



# 龍舟 LONGZHOU

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION



*From left to right: President of Rowing & Canoeing Association of Thailand Admiral Chainarong; President of IDBF Mike Thomas; Chair of IDBF Competition & Technical Commission Melanie Cantwell; IDBF 4th Vice President Peter Jarosi and Captain Wiwat Khwansoongnem.*

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY MIKE THOMAS



Welcome to this edition of Long Zhou, the only official newsletter of the IDBF.

As we all look forward to the racing in Thailand next month, it is worth a moment's reflection on the last Championships in Szeged where all previous records for participation were exceeded. In this year's Nations Championship, we will again be setting records with the largest ever number of competitors for a Nations Championship.

## Will dragon boating be in the next Olympics?

Many people constantly ask the question about when dragon boating will be in the Olympics. The first stage is for the IDBF to gain recognition from the IOC for which we have been applying since 2008.

In the General Meeting of Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sports (AIMS) held on the Gold Coast (Australia) in May, the IOC announced that they would be revising the recognition process and the new process will open in the second quarter of 2021.

All previous applications would not be considered and that Federations seeking recognition would need to start again. This was a major disappointment to us and the other AIMS members seeking recognition.

The conclusion to this is that it will be a long time before the sport we love gets into the Olympic Games.

In the mean time we will be working to ensure that we are well prepared to meet the application requirements and will be working to be transparent and equitable in everything we do.

## IDBF Congress 2019

The IDBF Congress will be held on Monday 26th August in the official hotel, Ambassador Jomtien Pattaya. There will be many important decisions to make including:

- elections of key positions
- changes to Statutes and Bye-Laws
- new Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing to be introduced in January 2020, and
- decisions on the bids for location of future Championships from 2022 onwards.

If you have any recommendations for changes to regulations or racing rules, please submit them quickly for consideration.

It is an important Congress so please ensure that you are represented.

## IDBF Administration Assistant

I would like to take this opportunity of introducing Victoria Jou-Chung Chang (張柔中), who is our new IDBF Administrative Assistant.

Victoria started in May. She is a big asset and will help us as an organisation to be more effective and responsive.

In closing, I hope to see many of you in Thailand for the 14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships.



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IDBF IS A MEMBER OF:



## MEET VICTORIA

- **Name:** Victoria Chang Jou-Chung (張柔中)
- **Role:** IDBF Administrative Assistant
- **Currently studying:** Kinesiology at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- **Paddles with:** True Grit
- **Email:** [admin@dragonboat.sport](mailto:admin@dragonboat.sport)



“ THE GREAT SENSE OF INCLUSIVITY AND TEAMWORK THAT DRAGON BOAT CULTIVATES HAS ALLOWED ME TO LOVE THE SPORT AND FEEL PROUD OF MY CHINESE HERITAGE ”

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# OLYMPIC CHANNEL WELCOMES SIX SPORT GOVERNING BODIES

## OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE FROM THE OLYMPIC CHANNEL

**MADRID – 16 July 2019** – The Olympic Channel today announced that it has reached agreements with the international governing bodies for armwrestling, chess, dragon boat, icestocksport, lifesaving and sepaktakraw to collaborate on content. The six new cooperation agreements bring the number of the global platform's federation partners to 91.

The new agreements include partnerships with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognised federations of International Chess Federation (FIDE), International Federation Icestocksport (IFI) and International Life Saving Federation (ILS). In addition, the Alliance of Independent recognised Members of Sport (AIMS) federations of International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF), International Sepaktakraw Federation (ISTAF) and World Armwrestling Federation (WAF) join other International Sports Federations and multi-sport organisations worldwide who have previously announced similar agreements with the Olympic Channel.

“The Olympic Channel provides a platform for the promotion of all sports and athletes within the Olympic Movement,” said Mark Parkman, general manager of the IOC's global Olympic Channel. “We look forward to working together to help expand the reach of these sports and athletes to fans and new audiences around the world.”

