

Dragon Boating WA Inc – Board report 2012/2013

The 2012/2013 season has wrapped up as another successful year in the sport of dragon boating in Western Australia. The members of the DBWA Board are pleased to present the following report to the membership.

Regattas and State Championships

Continuous improvements have been made to regatta operations and administration of the sport, both at State and National levels. The Champion Lakes regatta centre has flourished under the new VenuesWest management resulting in upgrades to the public announcement system, the starting/finishing tower electronic timing systems and the photo finish capabilities. Clubs have made great improvements in their ability to marshal properly, load boats quickly and arrive at the starting line on time. These changes have had a positive effect on the efficiency of the regattas and crews were well-versed in these routines when they went to the National Championships. DBWA is grateful to clubs and members for their efforts and positive attitudes in adapting to the changes and 'raising the standard' of dragon boating regattas in WA to new, higher levels.

The 10s State Championships was held at Champion Lakes in 2013. State 10s boat racing has been fully embraced by all clubs and shifting to the purpose-built regatta centre provided more standard racing conditions and enhanced timing capacity for this important event. Recommendation was made during the strategic planning day to hold the 10s and 20s State Championships over a single weekend to maximise paddler involvement and minimise travel for regional paddlers; this recommendation was approved and in March 2014 the 10s and 20s State Championship will be combined over one weekend.

Strategic planning day

A strategic planning day was held on 22 June 2013 and participants indicated they were very happy overall with the administration and management of the sport by DBWA. Positive outcomes were achieved for the State Team, as implementation of a merit selection process was strongly supported. DBWA appointed a total of five State Coaches for the age categories (Juniors, Premiers, Masters, Grand Masters, Great Grand Dragons) and identified fitness criteria similar to those used in the national Aurora selection process.

The outcome of the strategic planning day also highlighted marketing as an area of improvement; DBWA responded by issuing an EOI to the membership asking for people to assist in developing a marketing strategy. Unfortunately, there was very little response from the membership and consequently the marketing strategy still requires development and implementation.

AusDBF and National involvement

DBWA was a significant participant in the AusDBF Championship revision steering committee tasked with recommending changes to the format of the AusDBF National Championships. One of the most notable changes was alteration to the championship format to provide Master/Grand Master/Great Grand Dragon racing during the early part of the week, the State vs State event in the middle of the week, and the Premier and Junior racing at the end of the week. This new format allows the senior paddlers to support the

Premier paddlers in their events (since clubs all over Australia have various difficulties filling Premier teams) and minimises the double rostering issues that have arisen in the past. It also allows paddlers, especially the Premiers and Juniors, to attend only for the "Masters and older" or "Premier and younger" portion of the week, thereby reducing accommodation expenses and annual leave requirements. Overall, the new format was positively received and it is anticipated it will be retained in a similar format for future National Championships.

DBWA is pleased to report that the 2015 Nationals will be held in Perth and is looking forward to making it a very successful event. The dates have been tentatively booked, but are yet to be confirmed by AusDBF. It is anticipated the National Championships will be scheduled such that it does not conflict with the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC Gallipoli landing, but instead will be scheduled such that interstate paddlers could attend the championships and also participate in the ANZAC memorials in WA, if desired.

The 2012/2013 season saw 458 paddlers within the DBWA membership. The membership consists of 406 seniors and 51 juniors; of these paddlers, 120 are members of a regional club.

Regional and winter events

The regional and winter long-distance events were successful again this season and appear to have contributed to the building of the dragon boat community in the summer and the retention of paddlers throughout the winter season. The Forza club hosted a 'Night Regatta' in Bunbury on 2 March 2013, the Franklin River Marathon was held on 18 May 2013 and was hosted by Denmark Dragon Boat Club, and the Mandurah Vikings put on the Ravenswood Marathon event on 29 June 2013. Several clubs participated in the various events and paddler feedback was positive.

Administration

The AusDBF national branding scheme has been implemented by DBWA and most other States. Administrative documents, such as policies and forms, have been updated to include the approved logo and the State Team uniforms were badged in accordance to AusDBF requirements. The State Team uniforms are intended to be single-issue, meaning that the uniform can be re-worn for successive National Championships instead of a new uniform being issued each year.

DBWA has adopted the 'SmartSpace' database system for paddler registrations and reporting to AusDBF. SmartSpace has been used by the NSW, QLD and SA State dragon boating associations and was recommended to AusDBF and the other States. It was agreed that all States and AusDBF would switch to SmartSpace to further unify the sport nationally. It is understood that SmartSpace is a club-based system, so each club registrar will have access to the system.

