

The **DRAGON BOAT WORLD's** Magazine

Join the Action, Feel the Passion, Catch the Spirit

The traditional Dragon Boat Media

Edition January 2019

**BDA:
Team
GB**

**Improved
Design
for
Mobile
Devices**

**Regional
Focus:
Italy**

**Who is the real
World Champion?**

**First DB Team in
Bangladesh**

**Dragon Boats
on Ice**



Dear Friends, Paddlers and Readers,

A warm welcome to the first Edition of **DBWM** in 2019. I hope you all had a good start into the New Year and are looking forward to an exciting season of paddling.

From my point of view I'm very thrilled about how you will receive the new design and format of this magazine. It is supposed to be more friendly for reading it on mobile devices.

With the huge variety of those devices on the market, all with slightly different display sizes, **DBWM** can be read on all of them, including desktops, as long as they can open a PDF-file. However, a choice needed to be made and therefore the single page dimensions are optimized for iphones 6, 7 and 8.

However, each single page has become smaller than before, which means the total page-count has doubled. Therefore it would mean that you possibly have to scroll through many pages to reach an article of your special interest.

As a new function of **DBWM**, you need to find the Contents-page and simply click or touch the relevant headline. You will instantly come to the chosen article. At the end of the article you will find at the bottom of that page a button, which will get you back to the table of content when clicked or touched.

[Back to Content](#)

Also any adverts, logos or e-mail-contacts are directly linked. Just click or touch them and see what happens.

In my strive to modernize **DBWM**, I've also been looking into the possibilities to embedding videos and slideshows to the magazine's PDF-format. While technically including videos would be possible, they would increase the file-size dramatically, which





could cause problems with the distribution of **DBWM** by e-mail to you. Therefore I decided for the time being not to include videos to the magazine, but well the links to the websites they are hosted on.

Despite integrating slideshows to a PDF-file is technical a much more difficult problem, still the same as for videos applies.

However, I think **DBWM** has made a great step forward, but what is your opinion?

Drop me a line to my e-mail wiekhorsthenning@mac.com

Yours in promoting our wonderful sport

Henning





The Dragon Boat World's Magazine (DBWM)

DBWM is regularly published by:

CREATIVE DRAGON WORKS

Henning Wiekhorst

Konrad-Adenauer-Str. 19

53343 Wachtberg

Germany

wiekhorsthenning@mac.com

<https://creative-dragon-works.com>

<https://dragonboatnet.com>

All rights reserved by the publisher!

DBWM is published four times per year as independent e-magazine distributed as Portable Data Format (PDF).

DBWM is supplied for free via e-mail and/or can be downloaded from dragonboatnet.com

Forwarding, sharing and other means of electronic and digital distribution as a whole is allowed and encouraged.

DBWM may be reproduced in part or as a whole as long there is no commercial interest and provided no changes have been made. In case of partial extract **DBWM** must be credited as source. Strictly prohibited without prior written permission from the publisher is any reproduction with commercial interests.

Contributed contents do not necessarily display the publisher's opinion. The publisher can not be held liable in any way for contributed materials, credited to the relevant author. The publisher is not liable for any actions and consequences resulting from any content of **DBWM**.

Contributions sent in on hard materials, like photo-prints, letters, books and on digital storage media will not be returned to the sender, if not otherwise agreed.





Click or touch the headlines to directly getting to an article!

Editorial	2
The Blue Page (Legal Notice)	4
In the Spirit of Qu Yuan	6
Readers Comments	9

News & Reports:

Bangladesh Dragoners	11
Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival	13
Dragon Boat Days of Vienna	13
Paddles !!!	14
Behind Iran's impressive Progress	15
Vienna Dragon Boat Festival	17
DBWM is getting some Help	18
New Boat for the "Buzz"	19
EDBF Dragon Boat Forum	26

Spotlight:

BDA: Team GB	32
Indian Dragon Boat - The Clarification	42
The Real World Championships	46
Dragon Boats on Ice	50

Regional Focus:

Bella Italia	54
Two Pioneers ... of Dragon Boat in Italy	60

The Last Page	73
---------------	----





In the Spirit of Qu Yuan

Have things changed to the good?

Quite some time ago, in summer 2010 with the last printed and hard-copy edition of DBWM the following article was published:

VIPs and MIPs

We all know what a VIP is, don't we. Yes, a Very Important Person. At a dragon boat event, as with all sports, the VIPs are usually the people you want to look after at your races because they are the sponsors and supporters in one way or another or potential sponsors and supporters, of your event.

Their sponsorship and support can come in various ways, typically through financial sponsorship in return for a name title to your event or maybe a promotional advert or two for their product or company. But also practical support is possible, like a city providing a free race venue and support services or people with an interest in the sport providing free logistical or organizational support, such as IT equipment and photocopiers.

In return you offer them the opportunity to come and see your event and reserve them the best seats to watch the races from. You host them with a little food and beverages and maybe a small gift or souvenir of the day. That's fine, nothing wrong at all with all of this, it is part of the sporting scene and we all agree that this kind of VIP treatment is perfectly normal, acceptable and expected.

*But actually more important at any event than the VIPs, are the MIPs – the **Most Important People** and these are the people without whom there wouldn't be any event at all. Without whom there would be no*





income to cover the costs of holding it.

In dragon boating the MIPs are definitely the paddlers from the competing crews and the officials who run the races but most of all the paddlers because they pay their own entry fees – which mostly fund the event; their own travel expenses, food and accommodation costs and they buy paddles, racing clothes and souvenirs and above all they compete in the races that the VIPs like to watch and that the media like to cover. In short, there can be no dragon boat event without the paddlers!

Crews always need a rest area. They want to watch other crews racing, to see how strong the competition is. The crews are the ones who provide the sporting show that the spectators want to see. This includes watching the crews go through their warm up exercises before a race and the way competing crews congratulate each other when they come off the water, after a race. The competing crews are the reason and the platform to attract both sponsors and supporters to an event.

*So if the MIPs are so important to a dragon boat event, why are they treated as **NIPs (Not Important People)** by so many event organizers, especially at some of the bigger events in Asia, where you find the rest areas for the crews are simply open sided tents pitched over rough ground, with no real facilities and more often or not, well away from the racing course and hidden from rest of the event.*

There is always a lack of drinking water, no adequate air conditioning and never enough toilets, just to mention a few things. Sometimes even reaching the Boat Marshalling area becomes a covert operation just to avoid the officious Security Guards and Barrier Marshals and as for being able to watch the races from the prime site of the VIP area – forget it!

Now, isn't that great? That's the sort of treatment that really makes the paddlers feel wanted and special, isn't it? So event organizers, if the



In the Spirit of Qu Yuan



cap fits wear it, are you getting the point of this article? Which is, if you want everybody to go home from your event with a positive memory and eager to come back the next time, then treat your MIPs better than your VIPs and not as NIPs!

At the time that article was written, most definitely there was a reason for! - But how do things look nowadays, eight years later?

According to what people tell, in Asia still some events don't show improvements, while others do. Top-events like world or continental championships do care a lot for the MIPs, just remember Sabaudia, Prague, Budapest, Szeged, Brandenburg and many others in Europe. Australia and the North Americas are known for running very well organized events too.

However, it doesn't harm to recall the old article, does it?



www.merlingear.com

**Superior quality IDBF Approved
Carbon Fibre Dragon Boat Paddles**

Discount available for Bulk orders of SD3 Range from Sporting governing bodies plus large event & festival organisers. For team orders, buy direct from the wholesaler to save \$\$\$.

SD3 Neon Knight, CD3 Dark Knight

Email: info@merlingear.com



[Back to Content](#)





Last Edition's Cover-Picture

Hi

Thank you for the cover of your beautiful magazine that depicts the Italian U 24 crew.

