



**Medway Sunlight Rotary Club
2018 Dragon Boat Challenge
Sunday 27th May 2018**



Questions and Answers

We are sure that you will have a great time! – much of the information you are likely to need is in the Captains Pack but you may also find the following Q&As helpful.

- 1) When is it?** - SUNDAY 27TH MAY FROM 10 AM TO 4PM- racing starts at 10:30.
 - 2) Where is it?** - Basin 2, Chatham Maritime - on the right of the bridge as you drive over to St Mary's Island. The nearest postcode is ME4 3ER.
 - 3) Where can I park?** – limited parking is available – **Note: the parking at Colonial House used in previous years will not be available – its being knocked down! Further details on parking will be sent nearer to the day.**
 - 4) What else is going on over the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend?** - A 3 day Food and Drink Festival organised by Chatham Maritime Trust. This will include stalls with fine food and drink for sale, live music in the Bandstand and other attractions.
 - 5) What boats are being used?** - 40 foot Chinese war canoes provided by Dragon Boat Events Ltd, a professional company who run over 60 races a year for charities and other organisations including many Rotary Clubs.
 - 6) How many people in a team?** - Up to 16 plus a drummer in the boat – you can register up to 20 in the team to allow paddlers to rest between races if they wish. A professional helmsman will be in charge of each boat to keep them from crashing into each other! All safety equipment will be provided. A Team Registration and Waiver form is enclosed – fill it in if you can before the day and save time at the Registration Tent.
- Last year's successful Paddlers Pool will be in operation again– individuals can register on the day and we will introduce them to teams who are short of paddlers.
- 7) How many races does each team get?** - A minimum of 3 races during the event - the fastest timed teams will go on to a one race Final.
 - 8) Are there any prizes?** - Yes - Everyone entering will receive a certificate to commemorate them taking part; the first three teams will receive medals and the winner a trophy and of course the bragging rights as the 2018 Challenge Winners.
 - 9) Can we wear fancy dress?** - Teams are encouraged to wear fancy dress to make the event even more colourful. A prize will be awarded to the best dressed team in the opinion of the organisers. How will you make sure that the spectators know who you are? Just remember that you will also need to wear a buoyancy aid!
 - 10) Will there be anywhere to change?** - You are advised to come dressed for the event but why not put up a team gazebo in the Team Village – just reserve a spot with us. We cannot accept responsibility for secure storage of any personal effects.

Continued overleaf



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11) What are the sponsorship arrangements? – the event is in aid of the Rotary Club of Medway Sunlight Trust Fund which supports local and national charities such as ShelterBox, Cancer UK, Polio Plus etc. This year's main beneficiary is the Rotary Children's Hospice Holiday who take children from Demelza and Ellenor Hospices on a trip of a lifetime to EuroDisney. Teams are expected to raise at least £250 per boat to help us make a real difference in the community and we have ways of helping you do this.

A Sponsorship form is in the Captains Pack for your team members to seek sponsorship - further copies can be copied or downloaded from our website (see below) You can also, if you so wish, nominate a charity of your choice to receive 50% of your sponsorship which we will forward once all Gift Aid has been claimed.

We have also set up an event page on BT MyDonate for on-line giving if your supporters prefer it. Full details on setting up a linked page for your team are also included in the Captains Pack. A minimal card handling charge and gift-aid facilities makes this a very attractive way of promoting your team sponsorship.

12) Can teams help in any other way? – Yes! We will be running a Dragon Prize Draw again with some great prizes to be drawn at the end of the races. We will be sending you some tickets under separate cover for your paddlers to sell draw tickets to their friends and relatives as a way of raising your Team's target. Please return the counterfoils and money either before the weekend or when you register the team on race day.

Companies have been asked to donate prizes but any company either entering a team or unable to do so who wishes to support us is very welcome to donate a prize.

13) What other opportunities are available to teams? - Organisations entering teams will be able to take advertising space in the Challenge Programme and will be able to brand their boats at very competitive rates. In addition teams will be able to make and fly their own colourful team flag to add to the occasion. Further details on advertising opportunities are included in the Captains Pack.

14) Where can I get more information? From the following sources

www.medwaysunlightrotary.org.uk

www.facebook.com/chathammaritimefestival

www.dragonboatevents.com

or from Bill Parkinson on 07813 334683

Have Fun!