



# British Foosball Association

## January Newsletter 2008

# Alex Shovelton Interviewed Liverpool Open Announced Garlando Table Sponsors Scheme



© Dave Ziemann

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# January Newsletter 2008

## Liverpool Open

**The British Foosball Association proudly presents the  
Liverpool Open 2008 Garlando Foosball Tournament  
Friday 25th-Sunday 27th January 2008**

### The Casa

**Hope Street Liverpool L1 9BQ**

*Estimated £1500 (2000€) Prize Fund*

Download flyer from:

[http://www.table-soccer.org/tournaments/informations/2008/20080125\\_uk\\_liverpool.pdf](http://www.table-soccer.org/tournaments/informations/2008/20080125_uk_liverpool.pdf)

### ITSF Pro-Tour

### BFA Ranking Tournament

#### Friday 25th Jan

6pm Registration  
8pm DYP (draw your partner)  
9pm Senior Singles\*

#### Saturday 26th Jan

10am Registration  
10.30am Events continue  
11am Senior Doubles\*  
11.30am Semi-Pro Singles  
11.30am Amateur Singles  
1pm Open Singles  
3pm Womens Singles  
5pm Open Doubles  
7pm Semi-Pro Doubles

#### Sunday 27th Jan

11am Events Continue  
11.30am Amateur Doubles  
12 noon Junior Singles\*  
12.30pm Womens Doubles\*  
1pm Pro-Am Doubles  
2pm Novice Doubles†  
2pm Mixed Doubles†  
3pm Junior Doubles\*  
4pm 2-ball Rollerball

*Events to accommodate all skill  
levels from beginner (novice) to  
Elite International Players, and all  
ages welcome*

### Entry & Table Fee Package Deals

**Men – Pro-Master £50, Pro £40, Semi-Pro £45, Amateur £40, Novice £30**

*Pro-Master/Pro Packages include:* Open Singles, Open Doubles, Pro-Am OR Mixed doubles

*Semi-Pro Package includes:* Open Singles, Open Doubles, Semi-Pro Singles Semi-Pro Doubles, Pro-Am OR Mixed doubles

*Amateur Package includes:* Open Singles, Open Doubles, Pro-Am OR Mixed doubles, Amateur Singles, Amateur Doubles

*Novice Package Includes:* : Open Singles, Open Doubles, Pro-Am, Amateur Singles, Amateur Doubles: Novice Doubles

**Women – Pro-Master £60, Pro £50, Semi-Pro £55, Amateur £45, Novice £35** Package includes events above plus Womens Singles, Womens Doubles

**Juniors - (Born 1990 or later)** receive half-price package deals including Junior events

**Junior Sunday Package £5** – Includes: Junior Singles, Junior Doubles, Novice Doubles & table fee

Package deals do not include DYP, Senior Singles/Doubles, or 2-ball Rollerball





# January Newsletter 2008

## Alex Shovelton

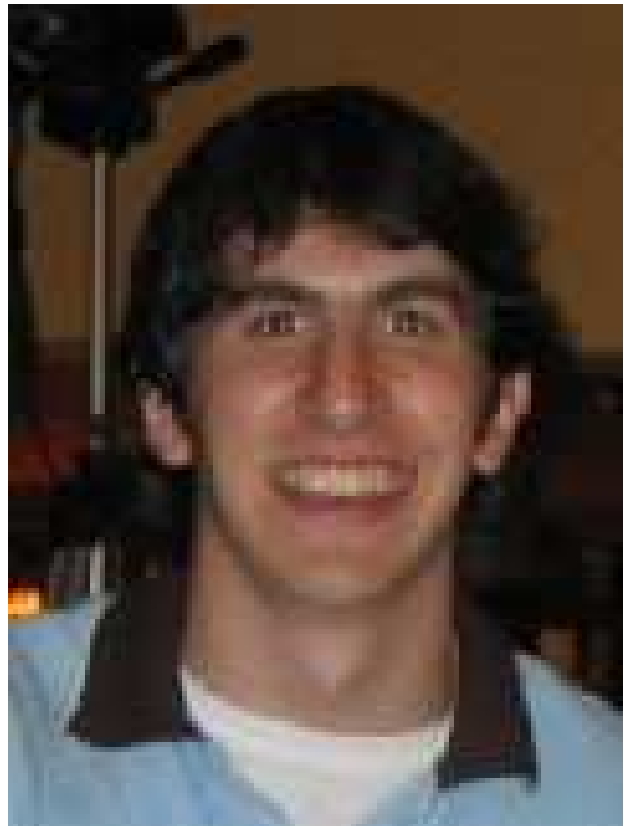
Alex is one of the top UK players having won Open Singles and Doubles titles on Tornado and Garlando. He is also actively involved in the organisation – on the BFA committee this year.

