



## Minutes of 6th FRA General Meeting 21/02/04

A good turn out again of your council, with a fair mix of delegates.

A discussion was held on the subject of dual standards, with the outcome that more consideration should be taken before decisions are made to aid a consistent approach.

Membership numbers and finances

Membership stands at 65 teams and individuals(now over 70) finance balance £590 this figure includes donations.

Event reports

These were presented for Aberystwyth and Brighton model world with no particular bad comments as regards safety or organisation.

Future events

New announced events

May 31st Stoke on Trent feathers and static heavies

Membership cards are now printed and will be issued to members soon after they arrive.

Event organisers were requested to endeavor that all roboteers at there events are FRA members. This is essential for FRA sanctioned events, ie those listed on the FRA event list on the website.

Events Listing

There have been two events lists, one on the forum and one on the fighting robots main page, this has lead to confusion. The events list on the forum is to be discontinued.

Insurance

No further progress has been made on this matter.

Safety Rule Changes and discussions

Power lights

There is significant confusion amongst roboteers over this rule. It was agreed that it must be simplified/clarified along the following lines of

"All robots(not ants) must carry at least one surface mounted non-filimentlamp that illuminates when power is supplied to the robot(ie when the link is in) any colour is acceptable provided that it is in contrast to its surroundings. Suitable parts are led's available from Radio Spares(RS384-5020 series or similar)

Please note "this is not a safety device, merely an indication of danger"

Low Pressure Pneumatic Rams

There is concern over rams which have lost end caps when used at full bottle pressure. The problem is that these will pass a pressure test, but are not adequate for repeated dynamic impact. It was agreed that they can be modified to make them acceptable (stronger tie rods, internal cushions, etc) which is covered by the rule stating that they must be Fit for Purpose.

Tech Checkers to be reminded that roboteers must be challenged about any LP cylinders used with HP systems.

#### Tethers

The devices are still under test and the proposal is in hand.  
Wording to be provided as soon as possible.

#### Hydraulics

Hydraulic pressure test points are to be a mandatory fitment on middle/ heavy and super heavy machines (latest compliance date 1/6/04)

Although they are considered viable for new Feather's, it was agreed unreasonable to force existing Feathers to comply, but they must be aware they could be asked to demonstrate max pressure, if necessary by breaking into their hydraulic system.

#### Max Pressure

System pressure limit is raised from 200bar to 250 bar.

After the vote, it was suggested that limiting the system pressure unnecessarily restricts Hydraulic robots, and that applying the limit to pump output would open up a development route without additional hazard. This is likely to come up again in the future. It was also confirmed that accumulators and other stored energy devices (eg Air/Oil pumps) are a reduction in safety & remain unacceptable.

#### Robot League / Ladder

Rules were presented for a Ladder system where robots challenge others above them in list. It is proposed as a Combat series listing the top 20-25 robots, where challenges must be taken within the next 2 potential events (no show equals a loose).

- If the Challenged robot loses, then the positions are reversed.
- If the Challenger loses, then he moves down the ladder.
- Challenges will be limited to 2 (possibly 3) ladder steps.
- Initial positions to be decided on past performance and/or by membership vote.

Rules were also presented for a less aggressive League system

- 1 point for operating in the arena
  - 1 point for being judged the winner
  - All robots to lose 1 point after every event
- (so established teams stay more accessible to those at entry level)

It was agreed to launch Both Systems as soon as possible, and award trophies at the end of each year.

It was requested that the specific rules are circulated for interpretation and comment, then be posted on the website.

It was agreed that the website pages must focus on the Results and be updated with Pending Challenge

#### Any Other Business

##### Yorks Area Split

KRS has difficulty in getting members from the ends of his area to the regional socials. Jeremy Cuss is willing to be deputy and host mtgs in the Huddersfield area, but not to join the main committee.

##### Regional Boundaries

A UK map was presented showing an interpretation of the regional boundaries. It was agreed there is ambiguity over the regional boundaries, and that it would be helpful to post something like this in place of the written list of regional reps on the website.

#### FRA Promotional Material

It was agreed to start with the FRA promotional leaflet.

#### Tech Check Training

It was proposed that Tech Checkers should get round some typical robots and discuss their standards and interpretation of the rules.

#### Elections

Since the FRA committee are currently a self elected body, It was proposed that we should hold early elections for the positions of President and Chairman, and follow up with full elections at an AGM for the start of 2005.

Voting by email was considered unsatisfactory, and it was agreed to make arrangements for elections at an Extraordinary AGM this Easter at the Debenham event.

Area reps are requested to counsel their region for nominations, and may be asked to bring proxy votes from members who cannot attend.

Andy Kane is willing to Re stand as President

Mike Lambert will be standing down as Chairman.

Our thanks go to Mike for his work in his help forming the FRA.