

Dragon Tales

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www.blackdragons.org.au



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BLACK DRAGONS - PREMIER 500M FINALISTS

The pinnacle event of any dragon boat festival is the Premier Open 500m race and **OUR CLUB** raced it in the Australian National Championships 2008.

With all the years Popeye has been racing he said this was the first time he had been in a Premier Open 500m final and you could not take the smile off his face.

We came a very credible 6th place in a time of 2.07.36 on fresh water but 2/3 of our mixed crew could have bred the rest of the entire field (allowing that Ken and Fan would have covered the one full Asian crew.) All other boats in the race were 20 men and hardly one of the crews had a paddler over 25-30 years old.

The race was won by City Dragons from Sydney - we have Popeye; they have Brutus and most of the team were huge muscled gym junky men with great power; but we kept with them for more than half the race.

And even more fantastic was that we beat some of Australia's top teams like Sydney Sloths, Broadwater (Qld) and Te Waka (Qld) – to race in that final.

IT WAS AWESOME!!!!!!

I hope you enjoy reading about the time we had in Perth and realise exactly why the success is so important. The Club has achieved great things locally and internationally and now we have gained great respect nationally also.

**And once again
BLACK DRAGONS
had the best race top
of all 18 clubs competing.**

Nationals in review

1000m race day	
Masters Open	BRONZE Medal
Premier Mixed	MAJOR FINALIST
Premier Open	withdrew in favour of the
Premier mixed event	

500m race day	
Masters Open	BRONZE Medal
Premier Mixed	withdrew in favour of the
Premier Open event	
Premier Open	MAJOR FINALIST

200m race day	
Masters Open	BRONZE Medal
Premier Mixed	Minor finalist
Premier Open	FIRST in Minor Final

The Club ranked 8th overall among the 18 teams competing in the club crews regatta.

We entered just the 3 events each day with a total of only 25 premier, masters and grand masters age paddlers to choose teams from. We were constantly paddling each day – it was a case of marshal; load boats, paddle out, race, paddle back, unload, run up to the tent (if lucky) to get a drink and back to marshal again for the next event.

We achieved freshwater race times of
49 secs x 200m
2.02 mins x 500m and
4.11 mins x 1000m

The Masters Open medals are so significant because we had just 16 Masters and Grand Masters-age men and women paddlers travelling with us and we raced against teams of 20 paddlers with mostly men crews.

Yes we have to acknowledge that for the 1000m and 200m masters finals there were only 3 teams in the races but the 500m race had 4 teams and we convincingly came third and were just off the pace for second.

Your Masters and Grand Masters paddlers were constantly racing against and competitive with some of the biggest and best premier teams in Australia.

No national medal is a given – they are an achievement hard won and recognition of all our hard work not only on the race days but in the months of training leading up to it.

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Special Thankyous

A very special thank you must be recorded for the coaches – Dave and Ken – they did an outstanding job in training us up for the event and also the time they spent in team placements.

Thankfully, no one suffered serious injury (or at least admitted to it) during the carnival but by the 4th day of racing Ken had to re-do teams on the run to accommodate side swapping due to increasingly sore shoulders and backs etc.

Thanks also to:

- **Noel** for doing the majority of the sweeping and on-the-water race encouragement;
- **Sue** for the travel arrangements; and
- **Brenda and Greg** for stepping in at the very last minute and looking after the hire cars and importantly doing the great majority of the driving.

But the biggest thanks of all goes the **great group of paddlers** who never gave up. No one person can do it on their own in this sport – it was a combined determination and fighting spirit that did it for us, so congratulations, well done and thank you everybody:

Peter ALCHIN
 Phil BARNETT
 David BRADLEY
 David BRUGIONI
 Virginia CALLAHAN
 Lee CLARKE
 Corey CONSTABLE
 Ray CURRAN
 Caitlin GILLIAM
 John HARRIS
 Zoe HARRISON
 Jennifer HAYTON
 Harry MCCALLUM
 Fan MING ZHOU
 Chris PAYNE
 Lyn PAYNE
 Brenda PENNY
 Elise PENNY
 Greg PENNY
 Catherine POUNSETT
 Cindy SCHMIDT
 Noel SCHMIDT
 Tim SCHROEDER
 Sue STODDARD
 Ken YIU

The red & black army conquers...

As our mixed gender and aged crew marshalled for the Premier Open x 500m final against teams of 20 men under 30 yrs of age, even the DBWA officials had to ask “were we the right crew for the race?”

The mix of age, experience and sheer guts and determination got us through the days of racing. Each minor success built our confidence for the next race – we were generally backing up anyway with often just one race break between. At no time did we feel out of our league. We were always competitive and up with the best teams on the water

Health and fitness was NEVER really an issue over any distance.

