

World Hovercraft Federation (WHF) Board Meeting 2016

Location: World Hovercraft Championships (WHC) Race Site, Cliff Lakes, Tamworth

Date: 1st August 2016, 10.30am

Chairperson: Tony Drake

Minutes taker: Paul Hibbard

List of Attendees:

Name	Country
Tony Drake (WHF President)	UK
Kent Gano	USA
Owen Ellis	Australia
Michael Rausch	Germany
Chris Barlow	UK
Chris Daly	UK (Representing China)
Kazutoyo Matsuda	Japan
David Ryan	Ireland
Rita Christie	Canada
Clareen Van Schaik	Representing Belgium
Lex Van Schaik	Netherlands
Maciej Uckman	Poland
Jakub Furmanski	Poland
Gregory Lallemand	France
Magnus Ivanoff	Sweden
James Lewendon (WHF Technical Director)	UK
Paul Hibbard (Acting Secretary)	UK

Agenda Items	Actions
16.01 Welcome by the President Delivered by Tony Drake	
16.02 Apologies for Absence: Jos Vanderhoven - Belgium	

Sacha Rouchier on behalf of entire Italian team. From Michele Scanavino, Italy vote given to Magnus Ivanoff Sweden Chinese Hovercraft Club – To be represented by Chris Daly (UK)	
16.03 President's report: A copy of the report is appended to the end of this document (Appendix A).	
16.04 Election of Officers: President - Tony Drake (Prepared to continue, no other names asking to stand) Vice President Europe - Magnus Ivanoff (Prepared to continue, no other names asking to stand) Vice President Americas - Kent Gano (Prepared to continue, no other names asking to stand) Vice President Asia - Paul Hibbard (Prepared to continue, no other names asking to stand) Secretary / Treasurer - Christel Martens has resigned. Sacha Rouchier prepared to stand. Unanimously elected. Director Endurance Racing - Owen Ellis would like to step down for someone else to take it forwards. Kent Gano would be prepared to take on the role. Tony Drake offered he could ask some people who are active in Endurance racing if they might be prepared to take it on, can subsequently be voted on by email. Vice President for Africa: Position Vacant	Tony Drake – Approach active members of Endurance Racing Community to seek candidates for Director of Endurance Racing position. Arrange for email vote.
16.05 Any appeals to the Board arising from WHC 2016: There were no appeals lodged during the 2016 WHC.	
16.06 Host for future World Championships China: China wanted to present to meeting and asked Chris Daly to present on their behalf. Initial proposal presented by Chris Daly: Proposal for World Championships in 2018, in end July (for European and US school holidays). Want to hold event, in order to get funding need to be a big event, hence a	

WHC. China recognise they need help from HCGB and other clubs to run an event.

Will approach provincial government for backing and funding.
In May 2017, proposing to invite drivers from around world to test the site.

Looking to build a site and keep it as a legacy site as hovercraft training.

A copy of the proposal document sent by China is appended to this document as a separate pdf document.

Germany:

Michael Rausch – Germany could host an event at Saalburg. If there is no other event, Germany is prepared to run at event at Saalburg. Germany does not want to have to go 4 years until next World Championships. Germany needs about 1 year before to plan the event.

Decision on hosts for WHC 2018:

It was suggested and agreed by all to accept the Chinese proposal (with codascripts covering evidence of suitability of race site and site facilities, as the Chinese club select and develop their site).

In the event of the Chinese encountering problems in arranging their event, Germany could be approached again.

Jamie Lewendon– it could be useful for the Chinese organisers if the WHF can provide a list of practical things need to be covered for a World Championships e.g. marshals, size paddock grid, driver accommodation / camping facilities.

Tony Drake – He had started to draft a document for site requirements for WHF events (like HCGB Green book). Michael Rausch has German version.

Tony Drake – Once minutes are formalised inform China of their successful bid, and coordinate guidance for them.

Michael Rausch – Send copy of German guidance for running events document to Jamie.

Jamie Lewendon – Arrange for document to be translated into English.

All Delegates – Send any recommendations for event hosting guidelines to Tony Drake

Tony Drake – Collate document for guidance of running a World Hovercraft Championships event.

