



British Foosball Association

April Newsletter 2008

Karlos: Hereford

Friday 4th- Sunday 6th April

ITSF MASTER SERIES

This should be the best Tornado event in the UK this year – quite possibly in Europe! That means get yourself there, if you are at all serious about developing your game!



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BFA Membership

As many of you may be aware, there was some confusion over membership fees at the Holywell tournament in February. This confusion was as a result of the lack of clarity of 2007's membership fee structure, followed by the delayed publishing of this year's AGM Minutes, which fully explained the system to be used going forward. The BFA committee take full responsibility for this, and would like to formally apologise to those affected. In order to prevent similar confusion at future events where membership fees will be taken, we ask that all members read the following information carefully. It explains the reason for the problems at the Holywell event, and how these problems will be resolved.

a) All membership fees paid in 2007 expired on 01/01/2008. There was an initial attempt to produce membership cards for members and these cards clearly stated that membership expired on 01/01/2008, but this was supposed to have been made clear to everyone when they paid their membership fee - we apologise if this was not the case.

b) As the new membership structure had not been agreed before the Liverpool tournament, there was some confusion (within the committee) as to what membership fees (if any) should be taken. No membership fees should have been taken, but people that had not become full members in 2007 were asked for membership fees (in varying amounts).

c) At the AGM, it was agreed that membership fees would stay the same, but that players' provisional membership payments would NOT count towards their full membership payment. Also, full membership payments now give players membership for 12 months from the date of payment.

d) This information was not made publicly available before the Holywell tournament, so members were completely unaware of the changes (unless they went to the AGM). For this, we apologise.

e) Members will be given a fifth of a year's membership (73 days) for each pound they gave the BFA in membership fees at the Liverpool and Holywell tournaments, starting from the date of the first payment. Consequently, if you paid membership fees at the Liverpool tournament, the following applies:

Total fees paid since 01/01/2008	Membership Expiry Date
£1	08/04/2008
£2	20/06/2008
£3	01/09/2008
£4	13/11/2008
£5	25/01/2009



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BFA Membership

If you paid membership fees for the first time this year at the Holywell tournament, the following applies:

Total fees paid since 01/01/2008	Membership Expiry Date
£1	06/05/2008
£2	18/07/2008
£3	29/09/2008
£4	11/12/2008
£5	22/02/2009

f) Please note that from 06/03/08, once your membership expires there are only two payment types you can make at the next tournament you enter:

1. £1 for one tournament's entry only.
2. £5 for a full membership lasting a full year from the day of payment.

g) Tournament directors are made aware of exactly who has paid membership fees, and are now required to take these membership fees along with any entry fees. Please do not argue with the tournament directors over membership fees. If you have a query regarding membership fees, speak to a member of the committee, and the matter will be dealt with as soon as is possible. This may be after the tournament has finished, but as membership fees are nominal, we (the committee) believe that any refunds (if appropriate) can wait until the matter has been fully investigated.

h) Members will be able to find out when their membership expires via a webpage on the main site to be created soon.

If you have any questions about the above, please contact me or another committee member via PM. Once again, we apologise for the problems encountered at the Holywell tournament, and believe that the system described above is as fair to members as possible.

Regards

Shovo



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Oxford Open 9

Results

Draw Your Team

1. John Shovelton (c), Jee Ha Kim, Sarah Brice, Michael Hart, Jody Walding, Andrew Kerr
2. Jon May (c), Mark Nubbert, Patrick Dunleavy, Andrezej Stachulec, Joe Bundy, Frances Pope
3. David Morgan (c), Christopher Haddon, Grzegorz Zakowski, Colin Fallon, Chris Chan, Catherine Brown
4. Dave Bareham (c), Mark Austin, Luke Ashley, Mayya Racy, Thomas King, Edward Border
5. Stephen Lyall (c), Simon Yeung, Scott Walding, Niall Bellabarba, Thomas Nubbert, Yi Rae Lee
6. Tom Burdett (c), Peter Franklin, James Harrold, Kristian Rapallini, Thomas Keevil, Alan Shirfan

