



# British Foosball Association

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

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## Minutes to the BFA AGM 20 January 2005

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

**Bar Kick, 127 Shoreditch High St, London E1 – 20 Jan 2005**

### **0. The meeting**

The following BFA members were present: Richard Thomson (Chair), Robert Moss, Andre Russell Gebbitt, Naeem Kaka, Alex Shovelton, John Worthington, Pete Ganderton, Boris Atha, Rhys Roberts, Jude Fitzgerald, Dave Perrott, Neil Morrison, Dave Morgan, Jujhar Singh Sohi, Patrick Grover

### **1. BFA Structure – Richard Thomson**

Richard confirmed the current distribution of the remaining BFA leaflets, and the current location of the BFA toolkits.

Richard went through current possibly divisions within the BFA with regard to table types, rankings and event slots and formats. The various areas are dealt with by the current working groups (Garlando Working Group (GWG), Tornado Working Group (TWG), Expert Challenge Group, Computing Group etc). these currently have 1 committee member minimum each. JW suggested this be supported my Committee meetings at tournaments. Richard suggested all proposals for events come via the respective working groups, with enforcement of response from members. These event proposals would be dealt with by a new group, the Events Working Group (EWG) who would coordinate pre-event details such as flyers, communication and dates to give consistency amongst all groups. There was discussion as to deadlines, time between events and various potential tools that could be used. It was provisionally agreed that there should be a 4 week minimum announcement for events, with a requirement for 30 players and 4 tables to attain ranking. The EWG should have the power to remove ranking from events if criteria are not met, and stop events being on the same day or too close together. Suggested positions within the EWG were trophy rep, quartermaster, calendar owner and other key individuals, with the final decision by the new committee. There was discussion as to the current trophy situation and the services Matt Cotterill provides tournament organizers. It was agreed that clarification of this would be handled by the new EWG.

### **2. Tornado Rankings – Boris Atha**

Boris began by pointing out that 17 Pro-masters within the current system was unrealistic, and suggested aligning with the current European system which included a handful of UK events before 2002 and all after. The new system also includes negative points. Boris advised that the current TWG was generally in favour of such an alignment. This was supported by Jude and Rhys. Richard asked if everyone was happy to lose results prior to 2002, and queried how Europeans would be dealt with. There was a prolonged and

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inconclusive discussion over this area. Rhys expressed concern over under-ranked players at tournaments, though it was pointed out that the converse was true, with several players currently being over-ranked. It was agreed that Boris would set a proposal to the TWG for a majority decision with a timescale of 1 week for responses

ACTION POINT – BORIS ATHA

Jude asked if UK players were over-ranked on both Garlando and Tornado within Europe. Boris suggested they probably were as we hold more events.

### **3. BFA Laptop - Pete Ganderton**

Pete pointed out that the current BFA laptop had died at the end of 2004. It was agreed that new hardware be sourced, along with a printer and relevant networking equipment, and a budget of £250 was agreed on.

ACTION POINT – PETE GANDERTON

### **4. BFA Subscriptions – Pete Ganderton**

Richard introduced the subject by stating that the BFA was currently against membership subscription, and it has been suggested we offer some extra paid services via the BFA website and forum. There was some support for this idea. Boris suggested a “newbie” forum to encourage new players to post. Dave Morgan enquired how much it cost to run the current website. Richard confirmed current running costs for [www.britfoos.com](http://www.britfoos.com) was £150 a year. Jude suggested t-shirts and other merchandise could be sold to help cover costs. There was a suggestion from Dave and Boris that some money from events should go towards this. This was suggested as a decision for the future EWG.

ACTION – EVENTS WORKING GROUP

### **5. AGM Location – Robert Moss**

Rob pointed out that several people at the meeting had long travel times to arrive, and suggested London may not be the best place to hold such a meeting. Boris pointed out that a previous meeting held in the Midlands had extremely low turnout. Richard said any meeting place had to be foosball-related, and as a potential alternative suggested Temple bar in Oxford. It was suggested that in September 2005 there should be a proposal to members to suggest alternative locations. It was suggested that Working Group members decide between potential locations.

### **6. Constitutional Amendments – Richard Thomson**

Richard confirmed that after last years mail shot all future notifications would be via email to reduce BFA costs, and advised that the Amendment to the constitution needs to be put through. This was agreed as an action to the new Committee.

ACTION POINT – COMMITTEE

Richard then suggested that by Committee vote executive members should be able to swap jobs within the year if needs require it. Jude and John said this would be fine for all positions apart from Treasurer, who was the most accountable member of the committee. It was agreed this could be dealt with within the committee.

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## **7. Corporate Events – Richard Thomson**

Richard advised that Dave Oates had produced a foosball promotional pack for distribution to marketing companies. John asked for costs involved, and Richard confirmed they would be minimal, as it included existing media such as a calendar and leaflets.

## **8. Garlando Tour – Richard Thomson**

Richard suggested a plan to co-ordinate a “grass roots” tour involving 4 blocky-foot Garlando events (Warwick, Oxford, Cambridge and Bath). He pointed out that within the UK the blocky-foot Garlando was a key demographic within the game. Dave Morgan asked what benefit there would be to linking the 4 events. Richard suggested a possible standardisation of formats, cross advertising, and possible reduction of entry fees for entry into multiple tournaments. Everyone agreed that a newer-style Garlando table be at events to increase table-awareness. Richard and Boris also suggested that there should be some work towards a FAS tour. Dave Morgan expressed concern that blocky-foot Garlandos be shown as novice tables as opposed to older style tables.

## **9. AOB**

Chairperson Update – Richard confirmed the Britfoos forum had covered all major points during the year. He made thank yous to Roger Healey for the BFA Leaflets, Bill Donne for the UK Open in December, the current committee and active Working Group members for all their work in the last year. There was a round of applause and thanks to Richard for all his work in the last year as Chairperson.

Treasurer Update – John said the finances had been reasonably quiet, with money taken from the Carling event at the Reading Festival, and profit from ball sales. Main expenses came from trailer repairs and a one-off trophy payment, a service the BFA no longer offer. Other expenses were last years mail shot and upkeep of the website. Richard advised that a letter had been sent to Kudos regarding an outstanding debt, and advised that court action may be the next step.

Vice-Chairman – Boris said he had been re-elected to the ITSF committee.

The spending limit of £500 was maintained.

Alex Shovelton said the current Swiss event entry fees were unbalanced. While this was agreed it was pointed out changes would result in lower prize funds. It was generally agreed Oxford had got costs right. There was general discussion into the various ways funds could be assigned within the format.

Boris said that there was a deadline for arranging an ITSF event within the UK this year coming up next week. It was agreed Boris would speak to Bill Donne to arrange a location and submit the proposal.

ACTION POINT – BORIS

## **10. 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 – John Worthington
  - Treasurer – Richard Thomson
  - Secretary - Dan Gallon
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- Vice-Chair – Boris Atha
- Executive Committee members – Jude Fitzgerald, Dave Perrott and Pete Ganderton