



Minutes from the WHF meeting in Saalburg, 2018

Forward:

Following on from a very successful World hovercraft championships, please find attached the meeting minutes from Saalburg. I would like to congratulate all the new champions as well as all who competed and also Manuel and Jessica Metzner for organising them.

I hope you like the new way of sending out the news letters and communications, if you have any questions or anything else, please contact me.

Best regards,

Sacha Rouchier
WHF Secretary

Notice of meeting:

Location: World Hovercraft Championships (WHC) Race Site, Saalburg.

Date: 6th of September 2018, 18.00

Agenda:

1. Welcome by President

Welcome to the 15th World Federation formal Board meeting. I apologise for change in meeting date which was scheduled for Monday next, but this was in response to many delegates wishing to leave Sunday night after prize giving. However, should any remaining appeals that need to be decided by the WHF Board arise then a special Board meeting on Sunday for that purpose will be convened before prize giving.

Our Board meetings comprise our elected officers and two delegates appointed from each of our member countries. However, providing we can have an orderly meeting all are welcome, but I would ask that only official country delegates speak otherwise we will be here until racing starts tomorrow.

2. Apologies for absence and to note Delegates in attendance.

Christel & Henk Martens ~ Holland.

John Gifford ~ Director of Endurance Racing.

3. Presidents report.

First and foremost a huge and well deserved thank you to Jessica and Manuel Metzner, their supporting team, their sponsors and to the German Hover Club for coming to the rescue when it became necessary to withdraw from the Chinese bid to hold these World Championships. I think everyone will join me in wishing them and their team every success in organising a great Championship in such very demanding and constantly changing circumstances. Without their help we would not have had a World Championship this or possibly next year.

I am normally very upbeat in my reports to you but this time I am a little more cautious. It seems to me that our sport may be starting to stall. As you will have noticed from the craft registration for these World Championships entries are extremely low and some classifications have had to be withdrawn. To help minimise the financial implications for the event but more importantly to ensure the event is as impressive and spectacular as possible for both public and sponsors our host organizers have decided to 'compress' the racing programme into four days. We realise that this decision, if known earlier, may have affected your original travel arrangements but hope you will understand why it has been made. Unfortunately, it was not possible to announce the decision earlier until registration had closed and great efforts had been made to encourage more entries.

The EHF also have serious issues. The problems in Europe seem to be many and varied. France has lost it's only two main sites and I know despite searching long and hard have not been able to find replacements yet. Environmental issues in Germany, particularly noise, have impacted greatly on the availability of sites. I know that Italy has been investigating sites for national and international racing and possibly a World Championship but so far without success so that is why they have diversified into H2H, Head to Head racing, as an alternative that least promotes the sport and keeps it alive in Italy.

Endurance Racing, ER, is a big disappointment. Latterly the WHF has been faced with accepting World Hovercraft Championship bids without ER or not holding a Championship at all. An unenviable choice but it has always been decided to go with what's on offer rather than none at all! It was always intended that ER would form an integral part of any World Championship and maybe we should now make it compulsory as part of any World Championship bid. Although difficult we should be striving to make our World Championships a big and special event embracing all aspects of hovercrafting and not simply major formula racing which very much mirrors what happens in Europe and member countries. We must make our World Championships something special!

For the past twelve months or so I have been trying to identify potential hosts for the 2020 Championships but so far, no success ~ if you can put any pressure on any country for me that would be more than helpful. I know it has been discussed in the past but maybe now is the time to consider again the gaps between our Championships. Should it be extended to at least three years or possibly four, coupled with a requirement that the organizer be given at least two and a half years notice that they have been selected which would give both them and participants time to plan and organize properly. This will be even more important when we take our World Championships outside Europe which one day in the near future we must do to justify the name World Championships.

I said earlier that it was very disappointing to have to withdraw from the Chinese bid at a comparatively late stage. It was personally disappointing to me as I have spent many, many weeks on the project with several hundred emails, letters and countless telephone calls with the Chinese Hover Club, their sponsors and the Chinese Embassy etc. I also know that Paul Hibbard, our Vice President for Asia gave many hours too. Always the optimist I am hopeful that in the not too distant future we will be racing and cruising in China. They are still in positive contact and I received a communication from the Chinese Hoverclub a few days ago updating me with their current plans to build a permanent race site suitable for international and world events. I am convinced that one day we will be racing there thus making us a truly World Hovercraft Federation.

