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April 2026 | Bulletin 63



I am very pleased to send you this very important Bulletin and urge you to read it in detail.

As our World Championships 2026 in the UK are rapidly approaching, we have included much more information for you. This will be a fantastic event as it also incorporates our hosts, the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain's, 60th Anniversary celebrations.

We now know the very best competitors and their pit crews from around the world will be attending these World Championships which will provide us with some of the very best racing ever seen. We have also re-introduced the Hovercraft Team Endurance Challenge to include an 'optional extra' of a Performance Index Challenge!

Whether you are a competitor, supporter or just interested I look forward to seeing you at our Championships and can promise you a fantastic experience so please do join us and give us your support.

Kind Regards

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



president@whf.hovercraft.org.uk



Arrangements are now well advanced for our World Hovercraft Championships. As previously announced, they will be held on the 21st to 23rd of August 2026 at Whittlebury Park, Towcester NN12 8QH, United Kingdom. This event is being organized by the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain for us.

Event web site The organizers of the Championships are pleased to announce that a web site for the event has been launched. It can be found at whc2026.com which is now online where you will find a full programme of events, and how and where to register. It will now be continually updated as further details become available. **PLEASE** pass this information to anyone you know who may be interested, for example past members of your Club, and encourage them to join us.



REGISTER NOW

Early registration for these Championships will greatly assist the organisers with their plans to make the event as memorable and comfortable an experience as possible for you.

Hovercraft for Hire

Or as it is known in the UK as “Arrive and Drive”, is a special offer for drivers who cannot bring their hovercraft with them to the UK but would like to compete in the World Championships.

The cost for hiring a craft will be £500 for the event (qualifying and racing) per formula entered. This will cover the cost of the craft, fuel and oil, plus a contribution towards wear and tear, or maintenance if needed. Any significant damage to the craft may be charged for. It will be the driver's responsibility to

experience, and the required licence and qualification from their country to take part.

Racers must provide their own racing suit, buoyancy aid, gloves, crash helmet etc., as specified in the [WHF Regulations WHF001](#) - Protective wear, section 4.2.

The craft that are currently available are all F50 spec craft, so could be used in FS or F50, or even juniors (if modified to meet the thrust limits) and are suitable for racers up to 100kg.



We are initially prioritising racers from outside Europe to register interest before Friday 8th May. After this date if craft are still available, they would be made available to racers from within Europe.

Further details and all enquiries to hire a craft should be made to Dan Turnbull via admin@whc2026.com Please register your interest as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Hovercraft Endurance Challenge

As we previously informed you a World Hovercraft Endurance event will be included which will be held on the 18th and 19th of August preceding the main Championships. In addition to the 'standard' Endurance Challenge there will be an optional added dimension - **'an event within an event'**, that being a Performance Index Challenge, and the organisers have asked that we include this information for you in green below. If you have any queries regarding the Hovercraft Endurance Challenge or the Performance Index Challenge, please contact Graham Nutt at graham@irrisupplies.com

This year the 2026 World Hovercraft Race meeting at Whittlebury hosted by the HCGB is to include an Endurance Challenge event. The Endurance Challenge is the new name for the Endurance race which is covered by the regulations in [WHF016 - Endurance Racing, Competitions Regulations](#)

rather than the racecourse to be used for the formula World Championship races.

Details for both the Endurance Challenge together with details of the newly proposed "event within an event" called the "Performance Index Challenge" are set out below.

All participating teams that take part in the Endurance challenge must comply with WHF016 regulations together with the clarification points below. Teams may have any number of drivers but must include at least one adult. Drivers may be adult racers, cruisers or juniors who have current full appropriate licences issued by their member Clubs.

All teams can also, if they wish, take part in the Performance Index Challenge which will necessitate some extra measurements being taken during the Challenge, as outlined below.

The Endurance Challenge is designed as team event to encourage more people to participate in the sport, so all craft are welcome, racers as well as cruisers. The fastest craft does not necessarily win this type of event, previous winners have included F35 craft.

There will be a total of two challenges, run over 2 days with practice in the morning of the first day. Both these challenges will be of two hour duration. The events will be held on Tuesday the 18th and Wednesday the 19th of August.

An area designated the Active Pit Area (APA) will be established for craft repair, refuelling and driver changeover. Repairs may only be carried out in this area, but craft that break down out on the circuit can be trailered back to the APA for repair but forfeiting the lap they are on. Refuelling during the Challenge is allowed.

The Challenges will both have a Le Mans style start. The grid line up will be determined by lap times from practice for the first event, and the second grid line up by the finishing order of the first.

The WHF016 rules allow both racing and cruising craft to take part. British drivers can either use a racing licence or cruising craft licence to take part. Participants from other countries will need their clubs to approve them as per the existing rules for the world championship races.

the Index calculation.

The winning team will be decided as per 8.6 of WHF016



Performance Index Challenge

Within the WHF Endurance Challenge event there will be a Performance Index Challenge. Entry to this Challenge is optional, but we hope you will participate.

The Performance Index challenge has been added to find the most efficient craft participating, and there is a separate trophy for the winner of this part of the event.

