 18th EDBF ECCC will be held between 25th – 28th July 2019 in Seville, Spain and is being organised by the Spanish Dragon Boat Federation (AEDB) with assistance from accommodation, transport and media partners.



The official website can be found under <https://www.ecccsevilla2019.com>

## Call for News

If you have any news to report, from your club, region, country or continent, then please sent them by e-mail to [wiekhorsthenning@mac.com](mailto:wiekhorsthenning@mac.com)

Why don't you also introduce your club to the world-wide dragon boat community. It will be published in DBWM as well as on Dragon Boat Net.

You can help to make this magazine being globally local! - Thank you so much!

## Race-Calendar 2019

Dragon Boat Net features perhaps the most comprehensive Race-Calendar. Within December the update for 2019 will be done. If you wish your event to be listed, please send me the details by e-mail to [wiekhorsthenning@mac.com](mailto:wiekhorsthenning@mac.com)

**DRAGON BOAT NET**  
[www.dragonboatnet.com](http://www.dragonboatnet.com)  
**The Paddlers Site**





## The Brian Hartley Award



2018 saw the introduction of The Brian Hartley Officials Award. As many know, Brian Hartley passed away earlier in the year. Brian was an instrumental figure in the world of Dragon Boating, both in Great Britain and worldwide. Brian's role in the IDBF, EDBF and British Dragon Boat Association was to train and assess officials for all grades and therefore Brian became well known across the dragon boat world for his patience, kindness and support given to new and existing officials.

His wife Kirsty wanted to honour his achievements by presenting a trophy each year at IDBF events. All officials had the opportunity to nominate and the trophy would be presented to the official who represented all of the qualities that Brian had.

The first recipient of the trophy in 2018 was Paul Griffiths from Great Britain. This would have pleased Brian greatly as Brian was Paul's mentor through many years of training, bringing Paul to the level of Chief Official in the British league and a Level 3 IDBF Official. Paul is also now an International Race Official Grade One Presenter and Examiner for Europe.



*Text and photos by  
Joanne Griffiths*

When interviewing Paul, he said: "Occasionally in your lifetime, you meet someone quite special. Brian was that man. He was a fantastic role model who was always kind and patient with everyone. He was always able to see the funny side in every situation and would be able to find the answer to any problem. Above all of this, he was also a dear friend. I am honoured to receive the first Brian Hartley Officials Award.

When I received the award at the IDBF 2018 Club Crew World Championships in Hungary, I was too emotional to speak (which is very unusual for me!). The award now has pride of place in my home.



The picture of Brian and I was taken in Rome at the European Nations Championships. This was my first time as Chief Start and Brian mentored me through the five days. We had such a great time!

Brian started the first ever IDBF race. I wasn't there in those days but I was proud to stand with him when he started his last race in Rome."

Brian's legacy will always live on through his wife Kirsty and everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting and working with Brian and, thanks to this new award, officials will continue to be recognised for the qualities that were close to Brian's heart.



## The Indian Story

In DBWM's last edition, July 2018, I had my Regions Focus also on India and asked the Dragon Boat Federation of India to write me something.



I was happy about Mr. Parveen Kumar, who introduced himself as Secretary General of the Dragon Boat Federation of India (DBFI), sending me his article-contribution and photos.

Now, in India there are two organizations, which I heard about before. I didn't know both of them carrying the same name! However, only one of them is recognized by the IDBF as THE Dragon Boat Federation of India. But which of them is it?

The DBFI or the DBFI?

In the July 2018 article under the heading „Present Status of Dragon Boat Racing in India“, Mr. Parveen Kumar wrote: *“... There is also another unit which tells themselves the Dragon Boat Federation of India and their website is update in IDBF'S members page but they don't have any legal documents to prove themselves the true unit as Dragon Boat Federation of India.”*

In older documents on my hand I cross checked if I could find Mr. Parveen Kumar and discovered confirmation for him - nowadays I have to say - having been the Secretary General of the DBFI and took him for granted, as representing the true DBFI and published the article.