	Distribute for comments. Send to Jamie Lewendon Jamie Lewendon – Format document into WHF format.
16.07 Any other Notified and previously circulated business	
Electric hovercraft (notified by Kent Gano) How do we rate / regulate electric motors for inclusion in our formats? Discussion over need for both classification within the regulations for this technology and also specific safety concerns relating to electric hovercraft. Classification: F35 could be a logical place because is power controlled formula. If a partially electric system (e.g. electric lift) was alternator driven from engine is simple is just electric transmission. Challenge created by a partially internal combustion / partially electric craft (e.g. electric lift). Safety Concerns: Problem of safety for marshals such as possible high voltage in water. Possibility of regulating maximum voltage. Is weight of batteries a potential safety issue? Shorting batteries, possibility of batteries exploding? It was decided to set up a working group to put forward a proposal of how to include electric hovercraft in our regulations. Technical Director Jamie Lewendon agreed to administer. Paul Hibbard, Owen Ellis, Kent Gano agreed to contribute. It was suggested that Sacha Rouchier could set up / coordinate an open email discussion. The target should be a draft proposal before end of 2016.	Jamie Lewendon – Administer working group to produce draft proposal for inclusion of electric hovercraft in our regulations. Paul Hibbard, Owen Ellis, Kent Gano – contribute to creating proposal. Sacha Rouchier – Set up email open discussion to receive input from members present at the meeting (who should consult with interested parties from their respective countries).
Letter from Anjou Club Aeroglisseurs (France) to The Members of the WHF Committee Both French and English versions of the letter are attached to this document in pdf Format. Discussion on point raised over costs: There was sadness that the French had not been able to attend the 2016 WHC. Discussion over the difficulties of funding our events, hope that the Anjou club could help share with other countries their experience on how to	

successfully fund events. Need for bid proposals to include expectations of costs for participants and supporters. Tony Drake summarised the discussions that the WHF take seriously concerns on finances and understand the Club Anjou Aeroglisseur point of view. Also recognises that despite the efforts of HCGB, it often proves to be very difficult to put on and fund these events. (See next point on proposal for updating WHC guidelines for bid proposals over anticipated costs to participants). Discussion on point raised over F3: Worlds Rules allow for F35 and Endurance Racing. There is an option to organisers for F3 in rules to discard it. As a sport we are small, need all craft and drivers we can get to make event. More craft looks better, covers costs better. Discussion on point raised over insurance: Michael Rausch - French don't accept Swedish or German insurance. French insurers don't accept German people to take out French policy. Cross border insurance has only ever worked between French and UK. Tony Drake summarised that the WHF can see there is a grievance from Club Anjou Aeroglisseur that at previous World Championships, they have accepted UK insurance, but HCGB has not been able to accept their insurance at WHC 2016. Could Chris Barlow (HCGB rep) ask HCGB if it is possible to have reciprocal arrangement with France, that HCGB events can accept French insurance.	Chris Barlow - (UK representative). Ask Hovercraft Club of Great Britain if it is possible to have a reciprocal arrangement with France that HCGB can accept French insurance. Report back to WHF so a response can be given to Club Anjou Aeroglisseur.
Swedish proposal that expected costs for a World Championships be included in bid proposals Intent is to minimise cost to participants so estimate of any participants costs support should be included in the WHF bid proposal document. (Driver, supporter costs) Unanimous agreement.	Sacha Rouchier – Update WHF Document 006 Guidance for Member Countries Making Application to Host a Hovercraft World Championships. Agree wording with Sweden and President, add to section on Anticipated Cost of Entry.
16.08 Any other Emergency Business	
Magnus Ivanoff, Sweden – Suggestion for a possible thrust restriction for Junior craft.	

