

INTERNATIONAL BREAST CANCER PADDLERS COMMISSION



INAUGURAL CONGRESS
Peterborough Naval Association
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO, CANADA
FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2010

Representatives of fifty eight breast cancer dragon boat teams which are Members of the IBCPC from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Italy, England, the United States and Canada attended.

The following team were represented:

Australia: 17 members

Dragons Abreast Amazons – Perth
Dragons Abreast Ballarat- Victoria
Dragons Abreast Bribie Island- Qld
Dragons Abreast Brisbane- Qld
Dragons Abreast Bunbury Crusaders –WA
Dragons Abreast Coffs Coast – NSW
Dragons Abreast Gold Coast - Qld
Dragons Abreast Illawarra – NSW
Dragons Abreast Melbourne – Vic
Dragons Abreast Newcastle Hunter – NSW
Dragons Abreast Northern Territory - NT
Dragons Abreast Peninsula Dragon Flies – Vic
Dragons Abreast Redcliffe – Qld
Dragons Abreast Sydney – NSW
Dragons Abreast Wagga Wagga- NSW

Flamin' Dragons Port Macquarrie- NSW
Pittwater Pinks – NSW

Canada: 27

Abreast In A Boat , Vancouver, BC
Avalon Dragons – Newfoundland
Barrie's Ribbons of Hope – Ont
Bosom Buddies, Nova Scotia
Breast Buddies, Sarnia, Ont.
Breast Friends, Edmonton, Alta
Breasts Ahoy, St John, NB
Buoyant Buddies, Vernon, BC
Busting Out, Ottawa, Ont.
Canadians Abreast
Chemo Savvy, Winnipeg Man.
Chestmates, Kingston, Ont.
Cowichan Dragon Divas, BC
Dragons Abreast, Toronto, Ont
Dragon Tamers, Kenora, Ont

Knot Abreast, Hamilton, Ont
Phenix Rose des Vents, Sherbrooke, Quebec
Pink Sensations, Pickering, Ont.
Rowbust, London, Ont.
Spirit Warriors, Kamloops, BC
Sunshine Dragons Abreast, BC
Survivors Abreast, Peterborough, Ont.
Survivorship Dragon Boat Team, Penticton, BC
Survivor Thrivers, Port Hope, Ont
Waves of Hope, Brandon, Man
West Island Dragons, Quebec
Wonder Broads, Windsor, Ont

England: 2 members

Paddlers for Life, Windermere
Pink Champagne, Bournemouth

Italy: 2 members

Florence Dragon Lady
Roma Pink Butterfly

South Africa: 1 member

AmaBele Belles

United States; 8 members

Dragon Boat, Atlanta, Ga
Dragon Heart, Vermont
Machestic Dragons, NJ
Minnesota Dragon Divas, Minn
Pink Dragon Ladies, Tampa, Fla
Save Our Sisters, Miami, Fla
Warriors of Hope, Orlanda, Fla
Wellness Snapdragons, Bethesda, Md.

Observing: Island BreastStrokers

A number of teams interested in the IBCPC were unable to attend.

Welcome and Introductions:

Joint chairs, Michelle Hanton, Executive President of the IBCPC (Australia) and Jane Frost (Canada) welcomed team representatives to the Congress and introduced themselves and other Steering Committee Members Eleanor Nielsen (Canada), Mary McAvoy (New Zealand), and Jenny Yule (Canada).

Not attending: Sandi Buhmaster-Jelinski (USA) who recently resigned.

Michelle reminded the Congress of the mandate entrusted to this Committee at Caloundra (Aus) on 28th September 2007 to ensure that:

- Efforts were made to co-ordinate international participatory festivals – and this Festival in Peterborough is the result.
- Recommendations for the structure, policy and guidelines were developed for the organisation, with teams invited to join – hence this Congress.

She noted that breast cancer teams that wish to be competitive have the opportunity to do so at the IDBF World Corcoms. She emphasized, however, that an IBCPC festival is Celebratory, Participatory and Inclusive and with "that spirit in mind we shall proceed with the meeting."

