



WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

Minutes of the World Hovercraft Federation meeting, 10:00 am Monday, September 23rd at Terre Haute, USA

Present:

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| Shafee Abu Bakar, Malaysia | Kazutoyo Matsuda, Japan, WHF VP, Asia |
| Ahmad Afandi, Malaysia | Michael Metzner, Germany |
| Roger Allman, Great Britain | Abu Raihan, Malaysia |
| Waltraud Blank, Germany | Bob Rennick, Canada, WHF Sec/Treasurer |
| Don Boll, U.S.A. | Ralf Ritter, Germany |
| Scott Brownlee, U.S.A. | Kiyoharu Saito, Japan |
| Terry Chapman, U.S.A. | Cecil Scalf, U.S.A. |
| Tony Drake, Great Britain WHF VP, Europe | Al Snyder, U.S.A. |
| Owen Ellis, Australia, WHF President | Gayle Spedding, Great Britain |
| Chris Fitzgerald, U.S.A. | Jonathan Spedding, Great Britain |
| Dave Galka, U.S.A. | Daniel Turnbull, Great Britain |
| Kent Gano, U.S.A. WHF VP, Americas | Nikki Turnbull, Great Britain |
| Masutomo Goto, Japan | Dan Wakeland, U.S.A. |
| Michael Loyol, Germany | Hans Westerberg, Sweden |
| Henk Martens, Netherlands | Bob Windt, U.S.A. |
| Christel Martens, Netherlands | |

The Belgium Hovercraft Federation sent their regrets and requested in writing to be represented by Christel Martens. The Italian Hovercraft Federation also sent their regrets and instructed the secretary how they wanted to vote for the next WHC. The French Federation also sent along their regrets.

00.01 President's Message

Owen Ellis opened the meeting and welcomed all of the representatives present and thanked them for staying on this Monday morning to attend the meeting. He then took the opportunity to thank Christopher Fitzgerald and the Hovercraft Club of America for hosting a successful World Championship.

President Ellis described the various changes to the organisation that had taken place over the past two years; he thanked the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain for providing the WHF web site;

described the addition of a new WHF logo; the adding of the EHF President to the WHF Board of Directors; the WHF Excellence Award; the World Champion Certificates.

00.02 Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported upon the growth of the WHF and remarked about the global interest in hoversport. Several new countries have expressed interest in joining the WHF and the secretary took the opportunity to welcome Malaysian Hovercraft Federation to the WHF.

00.03 Financial Report

The Secretary apologised for not having a written report for distribution. He reported that as of the end of August 2002 the WHF had \$403.87 (US funds) in the bank. There were two unsuccessful protests lodged at the WHC adding \$40. In addition, it was estimated that 71-hovercraft were registered for the racing event bringing in \$2 per craft for an additional \$142 for a total of \$585.87 as of this date. WHF shirt sales were continuing and this total will increase. Expenses yet to be deducted include some mailing and telephone costs.

Christel Martens asked the Secretary to clarify the new \$2 fee and she suggested that the fee of \$2 per craft be increased to \$5 per craft and all present agreed.

It was recognised that the primary cost to the WHF was in postage so it was decided that all WHF documents be distributed electronically. If a hard copy of any item was requested then the requestor will be charged \$5US for this service.

It should also be noted that Revtech Australia donated over \$300US worth of official WHF Shirts to start things rolling with Corporate Sponsorship of the WHF. It is hoped that other hovercraft businesses will continue with this financial support of the Federation.

00.04 Current Business

Catch Fencing

Henk Martens was asked to report upon the Catch Fencing design he had been working on together with Barry Oakley. Daniel Turnbull asked Henk to describe the system and Henk replied. Henk added that testing will continue and he will be reporting back to the WHF very soon.

Racing Regulation Change

The secretary reported upon an incident at the WHC whereby a competitor, already out of the race, took it upon himself to aid a corner marshal with flagging. This led to a protest by another competitor. There was a short discussion about the incident. As the WHF has no specific rules regarding this type of situation Gayle Spedding was asked to write up an appropriate set of regulations that could be incorporated into the WHF regulations. Gayle will report back to the secretary.

F25 Regulation Change

The WHF was asked to vote upon a change to the Formula 25 regulations. A simplified set of these had been circulated previously by the WHF secretary. The vote was carried in favour of the new regulations.

Technical Representative

The WHF was asked to vote to create the new Technical Director position. The vote was in favour of the creation of this new position.

Time Trial Format

There was some discussion concerning the format for time trials. The Hovercraft Club of Great Britain will supply to the WHF secretary their standard method of running time trials and have requested that the WHF adopt this process.

