



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Rob Atha – World Champion !

Warwick Open 2007 Results and Report

UK Championships and
Bristol Open, Bar Kick
Bonzini Open and “Woxford”
Open: Announcement and
Details

Rhys Roberts and Gareth
“Games Indoors” Edwards
Interviewed

Contents

2	View From The Chair / ITSF Rules Quiz
3-7	ROB ATHA – WORLD CHAMPION
8-9	UK Championships / Bristol Open July 6 th -8 th
10-11	Rhys Roberts
12-14	Warwick Open Report and Results
15-17	Gareth Edwards
17	Bar Kick Bonzini Open: 3 rd June
18-19	“Woxford” Open: 23 rd June
20	Upcoming Events
21	Shorts



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British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

View From The Chair – Boris Atha

May 2007 has seen a successful Warwick Open, with a modern record field in Open Singles of over 100 players and 14 entries of womens singles.

Despite the best efforts of Oxfoos and the BFA committee to locate an alternative venue, the Oxford Open had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control, however June brings the second Bar Kick Bonzini Open on 3rd June, and a one-day Garlando Open at Warwick on 23rd June to round off the 2006-2007 season and provide the last opportunities for players to qualify for the UK Championships.

Following his success in a record Junior Singles field at the Hereford Open, James Oates (16) has been selected to represent Great Britain in Junior Singles at the ITSF World Championships. All other categories remain up for grabs, i.e. Open Singles, Open Doubles, Womens Singles (qualifiers only) Womens Doubles, Junior Doubles, Senior (>50) Singles and Senior Doubles - open to eligible entrants who pre-register. All players competing in the UK Championships MUST pre-register and select their chosen table for each event at least one week in advance. All competitors must also be FULL BFA members.

May also saw the first World Championships Series event of 2007 with the Bonzini WCS at Eaubonne in Paris. A strong Great Britain team won a hard-fought encounter with Algeria (mostly ex-pat Elite players living in France) before being well-beaten by Germany in the quarter finals. Given that the 15 countries competing was a record entry for this class of international event, the remaining four WCS Nation Cup tournaments this year also look like attracting strong and competitive fields. Teams are selected from players who attend these tournaments. One day a sponsor may be found to cover players' expenses to these events but, until then, if you are a British player planning to attend (particularly) the Tec-Ball, Roberto Sport or Tornado World Championships you will have a very strong chance of being selected to play for your country.

ITSF Rules Quiz #2: The “Technical Foul”

Dave Ziemann has again produced a tricky test of your knowledge of ITSF rules:

The “technical foul” is perhaps badly named – it actually means a 3-bar penalty shot awarded to one team for a rule infraction by the other team. In the technical shot, only the shooter and opposing defender remain at the table. One shot is taken, which either scores or does not score. The shot is deemed to have been taken once the ball leaves the 3-bar, and is considered blocked once the ball is stopped by the defender, or leaves the defender's area. How many different reasons are there for a referee to award a technical foul?

Best answer will receive a bottle of Fizz at the next BFA tournament they attend! Answers must be e-mailed to dan@britfoos.com, deadline for entries is 24th June.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

ROB ATHA – TECBALL WORLD CHAMPION OPEN DOUBLES

The tecball World Championships were held on the 25th-27th May 2007 in Borgloon, Belgium. Britain's Rob Atha took the Open Doubles title, double-dipping undisputed World Number 1 Frederico Collignon and his Partner in the Final. Here is Rob's amazing report:

It was a really tough tournament and enjoyable! The tournament itself was in a little village outside Liege called Borgloon, was in a sports hall and there were 50 brand new homeplay tecball tables. There was food onsite, but it was expensive and not a very good selection, so it was a weekend of spaghetti. lol. Drinks were also 1.60euro for a small glass of Pepsi or a beer. I went to the supermarket on Saturday morning and bough a couple of crate of beer for 7 euros each.

The Nations cup started on the Friday, it was a pity I was the only English player there so we couldn't have a team. Hungary tried to let me play for them, Fred agreed that they could have another player playing for them until he heard it was me because they were 1 man short, lol. I believe 15 nations competed in the tournament, the final was between Belgium and Germany and it went down to the tie breaker, I was brought in as the referee at the end of the tie breaker because a couple of times the German team thought they scored and the ball came back out but the Belgiums thought it was wide, that was one of the only problems with the table, the ball would come out of the goal a lot and sometimes it was hard to tell if it went in or not. Anyway, Belgium ended up winning 10-8 in the tiebreaker to take home the Nations Cup.