### How did you get started playing?

The legend that is Geoff Brice put a Garlando in our 6th Form common room in June 2002, and like most we had no idea that this game could be played with any skill until the man himself came in and gave us a good thrashing. From then on the combination of a fierce competitive streak and a twin brother meant that John and I both got better pretty fast and entered our first tournament at the Bath Open in March 2003.

### Who used to win when you were beginning? You or John?

John had the edge to begin with, once he bought a table I'd concentrate on trying to learn every shot under the sun while he'd stick to his on-the-run pull shots and tic-tacs. I eventually got an effective snake, at which point he was screwed. Unfortunately he grew a brain and beats me more often than I beat him now, I'm yet to work out why.



### How important to developing was having an intense rivalry with a player of similar ability all the way through your development?

Very important. Being able to play against someone as good as you all the time means you keep being pushed to get better, the desire to get one over on your brother just adds to that. It's the reason we became decent singles players quickly too.

### I know you and John stopped playing as regular partners a while ago, the tournaments got a lot quieter when you did that! Do you see a time when you get back together as regular partners, or are you both going to be more successful with other partners?

We were going to play Masters' Doubles at the Manchester Open but the event got canceled. I think now he's improved a bit you might see me letting him partner me more often, although hopefully maturity will prevent the return of our shouting matches.



# January Newsletter 2008

## Alex Shovelton

**Where do you rate yourself on the World Stage? Are there people that you still don't feel like you have a chance against in an important match (the Fred/Billy/Rob's of the world) or do you fancy your chances against anyone?**

It depends on how you look at it. On the one hand I've had some good results against European and North American players on different tables, and being able to play well on a number of tables gives me an advantage in a multi-table situation, but on the other hand I don't think I could consistently do well on each table individually and never see myself being able to challenge for really big titles.

I managed to beat Rob for the first time in Masters' Singles at the Warwick Open this year which was nice, and had the pleasure of knocking him and Jujhar out of Open Doubles at the Bristol Open too, which shows it is possible but I don't expect to see anyone but Rob winning Open Singles in the UK for a while yet. He really is too good, he's only recently started having to try at UK tournaments! I do think that anyone who has the time and the money to attend all the ITSF tournaments can get in the Top 16. 2 words. Charly Friessem

**You have some fantastic You Tube videos full of trick shots. How difficult are they to learn and how long did you spend filming these to get the "money" shots?**

None of them are too difficult to execute as long as you have a certain level of control, the hard thing is getting them to go in the goal! Most of the shots on Youtube took fewer than 20 attempts, but some rely on so much luck they took hours. I'm so cool.

**What's your favourite moment in foosball?**

There are a few! Paddy Grover and I had a pretty awesome weekend doing a corporate event for Carling in the VIP area at Reading Festival in 2004, the Nuts TV experience with Joe Hamilton earlier this year was one to remember also.

On the table it's probably scoring the winning goal in the World Cup game vs Canada to level the match at 8-8. The Canadians were so confident they'd beat us so the look on Adam Imanpoor's face was priceless. We all went crazy.

