

1927 - 2017

The UIM celebrates its 95th anniversary

UIM Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2017

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Though it bore little similarity to our modern sport, powerboat racing can reliably trace its origins as far back as 1902 when the British formed their Marine Motoring Association. By the following year, New York's Columbia Yacht Club had formulated a constitution for what ultimately became the American Power Boat Association and the French had formed their Congress of Automobile Boats.

In 1903, the French ran a 62 mile circuit race on the Seine at Meulan and the 230 mile Paris event while year saw an attempt to Trans-Atlantic the English

Gottlieb been experimenting with single cylinder combustion engines in Germany and E.W. Graef what may well be the first deep-v hull the same year newspaper

Alfred Harmsworth, created what has become the world's oldest and arguably most famous powerboat racing trophy. In 1907, a small group of motoring enthusiasts had formed the Paris based Internationale Motor Yacht Association and after a change of name to the Association Internationale du Yachting Automobile in 1908, staged races regularly in Nice, Palermo, Monte Carlo, Algiers, Toulon and Arcachon until the outbreak of the First World War.



to Trouville the following race across Channel and promote a marathon....

Daimler had menting with der internal engines in America's developed have been powerboat in that Britain's magnate, Sir

Led by the Duke of Westminster, Lord Montagu, Baron Henri de Rothschild, Noel Robbins and others, racing prospered in Europe and by 1911, the Americans had clambered in on the act by staging a race from Long Beach to Catalina Island in California.

Contested mostly in boats with vertical stem and flat bottoms which relied more on brute force and ignorance than hydrodynamic efficiency, the rich and famous took their pleasures on the water quite seriously, in an amateur sort of way. The involvement of Sir Thomas Sopwith in England and Jack Manson and Gar Wood on the American scene brought a more professional edge to this emerging competition and the Harmsworth Trophy and Gold Cup competitions sparked the public imagination in much the same way as the Schneider Trophy international air races and the latterday Hales Trophy for the Trans-Atlantic Blue Riband did.

By 1917, the Americans were running ten races a year in locations from Miami to Key West, Palm Beach, Havana and New York but the vagaries and traumas of changing presidents and offices almost annually with its attendant inefficiency had led to the collapse of the European AIYA in 1918, when its last known President, a Dr. Busley from Berlin, had disappeared and taken the records of the Association with him into obscurity.

It was in 1922 and largely due to the lobbying efforts of an Englishman, Dr. Morton Smart and John Ward, an expatriot Irishman living in Belgium, that saw the formation in Brussels of the precursor of today's modern administration in the new Union Internationale du Yachting Automobile with Ward as its first Secretary General and the Belgian businessman, Alfred Pierrard, its first President. Having been successful in re-establishing the international authority, Ward was succeeded as Secretary General in 1925 by Maurice Pauwaert who together with the President, administered the emergent sport unchallenged for twenty years until the outbreak of the Second World War. By 1927 it had acquired a permanent administrative base, had promulgated its first sporting rules, published its first racing calendar and after a further change of name to the now familiar Union Internationale Motonautique, was ready to welcome more nations into its fold.

Among that first intake were Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany United Kingdom, Holland, Ireland, Monaco, Norway Poland, Sweden and finally the United States of America, as the world basked in what was to be only a temporary peace. Inevitably the Second World War brought an end to all marine sporting endeavours, though it was coincidentally responsible for much of the technical development which gave the modern sport its direction, particularly in the areas of hull and engine design but in 1946, the UIM emerged unscathed from the hostilities to meet a world of change. With its administrative base relocated from Brussels to Ghent, Freddy Buyse was elected to the President's chair and first with Maurice Pauwaert and latterly with Henri Thomas as Secretary General, drove the UIM through its most formative decades and towards a body which is recognisable today. The formation of a Technical Committee and the sanctioning of the American Power Boat Association to represent



The spirit of powerboat racing in the sixties and seventies was most obvious annually on the first weekend in October as the best circuit drivers in the world battled through the 6 Heures de Paris. An occasion where social, gastronomic and competitive elements came happily together

Photo: Jean Marc Bougain

the nation with the biggest potential for competitive growth began a progressive programme of sporting, technical administration and safety development which continues still. Overseeing this have been successive Presidents from Italy (Vittore Catella), France, (Claude Bouilloux Lafont), Italy again, (Francesco Cosentino), Belgium, (Paul Lamberts) and currently Germany whose Ralf Frohling was elected to office in 1987. A successful hydroplane driver, the current incumbent divides his time between the sport's top office and running a dynamic business involved in the design and production of toys and is no mean cook in his own kitchen. It is within the last two decades that the UIM has grown most and part of the onus for this must fall on the proliferation of racing driven jointly by the Union and its various independent promoters. Most notably this has seen racing extend its horizons to encompass China, Cuba, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Brazil, Greece, Hungary, Qatar, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine and the growth is likely to continue.

