



WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

Number 11

December 2005

A message from the President.

As 2005 draws to a close, and Christmas is nearly here again, it is a time for reflection on the past year and to look forward to the future. I hope you had a good year with plenty of hovercraft activities in your own area of the world. Next year will be another World Hovercraft Championship year for us - this time in France. I know that our French friends are already well underway with their arrangements and we wish them well. You can be assured of a very warm welcome in France and I really hope that you and your country will support them. It will be a great time to see old friends, make some new ones and compete against each other.

On behalf of the World Hovercraft Federation and myself may I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

However or where ever you choose to celebrate Christmas please spare a moment to think of your hovercraft friends all over the world and have a great time!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Drake', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tony Drake JP. President of the World Hovercraft Federation

World Hovercraft Championships, 2006

In 2006 France will host our World Hovercraft Championship. The event will be held in Latronquiere at Tolorme Lake from 22nd – 27th August 2006. The French organisers have established an excellent web site that will be fully operation in the New Year. Do please have a look at it *AND* make your reservations early, as it will really help them with their arrangements. The web site can be found at www.whc2006.com

Endurance Racing



For the first time ever Endurance Racing (Er) will be included in the World Hovercraft Championships. The French have generously agreed to introduce this prestigious event and we ask that you and your country support this new and imaginative initiative, and that you encourage others to do so. We really do need in excess of 20 entries to make this event viable. Further details of Er will be published on the World Championship web site in the near future.

Formula 50

As agreed at the last WHF Board meeting in 2004 a specific new formula, Formula 50 will be introduced on a trial basis in the 2006 World Championships.

The qualification for this formula will be:

- Craft with single Rotax 503 engine. (maximum re-bore for maintenance to 508 cc) or Fuji Robin EC44. No other engines will be permitted.
- Single fan, single duct integrated craft (Fans of less than 300mm used solely for engine cooling will not be counted).
- Single or twin carburetors maximum diameter of 37mm.
- Standard Rotax 503, or Fuji Robin EC 44, 2 into 1 exhaust system (positional modifications to allow safe fitting of the exhaust to the hull are permitted, but the exhaust must remain dimensionally the same).
- It is likely that the organizers may restrict drivers who enter Formula 50 from entering in other formulae because of time pressures within their programme caused by the introduction of F50.

World Hovercraft Championships, 2006 (continued).

Junior Teams

Team racing will be permitted for Formula Junior in the 2006 World Championships *(This is an extension to the experiment in 2004 in Berlin to encourage as many of our young drivers for the future to take part in our sport at the highest level).*

The rules are as follows

- Junior Teams must be genuine schools, college or youth groups.
- Junior Teams may have a maximum of 4 drivers.
- Junior Drivers cannot be in more than one team or if they choose to be in a Team cannot race as an individual.
- Teams must register the names of all Drivers when initially registering to part in the World Championship.
- Teams must inform the organizers prior to any race or practice who the Driver will be. *(This is to ensure that the organizers know at any time, for health and safety reasons etc., who is actually participating).*
- As time trials will determine the first grid position the Team Driver with lowest time will start the first race.

We have also received a proposal that we allow Formula 50 craft to be used in Junior racing at World Championships, as they are for example in the UK, and Europe. You will be asked to vote on this issue later in this bulletin.

World Hovercraft Federation Award for Excellence

Each year the WHF consider making their prestigious award for excellence to an individual, company, group or country that has made a major contribution to the world of hovercrafting. If you have any suggestions or nominations for 2005 please send them to the WHF secretary wordhovercraftfederation@planet.nl

(Past recipients include Barry Oakley for the work he has done as Race Director for many years at national, international and world level, Sir Christopher Cockerell for his work on Hovercraft development, Dr Bertelsen for his work on hovercraft technology, John Gifford on behalf of Griffon Hovercraft as being the most successful Company world wide, designing and manufacturing intermediate sized commercial hovercraft ,and Jean Claude Delorme for tirelessly organising the Raid on the Rhône for over 14 years).

World Championships 2008.

So far we have only received an indication from Mauritius that they would like to host our Championships in November 2008. If your Country is considering making a bid for 2008 please will you let our Secretary have a provisional notice as soon as possible and certainly by the end of March 2006 so that we can plan for the future.

Two WHF publications which will be helpful to countries considering making an application to host a World Championship are available on our website at www.worldhovercraftfederation.org or www.world-hovercraft-federation.org

- **Information required for World Championship bids.** This has been written at the request of member countries that may wish to apply to host a World Championship in the future.
- **Marshalling Guidelines at World Championship events.** This has been written by Barry Oakley to assist those organizing events.

Air Cushion Club of Norway (ACCN)

Following an unanimous vote in favour we are pleased to welcome the ACCN and the Irish Hovercraft Club to our Federation. Their details are as follows and we look forward to seeing them at our next Championships and Board meeting in France and becoming active members.

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| Name | Air Cushion Club of Norway (ACCN) |
| Contact person | Mr. Ørnulf Østbye, secretary |
| Address | Limhusveien 51 N-2315 Hamar Norway |
| Email | accn@iventelo.net |
| Web site | www.accn.espn.no |

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|----------------|--|
| Name | Irish Hovercraft Club |
| Contact person | David Ryan, secretary 29 Windmill Road Crumlin, Dublin 12 Ireland |
| Email | hoverireland@yahoo.ie |
| Web site | www.hoverireland.com |

WHF Web Page

As always if you have any upcoming announcements that you feel should be included in either the WHF Bulletin or placed upon the WHF web page, please contact the WHF secretary via email at worldhovercraftfederation@planet.nl

And finally.....

Your Vote is required

As mentioned earlier we have received a request that we allow Formula 50 craft to be used included in Junior racing at World Championships, as they are for example in the UK, and Europe. This is on the basis that the craft and engine comply with the following:

- Craft with single Rotax 503 engine. (maximum re-bore for maintenance to 508 cc) or Fuji Robin EC44.
- Single fan, single duct integrated craft (Fans of less than 300mm used solely for engine cooling will not be counted).
- Single or twin carburetors maximum diameter of 37mm.
- Standard Rotax 503, or Fuji Robin EC 44, 2 into 1 exhaust system (positional modifications to allow safe fitting of the exhaust to the hull are permitted, but the exhaust must remain dimensionally the same).

Will you please send you vote by e-mail to the WHF Ssecretary via email at worldhovercraftfederation@planet.nl by the 21st of December. 2005. If we do not hear from you in that time we shall assume that you are in favour of the proposal.

World Hovercraft Federation
Franciscusstraat 41
6681 VP Bemmell
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 481-450471
worldhovercraftfederation@planet.nl