



A TRIBUTE TO BRYAN HARTLEY

Bryan passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Cardiff, on Friday 4th January 2018, after a short illness.

Bryan was a long standing and firm friend of mine for 30 years in Dragon Boating and was one of the first people to respond to a newspaper article I wrote, calling for Dragon Boat crews to be formed in Cardiff, to raise funds for local Charities, in 1987/88. Bryan phoned me up and wanted to know about Dragon Boat Racing and how I was going to raise the Charity money.

From that time onwards Bryan was hooked on the Sport and quickly became involved in forming the Wharf Dragons from colleagues working in the new County Hall in Cardiff, which was located alongside Atlantic Wharf, the venue for Dragon Boat Races for years to follow.

Of the many people I introduced to the sport in those formative years of the BDA, none were more dedicated and enthusiastic

than Bryan or 'Santa' as he became known – for obvious and well meant reasons. Bryan would turn his hand to anything and everything for the Sport. Whether it be getting a crew entry together, helming, officiating, training race officials, racing or even doing a bit of coaching, you could rely on Bryan to be there and to do his best, with a smile on his face and his favourite sandals on his feet !

From doing his thing for the BDA for the past 20 years, Bryan also became part of the team running and officiating at EDBF and then IDBF Championships, including the 2017 Junior Worlds in Divonne, where it was apparent to all that Bryan was not in the best of health but putting on a brave, if a little, at times, grumpy face, he was still determined to be of some use, in which-ever way he could.

Of the many and various dragon boat jaunts to far flung places around the world, two trips in particular that we undertook to Uganda and Oman, spring happily to mind and remain in the memory of the many good dragon boat times spent together, which of course always included drinking that relaxing beer each night, without which Bryan could not survive the rigours of the day !

Through many of these Dragon Boat outings, Kirsty has been by Bryan's side and she too became a prominent member of the IDBF Race Officials Team, sharing with Bryan the hard work that officiating at Dragon Boat events entails, especially when someone like me writes a complicated race programme that keeps officials locked to their posts for the whole day !!

Sadly for us Bryan has left our Dragon Boat family and will be greatly missed by the many Race Officials around the world he has helped to train and mentor but it is Kirsty and family who will miss Bryan the most and so to them I would say, be proud and rightly so of 'our Bryan' who will live on in the memories of all those Dragon Boaters who had the pleasure of knowing him, sharing a beer or two or more with him, admiring his 'all weather' sandals and enjoying his very affable company. Cheers, Bryan, it was more than good to know you, it was great !

Mike MacKeddie-Haslam

BDA Founder & President
EDBF President of Honour
IDBF Founder, Honorary President.



River Nile leaving Lake Victoria – Uganda 2008

A Memorial Service to celebrate Bryans' life, will be held for Bryan on Friday 19 Jan 18 at the Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, commencing at 1pm. All are welcome to attend. Tea and sandwiches will be served after the service.