Of course the article triggered some reaction from India causing me to investigate deeper.

To the best of my knowledge, the Dragon Boat Federation of India (DBFI) was admitted into IDBF Membership in 2007 and two years later ratified as a Basic Member by the 2009 IDBF Congress.

Since then there have been quite some turbulences within the federation. These were things like questioning the legitimacy of the National Team, which travelled to participate in the 2009 World Championships in Prague. On top of that even members of that team took the chance to gain entry to Europe by leaving before the end of the Championships.

There were revisions of the Federations constitution and severe financial irregularities, as well as officer changes. These turmoils demanded the IDBF to step in and offering guidance in order to resolve all the issues, which I don't want to dive in deeper.

Finally things got resolved more or less and to me the last known officers of the original DBFI were President: Surjit Singh Bajwa, Vice President: Tapas Kumar Pathak and General Secretary: Parveen Kumar.

It looks like in September 2016 a split took place, when Kumar set up a General Meeting of the DBFI without having consulted the President.

Since then the original DBFI continues with Life President: Surjit Singh Baja, President Rajen Gohain and General Secretary: Regis KS.

The rival DBFI goes with President: Tapas Kumar Pathak and General Secretary: Parveen Kumar

In discussing the issue of the two Federations in India who call themselves "Dragon Boat Federation of India" the IDBF President confirmed that following the spilt, the IDBF has continued to recognize the original Federation of which the President is Mr Rajen Gohain with further details on the IDBF website. The IDBF has constantly urged them to reunite.

Mr. Surjit Singh Bajwa has announced to write a more clear article about the situation in India, which I will be happy to publish, hopefully in January 2019.







## Ireland



The Irish Dragon Boat Association (IDBA) is the National Governing Body of the sport of dragon boat racing in Ireland (including Northern Ireland). The IDBA is responsible for all aspects of the sport from community development through to managing Irish teams racing abroad.

Dragon boating was originally introduced to Ireland in the early 1990's when boats were brought from the UK to hold events. In 2005 the IDBA was formed, though only really in name, until the Association was formally launched in Dublin in October 2010 by myself. With no funding from any Governmental departments we have worked hard to grow the association from its humble beginnings to where it is today.



The IDBA is a member of both the European Dragon Boat Federation (EDBF) and the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) and as such is recognised as the only Governing Body in Ireland.



**Our Mission** is to make dragon boat racing a mass participation sport throughout the whole 32 counties of Ireland and make the sport accessible to all ages and abilities.



**The IDBA aims to:**

- Encourage the development of dragon boat clubs – Regular, mixed, junior & BCS.
- Encourage the highest standards of paddle sport.
- Promote and develop physical activity particularly in the junior age range.



- Raise awareness about lifestyle and health management in the areas of health, exercise and nutrition.

- Develop common approaches towards the provision of training and skills development; this in turn will support engagement with local communities.

- Organise dragon boat regattas to encourage the non-athlete that sport can be enjoyable as well as being good for your physical and mental health, and that dragon boating is an excellent team building sport.

- Promote and develop physical activity to support recovery from cancer treatment.

- Improve the physical and psychological wellbeing of people who have or have had Breast Cancer. (Research has shown that repetitive upper body movement can aid those individuals suffering from Lymphedema).

The IDBA has 14 registered clubs and at least half of these have more than one team that races at our events. There is also another 3 clubs that will come on line in 2019. The clubs are spread throughout Ireland from Cork Dragons, Cork in the south of Ireland to Donegal Dragons in the North West, Lagan Dragons in the North East (Northern Ireland) and others located in the Dublin and surrounding areas.

Unlike most countries our demographics here in Ireland are circa 70% female and 30% male athletes. This maybe due to the Executive Committee being female or the fact that we have pushed the BCS element of the sport. We have also done a lot of work ensuring there are plenty of female helms which again is different to a lot of countries.

