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## Minutes of the EAME Wakeboard Boat Council Meeting

Time: November 7-9, 2008

Place: France

Present: Stefano Duranti                      Chairman  
          Alain Nieles                            Treasurer  
          Claes Scheffer                        Secretary  
          Florian Butty                         Admincom representative  
          Remi Brevik  
          Jean-Philippe Richonnier  
          Colin Hart

### 1 Apologies for Absence

All members of the Council were present.

### 2 Approval of the Minutes from Paris

The Minutes from the last meeting has been circulated but not distributed to the federations. They were approved and Claes Scheffer will send the Minutes to Brit Horemans for distribution.

### 3 Election of Male and Female Rider of the Year

The Council decided to elect Nick Davis from Great Britain and Elke Venken from Belgium as male and female Rider of the Year and nominate these for Athlete of the Year. The Council will prepare the necessary documentation to send to Admincom during the weekend. In addition the achievements below the Council also considered these riders' contribution to the sport in many other ways.

Nick Davis

- 1<sup>st</sup> place, EAMEA Championships 2008, Junior Men
- World Cup, Singapore, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- World Cup, Egypt, 1<sup>st</sup> place (slider competition)

Elke Venken

- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, EAME Championships 2009, Ladies Open
- 4<sup>th</sup> place, World Cup, Egypt
- 1<sup>st</sup> place, Belgian National championships
- Took part in many other events

### 4 Comments/Discussions about EAME Championships 2009

Over-all the competition was a great success, and the fact that the event was run with as many riders as 124 was impressive.

The Council discussed a rerun that was requested by the Swiss Team Captain and Cyril Cornaro close to the end of the competition.



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A few French cable riders, that did not take part in the Championships, caused some trouble during one of the nights.

During the end of the Wakeskate Championships the official boat broke. The Chief Judge chose to use the back-up boat. By the beginning of the Wakeboard Championships the primary boat was fixed and could be used again. At the second day the primary boat broke down again and the backup boat was used. It is the responsibility of the organizers to ensure that the boats are in enough good shape. Stefano Duranti, as Council Chairman and as Chief Judge, sent a letter to the French boat dealer providing the boats for the Championship, describing the importance of providing good boats for a titled event, what great opportunity it was for Malibu to be the official boat for this event, and what bad promotion the boat problems was for their dealership and the brand. The boat supplier also needs to offer mechanical support during a titled event.

Some critics were brought forward regarding the accommodation for the officials. The accommodation was of a very poor standard. Officials work hard without pay at an event, and do not demand any luxury, but should get at least the minimum of comfort. In this case the officials had to choose between living, as they did, on the site, and to live further away from the site at a hotel. It was concluded that it was better for the officials to live on the site.

Some critics were brought forward regarding the closing ceremony being held in a dark area with little lighting and Colin Hart commented that this undermined an important part of the event for the 3 winning teams receiving their medals. The Council suggests that both the individual and team medals are given out right after the competition at a prize giving ceremony, and that the closing ceremony is held during Saturday night the night before the finals. The closing ceremony could perhaps be called banquet instead. This suggestion has to be put forward and agreed to by Admincom. The Council will prepare a document to present to the next Admincom meeting on Monday.

## **5 Heat System**

It has been discussed for a long time to reduce the maximum number of riders in a heat.

Johan Callebert, Rui Monteiro, and Walter Gianini have replied via email to Stefano Duranti that they all agree with the reduction. A questionnaire was answered by the team captains at the EAME Championships 2007 in South Africa (held in 2008). The conclusion is that most, if not all, riders support a heat system with a reduced number of maximum number of riders in each heat. Many officials, that have tried judging events with less riders in each heat, agree that it is preferred.

Competitions with too many riders could be a problem if the LCQ are kept. Skipping the LCQs could be a way to reduce the total number of rides and that way the time needed to run a competition. But the Council wants to keep the LCQ for two reasons; each rider is ensured at least two rides, and because of the nature of the sport a rider can always fall even if being the best rider.

The World Wakeboard Council has prepared a new heat system. Alain Nieles has gone through this heat system and concludes that it is good, but that it maybe needs a few modifications. The Council decided to go ahead to implement a new heat system. Remi will produce a draft for the next meeting in Zagreb in January 2009.

## 6 Calculation Program

Applying a new heat system means that a new calculation program needs to be developed. The Council believes that is necessary to be able to pay a software developer to develop such a new program. The Council will apply to Admincom for extra funds for such an initiative. Alain Nieves suggested the Council should gather more details concerning the Wakeboard Cable calculation program. Stefano Duranti will contact the Wakeboard Cable Council.