However, Sue and Caitlin did tend to have significant heart palpitations when ever the Australian Defence Fore Academy, Ice Dragons or City Dragon men’s crews passed by. When the guys changed tops or applied sunscreen the girls hearts got pumping very hard and the bibs were needed to soak up to drool!!!!!!

STATE TEAM RESULTS

The first day of racing in Perth was State vers State competitions. About 20 of our club joined ADR and a few pink ladies and Subbies to form the South Australian State Team and have some success on the water.

Grand Dragons Mxd x 500m	SILVER
Masters Women x 500m	SILVER
Grand Dragons Women x 500m	SILVER
Masters Mixed x 500m	BRONZE
Masters Open x 500m	BRONZE

There was some good racing all day and NSW came out top of the table with South Australia third.

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ADR Seadragons in Perth

Congratulations to ADR for their success at the national championships. They had a good sized contingent of paddlers over there and the Club finished 5th overall. Their women's teams did well winning some gold and the club also got silver and bronze too.

I think we beat them in all but one race where we met them on the water.

It is also important to acknowledge the camaraderie with ADR Seadragons with each team cheering the other team on, particularly when we were not head to head in races. But also with their greater numbers they were able to watch over our gear in the tent when we were all on the water.

Quiz Night – Friday 2 May

The Club Quiz night has been set for **FRIDAY 2nd May** at the Grange Bowling Club, 11 Wilson Court, Grange from 730 pm.

Quiz Master will be Adelaide media identity Xavier Minicon

Tickets are \$10 per person BYO food and nibbles – cash bar available.

We need everyone to book your tables of 10 now with Carole Johnson email: carole.johnson@police.sa.gov.au or at home on jackandtom@adam.com.au

Carole needs to know NOW if you need a table because numbers to date are so low the viability of the night is in doubt.

Carole is coordinating the night so please give your prize donations to her as soon as possible.

Winter training

Training will continue through out winter – 3 sessions a week as normal regardless of the weather. You can rely on us to take a boat out at each session during winter.

Birthdays

Congratulations to **Chris PAYNE** (16th April) celebrating his birthday today.

DBSA Annual Presentation dinner

The DBSA end of season dinner will be held on Friday 16 May 2008. The venue is:

- **West Adelaide Function Centre –**
- **57 Milner Road Richmond**

The cost of the 3 course dinner will be \$40 per person.(cash bar) and there will be a DJ. The trophies will be presented on this night to the winning teams/clubs.

Please book your attendance with Jenny Hayton by email jenny@ptadelconst.com.au or at home wally_matey@hotmail.com by FRIDAY 25 APRIL and place payment for the dinner in an envelope with your name on the outside. Give the envelope to either Jenny Hayton or me, please by that date.

CLUB AWARDS

Each year, at the end of the racing season the Club makes a number of awards to paddlers and members.

The coaches select the following awards:

- The Best Female and Male Paddler Awards
- The Most Improved Female Paddler
- The Most Improved Male Paddler

Members choose the following award by Ballot: The '***Black Dragon of the Year***' award. This voted award is for outstanding contribution to the Club for the year recognising any or all of the following attributes:

- leadership
- paddling
- coaching
- management/administration or
- contribution to the club overall.

All members are encouraged to vote in what is the top award and honour you the members can bestow on a fellow member.

So memories don't fade, **voting closes on SUNDAY 27 APRIL** so either email to Bobby Kawalok at bmks@optusnet.com.au the name of the member of your choice for **Black Dragon of the Year** or place it in a sealed envelope and give it to Chris Payne at training and Chris will hand them on to Bobby.

These awards will be presented at the Club dinner to be held later in May. (date and venue to be confirmed)

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Calendar dates

Black Dragons Quiz Night – FRIDAY 2 MAY

DBSA Presentation Dinner **Friday 16 May 2008**

Black Dragons Club Presentation dinner – FRIDAY 23 or Saturday 24 May – more details next issue.

Your Club Committee

Position

President

Chris Payne

Secretary

John Harris

Treasurer

Jenny Hayton

Male Captain

Noel Schmidt

Female Captain

Cindy Schmidt

Coach

David Brugioni

Assistant Coach

Ken Yiu

Committee

Carole Johnson

Bobby Kawalok

Fan Ming Zhou

Glen Mitchell

Sue Stoddard

Club Payments

Members can pay fees and accounts on-line by funds transfer. The club account is held with Savings & Loans Credit Union.

The BSB number is 805-023, the account number to use is 04301504, and please quote your name / item as the reference eg BROWN/fees.

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