I published the photo and the link just now on the Facebook page of the Italian Dragon Boat Federation and is having great success.

Bye, see you soon.

Antonio De Lucia - President FIDB



From the Editor:

Dear Antonio, thank you for your nice e-mail. Above you can see the entire photo, as well as some more about Italy in the "Regional Focus" of this DBWM-Edition.





NO EMPERORS in Qu Yuan's Time

Hi Henning,

Here is some necessary clarification to your historical explanations.

Qu Yuan is purported to have lived during the Warring States era, at the end of the Zhou Dynasty. This was a civil war period, at the end of which emerged the first imperial consolidation of the former warring states, under the first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di, founder of the Qin (pronounced as CHIN) Dynasty. (That is how Zhong Guo came to be known in the west as imperial CHINA. This dynasty was next followed by the Han, which is why Chinese people refer to themselves as the Han race of people.) The state of Qin defeated and subjugated the rest of the Warring States, including the state of Chu from which Qu Yuan was banished and exiled.

You wrote that Chu was among several kingdoms or political territories, each with a KING (kingdom). THEREFORE, Chu was under the rule of a king and not an emperor. There was no emperor of Chu. Later there was an emperor of China. Qu Yuan served the king, not an emperor.

The Zhou Dynasty was when Kongzi (Confucius) is purported to have lived. He is much more revered than Qu Yuan is. They are not equals, not even close. The Warring States period was when Sunzi (Sun Tzu) compiled The Art of War, a treatise on military strategy.

Best regards, Adrian Lee
Former IDBF VP and Historian
Founding President of Dragonboat Canada

From the Editor:

*Hi Adrian, Thanks for your feedback, to which I fully agree.
That mistake must have occurred in the rush of writing.*





Bangladesh Dragoners



Recently I discovered some e-mails in my account, which I didn't pay attention to as I should have. One of those mails came from Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Dragoners, who asked me to give them some webspace on Dragon Boat Net.

Dear Bangladesh Dragoners, please accept my apologies for not having done so yet. Please also be assured, I will follow your request as soon as I have finished and published this magazine. In fact it is very likely that I'm busy with it while you are reading these lines. - That is a promise!

According to their website www.dragonboat.com.bd they are the only dragon boat team in Bangladesh. Well, being the only team in a country means you need to attend to events in other countries if you want to race in a competition. - And so it comes





that the team travelled in July 2017 to Langkawi/Malaysia for its first race. Since then they joined other events in China and Japan.

The Bangladesh Dragoners' aim is not only to grow their team, but also to make dragon boating more popular across their home country and to have more international contact.

By checking the website of the IDBF, you find the Bangladesh Rowing Federation (BRF) listed as an Associate Member. Not knowing the allover situation in Bangladesh and with perhaps a naiv thinking, one would suggest them to touch base with the IDBF via www.idbf.org and find out if there is any one with the BRF to contact. I could imagine the IDBF being happy to see something nice growing in Bangladesh.

With the hope of having more to report from Bangladesh in the future please take a warm „Paddles Up“ from **DBWM**.



photos taken from
www.dragonboat.com.bd

[Back to Content](#)



Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival

June 20-23, 2019

dragonboat.net



Photo By SD Debrosse

Registration now open! Join us on June 20 - 23, 2019 for the Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival. Held in Canada's capital, teams from around the world battle it out in beautiful Mooney's Bay. Don't miss out on a weekend full of dragon boat racing and an epic line-up of free concerts!

Call to join the 2. Dragon Boat Days of Vienna / Austria

On June 1st, 2019 at the Rowing Centre New Danube in Vienna the Vienna Dragons organize for the second time their Dragon Boat Days. They want to establish an international event and invite you to participate. Contact: start@dragonboat-vienna.at

For online registration [CLICK HERE !!!](#)



[Back to Content](#)



Paddles !!!

Merlin Paddles, innovators of the Dark Knight series of carbon fibre Dragon Boat Paddles, have developed and released a new range of honey coned inspired Carbon Fibre Dragon Boat Paddles called the SD3 Neon Knight range.



Merlin's Research and development team have developed the SD3 Neon Knight range of dragon boat paddles to allow teams, event organisers and governing sporting bodies the opportunity to upgrade from wooden or plain black paddles to a more vibrant and durable, carbon fibre paddle at more cost effective pricing.

Merlin are specialists in delivering bulk orders and for this reason, offers bulk order discounts. Colours currently in stock are on our website www.merlingear.com, however to receive a bulk order discount and/or request your own colour range, please email: info@merlinpaddles.com

Merlin Paddles are designed, developed and finished in Australia but ship worldwide.

**This could be your advert in
The Dragon Boat World's Magazine
for only 72,-- Euro/issue**

if booked for a 2 years campaign (8 issues)

1x = 93,-- Euro / 2x = 88,-- Euro/issue / 4x = 79,-- Euro/issue

Contact: wiekhorsthenning@mac.com

This advert is a 1/4 page with a size of 358x140px

[Back to Content](#)





Behind Iran's Impressive Progress



The IDBF World Cup 2018 held in Chongqing - China, showed the new face of Iran National Dragon Boat team which is obviously more powerful than in the past. Especially the women team exceeded the expectations, given that it was the first time they were qualified to the World Cup. This team is being led by Sara Zainali, that we remember her as IDBF Race Official in Ravenna 2014, Welland 2015 and Adelaide 2016.

"We chose athletes based on different fitness tests, then we passed two highly intense training camps within one month in Tehran and Saveh to unify the paddlers technique", Sara said. In term of paddling experience the team ranged from 10 years to only 3 months experienced, which makes the coordination very difficult.

This could be your advert for only 45,-- Euro !!!
Even the price is so good, still discounts are possible !
Just contact wiekhorsthenning@mac.com





Sara, that is the member of IDBF Women's Commission, believes that although the Iranian women hoped to achieve medal in one of distances, the result is acceptable with regard to the available time and facilities. She mentioned: "We don't have the historical experience of China in this sport and we don't have one tenth of Canadian Dragon Boats and clubs, but we have a highly motivated young generation which make us hopeful about the future of Dragon Boating in Iran".

*Text and photos by
Mohammadreza Dorkhah*

See the video "Welcome to Iran":

<https://dragonboatnet.com/dbw-tv/welcome-to-iran>

DRAGON BOAT NET
www.dragonboatnet.com
The Paddlers Site

[Back to Content](#)



Vienna Dragon Boat Festival on September 15th, 2019

Since 2015 our traditional dragon boat race takes place on the Old Danube in Vienna. The canoe section of the Police Sports Association Vienna organizes this festival and we have already had the pleasure to welcome teams from Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic and also Austria.

The race takes place at one of the most beautiful places in Vienna. The old Danube is not only a recreational area, but also a venue for dragon boat, kayak and rowing events.

For our 4th Dragon Boat Festival we hope for a strong international field of participants and we will gladly help you to find the right accommodation for your team.

You can find further information about the event on our website www.drachenboot.cc or just write us a mail with any further questions you may have to drachenboot@psv-kanu.at

Originally our club was focused on wildwater and kayak racing and 20 years ago we added dragon boating to our offer.

Our team - the Vienna Police Dragons - has since then participated in many national and international competitions. We have already won the Austrian championship five times and last summer we were the first Austrian team to take part in the 11th Club Crew World Championships in Szeged/Hungary.



[Back to Content](#)





DBWM is getting some Help

After DBWM's Edition October 2018 Matthew Au contacted DBWM and offered his help in editing and writing articles.

DBWM is very happy to welcome him as helping editor. The first article he worked on was the Indian one in this issue.

