



## Welcome to The Long Zhou eNews

### PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Welcome to the first edition of The Long Zhou News, the official eNews of the IDBF. It is anticipated that this eNews will be published bimonthly bringing you the latest updates from the IDBF.

### News from around the world

Dragon Boat teams within the IDBF continue to break new ground around the world. In March there was the first standalone Pan American Club Crew Championships which were held in a Latin American country for the first time. Friendship Dragons from Panama also took part in this championship making their introduction to the world of international dragon boat racing. They heralded their introduction to dragon boat racing by taking a gold medal in the Premier 500 standard boat.

At the end of July, the 13th Junior and U24 World Championships took place in Divonne-Les-Bains, France; the first time that the IDBF had held a World Championship in France. I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in planning, organising and contributing to make this Championship such a success. A special thanks to the European Dragon Boat Federation (EDBF) who allowed this Championship to be incorporated into their own Club Crew Championships.



Opening Ceremony IDBF 13th Junior and U24 World Dragon Boat Championships & EDBF Club Crew Championships

Over 500 young people took part in the Championship and they produced very close racing! Below are the top five times in the standard boat 500m, note that the mixed teams produced the fastest times. Thailand, the overall U24 Champions, put in some impressive performances and each member of the team received a watch from sponsors to mark their achievements of the fastest 500m time.

1.	2:00.345	 Thailand	20	500	u24	mixed
2.	2:00.465	 Thailand	20	500	u24	mixed
3.	2:00.577	 Canada	20	500	u24	mixed
4.	2:00.849	 Canada	20	500	u24	mixed
5.	2:02.513	 Ukraine	20	500	junior A	open

The overall Junior Champions were Canada and they received the trophy at an exciting Closing Ceremony.

The results of all races in the Junior and U24 championships can be found at <https://idbfchamps.org/2017div>

The IDBF wish to thank Slawek Borucki who as a software engineer has created the registration system, race program tool and the online results. He undertakes this work voluntarily for the IDBF and we all need to appreciate the time and care he takes to deliver these online resources for us all to enjoy.

We are now turning our attention to the World Championships in Kunming which will take place during October. Bulletin 2 has recently been sent to all IDBF Members and has also been published on both the IDBF website and the IDBF Facebook page.

### 2017 Congress Meeting

We will also be holding our Congress in Kunming on the Monday following the World Championships and convening information has already been sent to all IDBF Members so that they can arrange for their delegates to attend. There will be some very important items on the agenda for the 2017 Congress. Firstly, we will have elections for our General Secretary and five Vice Presidents therefore 6 of the current eight members of the IDBF Executive Committee positions will be up for election.

We will also be asking our Members to approve the establishment of five new Commissions which are designed to improve communications within our sport and to ensure that athletes have a representation in the IDBF Executive Committee through the Athletes Commission. These Commissions are also required to support our continued application for recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

The new Commissions are:

**Youth Commission (YC)**

**Sport for All Commission (SAC)**

**Adaptive Paddlers Commission (APC)**

**Athlete's Commission (AC)**

**Women's Commission (WC)**

Nominations are also requested for the Chairs and Members of these new Commissions and it is hoped that the new Commissions will enable our sport to grow and development. We will need your help to contribute to making these Commissions successful. If you would like to participate and contribute to the development of these new Commissions then please contact your National Federation and the General Secretary at [legengrp@macau.ctm.net](mailto:legengrp@macau.ctm.net)

### Meetings with International Canoe Federation

In the last four months, IDBF Officers have held two important meetings with senior representatives of the International Canoe Federation, the purpose of these meetings was to improve the relationship between our two Federations and to seek ways in which we could co-operate in the future. We last met in Hong Kong in June, at the successful dragon boat festival, during which we agreed the following joint statement.

*The IDBF and the ICF have a shared vision for the development of dragon boating which is to enable athletes to compete at the highest level and to ensure that the sport is available to the whole community.*

*The ICF and IDBF will continue to develop the sport for the benefit of our paddlers.*

*We will jointly seek to create opportunities for our paddlers to participate in multi-sport games.*

*We will propose to our Federations that we hold a joint Club Crew Championship, under common rules, in 2020 at the earliest.*

During the 2017 Congress we will be discussing the last of these statements and your opinions will be valued.