Olympic Channel federation partners include international sports federations (IFs), recognised federations and organisations, multi-sport organisers and non-recognised federations. In addition to collaborating on live events, the Olympic Channel actively works with its federation partners to present event coverage, highlights, magazine shows, news coverage and original programming providing an additional platform to distribute content that are complementary to current broadcast and distribution arrangements.

The Olympic Channel is an over-the-top (OTT) global media destination where fans can experience the power of sport and the excitement of the Olympic Games all year round. Offering original programming, news, live sports events and highlights, the Olympic Channel provides additional exposure for sports and athletes 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in 11 languages, and is available worldwide at [olympicchannel.com](http://olympicchannel.com), its mobile apps and on connected TV devices.

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### About the Olympic Channel

The Olympic Channel is a multi-platform global media destination where fans can discover, engage and share in the power of sport and the excitement of the Olympic Games all year round. Offering original programming, news, live sports events and highlights, the Olympic Channel provides additional exposure for sports and athletes 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in 11 languages. The Olympic Channel was launched in August 2016 in support of the IOC's goal, set out in Olympic Agenda 2020, of providing a new way to engage younger generations, fans and new audiences with the Olympic Movement. Founding Partners supporting the Olympic Channel are Worldwide TOP Partners Bridgestone, Toyota and Alibaba. The Olympic Channel is available worldwide at [olympicchannel.com](http://olympicchannel.com), its mobile apps and on Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Apple TV and the Roku platform.

### Social Media

For more information, please follow the Olympic Channel on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, or log on to [olympicchannel.com](http://olympicchannel.com).

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## THAILAND WELCOMES THE WORLD

BY ROWING & CANOEING ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND

The Rowing & Canoeing Association of Thailand (RCAT), trusted by the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) to host the 14th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships, will be held next month on 20-25 August 2019 in Pattaya-Rayong, Thailand.

It is the first time that Thailand will have close to 4,000 athletes in this competition from all around the world. RCAT is excited to be hosting a world-class water sports competition that will help promote the development of the sport as well as sports tourism in Thailand.

Admiral Chaiyarong Chareonrak, the president of RCAT added that, "to be the host of the 14th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships for the first time in Thailand, is a great opportunity for Thai rowing and paddling athletes to increase their experience to become a top athlete, including the opportunity for all Thai people to experience a world-class sporting event, using international standard management systems, to improve tourism, make income for the community in the area and create additional economic value and sustainable growth".

The 14th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships is an important step towards the development of the potential of Thai sports in line with their 6th National Sport Development Plan that focuses on developing the athlete in all types of rowing and paddling boat sports to an international standard; to encourage athletes to continuously participate in international competitions; to achieve success in

Asian and international competition; both in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games; to create the pride for Thai people and also include para athletes. It also promotes rowing and paddling boats to be more popular; to continue setting up the competitions in Thailand every year; to promote sports tourism; strengthen the sports industry in Thailand and create economic value to the country for sustainable growth.

Dragon Boat Long Sport is a sport that helps to develop the performance of people involved - including attitude, teamwork, creating fun, unity between groups and also helps the athlete to have the responsibility, to experience winning or losing. This attitude is something that every organisation or every society needs, so this sport should be a valuable tool for youth, organisations, and society to be ready to improve their country in the future.



*Admiral Chainarong Charoenruk, President of the Rowing & Canoeing Association of Thailand, and Mr. Mike Thomas, President of the International Dragon Boat Federation, signed the contract of agreement on 14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championships at the Royal Thai Navy Rowing and Canoeing Training Center in Rayong province on June 13rd, 2019.*

“

**IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THAILAND WILL HAVE  
CLOSE TO 4,000 ATHLETES IN THIS COMPETITION  
FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD**

”

# MACAO INTERNATIONAL 2019

BY DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION OF MACAO

The 2019 Macao International Dragon Boat Races is a three day event with the International Dragon Boat Invitational Tournament held on Friday 7 June, on the day of the 'Tuen Ng' Dragon Boat Festival.

