



# British Foosball Association

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

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## Minutes to the BFA AGM 2006

*Distribution: Executive Committee, AGM Attendees, BFA Members*

**Warwick University, 11 February 2006**

### 0. The meeting

The following BFA members were present: John Worthington (Chair), Hannah Ramlee, Paul Taylor, Ben Mason, Matt Cotterill, Chaz Allen, Tom Burdett, Andrew Nubbert, Chris Haddon, Rhys Roberts, Bobby Moss, Richard Thomson, Dave Perrott, Dan Kingston, Phil Pratt, Jude Fitzgerald, Adam Baker, Joe Hamilton, Mike Amsden.

### 1. Main agenda items

- Promotion of Table Football in the UK
- UK ranking system and event formats
- BFA funding
- BFA Constitution

#### 1.1 Promotion of Table Football in the UK

Ben Mason led a discussion on promotion and media opportunities, highlighting areas where we can make a more concerted effort including: maintaining a list of corporate contacts on BritFoos; contacting magazines who "always have inches to fill"; need for a dedicated BFA press officer to organise promotion / media coverage of events. Discussion covered: Foos seen as geeky; need to raise awareness; 115 people at Cambridge Open; need for sponsorship - example of amount of money offered for bog snorkling; need to coordinate with expert challenges; potential to get Red Bull girls along; WKD mentioned as appropriate sponsor; single point of contact through the Press Officer.

John Worthington led discussion on need to build the sport at grassroots level, and how he came in the top 2 in Oxford singles coppers (correction - apparently he finished 4th). Need to remove elitism, get more rookies involved. Suggestion that format is important in achieving this: DE is bad for rookies; swiss is not universally favoured; groups often come down to 1 game first to 7 for teams looking to get into knockout. Risk Rookies are scared of getting slaughtered or that the game will be taken too seriously - Need to show the rookies the real social side. Issues with tournament attendance include getting time off work, accommodation costs, food costs, entry costs – all in all can be expensive. Reading local events series praised - Rookies given a chance to do well and N00bs have fun. Grooming n00bs at low level required –

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regular local events across the country ideal. Mase highlights the Barrels handicapping system – better players required to score more goals to win, gets people involved and they improve. Regular haunts / local events. Tournament tierings. Issues getting tournament organisers for rookie events since most people who get involved are SP or above - suggested tournaments with day 1 for rookies, day 2 for pros with good rookies being promoted into the pro day. Finishing times are important – Reading finishes at 8pm – gives time for socialising. Summary of Reading event – League ladder. Walkabout Chain mini series. Entries fees possibly a little high for reading events. General agreement that promoters making money is not necessarily a problem and that it should be up to the promoter to decide payout etc, so provided it is clearly advertised in advance people should have no problems. Suggestion to pay helpers / offering free entry fees. All problems solved with sponsorship money to cover these outgoings

## **1.2 Rankings**

Richard Thomson summarised the ranking history, with rankings taken from the US system and subsequently amended for both Tornado, with negative points eliminated then reinstated, and separately Garlando, with a new system designed and implemented. General desire of operators to get most serious players to pay more and that an upward drift system not disfavoured. Systems not perfect - ridiculous Rob Atha is not #1 in the UK garlando rankings. Significant implementation issues over ELO, which would make a “totally fair system”, but requires all match results and various attempts to make ELO succeed have failed. Issues partly related to importing results from SPORT. Manual input of data not feasible - need for automated system reiterated. Rob Moss working on proposal / other countries have solutions. Rhys suggested contacting Bonzini USA who use ELO to try to get their package and / or get the various software manufactures to try to get a solution together. Objective to get a system up and running before next years AGM.

Need to set minimum formats for a ranking tournament – Number of tables, expected turnout, etc. Need to ratify ranking points. Set limits on number of people required to get ranking status.

## **1.3 BFA funding**

BFA Membership: suggestion to consider paid membership to the BFA (e.g. £5 membership, £1 off tournament entry). Potential issues in rationalising membership when it comes to potential sponsors. Way round is to have “Premium members” and “Standard members” but could create elitism. Premium membership benefits should be easy to give e.g Britfoos email, player profile, etc. Question over whether it is worth the effort. Option to sell T-shirts. Option to sell BFA email addresses.

BFA Shop: essentially a collection of volunteers stocking foos items to sell. Main one is balls, stocked by Richard Thomson. Last year made £400 - £500, option to expand and improve, possibly through wraps, which Dave P is happy for someone else to take over. Need to make more out of DVDs put together by Dave Oates and Alex Shovelton. Need to source dropper bottles from Amphora Aromatic (30 for £10) filled with lubricant (Wickes Silicon lube).

Expert Challenges: It was noted that Dave Oates does an excellent job for the BFA and that this is a critical area for development over the next few years. Need to ensure Dave Oates gets the support he deserves to fulfil this role.

