



British Foosball Association

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

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British Foosball Association **Annual General Meeting**

21 February 2016

Anglia Grove Snooker Club, Hackney

Present

Boris Atha, JP Thompson, Vito Migliore, Joe Bundy, Yordan Zaykov, Dan Gallon, Steve Lyall, Chris Lyall, Yaka Diaz, Mike Cohen

Apologies

Ben Mason, Will Hawkes, Jody Walding, Dave Oates, Dave Ziemann

Meeting commenced 1230hrs

Minutes of 2015 AGM

Agreed as true and accurate record *nem con*

Matters Arising

- £500 from Deutsche Bank not yet spent – Contact JW to see how it should be spent – proposal to cover Wheelfoos exhibitions
- Unable to set up internet banking so far
- Committee meetings not organized effectively via skype, forum falling into disuse, committee emails and facebook messages used for organising/votes
- Tournament Support – BFA paid for ITSF fees
- Have control of BFA paypal account
- Regional Associations – work in progress
- Boosting participation via regional championships (NW, London, EA) but not happened elsewhere yet
- No regular newsletter produced

Presidents report 2014 and 2015 – Ben Mason

Apologies I cannot be there today, I am recovering from some shoulder surgery, I wish I was there to deliver this in person and play in the event. It looks great from photos and Boris's updates. It's great that yesterday we managed to host another club event. These are brilliant for driving participation. Well done to all those involved and I hope to be able to play in the next one.

It was a great honour to be president of the BFA for two years. It is fair to say that the committee and myself set out with some fairly big ambitions and goals. But in all honesty we didn't achieve 30% of what we would have wanted.

At the beginning of the new committee we sadly lost two of our volunteers that had given so much in the way of time and intellectual content. Alex Millington Marston and Dave Oates both proved to be in many ways irreplaceable.

Happily for individuals on the committee but sadly for BFA a number of us either got married, moved house, started new relationships or any combination of those and as such were less committed than perhaps than we'd have envisaged at that start. I for one am guilty of not being able to give the time I had wished to give. I will also cede that my reluctance to use the forum, preferring either face to face or conference call contact added to the difficulty to move things forward in what was a period of less activity than I'd have wished.

My word of warning for the next committee is be 100% sure you have the time and if you don't think you will then say at the start so the new president can be clear on time each person has.

There have been many successes over 2014 and 2015 and I'd like to touch on them.

During the last two years we have yet again punched above our weight internationally with men, women, juniors and seniors taking titles, topping rankings and showing the the game at the highest level in the UK is up there with the very best. I truly believe we are not far away from producing a team that can reach the finals.

I'd like to thank Emily Knox for the work she has done vet the last two years in taking the disabled foosball scene in the UK forward. Emily has taken this on and ran with it and done fantastically. I'd also like to thank Sarah Brice who has supported Emily on this.

Although we have not yet seen the club scene grow to where we would like there has been good work done by those club organisers in getting the scene much nearer to where we want it. Good local scenes have started to grow and hopefully this will go from strength to strength.

I'd like to thank Jody Walding for painstakingly sorting the new TeamGB kits following the new sponsorship I acquired for us.

As always I'd like to thank Boris for his unwavering support he has always done this with gusto and I hope he keeps going.

I'd also like to thank Will Hawkes who has been really key in keeping us moving forward. He is a great guy who truly cares and is an asset moving forward over the next few years.

As you will be aware I am not standing for re election, I will instead be taking a back seat and concentrating on what I am best at. Having spoken with Boris and Will they are happy for me to replace Dave Oates and look after commercial affairs alongside Will.

Over the last two years I have secured two new sponsorship deals and will continue to look at these avenues for the BFA.

Alongside the new sponsorship deal I have also done a deal with a distribution partner who shares with us the names and emails of all of the people who have purchased a table in the uk. Over the last year we have been emailing these players. We now have clearance to share those details with the regional organisers so they can help introduce those players to foosball in the region where they live.

From conversations I have had with Will and Boris it would appear that Joe Bundy is standing for election, for the role of president. I'd like to wish Joe good luck and hope he can move the BFA forward should he be successful in election and offer my full support from the sidelines, something that we should have all been doing the last few years as essentially the development of foosball is what we all would like.

It is time for me to go back to what I'm good at and that is raising funds and publicising the BFA.

Best of luck to all those standing.

Regards,

Ben

Report read out and agreed *nem con*

Vote of thanks to Ben Mason agreed *nem con*

Secretary's Report - Will Hawkes – Note Will attempted to attend virtually via SKYPE but unable to do so due to lack of internet signal in venue.