The Chief Executive of Macao, Mr Chui Sai On, and other guests attended the event and presided over the awards ceremony.

In addition to the exciting dragon boat races on the day, this sporting event also combined the elements of sports, tourism and culture.

Local groups were invited to perform during the event and interact with the public and tourists. There were also cultural displays and stalls selling local cultural and creative products.

A variety of food stalls and performances also attracted the public and visitors to watch the events, celebrate the Dragon Boat festival and enjoy the festive atmosphere.



The awarding guests included Cui Shi'an, Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region; Zhang Rongshun, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region; Tan Junrong, Director of the Department of Social and Cultural Affairs; Chen Zewu, Member of the Executive Council; Mike Thomas, President of the International Dragon Boat Federation; Legislative Council Members: Huang Xianhui, Qiu Tingwei and Li Zhenyu; Sports Bureau Director Pan Yongquan; City Council Municipal Management Committee Chairman Dai Zuyi; Executive Public Service Director Gao Bingkun, and China Macao Dragon Boat Association President Lai Bailing.

## Opens Championship Finals

1. Thai national team - 1:53.114
2. South China Sea Jiujiang - 1:53.550
3. Aobo Jinxi - 1:54.954
4. Jiangmen Lile Wenchang Group (China)
5. Macao representative selection team
6. Hong Kong Dragon Boat Association of China

## Womens Championship Finals

1. South China Sea Jiujiang - 2:03.439 (eight years running)
2. Myanmar national team - 2:03.561
3. Thai national team - 2:05.271
4. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
5. Nanjing Institute of Information Technology
6. Singapore Nanyang Technological University

## College Championship Finals

1. University of Macau - 2:02.413
2. University of Kasset - 2:03.373
3. Tianjin Nankai University Binhai College - 2:03.797
4. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
5. Nanjing Institute of Information Technology
6. Singapore Nanyang Technological University



### About the Macao International Dragon Boat Races

- Festival dates: 1, 2 and 7 June 2019 (7th for international teams only)
- Location: Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre
- Organisers: Sports Bureau of Macao SAR Govt and Dragon Boat Association of Macao, China
- Co-organisers: Municipal Affairs Bureau; Macao Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau
- Distance: 500m
- Categories: Open, Womens and College students
- Dragon boats: standard (20s)
- Website: [http://www.macaodragonboat.com/en/sites/dragonboat\\_sp/2019/id/527](http://www.macaodragonboat.com/en/sites/dragonboat_sp/2019/id/527)

# PROFILE: KOREAN NATIONAL TEAM

BY KOREAN DRAGONBOAT ASSOCIATION

The Korean Dragon Boat Association will be sending their first ever national dragon boat team to next month's 14th IDBF World Championships in Thailand.

Being able to compete among the world's best means a lot to the team who come from all parts of Korea including Seoul, Busan and Daegeon.

The team has been undergoing rigorous and disciplined training leading up to the championships and have been competing in local regattas, winning gold and bringing home trophies from:



- Changwon International Dragon Boat Festival (Local Division)
- Busan Mayor's Cup Dragon Boat Races
- Incheon Ara Waterway International Dragon Boat Festival (Local Division)
- Seoul Han-river National Regatta

The team is excited about their big break into first-class international racing and are looking forward to the challenge.

# JDBA APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

BY JAPAN DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION

The Japan Dragon Boat Association (JDBA) recently appointed Ms. Rui Matsukawa as their new President on February 25th, 2019.

Past President, Madam Kiyoko Ono, was presented with the title Honorable President of the JDBA for her strong leadership and significant contribution to the development of the dragon boat sport in Japan.