Agenda Review: Jane Frost

Membership Application:

Jenny Yule noted the importance of IBCPC membership to give teams the opportunity to comment and vote at this Congress on the Draft IBCPC Constitution and By-Laws, the outcome of the Caloundra meeting. She encouraged representatives of teams, not yet members of the IBCPC but interested in the future of the IBCPC, to join.

Report from the Caloundra Steering Committee: Michelle Hanton (see attached).

Presentation and Review of the Constitution and By-Laws: Jane Frost

- **Constitution:** after an explanation of the goals and some discussion and questioning it was proposed that "the Constitution be accepted by the Congress as presented"
Moved and seconded by: Linda Evans, Team Steel Magnolias, Atlanta and Suzanne Bodner, Chestmates, Kingston, Ont.
Accepted by acclamation.
- **By-Laws:**
Discussion and questions included IBCPC membership, IBCPC relationship to IDBF, fitness, Voting and Amendments to the By-Laws, and disbursement of IBCPC funds on the dissolution of the IBCPC centering on the following definitions:
"Team": It was agreed that this should read as follows:
IBCPC team: means a team which is in good standing with the Commission in accordance with Paragraph 1. In the event a country has one organisation with many teams in different geographic locations, for the purposes of these By-Laws, each team is accepted and recognised as a separate entity within the community in which it operates. Each such team within that country is entitled to one vote on IBCPC matters.
"Paddler": after the attention of Congress was drawn to the Paper on Prophylactic Mastectomy and much discussion, it was proposed and seconded that the definition in the draft By-Laws be amended to read *"Paddler means a person who has been diagnosed with and/or treated for, including preventative treatment by prophylactic mastectomy, and where applicable, is recognised as a breast cancer survivor under the terms of their national breast cancer dragon boat body."*
Moved and Seconded: Pat Hancock, Dragons Abreast NT, Joyce Evans: Dragons Abreast, Melbourne
In favour: 21 Against: 34
The motion to amend the definition was defeated.

After further discussion it was agreed that the By-Laws and Constitution should be amended so that the word "Paddler" is defined as follows:

A paddler is a person who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and who is one member of a crew and includes the Crew's drummer and steersperson.

Approval of the By-laws was moved by Rhonda Evans, Busting Out, Ottawa, Canada and seconded Deanna Santangelo, Florence Dragon Lady.
Approved by acclamation.

Advisory Board

The following were appointed to the Advisory Board:

Dr Don McKenzie

Mr Paul Smith

Ms Janelle Gamble

Ms Eleanor Nielsen

Proposal for the first Election of IBCPC Steering Committee Directors:

See attached: Eleanor Nielsen explained the process.

Other business:

Jane Frost re-iterated the importance of generic e-mail addresses for efficiency in communication and requested that teams submit as soon as possible to IBCPC.

As there was no further business, Michelle Hanton thanked the representatives for coming and adjourned the Congress at 10:45am.

INTERNATIONAL BREAST CANCER PADDLERS COMMISSION



**Report from Steering Committee
September 2007 – June 2010**

Presented at Peterborough Congress -11 June 2010

The Steering Committee has been actively working in the background and we are delighted to report back to the breast cancer survivor teams of the world on our work to date.

We begin this report with a little historical background as we believe it is important to have an understanding of our history in order to fully understand how we all came to be in this meeting today.

The growth of the breast cancer survivor movement, which began in Vancouver in 1996 with Dr Don McKenzie and Abreast In A Boat, has been absolutely phenomenal. For many years there has been discussion about the need for a more formal structure under which BCS teams could operate both nationally and internationally. The very first meeting on this topic was held in Toronto in 2001, with an endeavour to have Canadian teams take up the same concept of a national body as operates in Australia as it was recognized that this is where the strength of the BCS movement lay – in unity and operating under a set of guiding principles.