Conclusion

The 2012/2013 season was a successful one for dragon boating in WA. Dragon boating in WA is becoming more competitive and disciplined, yet the social aspect we all enjoy so much has been retained and is being further developed between clubs.

DBWA has continued to work with AusDBF to raise awareness of issues that are unique to WA and have provided feedback and contribution to the discussions regarding restructuring of the Nationals. Development of the Junior paddlers within the sport has been ongoing and successful.

It is a privilege and an honour to serve the paddlers and clubs of Western Australia, and the DBWA Board strives to continue to serve them well in the upcoming year.

DBWA Board

16 September 2013

Kristin Priest – President

Rick Salisbury – Deputy President

Barbara Clarkson – Administration Director

Rex Tindal – Coaching Director

Cherie Cobban – Finance Director

Paula Cottingham – General Board Member

Vacant – Communications Director

Vacant – Operations Director

Vacant – General Board Member

Vacant – General Board Member

Dragon Boating WA Inc – Coaching Directors Report 2012/2013

Auroras

It was excellent to see 12 WA paddlers selected for the Australian Auroras who competed at the World Dragon Boat Championships in Szeged, Hungary in July this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 12 WA Auroras for being able to work with them during the 14 weeks after Penrith in the lead up to the training camp in Győr and then the competition in Szeged.

During this time they committed themselves to being 100% prepared for the competition in Szeged. Their passion for dragon boating combined with their dedication to the training programme allowed them to achieve some amazing results in Szeged.

Their achievements in Szeged will allow WA to progress the sport of Dragon Boating and it is hoped that we will be able to attract many more WA paddlers to try out for the IDBF World Dragon Boat Championships in Canada 2015.

I and DBWA extend our congratulations to the following paddlers for their outstanding efforts in Hungary.

- Keeva Brooks - Under 16
- Todd Clappinson - Under 16
- Molly Svensson - Under 16
- Josh Clements - Under 18
- Hannah Dixon - Under 24
- Hannah Price - Under 24
- Emily Tempest - Under 24
- Chloe Tindal - Under 24
- Russell Clappinson - Senior A
- Mike Higginson - Senior B
- Gordon Waycott - Senior B
- Stewart Tempest - Senior C

Listed below are the results and medals that the WA Auroras were involved in. It should be noted that the juniors were entered into 13 events and medalled in 11 (6 Gold, 3 Silver, and 2 Bronze). Similarly the under 24s were entered in 2 events and achieved 2 Gold. Every heat that the under 24s were entered in they won by at least 4 seconds.

The senior WA Auroras achieved 6 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze between them.

The Chinese delegates were that impressed with the under 24s performance they have issued a formal invite to the under 24s to compete in the 4 Cities tour of China in 2014 and will be fully hosted.

Medal tally

Juniors (U16 & U18)						
2000 Jnr Mixed	4 th		500 10s Mixed Jnr A	Gold	200 10s Mixed Jnr B	Gold
2000 Jnr Women	Silver		500 10s Mixed Jnr B	Gold	200 10s Jnr Women	Gold
2000 Jnr Open	Bronze		500 10s Jnr Women	Gold	200 10s Jnr Open	Silver
1000 Jnr Mixed	Bronze		500 10s Jnr Open	Silver		
1000 Jnr Open	4 th		200 10s Mixed Jnr A	Gold		

Under 24s					
200 10s U24	Gold		500 10s U24	Gold	
Senior A					
2000 20s Open	7 th *		200 20s Open	4 th	
Senior B					
2000 10s Open	Gold		200 10s Open	Gold	
1000 20s Open	Bronze		500 10s Open	Silver	
Senior C					
2000 20s Open	Gold		500 20s Open	Gold	500 20s Mixed Silver
2000 20s Mixed	Gold		200 20s Open	Gold	200 20s Mixed Silver

Notes:

- 1) * New Australian record time
- 2) The Senior A Open crews made the minor finals for the rest of the races

New coaching course now available via AusDBF.

AusDBF have commenced the new coaching course programme for AusDBF club coaches. The first coaching course for WA will be conducted on Sunday 6th October 2013 at DSR.

DBWA are also working towards appointing a State based Coaching Course presenter so that WA Coaching courses can be run in more frequently.

New Paddler Registration Database

All states will now be utilising a national Dragon Boat database to register paddlers. Currently DBWA is in the process of migrating current data to the new system.

The new database will allow sharing of paddler accreditations (eg sweep and coach register) and it will also allow Australian Championships registrations via the same database.

Sweeps

Currently DBWA has

- 46 registered sweeps
- 9 x level 4 sweeps
- 2 x level 5 sweeps

Recording of paddlers on the national paddler database will allow transparency of sweeps and coaches across all states.

Rex Tindal
DBWA Coaching Director

16 September 2013