There were a lot of players, 5-600, if you don't know already the tecball is very similar to the Lemacher which people say was like the old tournament soccer table but the tecball has light rods. I only played 3 events, OS, OD and Pro Am. First was Open Doubles, I played with Tom Vandecauter, he hasn't been playing much recently, we only decided to play with each other 1 or 2 weeks ago, he is a forward with a great pin shot, probably the fastest pin shot around and yes that includes Frederico's, was awesome to watch him shoot. He had trouble with his 5 at the start of the weekend but got it together towards the end.

We won our first 3-4 matches easily 3-0 all of them, then we came up against the strong Belgium team of Gurinno Ferrari and Robert Devito, legends in Belgium, we played hard, the games we won were always 5-2 and the games we lost were always 5-4, we ended up losing 8-6 in the 5th game having been up 6-5. I found it really hard to block his front pin, I had a bad game at goalie in this match, Tom played awesome but we still lost cos I couldn't block, he shot a different style of front pin which f****ed me up a little bit, lol.

I said to Tom then, if you play like that we can come back because I know I can play better than I did so I was still confident.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

(Rob Atha's Tecball WC report continued)

Our next tough match was against Giuliano Bentivoglio and Patrick Fournier, it was 4-4 in the last set then we switched and I scored 2 in a row from the front to take the match 6-4. that put us in 9th, we then beat Marcello and Guisepppe 2-0, tom shot good and I was firing them in from the back. We then beat another Swiss team 2-0 to put us in 5th.

Up next was Uli Stoepel and Markus Salewski from Germany, they are one of the best teams on Lemacher. We 3-0d them pretty fast, we both played well. Tom was shooting such a high % the whole tournament, some of his shots were really unbelievable.

We then had a really tough match against Carletta and Anastasciou, the team who beat me in the final 2 years ago and who took 2nd last year to Fred. it went down to the wire, he was scoring well on me, Tom struggled a little on the 5 but was shooting good as usual. at 5-5 in the 5th, I wanted to switch 'cos I wasn't blocking and tom has a good pin defence so I thought it was a good idea, but he said no, he stole the next 2 passes to his 3 bar and scored them both to win.

In the loser's bracket final we had to Play Gilles Perrin and Cristian Szule, the 2nd best team on Lemacher, I have played them 3 times before and never even took a game from them, with Billy. We lost the first game having been up 4-2, we won the 2nd 5-3, then in the 3rd we were down 4-0 then I said switch, we did, we brought it back to 4-4 but then he scored the game point, I stayed in front though 'cos I felt really comfortable playing on this table in the forward position. So 4th game comes around and we smash them 5-1 I believe, we were pumped up, 5th game the same, we won 5-2 to put us in the final. I was shooting snake, passing brush and stick at a high %.

Before the final we had a mini team talk, it seemed like Tom was just happy to be in the final now and didn't really care about winning because its a huge task to win 2 times against Fred and Jamal who have never lost in Europe before. I said to him 'we are here to win, we can do it, you have played Fred a lot before, me too so we shouldn't be afraid. He has a lot of experience in blocking pin shots so we decided I would play front because my 5 is stronger than his, we were both not worried about Jamal at all, we knew we had to get him mad and crazy early on so he doesn't feel comfortable, so we had to pick on the weak link in the team and unfortunately for him it was Jamal. I have played with him before and I know what gets him crazy. We started out the final playing really strong, tom was blocking and I was passing through Fred well and scoring on Jamal, I was just shooting %70 fake push side and back down the middle because he uses a kind of shuffle race defence. This shot was getting him mad, he would start shouting at Fred to change and stuff because Fred wasn't really in the match during the first 2 games, we won 5-2, 5-3 .

3rd game we lost 5-3 but in the 4th we stepped up again and we won 5-2. Tom was getting a good % on Fred's pin and he would score a point a game from the back so that helped the cause a lot.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

(Rob Atha's Tecball WC report continued)