He also paddled for about six month with the Buzz in Hong Kong and smelled the roots of dragon boating. Here is how he introduces himself:



"Hi! I'm Matthew Au, a senior at Vassar College in New York. I've been paddling and steering dragon boats for seven years, and I have also had the privilege of racing in traditional fishermen races in Hong Kong, the birthplace of dragon boat. Recently, I founded Humans of Dragon Boat, a photo-blog sharing the stories of dragonboaters across the world. I'm excited to join the team here at DBWM!"

<https://sites.google.com/view/humansofdragonboat>

<https://www.instagram.com/HumansOfDragonBoat/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HumansOfDragonBoat/>

Race Calendar

The Race Calendar on Dragon Boat Net is up with its first entries for 2019. However, you expect an significant growth on the number of events entered before mid March 2019. Find the Calendar at <https://dragonboatnet.com/race-calender>



[Back to Content](#)



New Boat for the „BUZZ“ ...



In December 2018 an e-mail from the Buzz Dragon Boating Society in Hong Kong reached me, asking to contribute to a new wooden boat for the club. - Now, this actually is nothing special and raising funds for a boat is not only a challenge for the Buzz, but properly for any team world-wide.

What makes it special to me, having lived in Hong Kong for over 12 years, is, that my engagement in Dragon Boating started with and because of the Buzz. - Back in 2005 they made me becoming their team-photographer, which I stayed to be until the middle of 2008, when I moved back to Germany. At the end of 2005 I had made about 14.000 photos and by asking myself what to do with them, the Buzz convinced me to publish them in a book.

Starting from this point, I thought a book with just photos in it wouldn't be good enough. It had to tell the story of Hong Kong and its culture of dragon boating, telling the meaning of the tradition to the fishermen, why there is so much of it in Hong Kong and how



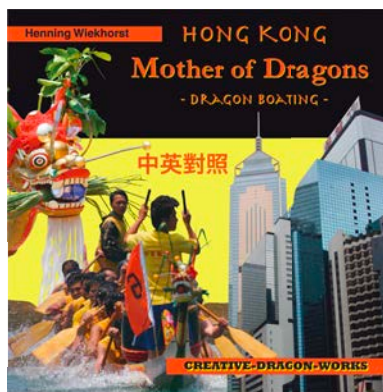


it spread around the world.

For my research the Buzz was of tremendous importance. Not only they were teaching me all aspects of dragon boating, they also got me connected with the Chai Wan Fishermen. Of course I did my own part on the researches too, which finally got me in touch with Mike Haslam, who was at the time the President and is the founder of the IDBF. He told me how he got to know about dragon boating, when in 1980 the Hong Kong Tourist Association sent three boats to London to help to promote Hong Kong and its culture. The boats made their debut at the Chinese festival on the River Thames.

One of the Chai Wan fishermen had a small ship-yard in Hong Kong's Aberdeen Harbour and has built these three particular boats being shipped to London. In the beginning, it were also the Fishermen teaching others on how to paddle and handle a dragon boat. - And they were telling me about everything, so I was able to write the book.

However, the book was nice to do, but it only contains 300 photos. So, the question remained, what to do with all the photos? How to make this amount of pictures accessible for people to see? - The final answer was to establish a website and so Dragon Boat Net was born. With the book and Dragon Boat Net having achieved quite an international recognition, a bit later I found myself in publishing this magazine, at the time still named „Dragon Boat World International“.



*First the book,
then the website
and finally the
magazine*





Perhaps most of the Buzz members are not aware about it, but without the Buzz, there wouldn't be the book „Hong Kong - Mother of Dragons“, there would be no Dragon Boat Net and also not this magazine !!!



The BUZZ at Po Toi in 2005

With all my deepest respect, that is why I want to share a little bit more about the Buzz and why they need a new wooden boat.

Nowadays, as a non-fishermen dragon boat team, the Buzz has a unique profile and history amongst the teams participating in the most coveted of dragon boat races - the fishermen circuit.

It is highly extraordinary for an amateur non-fishermen team, with a Chinese and an international profile to participate in the fishermen circuit, of which the Buzz is proud to be a part of it. To race in it, of course, requires a teak-wooden boat. To acquire and maintain one requires a lot of commitment and time and money.

Combining all of these requirements, it shows who are the teams that truly want to be in the community and embrace the culture, instead of just the usual Hong Kong way of getting some experi-





ence and leave the city. In its core the Buzz is a local team !!!

For competitive racing the life-span of such a boat is not long. Wood loses flexibility and elasticity due to age, condition, and usage. For the Buzz, who are racing their teak boat three to four times a year (plus the transportation and crane-lifting and annual maintenance), they need a new boat every 4 to 5 years. Teams that race more every season need to commission a new one every two to three years. It is a on-going venture. But to say the least, to ever experience racing in traditional Chinese style is beyond anything, it is the essence of dragon boat – combination of Competition, Community & Culture!

Stanley Fishermen 2006



While I guess, most of the readers of DBWM are paddling on fresh waters like rivers, canals and lakes or similar, in Hong Kong you will paddle on rough sea. Many races start from open sea paddling towards the beach. According to the waves coming in from your back the stiffness of a wooden boat can be adjusted to match the actual conditions. For that the elasticity and flexibility of the boat is important.





For the Buzz the first fishermen-race came in 2003 when they were invited to the Po Toi fishermen race. Still today it is considered the most colorful, festive, and intensely competitive race of Hong Kong's calendar. They did well enough to be invited back again the next year, and then added to their calendar were the fishermen races at Stanley, Tai Tam, and Tsing Yi.

From 2003 to 2007, they did not have their own wooden race boat and had to borrow one from the Fishermen. That changed in 2008 when they commissioned their first ever wooden dragon boat. It was the biggest news of the season and all eyes were on them for the coming race season.



The 2008 boat has arrived.





Due to the limited lifetime of the boat, in 2013, they purchased a one-year-old boat from South Eagles, another and very strong fishermen-team, In 2015, the Buzz was the first non-fisherman team to win a grand cup final at the Tai Tam fishermen race. In 2016, Buzz became a triple winner of the mixed grand cup at Po Toi, Stanley, and Tai Tam fishermen races.

The old boats are still in use but for training only.

Stanley Int. 2005





Also sometimes the Buzz races in non-fishermen-races. I still remember their epic results in the big Stanley International Race on Dragon Boat Festival Day in 2005.

The Buzz had three boats: Expat Men A, Chinese Men A and Ladies. Both men's teams won their categories - the first time the feat had been achieved by one club!

The ladies came second in their category and, to top it all, the Expat Men successfully defended the overall Stanley Championship in the Grand Final.



Stanley Int. 2005: On "Victory Rock"

Now this team is reaching out to all its members, alumni, friends and possible supporters to raise funds for a new teak-wooden boat. If you belong to this group of people and their fund raising e-mail hasn't reached you, then please contact the Buzz via president@buzzdragon.com

Additional Note: See a recruiting video for the Buzz on:
<https://dragonboatnet.com/dbw-tv/come-to-the-buzz-hk>





EDBF launched first Dragon Boat Forum

(Photos provided by Claudio Schermi)



Up to now the EDBF had its annual convention, which was only for officials of the federation. With the launch of the EDBF Dragon Boat Forum also less official people involved to the sport can participate. The Forum was held from November 30th to December 2nd, 2018 in Seville / Spain, at the venue where the 2019 European Club Crew Championships are going to take place by end of July.

Beside inspecting the regatta course, there was a rich programme of sessions and workshops about topics of dragon boating in Europe and which directions possibly to develop in future. The Forum was concluded with a glamorous gala dinner and award-giving to people being special to the sport.

As reported earlier last December by our companion magazine **Dragon Sport News**, delegates from 17 EDBF Member Countries





were represented at this year's Forum.



