



British Foosball Association

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

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Minutes to the BFA AGM 3 April 2004

Distribution: Executive Committee, AGM Attendees, BFA Members

Bar Kick, 127 Shoreditch High St, London E1 – 3 April 2004

0. The meeting

The following BFA members were present: Richard Thomson (Chair), Rhys Roberts, Boris Atha, John Worthington, Andrei Russell-Gebbett, Naeem Kaka, Pete Ganderton, Alex Shovelton, Dave Morgan, Dave Trease, Matt Tredwell. Apologies were received from: Dave Perrott, Dave Ziemann, Diane Blackwell and Dan Gallon.

1. Proposal to adopt BFA Constitution v4

Proposal moved to the top of the agenda so that it can be adopted immediately and used at the meeting for the avoidance of doubt. Proposed by Richard Thomson, seconded by Rhys Roberts. Passed unanimously at the meeting (including 6x e-mail votes and 3x postal votes in favour).

2. Chairman's report – Richard Thomson

New website has become firmly established as the no1 source for UK foosball on the net, whilst the Britfoos Forum has established itself as the primary forum for foosball-related discussion. The new name and logo have gone down well, and the wider rebranding is nearing completion. It is important that as part of the rebranding exercise we look to get something with the BFA logo and web address on every table in UK, something which we originally intended to do via table stickers, although subsequently it was decided that rulesheets and/or flyers could be more effective. The flyers in particular tested well in a trial run at the ATEI exhibition in February 2004. Standard documents put together for download including tournament charts and playing tutorials.

There were 13x ranking tournaments in 2003 and the plan is for 19 in 2004 (including 4x in Ireland). Tournament planning is facilitated by access to the BFA trailer and increasing numbers of experienced tournament volunteers, although sourcing tables remains an issue. The BFA was given 2 Tornado tables for our part in the GiTV TV venture and we are close to securing access to 4 Garlando tables for use at tournaments over the next 2 years. A code of conduct document was written and introduced to tackle tournament discipline, which was highlighted at the previous AGM as a potential issue following incidents at a number of Tornado tournaments. The tournament support programme was amended and documented to reflect a move away from direct financial support via provision of trophies towards facilitating tournament organisers in more practical ways such as sourcing tables, providing transport, toolkits, volunteers for set-up, recognised referees and tournament directors.



Revised Garlando rankings have been well received, although rules still need to be rewritten to reflect the generally accepted changes introduced since the Austrian worlds in 2002. Significant issues remain with the Tornado rankings but no clear direction as to how to proceed. There is an opportunity to start French-style rankings although these will likely remain largely specific to Bar Kick and Café Kick.

There remains a difficulty maintaining a balance between the different table styles, with all parties becoming increasingly self-centric. In particular, it is very difficult to get people to commit time and effort without identifying specific projects and pressuring them to contribute. The use of working groups has had mixed success, and is largely dependent on the motivation of the individuals involved. Important to get players involved in the specific areas that they have the most interest in, whilst keeping groups small and manageable where everyone contributes. As much work as possible should be pushed onto the working groups, with the fundamental principle of keeping people pulling/pushing in the same direction.

3. Vice-chair report – Rhys Roberts

Main project of the year was the TV venture with Game-In TV. Very time consuming to put together with lots of issues to overcome, although the outcome from our side was very professional with the event running smoothly. There was some disappointment in the final broadcast versions over camera angles used due to the chosen method of filming. Important to remember that the event was a trial for a start-up TV channel and that publicity is good for promoting the game. The meeting discussed whether we could make our own table football videos at events, with a balance between table and reaction shots, more along the lines of the inside foos videos.

Expert challenges continue to provide the best opportunity for us to generate income. Companies have historically come to us, but we need to be more proactive through attending ATEi, pub&bar and other hospitality shows exhibitions. Currently exploring one very interesting-looking opportunity.

4. Secretary's report – Boris Atha

It has been a successful year from a membership point of view, with members rising to 775 by the time of the AGM. The venues database has also grown to 1026 venues. The BFA is a member of ITSF and EUTSA, although so far no subscription payment has been made to either. The meeting discussed how the committee wants to be clear of the benefits to BFA members before making any financial commitment. It was noted that Eutsa has been quiet recently, following the decision to cancel the Eutsa World Championships.

5. Treasurer's report – John Worthington

RBoS accounts finally received and reconciled, with the £50 discrepancy in favour of the BFA. Accounts now in reasonable state and will be maintained properly going forward. £1350, reflecting 50% payment, remains outstanding from Qudos for Earls Court event in 2002. Need more expert challenges to generate income going forward as the amounts from such ventures far exceed other fundraising activities.

We have made steps to set up a BFA shop, initially by focussing on selling Garlando balls, although this is to be extended to other parts including Tornado parts with the help of Dave Perrot. Minimal profits considering the efforts required to run the shop, although the shop is doing a good service to members. Offering to post items is causing its own problems and the shop may just be run at events going forward. Gamesindoors.co.uk has offered to do BFA member discounts, offer WC-spec conversion kits and order Tornado tables from the US. We are keen to support what is an enthusiastic new distributor within the realm of what could be deemed reasonable for a table and distributor independent organisation.

