



PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

WORLD
HOVERCRAFT
FEDERATION

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Minutes of the World Hovercraft Federation meeting, 10:00 am Monday, September 6th 2004 at Berlin, Germany

Present:

Roger Allman, Great Britain
Chris Barlow, Great Britain
Sandra Barlow, Great Britain
Jean Francois Berry, France
Chris Chapman, USA
Terry Chapman, USA
Frank Craemers, Netherlands
Lizanne Craemers, Netherlands
Tony Drake, Great Britain, WHF President
Lynne Ellis, Australia
Owen Ellis, Australia, WHF VP, Asia
Yves Flamant, France

Kent Gano, USA, WHF VP, Americas
Laurent Guetté, France
Paul Hendriks, Netherlands
Magnus Ivanoff, Sweden, WHF VP, Europe
Christel Martens, Netherlands, WHF secretary
Henk Martens, Netherlands
Gavin Parson, Great Britain
Michael Rausch, Germany
Bob Rennick, Canada, WHF techn. director
Gayle Spedding, Great Britain
Ben Voigtlander, USA
Fred Wilson, Great Britain

04.01 Welcome by the President

Tony Drake opened the meeting and welcomed all representatives and their company.

04.02 Apologies for absence

The Belgium Hovercraft Federation sent their apologies and requested in writing to be represented by the French delegation.

The Indonesian Hovercraft Federation sent their regret before the meeting, by e-mail, to the secretary.

04.03 President's WHF board report

Tony Drake took the opportunity to thank Michael Rausch and all German organisers involved, for hosting a successful World Championship.

Last week, the World Hovercraft Federation had an informal meeting where everyone had the opportunity to share some thoughts and discuss them. Quite a few interesting things came up. There will be a follow-up discussion via email.

From around the world people show interest in our Federation, in the past two years we welcomed Lebanon, Indonesia and Denmark as new members.

We are also very pleased that Siegi Scherrer offered to take on the vacant position, of Vice President Africa.

In Terre Haute the WHF Excellence Award was introduced. This Award has been presented to Dr. William Bertelsen, Sir Christopher Cockerall, John Grifford and last year to Jean Claude Delorme for his work on the Rhône Raid.

Unfortunately Barry Oakley announced that he will retire as Race-Director, after being an official at almost every World Hovercraft Championship. He receives a lot of respect from hovercraft people all over the World. Last year Barry produced the Marshall Guidelines for the WHF, we thank him for all the work he has done for our sport.

At this moment the World Hovercraft Federation has € 616.00 in the bank. This includes € 20.00 from 1 unsuccessful protest and € 126.00 in drivers fee. As the hosts of the 2004 World Championship made a gesture to the drivers, the WHF decided to lower the regular driver fee for this event to € 1.00 per registered hovercraft.

04.04 Election of Officers

In order to save time we took nominations in advance. If there is only one person nominated for a particular post they will be adopted unopposed. If there are more than one candidate for a post the meeting will hold a vote by show of hands from each countries delegate.

We received 2 nominations for the position of Vice President Asia: Chris Fitzgerald and Owen Ellis. The meeting voted unanimously for Owen Ellis being the Vice President Asia. All other posts are re-elected.

For your information the following are the current office holders

President - Tony Drake

Secretary - Christel Martens

Technical Director - Bob Rennick

Vice President Americas - Kent Gano

Vice President Africa – Siegi Scherrer

Vice President Asia - Owen Ellis

Vice President Europe – Magnus Ivanoff

04.05 Junior Teams

This World Championship included an experiment to allowing Junior Teams. A discussion ensued as to its success. Some of the statements made: “. . . difficult to select a single World Champion . . .”, “. . . junior development should be the responsibility of the member countries – not at a World Championship . . .”, “. . . the junior teams should select the best driver of their team to represent them at the World Championship . . .”, “. . . perhaps having a minimum performance standard for the competing hovercraft would better show the formula . . .”, “. . . it is obvious by the increase in the numbers of young people here that youth teams should continue . . .”, “. . . perhaps we could open the teams up to non-youth groups? “. The options put forward at the meeting were: 1) Allow teams in Juniors, 2) Dis-allow teams in Juniors or 3) Continue with the experiment of Teams at the next WHC. It was decided to continue this test at the 2006 World Championship with slightly revised rules.

04.06 Changes to the voting regulations

Bob Rennick wrote a proposal, concerning voting regulations, to avoid decisions being made by representatives that never go to World Championships or forget to ask their members opinion. The meeting decided that the voting method should stay as it is but they agreed that it is a good idea that the drivers who participated at a World Championship get the opportunity to be heard. Michael Rausch will present a list of e-mail addresses from this year's participants to the WHF secretary. Future regulation change proposals will be emailed to these drivers who can then discuss them with their representatives.

04.07 Hosts for future World Championships

After 4 proposals to host the 2006 World Championship and 3 withdrawals, France will be the host country for the WHF World Hovercraft Championship 2006.

The event will be in Latronquiere at the lake of Tolerme from 21 – 26 August 2006. 3 countries have indicated they want to host the 2008 event; these are Australia, USA, and Mauritius. The WHF will give them the opportunity to give a presentation at the 2006 WHF meeting in France.

04.08 Any Other Business

During this WHC, there were several requests to check and modify the rules. Tony Drake will contact Barry Oakley to learn which rules caused problems at this World Championship.

Great Britain brought forth a proposed to allow team racing in all formulas. After discussion, the meeting voted against the proposal.

Owen Ellis proposed to introduce team endurance racing, and Pascal Lepicier proposed (in writing) to change F25 into F35 as a more attractive formula to watch – citing technical problems with F25 - and Pascal noted that F35 could be well suited for endurance racing. Some of the features that Owen suggested include:

- Two 3-hour races
- Minimum of 3-drivers per team
- No refuelling
- Enforced noise limits

Owen and Terry Chapman (USA) will prepare a proposal how this could fit into the World Championship program. The French organisers for the next WHC pointed out that if this is to fit into the 2006 World Championship program, the rules must be ready before April 2005. In addition, we must keep in mind that the officials are already on the course for 5 days. Owen and a group of volunteers will do some research and come up with a proposal within 6 months and after that the WHF members could give their vote. USA will try to run some test races next year. This research will be followed by an email vote.

France proposed to add Formula 50 to the World Championship (possibly all craft using only Rotax 503 engines in Formula S craft). They will investigate this at a test race in France in 2005 and have proposed this formula as an experiment at the 2006 World Championship.

The meeting was closed at 11.25 am.