**And your worst moment?**

There are a few! Getting deported from Austria. Scoring a beauty of an own goal to lose the Oxford Open 2005 Open Singles final to my own brother. Any time I lose to Mike Amsden, then I really lose faith in the beautiful game.

**What are your aspirations for 2008?**

I don't have too many foos-wise as I'm currently 3rd year of an Architecture degree at Manchester Uni. Realistically I'd like to qualify for singles at the UK Champs again. I'll be in my year out next year so hope to play more foos in the 2008/2009 season.



# January Newsletter 2008

## Alex Shovelton

### Who is your toughest Opponent?

I've been finding everyone tough recently! The spot behind Rob that used to quite comfortably accommodate Jujhar and myself has been invaded by the Burdetts, Hamiltons and Daveys of this world. Even so other than Rob, Juj is the only player I go to the table thinking I'm more likely to lose than win against. We play a very similar game but on one side he's so relaxed he could be asleep and on the other I'm ready to start kicking tables any moment. He's my hero.



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### Which one event you like to see more of at tournaments?

4 Ball Roto Rollerball of course. I think it was invented in my house by Mark Williams and Bobby Moss which makes it even more special.

### While at Manchester you have tried to encourage development of the Student Game. Any advice to others who are trying to do it?

My efforts were limited to my first year at UMIST and were largely unsuccessful, the lack of foos tables in University Halls and other local venues didn't help and although I managed to get a World Champ Garlando into one of the bars people on the whole weren't interested and it was removed that summer. My advice would be to ask the Warwick and Oxford guys (you Dan!) how they started things off, as I was clearly rubbish!

### If you were chair of the BFA for the day, what one change would you make and why?

My biased opinion as a BFA Committee member is that there isn't much more we could be doing without having loads of money or loads of free time.

I'd probably make flair part of the scoring system to discourage Warwick Uni's mass production of brush-pass-snake Tom Burdett clones.

### And finally, any pre-tournament rituals?

I get naked, cover myself in goose fat and throw darts at a photo of Joe Hamilton. Then I buy some new wraps.



## January Newsletter 2008

# The Bank

## Gone But Not Forgotten

Unfortunately The Bank at Keynsham has closed its foosroom. Dave Oates has expressed his appreciation for everyone who has supported the venue over the last year or so, however unfortunately the Landlord wasn't in a position to keep the tables in place for the forthcoming year.

Dave and Foos4fun remain committed to the development of foosball, and is on the look out for a new foos room/venue for 2008 onwards.

Rob Davey and Mike Amsden took the honour of becoming final champions of the Bank BYP, overcoming John Shovelton and Dave Bareham in the final, after facing the prospect of being double dipped. This was the second victory in three competitions for Rob and Mike (Joe Hamilton and Dave Bareham taking the other one.)



© Dave Oates



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# January Newsletter 2008

## Garlando Table Hire Scheme

The BFA has negotiated to obtain the use of 10 Master Champion Garlando tables for the next two years. After intense negotiation, involving brinksmanship, tears and tantrums, the editor has finally managed to persuade one of the Table Sponsors (Dan Gallon) to explain a bit more about the deal:

A few years ago the BFA negotiated with a number of Table Sponsors to gain the use of 4 tournament quality Garlando tables. These tables were well used, but a number of issues came up with the deal. The first was that the deal ran for 2 years, and after that basically a similar deal was required. A self-financing system would be a lot better for future continuity of the scheme. Also the number of tables although significant, was not large enough to make getting enough tables to run a ranking event easily possible. More tables were required to make the scheme more successful. There were a number of issues of parts going missing from tables at tournaments that ultimately required replacement.

As such when the successor to this initial deal was being negotiated a more formal arrangement, covering more tables, with more clearly defined responsibilities was appropriate. Richard Thomson (4 tables), Boris Atha (2 tables), Dan Gallon (2 tables), Dave Morgan and Chris Haddon have invested money for 2 years. The maximum return they can make is equivalent to interest from a savings account for this money over 2 years.