Open Singles

1. Burdett, Tom
2. Hamilton, Joe
3. Sohi, Jujhar

Women's Singles

1. Racy, Mayya
2. Walding, Jody
3. Iwan, Alina

Open Doubles

1. Hamilton, Joe & Bareham, Dave
2. Lyall, Stephen & Burdett, Tom
3. Sohi, Jujhar & Amsden, Mike

No-Pro Singles KO

1. Yeung, Simon
2. Nubbert, Mark
3. Kim, Jee Ha

Novice Singles KO

1. Dixon, Oliver
2. Taylor, Matt
3. Taylor, Daniel

No-Pro Doubles KO

1. Zakowski, Grzegorz & Stachulec, Andrezej
2. Lyall, Christopher & Ashley, Luke
3. Addison, Graeme & Nubbert, Mark

Women's Doubles

1. Ramlee, Hannah & Brice, Sarah
2. Iwan, Alina & Walding, Jody
3. Racy, Mayya & Brown, Catherine

Novice Doubles KO

1. Shirfan, Alan & Border, Edward
2. Sanchez, Enrique & Taylor, Matt

Mixed Doubles (8 teams)

1. Burdett, Tom & Brice, Sarah
2. Racy, Mayya & Sohi, Jujhar
3. Nubbert, Andrew & Hole, Ali

2-BRB-DYP

1. Nubbert, Mark & Morgan, David
2. Grover, Patrick & Addison, Graeme
3. Walding, Scott & May, Jon

Masters Doubles

1. May, Jon & Hamilton, Joe
2. Grover, Patrick & Shovelton, John
3. Lyall, Stephen & Burdett, Tom

Semi-Pro Doubles

1. Yeung, Simon & Kim, Jee Ha
2. Kaka, Naeem & Juhasz, Krisztian
3. Lyall, Christopher & Ashley, Luke

Amateur Doubles

1. Nubbert, Thomas & Bundy, Joe
2. Millington, Alex & Millington, Andrew
3. Keevill, Thomas & Tipton, Dan

Novice Doubles

1. Taylor, Daniel & Dixon, Oliver
2. Sanchez, Enrique & Taylor, Matt
3. Lee, Yi Rae & Pope, Frances



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Oxford Open 9

Pictures



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Steve Lyall Interview

1. How did you get started playing

I used to have a kids' foosball table when I was around 8 or 9 but I never really took much serious interest in it then, although I had been told to never spin the rods from an old kid at school so I guess that was my first lesson.

In Upper 6th there was one of Geoff Brice's Garlando tables (I can't remember which type – it changed a few times) in our common room and we used to play on it quite a lot during break and lunch. The scene was quite competitive (I went to the same school as Tom Burdett, Tom Hampson, Joe Latimer, Simon Yeung, my brother...) and the standard developed slowly. In my opinion there was actually a higher standard at my school than at Warwick when I first started Uni; unfortunately a lot of the other good players went to Unis without foosball. I seemed to have some decent reactions compared to most so played defence for the most part, and Warwickfoos was good fun with some great people so I kept on playing.

2. You seem to have made great strides in the last 12 months, moving from being a competitive player into the category of now being one of the favourites (particularly in doubles). What do you think are the biggest reasons for this.

Thanks Dan. Almost every time I play I'm looking to try to improve an area of my game so I guess the recent successes are down to practice over the last few years. Having said that I sold my table a while ago and don't play as much as I used to, but I'm probably more focused on improving than I was before. I still have the most fun playing 2 ball roller ball with Th or other silly games at tournaments.

At Warwick I'm lucky enough to play with and against players of better and similar ability to me every week so we can always bounce ideas off each other and offer advice, particularly during our bi-weekly curry and Bloop up nights! Honestly though one of the main reasons is probably confidence. Winning the first Holywell tournament has given me more confidence than before and that's carried through to other tournaments. Before I knew that if I played great I might stand a chance at beating someone good, now that I've done it several times I'm obviously more confident which makes me play better. Getting advice from top players is also very useful, though I am still yet to master any of it, and Tom usually gives me good advice during our doubles matches if I need it.