In the face of geographical growth, financial pressure and the quest for media exposure, the UIM has the taxing task of presiding over a sport whose roots are firmly bedded in amateurism but which by its very nature is being progressively enveloped by professionalism at all levels. As it sets out for the next millenium and its own century the UIM is committed to protect its past but equally to develop its future, improving the efficiency of its operation and of communicating to a wider audience the many and varied ways in which powerboat racing and its participants benefit from the efforts of a lively and more commercially aware international governing body.

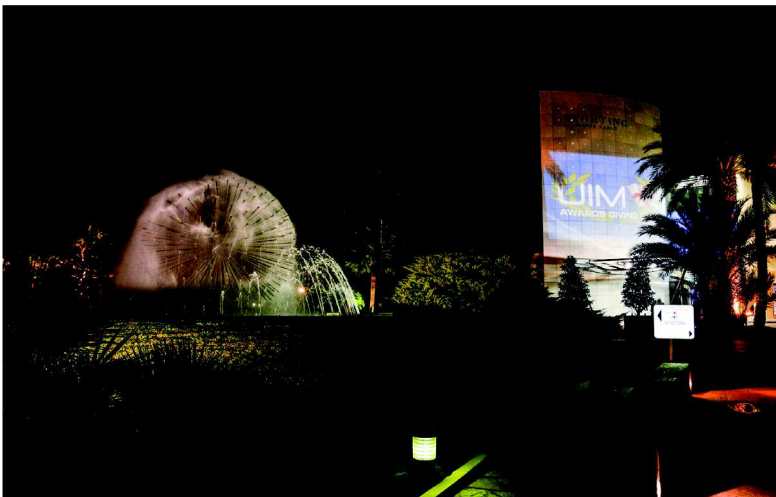


WORLD’S BEST POWERBOAT STARS TO BE HONOURED AT 2017 UIM AWARDS GALA - Bund Holding Group Joins Forces with UIM for Annual Awards Ceremony –

MONACO: The world of powerboat racing will come together to recognise the achievements of the best in the sport when the eighth edition of the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) Word Champions Awards Giving Gala - sponsored by China’s Bund Holding Group - is held at the iconic Sporting Monte-Carlo, Monaco on March 4.

The glittering occasion – held to celebrate the 2016 racing season and honour those who have excelled in their field – will be the first UIM Awards to be supported by Bund Holding and continues the group’s ongoing involvement and commitment to the world of international powerboat racing. In attendance will be dozens of world-class competitors as well as important powerboat racing industry stakeholders, representatives from the UIM’s National Associations, international sports federation members, VIP guests and members of the international media.

“We are honoured and delighted to have the Bund Holding Group as a partner for an event that brings together the international family of powerboat racers and success of competitors from around the world,” said UIM President Dr Raffaele Chiulli. “The annual awards ceremony is by far one of the most important dates on our calendar. The 2016 UIM world championships - from as far afield as the USA and New Zealand - come together under one roof. The evening allows us to recognise their dedication, commitment and sacrifice as well as their un-



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Among the award winners for the evening will be the legendary three-time UIM F1 H2O World Champion Philippe Chiappe of France as well as ten-year old racing prodigy Matvei Pomazkov, from Russia, the winner of the UIM’s innovatory Formula Future Class 1, a racing format that encourages young people into the sport.

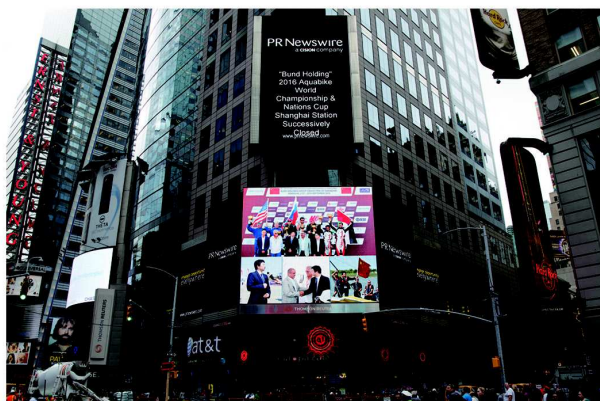
In addition to the trophies for winners of the individual classes, divisions, and Special Awards such as the UIM Stefano Casiraghi Memorial Trophy, the UIM Safety Award, the UIM Sam Griffith Memorial Trophy, the UIM Environmental Award and Special Mentions, the event will also see the presentation of the newly created special awards namely Driver and Junior Driver of the year 2016, UIM Hall of Fame and Sport for All Award.

This 8th edition of the UIM Awards Giving Gala will be broadcasted live on both UIM Facebook page, UIM Awards dedicated website and UIM Webiste.





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The 34th season of the F1H2O World Championship is officially open



Friday, 10 February: With the majority of the containers housing the raceboats and equipment now back in Europe and being liberally dispersed to team bases in France, Italy and Portugal, the vital task of preparing for the 34th year of the F1H2O World Championship can now begin in earnest. Abu Dhabi and Victory however have the march on their rivals in terms of pre-season preparation and testing, all their equipment remaining in the UAE and unlikely to land in Europe until the weeks just before the season-opener in Portimao, Portugal in April.

