



WORLD  
**HOVERCRAFT**  
FEDERATION

*PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT*

October 1999

### Election Results

The following people have been elected to the key central committee positions:

President: **Owen Ellis**, Australia, replacing Scott Brownlee, USA

Secretary/Treasurer: **Bob Rennick**, Canada, replacing Jim Lyne, UK

The in-coming Committee would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution Jim Lyne has made to the WHF since its inauguration in 1987. Although he has stepped down from the WHF, Jim continues as Secretary of the European Hovercraft Federation.

Other members of the WHF executive are:

Vice-President (Africa), **François Malan**

Vice-President (Americas), **Kent Gano**

Vice-President (Asia), **Danny Venn**

Vice-President (Europe), **Tony Drake**

### Profiles

**Owen Ellis:** Owen presently divides his time between Qantas Airways as a Boeing 747 Flight Engineer and as Principal of RevTech Australia, a small hovercraft development company. He was instrumental in setting up his local state club, the Hovercraft Club of Victoria, in 1969. He is the immediate past President of the Australian Hovercraft Federation and was Vice-President - Australasia of the World Hovercraft Federation until his election to the position of President. Owen's interest in hovercraft goes back to 1959, at the tender age of eight. He designed and constructed his first hovercraft in 1968. Since then, he has been continuously involved in small hovercraft design and development. Owen has competed in four World Hovercraft Championships and three US National Rallies. His present focus is the technical development of high performance sports hovercraft, particularly the application of advanced composites. Owen brings to this office extensive small hovercraft design and operating experience, as well as an understanding of the problems associated with international competition. He has a keen desire to extend and promote global hoversport.

**Bob Rennick:** Bob is the principal organiser of the Hovercraft Club of Canada and was its newsletter editor for over four years. For two years a member of the Board of Directors of the Hoverclub of America, Bob has extensive experience with the international hovercraft community which includes being one of the principal organisers of the prestigious Canadian Air Cushion Society Conferences held in Montreal, Canada in 1994 and 1998. Bob is the current US National FS Champion and he has competed in two World Hovercraft Championships and five different countries. Bob is fortunate to be able to communicate not only in English, but also in Italian and (sometimes!) in French. He has already established a good rapport with many of the WHF member clubs and he hopes to continue these relationships to bring the world hovercraft community closer together. His hovercraft interests extend beyond hovercraft racing into cruising and the light utility hovercraft industry.

In spite of the distances that separate the new President and Secretary, two face-to-face meetings have already been held. One in March-99 in Rome, Italy (hosted by the Hover Club di Roma), and the other in June-99 in Troy, USA (hosted by the Hover Club of America). Additionally, this past August, the WHF President had a visit with the Vice President (Europe) who is also the Chairman of the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain. These meetings, combined with the miracle of electronic mail, have been extremely fruitful in providing direction for the WHF into the new Millenium.

### **World Hovercraft Championships, 2000**

As you are probably aware, the Millennium 2000 World Hovercraft Championships (WHC) will be held in Weston Park, Shropshire, UK on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August. The Hovercraft Club of Great Britain (HCGB) made a successful bid for this event back in 1995 during the Portuguese WHC. The HCGB will shortly be issuing a Newsletter with advance information about the 2000 event.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the WHF rules that will be applied at this event. Please read over these rules and notify the WHF office if you have any questions. Please also ensure that copies of these rules are distributed to any of your clubs members that intend to compete at the Millenium 2000 World Hovercraft Championship. It is your responsibility to distribute these rules to your membership.

The Hovercraft Club of Great Britain has also proposed that a new formula be added to the 2000 races. This is Formula 25. A description of the HCGB F25 regulations is also included with this newsletter. This formula is proving quite popular in the UK and in several European countries. The HCGB are also proposing that competitors in Formula-J (junior hovercraft racers) be allowed to compete in Formula-J races using Formula 25 hovercraft. Enclosed with this bulletin is a voting form for the inclusion of F25 and for the modification of the Formula-J rules. Please respond to the WHF *as soon as possible* so that F25 will be a part of WHC-2000.

