ACS ROBOTICS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MINUTES FOR THE 03 FEB 98

DATE: 16 Feb 98

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Meeting Commenced at 7:30pm.

- 1. Discussed March competition.
- 2. General group issues.
- 3. Technical issues.
- 4. Presentation.
- 5. Next Meeting.

1. March Competition

The public liability issue that was raised for having our competitions in shopping centers still needs clarification of what and how much cover we actually have from ACS. – **Bruce to action.**

The venue has been decided to be at the University of Queensland at the same location as last years final competition. The competition date has been set to March 28, which is a Saturday. For the next competition, a shopping center venue will be found.

Gordon Wyeth needs to be contacted regarding this arrangement of using UQ again. We should use the same layout as last year. – **Tracy to action.**

There will be two events, stockcar and sumo. Competition will start at 1:00pm.

The track should be set up at around 9:30am, for those that require a testing facility before the race. This way competitors have a chance to iron out the bugs in the code without the pressure of race conditions. Paul to give the track to someone else so that this may occur.

The ACS banner will be displayed, most likely hanging from one of the balconies above the track.

All competition details to end up with Tracy so that the web page can be modified accordingly.

For publicity seeking avenues, phone Bob Getner from ACS (3367 3373) - Aaron to action.

Competition rules will be outlined at the March meeting. – Cameron to action.

Snapshot on the ABC, for advertising the comp. – **Tracy to action.**

Need to secure a presenter for the next competition.

The competition flyer will be released during O-week of university (end of Feb) leading up to the end of March. – **Aaron to action.**

Medallions to be given to the first and second place winners. Style and engraving yet to be decided.

Security enhancements for the next competition.

The pit area will be divided by a row of desks to allow spectators viewing possibilities. This leaves one door to secure. Only those known the door guard will be permitted to enter the pit area. **Someone needs to be chosen to carry out this task.**

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Sign to be placed above door stating 'entry only for competitors' or something like that. – **Tracy to action.**

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2. Group Issues

Carry over tasks from previous meetings.

 Look into bulk purchases of standard components needed for the group through an educational source – Michael to action.

New issues.

There will now be committee meetings before the presentations/guest speakers starting at 6:00pm, with the normal club meeting starting still at 7:30pm.

This alleviates the need to discuss committee orientated issues in front of members who just want to come to the presentations.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the March committee meeting. This is required for the handover of all relevant material to the appropriate people. Plus to officially vote and clarify the remaining positions of the club.

The ACS no longer are at the same address. They have moved to Adelaide street in the city. This however will not effect us for the next meeting, as we will still meet at the same address. The March meeting will be our last at ACS House and from then on we will meet at Adelaide street. More to discuss about this at the March meeting.

3. Technical Issues

>A question was raised regarding the hall effect sensors not being powerful enough. The solution >was to use an op-amp to boost the power. – Paul to phone Cameron to have this issue > discussed at the next meeting with the rest of Cameron's/Bruce's presentation.

Handyboard queries are growing in the need for more boards. Blank PCBs can be manufactured for about \$30 each, with a minimum of 15 boards at a time. As for the components, Aaron has done some costing and come up with over \$150 for sourcing all the components from various places. The only way this method of building the handyboard becomes acceptable is if the price of the components can be reduced. **Ask Shane how much his board cost to build.**

4. Presentation

Cameron and Bruce together gave a presentation about the structure and workings of their stockcar robot, Juggernaught II. The session was very enlightening with Bruce giving a rundown on the cars analog external circuitry, and Cameron showing an overview of the strategies and logistics of the code. Bruce provided handouts of the circuitry and in turn answered questions from the group regarding them. Paul's question listed in the technical issues section was answered with schematics.

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5. Next Meeting

For the next presentation, the video of Michael's and the combined video of Aaron's and Owen's from the competition will be shown.

Meeting Ended at 9:30pm.