



國際龍舟聯合會 INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

'The World Governing Body of Dragon Boat Sport'

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Member of the General Association of International Sports Federations

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE DRAGON - A TRIBUTE TO JENNY - A VERY SPECIAL PADDLER

Jenny Petterson was a rare and special person, who became an inspiration to all those who met her and especially to her family and those who knew her throughout dragon boating.

Special in that Jenny fought her personal battle with Breast Cancer with true Aussie grit and determination, without complaint but with a multitude of smiles for over 12 years and showed others how to do the same.

Inspirational through her equally determined efforts to take on Dragon Boating at a high level of commitment and training, encouraging other 'pink ladies' to do the same. By leading from the front and never losing her sense of purpose and humour, even in her own darkest days, she helped others to fight their own Breast Cancer demons too.

My personal journey - albeit for afar, in learning about Jenny and her enthusiasm for life and all things Dragon Boating, came via an article from Michele Hanton in 2004, in which she told the story of Jenny's fight against Breast Cancer. I re-published the article in the IDBF Newsletter in April of that year as it illustrated not only what the Dragon Boat could do to support Breast Cancer sufferers but also what Jenny and the other Pink Paddlers could do and were doing too, for the wider development of Dragon Boat sport.

For the last five years I followed the Dragon Boat career of Jenny and her twin paddling sister Joanne, with interest and admiration and often quoted the involvement of Jenny in our sport as an example of what a determined person with Breast Cancer can do, when they put their mind to it.

To finally meet both Jenny and Jo during the 2008 Club Crew World Championships in Penang and give them a little hug, was the highlight of my trip and one in which no words were needed, just sharing a Dragon Boat moment together was enough.

I genuinely believed, on that day, that Jenny had won her fight with Breast Cancer. Sadly it was not to be, which makes the shock of losing her harder to understand and accept.

Jenny will be greatly missed by her family and all her friends and fellow paddlers but she would not want us to be sad on her behalf but would want us to celebrate her life and be happy that she lived it to the full.

So in closing this tribute to Jenny may I just raise a glass of sparkling Jenny humour and just say - "Good one Jenny ! Great to have known you, keep on paddling for all of us wherever you are, for surely a spirit such as yours can never truly die "

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