Claudio Schermi, as President of the EDBF, has realized, that the active people who successfully have developed the sport of dragon boat racing to what it is by today, are simply aging. That doesn't mean that they are old, but it is about time to have some younger people to whom the experiences made can be passed on.

Having more young people, certainly also will provide new ideas, more adapted to modern and digital times, at least when it comes to reach people through any means of media and communication - just to mention one of many topics as an example.

Therefore, in his keynote speech, Claudio presented "The Dragon Boat Community of Europe and the Rejuvenation of the Sport within the EDBF". He underlined the needs for governing bodies of sport to be proactive risk takers, not reactive followers, if they were to be successful in a changing competitive world of radical uncertainty.





He said that whilst the EDBF had been a successful story for nearly 30 years, looking to the future, we have to persuade ourselves to change. A change that means, empowering people to test things, making and learning from mistakes.

“Our competitors as organizations are not just Canoe Federations but also private entities, festival organisers, events companies. A protectionist approach is not going to provide adequate solution to the serious risk of losing control over our key properties”Claudio said **“We have to be open and involve all the dragon boat paddlers community”.**

This means that both the EDBF and its Members must develop a more commercially driven mind set to make profits to reinvest in Dragon Boat Sport. Being commercially driven does not mean just making revenues, but driving awareness and creating exposure for the Dragon Boat Sport as well.

In conclusion the EDBF president gave some recommendations to the floor to make dragon boat attractive for new generations and the EDBF to occupy all social media platforms. At the end he opened up for feedback and suggestions to adapt the main ideas to different Nations.

“I recommend paddlers to share and support our vision – Claudio Schermi says - I have been elected with a project based on 6 milestones: embracing change, decentralization, integrity and trust, sustainable and social responsible, revenue generation and communication. This project is available on my personal web page www.claudioschermi.it. On the EDBF web sites www.edbf.org, under ISSUES, everybody can follow our messages to keep all informed of where are we going to. We refer the dragon boat community of Europe. Not just competitive paddlers, but families, schools, universities, companies, festival and fun crews. I speak about Breast Cancer Paddlers and Para dragon paddlers. I speak about those Nations that are still not in membership with EDBF and IDBF.”





Presentations during the weekend were also given by Antonio De Lucia (Chair, Medical Commission), Anna Sokratous (Chair, Women in Sport Commission), Michela Sacchetti (Chair, Marketing and Media Commission), Jose Maria Carrillo (Chair, Youth Commission), Saed Abdalla (Chair, Tech & Competition Commission) and Guest Speakers Pat Bradley (U.S. National Coach), Nigel Bedford (Chair, IDBF Paradrakon Commission) and Slawek Borucki (IDBF Registration Platform Facilitator).

The EDBF President announced that the Council had confirmed the 14th European Nations Championships for Kiev, in the Ukraine in 2020 and the 19th European Club Crew Championships for Barcelona, Spain in 2021.



ALICIA GARCIA GARCIA



More then 100 people attended the EDBF GALA DINNER & AWARD CEREMONY held during the Forum, at the Hotel Barcelò Renascimiento, in a wonderful setting. A vote of thanks to the special guest singer, Christian Panico.

The 1st “Qu Yuan Award” to the highest Sport Personality not directly involved in Dragon Boat Sport, went to Dr. Raffaele Chiulli, (GAISF, ARISF and UIM President) who is a good friend of dragon boating and had paddled and been a drummer with young students Dragon Boating together with Claudio Schermi.



The other three Special EDBF Qu Yuan Awards went to the EDBF Founder & EDBF President of Honour Mike MacKeddie-Haslam; the EDBF Past President & now EDBF Honorary President Alan van Caubergh and to the IDBF President Mike Thomas.

The EDBF Awards were:-

EDBF Male Dragon Boat Legend: - David Bangs and special awards went to Vitaly Smirnov and Michael Doyle.

EDBF Female Dragon Boat Legend went to: Bettina Schneider and special awards went to Maria Antonietta Simonelli and Natalia Leremenko.

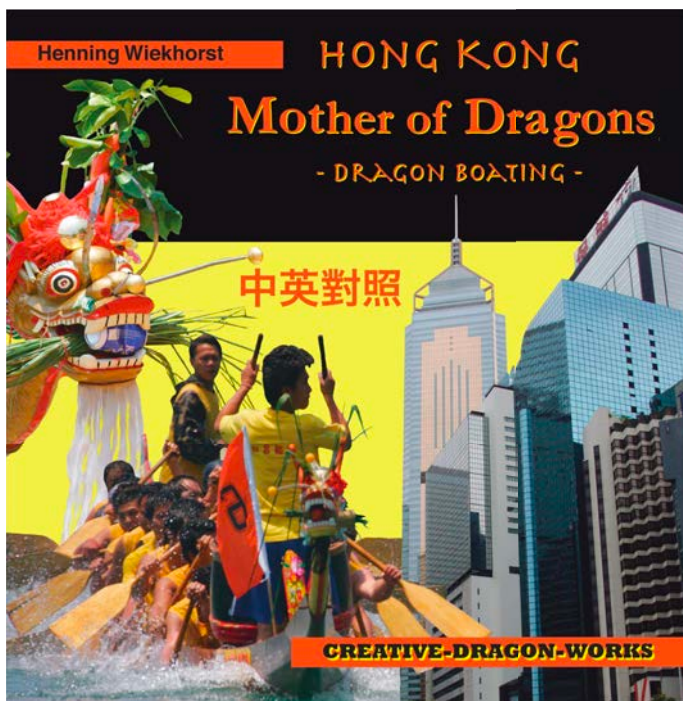




Best European Dragon Boat Club – went to Thunder Dragons from the club Hochrhein Paddler e.V., Germany.

The Environmental Project Award went to the Nore Dragon Paddlers from Ireland, and the EDBF Special Projects went to: ARMENIA for the Special Paradrakon Project; ITALY for the Dragon Boat project to fight violence towards women and to raising awareness of gender based discrimination in Society, and to SPAIN for Guinness World Records: Dragon Boat Pinatar for the greatest distance by a dragon boat crew in 24 hours and for the greatest distance by dragon boat in 24 hours with crews in a relay.

Special EDBF Award to EDBF Supporters went to Peisheng Boats, Hornet Paddles, El Corte Inglés, Tegysport Starting System, Hotel Barcelò and the Spanish Dragon Boat Association (EDBA). All were especially thanked for their sponsorship of the event.



Buy the Book, **CLICK HERE !!!**



[Back to Content](#)



BDA: Team GB – Development and Management



As the oldest formal National Dragon Boat Association (Federation) in the Dragon Boat World, established in 1987, it is a fair bet that the British Dragon Boat Racing Association – BDA for short, has a pretty long history of training and selecting British National Dragon Boat Teams for World and Continental Championships, which may be of interest to paddlers and coaches alike.

Of course before the formation of the IDBF in 1991, there were no World Championships and therefore no need for a formal National Team selection process and such was the case for the 1st IDBF World Championships in 1995, where Great Britain was represented by paddlers from the Amathus Club in Liverpool and Royal Marines Dragon Boaters based in the UK, who entered the Open and Mixed Premier Races, with moderate success.



Spotlight



It was simply a question of which 'club based' crews could find the money and paddlers to make the trip to China, a step into the 'great unknown' at that time.



Prague 2009



Prague 2009

For 1997 in Hong Kong a more individual based selection system was in place, again with moderate results but by the 3rd World





Champs held in Nottingham in 1999, the BDA had developed both an ongoing training system for the winter/spring periods, followed by a formal GB Team selection system. The result was 5 Gold, 4 Silver and 6 Bronze Medals for Team GB and medals success at World and European Championships many times since that 'home game' in Nottingham.

So what is the detail of Team GB system. Every two years, following a World Nations Championships' the BDA appoints Team GB Coaches and Administrators for the next two year period commencing after one Championships, through to the next one and also covering the European Nations Championships, held in between the World Nations.