At the 2004 IDBF World Championship in Shanghai the topic was once again raised. Singapore, who at this stage was one of the newest breast cancer paddling groups took the lead in the formulations of a proposed international commission. This time the discussions advanced as far as a loose kind of steering group being established and a name The International Pink Paddlers Commission chosen and an Inaugural event under this banner was organized for October 2006 in Singapore. However, despite what appeared to be a great start the plan failed – for many different reasons, but one of the main ones was the fact that the push was being led by individuals who were not survivors and therefore lacked an in depth understanding of the needs of the BCS dragon boat crews.

Despite the failed attempts of the IPPC, it was clear that there was definitely a need for an international body to be established as more and more BCS teams continued to pop up around the globe. More teams were attending IDBF World Championship events and although we had been welcomed in the early days, it was clear, that by the time we reached Shanghai that we had grown so large that, although warmly welcomed and supported by the International Dragon Boat Federation, BCS crews had outgrown their place at World Championship levels of the sport.

Mike Haslam, the Executive President of the International Dragon Boat Federation continued to lend his support to the concept recognizing the importance of the BCS crews having a voice in the international area. IDBF suggested that a World Corporate & Community Championships be held and that would be an ideal place for BCS crews to race. The first World CorComs was held in Berlin in 2005 – one week prior to the World Championships,

attendance was poor with only a handful of BCS crews attending. Subsequent World Corcoms, the most recent having been held in Miami in 2009, have also drawn low numbers from the BCS community.

Contrasting the attendance at Corcoms is the number of BCS crews that attended Vancouver, Caloundra and now Peterborough. It is clear that the demand is for participatory Festivals. It is with this in mind that the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission was formed.

As a result of our 2007 meeting held Caloundra, Australia and attended by 45 teams, the steering committee was mandated to work with the specific objective of making sure that the BCS races retain their special 'magic' of being open and inclusive, with competition being the **least important aspect**.

Achievements

1. Developing a process for bids to hold an IBCPC Participatory Festival. This was based on the Steering Committee's extensive experiences at Vancouver 2005 and Caloundra 2007 plus a survey with all teams who were at Caloundra and every other team worldwide that we could reach. We asked what was most important to them at a Festival? The answers provided the basis for the developing the criteria on which bids would be assessed.
2. The key elements identified by survey responded included the Flower Ceremony and the Sandy Smith Global race.
3. Invited bids for next festival
4. Establishing the international judging panel and assessed all bids received
5. Established a website
6. Establishing an e-newsletter
7. Acted as an advisory committee and sounding board for the Peterborough Festival Committee.
8. Identified a method to ensure some ongoing funds for IBCPC administration costs
9. Cementing our position with the IDBF to ensure the integrity of the BCS movement
10. Provided advice and support to fledgling teams/groups
11. Development of the proposed Constitution & By Laws
12. Developing a membership criteria

Financial Report

The IBCPC had no money when we formed so our first priority was to gain some start up funds to allow us to establish a website.

Goway Travel in Australia sponsored us to the tune of \$3000.00 to assist with our website development and Dragons Abreast Australia agreed to cover any additional foundation expenses on the understanding it would be repaid in Peterborough.

The Steering Committee agreed that a \$5 levy on each registrant attending the Festival in Peterborough would be a very equitable way to raise the funds needed for IBCPC and this was added onto the Registrations Fees. It was not hidden in the fees, but clearly identified for all participants. This has produced a revenue of \$9,800.00

Expenses to date have included establishment of our website, development of a logo plus congress costs and teleconference calls, between the bid review panel that was made up of individuals located across three continents, Australia, the Netherlands and Canada, to discuss the bids received for the 2010 Festival.

Recommendations

We believe we have fulfilled the mandate entrusted to us in Caloundra.

Our recommendations, to you the members of IBCPC attending this Inaugural Congress are are that you:

- Consider and approve the constitution as this sets the direction for the future of international breast cancer **participatory** dragon boat padding
- We also recommend the adoption of the By laws that must be approved in order to give the Commission its operating tools

And finally we are making recommendations for the process by which the Steering Committee Directors will be elected.

We thank you for entrusting us to bring the Commission this far.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Hanton".

Michelle Hanton OAM

Executive President