



**Minutes of the IWWF Region Europe Racing Council Meeting by Microsoft Teams on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10.00 hours ( Belgian Time).**

**1 To record attendance and apologies**

Our President gives a warm welcome to all members joining this zoom meeting. Instead of a physical meeting there is, for the moment, no other way seeing the COVID situation. Mike thanks Chris for setting up this meeting.

Mike Waterman (GBR)	President
Vera Van den Bossche (BEL)	Secretary-General
Franz Hebenstreit (AUT)	Treasurer
Thea Klarenbeek (NL)	Council member
Steve Cox (GBR)	Council member
Richard Hernaez (FRA)	Council member
Julius Leysen	Council member
Chris Rydl (BEL)	Athletes Representative

**2 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held by “zoom” on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and deal with any matters arising.**

Minutes of the zoom meeting held on November 7<sup>th</sup> , 2020 are approved. Most of the matters arising are to be found in the agenda points of today.

**3 Presidents’ Report to Congress**

Report was distributed to all and approved by Council.

**4 Secretary General’s report**

Nothing special to report as Items of importance always promptly copied to Council by email. All outstanding matters are on the agenda for further discussion.

## **5 Treasurer's Report and revised budget for 2020/2021.**

- All is under control and nothing special to report.
- Racing Council agrees to reimburse a Budget of 1.500 € to General.
- The fees for the website (set up by Jonas) will extend till July, afterwards the new website will come into place.

## **6 2021 Racing Calendar including the European Championships in Belgium (2022)**

For the moment we had 2 dates are on the European Calendar :

- 26-27/07/2021 Diamond Race Viersel (BEL)
- 31/07-01/08/2021 Hanseatic Race (GBR)
- Austria (Wolfram Kittl) has showed interest for a race in Vienna. But this still has to be confirmed, nothing final yet-> Vera will send reminder.

Richard : however there is some good news regarding Eguzon (FRA), the president of the club resigned and now there will be contacts to regain racing in France as of 2022. Richard will keep us informed.

European Championships 2020 postponed till 2022. For the moment Belgium (Beringen) still has the intention to organize this event.

Of course, due the COVID situation all is very uncertain for the next year. But we hope that we will be able to race again in a near future.

## **7 Correspondence**

No correspondence received, all matters are dealt with.

## **8 Insurance for water ski racing- GB/Belgium and elsewhere**

- Belgium as the same insurance as last year. Federation however is still in negotiation to find a revision for racing for boat to boat insurance.
- GB is a real problem as the federation is excluding racing from their disciplines. So normally Gb competitors cannot race for the moment as there is no insurance in place. What happens now as no EU member ? International licences cannot be obtained through the Federation ?
- Belgium is investigating the possibility for GB competitors to join a Belgium club and race in Belgium. However this would be for a limited number of participants.
- Mike is, on behalf of IWWF Racing, in contact with the brokers of the UIM, but no reply up till now.

## **9 Any pressing IT issues/website/social media (also update on IWWF Racing World Website initiative).**

- Steve Bird has given a reasonable budget, but work is still in progress.
- Hannah is making her end work for university and then she will restart.

- IWWF website : still looking for somebody to help in this. Vera is looking for somebody who could help her to at least have it updated. Chris suggest she can ask a friend whether he can help with tips.

**10 WARAC update-any progress, following November report?**

No news for the moment, and since the COVID situation no meeting was held. Vera will send reminder to ask progress.

**11 Report from Region Europe Athletes' Representative, Chris Rydl-newsletter?**

- For the moment nothing to report all quite.
- Mike has send some topics to Chris and Steve, anything done ?
- Chris and Steve will review and see what they can publish asap.
- Although the thought was given to launch a ski forum (Hannah, Chris) Get fit 2 Ski nothing has been done on this item.
- Belgium however started a live program Get Fit 2 Ski (every Thursday) and that was well received. The first gym lessons 53 persons attended, unfortunately only 1 from racing (Chris !).

**12 Minutes & Outcomes of WRC meeting in Vichy held on 13/09/2019--update.**

- Vera (as Chair) says:
- That there has been a very positive zoom meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2020 at which all items from the Vichy meeting were again taken under consideration and approved in the meantime.
- IWWF Rule Book 2021 will be published in two weeks' time.
- Draft minutes have been circulated to the Council members and as soon as responses are received they will be published as well.
- We are still working on an alternative to the Worlds events being cancelled, and see whether there is a possibility to have a series of IWWF Racing World Cup 2022 events with a calendar of 4 – 5 events. And encourage competitors to travel to these series, with the help from organizers to have boats available.
- Needless to say that we are concentrating on the planning for the 2023 IWWF World Championships.