The Team GB structure is based on a Squad system, with different Squads' for Premier Paddlers (Open and Women) Seniors, Juniors and U24s. Each Squad has an appointed Head Coach and Assistant Coaches, plus a Squad Administrator.



In addition there is a GB Team Manager, appointed by the BDA Executive Committee, to co-ordinate before and represent Team





GB at, the actual World or European Championships , as the case may be. The BDA Director of Coaching, is also part of the Team GB management group, to advise, oversee and assist where necessary the Squad Coaches. Re-appointments at the end of each 2 year cycle are not automatic and the BDA Executive Committee advertises for interested people to apply (or re-apply) for the different squad appointments and the GB Team Manager's role.

Paddlers are selected by the Squad Coaches for the overall Team GB and these selections are ratified by the BDA Executive Committee, before a paddler is formally given a GB Team racing vest.



First however, In the winter and spring periods following a World Championships, paddlers are invited by the GB Coaches to join the BDA British National Training Squad (BNTS) which is the preparation and training Squad from which paddlers for Team GB, will be selected.

Paddlers can be brought into the BNTS or taken out at any time during the 2 year period between the last World Champs and the next, at the discretion of the BNTS/GB Team Coaching personnel.





Prague 2009





Sabaudia 2008





Sabaudia 2008





BNTS Members are required to train together in their individual crews (Open, Women's etc) at specified weekends during the non-racing session (October to April). Each BNTS crew follows its own training programme under the BNTS Coaches but it is the aim of the BNTS system to bring all the BNTS crews together on the same weekend, at least once during the spring training period. If paddlers do not fully commit themselves to the BNTS, then they are unlikely to reach the standards required for GB Team selection.

At least 6 weeks before the actual World or European Championships BNTS paddlers are pared down into the British National Team for the World Championships, through a 'selection weekend' for each BNTS crew consisting of individual time trials and fitness tests. The selection weekends are open to any paddler who feels that they are good enough to be in Team GB but to gain selection they would have to be one of the top two or three paddlers based on the selection weekend tests and fit the coaches paddler profile for the GB Squad in question – Premier, Senior etc.



Brandenburg 2018

Those who pass their crew selection weekend become GB Team paddlers and then train together in their GB Team Squad – Premier





Open, Women, Seniors, as the case may be.

In recent years with the introduction of the IDBF Small Racing Boat, the BNTS and GB Selection systems have been extended to include any BDA Members who are living outside of the UK and BNTS was set up in Hong Kong for British ex-pats, with a GB Team coach travelling to Hong Kong on a regular basis to train and prepare Small Boat Crews for the 2017 World Champs in China.

This broader selection system is being evaluated and tested further, during the present 2 year Team GB cycle, to see what changes would need to be made if the BDA Executive Committee decides to expand and develop the 'overseas' system for the long term.



Brandenburg 2018

With a GB Team on average of around 180 paddlers, it takes a lot of time and effort by the coaches, administrators and team management personnel, to prepare and train for and then to organise Team GB at a World or European Championships.





Over the years systems have been developed to ensure that the paddlers have the best opportunity to train and prepare for a World or European Championships and bring home the medals.

Maintaining standards and improving them, has all been achieved with a team of volunteers, without whom, as with all things in our Sport, nothing could have been achieved at all.

*Text by Mike MacKeddie-Haslam,
President of the BDA*

Editors Note:

In 2009 we have produced a video for and about the BDA.

If you like, you can watch it on Dragon Boat Net under this link:

<https://dragonboatnet.com/dbw-tv/video-for-bda>



Brandenburg 2018

You can contact the BDA via the website:

<https://www.dragonboat.org.uk>

Back to Content





Indian Dragon Boat - The Clarification

By Surjit Singh Bajwa, Life President DBFI | Edited by Matthew Au

The Dragon Boat Federation of India (DBFI) was formed in December 2007 and was registered in May 2013 under the Societies Act with Nazir Ahmed Bhat as President and Wasim Raja as Secretary General. Bhat and Raja submitted their resignations in July 2009 during a General Council Meeting. Elections were immediately held, where Surjit Singh Bajwa was elected President and Sandeep Gupta as Secretary General.

Secretary General Gupta took the DBFI national team to Prague for the 2009 IDBF World Championships, but left before the end of the championship. He also took one of his favorites with him on the expenses of DBFI without the approval of the Executive Committee and President. He was asked to submit the a/c during the Annual General Body Meeting in February 2014, but he did not. He gave many reasons, but the House did not accept his behavior. As such, the House unanimously passed a resolution that he would be held in abeyance until he submitted the accounts. Parveen Kumar was then appointed Working Secretary General of the DBFI.

The 6th Annual General Body Meeting was held in April 2015, where elections of DBFI office bearers and Executive Committee members occurred. Surjit Singh Bajwa was unanimously elected as President of the DBFI and Parveen Kumar as Secretary General, along with other office bearers and EC members. In May 2015, the DBFI headquarters was moved from Yamunanagar (Haryana) to Kharar (Punjab).

In April 2016, when the DBFI team traveled to Australia for the IDBF Club Crew World Championships, I found out that Secretary General Kumar had privately taken money from paddlers. I called him to ask that he return the money, and declared that the DBFI team would not participate in the championships.





In August 2016, Secretary General Kumar came to me and told me that the Indian Ministry of Sport had declared that any person 70 years or older could no longer hold office in any Sport Federation. I said that I would step down as soon as the DBFI was affiliated to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Ministry of Sports, as our case of affiliation was still pending. I also informed Kumar that he would have to step down as Secretary General, as the Ministry notification also stipulated that no government employee could be a part or office bearer of any Federation. I also warned him that he was soiling the image of the DBFI by demanding money from paddlers as payment to take them abroad for international championships. I asked him to stop, otherwise disciplinary action would be taken against him.

Secretary General Kumar then called an Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) in September 2016 without my knowledge, in connivance with one of my Vice Presidents named Tapas Kumar Pathak, to make himself DBFI President; he did so with all outsiders, who were neither ordinary members nor office bearers of DBFI. This was a clear violation of the DBFI constitution, which stipulates that an AGBM can only be called with the President's consent.

When it was brought to my attention that the Secretary General had called this meeting, I immediately cancelled it and called an emergency meeting of the DBFI Executive Committee. I also immediately brought the whole matter to Mike Thomas, IDBF President. He sent an email to Kumar, advising him to attend an Executive Committee meeting a few days later and to postpone the unconstitutional "DBFI" meeting he had called. Kumar did not follow IDBF President Mike Thomas' advice, and was subsequently placed under suspension by the President on August 5th, 2016 for his anti-DBFI activities: calling an AGBM at his own will and not submitting DBFI a/cs. This suspension was approved by the Executive Committee during an emergency meeting. Notice of Kumar's suspension was then sent to him through speed post.





Unfortunately, because Kumar tried to call a meeting with a group of non-DBFI outsiders, the legitimacy and power of the DBFI were questioned. This whole matter was referred to the IDBF President, Mike Thomas, to make a decision as to which group was officially recognized by the IDBF to carry out the governance of dragon boat sport in India.

Finally, in December 2017, after Surjit Singh Bajwa was unanimously elected as Life President and Rajen Gohain, Minister of State for Railways, Government of India, took the charge of DBFI President, President IDBF Mike Thomas emailed the Minister of Sports and Secretary of the Ministry of Sports, recognizing that “Dragon Boat Federation of India (DBFI), under President Rajen Gohain, Honorable Minister for Railways, Government of India, Life President S. S. Bajwa, and Secretary General KS Regi, is a full member of the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) and the Asian Dragon Boat Federation (ADBF) since 2011.”