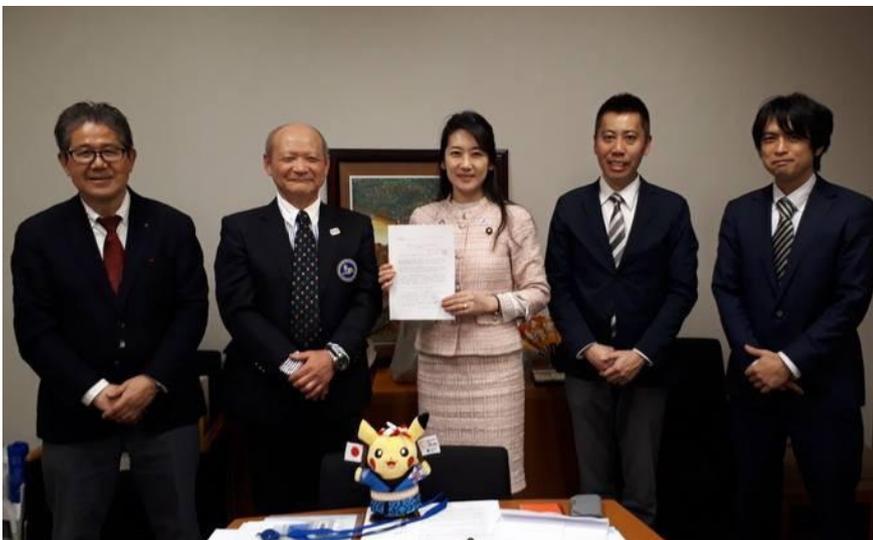
Ms. Rui Matsukawa is currently a Member of the House of Councilors (upper house of Japanese parliament) and has a BA in Law, University of Tokyo and MA School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.

She entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and retired from MOFA in February, 2016 after working at various posts such as

International Law Division, Asian Regional Cooperation Division, and Intelligence Department.

Ms. Rui Matsukawa is fluent in English and Korean.

JDBA is excited to have Ms. Rui Matsukawa on board to further develop the sport and JDBA.



*From left to right:  
Mr. Tatsuya Tani: Secretary-General of the JDBA  
Mr. Makoto Shobu: Vice Chairman of the JDBA  
Ms. Rui Matsukawa: President of the JDBA  
Mr. Shin Hasegawa: Chairman of the JDBA, and  
Mr. Sawada: Reporter of the Sankei Shinbun (in charge of Politics at the House of Representative in Tokyo).*

# 31ST JAPAN INTERNATIONAL

BY JAPAN DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION



"First Championship Race for our new President, Ms. Rui Matsukawa"

*From left to right:  
Ms. Angelina Ong (Singapore, IDBF Grade 4)  
Ms. Rui Matsukawa (JDBA President)  
Mr. Makoto Shobu (JDBA Vice Chairman, IDBF Grade 4), and  
Mr. Sadahiko Yata (JDBA Vice President).*

## About the Japan International Dragon Boat Races

- Sunday, July 14th 2019
- Venue: Okawa River at the centre of Osaka
- Distance: 250m only
- Entry: Total of 53 teams including Philippines and Hong Kong teams
- Category: Standard Open & Mix, Senior Mix, Women, Small Mix
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jpdba/>

# 18TH EDBF EUROPEAN CLUB CREW CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

BY EUROPEAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

The 18th EDBF European Club Crew Championships (ECCC) is less than a week away and will be held in the historic city of Seville, in the south-west corner of Spain between 25th – 28th July 2019.

Racing will take place on the River Guadalquivir at the CEAR La Cartuja, a specialised centre which has hosted many World and European rowing and canoeing championships.

The Championships will see in excess of 2,000 athletes from 73 clubs in 18 nations compete for the title of the top club in Europe.

This will be the biggest ECCC ever hosted and the EDBF is delighted that the sport of dragon boating is growing in Europe. We gladly welcome Georgia, a new member to the EDBF who will be attending their first EDBF Championships.