## 7 Calendar 2009

An organizer in Italy has applied to the Council to host the EAME Championships 2009. The Council decided to approve that application, but it is not clear if the Italian federation supports this application.

18-21 June	Wakeboard Masters	Montreux, Switzerland
25-29 June	Mediterranean Games	Pescara, Italy
3-5 July	Free for Style	Estavayer, Switzerland
22-25 July	World Games	Taiwan
11-16 August	EAME Championships (suggested date)	
25-30 August	Worlds Championships	Chuncheon, Korea
21-24 August	Wakeboard Masters	Kiev, Ukraine (provisional date as organizers are re-looking at this due to the Worlds)
5 September	Flanders Open	Izegem, Belgium
28 October – 1 November	Wakeboard Masters	Kuwait City, Kuwait

## 8 International Judges Seminar 2009

Colin Hart proposed having the seminar in Dublin, Ireland. He will approach the potential organizers to see if they are willing, and able, to organize the seminar. If this would not be possible, the Council will instead approach an organizer in Budapest. Many would be happy to go to Budapest and it is cheap to go, and stay there.

Norway – It would be positive to have an event in Scandinavia but it would be expensive and complicated for attendees to go to Norway.

The seminar should be held, as usual, in March or April.

## 9 International Driving Seminar

Sweden has shown an interest in organizing the Driving Seminar in 2009. Claes Scheffer will check if Sweden is able to organize this and the Council will decide at its meeting in January.

## 10 Budget

The Council decided to charge the federation for the late registration forms for 2008. Alain Nieves has the list of fees to be invoiced, (homologation fees, cash price fees and penalties).

The Council has not been able to propose a new budget for the Council after the new fee structure was adopted, and need to do so. It is not clear to the Council what opportunities the

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Council has, and what needs to be done. The Council will have to bring this topic up with Sid Andriaesen and Alain Amade on Sunday.

Alain Nieves suggested that the officials at the EAME Championships should get a compensation out of the Council's budget. The Council decided not to do so since this compensation should be decided upon beforehand and not in retro perspective. The money might also be needed in order to develop a new calculation program.

## 11 Rules 2009

The following changes to the Rules were decided by the Council to be made to the Additional Rules Wakeboard Boat. All the changes made will be illustrated in the actual set of rules. The following list does not represent all the changes made.

1. Suggestion: Add a section about the responsibility of a judge at a competition. A judge should be a representative of the panel in all situations at a competition and should not act as a representative for a team.
2. Suggestion: A member of the panel should not be allowed to take part in the competition at titled events.
3. Suggestion: Perhaps this should go into another document added to the Wakeboard Boat Additional Rules, such as a Technical Check list. The organizer has to have two identical boats for a titled event that are in good enough shape.
4. Change the age specifications for the categories, and years in the title and footer.
5. The complete heat system will be added to end of the rules. Section 3.1 and 3.3 will have to be updated.
6. A technical checklist for the organizer will be added to the rules. This list is mandatory for organizers of titled events, but a suggestion for organizers of other competitions.
7. Move 4.5 "Boats" to 17.
8. The rules for wakeskating need to be completely rewritten. It has been expressed by both riders and judges that the rules for wakeskating is not what is wanted. What has been demanded is more of an expression session like competition format. The Council decided to create a separate document that includes the Wakeskate Rules.
9. Regarding the part under sections 8.5.1, 8.6.1, and 8.6.4 about point reductions for falls the Council discussed the options of keeping or deleting the parts, or, as proposed by Alain Nieves, rewriting the parts to state "a maximum of...points". Stefano Duranti wrote an email to all International Level 1 judges prior to the meeting and asked them about their opinion on this matter and asked them to attend the meeting. Nobody had the opportunity to attend, but three judges gave written replies to the questions raised. These answers were considered. Florian Butty suggested, and this was supported by Colin Hart, to meet with all International Level 1 Judges before the next international judging seminar to address this particular issue, however, a vote took place. The Council voted, with three votes for rewriting the section about 0,5 and 1 point reduction for one and two falls, and two for deleting the section, and two abstentions.
10. "Chairman of the Wakeboard Council" is changed to "Chief Judge" in Section 9.1.1.
11. An explanation of the Obstacles scoring category was added to section 8.6.4. Adding 3.3 maximum point system was discussed at length. This system means that if there are three

opportunities to hit an obstacles in a course then a judge should give a maximum of 3.3 points per obstacle hit.