Because the Dragon Boat Federation of India (DBFI) is the only federation recognized by the IDBF and ADBF to organize and develop dragon boat racing in India, Kumar’s DBFI is not recognized by IDBF, and he stands nowhere. Knowing and accepting this reality, President Tapas Kumar Pathak & Treasurer Rajesh Saran have since come into our fold.

Unfortunately, the havoc Kumar has wreaked can still be felt today; for example, a visa officer of Korea has called, asking for a proper explanation (as per Parveen Kumar) as to why nine “DBFI” members are staying in Korea illegally. The embassy had issued 16 visas for Kumar’s “DBFI” team in September 2016, based on the “official” letter he had provided from the DBFI. This is just one example of what Kumar is doing, tarnishing the name and reputation of the DBFI.

During the 36th Council Meeting of the IDBF in July 2018, the President of the IDBF raised the split issue of the DBFI and once again





clarified that only the DBFI is recognized officially by the IDBF.

Our federation has been a full member of the IDBF and ADBF since 2011. We have held eight national championships, and the ninth will be held in February 2019. Of the twenty-nine states in India, twenty-three are formally affiliated with the DBFI. A team representing the DBFI has participated in IDBF World Nations Championships since 2009. The DBFI has been an active member in IDBF activities, and will continue to be, as the DBFI alone is officially recognized as the federation which governs dragon boat racing in India.

Surjit Singh Bajwa, Life President DBFI

One Website, two Magazines !!!

There are two independant Dragon Boat Magazines:

- **Dragon Sport News**, published by Mike MacKeddie-Haslam
- **The Dragon Boat World's Magazine**, you are just reading it !

Both can be downloaded from:

DRAGON BOAT NET
www.dragonboatnet.com
The Paddlers Site



[Back to Content](#)



The Real World Championships in Dragon Boat Sport



You would be forgiven for thinking which is the real or most important, if you wish, World competition in Dragon Boat Sport. Is it the IDBF World Championships, the IDBF World Cup or even the self styled ICF World Championships !?

If you follow the protocols of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) then the answer is simple. Both the IOC and GAISF membership statutes quite clearly say that there can only be one world governing body (International Federation) recognised by them for each separate Sport.

GAISF have stated that Dragon Boating and Canoeing are two separate and distinct Sports and as such the IDBF was given GAISF Membership as the World Governing Body for Dragon Boating. Whilst the ICF is also a GAISF Member it is not recognised by the GAISF as the world governing body for Dragon Boating but for Canoeing. The IOC also accepts the decisions of the GAISF and the





status of the IDBF as the GAISF Member world authority for Dragon Boating and is presently processing the IDBF's application for recognition as an IOC Member International Federation.

Given these facts it follows that only the IDBF World Championships can be the formally recognised World Championships for the Sport. In a agreement signed with the IDBF in 2003 the ICF also acknowledged that there should only be one World Championships in Dragon Boating, the one organised by the IDBF and that the ICF Dragon Boat Championships would only be for those small numbers of ICF Members who were interested in the Sport. IDBF Championships are open to all.



So with the question of which is the real World Championships for our Sport made quite clear, what is the status of the IDBF World Cup ? Again the answer is quite simple. The World Championships are for Nationally selected crews competing as part of a National Team, representing their Country or Territory, in different competition classes for the title of 'World Champion' in that particular competition. All IDBF Members are entitled to send a National Team,





comprised of different national crews to compete in the different competition classes on offer at an IDBF World Nations Championships.

Thus you can have a World Champion in, for example, the Premier Open 500m, Premier Women 200m, Senior Mixed 1000m, Junior Mixed 200m and so on. Each crew (or Team is you prefer) becoming the World Champion after a series of races in their competition class to find the best crew and like the Olympic Games, National Flags and Anthems are part of the Medal giving ceremonies.

In addition to the World Nations Championships, the IDBF also holds a Club Crews World Championships, the year after a World Nations Championships, in which the same competition format is applied to IDBF Members' 'Clubs' and not 'National Teams'. The Clubs do not represent their Countries but themselves, so there are no National Flags or Anthems at the Club Crew Medals ceremonies.



The World Cup is a completely different format and is for a defined number of National Teams selected on the basis on their results in





the Premier Racing Class, Competitions at the World Nations Championships the year previously.

The World Cup is a combined Team event, consisting of 28 paddlers (14 Men and 14 Women) competing in Small and Standard boats, with points being scored by each crew, in each competition class, towards the World Cup, which is one by the Team gaining the most points. The competitions are a different format to a World Championships and include both team relay and pursuit races, where the small boat crews (one for Men and one for Women) race together as a 'Team' to gain points and in the Standard Boat as a mixed team over 100m and 500m in straight races.

*Text by Mike MacKeddie-Haslam,
Founder of the IDBF*

The next World-Championships:

The 14th IDBF World Nations Championships will be held from August 20-25, 2019 in Pattaya / Thailand.

Go to <https://www.dragonboat.sport>, from where you can obtain all updated information about the Championships:



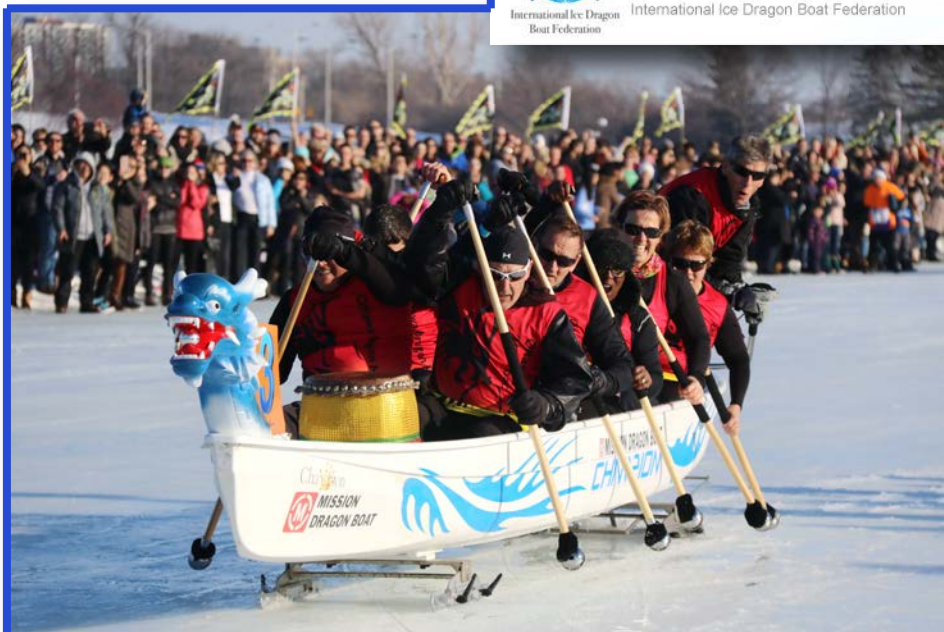


Dragon Boats on Ice



IIDBF.ORG

International Ice Dragon Boat Federation



Some time ago in China there was a passionate dragon boater, Mr. Zhongyi Luo, asking himself how to make dragon boating possible in winter, when it is cold and lakes in Northern China are frozen. In the 30 years before he was much engaged in developing many innovations on competitive dragon boat equipment. He always loved the dragon boats and still is caught by all the action and spirit of this wonderful Chinese tradition and sport. But he felt hard about the winter break. And so, it came that he began to explore the possibilities of how to get a dragon boat moving on ice. It took him three years of research, functional design and development, not only on the boats, but also on the necessary gear. He had to find ways how to manufacture and so on ... - true engineering work! Finally, a boat was put on blades with a steering and braking mechanism. Instead of paddles he developed especially designed sticks for the crew to push the boat forward. The sticks had to be conformed to the principles of human mechanics and athletic demands.