6. General discussion

GWG2004 - The Garlando working group has been successful to date, with working group members supporting each other well on issues such as running and planning events. The 2004 event diary came together relatively easily due to the numbers of people prepared to support Garlando events.



TWG2004 – The Tornado working group has been relatively unsuccessful, and although the event diary did come together before the AGM mailing it was a nightmarish process and already there are changes to the schedule. Issues include lack of support from the various WG members, people not being prepared to commit to helping run an event 8 months in advance (with the exception of Brian Fox) and difficulties fitting schedule around a full Irish event diary. Potential conflict between UK and Irish interests. Tornado rankings remain an issue but WG members remain unmotivated to do something about it.

Fund raising – A group to be set up to focus on promoting expert challenges, developing sponsorship ideas and looking at other forms of fundraising. Initially proposed group members include Rhys Roberts, Dave Oates, Dave Ziemann and Richard Thomson.

Promoting table football across the UK – A group to be set up to finalise details of the BFA flyer, rulesheet and/or BFA stickers and distribute to all venues across the UK. Plans also to finalise the BFA newsletter and send out to members. It was also decided that we should not be mailing all members solely to announce our AGM, and that members can opt-in to a mailing if they do not have Internet access. We will take the opportunity of sending members a final reminder in the next memberwide-mailing we do.

Website – Potential to develop the BFA website further. Interest in making it look better and simplify navigation of certain sections. Need to get more web-literate people on board.

University/College Cup – Attractive concept in order to tap into a wider player base. Requires someone with significant time and commitment to see it through although there are obvious commercial partners including Geoff Brice, The Foosball Club and the various university operators.

Event Scheduling – It is harder to get things organised with an AGM in April than in January/February. Difficulty is getting players to commit to event diaries even further in advance, although if the AGM were not to be accompanied with an AGM mailshot then this is less of an issue.

Trophies – Need one source for good value-for-money trophies. Requirement for someone to take specific responsibility over sourcing, engraving and getting inners with the BFA logo sorted. Proposal to look into offering medals as a cheaper substitute for lower-positions.

Home Nations Championship – unlikely to be useful given the dominance of English players.

Publicity – Mens magazines, sports marketing network etc could provide valuable advertising. Need a primary offering such as a BFA Championship to act as a focus to approach them with. There is potential to tie advertising in to the planned trip to the Bonzini World Cup in France.

World-championship spec Garlando – Comments were raised about the new table.

Grass-roots coaching – Unclear what else could be done to develop the game at grass-roots level other than what we are already trying to organise.

Tournament formats - Swiss System with elimination rounds sounds like an exciting way of running tournaments without the need for separate novice and semi-pro events. Discussion covered the use of Swiss System in chess and whether matches could be timed. Proposal to adopt the Berliner System for DE finals (extra game, not extra set) to save time met with wide agreement.

Irish Foosball Association – Very organised with regards to their own events diary. Questions over how many IFA events should be ranked, given that the TWG2004 has stated it wishes to focus on having fewer, larger events, spread across the UK. Current events diary shows 6 UK and 4 IFA events as ranking events. Decision to leave the BFA ranking of IFA events to the decision of the TWG2004.

Garlando ranking system – Big improvement over old system, although something needs to be done at the top end.



7. Administrative matters

The meeting decided unanimously to: keep membership fees free; maintain the £500 spending limit; and keep quorum at 6.

8. Executive Committee elections

The meeting decided unanimously to accept the seven candidates for the seven Executive Committee positions. The following people were therefore voted in unopposed:

- Chairperson - Richard Thomson
- Treasurer - John Worthington
- Secretary - Dan Gallon
- Vice-Chair – Boris Atha
- Executive Committee members - Diane Blackwell, Dave Perrott and Pete Ganderton

Thanks were given to the retiring committee members for their hard work over the past year. Special thanks were given to Rhys Roberts and Dave Ziemann for their long-serving time on the committee and it was requested that they stay involved with the organisational aspects of the BFA via the working groups and the expert challenge working group in particular.

9. AOB

Prize funds – Questions over the use of over-ambitious claims for prize funds to boost turnout, to the detriment of other events. Proposal for all events to be referred to as 100% payout or subject to turnout unless their prize fund is guaranteed.

Ranking criteria – Criteria required for events to be considered BFA ranking events include: full tournament charts; minimum 4 weeks notice; at least one BFA approved tournament organiser present; full prize fund breakdown. Potentially different approaches for Tornado & Garlando - details to be left to the appropriate working groups.

Controlling or facilitating association – Discussion over whether we should look to control events or just facilitate their organisation. Acceptance that there are too few events to pick & choose which ones to support, so we need to strike a balance between maintaining tournament standards and pursuing long term goals. Meeting closed 1800hrs

DYP event

- 1 Boris Atha & Andrei Russel-Gebbit W3 GD+10 (won final 7-6)
- 2 Rhys Roberts & Richard Thomson W3 GD +10
- 3 Dave Trease & Naeem Kaka W3 GD +5
- 4 Alex Shovelton & Dave Morgan – W1 GD -5
- 5 Matt Tredwell & Pete Ganderton W0 GD -18