3. What are your aims for this year? And which is the top priority?

My aim as a player would be to keep winning things! Obviously there are still loads of areas of my game to work on so as usual I just want to make sure I keep improving after every tournament. I think my singles game has improved a bit recently but it's something I need to work on.



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Steve Lyall Interview

I want to qualify for the UK Championships again and have a shot at representing the UK in Italy this Autumn but that's pretty unlikely so we'll see. I'm probably going to go to the Garlando World Championships in Austria again as I always have a great time there; this time I'd like to make the team! I want as much experience against top players as I can get so I'll look into going to other overseas tournaments as well. My top priority would probably be to represent the UK at the Garlando Worlds as I missed out last time, but competition for places is hot so I've got some work to do to make it.

As a tournament organiser I'll have my last chance to organise a tournament as part of Warwickfoos this June when we plan to hold the 3rd Holywell Open. Getting a great turnout there would be fantastic, especially if we had lots of new players as this is crucial to developing the game in this country.

4. Who do you most dislike playing? And who do you love to play against?

There is a great variety of playing styles in the UK and there's no particular person or style of play that I least like playing against. I often hear people moaning about others (and myself sometimes) having a boring brush-snake game, but they're only moaning because they have no answer to it. It's the same with players who just won't play against or get irritated by the snake shot – in the main they get annoyed because they don't know how to defend it, as it requires a completely different method of defending and thinking than that which they are accustomed to.

It can be frustrating playing against a sloppy player but in reality the very best players will stop it so it's up to me to get better at that. Everybody has their own style and so long as it's within the rules of the game you've got to respect it and try to adapt as best as you can. Players that rely on winding others up or a few sloppy goals will only get so far because the top players will know how to stop it easily enough.

Without a doubt the players that I prefer playing against are players that are better than me that I can learn off – those games where you've learnt so much in just a few balls of play, without being totally overwhelmed, are a great experience and one of the main reasons I go to a tournament. In this situation I often find myself inspired by my opponent and it makes me play better as well.

5. Which players at Warwick have most impressed you of the newer generation?

There are lots of great new players at Warwick with a lot of potential but probably the 1 that stands out, because he is just about to break through to a higher level, is Rich Marsh. Out of all of our newer generation of players he is probably the most ready to take some big names and recently he won Semi Pro Singles at Holywell 2. He has a fast and unpredictable 5 bar and a good snake shot, he just probably needs to be a bit more consistent during tournaments.



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Steve Lyall Interview

I'm sure that several of our other players will enjoy similar success if they keep working on the right things. It is good to see so many good new players at Warwick who are constantly getting better and they will keep the society in good health after my year graduates, but there seems to be an overload of defenders right now so some of them are going to have to start learning how to play in attack!

6. Your nickname is "Mr Angry". Do you feel that emotions help your game, or are they more of a hindrance that need controlling. (I'm trying to work out if it's best to rile you before a match or not)

Lol – I know you like calling me that Dan. Nah I think that recently I've managed to stay a lot more focused whilst playing this last year or so which has helped my game. Due to my competitive nature I used to get angry with myself for not playing as well as I knew I could do, and I still get frustrated when things go wrong as a lot of us do. Now I have a lot more experience playing in tough matches against tricky opponents and I've also seen first hand how other people's games can deteriorate when emotions get the better of them. When people try to wind me up before or during a match I just take it as a compliment that they need to lower my game.

7. You are due to finish university this summer. (I think - ?) Do you see yourself still managing to play foos regularly, or is it going to become much more of an occasional hobby?

Yeah that's right I graduate this summer. I'm not entirely sure what I'm going to do afterwards although I'm thinking about moving to London and "doing a Dan (Kingston)" for a bit until I find a job. I want to buy a Tornado table after I graduate so I do see myself playing regularly, though there isn't much of a scene in London (compared to it's size!) which has always amazed me, so I guess I'll have to start one down there with a bit of help.