Mr. Luo himself said: "Dragon boat is an excellent traditional culture of China, which has been loved by people in more than 80 countries around the world. But that it is impossible to do the dragon boat sport in the northern region in winter season. In order to make dragon boat sport still possible in the winter, my design combines the ice sledge we played as a child, and made some modifications on the basis of this. The biggest modification is ice stick. The traditional ice stick could damage the ice surface and caused the ice surface a bunch of holes, and it is very easy to hurt people. Now we designed the new ice stick of boat into a horse-shoe shape. It is like a tiger claw. The built-in nails will come out when it hit on the ice, the nails will be correspondingly retracted when it is lifted. Thus, it'll cause no injury to ice surface or any people, and it is very similar to the paddling gesture of water dragon boat."





In December 2012 he unveiled with great success the Ice Dragon Boat, first in Harbin and then Manzhouli in the north of China. Those events mark the beginning of the Ice Dragon Boat Sport.





The year 2016 saw the foundation of the International Ice Dragon Boat Federation IIDBF, which meanwhile is recognized by the IDBF, as the world governing body for the dragon boat sport. With the work of Mr. Luo and the IIDBF, Ice Dragon Boat Racing has now clear racing rules and regulations. Boats and sticks are standardized and make the sport more conciliant with professionally athletic requirements and safety standards in the venue, equipment's and refereeing usage.

Meanwhile ice racing spreads under the IIDBF rules and regulations for five years (2015 – 2019) and has seen 23 major and successful racing events held around the world, accompanied with dozens of smaller events in North America, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe and most parts of Northern China.

The first World Ice Dragon Boat Championships were held during January 2018 in the city of Duolun / China. This Championships, with 27 teams from 23 countries participating, showed clearly that Ice Dragon Boat Racing is not only a well-loved, popular entertainment, but a well organized, standardized and highly competitive winter sport.

As a winter sport, involving meanwhile over 20.000 people, it had been included in the Sports Blue Book "Winter Sports Development Program (2016-2025)" issued by the State General Administration of Sports. It also will be included in the 14th National Winter Games 2020 in China.

The first World Ice Dragon Boat Club Crew Championship will be held in Ottawa, Canada with 130 teams to participate In February of 2019.

*With many thanks to the IIDBF
for providing the information and photos*





Bella Italia

This DBWM edition's Regional Focus is put on Italy! - A country with which I have a very special relation! - I'm born in this country, in a small village named Lerici, located in the bay of La Spezia. It is a wonderful area with the city of Pisa being close, as well as the mountains of Carrara, from where the white marble is coming.

While La Spezia itself is an industrial and military harbor, from which, as a tourist, you shouldn't expect too much, the more nice is the surrounding. You will find the famous 5-Terre, five villages at the mediterranean shores, which only can be reached from sea-side. The ferries are leaving from Lerici. Once on your way to „Cinque-Terre“ you will pass Porto Venere, an old pirates settlement, which definitely is worth a visit too.

So, I simply take the pride to share some pictures with you about this wonderful area, which is a good example of what you may expect when visiting Italy.



Lerici - view on castle, across the fishing harbor



Lerici - view on the center, with the castle in my back



Tellaro - the southern neighbor-village



Tellaro - you only can reach this village via a small road coming from Lerici, or by boat!





Porto
Venere

- an old
pirate's
nest!



Pisa with it's famous tower - I think you all might have heard about it! It is less than one hour driving from Lerici. Pisa would also be the airport destination if you want travel to this region by airplane.





The mountains of Carrara are famous for its white marble. They are close to Lerici and La Spezia. When you go there, find the village Colonnata and buy some ham!!! The village's central square and carpark is entirely made from marble!

[Back to Content](#)





Antonio & Claudio:

Two Pioneers in the Long Journey of Dragon Boat in Italy



Nine crews competed at the 1st Italian National Championships in Rome on October 23rd, 1988, at the Lake of EUR. Two years prior, in 1986, the Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo, one of the ancient rowing clubs in Rome, founded in 1872, and the Canottieri Roma received the first two dragon boats from the Hong Kong Tourist Association. The Assodragon, the first Italian national association, was founded in 1987 and Massimo Guerrieri was elected President. The Assodragon was launched in 1988, the lunar year of the Dragon, by Professor Sergio Orsi (President of the Italian Canoe Federation), President of the International Canoe Federation, and Stuart Webb-Johnson (representative of Hong Kong at the European Union).



*Sergio Orsi supported
dragon boat to develop as
independent sport.*

Professor Sergio Orsi was always a supporter of dragon boat as an independent sport and he encouraged Mike Haslam to found an independent international federation for positive cooperation between canoe and dragon boat. Italy was one of the founding members of the EDBF on May 5th, 1990 and also one of the founding members of the IDBF in 1991.

Enrico Tonali, one of the pillars in the development of the discipline, choose the lake of EUR for the Italian Championships at the end of the Canoe/Kayak and Rowing season in 1988, after the Olympic Games took place in Seoul.





The race was just one Open class, in the traditional distance in Hong Kong: 700 yards, or 640 meters.

Claudio Schermi and Antonio De Lucia organized a dream team for Mariner Canoa Club (today Canottieri EUR) with: Francesco La Macchia, canoeist silver medalist at the 1960 Olympic Games; Klaus Dibiasi, the legend of diving, 3-time gold medalist and 2-time silver medalist in 4 different Olympic Games (Tokyo, Mexico City, Munich and Montreal); Antonio Mastrandrea, finalist in kayak in Moscow 1980; Paolo Luschi, 5th in kayak in Barcelona 1992; and Daniele Scarpa, just back from the finals in Seoul 1988 and future gold medalist in Atlanta 1996. The drummer was Giovanni Greco, former Vice President of the Italian Canoe Kayak Federation and team leader of the Italian Team in Atlanta 1984. They wanted to paddle for gold! They got the best times in their heats, but at the end of the day, they were second to a club from the Tiber River in Rome, the Tirrenia Todaro, lead by Marcello Tilli. With a difference of only thirty hundredths of a second (2'37"06 against 2'37"36), bronze was taken by the Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo.

"We couldn't believe it; I still remember how hard it was," Claudio says. "We were twenty individuals paddling alone, ignoring the idea of teamwork. At the end I thought, 'what sport is this? Never again!' " But never say never; Massimo Guerrieri invited Claudio Schermi to stand as Executive Committee Member and because the fire and excitement of the very first years of dragon boat in Italy had ended, the Assodragon would not be able to field a team at the 1st IDBF World Championships in Yue Yang. No money, no team! Claudio called in Antonio De Lucia as National Chief Coach. Antonio was his friend and coach since the early 70's, when he was a kayaker. During his career, Antonio was also the Coach of the Women's Olympic Kayak Team and the Junior and Under-23 National Teams.

After a mere four months, the team for the 1st IDBF World Championships was ready. They traveled to Yue Yang with Claudio Schermi



Regional Focus



as Team Leader, Antonio De Lucia as National Chief Coach, and Fabio Masi as IDBF Race Official.

Back in Italy after the championships, Massimo Guerrieri resigned and Renzo Matteucci, one of the original founders of the Assodragon, was elected the new Assodragon President. Claudio was then elected Vice President.

Matteucci was a superb sportsman and a great artist; his dragon boat paintings are in his wife's collection.



At the 1st European Nations Championships in Silkeborg, Germany, the Italian team won the 1st Italian gold medal ever in the





Premier Mixed 250m race, and silver in the Premier Open 250m and 500m races.



