Thank you for expressing an interest in taking part in the Jersey Hospice Care Dragon Boat Festival taking place on Saturday 12 September.

Did you know that dragon boat racing – the colourful, competitive water sport started in China more than 2,000 years ago – has been rated the second most popular sport in the world?

It is estimated that around 40,000 people in 800 crews take part in dragon boat racing events throughout the world each year and it has even tipped for inclusion as a future Olympic sport.

A dragon boat is a spectacular 40-foot long canoe-like vessel with an ornately carved dragon’s head and tail. One person sits as a helm, keeping the boat in course with a giant paddle, while a drummer sits in the prow, beating out the time and 16 people, sitting in pairs do the paddling.

The challenge is not so much the paddling technique, but in trying to synchronise with the other paddlers in your boat.

With no experience needed – just loads of enthusiasm – the festival has become a fantastic event for groups of friends and colleagues, where you can expect to enjoy a fun day out with a great carnival atmosphere.

This will come as no surprise to the teams in Jersey who have taken part in the event before and look forward to the yearly dragon boat festival. Since 1997, thousands of people in Jersey have raced dragon boats and raised more than £700,000 for Jersey Hospice Care.

Our event is provided by Dragon Boat Events Ltd (www.dragonboatevents.com).

What to Expect on the Day

The Dragon Boat Festival isn’t just a sport – it’s almost a carnival event. Participating crews can enjoy a full day’s entertainment, including:

- Dragon boats and all related racing equipment
- A minimum of three races per crew
- Race commentary and musical entertainment
- Food and drink stalls, craft stalls and family entertainment
- Souvenir programme

The first race usually takes place at about 10:00, with the grand final scheduled for 16:00. At the end of the day, prizes will be awarded to the fastest team, two runners up and best fancy dress team.
**WHAT TO WEAR**

We suggest that the crew wear light clothing, which will dry quickly. Bring a towel and warm clothes to cover up as you will get wet! No heavy jeans, flip-flops or boots. Many teams like to wear fancy dress and there is a prize for the best dressed.

Life jackets are required and will be provided – please make sure they fit over your fancy dress outfit!

**DIRECTIONS**

Racing will take place at Albert Pier, St Helier.

All teams will be based on the balcony area of Albert Pier and have been allocated a space of 5 x 3 metres. You are welcome to bring along a corporate banner and a small gazebo if you wish. This can be organised for you – please tick the appropriate box on the registration form.

The four corporate and two community teams who have raised the most money for Jersey Hospice Care will be given a much sought after location in the arena, perfect for watching the races.

**DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL PROGRAMME**

An official programme will be published for the day and all teams are invited to include a submission. Please note that if you have not provided the organisers with your team name and submission by the deadline, you may not be listed in the programme.

**STAYING SAFE**

We hope that this event will be great fun but we need to remember health and safety requirements.

A professional dragon boat company manages the event. They will provide you with buoyancy aids, a professional helm and a full safety briefing. Please listen to and follow their instructions. In the interests of safety, a minimum age of 12 years and the ability to swim 50 metres is set for our competitors.

Whilst the organisers will not unreasonably restrict crewmembers from drinking in moderation, Dragon Boat Events Limited reserves the right to disqualify a single crewmember or even a whole team from the competition if, in the opinion of the chief marshal, they are unfit to paddle. In such cases, there will be absolutely no refund of entry fees.

We ask teams not to bring alcohol or bottles into the arena. You may pre-order team drinks with food as part of registration and will be delivered to the team in the morning. Please note that BBQs are not permitted inside the arena by order of the Harbour Master. Refreshments may be bought from the various food and drink stalls, which will be there on the day.
HOW MUCH DO WE NEED TO RAISE?

The registration fee secures your place and is non-refundable. There is an early bird discount for all entry forms received before 28 February 2020.

All teams taking part pledge to raise a minimum of £500 for Jersey Hospice Care. Donations can be made online via www.jerseyhospicecare.com or cash and cheques, made payable to Jersey Hospice Care Fundraising Limited, may be handed in on the day of the event.

The teams who have raised the most money for Jersey Hospice Care will be rewarded with a prime location on the day.

To help get you started, you will be sent a ‘Guide to Fundraising’, which you will receive when you register.

WHO WILL YOU BE HELPING?

Since our humble beginnings in early 1980s, Jersey Hospice Care has grown from offering home care services for patients with cancer and motor neurone disease to supporting adults with any terminal and life shortening conditions in 2014 – offering that care in any setting whether it is in hospital, at home or at Jersey Hospice Care.

We also care for children and young people with a life limiting or life threatening condition, ensuring that age, like diagnosis, is no longer a barrier to receiving palliative care.

Many people think that Jersey Hospice Care is about dying and are surprised when we tell them that our focus is all about living. Our highly skilled professional team of nurses and doctors, therapists and counsellors are dedicated to offering the highest standard of care to enable our patients with any life limiting illness to live life to the full and to die pain free, with dignity and in a place of their choosing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like any more information, you can get in touch with Jersey Hospice Cares’ Dragon Boat Festival Organiser, by emailing fundraising@jerseyhospicecare.com or call the Jersey Hospice Care Fundraising team on 510349.

Alternatively, please visit www.jerseyhospicecare.com.