If you would like any article published in this Email news then please send to Janine Lette at [j9\\_crash@hotmail.com](mailto:j9_crash@hotmail.com)

Finally, I wish to thank the Editors and Contributors for making The Long Zhou eNews possible and look forward to reading your contributions in the next edition.

Mike Thomas

IDBF President

**IDBF 13th Junior & U24 World Dragon Boat Championship**  
**EDBF 17th European Club Crew Championships**  
**Divonne-Les-Bains 27-30 July 2017**

Dragon boat Paddlers and their supporters came from all over Europe and all over the world to compete, renew and make new friendships and have a great time at the 17<sup>th</sup> European Club Crew Championships and 13<sup>th</sup> Junior and U24 World Championships, in Divonne-Les-Bains from 27-30 July 2017. For the first time, these Championships were held concurrently.

It was the second time Divonne-Les-Bains had been chosen as a site for the European Championships, having hosted the European Club Crew Championships just two years previous. Divonne-Les-Bains is a small town in France just over the border from Geneva Switzerland. With a scenic backdrop of Mont Blanc in the distance, sunny days with average temperatures of 22°C to 25°C the race site was perfect for a highly successful dragon boating event. Even the predicted thunderstorms on the last day held off until the evening.



Opening Ceremony IDBF 13th Junior and U24 World Dragon Boat Championships & EDBF Club Crew Championships

The Opening ceremony was held on land and water at the regatta course early on Thursday 27 July with an athletes' parade and 30 dragon boats participating on the water. This was followed by 2000m racing on Friday 28 July, 200m on Saturday 29 July and 500m racing on Sunday 30 July, and of course the Celebration party.

In all, 162 races were held with some fast and furious paddling. In the Junior and U24 World Championships eleven countries competed: Ukraine, Hungary, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Thailand, Italy, Great Britain, Spain and Hong Kong. Club Crews from Ireland, Ukraine, Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Israel, Russia, Serbia and Armenia competed in the European Club Championships. The overall U24 Champions were Thailand and the Overall Junior



Canada, Australia & Ukraine - Jnr B standard mixed 200m

Champions were Canada. There were some extremely fast times, with Thailand U24 achieving 43.280 seconds in a 200m heat and Thunder Dragons, Germany finishing their 500m Premier Open Round in 1:57.039.

Thunder Dragons also took out fastest time in the 2000m with 10:11.249 in the Premier Open event. Overall results can be found at <https://idbfchamps.org/2017div>

There was plenty to do and see on and off the water. As with the previous European Championships two years ago, the site was visited by three friendly dragons who mingled amongst the crowd and had a taste for spectator's beer and ice cream.

The whole competition was organised as an eco-friendly event. Race programs were available on the internet and for the first time bar code scanners were trialled in checking crew lists in the marshalling area. In all, it was a well organised event by Dragon Boat Attitude, with excellent support from the many volunteers and race officials. The organisation was great, the food, beer and wine well catered for. The championships ran smoothly and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time.



The Dragons are coming

Jo Fazakerley

### **Jnr / Youth World Champs and ECCC - An Aussie Perspective**

What do you think of that? Beautiful, isn't it?" I turned to see Mike T behind me pointing across the racecourse where six boats were powering to the finish. "Yeah it was a good race" I said. "No", said Mike "look further". I glanced beyond the finish line and saw what he was pointing at – Mount Blanc, in all its incredible majesty, was rising out

of the line of the Alps mountains creating the perfect backdrop for the racing. Just what you want to see when you're racing in France.

As an Australian most of us have not raced at a European Club Crew Championship, and this would be the first time that the IDBF would hold a dedicated Juniors/Youth World Championships, so we went with no expectations. We'd always gotten on well with the Europeans when we'd raced at WCCC and CCWC, so it would be fun to see how it all played out.

