

### u3a National Robot Constructors Challenge Day 2022

On 26<sup>th</sup> October the u3a National Robot Constructors challenge took place at Gloucester as part of the u3a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Lichfield u3a were represented by 5 members of the Lichfield Robot Challenge Group: Chris Lock , Andy Cheer, Phil Mapley, Ian Shardlow and John Ford. We presented two robots called Alice and Bob (following the naming convention adopted in quantum computing).

This was the first time that Lichfield u3a had built Robots to attempt the challenges, so it was with some trepidation that we embarked on this endeavour! Six Robots had been submitted by u3a's from Lichfield, Cannock, Gloucester and Cheltenham.

The challenges, with the results we achieved on the day, were:

Remote Controlled Crazy Golf Challenge .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> place
Remote Controlled Target Challenge (Skittles) .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> place
Remote Controlled Egg and Spoon Race Challenge .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> place
Remote Controlled Maze Challenge .....	4 <sup>th</sup> place
Autonomous Maze Challenge (double points) .....	<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>
Autonomous Line Following Challenge (double points) .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> place

Overall, we achieved **THIRD** place in the competition with Gloucester winning overall first place. (We were disadvantaged by submitting 2 robots, because, if our scores for both were combined, we would have achieved a better result). We learned that our steering mechanism, which used internal mobile phone sensors, was problematic and seemed subject to interference, and a simple remote-control device would have been better. Special thanks are due to Andy Cheer- who was technical lead and prime mover in building our robots.

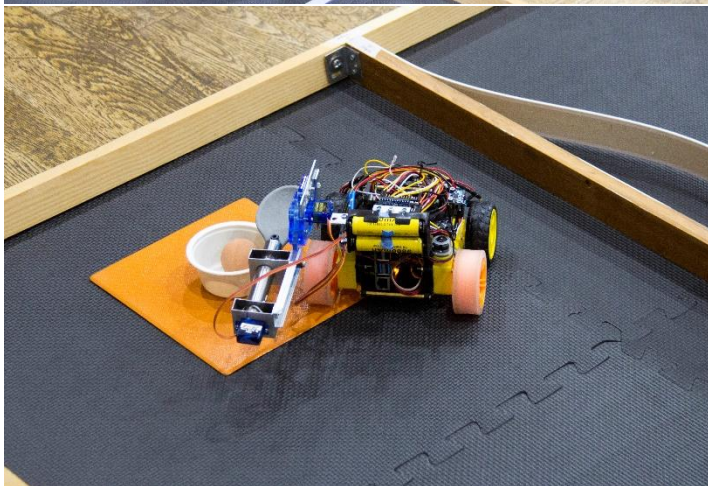
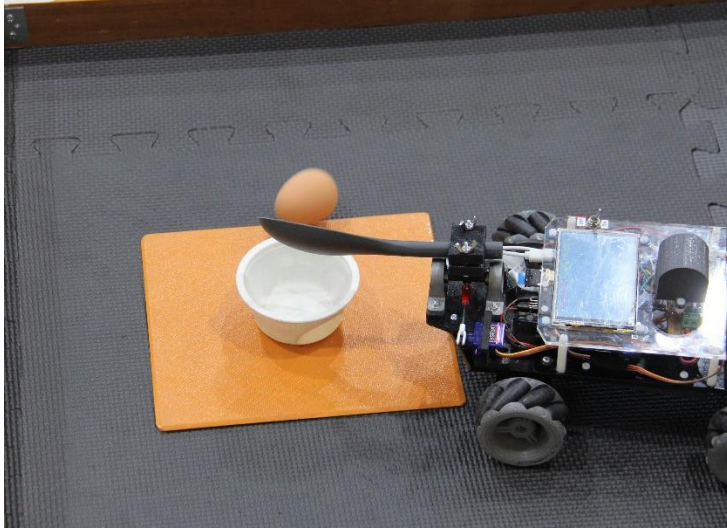
In conclusion: the team enjoyed participating in the Robot Challenge and appreciated seeing devices built by other u3a's. We learned a lot and had fun as a Team– and that's what u3a is all about!

*Chris Lock (Group Leader)*

### Lichfield u3a receives award for Autonomous Maze Challenge from Susan Parker u3a Trustee



Some images of the day





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