I said at the beginning of my report to you that our sport may be starting to stall. When I look around our member countries I see a declining number of drivers in most. We are all getting older and do not, in many instances, seem to be attracting more and younger drivers. This is something we can all help with. To get things moving forward again we all at every opportunity must promote our sport more. If you have any ideas that are working for your Clubs', please, please do share them with us. For example, I know that some members of the HCGF are promoting more female drivers through a "Women in Sport" national initiative and you will have no doubt noticed them in the paddock today. There must be many more ideas in our Federation that could be shared and tried.

I would like to conclude my report with just a few 'thank you's':

To my Vice Presidents and Directors for their constant advice and encouragement.

To our Secretary & Treasurer, Sacha Rouchier, who volunteered to take on the role at our last meeting not really knowing what he had let himself in for.

And finally, my thanks to Cathy Godicheau, our web mistress. I know that our website is sometimes out of date but that is not, I repeat not, Cathy's fault. It is those, and I apologise I am one of them, that do not keep Cathy as up to date as we should.

Thank you. That ends my report. I will take just a few questions if you have any before we move to the next item.

4. Election of Officers:

President. (Tony Drake is prepared to stand if no-one else is proposed).
Secretary & Treasurer. (Currently Sacha Rouchier).
Vice President – Europe. (Currently Magnus Ivanoff).
Vice President – Americas. (Currently Kent Gano).
Vice President – Asia. (Paul Hibbard).
Vice President – Africa. (Vacant).
Technical Director. (Currently James Lewendon).
Director of Endurance Racing. (Currently John Gifford).

All existing officers unanimously re-elected for another term.

5. To formally adopt WHF Rules for Electric Hovercraft Systems.

As all Country Delegates had not studied the proposals in detail this matter will be re-circulated and put to an email vote. This will be published within two weeks of this meeting and the vote will close by the 31st of October. Any non-votes will be assumed to be in favour of adoption.

6. To consider thrust limit for Formula Juniors. (Item raised for consideration at last Board meeting - It was agreed that the WHF will look to see the upcoming EHF proposal and how it works for potential subsequent ratification before 2018).

The experiment conducted by the EHF and HCGB was largely successful. It comprised splitting the Juniors into two classifications: Colts 11 to 13 years old limited to 65 KG thrust and Juniors 13 + to 16 years old who in the future will be limited to a thrust limit yet to be confirmed but in the region of 90 KG thrust. The meeting generally felt this to be a good idea and the Technical Director will propose a definition for us to consider via an email vote so that any changes can be incorporated into the WHF Racing Regulations well in advance of the next World Championships.

7. To note that any racing appeals to the Board arising from WHC 2018 (That cannot be dealt with now) will be dealt with after the last race on Sunday.

Two appeals were received both concerning the WHF Junior Racing Rules. It was considered that these should be dealt with by the meeting as they both concerned our rules.

Appeal 1 – that a Junior craft with an engine not specified in the WHF rules but which had a lower powered engine than those specified should be allowed to race. This appeal was allowed on a vote of 11 in favour, none against.

Appeal 2 – that a junior craft with an engine not specified in the WHF rules but had

an engine of greater power should be allowed to race providing it was limited in terms of RPM to the power output of specified engines. This appeal was allowed on a vote of 10 in favour, none against PROVIDING that video recordings of the revolution counter throughout each race were made available to the Race Director for inspection to ensure the power was restricted.

8. To receive bids or notification of potential bids to host WHC 2020.

Sweden are to investigate the possibility of holding a World Championship in 2020 and will inform the WHF of their deliberations by December 2018.

9. Any other notified and previously circulated business.

There were none.

10. Reports.

Four reports had been submitted and they will be attached to these minutes.

11. The President thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 19.10 hrs.

Secretary / Treasurers report:

We did not discuss this during the meeting. The current bank balance of the WHF is EURO1.388,19 as of today.

I would like to note that we are still having problems with emails from many country representatives, most are of delegates of non-racing/active countries.

In the next few months I will be trying to start a mailchimp system for sending the emails out, so do not be surprised!