Unfortunately, Renzo Matteucci died, and Claudio took the position of acting president. Coming back from a very tough meeting in Florence, Claudio and Antonio stopped for dinner in a traditional restaurant in Monte San Savino in Tuscany. During the dinner, Claudio was very upset with the difficulties of opening a new deal for Italian dragon boat. Antonio said, "Claudio, let's found a new Italian Federation!" Claudio replied, "Yes, we can do it!"

On the 10th May 2007, fourteen clubs joined together and founded the Federazione Italiana Dragon Boat (FIDB).

The first 2 signatures of the Constitution Act and the Statutes were signed by Claudio Schermi and Antonio De Lucia. Claudio was elected President and Antonio Vice President. The first decision was to name the FIDB National Club Cup of the Year the "Renzo Matteucci Cup," which has continued to this day.

The IDBF Congress in Hong Kong accepted the membership of the new Italian Federation as the official governing body for Italy, as it represented the large majority of the Italian paddlers.





Since then, Italy has attended most EDBF European and IDBF World Championships.

ATTO COSTITUTIVO E STATUTO
della FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DRAGON BOAT

L'anno millenovecentonovantasette il giorno dieci del mese di maggio alle ore 9.00, presso la sede nautica dell'A.S. Mariner Canoa Club sita in Roma, Passeggiata del Giappone - Parco del Laghetto dell'EUR si sono riunite le seguenti Associazioni Sportive :

- 1) A. S. Mariner Canoa Club
nella persona del Presidente Claudio Schermi
A.S. Indiana Club
nella persona del Presidente Antonio De Lucia
A.S. Grish - Lago di Castelgandolfo
nella persona del Presidente Daniele Conti
Tirrenia Todaro
nella persona del Vicepresidente Marcello Tilli
- 5) Roma Canoa Polo
nella persona del Presidente Roberto Gobbo
- 6) Sporting Club Sabazia
nella persona del Presidente Roberto Capparella
- 7) Dopolavoro Ferroviario
nella persona del Presidente Gino Giovannoni
- 8) 3V Dragomatto Trevignano
nella persona del Presidente Luigi Maltagliati
- 9) A.V.B. Dragostar
nella persona del Dirigente Renato Armati
- 10) Circolo Canottieri Sabaudia
nella persona del Dirigente Antonio Di Criscienzo
- 11) A.S. Zaccari Caravan
nella persona del Presidente Amedeo Zaccari
- 12) Trevignano Dragon Boat
nella persona del Presidente Paolo Vigliar
- 13) A.S. Drago Team Pergine per delega
- 14) A.S. Carlo Di Biasi per delega

Detti comparenti rinunciano di comune accordo all'assistenza di testimoni e redigono il presente atto privato con il quale stipulano quanto segue:

ARTICOLO 1) E' costituita tra le Associazioni Sportive comparenti una Associazione Nazionale denominata Federazione Italiana Dragon Boat con sede in Roma, Via Imera 16

ARTICOLO 2) L'Associazione è regolata dal seguente Statuto:

58577



UFFICIO DEL REGISTRO ATTI PRIVATI DI ROMA
ESSEGUITA REGISTRAZIONE AL N° C. 127495
IL DIRETTORE (G. Vari)
ADDI (DATA DEL BONO A CALENDARIO)

Handwritten signatures and notes on the right margin, including names like Roberto Gobbo, Antonio De Lucia, Daniele Conti, Marcello Tilli, Gino Giovannoni, Luigi Maltagliati, Renato Armati, Antonio Di Criscienzo, Amedeo Zaccari, Paolo Vigliar, and A.S. Drago Team Pergine per delega.

The first Constitution of the Italian Dragon Boat Federation



The first challenge for Claudio and Antonio was the EDBF European Nations Championships in September 1998 in Rome. It was a fantastic experience that shaped both Claudio and Antonio to have a more international mindset.

“I remember the first international experience in Rome 1998 very well,” says Claudio. “It was great fun for everybody! They were great races, but we put a lot of effort towards the hospitality and the scenario, but we were never on time; we were either late in the morning or between races. That was our drama and weakness at the same time”.



The Race-Officials 1998

In 1998, after the European Championships in Rome, Claudio was elected EDBF Vice President.

In 2002, the 3rd IDBF Club Crew World Championships in Rome was to occur, which was the greatest event ever at that time: fifty-five club crews, hailing from eighteen nations.

At the Championships, Orlanda Cappelli was the 1st Italian Breast



Regional Focus



Cancer Paddlers, and with the support of Claudio and Antonio, she was the Founder of the first Italian BCS Club and the pioneer of the Italian pink dragon boat movement.

In 2003 it was the time of Auronzo di Cadore for the EDBF European Club Crews Championships.

In 2005, there was a division in the Italian dragon boat movement when the Italian Canoe Kayak Federation (FICK) organized their own team for the World Games. The interference of FICK was neither beneficial for the sport nor for the paddlers; Italy, always running for medals, faced many difficulties putting together a strong team.

In 2005, Claudio was elected IDBF Vice President.



In 2008 there was another great event in Italy, the European Nations Championships in Sabaudia and then in 2014 it was the time for Ravenna, the World Club Crews Championships with twenty-five nations, 135 crews and 5400 paddlers.





The Italian National Team in: - Sabaudia 2008









... Prague 2009:





In 2016 after the European Nations Championships in Rome, Claudio left the presidency of the FIDB and Antonio was elected new President. Claudio had the new position within the Canoe Kayak Federation of Chair Holder of the Sport for All Commission and his first action was to step back to Sergio Orsi's original vision in the mid-80s.

Claudio gave full autonomy back to the Federazione Italiana Dragon Boat, and he reunified the Dragon Boat Community of Italy, under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in March 2017 by the newly-elected President Antonio De Lucia and the President of the Federazione Italiana Canoa Kayak Luciano Buonfiglio. Claudio was also invited by Antonio and Luciano to sign this historical document. The FIDB was, from then on, fully in charge of governing dragon boat in Italy in cooperation with the Canoe Kayak Federation. After twelve years, the war had finally ended.

Claudio was then elected in Divonne-des-Baines, France as the President of the European Dragon Boat Federation and Antonio as the Chair Holder of the Medical Commission.

Antonio, the new FIDB President, led the newly-unified National Team to France in 2017 for the IDBF Junior World Championships for a new generation of paddlers, starting in 2016 at European Nations Championship in Rome. In France, the Italian Junior Team won four gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

At the EDBF European Nations Championships in Brandenburg, Germany in 2018, the Italian team won forty-one medals: six gold, eighteen silver, and seventeen bronze. The Italian team came back to gold also in the Premier Class after Silkeborg 1996 and Malmö 2000. The Italian Junior Crew won the gold medal in the small boat open 200, 500 and 2000.

On the 18th January 2019 Antonio organized the "Salone d'Onore," the Honour Hall of the Italian Olympic Committee the prize giving





ceremony of the year. As special guests Claudio, EDBF President, Luciano Buonfiglio FICK President and Franco Chimenti Vice President of the Italian Olympic Committee.

Antonio recounts that: "It was an extraordinary event, and for the first time, we have been accepted into the house of Italian sport: the site of the National Olympic Committee. Our next challenge this year is to go the IDBF World Nations Championships in Pattaya, Thailand with a team of younger athletes in the Premier and Under-24 classes. We also want to come back competitively in the standard boat class as soon as possible. United it is better! This is the lesson of our sport and we paid in Italy the cost of the division of the sport between canoe and dragon boat. Today, however, athletes of the Italian dragon boat community paddle together for our colours and our flag."

[Back to Content](#)

... Brandenburg 2018





**How do you like the new
mobile-device-friendly
DBWM?**

Is it an improvement or not?

Give your comment to:

wiekhorsthenning@mac.com



Painting by Renzo Matteucci

The next edition is scheduled for April 2019!

Download the Magazine from:

DRAGON BOAT NET

www.dragonboatnet.com

The Paddlers Site