We had a 10 min break before the 2nd match of the final came around. Fred came out of the gates strong and I started a little bit flat, we lost the 1st 5-2, 2nd game we were down 4-3 and we somehow pulled it out 5-4, Fred was blocking my 5 better in this match and he was scoring a higher % on Tom so it wasn't looking good for a part, 3rd game comes around and I missed a few shots on Jamal this game and wasn't feeling 100% confident, so on 4-4 I take time out and let Tom shoot, Fred goes in the back, he blocks Tom 3 times, Tom gets the ball back and takes our 2nd time out, I go back upfront and shoot on Fred but he blocks it and he scored a bank from the back! ouch, that hurt us, it would have given us a 2-1 lead and they snatched it away from us, that slowed us down a lot as the 4th game came around, all of a sudden Fred was really confident, playing faster and they surged ahead 4-1 in the 4th and he took a time out on his 3 bar, I said to Tom just block this shot and score 4 in a row, we both laughed as it looked very unlikely that it would happen. He blocked it and scored from the back, I stole his next pass and scored a straight pull shot on Jamal, so its 4-3, I steal his pass again and score a straight pull shot on Jamal. 4-4, Fred passes it through, Tom blocks him twice and then scores a lucky shot from the back!! We shouted loud after this and Jamal was very angry with Fred. haha.

5th game comes around and we all of a sudden have a huge belief to win! the first 8 points in the 5th were shared between us, Fred went 4 for 4 on tom and I scored 4 straights (pull shots) on Jamal in a row, haha, he was always jumping so I just put a fake in and shot straight every time. at 4-4 in the 5th I go in the back I block Fred and take a time out, put Tom in the back and I said to him ' just go crazy because he asked if he should just clear it or go for it, I said we are 2 points away from the world title, we have to go for it, he slammed an inside bank pin shot so fast to put us in the lead 5-4. We then switch again for defensive reasons, Fred gets the ball and I block him again and take time out and once again tom fires home a bank shot to win the title!! It was a great match and I believe it is the end of the partnership between Fred and Jamal! (This was the first time Fred and Jamal have ever lost a final in Europe I believe) The final was played at 7am in the morning. We won 1500 euros for 1st place. It was a good finish as we have never played together before, we had good team chemistry and great switchability.

OS was going well, I was playing really good until I had to play Uli Stoepel, I played him on Lemacher last year and beat him 5-1 5-1, so I was confident going in, but he played awesome this time and I couldn't get a good rhythm going and I lost 3-0, I was having problems with my 2 bar, was hard to shoot from the back on this table, when I would shoot anything but a pin shot it would go up and hit the rods. I then beat Frank Brauns (elite german player) then I beat Tim Ludwig to get to 9th or better. I was still playing well, then I had to play Cristian Szule who just lost a tough match to Frederic in the winners bracket. He beat me 5-3 in the last game, he played good, taking time on every rod and making me work hard. So I took 9th out of a lot of players, I wanted top 5 before the tournament so a little bit of a disappointment.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

(Rob Atha's Tecball WC report continued)

Frederico dominated singles, he beat Jamal in the finals again, but Fred won all of his matches 3-0 apart from against Cristian Szule.

Fred won everything else, goalie war, forward shootout, Pro AM .

I played with David Csar from Austria in the Pro Am, we lost 2nd round in Single KO to a Slovakian team, we both played bad.

All in all, the Tecball is a good table, I think most English players will like it, next year we have to get a national team for sure, the accommodation was cheap 15 euros a night for a room, was funny because the first night we were all drunk and we got to the hotel and there was no beer left but somebody found the kitchen and access to the fridge filled with beer, so we drank outside on the balcony till about 6-7 am, we left some money there tho'!

The table itself, you can do pull shots, the men are the same as lemacher men, the surface is a little bit harder so it makes in bouncier. Pin shots and snakes are great on it, tic tacs (fast) can be hard because the men aren't so wide, the ball was the same as the lemacher ball, white and sometimes doesn't roll straight, the more you play with it the more grippier it gets so new balls were better for me to shoot from the back and for the 5 bar.

It was a Successful tournament considering it was the first Major tournament on this table.

Ok thats enough for now, think I have covered everything!

Comment from the editor:

Thanks for that report Rob, absolutely brilliant. I think the thing that strikes me most is the way that you remember so much of each important match – the exact way that each goal was scored on the big points, how many saves were made, who wanted to change when and where. I get the feeling I don't pay nearly enough attention in matches.

This was a stunning victory for Rob, and hopefully can open the floodgates for him. The psychological victory of taking an Open title at Fred's home tournament is massive, and should give him the confidence to perform strongly at the WCS events on Roberto-Sport and Garlando this Summer.

(The Bonzini WC were held the previous week, and will be covered in full in the July edition of the BFA Newsletter).



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

UK Championships and Bristol Open July 6-8th 2007

The BFA is proud to announce the first Multi-Table UK Championships.

In conjunction with the **2007 Bristol Tornado Open** sponsored by **Foos4Fun**. This tournament will select the UK Representatives for the ITSF World Championships in St Vincent, Italy from 26-28th October 2007. The venue is **Pro-5, Brislington, Bristol**.

