

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

龙舟艺术节

龍舟藝術節

23rd September 2007

Families in the North East who support Durham Chinese School were treated to a late-summer spectacular on 23rd September. Historians claim that before football became the dominant sport of Tyneside and Wearside, the sport with most appeal was boat racing. Back then there was a rivalry between the Tyne and Wear every bit as fierce as that which now exists between supporters of football's premier league teams Newcastle and Sunderland. Some of this competitive edge may have been evident when, for the first time in its 5 year history Durham Chinese School entered teams for the now traditional Dragon Boat Festival held at Newburn on the banks of the River Tyne.

Well, if it was not already obvious, Durham Chinese School scored double and collected trophies for both the junior and senior events from the Lord Mayor of Newcastle. Energetic efforts for the trophies to be returned to Newcastle are expected next year. If not for the predominance of female rowers in the junior team especially, as well as the lack of an appropriate translation into Chinese, one might be tempted to say, "Haway the lads!?"

The dragon Boat festival is an ancient Chinese tradition. It is said to have its origins in a race held to mark the loyalty of a senior officer who gave up his life in order to advise the Emperor. It is now a popular water sport in Britain. The Chinese Arts Association is based in Newcastle upon Tyne and promotes Chinese Arts of all kinds in the North East of England.

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