The full contract signed by the Table Sponsors, and on behalf of the BFA committee is on the BFA website, along with a downloadable application form. The key elements of the deal are that tables are available for hire:

- 10 Tournament quality tables are available.
- Tables are subject to minimum fee hire, this is to be agreed with Boris Atha (in his capacity as scheme administrator).
- Transport of tables is the responsibility of the tournament operator. Boris Atha may be available to help with this.
- Organisers must arrange a team for set-up and take-down of the tables.
- The BFA have a responsibility for ensuring the tables are used regularly, or the table sponsors have the right to terminate the agreement.
- Table Sponsors can gain a maximum return equivalent to interest on the money invested.
- The ultimate aim of the scheme is to be able to afford the next batch of tables from money earned from these tables.

There is a lot more small print, however the best thing to do is have read, and then ask specific questions as and when they arise.



# January Newsletter 2008

## Tornado Rankings

The Tornado rankings have been totally revised using a common system for all tables (i.e. the same way as the BFA Garlando Rankings). This provides for:

- (a) Points awarded for finishing position and number of competitors, weighted by status (prize fund) of tournament
- (b) Annual resets with value of points diminishing year on year
- (c) Bonus points operating in both directions
- (d) Reset bonus points (permanent) awarded on first promotion to SP, P or PM or winning an OS or OD title in a BFA ranking tournament. Any OS/OD winner or PM on one table will thus be at least SP on the rest.

The provisional list as at the Jan 2008 reset, is shown below. There may be some changes in the event of charts being found for some competitions, any corrections, and the three (Tornado, Bonzini and Garlando) lists will eventually be included in the same master-spreadsheet, so each player will have a rank on all 3x tables. Bonus points have otherwise not been changed from the old system and are based on the differences between rank at the time. All results since May 1999 have been taken into account. The official (alphabetical) list will be published once all the kinks have been ironed out.

Effectively the list ends the one-way street towards PM-dom that the previous Tornado rankings represented, with players able to lose as well as gain rank, with current form carrying more weight than past glories.

The other major change is that the rookie division is now split into novice and amateur, so novice tournaments can be much more n00b-friendly as ubern00bs are likely to be amateur in the first place, and any genuine super-n00bs who have not had tournament experience are likely to get only one shot at novice events. There is no bonus point exchange between novice and amateur players, and both are treated the same for bonus point purposes.

Note also that players may be separated by fractions of points, although the display is shown in whole points (integers) only.

1	Atha	Robert	M	GBR	3367	Pro-Master
2	Sohi	Jujhar Singh	M	GBR	2788	Pro-Master
3	Shovelton	Alex	M	GBR	2777	Pro-Master
4	Amsden	Mike	M	GBR	2706	Pro-Master
5	Ziemann	Dave	M	GBR	2661	Pro-Master
6	Bareham	Dave	M	GBR	2574	Pro-Master
7	Hamilton	Joe	M	GBR	2554	Pro-Master
8	Burdett	Tom	M	GBR	2532	Pro-Master
9	Cloney	Norman	M	IRL	2458	Pro-Master



# January Newsletter 2008

## Problem Page

Dear Newsletter,

I don't know what's gone wrong with my life. Just two years ago I was the bright star of UK foosball. Now I'm being surpassed by younger, sexier, fitter players. I can't even beat my brother anymore. What can I do?

Yours in need,

*Manchester*

Oh dear, you do have a problem don't you. It's time to face facts and accept it may be time to retire. It's not your fault you have been overtaken by younger (Davey), fitter (Millington) and sexier (John Shovelton) players. It's time to accept that you can never compete with these young upstarts, and instead develop a reputation as a flair player, preferring to concentrate on hitting trick shots in tournaments rather than playing to win. For some reason I think Dave Morgan may be able to help. Alternatively you could try to disguise yourself by wearing silly hats or growing your hair long, although I understand you may already have thought of that.

Dear Newsletter,

I find it really confusing when I am reading the newsletter. I never know which page I am on. Is there anything I can do to make this clearer?