It was agreed that the WHF will look to see the upcoming EHF proposal and how it works for potential subsequent ratification before 2018.	
Kent Gano, USA – concern that some F50 may no longer be standard engines. Was discussed that there is a mechanism for protest in rule book and there is specific procedure on engine capacity protests.	
Jamie Lewendon – Suggestions for tightening up of minor rule points. Suggested changes to be put forward by Jamie before Christmas 2016 for email ratification.	Jamie Lewendon – put forward proposals for minor rule changes for email ratification.
Kent Gano, USA – What to do with remainder of Korean travel fund money. (Prize money from invitation race in Korea in 2013 was kindly donated by drivers Kent Gano, Magnus Ivanoff and Jos Vanderhoven, to be held by the WHF to go towards container travel funds for next World Championships and to support any Korean participants that might travel). Half of funds were given to the USA / Canada team towards their 2016 container costs. Unfortunately there were no Korean teams travelling to 2016 WHC and the WHF is not aware of any Korean participants likely to travel in the near future, therefore the question was raised as to what to do with the money. It was suggested by Magnus Ivanoff (and guided by agreement of Magnus Ivanoff and Kent Gano who had originally donated the money), unanimously agreed that it be put towards any future WHF timing system.	Sacha Rouchier (Treasurer) – note intent of use for these funds

Appendix A – Presidents Report from Tony Drake

WHF Board meeting 2016.

A formal welcome to our 14th Board meeting. It is more than 4 years since we last met as we did not have a world championship in 2014. I realise that this goes against our constitution but after consulting with our Vice Presidents I decided that to try and hold just a Board meeting in the absence of a race meeting would not be viable.

I would like to start my report by recording my and I hope your thanks to the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain for organising our most recent World Championships. The whole organisation and event was superb which made for some fantastic racing and produced very worthy World Champions. I know that some had reservations about the very full race programme proposed by the HCGB but, in spite of some local difficulties, it was executed in a most efficient manner so typical of them.

It is with great regret that I have to inform you that Christel Martens our current WHF Secretary and Treasurer is, after 14 years service, resigning. I would like to formally thank her for everything she has done during her term of office. Christel has been an exemplary secretary, always there when the WHF needed her. A very efficient Secretary and a lovely person and will be missed by us all. While mentioning our retiring Secretary / Treasurer she has asked that I give you her financial statement. It is as follows: We hold ~

90.00 GBP (cash)

894.13€ (bank)

482.72€ (bank) reserved for future Koreans' travelling expenses.

This fairly healthy position is due entirely to the generosity of our Board members who to date have not made any claims for expenses.

I would also like to record my very sincere thanks to Cathy Godicheau from France. Cathy is our web master, or should I say mistress, who has designed what I consider to be a fantastic website for us which is absolutely essential as the face of our world wide federation. Cathy also keeps our website up to date dealing with any update requests from me or our Secretary very, very promptly as well as keeping an eye out for anything we often forget to update her with.

Since our last Board meeting we have admitted Nigeria, Angola, Tunisia and China as provisional members of the WHF. It is interesting to see that we are slowly growing our organisation although with the exception of China they all seem to remain dormant. Although for our last World Championships competitors came to the UK from around the world I am concerned, as I have said in previous reports, that unless every once in a while we are able to take our championships outside of Europe we will lose our credibility as a World Federation. So I urge countries from outside of Europe to come forward to host future Championships and promise them all the help and support they need.

As you will notice some countries are absent and have passed their votes to others because they have had to leave early to return home or work. Clearly the only practical time to hold a Board meeting is

at a World Championship but this poses some problems as to when. On the one hand to hold it at some time or evening on a race day may make it difficult for some to attend and also deal with any appeals that may arise, while on the other to hold it after the event clearly some may have to leave immediately to get home or back to work. Perhaps we can seek a consensus for the future by an email discussion following this meeting.

Following on from our last Board meeting in 2012, under item 12.04 ~ Election of Officers there was a vacancy for Vice President for Asia. I am pleased to tell you that Paul Hibbard, who normally resides in Singapore, was co-opted into this position and I am grateful to Paul for filling this post. I also understand that contrary to the agenda Paul is prepared to continue in this post.

To conclude my report I am proud to have again been your President during the past 4 years and to represent the World Hovercraft Federation. If the Board wish when it comes to the election of officers later in the meeting I am content to remain in post, equally I am content if others wish to take over from me. But what is important is that we look for some younger blood to take our sport into the future. I am very proud to be actively involved with our sport at all levels ~ I hope you are too.

Thank you.

Appendix B - China Proposal to Host World Hovercraft Championships 2018

Separate pdf document

Appendix C - Letter from Anjou Club Aeroglisseurs to The Members of the WHF Committee

Separate pdf documents, both French and English versions of the letter.