



WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

Number 8

December 2003

A message from the President.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

After the frenetic activity last year with the World Championships in America this year, on the surface, seems to have been very quiet but I can assure you your Governing Board have been very busy behind the scenes dealing with many issues and liaising with the organizers of the next Championships.

It will be great to all get together again in September and I look forward to seeing you once more.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Tony Drake'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Tony Drake JP. President of the World Hovercraft Federation

World Hovercraft Championships, 2004

Christel Martens our secretary, Bob Rennick our Technical Director, Owen Ellis Our Vice President for Asia and I visited Berlin, Germany, to meet with the organizers and to view the course for the Championships in 2004. We arranged our visit to coincide with a European Hovercraft Federation race meeting, which was taking place so that we could see everything in action. I have to say it all looks fantastic. The racecourse is spectacular to say the least and the entire supporting infrastructure looks impressive. Please take the time to have a look at their official website for the event, it can be found at www.whc2004.com The site will be fully operational in the new year.

World Hovercraft Championships, 2006

Unfortunately, the Malaysian delegation that attended the WHF meeting held in Terre Haute in September 2002 have been unable to put together the required elements to stage the 2006 World Hovercraft Championships. Consequently, this left the 2006 WHC open. In response to this, a team from Japan led by Mitsuo Yamashita has stepped forward and is currently preparing a proposal to hold the 2006 Championships. WHF Technical Director, Bob Rennick will be working with the Japanese group to assemble their bid. They are already keenly soliciting sponsorship for the event and scouting race sites appropriate to a World Championship. A full description of the Japanese bid to stage the 2006 World Hovercraft Championship will be distributed to the WHF early in the New Year.

World Hovercraft Championships, 2008

Mauritius is thinking of making a bid to host the 2008 World Hovercraft Championship. We hope that Mr. Scherrer will be able to visit the next WHC in Berlin to get a good impression and full understanding of what is involved. He has already spoken to the government in his country.

New Vice President for Africa

Mr Siegi Scherrer has been approved by the members of the WHF to be come our Vice President for Africa. His contact details are as follows:

Mr S Scherrer
The Light Hovercraft Club
Musee de L'Automobile et du Transport Co Ltd
Fleury sur mer
Trou aux Biches
MAURITIUS

E-mail hovercraft@intnet.mu

Welcome to our New Members

Name Hovercrafting Club Lebanon
Contact person Houssam Chamseddine
Address P.O.Box 113
6967 Beirut
Lebanon
Email Houssam@leb.net

and

Name First One Hovercraft Club of Indonesia
Contact person Soegiarto Soejatono
Address Jl: HOS Cokroaminoto 22
jakarata – pusat, 10350
Indonesia
Email alista@link.net.id

WHF Web Page

If you have any upcoming announcements that you feel should be included in either the WHF Bulletin or placed upon the WHF web page, please contact the WHF secretary via email at worldhovercraftfederation@planet.nl

Help needed

Your WHF secretary needs help to get in touch again with:

Alvaro Munoz – Spain

Halil Topal – Turkey

Kerry Workman – New Zealand

I would be very pleased if you could give me their new e-mail address or any other way to get in touch again.

Items for discussion via e-mail

1. You may recall that in the last bulletin there was an issue raised by Great Britain as to the frequency of our World Championships. In view of the limited response we can only assume that the present arrangement to hold a Championship every two years seems to be satisfactory to the vast majority of our member countries.
2. For discussion please. There has been a suggestion made by our Vice President for Asia, Owen Ellis, that the format of Formula 25 races in our Championships should be changed from the traditional multi short races to a reduced number of longer may be endurance / team style races. The following is a précis of Owen's suggestion:-

Endurance racing:

I feel that the World Hoversport needs to look at alternative formats to the standard sprint formula.

Such a class has the capability of getting a lot more people involved and shifts the emphasis away from absolute performance to focus on reliability, durability and economy.

A few random points:

F25 would be an ideal class to convert since so many of its requirements would suit Endurance racing.

Endurance racing has the capacity to accommodate new classes in the future (ie.F35) and to easily expand the format (longer races, more drivers, etc.)

From a public relations point of view (for the future) the E in Fe could also represent Economy, Ecology and Environment

I suggest that introduction should be implemented ASAP. If possible for WHC2004

A very simple format is suggested

2 one-hour races

Staged on the first and second day (keeping last day free for other formula racing and finals)

Two pilots say from the one country

Each pilot required to drive a minimum of one lap

Maybe no refuelling (increased safety) Or a designated number of compulsory pit stops.

Le Mans type start, with engine off- to add a little theatre.

The races could be staged "off peak" to avoid boring the spectators

It is true to say that some comments have already been received some for the suggestion and some against. It is an interesting proposition and one we would like your comments on. If we wish it is certainly feasible to introduce the suggested format in the Championships in Germany in 2004.