The Irish Senior Women's team has now competed in two European Nations Championships, the latest in Germany successfully achieving 4 silver medals.

The IDBA run 3 regattas a year for its clubs to compete in - Athy Dragon Boat Regatta, Barrow Dragon Boat Regatta and the Dublin Hong Kong Dragon Boat Regatta which is a two day international event. We normally get 6 - 8 international teams attending each year with a total of 56 teams racing over the weekend. Some of the clubs also host smaller regattas.

The IDBA also runs a number of corporate events our biggest being Dragons At The Docks which this year saw 12 dragon boats and 72 teams compete for the title. The event raised over €250,000 for the Dublin Simon Community which is a charity which works to prevent and address homelessness in Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath.

We are also working hard to develop the quality of paddling and coaching within the country to ensure that we can compete with the best in the world.



By Julie Doyle - Chairman IDBA - [www.dragonboat.ie](http://www.dragonboat.ie)





## A Side View on other Sports: Outrigger Canoeing



Since many dragon boaters I've been talking to recently are also engaged in paddling outrigger canoes, I re-publish an old article I have written years ago, when DBWM was still printed and distributed as hard-copy. However, the story hasn't changed:

### Brief Backgrounds on Outriggers:

The idea of an Outrigger essentially comes from the desire to stabilize a single hull boat, referred to as the "Waa" in original Hawaiian language or "Va'a" in Tahitian. Protection against capsizing occurs by connecting the boat via bars, sticks (the "iako") or entire platforms to another hull ("ama") situated parallel and a little distant to the Waa or Va'a. There are various ways to do this. You can have a main hull to which a smaller buoyancy hull is rigged to only one or both sides or you can simply rig together two of the same hulls which is referred to as "Double Hull" construction.

It is uncertain which exact country can lay claim to the origins of Outriggers. A few thousand years ago, people from the wider region of South East Asia began to migrate to the Pacific Islands including Samoa, Tahiti, Marqueses and Hawaii but also New Zealand. Migration also occurred westward toward Africa to the island of Madagascar.

In ancient times, people started off on simple rafts heading into rough seas and likely suffered signifi-

cant human loss. Development of a more stable and complex boat almost certainly came through a slow process taking place over centuries and based on the transfer of experience from tribe to tribe and one generation to the next. As the boats became more sophisticated, their use widened beyond basic needs. There is evidence that long ago tribes from islands close to one another had celebrations and paddling competitions which form the basis of today's Outrigger Canoeing sport.

When people talk about Outriggers today, it usually references the paddled canoes and many of the Outrigger activities that are centered in Tahiti and Hawaii, the sport's two cultural preservation centers. At present, the Hawaiians seem to promote the sport most actively while the Tahitian roots are the older ones.

Outriggers have always been subject to further improvements and developments regarding both the boats and paddles. This is much different than what is seen with Dragon Boats where the boats and paddles remained the same for thousands of years. The reason is that Dragon Boats were traditionally paddled only for ceremonial and recreational purposes and never were a common mode of transportation.

Outriggers are ocean-going vessels and are used in various sizes. The six seat boat is the large version and is referred to as an OC6 (Outrigger Canoe with 6 seats). A single person's canoe is an OC1 and an OC2 is for two paddlers.





## A glimpse at paddling styles:

For both Dragon Boat paddling and Outrigger Canoeing the paddle stroke looks the same, - Catch, Pull, Exit and Recovery.

Dragon Boats usually race in short distance sprints during which the paddlers use a tremendously high stroke rate. What is called the Recovery in a Dragon Boat stroke doesn't fully deserve that name since it's rushing the paddle forward as fast as possible in order to come into the next pull. This rush, when performed simultaneously by a team of 20-22, causes the boat to dive into the water just to be pulled out and forward again with next pull.

