

**IWWF Region Europe Racing Council Meeting Minutes**  
**FR-Paris /Rungis – ORLY Feb. 4th, 2024**  
8.30 am-13.00 pm

**1. Chairman's welcome**

In absence of R. Hernaez Vera VDB chairs the meeting  
A brief moment of silence in remembrance of Luis Mussach (RIP-Dec 2023)  
Gunther Then (RIP-Mar 2023)

In absence of Richard Hernaez - meeting is chaired by Vera VD Bossche

**To record attendance and apologies**

**Present**

Chris Rydl (BEL)	Secretary General
Franz Hebenstreit (AUT)	Treasurer
Vera Van den Bossche (BEL)	Council member
Thea Klarenbeek (NL)	Council member
Steve Cox (GBR)	Council member
Steve Bird (GBR)	Council member

**Apologies received**

Richard Hernaez (FR)	President
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**2. To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held at Stansted UK & "Microsoft teams" and deal with any matters arising.**

✓ Approved/no remarks

**3. President's Report to Congress OK**

✓ Corrected version shared (Cody Kirkland added to WC Gosford JRS/Tenerife as falling under Spanish Federation changed to Spain) + apologies to Spanish Federation)

**4. Correspondence (IN/OUT)**

✓ Medals Gavin Kelly – Europe Cup has been requested 11x3  
EUR kids A/EUR kids B/Juniors/Masters/Open/Ladies F1-F2-F3/Men F1-F2-F3  
✓ Medals EUR championship not yet ordered as venue is still tentative.....  
Official medals EUR championship not yet ordered (10 medals will be needed)

**5. To consider any points for AOB (Any Other Business)**

✓ Steve B would it be a good idea to add a shopping cart to our website ?

**6. Discuss options on how to better support potential European event organizers**

✓ Create a standard guidance script on LAO and expected costings

**7. Treasurer's Report and revised budget for 2024**

**Support World judges – any budget available?**

✓ Travel cost contribution as appreciation is agreed.  
Vera/Franz to do needful towards the relevant judges.

**Textiles' :**

✓ As many new Council members do not have official shirts - Vera to coordinate.  
Will also offer opportunity to European Judges platform to buy shirts ....

**Council allowance 2023** was reduced to €1000 due to insufficient sanctioned events (2022)..... Same allowance was granted for 2024, however, this needs to be reconsidered as 3 Europe Cups (Beringen (BE/Viersel (BE) and Hollenburg (AT) were organized.

- ❖ At this point of the meeting we welcome the newly (re)elected Buro Patrice M/Dominique DL both re-elected and Marianne P the new Secretary General replacing Sid A.
  - As we were not represented at the Nov. meeting (World Championships – AUS) we now addressed the Buro and asked to reconsider the council budget of 2024.
  - Also discussed attendance at the Admincom meetings  
Normally Richard to attend  
We will appoint and share names of fixed alternates  
Chris R as secretary General Racing  
The Hollenburg European Cup is same date as the Barcelona Spring Meeting.  
Hopefully Richard can attend.
  - Briefly discussed upcoming Zoom meeting Feb 9<sup>th</sup> /agenda UK and way forward.
  - Would like to see progress on EMS for racing

To help push organizers and promote the 2023 European Cup tour we asked the Buro for support during the 2022 November meeting visit. The buro exceptionally agreed to allow 50% discount on the sanction fee. In the past the Council re-imbursed organizing clubs 400 € as a promotional budge. Instead, for 2023 the promotional budget was not paid to the organizing club but will be paid to the Buro direct from Council budget.

In 2024 European Cup organizers will again pay the €800 via their respective Federation and will be invited to send invoice for promotion budget (400€) to the Buro.

- ✓ For 2023 settlement, Franz will exceptionally coordinate with Dominique (treasurer) – (3 European Cups Beringen/Viersel & Hollenburg x €400 = € 1200)

Budget website :

- ✓ Website costing start up : €700
- ✓ after that approx. € 350/annum
- ✓ we also agreed on a Social media boosting package of €500/annum  
this to push promotion of coming events to a region.

Intl Licenses 2023	BEL	18
	GB	11
	AT	15
	ES	1

## 8. Evaluation 2023 events (Europe Cup & World Championships AUS)

- ✓ All 3 races were a success – Hollenburg AT was very appreciated. They have meanwhile agreed/confirmed organization of Europe Cup 2024.
- ✓ The WC Gosford in the end went smooth.
- ✓ Do recommend for future world events to have a centralized accommodation.  
This, to facilitate better communication and networking.
- ✓ Race Live' proved to be good tool.
- ✓ We would like to investigate if we can adopt same for Europe. Steve C mentioned that Offshore racing is using an alternative tool called Yachtbot.
- ✓ Race tracking tool options to be further investigated

## 9. 2024 Racing Calendar

The question was raised by Steve B if European Championship need to take place in Aug?

