

WHF Governing Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 1st Sept 2022

Time: 12.00 noon

Location: Flottsbro, Sweden

Board Members Present:

President – Tony Drake

Vice President Europe – Magnus Ivanoff

Vice President Americas – Kent Gano

Vice President Asia – Paul Hibbard

Acting secretary: Paul Hibbard

Member Countries present:

UK

France

Germany

Austria

Netherlands

Sweden

USA

Poland

Australia (arrived at 12.45pm)

Minutes of Meeting:

1. Greetings from President Tony Drake.
2. Apologies for Absence: Sacha Rouchier (Secretary/Treasurer), Jos Vanderhoven, Henk and Christel Martens, John Gifford (all by correspondence to Sacha Rouchier or Tony Drake). No other apologies verbally from members.
3. Presidents Report – read out by Tony Drake
4. Election of Officers – all agreed to stand again, no other nominations, all were re-elected:
President – Tony Drake
Secretary & Treasurer – Sacha Rouchier
VP Europe – Magnus Ivanoff
VP America – Kent Gano
VP Asia – Paul Hibbard
Technical officer – Jamie Lewendon
Director of Endurance Racing – John Gifford

VP Africa – There has been a request to Tony Drake for a person to stand in this position. Tony Drake has requested further information, as we have not met him before. Tony Drake will follow up and send round information by email.

5. Gap between World Championships to move from 2 to 3 years. Proposed by President Tony Drake.

Discussion: Germany – three years may be a long time to keep commercial sponsors, and land owners interested if get approval from WHF then have to wait 3 years.

Suggestion, if get a proposal for 2 forward can do it, if don't take 3 years.

UK – suggested 3 years is good

Sweden – suggest keep gap floating, could be 2 could be 3.

Holland – leave it flexible

Poland – for Juniors long gap can mean they can miss the chance to race in Juniors

Checking the constitution and competition regulations, it is not specifically mentioned the number of year gap. General consensus is that it is best left non specific, but should minute that by convention it is generally aimed to have a World Championships every 2-3 years.

6. It was noted that in the event of any appeals to the WHF board resulting from WHC 2022, an additional WHF meeting will be called after the last race and before prize giving.
7. Bids for WHC 2024/25?

USA – club membership is down, no possibility

UK – would like to host a WHC, would prefer to do something in 2026 (2026 is 60 year anniversary of Hovercraft Club of Great Britain), could do 2025 if it was preferred by WHF members.

Germany – no chance to do any World Championships at the moment

Italy - next year will do a Head2Head race in 2023, on a site previously used, is possible following that they may be able to make a bid for a World Championships in the future.

Poland – would like to try to host a WHC but does not have sponsorship in place

Suggestion by Tony to accept the offer of UK for a WHC.

Plan – UK 2026, with a hope for Poland or Italy in 2024. If neither Italy or Poland is possible in 2024, then will request to UK to bring the WHC forward to 2025. All agreed.

(Note: There is a 1 year deadline before the WHC to confirm the event, so any decisions need to be made ahead of the 1 year deadline. So Decision needed before June 2023 (assuming it is a June, July, August World Championships)).

AOB / General Discussion

Paul Hibbard: Electric hovercraft regulations. Open invitation to those working on electric craft or have knowledge on the subject to help come with suggestions of how we can build upon the initial safety regulations that we currently have in the construction regulations.

Michael Rausch: WHF meeting is only ever 2 years. Encourage to be flexible that if find have problems, can circulate by email. Tony Drake explained we do this now by email, and it works well. It could also be video conference if needs discussion.

Sweden (Magnus Ivanoff): Would like that there is one racing rule book the same for all WHF, EHF, country clubs. Has an idea that it could be voted on number of by number of drivers. Tony Drake requested that Magnus Ivanoff write a proposal for this. Jamie Lewendon responded, a priority would be if Formula classification can be unified.

Jamie Lewendon – difficulty of UK competitors travelling to EU post-brexite (carnets) still unclear exactly what is needed. UK competitors – some have carnets, some do not for this event, will know better after this event. Improved member country craft registration documents could help.

Sweden offered to cover the cost of the meeting room.

Meeting Closed at 13.15

List of Actions:

Tony Drake – Follow up and send round information on approach for position of Vice President Africa

Notes to Sacha:

1. Tony said he would send you an electronic copy of his report for you to include.