



Region Europe Racing Council Report

(Admin Com, London November 2022)

It has been a sad year for the Racing division. August 7th, our previous Chairman, Mike Waterman passed away and left an enormous void. His 30 year experience, but above all, Mike as a charismatic and inspiring person, will be sadly missed.

Despite all covid measures being lifted – only very limited events were put on.

Belgium, Austria and Canary Islands organized National competitions.

Belgium, Viersel organized a Belgian National (Diamond Race – mini version) with open invitation To which foreign attendance was very limited.

UK unfortunately, was not able to hold sanctioned racing due to insurance issues.

Hanseatic Water Sports festival did take place – as a private (social) initiative – with great success, mainly due to the multi discipline approach. Something, we definitely need to further explore as this could blow new life in to Racing as large crowds are drawn to the spectacle aspect of the event.

We also noted some UK (social) racing in Huntstanton and Cardiff.

The Pavia Raid (Italy) had to be postponed to 2023 due to critical water levels in the Po river.

Catalina Race : 2 UK teams and 2 Belgian teams travelled to USA and participated.

During summer we re-opened the discussion on whether or not we could again organize Racing at lake Eguzon, France. Ski-ing Europe is very interested, however, unless UK is successful in resolving the ongoing insurance matter- UK teams will not be able to attend.

Unfortunately we have no further news from UK, in terms of possibly mirroring the European rules, where boat to boat insurance is not required as per the below Europe confederation rule

3.04 Race Organisers must provide facilities for third party insurance for entrants and each boat must be insured against third party risks for a minimum of €3,000,000 or the equivalent in local currency. Competitor to competitor insurance is not compulsory. The current policy of insurance with a valid renewal receipt for the same must be produced before or at the time of inscription.

Meanwhile Chris Rydl has been in contact with 2 potential insurers in Austria, willing to give full coverage – only 1 snag, the boats need to be registered in Austria. So, we are further investigating how we could possibly get around this. If this opportunity opens up, it would be good to negotiate a Pan European deal.

Looking in to 2023

Austria has unofficially (B. Nash – W Kittl) expressed they would like to put on an invitation event.

Viersel Diamond Race date has been confirmed on June 25th (Belgian National-Open invitation)

Belgium Racing season to start on April 30th - Beringen

2023 WC – World chair, Vera Van Den Bossche shared latest update, only USA has sent in their intention to bid – venue would be lake Havesu.

Australia has expressed their interest, but no official bid received yet.



We have tried mitigating in the matter between Canarias and the Spanish Federation. Meanwhile we have spoken both parties and had asked the President of the Spanish Federation (Pacco) if the outstanding payment could somehow be mitigated. This is a work in progress.

Yours in water skiing

Richard Hernaez,

President, Europe Racing Council

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