## European Cup

This year, the EDBF is trialling a new Euro Cup Series with the following events forming the '2019 Euro Cup':

1. Barcelona – 18-19/05/2019
2. ECCC, Seville – 25-28/07/2019
3. Nottingham – 21-22/09/2019
4. Belgrade – 27-28/09/2019
5. Rome – 19-20/10/2019

The idea is to run a series of dragon boat races in EDBF Member cities which have interesting tourist locations and offer professional levels of event organisation. Generally the Euro Cup races are being run along side existing established events, but the EDBF

will provide supervising race officials, communication support and provide EDBF medals. The overall winners of the Euro Cup will be a nation based on a point scoring system at each event with prizes presented at the annual EDBF Gala Dinner.

The concept behind the Euro Cup is a 'win win' for both the EDBF and the Organising Committee.

- It will give opportunities to the national federations to show case their events.
- Increase revenue.
- Re-launch the standard dragon boat class at club level.
- Provide youth development.
- Support EDBF Championships participation.



# UKRAINIAN DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY UKRAINIAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

The Ukrainian Dragon Boat Championship 2019 was recently held on 6-7 July in Kiev.

The Championship was preceded by numerous competitions in the regions with more than ten of the strongest crews from each of the areas represented in the National Championship.

The teams raced 200m, 500m, and 2000m in the class D-12.

The competition was very successful with many athletes, supporters and journalists at the event, further influencing the great development of dragon boating.

For the first time in Ukraine there was a live broadcast of the Championship by MostVideo.TV.

The event was also covered by many sports websites and national TV channels.



# IRISH DRAGON BOAT SEASON IN FULL SWING

BY IRISH DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION



Dragon boating in Ireland is going from strength to strength with two more clubs setting up in 2019. A warm welcome to Deise Buddies from Waterford and Slaney Purple Paddlers from Wexford. Dragon boating in Ireland covers the full 32 counties and has no north/south divide and we are pleased to say we now have dragon boat clubs in all regions.

## The Dragon Run 10km

This year the IDBA trialled a new event in March, The Dragon Run 10km in Carlow Town. This marathon pursuit race saw numerous dragon boats, kayaks and O1s battle it out on the River Barrow over the 4 x 2.5km course. There was a mass start for the O1s and kayaks followed by interval starts for each of the dragon boats. The event was designed to test the endurance skills of the paddlers as well as testing the ability of the dragon boat helms around the tight turns. The 2019 winning team were Kendra Warriors from Athy in a time of 53:25 minutes.

Dragon Boat season in Ireland is now in full swing with our annual events of the Athy Dragon Boat Regatta and the Barrow Dragon Boat Regatta proving the Irish teams are getting more competitive all the time. Although we do not always have the warmer temperatures that other countries have we are blessed with some very scenic race venues.



# PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

BY MIKE THOMAS OF IDBF



The 2019 Pan American Championship was held from 20th to 24th March at Pigeon Point Heritage Park, Tobago. The event saw 178 exciting races run across six divisions and four distances.

This is a small boat championship with the introduction of a new type of boat for ten paddlers, designed by Champion, which is suitable to race on the sea with swells.

The Pan American Dragon Boat Federation also held their Congress during the championship. Franco Sui Chong (pictured right) was elected as president to continue the wonderful work in developing our beloved sport the region. Congress has also confirmed that the next Pan American Championship will be held in Panama.



# ICE DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIP

BY MIKE THOMAS OF IDBF



International ICE Dragon Boat Federation's World Championship was held in Ottawa earlier this year. Although it was run in sub-zero temperature, the event was well attended and superbly run. Ottawa will be hosting the next festival in February 2020.

The future for Ice Dragon boat racing looks secure.



## Event statistics

Location: Dow's Lake, Ottawa Ontario  
Date: 8-9 February 2019  
Number of teams: 125  
Number of races: 55



International Ice Dragon Boat Federation

# 31ST CONCORD PACIFIC DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

BY DOMINIC LAI OF DRAGON BOAT BC

## Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival welcomes world to Vancouver for North America's flagship dragon boat festival.