How to run a World Championship

Chris Fitzgerald produced a binder that held all of his notes upon how he put together the 2002 World Hovercraft Championship. Chris has offered to consolidate these notes into a single document and make this available to all future organisers of World Hovercraft Championships.

00.05 Constitution Changes

Due to the new WHF financing scheme, Article 5C (“Annual membership subscriptions are due upon acceptance of membership by the Governing Board.”) was deleted.

With the introduction of the Technical Director position, Article 9D-E “Technical Director” was added.

00.06 Proposal to change frequency of WHC

The Secretary brought forth an issue first raised to him by Tony Drake whereby it was suggested to change the frequency of World Championships from every 2-years to every 3-years. Tony announced that he didn't mean this as a formal proposal but only a point of discussion. A short discussion did ensue but it was agreed to leave the frequency at every 2-years.

00.07 Election of Officers

President

There were two nominations, Tony Drake, Great Britain and Christopher Fitzgerald, U.S.A.. The successful candidate was **Tony Drake**.

Secretary/Treasurer

There was only one nomination, **Christel Martens**, Holland. Christel will take on the Treasurer job as well – but only if she can obtain a local US dollar bank account.

Vice President, Europe

There was only one nomination: **Magnus Ivanoff**, Sweden. Whilst Magnus was not present, the general consensus was that he would happily accept the nomination and would do a good job in this position.

Vice President, Americas

There was only one nomination, **Kent Gano**, U.S.A..

Vice President, Africa

As there was no representation on hand from this region it was suggested by Tony Drake that the position be left vacant. All agreed.

Vice President, Asia

There were three nominations for this position, Dato' Seri Aseh Hj Che Mat, Malaysia, Mitsuo Yamashita, Japan and Owen Ellis, Australia. After two rounds of voting, the WHF selected **Owen Ellis**.

Technical Director

There was only one nomination for this position, **Bob Rennick**, Canada.

00.08 2004 World Championships

There were two proposals presented to the WHF: one by Chris Fitzgerald to hold the 2004 WHC in Canberra, Australia and another by Ralf Ritter to hold the event in Berlin, Germany.

Chris had previously submitted several documents supporting the Canberra bid and these had been reproduced in the last WHF Bulletin. He expanded upon these documents including a promise from Australia's Royal Aeronautical Society to aid in the organisation. Chris added that he had successfully put together the Terre Haute races and said he would like to continue that success in his native Australia. He noted that it was of prime importance to hold the 2004 race in Canberra to mark the 40th Anniversary of the World's First Hovercraft Race held there on Lake Burley Griffin in 1964.

Ralf Ritter, together with English translation provided by Michael Metzner, distributed a full colour document – complete with CD-ROM – describing the Berlin-Hoppegarten and European Championship races that were held there in 2002. Ralf read from a prepared statement describing the Hoppegarten and the German Hovercraft Federation's decision to bid for the 2004 WHC. In addition he spoke of existing commercial support and asked for WHF support as well. He then fielded questions from those present concerning the Hoppegarten. Michael subsequently added how the race circuit was purpose built for hovercraft and not an adapted circuit. Several of those present added that the EHF meeting went very well and was smoothly organized.

Chris asked if he could add additional information to his Canberra presentation. He mentioned that WHF President Ellis and Secretary Rennick had both visited the proposed Canberra race site and solicited their opinions. Both were complimentary to the location and Ellis took the opportunity to describe the area to those gathered.

At this time a vote was held and it was decided that the 2004 World Hovercraft Championships would be held in **Berlin, Germany**.

00.09 2006 World Hovercraft Championships

A delegation from Malaysia consisting of Shafee Abu Bakar, Abu Raihan and Ahmad Afandi made a verbal presentation to the members gathered expressing their national club's interest in staging the 2006 WHC. While they hoped to leave with confirmation of the 2006 event, concern was expressed by several present that the Malaysians had little or no experience with hovercraft racing. The delegation agreed that they had little experience and asked that the WHF provide them with the knowledge they would need. Another concern brought forward was that other countries had expressed a verbal interest in the 2006 event and should be given a fair chance at obtaining the WHC. With this in mind, it was decided to ask the Malaysian delegation to come back within three months to the WHF with a written proposal for staging the 2006 event. The WHF would also ask that any other interested countries also submit a written proposal within this time frame. These would then be distributed to the WHF membership and voted upon giving

a firm decision for the location of the 2006 WHC by March 2003. The Malaysian delegation agreed with this proposal.

The meeting was closed at 12:10 pm.