Friday 6th July

9pm - DYP

Sat 7 July

10am – Bristol Open Rookie Doubles (groups (1 game - 5 goals + SE for top 8)

11am – UK Senior Singles

12 Noon – Bristol Swiss Singles (No top 16 UK Championship Singles players, Format 1 - 7, 5-7 rounds)

1pm – UK Championship Singles

4pm – UK Senior Doubles

6pm – Bristol Swiss Singles KO (Top 4 in Pro, Semi-Pro and Rookie SE Knockout)

7pm – Bristol Open Doubles (DE best of 3 games - 5 goals WB, 1 - 9 LB)

Sun 8 July

10am – Bristol Semi-Pro Singles (DE 1 - 9 WB, 1 - 7 LB)

12noon – UK Championship Doubles

2pm – UK Women's Singles

3pm – UK Junior Doubles

3pm – Bristol Open Semi-Pro Doubles (DE best of 3 - 5 WB, 1 - 7 LB)

4pm - UK Women's Doubles

UK Championship events are open only to British Citizens or to overseas citizens who are normally resident in the UK and who have been continuously resident in the UK for a minimum of 3 years and who have not represented another country in ITSF competitions.

Entry to UK Championship events listed in **Red** is limited to pre-qualified players only (Open Singles, Open Doubles, Womens Singles). Players qualified for Open Doubles may choose a non-qualified doubles partner. A list of qualified players will be posted shortly after the last qualifying tournament. Players competing in UK Championship Singles may not enter the Bristol Open Swiss Singles. UKCD players may not compete in BO SPS, and may only compete in BO SPD if they go 2 and out of UKCD



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

(UK Championships and Bristol Open 2007 continued)

All entrants to UK Championship Events **must pre-register** and nominate their chosen table for each event by midnight on Saturday 30th June.

Entry to Senior Singles, Senior Doubles (over 50 years) and to Womens Doubles and Junior Doubles (under 18 years) is open to all eligible players.

The winning teams must be willing to pay their flights and accommodation to the World Championships, and must provide proof of booking to the BFA by 1st September 2007. Failure to do this will result in their place at the World Championships being offered to the next player or team in line. If you want to compete at the Worlds it is advisable to ensure your doubles partner is also committed to do so.

In the event of sponsorship becoming available this will be divided equally between all players qualifying for the World Championships and payable on arrival at the tournament venue in Italy. UKC events do not carry prize funds.

Format for UK Championship matches is best of 3 games to 7 goals. Players play one game on each chosen table, if each wins one game a final game is played with 3 balls on each table until the score reaches 6-6 then 1 ball per table until the winner emerges by 2 clear goals. There will be no 'sweat ball' even if the score reaches 23-21 etc. UKC events will be double-elimination seeded by relevant POY points. In final matches if the loser's bracket teams wins the best of 3 first set, the second set shall consist of the tie-break game only.

Entry fees to 'Open' UKC events:

OS/OD/WS - Qualified players enter free of charge

SS/SD - £10 per player

WD - £5 per player

JD - Free entry

All competitors in UKC events must be full members of the BFA.

Subject to change, please contact the organiser's/check out the Britfoos forum for the latest details.

Tables Available for UKC events: Tornado x 4 ,Garlando x 6 , Bonzini x 1 ,Roberto-Sport x 1

Further Information :

UK Championship - Boris Atha - boris@britfoos.com 07767-307579

Bristol Open - Rob Davey



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Rhys Roberts

Rhys is one of the toughest and most consistent players in the country. His favoured table is Tornado, but he is a regular Garlando and Bonzini player. Rhys represented the UK at the 2006 World Cup in Hamburg, playing the experienced, cool head in a successful doubles partnership with Alex Shovelton. Rhys has won Open titles on Garlando and Tornado, epitomised by a never-say-die attitude. He is renowned for his commitment and dedication to the game.

How did you get started playing?

I discovered the game late in 1975 when I went to Queen Mary College. QMC had some of the best Brighthouse players around including many times national champion Jen Panchal and he taught me a lot. Round about 1980 the game disappeared (for me) and I stopped playing until 1999 when I took it up again on Tornado after discovering the BTFA (the predecessor to the BFA) following the J&B tournament at Wembley Arena.

What's your favourite moment in foosball?

This is very difficult to answer because there have been so many good moments. I suppose the best was winning back to back Open Doubles tournaments on Tornado with Pasquale. We beat Rob Atha and Dave Perrott in one final and Tanny and Bengé in the other. Rob wasn't as good as he is now but he was already the best player in the country.