1. Membership

The BFA now uses RegOnline to manage our memberships. The tool's strength is that it enables members to register and pay online, and it automatically manages renewals. Additionally it retains the contact details of all members. It's "just about OK" but it's a bit bumpy sometimes - I would move us to a better platform if I could find one.

Membership fees continue to be £5 via a club, £10 for individual memberships, with a £5 discount for novices / beginners and juniors. *No change is proposed for 2016.*

Memberships are now offered on an annual basis (1 Jan – 31 Dec). Membership fees are explicitly tied to a player's ITSF licence, and thus only required in order to participate in events where there is an ITSF aspect (domestic and overseas ITSF-registered events, plus qualification events e.g. UKC and BFA League Finals).

As of 28 Jan, the BFA had 268 players in the member database, of which 169 are associated with one of 24 BFA clubs; 51 are individual members; and 48 are foreign associates. Of these 268 players, only 37 are registered and paid up for 2016.

I believe BFA needs to be more rigid in ensuring that players have paid their membership before participating in events where membership is required. To ensure this, I propose that a condition of BFA sanction of an event should be that the Tournament Organiser collects membership fees for non-members who wish to participate.

I also propose that we set up Paypal as an alternative channel whereby members can pay their membership. I can then manually update the member database in Regonline.

2. Social Media

The BFA primarily promotes table football on social media through our Facebook page, which as of 5 Feb had 891 followers. We publish table football news from around the UK, covering Team GB all the way to grassroots foosball. The most popular story of 2015 was about the Wheelfoos events organised by Emily Knox.

Anecdotally, on average Facebook's algorithms place a post in the newsfeeds of only 7% of our followers so we can never be sure whether posts are landing in the right place. The more Likes, Comments and Shares a post gets, the more the algorithms share it – and the typical BFA post gets few responses if any. To get more coverage, we need to find a way to elicit more Likes, Comments and Shares, or alternatively we can pay Facebook to Promote particular posts.

The BFA has a Twitter handle which is not actively used. *I propose this is shut down.*

3. Website

The www.britfoos.com website is long out of date and additionally the Drupal version on which it sits is soon to be demised. With this in mind, I have built a new site at britfoos.weebly.com, which when filled out, can be moved over onto www.britfoos.com. Featuring more graphics and video, the new site is essentially architected around the various audiences which come to the site – curious news, established players, people looking for clubs, sponsors and marketing agencies with commercial enquiries, etc. The new platform can be used for free, although in time there are some paid-for features we could use.

Tom King has expressed some concerns about us using a commercial free platform, pointing out that some of the bespoke capabilities the current site has (automatically generated rankings and tournament postings) will be lost. However I believe the new site is be much simpler and easier for the UK foosball community to use. In future I see the website as mostly being a channel where we can host content

(and point to it from elsewhere) and capture leads and opportunities – but not the primary channel we use to engage people.

As part of this I have set up a new BFA YouTube page which we can use to host videos if someone wants to make some new ones.

Jody Walding and Andrew Nubbert have edit rights for the new website.

I request endorsement at the AGM for us to demise the old site and switch on the new one.

4. Britfoos Forum

The Britfoos Forum has pretty much died a death, with very few people posting on it in recent years, and equally neither have the BFA Committee used the channel much for debate. So the time has come to look at new options.

For the public forum, the Weebly platform includes a forum feature which I believe meets our needs. For the BFA Committee I have been looking at our options and have found a collaborative working tool called Wiggio.

I request AGM endorsement:

- *To establish the new public forum on the Weebly platform*
- *To trial Wiggio for the BFA Committee*
- *To archive the old forum after a period of time, say 6 months*

I believe the new Committee can use to Wiggio to facilitate a much more regular cycle of discussion and activity than has been the case in recent years.

5. Newsletter

Newsletters have been few and far between in recent years, probably because they take a lot of time to put together. They are a great way of engaging our community and now we have an extensive email address bank both in the old MailChimp platform and through the RegOnline member list. I would love to see us doing it for 2016, maybe something for the Chair to look at...

6. Email Accounts

I have sorted out the britfoos.com email accounts with some help from Tom King. A number of unused accounts have been shut down. Broadly speaking, all Committee members have an account, plus each club (e.g. bar.kick@britfoos.com) which points to the club captain. Plus clubcaptains@britfoos.com goes to all of them.

7. Clubs

I would like us to adopt a set of standards for a BFA foosball club, and then ask each club to try and follow them. Once the new Committee is established, I will develop a proposal which if we agree it, we can then discuss with the club captains.

