



British Foosball Association

Table Football ... Foosball ... Babyfoot in the UK

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Minutes of the British Foosball Association Annual General Meeting

Sunday 10th February 2008 - The Holywell, Hinckley

Meeting opened 1550hrs

1. Attendance and apologies

Present

Boris Atha, Chris Haddon, Suki Jaffer, John Worthington, Mike Amsden, Paddy Dunleavy, Ben Mason, John Shovelton, Steve Lyall, Luke Ashley

Apologies

Alex Shovelton, Jon May, Dave Morgan

2. Minutes of the 2007 AGM

The minutes of the 2007 AGM and April 2007 EGM were read agreed as a true and accurate record

Matters arising – Organisation for ranking across all tables now levelled, so if you go up rank, you can also go down. Referee committee on form. Also would like table football to be recognised as a sport within schools, youth clubs, etc.

3. Outgoing committee reports

- Chairman

Constitutional changes – committee expanded, democratic veto on appointed committee members, separation of constitution and policy documents

Membership – paid membership introduced with 3-tier membership for individuals.

National Championships – First multitable national championships held July 2007 with qualification required for OS and OD.

Club membership scheme agreed and ready to implement (subject to website development)

- Treasurer

Provided accounts – see appendix – Noted although accounts show a loss in 2007 much of this was due to one-off expenditure. Will strictly adhere to the Expenses Policy. If expenses aren't shown fully, they won't be paid out.

- Secretary

77 full members

236 provisional members

£688 raised in membership fees

4. Working Group Reports

Tournament Coordination Committee - Boris

The TCC has sanctioned the following tournaments:

2006/7 season - 2x Garlando, 1x Tornado, 1x Bonzini (Feb-Jun 2007)

2007/8 Season - 4x Garlando, 5x Tornado

The TCC has developed and refined the criteria for tournaments gaining ranking status - a policy ratified as document 10 by the BFA Committee in November 2007. The TCC continues to review applications by tournaments for BFA and/or ITSF ranking status. Rankings for all tables brought under a common system in Dec 2007 for implementation Jan 08

Commercial Development – Jon May - Commercial Activities of the BFA in 2007

Disclaimers:

1. Precise Numbers of Amounts Made to be filled in by Mr John Worthington.
2. I might have missed some stuff.

Pilot TV Episode Made - Alex Shovelton, Joe Hamilton, Tom Burdett and Jonathan May made a pilot TV episode. I have finally received the pilot episode. It is not clear where this is going, but I will try to ensure that if the production company does not use it the BFA will secure rights to use it or at least to make it publicly available.

Entertainment Profiles on Site - We have active profiles for Rob Atha, Alex Shovelton, John Shovelton, Joe Hamilton and myself on Atmosphere Entertainment. Work on these profiles is likely to raise the profile of the BFA and possibly the revenue from Expert Challenge events. Currently the profiles are inadequately completed.

Bonzini Events - [Boris best placed to comment] – Proposed tour sponsored by a soft-drinks company, no contact since Dec 07 when tour reduced to a single event at BK.

Atmosphere Event and Ingram Micro Retail Expo event at Wembley - This event was attended by Jonathan May, and raised X for the BFA

Mobile Event – Event for major mobile phone network through but still in contact and might need our services at a later date

University Championship Sponsorship - Is obtained, event will be postponed until Michaelmas 2008.

Leo Burnett - [Mase best placed to comment] – Marketing agency

Warrington Event - Alex Shovelton and Sarah Brice attended in expert challenge for opening of Golden Square Shopping centre, Tables supplied by Boris and the BFA.

David Noel at Neighbourhood Club W10 - Event fell through

Garlando UK Banner - Delayed advertising banner but would probably be interested if asked again

Revamped Website Sections - I rewrote most of the pages on the corporate events/sponsorship/commercial development parts of the site. I think that there is a lot more we can do, most of which I have already written but needs editing and someone to take greater care about image/placement/development. Thanks a lot to John Shovelton for implementing most of the changes.