And your worst moment?

Being 5-1 or 6-1 up against someone and going on to lose. I can't remember if it was a race to 7 or a race to 9 but my opponent came back to beat me. Now, who was I playing? Ah, yes ... Dan Gallon.

5-0 and 6-1, if I recall correctly, in a race to 7. When you were No. 1 in the country. Happy days!

Aspirations for this year?

My aspirations for this year are not Foos related. I was made redundant last year so my first priority is to get a job. I've also got a problem with a finger on my left hand and I'm waiting for an operation. I've hardly played since playing in the Foosball World Cup last May and I won't be until I've got a job and my finger is sorted.

Funniest moment in foosball?

Sorry, I won't be telling any jokes. I can't think of any one particular thing but there were many funny moments at the ITSF World Cup.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

(Rhys Roberts continued)

Toughest Opponent (not including Rob Atha!)?

No one person in particular - there are so many of them. My toughest opponent is really time. Not so much getting old but with 2 children it's difficult finding the time to practise and play.

Where do you rate UK foos on the International scene?

With the exception of Rob I think we're pretty ordinary. There are a lot of countries with a similar standard to us. We've got a long way to go before we can really compete with the top countries like USA, Belgium, Germany and Austria.

Can the improvement in standard of play over the last few years be continued, or will the standard inevitably plateau soon?

No doubt the standard of play can improve (a lot) and probably will improve (a little). I think 2 things need to happen to raise the standard a lot and they are (1) we need to get a lot more people playing the game and (2) people need to travel to more overseas tournaments.

Having previously been BFA Chair, what do you think are the most difficult challenges facing the BFA in the future. (And what can the BFA do to overcome the obstacles in its way?)

The BFA needs to raise more money and we need to use that money to encourage more people to play the game for example in local leagues. We need an equivalent of the old News of the World Darts tournament which was one of the main things to push darts to bigger things.

And following on from that, if you were BFA Chair (again) for the day, what one change would you make and why?

Sorry, but it has to be 2 things:

- (1) Generate more money and sponsorship to grow the game at the local level. We need to approach companies that might (a) use our expert challenge for events (b) sponsor an equivalent to the News of the World darts competition (c) sponsor local leagues.
- (2) Change the ranking system to Elo. Elo is the only fair ranking system I know of and if the ranking system isn't fair then some people will feel that they have been unfairly treated and will be discouraged from entering future events.

And finally, any pre-tournament rituals?

No rituals – but I do prepare by eating a big breakfast.

Many thanks for your time! I know you thought a lot about the answers to some questions!



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

WARWICK OPEN MAY 4th - 7th 2007

***Oli Deakin* reports on the only UK ITSF Master Series Event of 2007**

The Warwick Open once again proved itself to be the premier UK Garlando tournament. With 14 events running across 3 days on 17 tables and over 100 entrants it was a monster of a tournament that somehow the Warwick Table Football Society managed to successfully pull off. The spacious Rootes Social Building, with a bar, fast food outlet and supermarket in close proximity, was a perfect setting for a tournament of this size and easily accommodated the large number of tables and players.

The Warwick Open was also the first ever tournament to feature live commentary, with *Joe "Happy" Hamilton* and *Alex "Strokes it home" Shovelton* taking the reins in the commentary booth.

The Friday night Super Melee started the weekend's events, providing a good warm up for the players and putting everyone in high spirits! Most players accompanied the evening's games with a few drinks and plenty of banter, but the event was still hard fought and highly competitive. The top 8 players from the Melee stage were paired up and went through to playoffs, with *Nirko Ramser* and *Marcel Glaus* pipping Warwick's top player *Tom Burdett* and *Tom Keevil* to the post in the final.



© Dave Ziemann

Saturday kicked off at 11am with Open Singles initial rounds followed at 1pm by the Open Doubles initial rounds. With 101 entrants in OS and 52 teams in OD the events were huge, but were run smoothly by the experienced Warwick Open team. The OD final was determined to be *Alex Shovelton* and *Rob Atha* against *Juj Sohi* and *Tom Burdett*, with the final to be played on Sunday evening. Top UK player *Rob Atha* stormed through the winners bracket of OS beating all comers to meet visiting Pro-Master *Martin Fritsche* in the Sunday night final.