Secretary's Report read out and agreed *nem con*

Vote of thanks to Will Hawkes agreed *nem con*

Financial Report

Final BFA Accounts 2015-16

Period 20-3-15 to 8-3-16

Item	Expenditure	Income	Notes
ITSF Fees	£785.31	£0.00	Includes membership & 2x tournament fees
Team Kit	£0.00	£681.97	£35 still owed
League	£394.91	£350.00	Premier League Finals 20-2-16
Membership Fees (net)	£0.00	£226.54	Active Network take commission
Office	£144.00	£0.00	Registered address and mail collection
Insurance	£192.48	£0.00	Public Liability Insurance (exp Jun 16)
Sponsorship/Advertising	£0.00	£200.00	Champfoos, - Home Leisure & Claims Consortium fees due
Table Storage	£748.80	£0.00	Full unit from end Sept 2014/Jun 15
Web	£150.00	£0.00	Oxalto Design (Tom King) web hosting
Parts	£255.75	£0.00	Garlando Parts & Unit Key
Expert Challenges	£200.00	£0.00	None held in year, unpaid 2014 xps
Transport	£255.05	£0.00	Travel costs & table transport exc PL
Wheelfoos	£500.00	£0.00	Extreme Medicine Confs 2014-5
Other	£14.51	£0.00	Postage, E-bay fees
Total	£3,640.81	£1,458.51	-£2,182.30

Party	Monies Unpaid/Owing		Notes
	Owing	Unpaid	
Mike Amsden	£35.00	£0.00	Team Kit Unpaid
Home Leisure Direct	£500.00	£0.00	Web Advertising/Partner
Claims Consortium	£1000.00	£0.00	International Team Sponsor

BFA Bank & Paypal Accounts			
Balance at	20/03/15	22/02/16	Net
Lloyds Bank Account	£6,607.11	£3963.03	-£2644.08
Paypal Account	£300.53	£762.31	£461.78
Total	£6,907.64	£4725.34	-£2182.30

Treasurer's Note - The above now represents the final 2015/6 accounts after income and costs re the 2015/6 League Finals have been accounted for. Note the accounting period is slightly under 12 months, Claims Consortium sponsorship was received on 31st March in 2016-7 accounts, previous year in 2014-5 accounts.

Provisional accounts read and agreed *nem con* – amendments re league costs explained and agreed *nem con*

Constitutional Amendments

Constitution 6.5 amendments agreed *nem con*

Will to look at constitution and legal status of BFA in consultation with Jon May.

Housekeeping

Membership Fees – No change

General Meeting Quorum – Stay at 9x members

Spending Limits – Raised to £1000 per cheque

Committee Elections

Chair – Joe Bundy – elected unopposed *nem con*

Treasurer – Matthew 'Boris' Atha – re-elected unopposed *nem con*

General Secretary – Will Hawkes – re-elected unopposed *nem con*

Vice Chair – Jody Walding or Steve Lyall

Steve 8 Jody 1

Sports Director – Yaka Diaz - elected unopposed *nem con*

Regional Representative nominations - All appointed *nem con*

London - JP Thompson

South – Sarah Brice

Midlands – Shain Ramrekha

North – Matthew Warr

Proposed finding a democratic way for regional reps to be elected (by 2017 AGM)

Ben Mason (Commercial Director), Jody Walding (International Team) and Andrew Nubbert

(Website) appointed to serve on committee as observers.

AOB

Clubs & League – League reorganization – Boris's proposed restructuring agreed in principle but would give London teams too much of an advantage from playing more fixtures. Agreed to split into London and rest of UK, number of qualifiers to be determined later by committee. Importance of requiring clubs to qualify rather than an Open Premier League stressed for the development of the game.

Team GB – Nothing to report, no World Cup this year, and not all WCS have Nation Cup events.

World Champs Qualification - Next held in 2017, ITSF have asked for our champions from 2015. Discussion re retrospective qualification from 2015, agreed would be unfair. Agreed 3x qualifiers from 2016 UKC and one from POY, POY to include minimum 3x events, Cat C & above plus Regional Champions (based open events only)

UKC – November 2016 – to be organized by committee

Website & Social Media – Need to archive existing Britfoos forum if it is discontinued, needs events calendar as matter of urgency, Will's revamp of website noted an approved.

Standard of tournaments - JP Noted complaints re Gt Yarmouth, JB stated organizer had given assurances re lighting, prize fund etc which were not fulfilled, noted there were issues with leveling tables. JB- we need to give a level of trust in the organizer particularly in remote venues too costly to inspect in advance. JP - Proposed we create a mandatory check list for Tournament Directors to supply the "event promoter/organiser" to make sure the quality and standards of the event does not fall short of player expectations in the future.

Meeting closed 1405hrs.