



Minutes of 1st FRA General Meeting 17/05/03

Present:

Adam Emmett, John Findlay, Samuel Jones, Andy Kane, Mike Lambert, Andrew Rayner
Kevin Scott, Simon (Grim Reaper)

Apologies Received from:

Eddy Alcock (resigned), James Baker

Matters arising from last meeting - None

1. Events

- a. Presentation of final event report with all logos
It was unanimously decided that the event report should only display the logo of the F.R.A. for simplicity and consistency as well as practical reasons of redesigning the layout with new members.
- b. Presentation of final and complete mailing list
JF confirmed that although the list was complete he had not emailed it out yet as the format had not been decided. It was agreed that a suitable downloadable and compatible format should be used for the final mailing list. A suggested format was .csv (comma separated values) which should be able to be imported into email software.
- c. Review of completed event reports
SJ confirmed that event reports for IRR and Wrexham had not been completed. In order to provide an overview of the event report completion process it was decided to demonstrate the completion of the report for all present such that they would understand the form and be able to fill one in.
Issues relating to the existing layout (to be addressed)
 - i. Trip Hazards (Yes)– indicates one or more trip hazard issues arose at the event.
 - ii. It was agreed that we should add 'Pit passes clearly visible'
 - iii. 'Driver screens' should be re-labelled as 'Secure Driver Protection' indicating that the protection for the drivers was both suitable and only accessible to those driving
 - iv. It was noted that the 'Supervision' item under the Arena heading related to 'Arena supervision' only and not that of crowd or pits supervision.
 - v. 'Robot stands' should be re-labelled 'Robot Cradles' and indicates that attending robots were, other than in the arena, at all times kept on a suitable stand or cradle such that the wheels of the robot were not in contact with any surface.
 - vi. The arena and event grading should be amended to indicate both 'intended' and 'achieved' levels
 - vii. System venting should be removed as this was part of the arena supervision process
 - viii. 'Activation' should be re-labelled 'Activation/Deactivation' to indicate that robots were safely activated and deactivated as necessary

2. Safety

- a. Discussion and feedback on the Safety document
 - i. It was agreed that the words 'and guidelines' be added to the description of the document to clarify that both rules and guidelines were contained within
 - ii. It was agreed that specific reference to events was inappropriate but that reference to the Roaming Robots arena was suitable to give readers a clear understanding of the grading system. Roaming robots arena was considered the most well known arena due to its mobile format
 - iii. It was agreed that the 'with restriction' approach to grading be reviewed and that until such time as a suitably clear method of arena classification

was defined that arenas should be graded down to their next safe level e.g. between 2 and 3 should be graded as 3.

- b. Presentation of latest build rules
 - i. It was agreed that pneumatics 'blow-off' valves should be set at 1000psi (high pressure) and 1.2 bar (low pressure)
 - ii. It was agreed that a visual power indicator was a useful and cost effective safety feature to be required
 - iii. It was agreed that a remote kill switch would be advisory due to its complexity and potential cost
 - iv. It was agreed that the rules regarding hydraulic systems were unclear with regard to accumulators and that AK would write a simple guide to explain their use and how to recognise them
 - v. It was agreed that the PED guideline for hydraulic and pneumatic systems (up to 50 psi) was not necessary
 - vi. The CE mark is not required for low pressure vessels
 - vii. The reference to RX on power restrictions of transmitters should read TX
 - viii. Valid battery types should include impregnated glass mat
 - c. Technical committee involvement
 - i. Review of Spinning weapon guidelines by KS should include a disclaimer
 - ii. 60 m/s speed restriction should be advisory
 - iii. Construction part references should be non-specific to material size and material to avoid misleading builders
3. General
- a. International Co-operation
 - i. AK confirmed that the Dutch/Belgians look to the UK for leadership on safety and build rules/guidelines
 - ii. It was agreed that a common European policy would be advantageous
 - b. Website progress
 - i. Example page layout was unanimously approved and further development should progress immediately
 - c. Insurance
 - i. AK confirmed that the possibility of combined insurance through the BMFA – British Model Flying Association was an option to providing the sort of cover we need
 - ii. It was agreed that further discussion was required regarding how membership should be 'sold' to roboteers
 - d. Event Diary (See attached)
 - e. External Funding
 - i. It was agreed that given the IRR event was suspended that commercial funding through event sponsorship/support, educational input and group buying power should be sought
 - f. Other Business
 - i. It was agreed that build/event rules may have to be extended to antweight robots. It was suggested that Craig Danby be approached to deal with Antweight issues.
 - g. Mentorn/Channel 5No progress was made as Mentorn are due to issue their revised rules(