Novice Doubles started later in the afternoon, with 25 teams made up of a lot of fresh talent alongside some known players taking early steps in the competitive Garlando world. Group stages lead to 11 teams qualifying for a Double Elimination knockout phase, with *Graeme Addison* and *Michael Hart* narrowly taking victory over Warwick's own *Luke Ashley* and *Elliot Cole*.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Warwick Open Report Continued

Next to be played were the women's events. The Warwick Open had a very high female turnout, with 14 women competing for Women's Singles and Women's Doubles titles. WS started with group stages with 5 women qualifying for the DE knockout stage. *Mayya Racy* once again put in a strong performance to land the title, beating *Katerina Krammerova*. *Katerina* had her revenge in WD however, where, teaming with *Caroline Wong*, they produced a convincing win over *Mayya* and *Hannah Ramlee* in the final.

Saturday's events closed there, with everyone tired and filled with a heady mix of foos and beer. As matches started to wind down, *Ben Mason* ran a super-doooper DYP for those who felt they hadn't had enough after 12 hours of solid playing! Impressively 26 players stepped up and thrashed out the last few competitive games of the day. Players not in the DYP entertained themselves by watching (in some cases, perving over) Warwick University students preparing for a night out at the Skool Daze event in the Union and reminiscing about the days when they could wear a silly outfit and drink Purple Nasties all night!



© Dave Ziemann

Sunday started a little too early for some players still recovering from the previous night's exploits! First up was Master's Singles, where the top players battled it out in a straight DE format. *Jon May* was on great form, pounding through the winners bracket to get himself King Seat in the final. In a surprise twist, *Alex Shovelton* beat *Rob Atha* in the winner's semi-final, knocking him into the losers bracket. However, *Rob* showed his calibre as a player by not only reaching the final via the losers bracket, beating *Alex* in return on the way, but also double dipping *Jon* to take the title. (pictured overleaf)

Next up was Amateur singles. *Jee-Ha Kim* worked his way through the winners bracket to take pole position in the final. *Rob Davey*, who was knocked into the losers side by *Jee-Ha* in early rounds, fought his way to the final and proved his cross-table ability by double dipping *Jee-Ha* for the gold.

Semi-Pro Singles followed with *Marcel Glaus* and *Zico Yung* battling for the top spot, with *Marcel* managing to hold off *Zico's* impressive hacks and unusual style of play to take victory.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Warwick Open report continued

Master's Doubles, Semi-Pro Doubles and Amateur Doubles were played simultaneously as the final events of the day before the Open finals. Master's Doubles final was taken in style by *Rob Atha* and *Alex Shovelton* over *Alejandro Meyer-Castro* and *Marcel Glaus*. Semi-Pro Doubles final was an all Warwick University affair, with *Kennith Leong* and *Sun-Ho Kim* putting in an impressive performance to double dip the potent pairing of *Andrew Nubbert* and *Adam Baker*. Amateur doubles saw *Nigel Davies* make up for his dire Amateur Singles performance by carrying *Rob Davey* to glory against *Bernhard Elsner* and *Mark Nubbert*.

Sunday was rounded off with the Open finals. *Juj Sohi* and *Tom Burdett* fought hard against *Rob Atha* and *Alex Shovelton* in the doubles, but *Rob's* superior quality of play and *Alex's* uncanny ability to lift the rods at the right time saw *Rob* and *Alex* victorious. *Rob* completed his set of trophies by also winning the Open Singles final against *Martin Fritsche* in an impressive and highly skilled match between two international foos friends.