12. The council decided to add a new obstacle to the list. A Fun Box will be added. Jean-Philippe Richonnier is in charge to provide a drawing.
13. Claes Scheffer will present to the Council a proposal for rules for the ranking. The Council agrees that the current ranking system is not totally adequate.
14. Wakeskate Rules: Alain Nieles suggested having two scoring categories instead of three – artistic and technical. The Council also discussed using a time limit instead of counting number of falls. Time limitation will introduce a lot of problems for the judges, stop watch, horn, and that the rider can blame the driver for taking too long time to turn around after a fall. Introducing a time limitation will not open up for more falls than with the current system. Claes Scheffer will write a suggestion of new wakeskate rules. Stefano Duranti will circulate this to as many officials and riders as possible.
15. The obstacles specified for wakeskate needs to be open. It should state that a minimum of two obstacles should be used and then provide a list of suggested obstacles.

## **12 Visit by Secretary and Chairman of Region EAME**

Alain Amade and Sid Adriaensen visited the Council's meeting.

### **12.1 The situation in the Council**

Stefano Duranti and Alain Nieles have indicated that they want to resign from the Council and explained the background to why they have chosen to do so. Alain Amade explained his worries if they resign from the Council and that he sincerely wants Stefano and Alain to stay in the Council for another year.

### **12.2 Admincom Representative**

The Council elected Florian Butty as new Admincom representative at the Congress in January 2009. He has unfortunately not been able to attend any Admincom meeting other than that in conjunction with the Congress. This is created a critical problem for the Council since Admincom is not able to make any decision concerning the Wakeboard Boat Council. The Council will have to appoint a new Admincom representative.

### **12.3 World Wakeboard Association**

Alain Amade has seen the development of WWA and IWSF. He recognizes that WWA is a very good event organizer but that it is not able to handle the long-term development and organization of the sport within region EAME for wakeboard boat. Sid Adriaensen told the Council that IOC has explained that it will not recognize any sport that is not organized under the IWSF.

### **12.4 Mediterranean Games**

Alain Amade informed the Council of the latest plans for the Mediterranean Games.

### **12.5 Official Boat at titled events**

It has been observed by the Council that there is a need to specify certain things about the tow boat at titled events, for example the need for two identical boats, mechanical support, fat sacks, and so on. The Council asked Alain Amade and Sid Adriaensen how to handle this. The requirements that are specific for wakeboarding and wakeskating needs to be specified in the Additional Wakeboard Boat Rules.



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## **12.6 Team and individual prize giving ceremony and closing ceremony at the EAME Championships**

The Council would like to have the opportunity to have the team- as well as the individual prize giving ceremony at the same time, right after the end of the competition, and have the closing ceremony on the last Saturday of the competition. Alain Amade explained that it is up to the Council to decide if the schedule of an event needs to be specified, and this can be specified in the additional rules.

## **12.7 Council Budget**

The Council would like to have the opportunity to compensate officials partly for their travel expenses. The Council would like to suggest to skip the cash prize fee, and to increase the entry fee to 150 € for all divisions. 50% of the increase should be used to offer travel grants to officials at titled events.

## **12.8 Budget for the Development of a New Calculation Program**

The Council would like to forward to Admincom an official request for an additional budget of 2000 EUR to be spend on the development of a new Calculation Program

## **12.9 Wakeskate Rules**

The Council asked Alain Amade and Sid Andriaensen if it is possible to split the Additional Rules into two parts – one for Wakeboard and one for Wakeskate. This is possible if preferable.

# **13 AOB**

## **13.1 Reports**

The Council has received reports from Johan Callebert, Walter B. Gianini, and Rui Monteiro. The Council appreciates the feedback and has considered the points brought up.

## **13.2 Steven Dubois**

Alain Nieves forwarded a request from Steven Dubois that he should be recognized as International Boat Driver since he was acting as a driver at the EAME Championships in Belgium in 2006. Steven Dubois is currently national boat driver.

The Council voted with four votes against, and two abstentions, and one suggestion for Steven to be recognized as International Level 2 with an option to be recognized as level 1 if attending the next Driving Seminar. Steven Dubois is therefore not recognized as international boat driver.

## **13.3 Homologation of private events**

The Council discussed the European Masters and the homologation of these events. These events are not directly organized by a federation but instead by a private organization. It is therefore a problem to charge the federations a homologation fee. They are also organized as invitational competitions. It is therefore not an argument to homologate the competitions because the results will count towards the ranking list. But since the EAME officials are used at these events, and since these events are on the official calendar, it is motivated to collect a homologation fee. This matter needs to be dealt with.

# **14 Next meeting**

The Council's next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Congress in Zagreb on Friday, February 6, 2009.



These Minutes were prepared by Secretary Claes Scheffer.