## **1.3 BFA constitution**

Richard Thomson commented that the BFA constitution covers all table types and hence means it is harder to promote tournament-standard tables over cheap and inferior tables. Criticisms of Harvard and other similar tables cannot be made in official capacity. Suggestion to take the lead from ITSF and have approved tables. Suggestion that BFA should focus on both professional and grassroots play. Suggestion

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for a buyers guide, listing tournament quality tables. Agreement by attendees to include the term "Professional" in the constitution -> decision goes to the new committee for discussion and amendments.

The AGM agrees in removing the requirement for postal AGM notification and again agrees that website publication is sufficient for AGM 2007, in the event the constitution is again not updated to obviate the requirement for this to be pre-agreed.

## **2. Other discussions**

Finances: Richard Thomson commented that the BFA finances for 2006 have been affected by the disregard by committee members of pre-authorisation and reporting policies. The meeting agreed that protocol should be followed at all times, and that to enforce this expenses should not be paid unless sufficient explanation is given. Steps underway to open a 2nd bank account for "British Foosball Association."

ITSF: Boris unable to attend AGM so Rhys provides update on the World Cup team. Questions over the rules, number of players to be taken, number paid for by ITSF. Committee has already decided (amongst many other suggestions) to make Rob Atha captain and for him to pick the team, and that Rhys has kindly agreed to act as team coordinator.

Garlando 2006: Preference against 2 day events. Need to find a solution for the "BFA Garlando's", which revert to their original funders (Richard Thomson, Boris Atha, Dan Gallon and Pete Ganderton) after Oxford 2007. Option that they could be bought off their owners by charging tournaments usage fees

Tornado 2006: Likely to be 2 x Floatel events (1 Floatel, 1 Masters). Loss of crown tables an issue. Suggestion to have BFA tables that can be brought to tournaments

UK Team Event: Geoff Brice is willing to sponsor any of his colleges that wish to enter. Suggestion of having college leagues - question of whether this is realistic in the short term. Should resurrect idea of having a load of stickers produced and stuck to tables.

IT / Web: Need for a clean, new frontpage to the BFA site. Bobby Moss as webmaster, supported by the CWG. Need to keep the website up to date. Rob Moss to set up a more automated approach that can be maintained via webpage based interface. Local Venues need update.

Moderation: To review BritFoos moderation in light of public disagreements and member complaints. Rob Moss drawing up some rules. Vote of confidence in John Worthing, who says users avoiding the swear filter annoy him. Suggestion to have colour scheme based on which forum you are in universally supported.

Tournament Coordination Working Group: Requirement to have a central group to manage the coordination aspects of running tournaments, to focus on: flyers being made; people in the relevant area emailed; flyers posted; tournament structure / format ratified in advance; list of ranking bands.

## **3. Committee reports**

- Chairperson's report: covered in discussions above
  - Treasurer's report: Richard Thomson presented the BFA accounts, which are attached to the end of the minutes.
  - Vice-chair and outgoing secretary not present
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#### **4. Executive Committee elections**

The meeting decided unanimously to accept the four candidates for the positions of Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-Chair. Elections were held to determine the remaining three Executive Committee positions. Full results as follows:

- Chairperson –Richard Thomson
- Treasurer – John Worthington
- Secretary - Jude Fitzgerald
- Vice-Chair – Matthew "Boris" Atha
- Executive Committee members – Dave Oates, Rob Moss, Ben Mason

Thanks go to the members of the BFA committee stepping down, and to people who were not elected to the committee.

#### **5. AOB**

The spending limit of £500 was maintained.

The member fees were reconfirmed at £0 per year.

Quorum for the next meeting is set at 8 people.

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Itemised expenses/(income) by cheque (or cash) received / spent

