

Interim WHF Board Report December 2020.

Our constitution requires us to have a general meeting every two years and for convenience we always arrange this at each World Championships. Clearly because of the COVID pandemic this has not been possible this year because our Championships had to be postponed until 2021. In these circumstances I thought I should give you a brief interim report.

When it was agreed in 2018 that our World Championships would be held in Sweden in September 2020 our hosts, the Hoverclub of Sweden, immediately went into action with their preparations. To their great credit, despite being a small Club, almost everything was in place by the end of 2019. Then came the pandemic and all of our lives have been thrown into chaos. However, hovercrafters are always optimistic and the event organizers in conjunction with the WHF held off for as long as possible before having to take the devastating but inevitable decision early in 2020 to postpone the Championships for a year. While this was disappointing for us all you can imagine how very disappointing it was for the Hoverclub of Sweden considering the huge amount of work and time they had invested in the event. Despite this set back we should be very thankful that they have decided to host our Championships in the same place from the 1st to the 5th of September 2021. This, of course assumes, the pandemic will be well under control and travel restrictions are lifted. In the unlikely event some restrictions remain and not everyone can attend the 2021 World Championships the Hoverclub of Sweden have indicated they are prepared to host a World Cup event, but it will not be a formal World Championship. While this would not be ideal at least it would give those able to travel the opportunity to compete at the highest level. If this situation is likely to arise you will be kept informed and a final decision will be made in April next year.

Since our last financial report very little has happened and our funds, as below, have largely remained the same.

[Sacha please insert]

With the world experiencing such dramatic climatic changes there is now a great desire for everyone to adopt a 'greener' lifestyle. To contribute to this, I would like to remind you that the WHF has led the way for recreational hovercraft with our initial electric hovercraft regulations. These are now contained in our publications Racing Regulations WHF001, and Construction Regulation WHF002. We are indebted to Paul Hibbard, (WHF Vice President Asia) and Owen Elis, (Australia), who lead and inspired an international team who produced these regulations for us.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all our WHF Vice Presidents, Secretary, Technical Director and our webmaster for all the help and guidance they have given me during the past two years. In particular I would like to record my special thanks to Magnus Ivanoff, (WHF Vice President Europe), who is leading the Swedish Hoverclub team organizing our World Championships for his hard work and dedication during these difficult times and always keeping me up to date and working with the WHF particularly when some difficult decisions had to be made.

Tony M Drake, WHF President.