

August 2026



Minutes from the WHF meeting in Whittlebury Park, 2026

Following on from a very successful World hovercraft championships, please find attached the meeting minutes from Whittlebury Park. I would like to congratulate all the new champions as well as all who competed and also the HCGB for organising them.

We wish the German club and Manuel and Jessica Metzner the best of luck for their accepted bid for the next world championships in Germany in 2028.

Best regards,

Marie Trussler
WHF Secretary

 Secretary@whf.hovercraft.org.uk

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time:	20th of August 2026, 19.30
Location / Venue:	WHC race site, Whittlebury Park, UK

1. Welcome

Welcome to this the 18th Board meeting of the World Hovercraft Federation here at the Griffon Marine World Hovercraft Championships, it is good to see so many here.

It is interesting to note that this is the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain, our hosts, 60th Anniversary and this coincides with the Formula 1's 100th anniversary and we are so close to the British F1 racing circuit.

Each country is formerly allowed to be represented at the meeting by their Country's nominated representative plus one other. Having said that, providing we proceed in an orderly fashion all are welcome. But may I please remind everyone proposals to change or add to any of our rules must come through your Country's Representative.

This meeting should really be held after the conclusion of our Championships so that any appeal referred to it can be dealt with by the WHF Board. In order to allow some Board members who have large distances to travel to leave as soon as possible after the event, with your consent, as in previous

years we will hold the meeting now? This is subject to the proviso that sufficient Board members agree to stay behind after the Championships to adjudicate on any outstanding appeals which I am sure they will.

2. Attendees

Present: Tony Drake – President, Marie Trussler – Secretary, Paul Hibbard – VP Asia, Mario Khol – HVD President, Andrew Stelzhammer – Austria, John Gifford – Endurance Racing Director, James Lewendon – Technical Director. Magnus Ivanoff – VP Europe, Jakub Furmanski – Poland, Robert Hiseman – UK, Peter Streader – Australia, Paul Moody, Denis Ragot - |France

Apologies received: Kent Gano, Lex van Schaik, Jaroslav Balaz, Alan Bliault, Jos Vanderhoven

In Attendance (Guests/Presenters): Richard Worthington, Fredrik Ivanoff

3. Presidents Reports

It gives me special pleasure to be here this evening to give you and this Board my report for 2026.

Firstly, from a personal point of view I am more than lucky to be here. In December last year I had a cardiac arrest, and my heart stopped for nearly 15 minutes. Had it not been for the quick action of my daughter, my wife and the emergency services who resuscitated me I would not be here now. So, everything is a bonus for me!

Secondly, it is always a pleasure for me to meet and talk with you all. So, what has been happening since we last met?

Several Teams across Europe have continued with our on-going quest to improve the safety of our hovercraft and sport, and you will hear more of this later in the meeting. While others have been continuing their development of electric hovercraft.

Sadly, we lost Heather Black who passed away last year. Heather has been our Chief Marshal for very many World Championships recently. On your behalf my condolences go to her family who I know miss her so much.

On behalf of the WHF and everyone here at these Championships a huge thank you to the Hovercraft club of Great Britain, whom I will now refer to as the HCGB, for hosting this event for us during this difficult time. Difficult because of worldwide rising costs both for site hire and organisation which all makes it so expensive for participants from across the world to attend. This latter cost increase causes a reduction in participants which has a severe knock-on effect on income for the organisers which sadly increases the cost to others.

You will have been aware that an Endurance Challenge was scheduled for the World Championships. Unfortunately, and I really mean unfortunately, after a great deal of initial enthusiasm and request that it be included at the Championships it did not receive sufficient support and had to be withdrawn. Arresting the downward trend in formula racing at World Championship level would be helped by the inclusion of Endurance Challenges at future events as it would increase the numbers of participants. I have already been forewarned of possible proposals to change our Endurance Racing regulations to make it more attractive. If or when these are received, they will be distributed to our member countries for discussion and if accepted their adoption.

On the same subject, electric hovercraft continues to slowly develop around the world. An Endurance event would have been something that could among other things have showcased them and encouraged others and their faster

development.

We should remember that the World Hovercraft Federation is not only just about racing. We are here to promote all forms of recreational hovercraft. It is encouraging to note that the HCGB has a full programme of cruising events, as does Australia, France, through Pascal Lepicier, and of course there is always good support for the French Raid organised by Jean-Claude Delorme which is in its 35th year! We should as a world body encourage more of these types of activities wherever and whenever possible.

An initiative by Daniel Turnbull of the HCGB, which if it could be replicated could be part of the solution to our declining numbers. This is 'hovercraft for hire', or as it is better known in Great Britain as 'Arrive and Drive'. It has been trailed and proved to be very effective at their national race meetings. Participants simply pay a fee, receive training and as the name suggests race a hovercraft. For these Championships we have a driver, Rod Westwood, from Australia who has taken advantage of this scheme.

After the sad events at the World Championships in Sweden in 2022, our attention has been focused on safe craft construction and design. Technical advice by the HCGB's scrutineers concerning attachment of carburetors and electrical connections have been issued. Design and prototype protection bars are being evaluated and you will shortly hear from Richard Worthington how this is progressing. Also, Magnus Ivanoff is working on major craft modification for driver protection, and you will also hear about his work later. But, of course, we can always do more.

