

International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission (IBCPC)

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting
Caloundra, Queensland, Australia
Friday, 28th September 2007

Representatives of 45 breast cancer dragon boat teams (Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Italy, New Zealand and the United States) were present.

Present: The following teams were represented:

Australia:

Dragons Abreast:

Adelaide
Ballarat
Geelong
Gold Coast
Illawara
Central Coast
Mackay
Melbourne
Brisbane
Newcastle
Northern Territory
Port Lincoln
Redcliffe
Tasmania
Wagga Wagga

Other Australian Teams

Pittwater Pinks
Titivators
Amazon Heart

Canada:

Abreast In A Boat (Vancouver)
Abreast or Knot (Windsor):
Barrie's Ribbons of Hope (Barrie)
Breast Friends (Edmonton)
Chemo Savvy (Winnipeg)
Cote `a Cote/Two Abreast (Montreal)
Dragons Abreast (Toronto):
Island Breaststrokes (Victoria)
Nanaimo Angels Abreast (Nanaimo)
Phoenix de la Rose des Vents (Sherbrooke PQ)
Pink Sensations (Pickering):

Sunshine Dragons Abreast (Sunshine Coast BC)
Survivorship (Penticton)
Vise -a -Vis
Wonder Broads (Windsor)
International Pink Sisters

Hong Kong

Dragons Abreast Hong Kong

Italy:

Florence Dragon Lady:
Pink Butterfly (Rome)

New Zealand:

Abreast of Life (Christchurch)
Boobops (Tauranga)
CanSurvive (Wellington)
Waikato Treasure Chests

United States:

Dragon Heart (Vermont)
Pink Phoenix (Portland, Oregon)
Team Soar (Wasabi)
Team Survivor Perseverance (Alaska)

A number of teams interested in the IBCPC were unable to attend the meeting (arrived after or had a practice session) but wish to remain in contact.

The chair: Jane Frost – Abreast In A Boat, Vancouver

- introduced the members of the IBCPC steering committee present (Michelle Hanton (Aus), Eleanor Nielsen (Canada), Jenny Yule (Canada); regrets Janelle Gamble (Aus), Marcia Fraser(NZ) , Sandi Burmaster Jelinski (USA)
- welcomed Dr Don McKenzie and the breast cancer team representatives who then introduced themselves.
- gave a brief summary of events leading to the formation of the IBCPC (see IBCPC Proposal, March 2007).
- explained that the purpose of the meeting was to see if there was consensus among those present for the IBCPC to proceed with developing a structure for International Participatory Festivals.
- emphasized that the Commission would focus on inclusive International Participatory events.

Michelle Hanton continued and noted:

- the steady growth in breast cancer dragon boat paddling and in the number of dragon boat events world wide
- the importance of each international event in which breast cancer survivors participated being the “experience of a lifetime.”
- the need to develop “ground rules”, criteria and guidelines for International Participatory Festivals so that organisers and participants are clear as to expectations.
- that the focus of the IBCPC would be on inclusive International Participatory Festivals (Vancouver, Canada 2005, Caloundra, Australia 2007)
- breast cancer teams wishing to race in more competitive paddling events have the opportunity to do so under the auspices of the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) World Cor Coms (see IBCPC Proposal , March 2007) .

In response to questions about the IDBF, Melanie Cantwell, from Dragon Boat New South Wales explained the IDBF racing structure. There are three racing categories:
the IDBF World Championship Division
the IDBF World Club Crew Championships
the IDBF World Corporate Community Championships (CorComs).

Over the last few years breast cancer dragon boat teams have become part of the IDBF World CorComs (in Berlin 2005 and Welland Ontario 2007). These IDBF World CorComs take place every two years and the next will be in Miami, Florida in 2009.

There were also questions on IBCPC membership, representation, rules around participatory events and governance.

The following question was then put to the meeting:

‘Are you in favour of establishing and supporting the International Breast Cancer Paddling Commission which will focus its efforts on international participatory events?’.

After a brief caucus among team members each team declared its position with forty teams supporting the question, five abstentions and no votes against.

Jane thanked everybody for coming and for their contribution. She indicated the steering committee would likely not be back in touch till the year end.

She wished them a great weekend at Abreast in Australia.

The meeting ended at 12:15