E L O'Rankins,

*London*

Dear E,

Don't worry we will shortly be introducing a colour coding of the pages. This will hopefully clear up any confusion.

Dear Newsletter,

I appear to be a perpetual Semi-pro, and never seem to become a Pro ranked player. This isn't a problem, I just wanted to boast.

The Juggler,

*Oxford*

Well thanks for that...

Dear Newsletter,

I can't make it,

Cheers,

Rhys

Craig, can you stop pretending to be Rhys please..



# January Newsletter 2008

## Upcoming Tournaments

2008 and promises to be a good year., particularly with access to Garlando tables through the Table Sponsors scheme, and Tornado tables through Foos4Fun. For full details check out the BFA website and the Britfoos forum. Dates for the diary already in are:

25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January Liverpool Open (ITSF Pro)

22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February Holywell Open (Hinkley)

8<sup>th</sup> March The Oliver Wyman National Student Championship. Don't miss out - save the date!  
Further details to follow at <http://www.britfoos.com>



4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> April Hereford Tornado Open (ITSF Master)

22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May UK Open (Bolton) (ITSF Pro)

Other events to look out for include the Holwell Open scheduled for May 2008. This is the successor to the event traditionally run at Warwick University, and is expected to be a massive event.

Oxford University Table Football Club are looking to hold a tournament in the Spring, although details are not yet confirmed.

In addition to these UK events listed above, the World Championship Series Events are:

1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May Bonzini, Eaubonne (Paris), France

23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July Garlando, Tulln, Austria

12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September Roberto-Sport, Giabasco, Switzerland

24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September Tornado, Las Vegas, USA

As yet there is no advertised date for the Tecball WCS event.



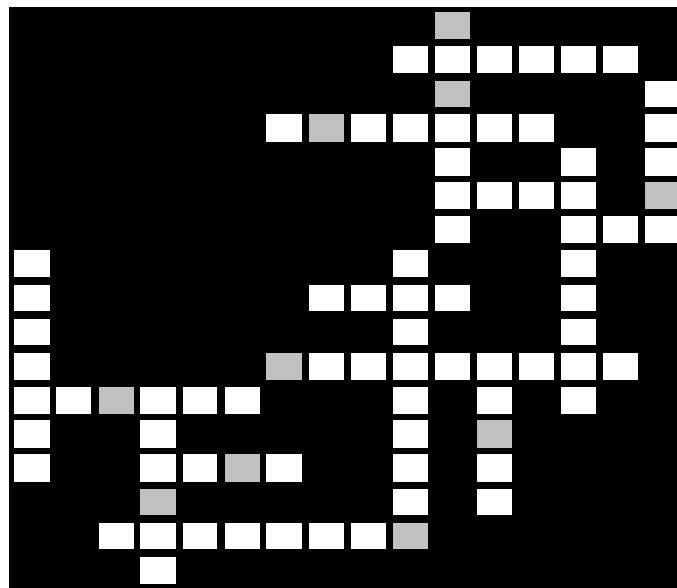
## January Newsletter 2008

# Competition

Resident Word Game Geek Craig Fothergill has found the time to produce a cure for boredom at work. Why not prolong the festive mood by putting your feet on the desk, sneaking a shot of whisky into your coffee and spend the afternoon contemplating this almost impossible puzzle.

The surnames of the 16 qualifiers for the Open Singles section of the 2007 UK Championship can be entered into the grid below. Letters in shaded squares can then be rearranged to yield two things which most of these qualifiers have in common. To enter the competition, send these two words (in the correct order) to [dan@britfoos.com](mailto:dan@britfoos.com) before 31st January 2008. The first name out of the hat will win an hour's tuition with journeyman foosballer Andrei Russell-Gebbett. The second name out of the hat gets 2 hours tuition.

Seriously the name correctly drawn will win free (ie entry will be paid for you) entry to the Open events at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Holywell Open on February 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>!!! Editor's decision is final.



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Published by the BFA, BCM1731 Foosball, London, WC1N 3XX

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