**SPRING IS HERE AT LAST: START OF THE SEASON FOR THE HOBBY DRAGON BOAT TEAM**

**The 26 Hobby employees couldn’t wait any longer: the season has finally begun for the dragon boat team “HOBBY DRAGONS” and their weekly training sessions have commenced. Twice a week, they’re taking to the water with their paddles to get themselves in shape for the upcoming competitions in August and September. The company sports group has active members from all areas of the business, from trainees and carpenters to department heads.**

Twice a week until the end of October, the dragon boat team “Hobby Dragons” will hone its paddling techniques on Lake Obereider in Büdelsdorf, near Rendsburg. Each training session lasts for one hour, regardless of whether the sun is shining or it’s pouring with rain. The company has its very own “HOBBY DRAGONS” dragon boat, which is black. The aim is to get the team in shape by the summer to make sure it does well at the upcoming competitions in Friedrichstadt, Rendsburg and Kiel.

The motley crew of rowers is continuously evolving and is always looking for new members from the Hobby workforce. “Anyone can join in, whether they’re young or old, male or female, a trainee or a master of their trade. A basic level of sporting ability is required, but simply enjoying dragon boat racing and having a team spirit is far more important,” says Team Manager Christian Pahl, who’s responsible for occupational safety at Hobby. To promote this team spirit, everyone gets together for a barbecue every Wednesday after training. A big party is also held at the end of the season.

The “Hobby Dragons” team has been around since 2012, and has been very successful from the very beginning. Year after year, the team takes one of the top spots in the various competitions in Schleswig-Holstein. Their most successful year was 2017, when the company sports group won every regatta and finished on the podium five times. This year, the “Hobby Dragons” will take part in three dragon boat races. First up is the Dragon Boat Festival in Friedrichstadt on
24 August, where the Hobby team hopes to come out on top once more.