National League – Mase –

2006 league not concluded final not played – not awarded Warwick/Bushbabies – both equally culpable for 2nd leg of final not being played. 2007 season – 6x new teams 3 pulled out due to experience and travelling to venues., league grown, Cardiff Uni, Liverpool, Keele, growing organically. Next league season will start alongside start of academic year and end in August 2009. 2007 league now at SF stage. Pissheads want to go away. League committee working. No cheques banked. League get together for prospective teams. Thanks to Shovo & Dan G for website and rules.

Computing WG - Shovo –

Main job from Dec 06 to recover main website from neglect during previous reign, vote of thanks to Dan Gallon, John Shovelton & Chaz Allen for updates, not been redeveloped

but maintained. Tom King had done a redesign but not followed through. CWG – membership software and national league to allow online applications/payments for club memberships. Dan K – rankings integration.

National Team - Boris

Great Britain fielded national teams in 4 out of the 5 WCS Nation Cup events in 2007.

Bonzini – 5-8th – beat Algeria lost to France

Roberto-Sport – 9-16th – lost 1st round the Czech Republic

Garlando – 2nd – beat France, Belgium and Switzerland, lost to Austria in final

Tornado – 5-8th – lost to USA first round

GB failed to raise a team for the Tec-Ball WCS

Official team strips have been purchased and remain property of the BFA – spent a lot on clothing – Shovo keeping track – P4P – better coordination

Refereeing Commission - Mase

After a slow start, the refereeing commission has become active in recent weeks, working towards an accreditation procedure for BFA competitions. Officials clinics to be held at some of the larger UK tournaments in 2008. Basic/simplified rules sheet agreed – awaiting publication for inclusion in all tables sold in the UK (requested by distributors at ATEi – along with BFA leaflet – abandon idea of advertising.

Youth & Grass Roots Development – Mase

WG activity slow, no-one has enough time to devote to youth development. Re schools Geoff B not happy with snake as it slows down takings and is concerned that the only shot that would be taught is the snake shot. Suggest stickers on tables to promote BFA. Rob A offered to train players in coaching, so that they can coach in schools– CRB checks, 6th forms crying out for something positive for the kids. PD mentioned that there needs to be (BFA) brand awareness within the tables. Suggest develop progress sheet for new players and/or training DVD. Club membership and/or ITSF training centres should grow organically. Pilot scheme. JW – Britfoos poll – what is grass roots?

Sports Commission - Boris

The Sports Commission is tasked with getting foosball recognised officially as a sport in the UK, and the BFA as an official governing body. Initial contact have been made with the DCMS, the deadlines for applications are March and September each year. Massive advantage of being a sport is not having to abide by ITSF criteria, automatic membership of NOC. Club membership key to establishing scale of foosball in the UK and a viable 'sports' structure.

Womens Commission – Suki Jaffer

Has gone moribund. Caroline was elected and didn't do anything – note that womens events now usually have 'proper' formats and increased turnouts noted. Suki checks regularly.

Disciplinary Commission - Mase

1x official complaint in 2007, thoroughly explored and handled. Not handled at the time (during the tournament). Need revised disciplinary code & policy. Deposit for post-hoc complaints. Britfoos Code of Conduct to be revised. Whatever decision the referee gives, has to be abided by. HO needs to bring CoC to each tournament.

Newsletter – Dan Gallon

A newsletter has been introduced this year in an attempt to professionalise the image of the BFA. Successes have notably included the interviews with players and others involved in the foos business, and the relative consistency of publication, From the point of view of acting as a professional organisation to outsiders - newcomers and the industry in general - the newsletter is an important addition to the BFA.

Many thanks must go to all those who have produced items for the newsletter, supplied photos and taken part in interviews. (Dave Ziemann deserves a special mention for number of items used)

On the downside, more pro-activity from other members of the BFA community in helping produce items for the newsletter would be very welcome - it is particularly disappointing that there are some tournaments where no one ends up writing a report. The entry to the competitions (with genuine, worthwhile and financially rewarding prizes) has in general been absolutely pathetic.

Still to end on an optimistic note, the BFA Newsletter is far better than I envisaged it last year when I started it, and hopefully it will continue to get better.