© Dave Ziemann



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Warwick Open Full Results

Open Singles

1. Rob Atha
2. Martin Fritsche
3. Nirko Ramser

Women's Singles

1. Mayya Racy
2. Katarina Krammerova
3. Louise Brice

Masters Singles

1. Rob Atha
2. Jon May
3. Alex Shovelton

Masters Doubles

1. Rob Atha + Alex Shovelton
2. Alejandro Meyer-Castro + Marcel Glaus
3. Jujhar Sohi + Tom Burdett

Amateur Doubles

1. Nigel Davies + Rob Davey
2. Mark Nubbert + Bernhard Elsner
3. Scott Walding + Patrick Dunleavy

Saturday DYP

1. Joe Hamilton + Sam Fitzpatrick
2. Stephen Lyall + Phil Pratt
3. Scott Walding + Ben Mason

Open Doubles

1. Alex Shovelton + Rob Atha
2. Jujhar Sohi + Tom Burdett
3. Patrick Glocker + Charlie Friessem

Women's Doubles

1. Caroline Wong + Katarina Krammerova
2. Hannah Ramlee + Mayya Racy
3. Louise Brice + Sarah Brice

Semi-Pro Singles

1. Marcel Glaus
2. Zico Yung
3. Oli Deakin

Amateur Singles

1. Rob Davey
2. Jee-Ha Kim
3. Alex Millington

Semi-Pro Doubles

1. Kenneth Leong + Sun-Ho Kim
2. Andrew Nubbert + Adam Baker
3. Brian Harms + Neil Dawson

Novice Doubles

1. Graeme Addison + Michael Hart
2. Luke Ashley + Elliot Cole
3. Donna Walker + Sam Dawkins

Friday Super Mêlée

1. Nirko Ramser + Marcel Glaus
2. Tom Burdett + Tom Keevil
3. Joe Latimer + Oli Deakin



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Gareth Edwards



Gareth Edwards runs the Games Indoors website, which sells a massive range of Foosball tables, including Tornado, Garlando, FAS and Bonzini amongst many others. Games Indoors are very receptive to the needs of the BFA's keen players, through sponsorship funded from table sales, and by making the favoured tournament spec. tables available. Gareth is also rare in the business in that he is a follower of the Britfoos website and forum, and as such is uniquely placed to give an outsider's view of the BFA. Many thanks to Gareth for taking the time to answer these questions – I thought the answers were fascinating and I'd urge you all to check out:

<http://www.gamesindoors.co.uk>

How did you get started in the internet retailing world?

In a previous job I worked for a company that had a website selling indoor games products by Mightymast, but they only sold their products. I have a business degree and wanted to start my own business, I knew I could do a better job so I decided that would be my first website and business.

What are the good and bad points of your job?

I like the 9-5 routine; I've had other jobs where I've worked stupid shifts and hours like starting at 7.15am and finishing at 3.15pm, and I've worked at places where they only close on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter Sunday, it seems to be the way that shops are opening all the time. I enjoy running my own business and working for myself, it offers many challenges and a huge amount of satisfaction; no 2 days are the same. The bad points are I can't take much time off and it doesn't pay a full wage yet, so I still have a part time job at the weekends.

As someone who has been following the BFA's activities for the last few years, how do you think Foosball is developing in the UK?

I think the BFA are definitely moving in the right direction, I think there is an underlying elitism that can intimidate newbie's but generally the members seem very welcoming and helpful. The increase in the number of competitions has helped and I think the national league will raise the profile and is a positive step forward. The recent activity of the committee and consolidation within the BFA will help.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

(Gareth Edwards interview continued)

How can the BFA encourage the development of players from those who play keenly at home (i.e. your customers) to the stage where they progress to the "National Scene"?

A concentrated approach on new players would be great, for example nomination 2008 as the year of the newbie would be great, and to see a huge effort on bringing new players would be welcomed by many. We were given flyers about the BFA, which went out to our customers and I think this was an excellent idea. Raising the profile of the BFA is the most important way of communicating with new members. I'm sure there is a huge amount of home players who do not know the BFA exist, this is untapped potential.

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

I'd do my very best to start organising a tournament based purely on the promotion of the BFA. I know this couldn't be organised in 1 day but I would make it a rule that such an event would take place. I would base it on a football event that would take place that year e.g. World Cup/European Championships/FA Cup Final and we'd chose players based on their ranking to represent the teams involved. I probably wouldn't let Rob Atha play though, there's no point holding a competition with an obvious winner at the start. I'm sure this type of event would make Television, national papers and magazines. For some people it may be seen as selling out but I think it would be one of the best ways to promote the game and the BFA.

Do you play much Foosball yourself?

I don't have a table at home or in the office, and there's not even one down at my local but when there is a table available I always get challenged, because I sell them people think I should beat them. Sadly I'm very bad and normally lose; at least I can tell them how much we sell that table for! My personal preference is a Tornado; I find them easier to play than the Garlando tables, but I don't get much chance to play on Tornado's because they are so rare.

What are your opinions of the different table types, and which tables do your customers most like?

Bonzini: Beautiful tables, they are so well made, but so expensive. I haven't played much on one but they seemed quite fun to play, huge tables though.

Garlando: I can't even control the ball on these tables; they make me look like a fool when I play on them, it's really a hit and hope game.

Mightymast (Fas): I have the same problem on these as I do on a Garlando

Tornado: Excellent tables for beginners like me, really easy to play on and so much fun, easily my favourite.