There have been changes to our host club's regulation concerning participants permitted alcohol with particular emphasis on Juniors and Colts. Since our regulations stipulate that the Championships must follow these rules this caused me to look at our regulations. Unfortunately, our rules are unclear and disproportionate with any penalty. They are unclear in respect of whether it is the organising hosts rules or the countries national rules. They are disproportionate in that any infringements of the rules exclude the offender from taking further part in the competition and this is further aggravated by the fact that the Juniors and Colts level has significantly been reduced. These issues only came to light 5 or 6 weeks ago which gave insufficient time for them to be formally resolved. To resolve these issues, I have consulted with our Technical Director, Vice Presidents and Secretary and I, or rather we, have decided that for these Championships it will be the hosts club's rules for the alcohol levels in their entirety that will be adopted with retesting after 4 hours rather than a total ban from the competition. Further consideration to these issues will take place by email with our Country delegates in the coming months.

As past events have revealed several of our publications contain unclear rules or statements, so it is my intention to review these and make any minor corrections and bring any major inconsistencies to the attention of our governing body for debate and correction if appropriate.

Juniors and Colts. I believe herein lies one of our very best secret weapons for our continued and developing future. During the Championships you will see a very strong numbers of Junior and Colt participants from the UK. If we can encourage more and from outside the UK, it will not only give them more competition it will help arrest the declining numbers of adult drivers as our Juniors mature into the senior formulae. So, please I urge you all to do everything you can to encourage more Colts and Juniors.

I will now conclude my report with a few 'thank you's.

Firstly, thank you to you for attending this meeting, without your support the WHF would cease to exist.

And secondly, thank you to our Vice Presidents Magnus, Paul, and Kent. Our Technical Director, Jamie. Our Director of Endurance Events, John, and our Secretary Marie for their time, encouragement and wise council. They all try so hard to keep me in order.

4. Secretary's & Treasurer's Report

No income was generated from the 2024 World Championships in Germany. To ensure the financial viability of the event given the organisers' constrained budget, the WHF formally waived the standard event levy.

Due to PayPal region-restricted compliance regulations, the primary account was required to be transferred to a UK-registered PayPal account. Consequently, the transaction incurred currency conversion charges during the transfer from Euros (€) to Pound Sterling (£/GBP).

An additional expenditure was incurred for the renewal of the domain name for the WHF website. Following these transactions, the closing balance of the PayPal account stands at £582.26.

5. Election of Officers

Role	Current Incumbent	Status	Result
President	Tony Drake	Prepared to stand for re-election	Elected
Secretary & Treasurer	Marie Trussler	Prepared to stand for re-election	Elected
Vice President - Americas	Kent Gano	Prepared to stand for re-election	Elected
Vice President - Asia	Paul Hibbard	Prepared to stand for re-election	Paul Moody Elected
Vice President - Africa	Vacant	Prepared to stand for re-election	Elected
Technical Director	James Lewendon	Prepared to stand for re-election	Elected
Director of Endurance Racing	John Gifford	Prepared to stand for re-election	Elected

Herewith Vice President - Asia will be renamed Vice president - Asia Pacific.

6. WHC 2026 Racing Appeals

Note that any racing appeals to the Board arising from WHC 2026 will be addressed following the final race on Sunday.

7. To receive bids or notification of potential bids to host WHC 2028

Mario Khol submitted on behalf of the German club a proposal to host the 2028 World Championship event in Saalburg, Germany, with proposed dates spanning 31st August through 3rd September 2028. The proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

In preparation for the 2028 World championships an EHF meeting is scheduled to take place circa 4th-5th September 2027

8. Safety Report: Roll Bar Design

Richard Worthington (HCGB Scrutineer) presented a technical overview of a driver safety hoop design for racing hovercraft. The presentation outlined the structural and protective benefits intended to enhance driver safety during competition. Further details will be shared.

9. Safety Report: Craft Design Evolution

Magnus Ivanoff (VP Europe) and Fredrik Ivanoff delivered a presentation outlining their perspectives and strategic proposals for the future evolution of craft design, focusing on enhanced driver safety. The board noted the concepts presented, and will be circulated to members in due course.

10. Any other notified and previously circulated business

None received prior to the meeting

11. Any other un-notified business for future discussion and resolution by email

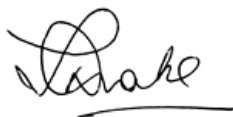
Action items from AOB are listed below

Action Item	Assignee
False start flag rule to be harmonised with EHF rule	James Lewendon
Penalty for course cutting during practice should be identical to during racing. Penalties not currently included in WHF001	James Lewendon
Review and tightening of drug and alcohol testing regulations in WHF001	Tony Drake
Expected duration of race 10 minutes. To be included into WHF001	James Lewendon
Entry qualifications of drivers. Discussion whether it should be mandatory for inexperienced drivers to take part in practice	Mario Kohl

12. Close Meeting

Thank you to the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain for providing these facilities for us.

And thank you all for giving your time to be with us this evening and your contributions. Any issues that were not be finalized at this meeting will be discussed and concluded with our governing Board by electronic means over the coming months ready for our next World Championships in 2028.



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

 president@whf.hovercraft.org.uk

If your country has made any changes please inform our secretary, Marie Trussler, secretary@whf.hovercraft.org.uk .

As usual this Bulletin will be circulated to as many people as possible but please pass it on to anyone who you think may be interested.

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