

David Hardman

Affiliated to Bourne Water Dragons

With greatest respect I offer myself to the Membership for election to the BDA Executive Committee.

My primary objectives are to work with members in encouraging wider membership of the Association by promotion and the development of an All Cancers (ACs) Dragonboating category based on my experience, observations and involvements: -

- with Jorge Carracedo, Jan Collins and others helped to establish Flamenco Rosa as the first BCS team in Spain and I continue encouraging the on-going expansion of BCS Dragonboating there
- as a supporter of BCS Dragonboating in the UK, initially with Pink Champagne BCS team
- as a member forming Bourne Water Dragons, the “first” All Cancers dragonboat team in the U.K.

Dragonboating is a great sport with the potential for greater capacity to welcome more participants from different backgrounds into the sport. The Association’s “Why, Vision, Mission” document recognises the needs and aspirations of its membership to develop and take this forward making dragonboating an all-inclusive sport for the future.

- The first major challenge however is to establish whether there is a real appetite for this challenge within the Dragonboat fraternity and who might be prepared to become involved and commit to it?

Currently a group encouraged by the BDA Executive, consisting of Tim Smith, Wave Walkers, Bourne Water Dragons and myself have been addressing the question of establishing and developing an All Cancers (ACs) Dragonboating section. Following the AGM in June a survey, currently being prepared, will be sent to all BDA member clubs for comment and hopefully lead to their future involvement.

The highly successful example of participatory Breast Cancer Survivor (BCS) dragonboating both internationally and in the UK has succeeded in providing participants with many benefits. BCS Dragonboating is predominantly a focus for women and so the next logical step should be to expand to participatory All Cancers (ACs) Dragonboating as an alternative category in the BDA.

My personal ambition for developing ACs Dragonboating is to provide and offer encouragement to any person affected by cancer with the opportunity to participate in the sport of Dragonboating in the UK, at whatever level they are capable, thereby enjoying the benefits of friendship, exercise, fun and improvement in their personal health provided within a safe and secure environment. That eventually, ACs Dragonboating along with the BCS and Para-dragon sectors will become an integral part of the BDA family and many Dragonboat clubs in the UK.”

If elected I will concentrate on working together with the BDA Executive, Clubs, their members and other organisations to create and support future ACs teams in their development. This will be achieved by leadership of a BDA working group offering support, co-ordination and facilitation to all Clubs thereby building on previous achievements and all the knowledge and experiences of the membership, whilst utilising existing BDA guidelines and strategies for promoting and seeking new resources.

It would be a privilege to lead this group, however if not elected I am still keen to help and assist in delivering this initiative. I sincerely believe we have a great opportunity to achieve this.

Thank you