



Minutes of the 15th meeting of the FRA governing body.

30th September 2006

1. Apologies for absence

James Baker, Tony Summerfield and Ed Hoppitt.

2. Present

G Smith, A Kane, M Lumb, T Wright, K Aston and K Pannell

Also present A Young, J Cooper, J Findlay, and S Johnson.

3. Accounts

The 2005 audited accounts were presented and showed that the FRA had a loss of £364 for the year. This loss was covered by reserves from 2004 leaving the association with reserves of £352 at the end of 2005. Current reserves for 2006 are £681 with 1 membership to process. Should any one need to view the accounts there will be a copy at most FRA events.

4. Membership costs for 2007

The £10 membership fee would remain the same for 2007. Major FRA annual payments are made at the end of the first quarter to this end it was proposed and passed that "For existing and past members that rejoin the FRA on or after the 1st April the membership fee will be £20 per team for that year"

For new member teams the membership fee will be £10 for the calendar year, joining at any time.

5. Use of 2.4 GHz Transmitters

A proposal was made for the adoption a new frequency. The 2.4 GHz band was approved but is subject to Ofcom Regulations. This would be written in to the robot build rules as and when Ofcom approves the use of 100 milliwatt transmitters. Until approved, a program making and special events license is required whenever these transmitters are used. Transmitter control would still be required as normal on health and safety grounds.



6. The use of lithium based rechargeable batteries

It was made clear that the use of lithium batteries posed safety problems for use in robots.

It was proposed that a temporary set of rules would be incorporated into the robot build rules and must be strictly adhered to until such time that our members have experience of handling these batteries and event organisers are happy with any safety implications.

6.1.1

Lithium rechargeable batteries will be permitted subject to the following restrictions:-

- 1) The event organiser must be informed prior to the event and approve their use.
- 2) Until further notice, Lithium rechargeable batteries may only be used in robots in the Featherweight class and below.
- 3) Only chargers specifically designed for use with Lithium rechargeable batteries may be used.
- 4) The robot must be fitted with both an under voltage cut-out set at or higher than the battery manufacturers recommendation that will prevent the batteries from becoming damaged due to over discharge.
- 5) Batteries must be removed from the robot, inspected and placed into a sealable steel or other suitable heat proof container prior to, and during the charging process. (It is the responsibility of the roboteer to provide this container, which shall be inspected as part of the normal 'tech check'.)
- 6) **Batteries must not be left unattended at any time during the charging process.** (Leaving batteries unattended while charging will be considered a serious breach of pit safety and may result in you and your robot being removed from the event.)
- 7) Batteries showing any evidence of damage or 'swelling' must immediately be placed in the heat proof container, covered in salt, the container sealed and removed to a safe area outdoors.
- 8) A suitable quantity of salt, sufficient to completely cover the batteries in the event of damage or fire must be available. (If not provided by the event organiser, it will be the responsibility of the roboteer to provide this.)



7. Robot weights world harmonisation

A proposal by the commissioner of the RFL (Robot Fighting League of America) was made via our forum to harmonise robot weight classes throughout the world.

Maximum weights.

Antweights	150g (no change)
Raptors	6Kg (no change)
Featherweights	13.6Kg (1.6Kg increase)
Lightweights	27.5Kg (2.5Kg increase)
Middleweights	55Kg (5Kg increase)
Heavyweights	100Kg (no change)
Superheavyweights	155Kg (45Kg reduction)

Official confirmation was requested of the RFL to present to the meeting, this had not arrived by the time of the meeting.

Other matters were discussed with the commissioner, such as harmonisation of per cent (%) weight variances for competitions and the possible adoption by the RFL of the FRA pneumatic rules.

The meeting felt that the FRA would not have a problem in adopting these weight changes with the exception of the featherweight class that needed further consideration and discussion.

A proposal was made by your executive that the featherweight class change maximum weight from 12Kg to 13.6Kg, this was rejected on the grounds that there were educational projects already running and could not change.

A further proposal was made to adopt 13.6kg from January 1st 2008 as it was felt this would give adequate time to robotees and educational projects alike. This was also rejected.

The governing body members decided to defer the subject to a future meeting or automatically in one year.



8. Adoption of a new 250gram educational class

We have been asked if we could hold a set of build rules for a non combat educational class.

As it is one of our aims (to promote education) the meeting welcomed the opportunity to hold these rules within our portfolio. It was left to the educational organiser to present a set at one of our future meetings for consideration.

9. UK championships

It was felt that it was time to have a full championship competition for both Heavyweights and Feathers as a successor to Robot Wars.

Three goals were set:

- a. To achieve as much publicity for our sport as possible.
- b. For the roboteers to have a true championship they could be proud of participating in.
- c. For the event organiser not to lose money

All three were achieved.

During the event it became apparent that the arena roof was not capable of stopping pieces leaving the arena.

A review of the event was read out to the meeting. Virtually all items were above normal event standard apart from the roof, ending with the final statement of "A class 2 event was not achieved and an event such as this should not be held again, unless severe scrutiny of the quality of roof is offered well before an event is advertised as a class 2 event"

The managing director of Roaming Robots apologised to the meeting and agreed to honour the above statement.

In the light of the above the delegates agreed to the forming of a working party to urgently review the FRA arena safety guidelines. The remit is for the FRA technical officer to inspect as many arenas as is possible, rewrite guidelines in draft form, discuss with all interested event organiser's with a view to present an interim or the full report to the governing body early in the new year.



10. New confirmed events for late 2006 and 2007

Dec 9,10 th 2006	Christmas Rumble	Godmanchester
Dec 30 th 2006	Robochallenge	Birmingham (FW only)
2007		
Feb 16,17 and 18 th	Brighton Model World	Brighton
Mar	Magna	Rotherham
Apr	Robot Rumble	Colchester
May 13 th	Aylesbury	Aylesbury (FW and HW demo)
Jul 14 and 15 th	Royal International Air Tattoo	Fairford

11. Elections

Elections for the governing body are to take place at the Robot Rumble, Easter 2007.

Nominations for office would be sought in the new year.

These include President, Chairman, Treasurer and all regional chairmen.

12. Dutch Robot Games (DRG) Proposal

Our counterparts in the Netherlands have put forward a proposal to limit the speed of spinning disc robots to an outer tip speed of 80km/h (50mph)

It was agreed by the meeting to explore this proposal.

The meeting concluded at 6PM