The Managers Meeting was pretty uneventful – this is as it should be as by now we should all know how these events run and surprises aren't a good thing when you've prepared for a year and flown a whole bunch of paddlers across to the other side of the world. One interesting factoid was that the 2 km draw was randomly done rather than seeded based on previous results – explained very reasonably by the fact that the draw masters didn't have sufficient information to make a rational seeding decision so using a random draw was actually the fairest way to run it (which I believe is correct). Also, the point was made that there will be a number of Juniors from various countries who may not share the more "relaxed" European view of personal modesty, so please be careful with your state of dress/undress!

In addition to the spectacular views, the course itself was excellent – loading was easy and lanes seemed straight and fair. Starts could be a bit difficult into the wind given that the boat holders platforms moved around a bit but the starters, aligners and boat holders did a sterling job as could be expected and kept the races moving.

Marshalling, led by Bart and Saed, was able to maintain a pretty relaxed atmosphere. I suspected that things may have been a bit tougher behind the scenes but once the operation got to the paddlers it was relatively calm, as it should be. Vic Fazakerley, a fellow Australian who normally sports a pretty relaxed demeanour, was a Chief Official looking a little more harassed than usual but always managed to smile as he dealt with the myriad little issues that always pop up.

Finally, the After Party was initially a pretty staid affair. The food was good – some local delicacies for people to taste and probably just enough to take the edge off the alcohol without weighing you down for the dancing. The only low point for me came when the DJ started playing some of the hits of the '80's – before I could get into things a chant came up from the dance floor – "change the song, change the song!" and the

DJ wisely (not in my opinion though) put on something more contemporary. And I was just starting to get down ...

Christopher Alexandrou

**IDBF 13th Premier and Senior World Dragon Boat Championships**  
**Bulletin 2 highlights**

1 September	Final named entry close
15 September	IDBF registration fee and outstanding membership fees due
3 October	Team profile – max 100 words and up to 5 images
17 October	Team leaders technical meeting Opening Ceremony
18 October	2000m
19 October	1000m
20 October	500m – mixed
21 October	200m
22 October	500m – open and womens Closing Ceremony Celebration Party
23 October	IDBF Members Congress

Visas – do you need an Official Invitation Letter? Have you requested it? If not, please email the Organising Committee at [wdbrc2017@126.com](mailto:wdbrc2017@126.com) as soon as possible

Airport Transport – please inform the Organising Committee of your teams arrival details so that you are met.

National Flag – don't forget to bring your 2 flags (approx 1m x 0.50m)

Anti-Doping – ensure all your competitors know the IDBF and the IDBF Member's Anti-Doping Regulations (page 6 of Bulletin 2)

### **Know your IDBF Race Officials - Bryan & Kirsty Hartley**

Bryan and Kirsty Harley are long standing members and a key part of the British Dragon Boat Racing Association officials team. They have also been actively involved with the IDBF as race officials in the sport at national and international levels over the years. They have also been instrumental in getting dragon boat racing up and running in many countries.



Bryan is well known to officials as Father Christmas and the friendly IDBF examiner, putting all would be IDBF officials through their paces as they sought to gain or upgrade their official qualifications. Bryan loves racing and was a keen competitor for many years and raced in the Hong Kong Festival a number of times. The EDBF was formed before the IDBF and Bryan worked as an official in the early EDBF races. He was also Chief Starter in the 1st World Championship in 1995 in Yue Yang. To paddlers, Bryan is often found in the Umpire boats following the boats down the course.

Kirsty's contribution is predominantly as Race Secretary, getting race results out as quickly as possible, being immersed in progressions and counting points to determine championship positions. She is the one who determines the lane and race that teams will next race in. Kirsty has also been involved in the testing of new programs such as the automated progressions with Sławek Borucki.

Now living in Cardiff UK, both Bryan and Kirsty have numerous stories to tell of their experiences, good and bad, at various championships around the world.

Bryan and Kirsty are now retired, but not from dragon boat racing.

### **Articles for next editions**

To contribute to The Long Zhou eNews, email your article in Word or photos (don't forget to advise what they were from) to [j9\\_crash@hotmail.com](mailto:j9_crash@hotmail.com)