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Message from Maria ...

Hi everyone

If you were in Sydney during the Chinese New Year celebrations last month you may have seen the dragon boat racing at Darling Harbour. As you may know, I enjoy the sport - everything from the adrenalin rush of a race to the camaraderie of being part of a team.



Our team ([Mavericks](#)) is made up of a variety of people from all walks of life. When we come together we not only have fun we're a high performing team.

Chinese New Year racing is always fun - the crowds add to the atmosphere. Here's a clip from one of the women's heats (we won this heat - in fact we won each of our heats!): [CNY women's heat](#)

This month's article which was inspired by the Chinese New Year celebrations - **Which boat are you in?** - looks at the attributes of a team and continues on from recent blog articles covering preferred behavioural traits of different team members.

[Infinite Growth's blog](#) is updated regularly with a new article posted each week. I've mentioned a few [below](#). Let me know your thoughts on the articles by either posting a comment on the blog post or by sending an [email](#) directly to me.

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey last month. We appreciate your feedback!

Infinite Growth is now on Facebook! Connect with us by clicking on the Facebook icon below.

Happy reading!
Maria



PS: Welcome to our new subscribers!

PSS: If you're interested in trying something new or would like more information about dragon boating, visit the Mavericks website at www.mavsdb.com.

Which boat are you in?

We're at Darling Harbour, Sydney and it's the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Five boats are lining up for a race.

Imagine the make-up of the boats being like this:

Boat	Behavioural Traits of Team	Outcome
1	Outgoing Each person likes to take the lead Results-driven	Everyone wants to be in charge but no one is willing to follow instructions
2	Generates enthusiasm Chatty Disorganised	A sociable group but not well organised
3	Works well with others Supportive Likes to be part of a group and not stand out	Everyone gets on well but no one is willing to take the lead
4	A systematic approach to the race Attention to detail Don't believe that they're fully prepared for the race	Each person is focused on the race but no one is willing to make any of the crucial decisions during the race
5	Clearly defined roles Focused on the race Supportive	A supportive team that is focused on the goal of winning the race

Then the starter says, '*Paddlers, are you ready?! Attention! Go!*'

The boats are off heading toward the finish line. People along the shore line are cheering them on ... the atmosphere is electric!

Which boat will work as a team to make it to the finish line first?

Each person in the dragon boat is a vital member of the team and without each individual doing their job to the best of their ability, the boat doesn't run well. The front three rows are the '*pacers*'. They set and maintain an appropriate rate for the team. Rows four to seven are the '*engine room*' and provide the power and strength to lift the boat on top of the water. The final three rows are the '*rockets*'. They need to give the final push as the boat moves through the water.

The *drummer* works closely with the *sweep*. They inspire and encourage the team. They assist the team to maintain focus in the chaos of the race.

The sweep has to captain the boat and get the team down the race line as smoothly as possible.

Your Team

The same goes for any working team. A team that works effectively together has a greater chance of achieving its goals.

Would you want your team members to all be like you? If they were, then your strengths would be highlighted and so would your areas of weakness. The (fictional) team members in the dragon boat race highlights this aspect of teamwork. No team functions effectively with the same characteristics throughout the group.

It's important in any team to utilise each individual's strengths which will ultimately benefit the team as a whole.

What is your role within your team? How does it relate to your team's goals? Is your team utilising the strengths of each of its team members?

Who in your team is the *pacemaker*, *engine room*, *rocket*, *drummer* or *sweep*?

Which boat are you in?

To comment on this article please click [here](#).

Recent blog posts

Feel free to provide us with your thoughts on these recent blog posts:

- [What are 'conscientious' behaviour traits?](#)
- [Do you show 'steadiness' behaviour traits?](#)
- [Working with 'influencing' people](#)
- [Dealing with dominant or direct behaviours](#)
- [Using DISC in your business](#)

[Contact us](#) with your suggestions for future topics or simply hit the reply key and send me an email.

Coming soon ...



Business Writing Skills online program is coming soon!

More details will follow shortly so stay tuned ...

Latest packages

Visit the Infinite Growth website or [contact us](#) for further information about our [latest packages](#):

- [Delivering Powerful Presentations](#)
- [Effective Business Writing](#)
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About Infinite Growth



Infinite Growth offers a range of professional development services in the areas of communication skills, leadership development, customer service, business writing and presentation skills to assist individuals and businesses to achieve their goals.

We empower individuals and teams to transform their communication skills so that they can deliver more efficient and effective services to their clients.

Contact us to find out how we can assist you.

If you know someone who could benefit from this newsletter feel free to forward it to them!

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