

## **Michael Clarke**

I have been in the sport of dragon boat racing since 1996, when I started the SNBDT as a charity crew in which I played the role of Chairman as well as Race Helm and Coach Level 2 which I believe has helped the team progress and develop since its early beginnings.

Along with being the chairman of my local team for over 2 decades I have been on the BDA Executive Committee for over 4 years, two of which as Vice Chairman and hopefully to continue in the role if elected by my fellow peers because I feel in my time I have been Vice Chairman I have contributed and played a part in the BDA organisation to the best of my abilities.

Over the last 2 years we have seen a growth in income to the BDA as well as more teams taking part in events also the development of Ladies teams along with now Junior teams.

I feel that the BDA is moving forward but still have plenty of work to be done over the next coming years, I would like to be part of the group of people who have done such great work so far and would like to help keep the momentum going further by being on the Executive Committee as Vice Chairman.

## **David A Cogswell**

David is a Founder Member of the BDA and has been its Treasurer since its formation in 1987. He was appointed the BDA Company Secretary in 1993. He represented the BDA at the European Dragon Boat Federation (EDBF) and served on the EDBF Board as Permanent Members representative until 2009. He was also elected in 1999 as the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) treasurer and served until 2013 when he became the IDBF Finance Director. He is an IDBF and BDA Race Official and has acted as Chief Official at both National and International levels. Before Dragon Boating, he was Treasurer of the BCU Regatta Committee and assisted with the organisation and administration of both World and European Canoeing Championships.

## **Barbara Keenan**

I've been a member of Amathus Dragon Boat Club since it was formed in 1988 and throughout that time I have raced in the National League, National Championships, several European events including Club Crew Championships and also in the 1<sup>st</sup> World Championships in Yueyang, China in 1995, where Amathus and the Royal Marines represented Great Britain. I am still involved with my Club, both in my position as Club Secretary and as a paddler, helm and occasionally a drummer. I enjoy competing in the different race categories in the National League and Cup, especially the Mixed races.

I've raced with several GB Teams over the past 20 years in World and European Championships – premier and Senior A Mixed teams as well as Premier, Senior A and Senior B Women's teams. Last year I was very pleased to be competing with the first GB Senior B Women's team in the European Championships in Brandenburg.

The achievement of each of these GB Teams, which includes winning gold, silver and bronze medals, is a result of hard work and dedication of the GB Team Coaches.

I attained my first Coaching qualification in 1992 at Millwall Docks, assessed by Mike Haslam. This was the Club Helm Award, the forerunner of the current Coach Level 2 qualification.

I coach and helm novice crews of all ages at our Club base in Liverpool. Some of these groups choose to do Dragon Boat Racing as a leisure activity, and others are preparing for School, Scout, Corporate or Charity competitions. Last year one very keen team booked 6 or 7 training sessions and asked for two coaches on their boat. When they won their competition, they were not only presented with a large trophy but also received a cheque for £10,000 for their local community!

I also help with the organisation and running Level 1, 2 and 3 Coaching Courses mostly based in Liverpool.

I am currently a member of the BDA Executive Committee and have responsibility for Safeguarding.

## **Andrew Menzies**

After attending my first Dragon Boat race in 1988 when I met with a couple of mates in a pub and was asked if I was doing anything on the following Sunday and having said no apart from travelling back to HM Naval Base Rosyth to join my ship in the evening, they said do you want to come and have a go at this new sport we are all going to. Of course I said yes and little did I know where it would take me from those humble beginnings.

I represented GB with Batchworth Dragons in Japan at Osaka and Nagasaki (in those days we did not have the selection systems that we do now) and then because of my Naval service and lack of availability for paddling I started officiating. We had no qualifications as such in those days, just a sincere love of the sport that we were getting involved with. I passed my International Officials exam in 1995 and when available was supporting BDA events as an Official and if at all possible paddling (but once labelled you can never escape it).

Little did I know that some 30 odd years later I would be providing training for new UK Officials, working with the BDA to promote the sport, supporting new members of the BDA Exec and officials with my knowledge and experience of the sport having officiated at many European and International Championships and having the pleasure of introducing people to a worldwide network of friends affectionately known as the Officials Family, also being a member of the European Dragon Boat federation Executive as the members Representative, I am looking to continue as the Vice Chairman of the BDA to continue and support our sport both in the UK and in Europe.

## **Jennifer Henderson**

I was first introduced to Dragon Boat Racing by a contact as a networking event. I was looking for a new interest and getting fit and so I went to training session with Worcester Dragons. As, like most of us – I was hooked. I loved the ethics of the sport and enjoyed meeting a great bunch of people and having fun – along with getting fit and racing. I am a member of Worcester dragons and recently I was involved with helping to set up Purple Warrior sand am the current Chair of Trustees for the charity.

I was then invited to a training session for the Senior A GB Team to discuss how I could support them as the Admin Manager and in August 2011 I was attending the World Championships in Tampa Bay and looking after the team during the event. I was then the Senior A Admin Manager for the European Championships in Nottingham in 2012 and World Championships in Hungary in 2013.

In 2014 my application for the GB Team Manager was accepted by the BDA Executive Committee and I have successfully carried out that role in five separate campaigns, with the sixth campaign of the World Championships taking place in Thailand in 2019. Since 2015 I have also been a member of the BDA Executive committee and am passionate about increasing the visibility of Dragon Boat racing in the UK and also in improving communication and working with the members. It would be wonderful to continue the work that we have started on implementing a strategy for the BDA and being part of the next phase in the vision for Dragon Boats in the UK.

## **Peter Money**

I started paddling with Exe Calibre in 2011 and quickly fell in love with the sport. As an all inclusive sport, Members range from the very young at heart, from the Sunday paddler to the dedicated out in all weathers, the abled bodied to the physical/mentally impaired; it's a sport that has the ability to appeal to all. As someone who is passionate about the sport, I would like to increase my involvement by putting my name forward to be a member of the BDA Executive Committee.

I recently became Chair of Exe-Calibre and I see many of the same traits in both my club and the BDA, specifically a need to improve communication amongst its member and the Exec. My aim would be for the BDA to be more open and transparent and to find a way to communicate with members on a more regular basis, which would allow members to develop an understanding of the role of the BDA and also what the BDA requires from its members. I would also look to increase members participation in BDA decision making processes.

## **Darrell Snape**

I joined, what is affectionately known as, the Dragon Boat Community back in 2010 when I got roped in to take part in a charity day at Worcester – the team I was part of won so we defended it again the following year and from memory I think we won again. – in this time span it became a family affair as my wife and daughter also joined along with my brother in law and niece.

They went on to join Worcester Dragons and I politely decided not to join as my back would not allow this but it became a family tradition to follow the Dragon Boat Community around to support the, I loved sport so much that I decided to join the Officials and took the Exam at the BDA Nationals in Nottingham I 2013 and I believe it was with Andy Menzies and then became a part of the Dragon Boat family.

This ignited something within me to become more involved so I went to every event for the next three years and became part of what is known as the “Left Out Club” within the BDA. I persuaded my wife to join the officials and she decided in 2015 to take my IDBF Official Examination which was done with Bryan Hartley, the Granddad of Dragon Boating in the UK (which was an immense honour) so I became an IDBF RO1 and I have had the good fortune to attend the Club Crew Championships in Divonne le Bains and Hungary in 2018 (which turned out to be the biggest event to date with over 6,000 sportsmen and women, it was awesome, and I hope to attend the Club Crew Championships in Seville along with my wife I 2019.

I decide to grow my experience and knowledge by I joining the BDA Executive Committee and continue to support the sport with my knowledge as a Race Official.