The 31st Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival was held from June 21-23, 2019 in Vancouver, Canada. Approximately 5,500 racers from around the world enjoyed three days of competitive races on False Creek in Mixed, Women, Open, and Junior Mixed categories. In addition to the races, over 100,000 spectators enjoyed cultural programming featuring top Canadian artists, traditional Chinese performances and displays, and acrobatic shows that showcase Canada's multicultural diversity and heritage.

As always, the top divisions featured tight racing, with most finals seeing boats come in fractions of seconds apart from each other. The Festival's hotly contested Premier Mixed Grand Final saw False Creek Racing Canoe Club reclaim the top prize at the Festival for the first time since 2015. Mr. CaNoe returned to Vancouver and managed to fend off a strong challenge from local teams to reclaim the Premier Open gold medal by a margin of 1.7 seconds. Gorging Dragons 50+ Women won the gold in the Premier Women division. In the Junior Mixed division, Laoyam Eagles defended their gold medal in a tight race that saw the next four placements determined by under half a second.

This year, the racers ranged in age from 12-89 and included paddlers from all walks of life. The Festival's accessibility mandate ensures that all junior teams pay no entry fees to race at the Festival. Paddlers that face barriers to participation received subsidized entry fees, including teams comprised of refugees, LGBTQ2+ individuals, Indigenous peoples, cancer and medical teams.

In addition, the Festival's six charity partners had the opportunity to compete against each other on the water and online in a fundraising race for a \$5,000 gift from sponsor Concord Pacific to help fund their worthwhile community work.

Visitors enjoyed a live broadcast of the event on-site and carried online worldwide, allowing them to watch races while enjoying shows on the Main Stage as part of an effort to make the Festival accessible and engaging for the public. The Festival also featured a Taoist blessing ceremony and an Indigenous blessing and welcome, recognizing the ancient traditions behind dragon boat and the traditional territories of the Indigenous peoples on which the Festival was held.

Planning is already underway for next year's event, which promises to be bigger and better than in 2019.

The dates of June 19-21, 2020 have been selected for the Festival, and teams from around the world are invited to race in Vancouver next year in the spirit of culture, community, and competition.

Overseas teams enjoy complimentary registration, and teams from outside of Vancouver enjoy discounted registration rates. Email [info@dragonboatbc.ca](mailto:info@dragonboatbc.ca) for more information on registration and racer amenities.



# AUSDBF AND NZDBA SIGN MOU

BY OCEANIA DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

In a historic moment, Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF) and New Zealand Dragon Boat Association (NZDBA) signed a five year Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU). This would allow both countries to compete at each others National Championships on alternate years whereby they will be formally known as the Oceania Championships.

NZDBA hosted the first year of the MOU in April on the North Island at Lake Karapiro.

A picturesque location for a Championships which saw several Australian clubs travel across the ditch to compete.

The New Zealanders showed how competitive they are and their

unrivalled hospitality and friendship shone through in welcoming all those who attended (competitors and race officials).



# 24TH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY AUSTRALIAN DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION

The 24th Australian Championships were held in April over Easter in the Capital of Australia – Canberra.

Competition was fierce with many clubs focused on qualifying for CCWC 2020 in France.

Competitors were blessed with perfect weather over the five days of racing – sun, little wind and no rain.

AusDBF introduced live streaming and drone footage across the five days which was well received by competitors and supporters and even used by the race officials to view 2km racing!

Live results were trialled with competitors having the ability to log onto their phones to retrieve race results. The inclusion of technology is assisting to improve

the professionalism of the Australian Championships in the future.

Whilst this wasn't the largest Australian Championships by competitor numbers it certainly was by actual number of races.



## Australian Nationals - Snapshot

- 5 days of racing
- 335 programmed races
- 44.5 hours of racing
- 72 clubs competed
- 2,425 total competitors
- 904 crew lists processed
- 5,240 medals presented
- 100+ race officials and volunteers