- ✓ This has been the date for almost all EC – this being the best window to accommodate school holiday across Europe region.

- ✓ European Calendar 2024
    - 18-19 May 2024 European Cup (Back2Back ?) Hollenburg (AT)
    - 25-26 May 2024 European Cup Viersel (BE)  
"Diamond Race"
    - 12-18 Aug 2024 European Championships ????? (AT)  
Tentative – more news to follow asap
- If we come to solution for UK – possibly Hanseatic is eligible and could potentially also change the formula from open International to European Cup to be closely followed up.

### 10. Update on UK annexation Racing

- ✓ Waiting outcome IWWF meeting Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 2024

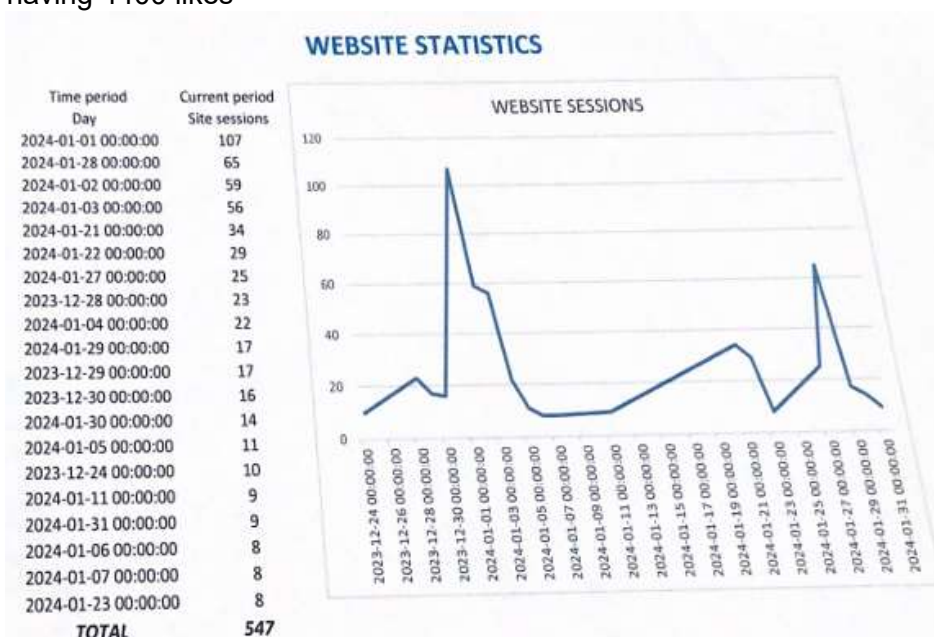
### 11. Latest update on Judges, exams – way forward

Vera confirms that M Fahrnberger (AT) successfully took the European Judge exam.