In Outrigger Canoeing, races are much longer and usually last a couple of hours. In order to have the endurance needed for these events, the Outrigger paddler must focus on efficiency of stroke. Outrigger paddlers really utilize the Recovery to regain strength for the next pull. Strokes rates are lower and the paddler must alternate strokes on both sides.

It's well worth mentioning that in spite of the Dragon Boating tradition of races over short distances, some paddlers would like to see additional Dragon Boat racing classes going over 5000m or even longer, which would mean the use of a totally different paddling stroke than those used in Dragon Boat sprints.

## Crew changes on the go:

In addition to a slower, more fluid paddle stroke, Outrigger racing requires a special system of team work in order to complete races that last hours rather than minutes.

On longer Outrigger races, each canoe has an escort boat that carries additional paddlers who take turns in the canoe according to a rotation schedule that calls for paddlers to change about every 20 minutes. When it's time for the change, the support boat pulls ahead and into the lane of the OC where the new paddlers jump from the escort boat into the sea and signal their position to their approaching team mates

by waving their hand or splashing water. The canoe is then steered so the swimmers come between the hull and Ama. Once in this position, the new paddlers must climb into the boat while their counterparts jump off board to the other side. The support boat then picks up the tired paddlers for a quick rest before they jump back in the sea for another turn in the Outrigger. At the same time, those remaining on board will keep paddling during the entire exchange to maintain the boat's momentum.





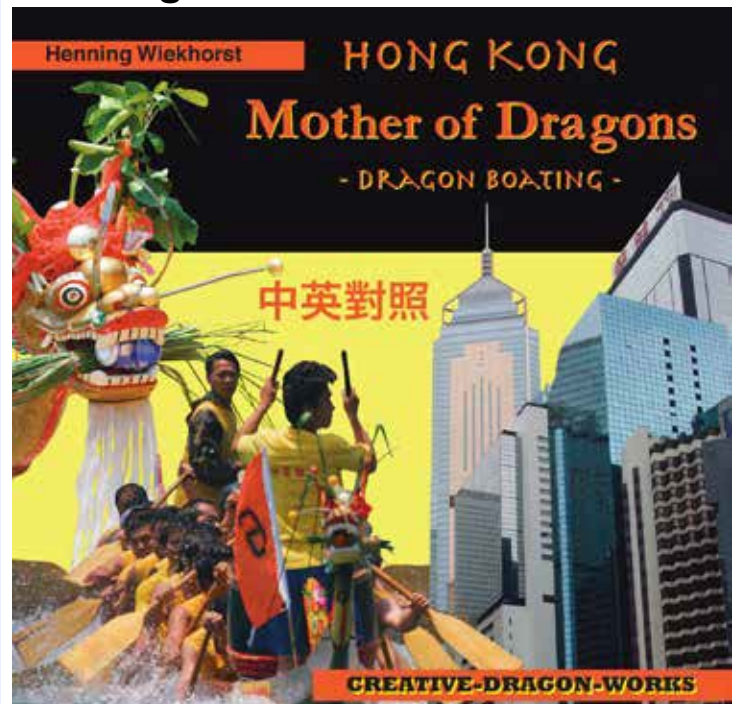


**Dragon Boating and Outrigger Canoeing go well together:**

While one of the biggest attractions of Dragon Boating is that it is a team and social sport, it does require a large number of people to go out on the water. Outrigger Canoeing offers the possibility of paddling alone or in smaller groups which means fewer scheduling challenges. Some paddlers find great satisfaction in being alone on the water and enjoying nature during a relaxed cruise or while catching a nice surf from wave to wave. You can Outrigger on fresh water or on the open seas. And you don't have to give up Dragon Boating to enjoy this alternate paddle sport.

So if you love being out on the water and are looking for additional opportunities to paddle, you might want to consider adding Outrigger to your list of activities. Dragon Boating and Outrigger are a great compliment to one another.

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# ARE YOU READY ...



## ... for the next issue?

The next Dragon Boat World's Magazine is scheduled for January 2019.

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