**13 Bids for 2023 World Championships- options**

- Canarias Islands maybe ?
- France - Vichy : according to Patrice Martine, which we have asked at the latest Congress, there would be a possibility ?
- Great Britain > Tom Lumley suggested again at Hunstanton / King's Lynn?
- Scotland / Dunoon is still showing interest to host. Discussion followed on the accommodation issue what was brought up last time, maybe a better brochure with all possibilities ?

**14 European Racing Hall of Fame –confirm recipients for 2021.**

As we did not have the chance to award the 2019/2020 candidates, suggestion is made to keep the same names and award them in 2021:

- Carlo Cassa (ITA) European Champion F1 Men 1996 – 2002
- Miriam Grignani (ITA) European Champion F1 Women 1984 – 1985

Council members agreed on this proposal.

If for any reason due to COVID this could not happen, then we postpone again till 2022.

**15 Revision of any Region Europe Racing rules for 2021 including Rule 3.04**

- There will be no Rule changes before we received the new IWWF Rules. We will only change in Europe what we deem relevant to our Region and beneficial to our racers.
- As soon as these are published Vera suggest to have a short zoom meeting to see whether rules need to be adapted.
- 3.04 > we still need to revise this item, but will wait the outcome.

**16 Boat Numbers any update.**

- Nothing to report on this item for the moment.

**17 Region Europe Racing nominees for IWWF Hall of Fame- update**

- Vera says that she already explained the new format of the HOF and IWWF Racing Selectors have been appointed.

For the Special Awards (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IWWF) all disciplines:

- 2 candidates have been nominated for the Quarter Century Award (1 female and 1 male).
- 2 candidates have been nominated for the Past Decade Award (1 female and 1 male).
- These nominees will be published shortly by IWWF.

For the nominees HOF :

- The Selectors will make a decision regarding who will be nominated and present this to the IWWF Racing Council.
- 3 candidates are in the running and will be presented to the Committee.

Vera will keep you informed of the outcome.

**18 Discussion of possible future formats/formulae of Water Ski Racing in Europe—S Cox**

A long discussion has taken place regarding this topic, in conclusion :

- Steve says (as before) that there is a tremendous gap between F2 and F1 – going from 300 HP to Open 9.28 lts. That is a very big step for the competitors going from F2 step up to F1. There should be at least a midway f.i. : 300 HP – 600 HP and then F1 superclass.
- Council agrees that this makes sense but will be a long time project !
- Maybe Chris and Steve could launch this in the athlete's corner ?

- He also says that there is no recognition for the drivers and observers, everybody knows the name of the skier but of the team ? They are members of the team not individual persons, when you win a medal it is the whole team !
- Franz says that seeing the youth at the camps in AUT, they come, learn to ski and leave ! This is a family sport otherwise it is not possible. There are too much sports available and attractive for the children.
- Jules says that know the race format is too long 1 hour, people losses there interest and just watch the start and finish, doing something else in between. There is no media and/or TV coverage for the moment.
- Suggestion was made to have Club challenges / championships with a very different format then we have now to make it possible more attractive to compete. Limited to F3 and F2 boats.
- Match races with 2 boats and 2 turning points on 1 and 2 km distance. 1 boat takes the 1 km and the other the 2 km and visa versa.
- Mike says this is a very good discussion and is looking forward to see these ideas on paper. Steve will make a proposal and also Jules, Chris will provide some more details on their ideas.

## 19 Any other business, including Social Media

- Steve Cox: as GB will not recognize or sanction racing in Gb there has been a discussion of going separately outside the Federation and install a separate body (ltd company).
- Mike says that in AUS the SRA is a separate body but still affiliated.
- Council agrees that this is a very sad developments for racing in GB, however they cannot interfere in this matter. Hope that Gb can solve their problems.

## 20 Date and venue of next meeting.

- Zoom meeting : as soon as IWWF Rule Book is out.
- November 13-14/2021      Council meetings      London (GB)      TBA
- February 5<sup>th</sup> 2022      EC Congress      Monaco
- February 4<sup>th</sup> 2023      EC Congress      Istanbul (TUR)
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024      EC Congress      Paris (FRA)      TBA

Having no other urgent business to discuss the President closes the meeting at 13.00 hrs thanking all members for their attendance, and their work and input for the benefit of our sport.

Vera Van den Bossche  
Secretary-General

Mike Waterman  
President