



# WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

*PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT*

**Bulletin Number 34**

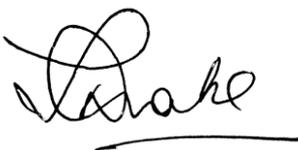
**November 2013**

I am pleased to send you our latest Bulletin. However, this issue includes some not so good news as well as some good news.

- Postponement of World Hovercraft Championships 2014 in Germany
- Possible 'World Cup' in 2014
- Changes to our Competition Regulations
- 2013 South Korean Event
- A new Member ~ China
- New WHF Facebook Group
- New Look Website
- WHF Secretary's new e-mail address

I hope it is interesting and you will find the time to read it.

Kind regards,



Tony M. Drake JP. President of the World Hovercraft Federation.

P.S. As usual this Bulletin will be circulated to as many people as possible but please pass it on to anyone who you think may be interested.

## **URGENT ~ Postponement of World Hovercraft Championships 2014.**

**Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control our planned World Hovercraft Championships have been postponed until 2015 ~ date and location etc., to be confirmed.**

By way of explanation, as of week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> October the Hoverclub of Germany and BGS Sport Event had everything in place in principle for our World Championships. This included agreement with sponsors, site owners and the Local Government.

Part of the agreement with the Local Government included a detailed submission of in depth calculations regarding predicated noise impact on the local community. These calculations indicated that the noise levels would be acceptable. A few days before the Local Government was to give their written permit for our Championships a local resident registered an objection on the grounds of noise impact from hovercraft racing. Although the German Hoverclub and BGS Sport Event are convinced that this objection will eventually be rejected by the Local Government there is no guarantee this would be the case. The issue is further compounded by the fact that the Local German Authority has coincidentally been dissolved and re-appointed and it will be sometime before their new organisation is fully in place and able to investigate issues around the local resident's noise objection. Without a formal written permit from the Local Government it is unsafe to proceed simply because of the financial loss that would follow if essential contracts that must to be put in place now have to be cancelled if the noise objection is subsequently upheld.

As I stated in my previous note this situation is in no way the fault of the German Hoverclub or BGS Sport Event. They both put in a tremendous effort and a huge number of hours into organising a World Hovercraft Championship in 2014 for us and I can assure you they are just as disappointed as we are that they have had to, very understandably, withdraw their bid.

## **Possible 'World Cup' 2014 Event in South Korea.**

As soon as we became aware that our World Championships in Germany were in danger of being cancelled we sought alternatives. I am pleased to say that South Korea offered to come to the rescue. Unfortunately, due to time constraints coupled with the fact that they have no major hovercraft event experience this was not possible. However, with Kent Gano ~ WHF Vice President USA and Paul Hibbard ~ WHF Vice President Asia's help we are urgently and actively discussing the possibility of a 'World Cup' style of event with South Korea at a different site to that used at a recent event there. (See an item reported below).

We will keep you informed if or when such an event develops.

## Postponement of 2014 WHF Delegate Meeting.

The postponement of the World Championships will mean that our next Board meeting will also be postponed. This will now take place in 2015 at the same time and place as the next World Championships. In the mean time if you have any items that you wish the WHF to discuss please pass these to your Countries Delegate for onward transmission to the WHF Secretary and, if appropriate, we will institute an e-mail discussion / resolution.

## Changes to Competition and Construction Rules.

As a result of the voting that took place earlier this year (2013) the results of which were circulated in July the following items will be changed or introduced into our regulations. As a reminder they are reproduced again below.

### Item 1. Scoring for Heats.

Any heats will be scored as follows:

Heat Position	Points	Heat Position	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	20	2 <sup>nd</sup>	18
3 <sup>rd</sup>	16	4 <sup>th</sup>	14
5 <sup>th</sup>	13	6 <sup>th</sup>	12
7 <sup>th</sup>	11	8 <sup>th</sup>	10
9 <sup>th</sup> and onward decreasing by 1			

This will only apply to any heats and **not** the final.

### Item 4. (D) Competent to Race.

At registration for the World Championships, the country issuing the license must be stated and also whether more or less than 5 races have been completed in the previous 24 months. If less than 5 races the organizers will inform the race director at the event (or drivers who have completed less than 5 races in the previous 24 months must inform the director) so that they can be observed during practice to ensure they are competent to race.

(If the race director is not satisfied that a driver is competent to race, this is already covered under rule: 2.1E).

### Item 6. Protective Equipment.

The following will be added to the Competition Regulations WHF001 4.2 -"It is **recommended** that drivers wear body armour (tested in accordance with BS EN 1621-1) and a back protector (tested in accordance with BS EN 1621-2)".

### **Item 7. Addition to Protest Procedure.**

The following will be added to the Protest Procedure: - "If a protest is lodged which will make a difference to any podium places (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>) then a Special Meeting of the WHF Board shall be convened **before** the presentation ceremony to decide the issue(s). The decision of this Special Board meeting will be final".

### **Item 8. Penalties for hitting course markers.**

No change will be made to Competition Regulations WHF001 rule 7.3.G.

The European Hovercraft Federation have enhanced their version of this rule with the following addition - "Drivers who hit course markers may be penalised by the removal of 1 point for each occurrence. Drivers who drive over or inside course markers may be penalised by the removal of 5 points. Up to the number of points gained in that race".

