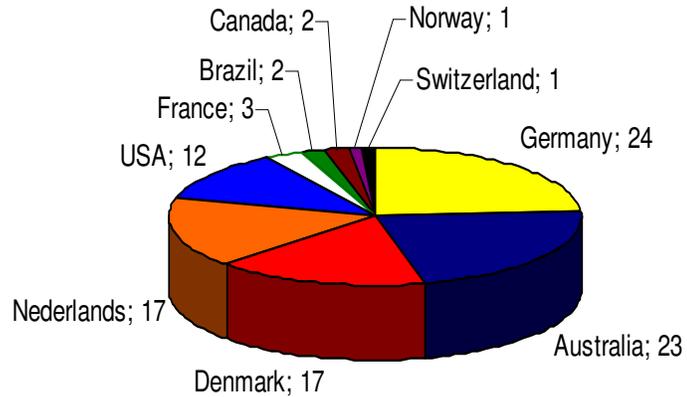


Dear rowing friend,

We just got an update on the number of registrations for the 2009 World Outgames. It's looking good - we are past the first hundred!

On the pie chart to the right you can see where people are coming from. Germany, Australia, the Netherlands and Denmark are all living up their reputations as strong rowing nations. The Americans have so far registered 12 rowers. France is just short of 1 crew member to put together a four or a quad. Besides USA, representing the Americas is Canada and Brazil, participating with 2 rowers each. Norway and Switzerland have also announced their participation with a rower each.



That's not bad for now, but **we want to see many more of you this summer!** We know Denmark is not the cheapest place on Earth to visit especially with the current economic situation, but we are trying to make the Outgames very worthwhile. If you do have any hesitations, tell us what they are and we will try and help you make it all doable.

You might be interested in knowing who "we" are, before coming. Well, let's just give you an idea of some of the people who are organising the rowing events at this year's World Outgames and how they are contributing to make this a very special event.



Inger Pors (chairwoman)

Inger is the person on the team with the most rowing experience. She is a double Olympian (Seoul 1988 & Atlanta 1996) and participated in numerous international events. She is still able to put most men to shame whether it is on the ergs or on the water. Inger is a mistress of many trades but currently works as a boat builder. She participated at the first World Outgames in Montreal in 2006. Here she randomly partnered with Leslie, a Canadian rower to enter in the Women's double scull, but since then the partnering with Leslie has been far from random...

Rune Gärtner (chairman)

Rune and his twin brother Uffe started rowing when they were 13. Rune has an incredible amount of energy and dedication. Where most people settle for just one job, Rune is happy to work as a medical doctor, naval officer, PhD student, porn star, drag queen... and besides that he is very active in both the gay and competitive rowing community in Denmark. He has been Captain of the competitive rowers in Danish Student Rowing Club (the largest rowing club in Scandinavia) for many years and in that connection supported many World and Olympic Champions.





Erik Koch Rasmussen

Erik has been rowing since 1985 and is one of the founders of the network of gay rowers in Denmark. He has been an active member of the Danish Student Rowing Club ever since including being a board member responsible for all the boats and equipment. Erik has also arranged numerous rowing trips and has chartered most waters in and around Denmark. Educated as a biologist he works with ecological and hydrodynamic models, which makes him the team's natural expert on all issues regarding the rowing course and harbour areas.

Adrian Tan

Adrian has been rowing since he was a pudgy 12 year old. Tough training throughout his junior years turned him into a lightweight rower. In 2006 he joined the national lightweight squad and participated in two World Cups. He did not qualify for the World Championships, so instead headed over to the World Outgames in Montreal and had a blast. He studied as a mechanical engineering, and now is desperately trying to finish his PhD. As he already spends most of his time in front of the computer anyway, Adrian takes care of most of the communication about rowing for the Outgames.



Anders Hay Sørensen

Anders joined the club in 2001. Although reluctant to admit it, he is one of the strongest guys on the team and a terror to sit next to in the ergs. Anders is also renowned for his singing and baking talents. His cakes and desserts are delicious works of art. A microbiologist by day and a party animal by night, he seemed to be the perfect choice for organising the rower's party at the Outgames!

Russel Bear

Russel is a wannabe team mascot. He has been tagging along the gay rowers ever since the Eurogames in Munich in 2004. Russel is very reliable and never lets anybody on the team down. No matter what mood you are in, he is always ready to give you a bear hug. He is a tad shy and does not say much, but always very curious to meet other rowers. Although he loves hanging out with rowers, he just wishes more bears would row...



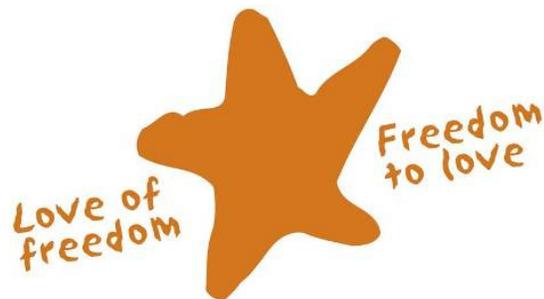
Now you know a little about who "we" are, **we would like to know a bit about who "you" are!** Please do tell us who you are, and how you are preparing for the races in Copenhagen. What are you looking forward to at the Outgames? What do you think will make rowing at the World Outgames the best event ever?

Share your thoughts with us and we will post it and share it with everybody else, so that the fun can start already now! ;-)

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Inger, Rune, Erik, Anders, Adrian & Russel



P.S. If anybody is in London on Sunday March 29th and would like to watch THE (Oxford and Cambridge) boat race (www.theboatrace.org), it appears that Adrian and a small party of local rowers will be heading out to Hammersmith to watch the race. Send a mail to rowing@copenhagen2009.org if you are keen on joining us.