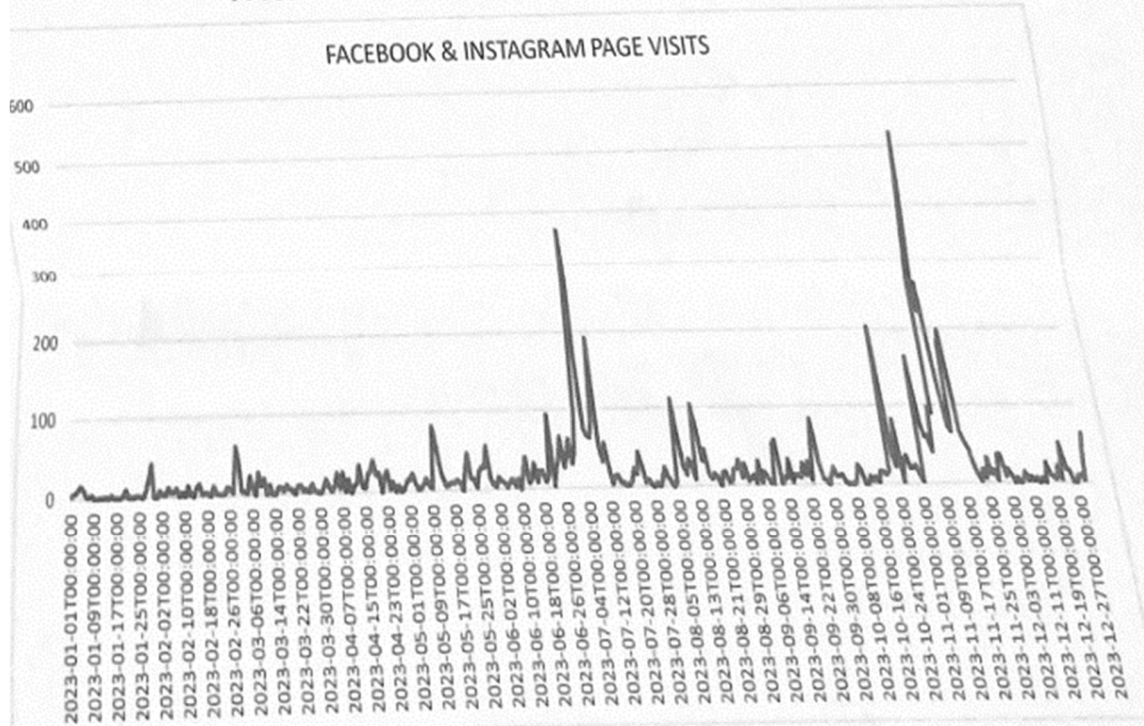
- ✓ Official confirmation letter to be sent by Vera
- Technical bulletin will be updated
- ✓ Vera will do needful and share same with the council.
- ✓ A separate reminder to be sent out to the federations that all National results need to be shared with the Racing Council.
- ✓ IT. Pierro Menardi has confirmed his retirement

### 12. Website (Report Steve B) general discussion on way forward

- ✓ New website was launched end of Dec 2023.
  - Website has so far been visited 547 times.
  - ✓ More focus on posts for the age group under 24 with a special focus on the 'littlest' Is required
  - ✓ Facebook peaks are noted on weekends
  - ✓ Soon to come - regular podcasts
  - Section National results section to be supported.
- Meanwhile, together with Cable Wake Racing has become the biggest influencer, having 4400 likes



## FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM STATISTICS



TOTAL FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

4082

TOTAL INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

358

### Followers by gender and age

Age	Women	Men
18-24	2.60%	5%
25-34	5.40%	12.40%
35-44	5.70%	14.70%
45-54	7.50%	16.30%
55-64	7.30%	12%
65+	4.70%	6.40%

### Facebook followers by top countries

Top countries	Value
Australia	44.90%
Belgium	16.20%
United Kingdom	13.90%
United States	8.50%
Spain	3.90%
Netherlands	2.20%
New Zealand	2.20%
Austria	2.10%
France	1.30%
Italy	1.10%

Facebook Reach = 60,410 (UP 215.5%)

Instagram Reach = 10,623 (UP 407%)

**13. Report from Region Europe Athletes' Representative.**

- ✓ The European Cups are again picking up  
Nothing special to report

**14. Bids for 2024 European Championships**

- ✓ Austria (tentative) 12-18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024

**15. News from IWWF World Racing Council**

- ✓ 2025 World Championships – no official bids received so far  
Discussion on “Wildcard” whereby 2 extra teams with “Wildcard” were accepted  
During Gosford Council meeting Australia requested to revoke “Wildcard” system.
- ✓ It has been proven that decrease of 9 to 6 jury members is not workable.  
Hence, it is again on the agenda to reconsider and go back to 9.

**16. Revision of any Region Europe Racing rules for 2024**

2024 rules

- ✓ no changes vs 2023
- ✓ at the request of BWSWF Rule 304 is under investigation.
- ✓ Review engine qualifications : older engines can be allowed on a case by case decision from the council/scrutineer.

**17. Region Europe Racing Hall of Fame**

- ✓ Last 2 years we have not held presentations of the selected winners possibly we can consider to present awards at the EC Austria. Vera to share names.

**18. IWWF World Hall of Fame**

- ✓ This is under the jurisdiction of The Wprmd selection committee (Tom Lumley/Merryl Lee and Mike King)
- ✓ Selected names for 2024 need to be submitted latest end of August 2024.

**19. Boat Numbers regular update.**

- ✓ Vera VDB, Steve B and Franz H will share the relevant list for their countries.t.

**20. Any other business**

- ✓ SB shopping cart idea trial run 2024 – evaluation November meeting.
- ✓ Council members are requested to contact possible sponsors/advertisers  
Meanwhile checked with Buro and all income remains “own” income.

**21. Date and venue of next meeting.**

Viersel May 25<sup>th</sup>.