ACS ROBOTICS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

MINUTES FOR THE 01 DEC 98

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Meeting Commenced at 7:00pm.

- 1. Competition issues.
- 2. General group issues.
- 3. Technical issues.
- 4. Presentation.
- 5. Next Meeting.

1. Competition Issues

The final year competition was held on the 28th November, Saturday afternoon at GU. Stockars and sumos competed for 1st and 2nd price trophies.

There was a good turnout. The Central Theatre proved to be a welcome change of venue, offering the spectators tiered seating and air-conditioning.

Floor space for the stockcar track was somewhat limited, and the setup and work area for competitors was a security nightmare.

A search for an alternate venue will be started. Hopefully a large lecture theatre at QUT is available.

Advertising on Snapshot was a success. Apparently the other free-to-air stations picked it up as well. A small amount of footage was shown on channels 2,7,9,10.

Competitor registration before the competition is required in future.

For the upcoming year, only 1 official competition is to be held at the end of the year. During the year promotional informal competitions will be held. This allows robots to continue to progress and improve offering motivation. Interested competitors are welcome, but advertising officially will only be done for the end of year competition.

With the assistance of sponsors extra prizes can be offered as well as trophies for winners of competitions. E.g robot components and parts (servo motors or ultrasonic sensors).

Carry Over Issues.

Interest has been raised from overseas on purchasing the videos of the competitions. The editing of these videos is to be discussed at the next meeting. — **Aaron and Tracy to action.**

2. Group Issues

Promoting the group through another sponsor/organisation is to be examined. The National Institute of Engineers Australia (NIEA) has expressed interest so far.

Examine some other forms of merchandising, like t-shirts for members to wear at competitions and alike. – **Paul to action.**

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A Treasurer position is required to fill in for Bruce McNaught while he is away on business. Paul Neilson has been appointed Assistant Treasurer and has full treasury authority during Bruce's absence.

Carry Over Issues.

With the new venue at GU, a notice for the door front needs to be created. - Aaron to action.

Monies for group membership has started to be collected, and will continue to be collected until all have paid for the year. – **Tracy to action.**

Other signatories required to be able to release funds to those that need it for group expenses. – **Action at next meeting.**

Look into a FAQ for the group to be posted on the webpage. Examine at the next meeting more.

Workshop on basic robotics is still under discussion. – Tracy and Aaron to action.

3. Technical Issues

None from this meeting.

4. Presentation

A small presentation was provided, showing off new robotic kits from around the world. The S.A.M robot chassis was also shown.

Much discussion was had on building simple controllers apart from the Handyboard.

A Handyboard price breakdown was discussed. Listed below are the current prices of distributors of the Handyboard in \$AUD.

HongKong - \$267

USA - \$446

Western Australia - \$366

Personal building - \$100 to \$150 (depending on component sourcing)

5. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 5th January, 7:00pm.

Committee meeting: Normal.

Standard club meeting: Talk about robotic projects using scrap electronics.

Meeting Ended at 9:00pm.