



WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

Bulletin Number 15

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This Bulletin is a review of the recent World Championships at Lac du Tolerme in France together with some of the major points that were agreed at the Board meeting that followed. It will be circulated to as many people as possible but please pass it on to anyone who you think may be interested. The formal minutes of the Board meeting will be circulated to all competitors and to Country Representatives,

If you have any comments arising from the Bulletin or minutes please direct them to your Representative who will raise them with the WHF Secretary. In this way we can be more structured with our communications and keep everyone informed.

There is much to be discussed and decided in the next 12 months and this will be conducted by e-mail. If you are consulted on a particular subject and wish to have your views considered please do reply in the shortest time possible.

Please help your Representative and WHF Board give you the WHF you want by fully participating.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Drake', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Tony Drake JP. President of the World Hovercraft Federation

World Championships France 2006:

- Jean-Pierre Godicheau, President, and members of Club Anjou together with the local Mayor and the Chairman of the local community, which embraces Lac du Tolerme, are to be congratulated on hosting one of the largest Hovercraft World Championships ever held. On behalf of all the competitors and their supporters the WHF sincerely thank them
- We now have our new World Champions and we salute them. They are as follows:

ER

1. Team Gifford	GB
2. Lallier Delorme	F
3. Team Dinosaur	GB

Formula Junior

1. Jess Lucas	GB
2. Filip Hall	S
3. Colin Foster	GB

Formula 25

1. Rachael Gifford	GB
2. Chris Barczynsky Sr.	C
3. Matthew Gifford	GB

Formula 50

1. Fabien Santoulangué	F
2. Conrad Beale	GB
3. Mark Talbott	GB

Formula 3

1. John Bucknall	GB
2. Nick Long	GB
3. Barry Staples	GB

Formula S

1. Daniël Tibault	F
2. Patrick Godicheau	F
3. Jos Vanderhoven	B

Formula 2

1. Chris Barczynski Jr.	C
2. Scott Tilley	GB
3. Bryan White	GB

Formula 1

1. Paul Hibbard	GB
2. Michele Scanavino	I
3. Daniël Turnbull	GB

- The French organizers courageously accepted the challenge of organizing the first Endurance Race (ER). This experiment was a great success with over 19 teams taking part. It was won by Team Gifford representing Great Britain. It was fully anticipated that in the light of this experiment that changes for future events would be necessary and a full review and consultation will take place over the next few months. The WHF Board meeting fully endorsed the development and inclusion, where ever possible, of ER at future World Championships.

The WHF Award for Excellence:

- The 2006 WHF Award for Excellence was made to Jean-Pierre Godicheau, President of Club Anjou during the presentation ceremony at the World Championships. The reason for the award was that he has been the mastermind behind organising not one, not two but three World Championships in France Each quite different and unique.

Change of Officers:

- Two of our longer serving officers decided not to seek re-election they were our Technical Director, Bob Rennick and our Vice President (Asia) Owen Ellis, Owen being a former President. Both have been exceptional in their dedication and enthusiasm which has played a very major part in making our organization what it is today. Bob has been succeeded by Jean-Francois Berry while Owen's former post remains vacant.

Future World Championships:

- The Board meeting agreed that the interval between World Championships shall remain at 2 years.
- Norway gave a presentation to the Board meeting which was most promising. In the light of some changes to the WHF regulations Norway has requested a further 6 months to re-consider their bid.. They were given an indication that, subject to some minor alterations, such as the use of international hovercraft marshals and their willingness to continue, that their bid would be accepted.
- As Mauritius was not at the meeting they will be invited to make a bid for a future event.

Specialized hovercraft marshals:

- In order to improve the safety and control of WHF events it as been decided to compile a register of suitable marshals and officials from principally European Clubs. Michael Rausch will be co-ordinating this and will shortly be approaching Clubs for their recommendations. Marshals and officials will be selected for both their marshalling expertise and inter-personal skills. Apart from marshalling at events they will be asked to train marshals provided by host countries. In this way we can increase the standard of our sport world wide.

Web Master:

- The WHF has a new web master. Cathy Godicheau has agreed to take job this over from Bob Rennick. The change over will take place shortly so if you are asked please give Cathy all the help you can.

Changes to WHF Regulations:

- So that everyone has plenty of time to prepare for World Championships the WHF Board has agreed that no rule changes will be allowed 12 months before any World Federation Event, except for safety and security reasons.

The next few months:

- The next few months will be busy for country Representatives and WHF Board members. AND it will be your opportunity to influence the direction of the WHF. If you are invited to join a working party or for you views please, please do respond or alternatively politely decline and we will ask someone else. It is essential that we move forward fairly quickly if we are to modify any of our rules that need changing before the 12 month deadline reported above.

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