Terry Chapman ~ World Hover Cruise:

Hello Tony,

We had a very enjoyable 5 days of leisure hovercrafting on the Wisconsin River.

Approximately 58 hovercraft participated through the course of the week. We attempted to perform a World record setting formation flight but found it to be more difficult than planned! It still looked good though.

Wouter Castendyke attended from Holland and was also guest speaker, and there were two visitors from Sweden. So it was a truly "international " event. We wish more overseas friends could've participated in this fun event.

Thank you for your support of our event!

Cheers-
Terry Chapman

The Chinese Hover Club

Thank you so much for your support and trust. We miss you all.

Now I update you our hovercraft association's current working progress about the negotiation with our local government. Based on the situation that the population of China is large, the safety issue of organization international activities is recognized and emphasized with highest security requirement, we have to build up a fixed stadium for organizing the international hovercraft competition in China. Right now, we are still in the middle of negotiation with local government to select and fix the proper location for the usage of international hovercraft competition.

August and September are the crucial period of time for us, we are keeping working hard on it and will invite and consult you to visit us to discuss stadium designing in detail once the we get everything through afterward. So we might not be able to attend the WHC 2018 in Germany this time. But best wishes for all racers to get good performance at WHC 2018!

Again, thank you so much for your and WHC's support and we will update you our progress later.

Best regards & Sincerely,

Rui Ma(Ray)
The Vice Chairman of Shanxi Taiyuan Hovercraft Association
Qiaosheng Ma
The Chairman of Shanxi Taiyuan Hovercraft Association

Australian Hoverclub

**Hovercraft Activity in
Australia.**

28 August 18

In Australia , we tend to use our craft to explore our great land and get together at various events
to test our piloting skills and swap hover stories.

Our primary or "umbrella" organisation is the Australian Hovercraft Federation (AHF), which is made up of sub branches in the states of Victoria (VIC), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA) and West Australia (WA). VIC and QLD have the largest branches each having 30+ members. Additionally there are many "regional"

members who are just too far away from a "club" branch to attend regular events or meeting in person.

Both VIC and QLD branches hold regular meetings as well as "fly days" each month. Several of these tend to be "weekend" events (e.g. In VIC branch we have longer events at Easter and the "Australia Day long weekend" in late January). Skype is often used at meetings to allow people to join remotely in conjunction with an on line forum and Facebook pages etc.

The highlight of the Australian calendar is the bi-annual "OzHover" National Rally. The most recent of these, brilliantly hosted by the QLD branch, was held at Lake Coolmunda in July 17. Around 80 people travelled from all over Australia (even from Perth, 50 plus hrs on the road!) to attend the 3 day event making full use of 26 Hovercraft. A variety of "fun" (but very competitive) events as well as some great cruising formed the core program. This was complimented with some very enjoyable BBQ's and dinners followed by time around the camp fire until the early hours. Our next National Rally event will be held at Lake Bonnie in South Australia from 27-29 Sep 2019 and planning is already well under way. If you will (or can plan to be) in Oz around this time you would be more than welcome to join us!!

Now a word about VIC branches new "home site" at Lake Narracan (near Moe in Victoria).

For well over 20 years the VIC club has leased a site on the Southern side of this lake where we had some rather basic facilities of a shipping container and attached "carport" for shelter from the elements plus a portable "builders" toilet.

Around 5 years ago it became apparent that we would have to re-locate due to plans for a lakeside housing estate. A couple of years later the local council promised to help us move to a new site on the northern shore complete with improved facilities. After years of negotiation, planning and hard work (especially by members local to the this area) this move was finally made in mid 2017.

It's a great site! Plenty of land area, exit and entrance ramps and a large car park. In addition to our container (used to store mowers, tools etc) we now have an 8 x 6 M "clubhouse" complete with verandah on two sides and a proper "flushing" toilet! Solar lighting has just been added and there are plans to install a kitchen also. And to top all this off, we have access to what we believe is the only "hovercraft only" waterway in the world! (i.e. All other powered water craft are banned from "our" exclusive area of the lake). Who knows, maybe we can even re-start a racing program some time soon.....

Thank you for reading. We hope to see you "down under" one day!

Peter Streader
Chairperson AHF, VIC branch. WHF delegate.