



Minutes of 5th FRA General Meeting 17/01/04

This post is a precis of that meeting plus some back ground comment from the writer.

A. virtually all regional chairmen, executive, and event organisers were present. There were 12 out of the 13 voting delegates present, this should give an indication to how committed this body is to carry forward our sport/pastime.

B. A review of the 2003 season concluded that a great improvement in the organisation of open events and that this was down to both the organisers and roboteers alike. It was stated that safety standards at FRA listed events had been very good. There was great concern about a non FRA listed event which there was a perceived danger to the public/ roboteers. It was agreed that the event organiser should be invited to join our movement so that we can endeavor to keep safety standards common throughout the UK.

C. A review of the forthcoming seasons open events was discussed and listed (see events list thread) They were deemed to be evenly spaced with the exception of May, which has four events in the month.

D. A discussion was held on membership and how difficult it was to contact a lot of teams who do not know about this site and us.

E Insurance, We have now had a quotation for public liability (£5000) Details were still to be confirmed. The eventual cost would have to be shared between both roboteers and event organisers alike. An explanation was given about types of membership, and that we all were at present associate members only and a full membership would be offered with an insurance package attached, obviously at extra cost.

A delegate mentioned insurance for your machine kept at home on a personal contents basis, which has to be declared if you wish your machine to be insured. However a warning was given that an insurance company may be more interested in your "celebrity status" as a roboteer.

F. Event Reports. It is normal at each meeting to review the safety aspect of events between meetings. At FRA listed events these forms have to be filled in by another event organiser or a member of the FRA, There is always something not quite right or missing at every event, due to the different venues and layouts and are only intended as a helpful guide/ reminder of best practise.

Sheffield- Layout of the pits relative to the arena made access difficult otherwise good
Worthing- presence of fire extinguishers, only one designated pit exit point, member of the public in the pits, pits cramped, otherwise good
Norwich- trip hazard (electric cables uncovered), arena roof concerns (monitored), briefing for roboteers excellent, otherwise good.

Website. Numbers of visitors to the website for the fourth quarter included 83114 hits, 12681 visitors, from 39 countries.
Only the fighting robots.co.uk site was up for all the quarter with the forum added later.

Robot Wars: What happens next.

The first delegate to speak pointed out that in order to get the resource needed and the support of the community any new venture should involve a joint effort between existing event organisers and roboteers.

The next delegate to speak highlighted the fact that Mentorn would be unlikely to be

in a position to put on a "series 8" and that channel 5's viewing figures were not good. It was pointed out that in his opinion that just replacing "Robot Wars" was not sufficient and that serious thought needed to be applied before a sensible way forward be identified.

The next speaker made us aware that they had interest from a media company to produce a large competition, and is in the process of developing a business plan. Newark kit car show facilities was proposed as a possible venue.

Opinion was canvased among the delegates as to whether an event should be a large as possible or more in keeping with existing live events. A large event was voted for.

Hydraulics rule change

A proposal to increase hydraulic pressure was offered and the motion was defeated. Motion to be re proposed for the next meeting.

Clarification of tether rules

Tethers will be required from 3 months from approval on all axes/moving spikes/flippers that do not have a three position mounting.

It was pointed out that the use of second hand seat belts etc might encourage use of components that had already been stressed and might therefore provide little or no benefit. Advice on the use of seat belts and webbing is to be confirmed by safety/technical representatives by the next meeting.

FRA league

It is proposed that the FRA operate a league system similar to a squash ladder. A comprehensive set of proposals to be presented at our next meeting.

Should any readers of this wish to help suggest any thing please create a new thread.

AOB

A presentation of a guide to help avoid EMI problems was to be approved and then published on our website. Electro magnetic interference (radio problems)

A disclaimer on the forum was requested to ensure that those reading clearly understood that comments written by FRA governing body members and executive were their own opinions and not policies of the FRA.

Andrew Rayner Secretary

Precied and additional explanation by
Andy Kane President

Proposals for our next agenda from members for our meeting on the 20th feb 2004 should be relayed through your regional chairmen. For email addresses go to www.fightingrobots.co.uk front page.