



## Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> FRA General Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> April 04

Those Present A.Kane, G.Smith, A.Rayner, S.Jones, K.Scott, A.Chillcott, C.Danby,  
T.Somerfield, K.Aston, J.Findlay, E.Hoppit, J.Baker, J.Cooper, J.Reason

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| 1 | <p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>J.Heatlie, A Emmett, A.Marchant, S.Barnwell</p>  | Info  |
| 2 | <p><b><u>Result of Elections</u></b></p> <p>President - A.Kane was the only nominee &amp; is confirmed in position.<br/>Chairman - voting was G.Smith 48%, K.Scott 44% K.Aston 8%<br/>Geoff was confirmed and took position for this meeting.</p> <p><b><u>S.Midds Regional Chairman</u></b></p> <p>R.Morris has stepped down. K.Aston had volunteered and it was agreed that he should to commence immediately in position.</p>   | Info<br><br>Info<br><br>Info  |
| 3 | <p><b><u>Approval of Last Minutes</u></b></p> <p>Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> Feb were read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 6 - date for Stoke on Trent event was adjusted to 8<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>• Item 10 - revised Hydraulic Pressure Limit was corrected to 272 bar (the intent was 4000psi which is 272 bar).</li> </ul> <p>Minutes were approved with these corrections.</p>   | Info  |
| 4 | <p><b><u>Matters Arrising</u></b> <span style="float: right;"><i>(other actions covered in the Agenda Items)</i></span></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 3.0 - RC Wars event is back on the FRA Calender</li> <li>2) 6.1 - All membership cards have been distributed</li> <li>3) 6.3 - Live Events diary has been removed from Forum pages and replaced by a Link to the FRA version in main Website. The FRA version has been updated and restructured.</li> <li>4) 9.3 - It has not been possible to develop an acceptable justification for Tethers (as shrapnel will still be a hazzard). Event classification remains the primary guard against injury. An FRA statement is required to 'Close' the subject.</li> <li>5) 11 - Proposed Rules and Chart for the FRA Ladder have been circulated. They are to be added to a new section on the website.</li> <li>6) 12 - Forum adverts have been removed</li> <li>7) 13.1 - Jeremy Cuss (Deputy for K.Scott - Yorks Area) has been added to the Fightingrobots email Group</li> <li>8) 13.2 - Regional Boundries diags have been submitted by K.Scott &amp; S.Barnwell. Concept welcomed, but there is concern they will slow website page loading. Further action required / promised.</li> <li>9) 13.3 - EMI Guidelines loaded onto website</li> <li>10)13.4 - FRA promotional leaflet submitted by A.Marchant. C.Danby offered potential source of printing. <i>(Post Mtg req. - Please Quote)</i></li> </ol> <p><b><u>Mebmership Numbers &amp; Finances</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11) Heavyweight membership is over 90, Featherweights over 25</li> <li>12) Bank balance (after purchase of PI insurance) is ~£625</li> </ol> | Closed<br>Closed<br>Closed<br>A.Chilcott<br>A.Rayner<br>Closed<br>Closed<br>A.Rayner<br>Closed<br>C.Danby<br><br>Info |

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| 5 | <p><b><u>Review of Events</u></b></p> <p>The reports were discussed for Enginuity and Debenham. The Debenham report was very positive and highlighted some issues with charging and size of pit tables. The Enginuity report highlighted a number of issues, some of which were also issues at the last BTP event also ranging from dangerous to simple cost cutting issues. BTP were told to ensure any future events dealt with the overlooked safety issues – particularly considering the position of Sam Jones as safety officer. These continue to provide a useful source of improvement proposals. A central FRA file of event reports was requested.</p>  | Action Required  |
| 6 | <p><b><u>Events Listing</u></b></p> <p>A list to Summer 2005 was collected on flip chart and are to be added to the Event Calendar. It shows severe crowding in prime season. Many dates are fixed externally - so it is impossible to spread them out. It was accepted that simultaneous events may (and will) continue, with roboteers voting with their feet. The worry is that the public get lower quality and will loose interest.</p> <p>There is concern that commercial opportunities may be affecting Event Organiser's decisions, and that EO's will have a Conflict of Interest with the Association. This is to be discussed and addressed.</p> <p>Our secretary and safety officer were reminded that they were officers of the FRA and that they were sowing confusion by sometimes signing them selves off as a private ltd company. It was felt that this practise was not appropriate for the FRA, as people were not sure to who, in what capacity, they were communicating to.</p> <p>A copy of a letter of complaint (sent to The FRA) was handed to our secretary and safety officer (Black Top Productions) from our sister organisation the German Robot Association regarding what they suggested as harassment by Robot Crusade with regard to whether the GRA event was going ahead or not.</p> <p>It is the FRA's aim to bring together all of our European friends together to work with us, it was agreed that this letter could possibly undermine the FRA's efforts on international cooperation</p> | <p>Action Required</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> |
| 7 | <p><b><u>Insurance</u></b></p> <p>Professional Indemnity Insurance has been purchased to protect the committee against claims connected with Actions and Rules agreed by this group. It will continue as an expense against Association funds.</p> <p>A £3000 quote has been obtained for Public Liability for FRA members and Events. This is not currently viable, but we will continue to work towards providing this protection.</p>   | <p>Closed</p> <p>Info</p>                                  |
| 8 | <p><b><u>Safety Rule Changes / Clarifications</u></b></p> <p>1) Nitro Engines. Use of large Hobby engines, (rather than standard IC engines) is of concern as Nitro fuel is more dangerous and burns with an invisible flame. They were agreed acceptable provided they confirm to all rules about remote kill, etc. EO's retain</p>   | Info   |