The WHF will defer a decision on this item until the end of the European 2013 racing season so that we have the benefit of seeing its effect in action. However, you should be aware that it may be introduced at short notice.

## **2013 South Korean Event**

Earlier this year our WHF President was approached by Simyoung Lee the CEO of IM Sports in South Korea with a request for assistance to help him organise the first ever hovercraft race meeting in South Korea. There was also a request to nominate top drivers from the WHF around the world. All the assistance that was asked for was willingly given. However, when it came to nominating drivers Simyoung Lee was referred to drivers who had take part in our last World Championships for him to make the choice. (It would have been quite inappropriate for us to have made any recommendations!) After careful consideration Simyoung Lee chose drivers from Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Slovakia, Sweden, UK and the USA.

To sum up the event included below is an extract from a letter that our President sent to Simyoung after the event:

"I understand that the hovercraft racing side of things did not go exactly to plan but hope this will not put you off arranging something similar in the future - maybe WHF drivers with their own craft. I understand from my colleagues that they were able to resolve most of the issues that occurred for you and to assist with the maintenance of your craft and to give some "master classes" to your future hovercraft drivers as well as doing some demonstration driving.

Having said all that the feed back I have had was it was a fantastic event and all our drivers admired your tremendous efforts and

hospitality. It was a most generous gesture from all the drivers to forgo the prize money and donate it to both your developing drivers and the WHF to assist visiting countries travel to our future events. I hope that many technical and personal friendships have developed as a result of your event and will continue long into the future. I do urge you to visit our next World Championship in 2014, or some other European event, hopefully with some of your drivers, to see the very best racing in the world - I just know it will inspire you all to develop hovercraft racing in South Korea".

We hope to receive an application from South Korea to become a member of the WHF and then for them to take a full part in our World Championships in the future.

### **China ~ A new member.**

A short while ago we received an application from China to become a member of the WHF and this application was placed before our Governing Board. We are pleased to tell you that the WHF Board Members voted in favour of accepting them. We have therefore informed China that they are accepted as a "provisional member" under clause C of Article 4 of our constitution. We are sure you will join in welcoming China as a member of the WHF and hope they will take an active part in our Championships and possibly bid for a World Championship in the future.

### **WHF Website ~ A New Look.**

For some time our webmaster, Cathy Godicheau, has been developing a new web site for us. Please take the time to have a look at it ~ it has a great new fresh look and will be a great asset to us in presenting ourselves to the world. We are indeed very lucky to have Cathy as our webmaster and we are very grateful to her.

### **New WHF Facebook Group.**

We are pleased to announce that an Official WHF Facebook Group has been set up for us. This is for people to discuss any WHF items including World Hovercraft Championship events (WHC's), changes to regulations etc. It is not designed to replace our usual decision making processes and formal proposals should still be sent through your Countries Representative to the WHF Secretary.

The site is already 'live' and off to a flying start with discussions on Juniors & Endurance racing. We hope you will be able to view it even if you are not a Facebook member at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1379444752292392/>

We are indebted to Conrad Beale (UK) for this initiative, and Conrad has kindly offered to administer it on our behalf.

## 2017 World Hovercraft Championships.

Although we have not yet held what will now be our 2015 World Hovercraft Championships now is the time for member countries to consider making a bid for 2017. It would be fair to say that the WHF will be looking to take our Championships outside of Europe but this will entirely depend on receiving suitable bids. If you are considering making a bid please register your interest or discuss it with our President or Secretary.

## WHF Secretary's new e-mail address.

The WHF Secretary has a new e-mail address. Christel Martens should now be contacted at [worldhovercraftfederation@kpnmail.nl](mailto:worldhovercraftfederation@kpnmail.nl) As a result of this change some WHF members e-mail addresses may have been accidentally deleted so if you become aware of anyone who normally receives this Bulletin but who has not done so please pass it to them with a request that they re-register their e-mail address with our Secretary).

## Use of Craft Log Books.

Again our Technical Director wishes to remind you that it is essential when entering a craft at WHF events in the future, that it has a Craft Registration Document (Scrutineering and Defect Record book) as defined in Craft Registration WHF014. Indeed we would strongly encourage that all our Member Countries adopt this important document so that we have one standard throughout the world.

## And Finally ~

As always please do discuss any of the above issues, or other matters that concern you, with your colleagues and your Countries Delegate. This way the WHF can take your views into account and develop for the future.

**For your information our Member Country Delegates are:**

Australia (2)	Peter Streader	<a href="mailto:peter.streader@ampegon.com">peter.streader@ampegon.com</a>
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China (0)	Qiaosheng Ma	<a href="mailto:zgtyqdcxh@126.com">zgtyqdcxh@126.com</a>
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Sweden (2)	Magnus Ivanoff	<a href="mailto:magnus@hovercraft.se">magnus@hovercraft.se</a>
USA (2)	Kent Gano	<a href="mailto:kentgano@bellsouth.net">kentgano@bellsouth.net</a>

(\*). number of votes each country has.

Please inform our Secretary, Christel Martens, if your country has made any changes.

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