

## ***Robots Are Taking Over ... The 2019 U3A Constructor's Challenge***



Looking like NASA's mission control centre, and with brainpower exceeding multiple supercomputers, teams from all over the country battled to make their U3A victorious in various robotic challenges in Stafford on October 3rd.

This was serious stuff; conquering the Egg & Spoon Race, the Crazy Golf course, the Skittle Alley, navigating the Maze, and having to follow a White Line automatically.



There was furious re-programming of computers all day long, in order to gain precious seconds per lap. It was really good fun, a lot of laughter, but a serious lot of learning for those starting from nothing, and brilliant interaction from all those that came. We can only hope this has inspired members of the public who were spectating, and could see U3A in action. Maybe other U3As might be persuaded to take part in the future as well. Do spread the word. There were winners of the challenges, naturally, with prizes kindly

handed out by our West Midlands Regional Trustee, Auriol Ainley, proclaiming the event a great success for U3A, and something men in particular related to.

Auriol Ainley (below right) handing out the Overall Day winner trophy to "Grobot Isaac", **Paul Taylor of Grantham U3A.**



Individual Challenge winners were:

**CRAZY GOLF 1<sup>st</sup>** "Grobot United" John Down and team of Grantham U3A.

**WHITE LINE FOLLOWING 1<sup>st</sup>** "Glawster Robby" Keith Bostock and team of Gloucester U3A.

**SKITTLES 1<sup>st</sup>** "Grobot United" John Down and team of Grantham U3A.

**EGG & SPOON RACE 1<sup>st</sup>** "MH14" Ernie Prevost of Cannock Chase U3A.

**THE MAZE (REMOTE CONTROLLED) 1<sup>st</sup>** "Grobot Isaac", Paul Taylor of Grantham U3A.

**THE MAZE (AUTONOMOUS) 1<sup>st</sup>** "Grobot Isaac", Paul Taylor of Grantham U3A.



Left: Many of the robot constructors showing off their prizes.

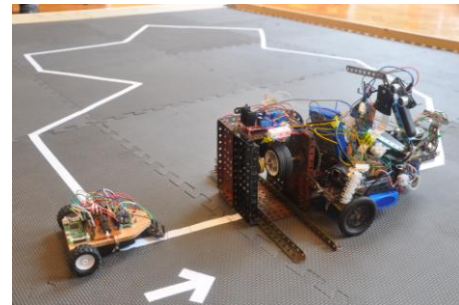
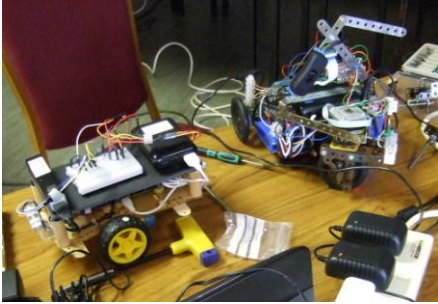
Congratulations to all the winners, to everyone that worked so hard to take part, and travelled huge distances to compete.

Your constructions and ingenious

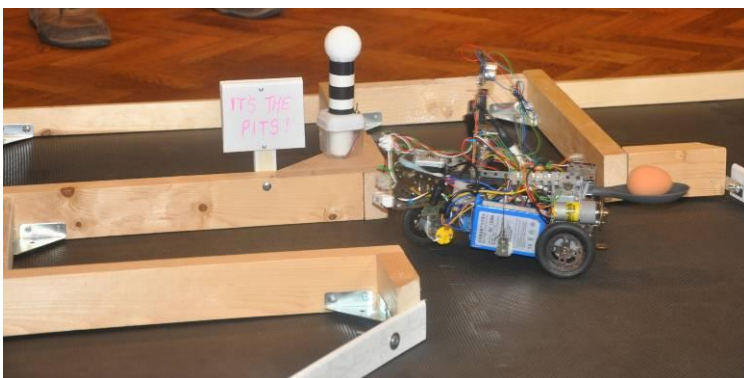
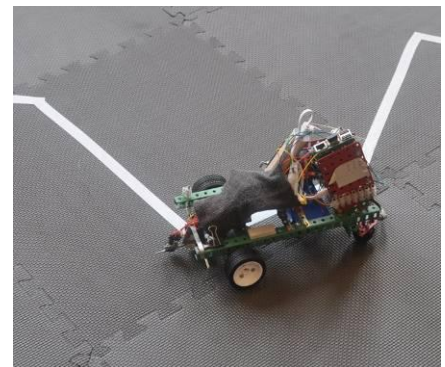
adaptations were amazing.

Of course we must also thank all the helpers, the hospitality team, the door team, the judges team, and all the other organisers and constructors of the floor arenas that helped make a successful day.

Barry James & Ernie Prevost, Cannock Chase U3A.



1. Little & Large



2 A tweak to "Ice Cream Twins"