In effect any craft/team taking part in the Endurance Challenge can opt into this event but in addition to complying with all the points above the following regulations are required to enable the Performance Index to be calculated.

1. Fuel consumption. This will be calculated by measuring the weight of each team's fuel cans prior to the start, then at the end the craft will have to be fully refuelled from the weighed cans and then the cans re weighed to arrive at the amount of fuel the craft has used. This assumes the craft will be full at the start. Obviously no additional fuel can be brought into the APA (active pit area) after the teams' fuel cans have been weighed.
2. Weight of craft. The craft, without the driver, will be weighed at the end of the Challenge.
3. The course distance will be obtained by a craft with a GPS recorder going round the course prior to the start of the event.
4. The Performance Index will then be calculated using the following formulae:

$$\left(\frac{2 \times P \times V \times D}{C \times DB} \right) + \text{Sound points} + \text{Lap points}$$

V = the average speed of the craft over the event in Kilometres per hour

D = the total distance the craft has travelled, (laps x course distance) in Kilometres

C = the fuel consumption calculated as Lt/100 Km

DB = the actual sound level measured under WHF016 8.8 in dBA

Sound points and **Lap points** calculated as per WHF016 8.8 C and D

The highest score wins the challenge.

The aim of the Index is to balance the distance travelled with the fuel used and the noise.

The Endurance Challenge event will have a its own dedicated Race Director, scrutineers and officials.

The APA will have its own dedicated observer to monitor refuelling for the Performance Index.

WHF Event Regulations



We advise drivers and their supporters to familiarise themselves with all the relevant WHF Regulations and documents well in advance of the Championships. In particular, we draw your attention to [WHF018 – the Participant Entry Pack](#) which can be found in the ‘Download’ section of our web site.

WHF Junior and Colts

We advise all Junior and Colts drivers to be aware and take note of the latest changes to their regulations which will now apply. These can be found within our publication [WHF001 - Racing Hovercraft Competition Regulations](#) which can be found in the ‘Download’ section of our web site.



Future World Hovercraft Championships



2028 and every two years thereafter. If your country is interested in making a bid, we will be very pleased to have early discussions with you.

Next WHF Board Meeting

Please see below the formal notice of our next Board meeting together with a draft agenda. A formal agenda will be issued after any responses have been received.

World Hovercraft Federation (WHF) Board Meeting 2026

Please take this as formal notice of the above meeting.

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

Date/time: Thursday 20th August at 19.00 hrs.

Proposed agenda:

1. Welcome by President
2. Apologies for absence and to note Delegates in attendance.
3. Presidents report.
4. Election of Officers:

President. (Currently Tony Drake – prepared to stand for re-election).

Secretary & Treasurer. (Currently Marie Trussler - prepared to stand for re-election).

Vice President – Europe. (Currently Magnus Ivanoff - prepared to stand for re-election).

Vice President – Americas. (Currently Kent Gano - prepared to stand for re-election).

Vice President – Asia. (Paul Hibbard - prepared to stand for re-election).

Vice President – Africa. (Vacant).

Technical Director. (Currently James Lewendon – prepared to stand for re-election).

Director of Endurance Racing. (Currently John Gifford - prepared to stand for re-election).

6. To receive bids or notification of potential bids to host WHC 2028.
7. Any other notified and previously circulated business. Notified business must be submitted before 24th July 2026 so that it may be circulated well before the Board meeting to allow for full discussion within member organisations.
8. Any other un-notified business for future discussion and resolution by email.
9. Close meeting.

If you are a Country Delegate, or Board Member if you wish it is now time to contribute to the meeting agenda by 24th July 2026:

- If you wish to propose Board members.
- Adding items to the agenda with supporting document/reasons.

If you intend to do so, please reply to the Secretary at secretary@whf.hovercraft.org.uk by the 24th July 2026 so that they be included on the formal meeting agenda.

Marie Trussler, WHF Secretary.

Useful Links.

The World Hovercraft Federation <https://whf.hovercraft.org.uk>
 The European Hovercraft Federation <http://www.europanhovercraftfederation.org>
 The Hovercraft Society <https://www.thehovercraftsociety.org.uk>
 The Hovercraft Club of Great Britain <https://whf.hovercraft.org.uk>
 Club Anjou Aeroglisseur (France) <https://anjou-aeroglisseur.com>

If your Club wishes to be included here, please let our secretary know.

For your information our Member Country Delegates are:

Country	Delegate	Contact Information	Votes
Australia	Peter Streader	HV23Pete@gmail.com	1
Austria	Andrew Stelzhammer	andrew.stelzhammer@gmx.at	1
Belgium	Jos Vanderhoven	jos.vanderhoven@gmail.com	2
Canada	Bob Rennick	bob.rennick@gmail.com	1
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United States	Kent Gano	kentgano@bellsouth.net	2

As usual this Bulletin has been sent to the above Country Delegates. If you are aware of any changes to Delegates or their details, please do inform our Secretary, Marie Trussler secretary@whf.hovercraft.org.uk

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