



WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

Bulletin Number 19

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I would like to congratulate the Swedish Hovercraft Club for arranging a superb World Hovercraft Championship for us. For such a small club it was an amazing undertaking and one which has been an example to us all. They assembled a team from all over Europe to help them with the race organization and administration which immediately integrated and worked like clockwork!

It is noticeable that the standard and spectacle of World Championship Hovercraft racing continues to improve at each event and this time was no exception. We now have our Champions and they should be congratulated. You will be able to see all the results on in our web site. For the first time at our Championships we had live results and video clips published on the internet ~ this facility was watched world wide. This is something we will try and include at all future Championships.

There is much work to be done over the coming months. In particular we will be consulting with our member countries representatives on possible changes to our formula structure and definitions. I hope you will join in this debate on our web forum and also keep your representative up to date with your views so that when it comes time to vote he or she will be fully informed. But more of that later in this Bulletin.

Tony M Drake JP. President of the World Hovercraft Federation.

WHF Board Meeting:

Our WHF Board meeting was held on Monday 25th August 2008 at Flottsbro, Sweden. Minutes of the meeting are now available. If you have not received them they are available from your countries delegate, by download from our website or by e-mail application to our Secretary.

There are several items in those minutes that you should be aware of. In no particular order they are as follows:

1. WHF Web site and forum:

We have decided to continue with our web site forum ~ it will be essential to inform each other of our opinions on major issues that will have to be decided by vote etc. This will become apparent as you read this Bulletin further. The message is use it or lose it!

2. Formula Junior Teams:

Good news for Junior Teams. It has been decided to make the experimental rules at previous World Championships permanent in our Competition Regulations.

3. Future World Championships:

We are now awaiting bids for our Championships in 2010. Great Britain has indicated that they hope to come forward with a proposal soon, but failing that Germany will be able to help us.

4. Future World Championship Formulae:

As reported in our last Bulletin, in order for our World Championships to continue and prosper it is necessary to consider and if appropriate review the structure of the formulae that take part. This was a major discussion point for the meeting, which will be followed up by e-mail discussion and finally an e-mail vote by country delegates. This will be via our web based forum. THESE DISCUSSIONS AND ANY DECISIONS MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2008 AND FORMALISED BY 1st January 2009.

What ever the outcome of this process the meeting was firmly of the opinion that we must not exclude any hovercraft driver by making it

impossible for their craft to fit into a formula. Although we are a fully fledged spectacular motor racing sport we are very much a "family sport" and many of our participants come to our World Championships to meet friends and have some fun. We must ensure that we find a way that:

- Makes it easier for host countries to organize Championships for us.
- Makes it appealing to any potential sponsors.
- Makes it enjoyable and allows anyone to take part with their hovercraft.

To get this right there are a number of inter related issues we must consider:

- Formula 25
- Endurance Racing
- Formula 3
- Definition of Formulae
- Programme

Taking these in order and not attempting to influence the final decisions it may be the above will give a structure to the discussions.

- Formula 25. The Board meeting was of the opinion that in order to improve the performance of F25 while at the same time still leave this as a development formulae it could be increased to F35 (i.e. four stroke engines totaling 35 horse power).
- Endurance Racing (ER). The Board meeting was of the opinion that ER should, where ever possible be included in a Championship programme. One suggestion was that where this is not possible ER and F25 (or 35) could be combined and results extracted for the two.
- Formula 3. Should it be included in future World Championships? The meeting felt that although not popular in European Championships with the numbers regularly attending World Championships it would be difficult to justify its exclusion.
- Definition of Formulae. This is probably the issue which raised most discussion. The French proposal previously circulated is an alternative to our present system. It was debated at some length during our

Board meeting but the discussions were not conclusive and as the proposal is such a fundamental issue it was decided to defer and consult as far and as wide using our web forum and come to some consolidated proposals on which, if appropriate, the Board members would be invited to vote on. As already indicated this **MUST** be concluded by Christmas 2008 in order to allow sufficient time for competitors to make their decisions for the next World Championships.

- Programme. Although the race programme, providing the practice and time trials are in accordance with WHF Regulations, have been under the control of host country all formulas have traditionally been spread evenly over the race days. The Board meeting felt that in order to have greater appeal to sponsors and public alike it would be acceptable to have the more spectacular racing on the last two days **PROVIDING** that the finals of all formulas were held on the last day **AND** the last race should be Formula 1!

It is absolutely essential that you contribute to these discussions. Please use our web forum **AND keep you countries delegate fully informed of your views as he will eventually be voting on your behalf.**

For your information our Member Country Delegates are:

Please inform our Secretary if your country has made any changes.

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(*) members who have to confirm their email and general information.

(*) Member Countries and/or representatives that have not for years attended WHF Board meetings or WHF World Championships and therefore will now be considered as correspondents, not representatives.

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