Table Sponsorship Scheme

A group of senior players have collectively sponsored the purchase of 10x Garlando Master Champion tables for use at UK tournaments until December 2009, to be paid for by table fees without requiring initial outlay from organisers. After sponsors have been repaid plus modest interest, any balance at the conclusion of the scheme will revert to the BFA. Organisers must sign a contract outlining their and the scheme's responsibilities.

5. Constitutional Amendments & Required Votes

No Constitutional Amendments

Membership fees

Membership fees are currently £1 provisional, £5 full membership.

1st Action – Page on website – “what does my membership fee give me?”

2nd Action – Secretary to monitor membership register and fees on a regular basis.

Amount that is given by members should match what is put into bank.

Provisional membership can no longer be put towards full membership.

Proposal to give 18 months for first full membership – failed - £5 for 12 months (rolling) – approved unanimously

Secretary to keep list of full members at every tournament. – reduces admin and provides incentive to sign up for full membership – agreed unanimously Page to be created on website with list of full members and the expiry date of their membership. Longer term membership – life membership? For further discussion.

Quorum for general meetings – leave at 6 – discussion of whether it should be an odd number – pointed out that chairman has casting vote which must be used to preserve the status quo.

Spending limit – Limit of £500 to remain (per cheque)

6. Executive Committee Elections

Chairman - Matthew 'Boris' Atha - Re-elected nem con

Treasurer - John Worthington – Re-Elected nem con

Webmaster – Chaz Allen – ratified nem con

Womens Officer – Suki Jaffer –ratified nem con

Elected posts (5 from 6 candidates)

Dave Morgan – Ratified as ***Secretary***

Ben Mason - Ratified as ***Vice Chair***

John Shovelton – Exec Member

Alex Shovelton – Exec Member

Tom Burdett – Exec Member

Sarah Brice failed to achieve re-election.

7. Any Other Business

ITSF – BFA to pay tournament sanction fees – ‘Regular’ Membership status confirmed February 2007 – Note that sticker fees > membership in 2007

FAST Software – delegated to CWG for implementation if/when translated into English

Refereeing Commission – Alex Shovelton to be chairman and coordinate accreditation programme

Sport application – JW to take lead – needs to be top priority for 2008. Note that if a rival organisation were to achieve NOC recognition they would automatically take the place of the BFA within ITSF.

UK Championship – format, qualifying criteria, venue and date to be decided by Executive committee

National Team – as before – selected from those present – if more attend than required for the team then Executive Cttee decides

ITSF Dress Code – Cultural differences between UK and Europe – noted that ‘sports attire’ associated with UK ‘Chav’ culture with highly negative image, creating problems with access to venues from door staff (noted problems in Liverpool with Spanish players refused access until Boris intervened). Show off GB team with higher profile on website. It is up to the Head Official to enforce the dress code. At Hereford the dress code will be enforced for matches 4th or better in OS/OD. Current code does not suit criteria – some non-approved clothing (e.g. cycling shorts) appears to have no logical basis.

BFA Logo - needs updating. JW suggested removing the yellow background colour and leaving logo background white.

War Zone – Bad image for BFA. Arguments OK but not abuse. WZ to be abolished - unanimous. General posts to be moderated more aggressively. Sanctions can include suspension or ban from forum, and serious/repeated offences can result in bans from competition.

Club Membership – web-page/thread – need wider membership for sports recognition – suspend membership fees until something concrete to offer. Update website with useful information/features. Club membership mandatory for entry to 2008-09 league. Issue of graduated system so new clubs are not put off by being trashed by pros.

Agent – Paddy Dunleavy – BFA needs an agent for Expert Challenge events & Sponsorship

Website - website to be refurbished with up and coming tournaments, photo of Team GB and a suggestions box for suggestions to be posted.

Official Tables – agreed in principle to sanction tables not currently used as official BFA tables. FAS have approached the BFA and asked them to support their new up and coming table. BFA is open to other manufacturers as long as they are willing to support the BFA.

Meeting closed 1920hrs