Claim date	Amount	Carried fwd	Cheque	Claimant	Code	Sub-amount	Description
01 Mar 05	2,240.66	2,240.66			N/A	2,240.66	Opening balance
02 Mar 05	(84.60)	2,156.06	000145	Dan Gallon	BFA204	(84.60)	PO Box renewal
	7.44	2,163.50			BFA703	7.44	March interest
08 Mar 05	(671.00)	1,492.50	000143	Richard T	BFA400	(400.00)	UK Open 04 expenses
		1,492.50	000146	Richard T	BFA400	(271.00)	UK Open 04 expenses
21 Mar 05	250.33	1,742.83			BFA400	250.33	IN - Temple / Floatel takings
05 Apr 05	400.00	2,142.83			BFA700	400.00	IN - Reading fest Expt Challenge
	5.57	2,148.40			BFA703	5.57	April interest
28 Apr 05	(100.00)	2,048.40	000149	Paid direct	BFA700	(100.00)	Court alloc fee re Qudos
08 Jun 05	(100.00)	1,948.40	000076	Phil W	BFA400	(100.00)	Lieu of \$200 Valley trophies
	5.08	1,953.48			BFA703	5.08	June interest
23 Aug 05	2,152.38	4,105.86			BFA700	2,152.38	IN - Qudos settlement
26 Sep 06	(360.81)	3,745.05	000009	Matt C	BFA401	(360.81)	Euro Open 05 trophies
05 Oct 06	758.00	4,503.05			BFA401	758.00	IN - Euro Open 05
	5.72	4,508.77			BFA703	5.72	October interest
14 Oct 06	(350.00)	4,158.77	000010	Paid direct	BFA302	(350.00)	ITSF fees
26 Oct 06	(510.95)	3,647.82	000150	Richard T	BFA100	(176.24)	Web hosting
		3,647.82			BFA101	(34.71)	Domain registration
		3,647.82			BFA700	(300.00)	Qudos costs
11 Nov 06	457.50	4,105.32			BFA400	269.50	Tournament support
		4,105.32			BFA401	188.00	Euro Open 05 payments
16 Nov 06	375.00	4,480.32			BFA400	375.00	Tournament support
24 Nov 05	(339.59)	4,140.73	000015	Paid direct	BFA401	(339.59)	Euro Open 05 payments
	(500.00)	3,640.73	000016	Paid direct	BFA401	(500.00)	Euro Open 05 payments
	(390.07)	3,250.66	000017	Paid direct	BFA401	(390.07)	Euro Open 05 payments
24 Nov 05	(338.60)	2,912.06	000014	Matt C	BFA400	(338.60)	Tournament support
09 Jan 06	(90.48)	2,821.58		Dan Gallon	BFA204	(90.48)	PO Box renewal
<b>CLOSING</b>	<b>2,821.58</b>						
Uncashed	115.00	2,936.58			BFA400	115.00	Bristol trophies (\$200 converted)
Uncashed	125.00	3,061.58			BFA700	125.00	Bristol expert challenge
Uncashed	(23.50)	3,038.08	000011	Dave Perrot	BFA300	(23.50)	Sack truck
Uncashed	(275.00)	2,763.08	000013	George hotel	BFA401	(275.00)	George hotel room hire
Uncashed	225.00	2,988.08			BFA400	225.00	UKM trophies (\$400 converted)
Uncashed	(175.00)	2,813.08	000012	Paid direct	BFA302	(175.00)	ITSF fees 2005-6
Owed	(251.47)	2,561.61			BFA401	(251.47)	Owed to excel
<b>SHADOW</b>	<b>2,561.61</b>						

Code	Description	Account	Total activity	Prior period adj	Adj for prior period
BFA100	Website hosting	(176.24)	(176.24)		(176.24)
BFA101	Domain name registration	(34.71)	(34.71)		(34.71)
BFA102	Other Internet costs	-	-		-
BFA200	Memberwide mailshots	-	-		-
BFA201	Ad-hoc mailings	-	-		-
BFA202	Stationary	-	-		-
BFA203	Printing expenses	-	-		-
BFA204	PO Box	(175.08)	(175.08)	84.60	(90.48)
BFA300	BFA kit purchases	-	(23.50)		(23.50)
BFA301	Shop purchases /sales	-	-		-
BFA302	ITSF fees	(350.00)	(525.00)		(525.00)
BFA400	Tournament support	(214.77)	125.23	671.00	796.23
BFA401	European Open 05	(644.47)	(1,170.94)		(1,170.94)
BFA500	Table expenses	-	-		-
BFA600	Miscellaneous costs	-	-		-
BFA700	Expert challenge income	2,152.38	2,277.38	(2,152.38)	125.00
BFA701	Sponsorship income	-	-		-
BFA702	Donations income	-	-		-
BFA703	Interest income	23.81	23.81		23.81
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>580.92</b>	<b>320.95</b>	<b>(1,396.78)</b>	<b>(1,075.83)</b>

## NOTES

- The main cash inflow was the receipt of payment for the £1375 owed by Qudos. With accrued interest, after costs, the net income was £1752. This claim dates back to 2002 and took concerted effort over an extended period.
- The main cash outflow for the year was the European Open. This significantly exceeded the £500 budget and the precise cost remains unknown as it was not fully accounted for by the organisers. Tighter cost control must be maintained going forwards.
- Excluding the Qudos and Reading Festival expert challenges, which pre-dated the 2005-6 financial year, the BFA generated £125 from expert challenges. The BFA will need to improve its cash generation in 2006/7 in order to support the cash burn for the organisation.
- Excluding the EO, tournament support generated a significant income during the year of £796, largely due to the banking of table takings from Tornado tournaments. Including the EO, expert challenges generated a shortfall of £374, or a shortfall of £899 including ITSF fees.
- A major issue through the year has been the reporting of BFA expenses. With a single exception, there has been a total disregard of BFA expense forms, and this has led to a number of uncertainties in these accounts.
- The BFA has a number of uncashed cheques, as the bank account name has not been changed from the Bar Football Association. Various attempts have been made to update the name, but so far all have failed. This has started to create problems for the BFA, as cheques that are near their expiry date. This must be tackled by the new committee.