### **World Hovercraft Championships, 2002**

No country has yet made a bid for the *subsequent* World Championships which are scheduled to be held in 2002. WHF member clubs are encouraged to submit proposals to the WHF office as soon as possible. These will be scrutinized and then distributed to the WHF membership in preparation for voting at the WHF meeting next August in England.

## **Financial**

A number of our member clubs have yet to send in their membership dues. These dues are US\$20, which will carry your WHF membership through to the WHC 2000. You are reminded that *only clubs that are financial members of the WHF may compete in the World Hovercraft Championships*. Obviously the WHF has difficulty functioning efficiently without the necessary funds. *Please send your \$20US to the WHF office ASAP*. A new proposal on obtaining WHF fees will appear in the next WHF Bulletin.

## **WHF Achievement Award**

The WHF wishes to recognise individual achievement for the advancement of hovercraft on a global scale. We are looking for recommendations from the world-wide hovercraft community for the first recipient of this honour. At the end of this bulletin is a voting form where you can submit your recommendations for this award. A subsequent WHF bulletin will solicit votes for the selection of the winner.

## **WHF Technical Manager**

It has been determined that the WHF requires a Technical Manager to oversee the technical operations at the World Championships. Currently, all of the responsibilities concerning craft compliance falls upon the shoulders of the Race Director - an already overloaded individual. We are looking for recommendations from you for a suitable individual to fulfil this position. Please submit your selection on the voting form at the end of this bulletin.

## **International News Exchange**

A number of individuals from various clubs have expressed an interest in setting up an *International Hovercraft Journal* to provide for the exchange of information from the various hovercraft clubs. To this end, **Tim Pryor**, editor of the *Australian Hovercraft News*, has volunteered to be the editor of such a journal. To keep this as simple and as inexpensive as possible, Tim will edit the information that *you* provide and distribute it *electronically* (via the internet) to the various editors of the club magazines. It will then be up to the editors to provide a *World Hovercraft News* page within their magazines.

Please let us know whether you feel this is a worthwhile project and whether your club will participate in the dissemination of information. You can e-mail Tim at: [pryor@alpha.net.au](mailto:pryor@alpha.net.au) to let him know your ideas.

## **Aim of the World Hovercraft Federation**

Just to reiterate, the aim of the World Hovercraft Federation is to promote, encourage and stimulate the use of hovercraft for sport, competition and recreation globally and to act as the single and united collective body for all hovercraft clubs and associations world-wide. As a hovercraft enthusiast, this is your organisation. We welcome your feedback and input.

## WHF Contacts

### Executive Committee

#### President



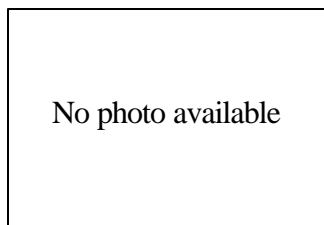
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## **Country Delegates**

These are the current delegates for each of the WHF member countries. If your name is listed here and you don't think it should be, then contact us immediately with the correct contact information. Aside from casting votes upon WHF decisions, the WHF delegates should be able to respond to requests for information concerning their national hovercraft clubs.

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## **WHF Voting Form**

Do you wish to have Formula-25 included as a World Championship Formula?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Do you wish to allow Formula Junior competitors to compete using Formula-25 hovercraft at the World Championships?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Who do you wish to recommend for the WHF Achievement Award and why?

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Who do you wish to recommend for the position of WHF Technical Manager?

(Please, do not nominate someone who is not a willing subject)

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Please respond to the WHF before December 31, 1999. You can reply via post to:

**World Hovercraft Federation  
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via fax to: **+1 (613) 445-3139**

or better still, via e-mail to: **bob\_rennick@hotmail.com**

Results will be announced in the next WHF Bulletin.

Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_