# ACS ROBOTICS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MINUTES FOR THE 01 SEP 98

## 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 will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, Saturday afternoon at GU, starting at 1:30pm for the stockcars, with sumos to follow. Venue on GU campus yet to be decided. – **Tracy to action.** 

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Two competitions. Stockcar and Sumo. Same format and layout as previous competitions.

New competition flyers need to made and dispersed. – Aaron for QUT, Michael for UQ, and Tracy for GU and ACS.

Press release to be sent into the papers. – **Aaron to action.** 

Cameron has modified the existing rules for the stockcar and sumo. They now need to be cleaned up and issued to Tracy so they may go onto the web page. – **Aaron to track down and give to Owen for final consideration.** 

Web page requires a complete overhaul. - Tracy to action.

With Bruce's time being consumed by work, the Rotary venue for the end of year competition was abandoned.

#### Carry Over Issues.

Display boards of other people's robotic achievements should be shown at the competitions. University projects usually require this as part of the marking process, and as such, each Uni should have many display boards. — **Aaron for QUT, Michael for UQ, and AnthonyE for GU.** 

## 2. Group Issues

First meeting held at GU in room O.15. Much larger room than at ACS or Mantech. With more facilities, however the distance from the CBD is questionable, but fair. This will be a good venue.

With the group becoming fragmented, it has been discussed that a workshop will take place next month on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> October at 1:30pm, in room 0.15 at GU. This workshop will be somewhat informal and allow the current and future robot builders a chance to fix or fine tune whatever project they are working on, in preparation for the Nov competition.

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

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A future robotic workshop for beginners has been discussed. The design should be simple enough to start and finish within a day. With the workshop notes, being mailed out to the attendees one week before the workshop.

There should be three levels of workshops.

- Novice (No microprocessor, all analog components)
- Intermediate (Simple microprocessor, some digital circuitry)
- Advanced (Handyboard based processing, and software control)

#### For the Novice User

A robot needs to be designed that is simple to assemble, cheap, and has basic motor control. Very similar to the TuteBot, with modified sensors to enable it to navigate a small competition at the end of the day. The robot shall have all analog parts, which can either be soldered to a PCB or pre-soldered. Attendees get to take home the robot.

## For the Intermediate User

A robot needs to be designed that uses a small microprocessor (like the PIC) that is probably preassembled with the attendees working with some software code and digital circuitry. This level needs to be discused further. Perhaps Gordon's Lego workshop at UQ would be a good intermediate level.

## For the Advanced User

Using the HandyBoard design, attendees follow a BYO principle, for a traditional get together fix-emup session. Any issues raised on the day can be discussed.

#### Carry Over Issues.

The membership material is still required.

Next month organize payments and renewals for the club. – **Aaron and Tracy to Aaron.** 

Purchase of medallions for competition winners and membership keyrings, etc. Minimum of 100, cost unknown. Examine at next meeting. – **Tracy to get the details prepared.** 

New robotic group logo to be designed. – Mark to give Tracy robot pictures.

## 3. Technical Issues

None from this meeting, however a carry over question of asking Shane how much his components cost and where he bought them from still remains.

## 4. Presentation

No presentation this month as the standard monthly meeting was cancelled, and a committee type meeting only was held.

## 5. Next Meeting

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1:30pm.

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Standard club meeting: Robotic Workshop.

Meeting Ended at 9:00pm.