



DCRT Recruitment package 2024-25.

Information for all interested in joining the new

Dalhousie Combat Robotics Team



Background

For millennia gladiators of all shapes and sizes have clashed in fierce to-the-death combat.

Those were barbaric times, and that practice has fallen out of favour with the modern era.

However, the same primal urges to take up arms and bring about violence to the opposition persists within humankind.

It is for this reason that we as engineers must yet again bridge a deep chasm between modern morality and our long-forgotten ancestors.

Today we exclude the flesh, bones, and blood of gladiators past from the arena, and instead, replace them with the cold hard steel, rubber, and silicon of gladiators present.

Our team is being assembled with one goal: to construct the meanest, toughest, and most formidable machine this school has ever seen.

Today we call upon you to add to our team and help construct the modern gladiator.

For your consideration,

Matt Gentleman & Jack Brown.

Co presidents of the DCRT

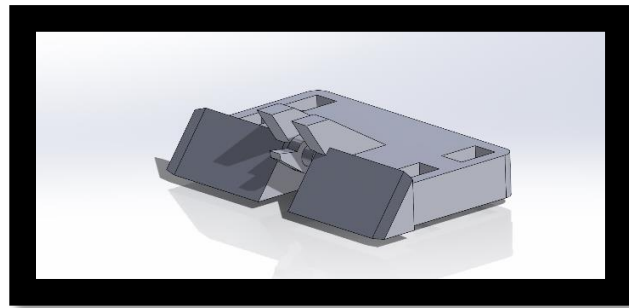
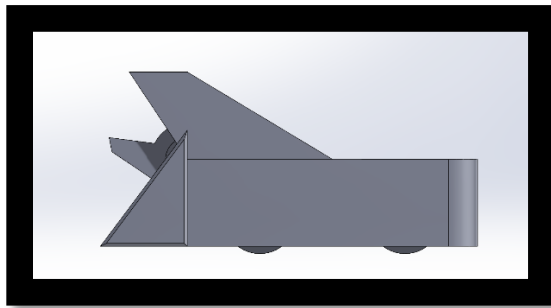
August, 2024



Our Goals

The 2024-25 academic year is the very first of this team, as such our goals are limited to research, development, and building. We hope on having a working prototype for our bot, Tone, finished by April. As it stands Tone will likely be a 30lb bot with a spinner of uncertain orientation as its main weapon.

In later years we plan on competing at the National Havoc Robotics League (NHRL) in Norwalk, CT, U.S.A. Additionally, should the event still be active, as a stretch goal in coming years we'd be thrilled to try our best at Battlebots in Las Vegas.



Roles

There are many ways that students, of any faculty, can contribute to our team. As our projects this year will involve deliverables requiring coding, modelling, assembly, electrical design, communication, bookkeeping, promotion and other general skills. To organize these projects, we will be implementing a group model common among many other design teams, that being sub-teams. Each sub team will preferably include one upper year student with a high degree of experience, who will act as a lead, and some less experienced students to fill out the team and get work done in the shop, learn from the lead, as well as to create a degree of redundancy.



Team Leads

The main qualities we'll be looking for in team leads include confidence, independence, intuition and experience with the material of interest, and adaptability. This is our first year running this team, and although we have a general idea as to the workload, and our priorities and goals, we aren't familiar with the intricacies of running a design team. Our roles as co-presidents is to make it easy for the team leads to complete their projects, and to keep the team on track. Since we aren't competing this year we have no hard deadlines, our strategy as to how sub teams should prioritize their time as we move through the year will be better understood as the year progresses.

The time commitment we expect from a lead would be one that is compatible with a full course load, so between eight and fifteen hours a week, depending on the time of year. Our work will be intense between the completion of recruitment (End of September) and the end of our design period (Hopefully mid November). And again in the new year, as we begin putting what we can of the robot together.

General Membership

For general members of the DCRT who will form our sub teams, we want to welcome engineering students, as well as students from other faculties, to learn from their leads, approach the work assigned to them as a way to apply their learning from class, and to grow in their technical skills. No experience is strictly necessary to join, but we encourage those who'd like, to learn about robotics, and to be aware of the design process as it happens. This is good for the team, as it adds redundancy to our group, and it allows our membership to contribute at a higher level in the future.



Time commitment for general members of the team we imagine will be between 6 and 8 hours a week, depending on the time of year. Between the end of recruitment (which will take place through September) and the December break, there will be opportunities for technical and safety training, brainstorming sessions within the team, and non-technical projects, like outreach, promotion and fundraising. In the new year, we will be putting those skills to the test, as we assemble, test and learn to control the bot.

Our team leads are passionate about this team, and believe that within the vast pool of talent, and ambition that is this university, there exists a strong combat robotics team. We are committed to bringing that team together.