At this stage it is anticipated that the line ups for 2017 remain similar to last year, with nine teams and 18 drivers from 12 countries expected.

But there is one or two pieces of the information puzzle missing; what is known is the arrival of Australia's Grant Trask at Emirates Racing, what is unknown is where Sweden's Erik Stark will pop up, with F1 Atlantic also to confirm its driver pairing.

The team and driver to target for the majority will once again be CTIC F1 Shenzhen China and Philippe Chiappe who completed the clean sweep of titles last season, and this year Chiappe will be looking to emulate ten-time champion Guido Cappellini's record of four world driver's titles on the bounce and match Scott Gillman's four titles.

2017 UIM-ABP Aquabike Calendar is announced

Thursday, 2 February: Aquabike Promotion (ABP) and the UIM National Authorities in Croatia, Portugal and China are pleased to confirm the calendar for this year's UIM-ABP Aquabike Circuit, Endurance and Offshore Championships.

The UIM-ABP European Continental season starts in the Algarve in Portugal, with the Endurance Championship in Portimao in April. Two new venues host the this year's Circuit Championship for Runabout GP1, 2 and 3, Ski GP1, 2, Ski Juniors and Freestyle, starting in May in Zadar, Croatia and then heading north to the Douro region in Portugal in June. A huge turnout of riders is anticipated in Zadar, with the town also hosting the Endurance Championship on the same weekend.

The venue for the UIM-ABP Aquabike Offshore World Championship in August will be confirmed by ABP and the Chinese Motorboat Association (CMA) in the coming weeks, with the Chinese Continental Circuit Championship taking place in Shenzhen.



P750 Thundercat Valentine's Trophy, Sri Lanka 2017

On 14th February 2017, seven P750 Thundercat boats reached speeds of up to 75 kmph as they competed in the P750 Thundercat Valentine's Trophy. The location of Bentota was idyllic with a peaceful lagoon leading onto miles of sandy beach and perfect waves, on the stunning tropical island of Sri Lanka. It was the first time International P750 Thundercat Training has taken place in Sri Lanka under the UIM Propstar Training Program with Sri Lanka, once again, leading the way. Sri Lanka is proving to be the perfect location for power boating with a year round season, surrounded by beautiful seas and with plentiful inland waterways.



The Valentine's Trophy Graduation Race was the high octane conclusion to a 5-day International Training event organised by the Lanka Powerboat Association. 5 UK drivers, Lewis Huddy, Andy White, Mark Blackman, Simon Matthews, Davie Finlayson with their boats and Officer of the Day, Danielle Strawford, came to Sri Lanka to provide surf race training with race organisation and management training. The 4 days of intensive training included boat handling, maintenance and prop choice, co-pilot training, racing lines and techniques. These were trained and put into action each day concluding with an exciting graduation race, where local drivers challenged international drivers in thrilling surf action just metres from the beach. The comradery, professionalism and enthusiasm shown by all participants was an excellent testament to the future of P750 Thundercat training and racing.

7 Stars Energy Drink UIM P750 World Championship

Boost Performance Racing are proud to announce that the 7 Stars Energy Drink UIM P750 World Championship will be taking part from 3 March 2017 to 11 March 2017 in the city of Cape Town, South Africa.

Boost Performance Racing will be hosting the event together with the very competent officials from SA-IRA (South African Inflatable Racing Association) The event has been endorsed by SASCOC (South African Sports Council and Olympic Committee), UIM (International Powerboating Association) PSA (Powerboat South Africa) and the City of Cape Town.



This event has attracted almost double the entries compared to previous World Championships. Fifty Eight teams (40 in the Pro-stock class and 18 in the Modified class) will compete for top honours during the five days of racing. Teams from Germany, Russia, Ireland, UK, China, Sweden and South Africa will be representing their countries.

The top teams in the world will compete, including three time World Champion, Stefan Lindeque and Tony Ingram.

Teams will race compete in an exciting two day surf circuit race at Bloubergstrand, Doodles on the 4th and 5th of March 2017. Then teams will race in an area bound long haul (150km) in Table Bay on the 7th of March. The race will start at Doodles (Bloubergstrand). First checkpoint will be a buoy close to Robben Island, second check point at Milnerton, close to Lagoon Beach Hotel and back to Doodles. Teams will have to complete 5 laps of 30km each. Finally, teams will then race a flat water circuit at Oceana Powerboat club, V&A Waterfront, on the 9th and 10th of March.

For more information, please visit: www.worlds2017.co.za and www.facebook.com/thundercatworlds2017 Live updates will done through Facebook during the event.

Contact the organisers: Steyn Basson (021 873 7927 or 084 556 4498)

