



PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

WORLD
HOVERCRAFT
FEDERATION

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Minutes of the World Hovercraft Federation meeting, 10:00 am Monday, August 29th 2006 at Senailac-Latronquiere, France

Present:

Marco Prandi, Italy	Kent Gano, USA, WHF VP, Americas
Chris Barlow, Great Britain	Laurent Guetté, France
Sandra Barlow, Great Britain	Jean Pierre Godicheau, France
Jean Francois Berry, France	Francois Porot, France
Jon Flidh, Norway	Hilde Markussen, Norway
Magnus Ivanoff, Sweden, WHF VP, Europe	Henk Martens, Netherlands
Michael Rausch, Germany	Tony Drake, Great Britain, WHF President
Bob Rennick, Canada, WHF Techn. Director	Christel Martens, Netherlands, WHF secretary

06.01 Welcome by the President

Tony Drake opened the meeting and welcomed all representatives and their company. If we are able to get all email addresses, all drivers and representatives will receive the minutes of this meeting and can reply to their national representative.

06.02 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Poland and Slovakia. The HCGB representative sent his regret before the meeting, by e-mail to the secretary, Chris Barlow was asked to replace him.

06.03 President's WHF board report

Tony Drake took the opportunity to thank Club Anjou and all others involved, for hosting one of the largest World Championship. They took the opportunity to include Formula 50 and as a major experiment Endurance Racing which was very successfully.

Last Wednesday, the World Hovercraft Federation had a pre-meeting where some of the points from this agenda were discussed. These will be officially ratified by this meeting.

In the past two years we welcomed Ireland as a new member and both Portugal and Norway renewed their membership.

The WHF Excellence Award was presented to Barry Oakley in 2005 and to Jean Pierre Godicheau yesterday.

At this moment the World Hovercraft Federation has € 332.00 in the bank and the secretary received \$ 293.00 cash, which was still on a dollar account in Canada. This includes € 40.00 from 2 unsuccessful protests. After the meeting the secretary will receive € 50,00 from a protest regarding engine capacity.

Unfortunately Bob Rennick announced that he will retire as Technical-Director, after being a WHF board member for 8/9 years. The WHF presented him a special bottle of WHF – “thank you wine”.

06.04 Election of Officers

In order to save time nominations were taken in advance. If there is only one person nominated for a particular post they will be adopted unopposed. If there are more than one candidate for a post the meeting will hold a vote by show of hands from each countries delegate.

The following were adopted as office holders until 2008

President - Tony Drake

Secretary - Christel Martens

Technical Director – Jean François Berry

Vice President Americas - Kent Gano

Vice President Africa – Siegi Scherrer

Vice President Asia – Vacancy

Vice President Europe – Magnus Ivanoff

06.05 Deadline for WHF Rule Changes

At the Wednesday pre-meeting it was decided that:

No rule changes will be allowed 12 months before any World Federation Event, except for safety and security reasons. This was adopted by this meeting.

06.06 Minimum numbers competing in a Formulae

At the Wednesday pre-meeting it was decided that:

For a formula to qualify as a World Championship there must be at least 8 competitors at the final registration date.

This Governing Board added the following - “When less than 8 competitors in a formula arrive at the event it may be possible that 2 formulae are run concurrently (at the same time). This will be by agreement between the Organizers and the WHF”. This was adopted by this meeting.

06.07 Frequency of World Championships

At the Wednesday pre-meeting it was decided that:

World Championships shall be held every 2 years as at present.

Some of the reasons given where keep up with the technique and development, number of participants is already very high this could even be more when the event is every 3 years. This was adopted by this meeting.

06.08 The future of ER

The meeting agreed that it should continue, so it was decided that the WHF recognise and encourages ER as an official formula. (However due to size or time constraints it may not always be possible to include ER at a World Championship). Any Countries that wants to host a future World Hovercraft Event must make it clear in their bid presentation if ER will by included in their program or not.

There was a further discussion to see if it is acceptable to run ER as a stand alone event separate from the World Championship as with the Speed Record attempts – This was agreed. The meeting also agreed that the minimum for ER is 3 x 1 hour sessions.

Jean François Berry, technical-director will collect all comments concerning ER rule changes and will send a proposal to the secretary for voting.

06.09 The future of Formula 50

The meeting agreed that it should continue, so it was decided that the WHF recognises formula 50 as an official formula.

Entrants for F 50 may be excluded from other formulae if there are too many craft, this will be agreed between the WHF and the organizers, at the time of registration.

06.10 The future of Formula 25

The meeting agreed that Formula 25 will be continued, although if entries are low it may be necessary to run it within another formula.

06.11 Hosts for future World Championships

After 2 proposals to host the 2008 World Championship only Norway was present to give their presentation. Because of all the rule changes they would like to have 6 more months to see if they can realise a World Championship in Norway. During the presentation it showed that they can choose between 3 locations, in the Valley 150 km above Oslo, at the moment 3 Mayors wants to host the event. Norway was given an indication that, subject to some minor alterations, such as the use of international hovercraft marshals, and their willingness to continue that their bid would be accepted. Mauritius will be invited to make a bid for a future event but this must be on the clear understanding that they can demonstrate they fully understand the implications and requirements of hosting such an event.

06.12 Any Other Business

The French proposed a change for Formula 2, to a total engine capacity op 600 cc, with a maximum of 500 cc for the trust engine. The meeting voted against the proposal.

The WHF has to find another webmaster because Bob Rennick has retired and the suggestion was made to ask Catherine Godicheau because she is also doing a great job on the EHF website. (After the meeting Catherine agreed),

A question came up how to deal with slow craft on the race course. It was agreed that for F25, FJ and ER the main course could be modified to remove any difficult sections.

There was a discussion about getting together an International Marshall list acceptable at WHF events. Mike Rausch was asked to put together this list. In

Berlin the German Federation started this and it could be useful as a basis for future events.

The WHF received a proposal for funding overseas containers. The proposal is that every driver who registers for a World Championship pays € 100.00. This amount will go to the drivers who have to ship their craft in a container. Because there are a lot of different opinions on this matter the WHF hopes that a good proposal comes out of the email discussion.

It seems that there was a problem in the heats for formula 50. Jean Francois Berry has spoken about this with Mike Rausch and hopefully re-wording in the rules will clear things up.

The meeting talked about re-running a race after a red flag situation. At the moment the WHF rules say no re-run when the leader has finished 1/3 of the race. The European rules say no re-run when the leader has finished 1/2 of the race. For the organizers the rule as present is workable because of the time schedule. Drivers would prefer to have the 50% rule to make it a good race. With more better and consistent marshalling red flag situations should be reduced and hence it should be possible to adopt the European rule. Leading on from this the meeting felt that the WHF rules could possibly learn from the European and British Club rules, (as they have far more high level competitive events and hence more experience than anyone else) and that the WHF should attempt to harmonise with them. An e-mail discussion should take place to do this.

There was a discussion about allowing a limit to be set on the total number of participants at World Championships. This was prompted by the fantastic attendance at the French World Championships - it was felt that there are very few venues throughout the world that could cope with such a large event and very few organisers with the necessary experience and we should not put off countries who could not host an unlimited event. Magnus Ivanoff will start an email discussion about this and get back to the WHF secretary with a proposal.

Jean-Pierre Godicheau sincerely thanked the WHF for the honour of presenting him the WHF's Award for Excellence.

The meeting closed at 12.25 am.