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|    | <p>final say for their event</p> <p>2) Soda Stream Bottles. Acceptable from Supplier fill only. If brought to an event - tech checkers must ensure they are not being refilled. Supplier seals must be in evidence</p> <p>3) Removable Links. Tech checking found 1 m/c with it's link installed incorrctly. Robot corrected, rules &amp; procedures adequate</p>  | <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p>   |
| 9  | <p><b><u>Tech Checking Course</u></b></p> <p>Tech checkers to be invited to a working session around a few robots to discuss and agree the requirements. Arrangements to be advised. It must happen before the FRA World Championships</p> <p>The long term goal is to have 'Certified' Tech Checkers at each event - but in the short term it was agreed that EO's need only ensure there is at least 1 Tech Checker available who's been involved in the 'training'</p>  | <p>Steve Johnson</p> <p>Event Organisers</p>                                      |
| 10 | <p><b><u>Website Proposals</u></b></p> <p>1) It was agreed that FRA business should be available on main site</p> <p>2) It was agreed that the following should be Downladable</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. FRA Promotional Leaflet - A.Marchant</li> <li>b. Improved Robot Checklist &amp; Guidance - Roaming Robots</li> <li>c. Event Report Sheet - Roaming Robots</li> <li>d. The Guide to Sponsorship</li> <li>e. Technical Guide to Spinners - K.Scott / J.Baker</li> <li>f. Roboteers Guide to Gyros - K.Scott / G.Francis</li> </ol> <p>3) Request made for the Membership List to be available to regional chairmen and regional members for local meeting purposes. Concern was expressed about data protection act.</p> <p>4) It is suggested that the Event Calendar would be more helpful if it gave info such as, size of event, level of combat, contact name, social opportunities, etc. J.MacArthur is working on a proposal</p> | <p>Action Required</p> <p>Actions Required</p> <p>Info</p> <p>To be discussed</p> |
| 11 | <p><b><u>FRA World Championships</u></b></p> <p>Applications are open, with response looking very good.</p> <p>Manchester had unacceptable restrictions on Merchandise &amp; Catering, which combined with other issues has resulted in the event being relocated to RAF Newton.</p> <p><u>Subject to Final Arrangements:-</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Roboteer social should be improved (camping, showers etc, to be provided). Hotel accommodation will still be available on similar terms to the Manchester proposal.</li> <li>2) Phantom believe they will also be able to provide a better spectator experience than that provided by Mentorn.</li> <li>3) TV coverage is under negotiation, from which FRA will receive 10% of secondary sales. An additional donation to the FRA has also been agreed.</li> </ol> <p>A letter of concerns regarding the FRA world championships was</p>   | <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>A Kane</p>                                 |

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|    | read out on behalf of our Scotland and NE regional chairman, John Heatlie. It was agreed as requested to answer the questions in writing   |                         |
| 12 | <p><b><u>International Matters</u></b></p> <p>It was confirmed that the Dutch, Belgian and German Robot Associations are all operating to the FRA event &amp; robot guidelines.</p> <p>The Roaming Robots GRA event had problems in Germany, and has been transferred to UK.</p> | <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> |
| 13 | <p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>There are marked differences in social events between regions, and request have been received for events in certain areas.</p> <p>Regional reps to be contacted to discuss individual format and ways of developing the meetings.</p>                | K.Scott                 |

Prepared - K.Scott

Approved by

date

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