8. What's your favourite moment in foos?

Hmm, not sure I have one particular favourite but one of these: Winning Open Doubles at the 1st Holywell; Winning OD again at Liverpool in a great 10 set match double-dipping the favourites; going to the worlds the last 2 years; invading Nubbert's room at Cambridge; victory-grinding with Kingston; Wombats hostel in Vienna; winning Novice Doubles at the European Open with Th [Tom Hampson] in 2005.

9. And what is your worst?

Playing against Boris at the Warwick Open 2007. The tent throwing incident. Getting screwed by Tommy B for a lift to Hereford last year.



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Steve Lyall Interview

10. Your brother (Chris Lyall) is a promising player coming through at Warwick. Are you worried he will catch up to you by the time he has had 3 years at university, or are you comfortable in arrogance and over-confidence that he will never reach the same level of play you have?

Yeah he's doing well isn't he! He could potentially turn Pro on Garlando whilst still in his first year at Uni, which would be a great achievement and a first for a Warwickfooser. He is better than I was at his age but obviously cos I'm from Warwick and we're all arrogant t***s I'm gonna say that he'll never catch up with me! Unfortunately he already is but hopefully in 3 years time I'll be better than I am now so we'll see. He's got a lot of potential but room to improve so we'll see how he does. It's good to see him take up some of the organisational responsibilities at Warwick as well.

11. Any pre-tournament rituals?

Not so much rituals, more like bad habits like drinking heavily the night before, terrorising other Warwickfoosers' rooms and finding Jimbobv a partner for all his events ;p I always say to Tom that we should practice loads the week before but inevitably our overconfidence leads to complacency so we just drink.

12. And finally, how does Burdett keep on winning and placing highly? Last time I saw him, he had nothing.

Heh, he's only won when he plays with me ;p. Nah he's a great player that I've been very privileged to play with and cos we are fairly similar players who know each other's games I think we make a great team. He has a very consistent brush-snake game with a few other options but I think his biggest asset is his thoughtfulness at the table, which sets him apart from most others. His singles game is one of the best in the country and is something that a lot of people could watch and learn from. He has a magnetic 3 bar.



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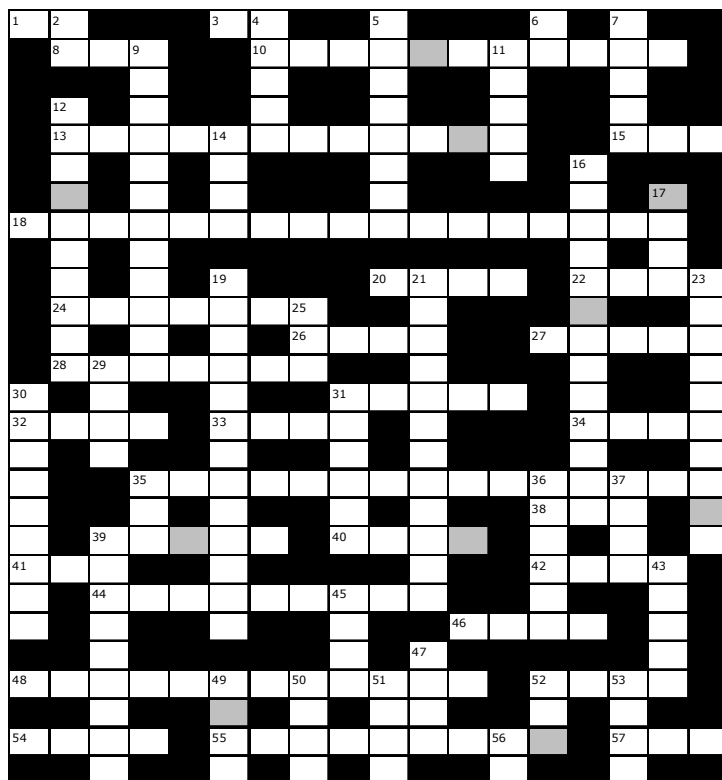
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BFA Crossword

Boris Atha has created this fantastic crossword. The shaded squares can be rearranged to give the name of something related to table football. Send this name to dan@britfoos.com before the end of April, and the lucky entrant drawn from the correct entries will win free entry to open events at the Bolton ITSF Pro Tour Event

Across

- 1 Don't stop, collect £200
 - 3 Lindsay Anderson film set in public school
 - 8 Terry ____ US pro-master
 - 10 Veteran Belgian World Champion (6,5)
 - 13 UK Pro- regular partner of 21 dn (6,6)
 - 15 World Sporting Body (inits)
 - 18 The best of all time? (8,9)
 - 20 Our new Webmaster
 - 22 What you try to score with
 - 24 The American table
 - 26 Mr Trotsky
 - 27 Mr Chojecki or Carletta
 - 28 The World Champions
 - 31 Mr Britfoos Noise to Signal Ratio
 - 32 Half of an american snake
 - 33 Veteran UK Player constantly ripped by Carrott
 - 34 Holy Cheese Batman!
 - 35 The World No 1 (8,2,5)
 - 38 The linking word
 - 39 The responsible one??
 - 40 FrenShe?
 - 41 Number of players in a doubles team
 - 42 Post-match relaxant
 - 44 Legendary UK Table & tournament promoters
 - 46 Probably the first shot you ever learned
 - 48 Fiery German player (5,7)
 - 52 Work, rest and....
 - 54 The BFA is a part of this (inits)
 - 55 UK World Champion (long-time rival of 43) (4,5)
 - 57 The very last clue
- Down
- 2 French Gold - the alternative
 - 4 Usual rookie entry fee
 - 5 The most common ITSF table
 - 6 Little Ford
 - 7 Veteran UK Player - Kojak lookalike
 - 9 Perennial Floatel Dyer-Seeker (5,7)
 - 11 The Bareham Method
 - 12 The one to beat
 - 14 Eternity is for this and this
 - 16 Milwaukee's finest - inventor of the wandering snake (4,9)
 - 17 Signor Ferrari



- 19 Ex Warwick Supremo
- 21 GB International - regular partner of 13 acr (6,6)
- 23 Supersize US Multi-Champion (5,5)
- 25 The future Mrs A? Polish Player
- 29 Winning ____ Boris-style!
- 30 Top-rank
- 31 The very middle
- 35 Not Slovakia - the other one (abbr)
- 36 US No 1
- 37 Norse God
- 39 The wrenchmeister (5,4)
- 43 ____ Iqbal - former UK No 1
- 45 Arm-bone essential to foos
- 47 Tom ____ - Top Referee
- 49 Poser-type found in Martyn Harris
- 50 Rod-____ - training aid
- 51 Polish tournament venue and city
- 52 Front- or back- - take your pick
- 53 Trade exhibition at Earls Court
- 56 Where we live



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Shorts

A great warm up for the Hereford ITSF Master Series Tournament is the monthly tournament at The Bush in Bristol. This will take place on Thursday 3rd April, and a good turnout is expected. In last months tournament Shafiq Haniff and Rob Davey defeated Martyn Harris and Chris Bulley after a poor turnout.

Speaking of the Hereford tournament, pre-registration is looking very healthy. As of 31st March over 50 people had pre-registered and with big ITSF ranking points up for grabs some top players are expected to be in attendance.

There are plans to hold a referee/officials clinic at the Hereford tournament. If you wish to take part, and have the chance to become an officially accredited BFA/ITSF referee please contact Boris Atha at Boris@britfoos.com, to register your interest.

There is a reminder of the tournament at Telford's Warehouse, Chester, on Tuesday 8th May. This will be held on 2 traditional block foot Garlandos, with a start time scheduled for 6:30pm.

A reminder that in late April there will be the last ever Floatel tournament.* This will take place from the 25th-27th April in Northwich.

*Okay we have already had one last ever Floatel tournament, and there are rumours that the place just won't sink, but I have it on good authority that this is definitely the last ever tournament there... well probably.

The ITSF Pro Tournament to be held at Riley's Pool Club, Bolton has been postponed from a May date to July 4th - 6th. This promises to be a cracking tournament in a great venue, with a fantastic host in Antony Kay.

The tournament promises to be the UK's first multi-table Open Event, and will undoubtedly attract a good turnout with the mix of tables and high ranking points available.

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Edited by Dan Gallon

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