Our biggest sellers are Garlando tables, mainly the G5000 and G500 models, but we get a lot of coin-op table sales as well. Sadly Tornado sales are rare because they haven't been available for a while, they are twice as expensive as Garlando's and a lot of people haven't heard of them.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

BAR KICK BONZINI OPEN JUNE 3rd 2007

BFA and Bar Kick are pleased to announce the BK Open on Sunday 3rd June at Bar Kick, 127 Shoreditch High Street, London, E1 6JE.

Schedule

10am - Registration & Practice
12pm - Open Singles
2pm - Open Doubles
3pm - Women's Singles
5pm - Women's Doubles

Formats

Open Singles - DE-Swiss (1-9)
Open Doubles - Groups of 5 or fewer (1-9).
- Top 2 through to DE Knockout (2-5 / 1-9)
- Others into a Swiss format "Plate" competition (playing enough rounds to decide a winner) (1-7)
- Women's Singles - Dependent on turnout
- Women's Doubles - Dependent on turnout

OS, OD and WS will count towards the 2007 Player of the Year rankings - the top 3 players/teams in OS/OD and the winner of WS will qualify automatically for the UK Championships on 6-8 July.

Entry Fees and Charges

Rookies - £3 per event
Others - £5 per event
Table Fee - £6
All competitors must be at least provisional members of the BFA

Player Rankings

The following will not be classed as Rookies for entry fee purposes: - Any player ranked Semi-Pro or above on the European Tornado Rankings
- Any player ranked Pro or above on the BFA Garlando Rankings
- Any player ranked Semi-Pro or above on the Provisional BFA Bonzini Rankings
- Any other player that the Tournament Organiser (Caroline) deems to be above Rookie standard

(Gareth Edwards interview continued)

How much of your custom is for Table Football, not Pool, Table Tennis, Air Hockey etc?

The way the website is designed and the way I have developed it means we are primarily a table football website. These account for the largest amount of our sales, a lot of our competitors concentrate on Pool, Snooker or Table Tennis. We also have such a large range of Foosball tables compared to other websites.

If you were a customer, which table would you buy for yourself / your family?

For playability and fun I'd definitely get a Tornado, I find it the easiest to play on and the most enjoyable. If money was no object I would splash out on a fully customised Bonzini table, you can get absolutely everything personalised on those tables and I'd spend a month designing it!

Many thanks for doing this interview, your time and insight are much appreciated!



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

“Woxford” Open - 23rd June 2007

The University of Warwick Table Football Society (WTF) are once again proud to present:

The 1st Woxford Open One Day Garlando Foosball Tournament held at The Bar, Rootes Social Building, University of Warwick, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV4 7AL on SEVEN World Championship Garlando Foosball Tables.

Events shall include: Open Singles, Open Doubles, No-Pro Doubles, Women's Singles

Events will run from late morning (~11am) until evening (~10pm) - exact schedule TBC shortly. Open Singles, Open Doubles and Women's Singles will be straight DE with an excellent format. No-Pro Doubles allows Semi-Pros, Amateurs and Novices to compete together in a Swiss competition with many rounds and plenty of games. The top x number of teams will go into the main DE competition, and the remaining top x number of Amateur/Novice pairings will go into a Am/Nov DE competition.

This is a BFA Ranking tournament: for those chasing precious POY points make sure you attend!

Entry fees & Package deals:

Package Deals: Pro-Master (OD, OS) - £25 (women £30), Pro (OD, OS) - £20 (women £25)
Semi-Pro (OD, OS, NPD) - £18 (women £20), Amateur (OD, OS, NPD) - £15 (women £17)
Novice (OD, OS, NPD) - £10 (women £13)

Entry Fees Per Event:

OS/OD - PM £15; P £10; SP £8; A £6; N £4

NPD - SP £7; A £5; N £3

WS - PM £11; P £8; SP £6; A £5; N £3

Table fee: £5 for everyone, £0 for first-time tournament go-ers!

All tables will be set to FREE PLAY

****There will be a limit of 64 players for each event - meaning 32 teams in the doubles events.****
Pre-registration will be available in the coming days. To avoid disappointment, please make sure that you pre-register as soon as possible if you plan on coming - pre-registration places will be granted on a first come first serve basis. ONLY pre-register once you know your doubles partner (if you intend on entering a doubles event).



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

“Woxford” Open continued

How to get here:

The University is well situated in the middle of England with ample parking space at weekends. The tournament itself will be running on central campus. Buses run to and from Leamington Spa and Coventry every fifteen minutes, for those of you catching the train. Full travel arrangements for cars, trains, buses and even bikes can be found at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/> .

The AA also offers a separate route planner guide, which can be found at: http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp Rootes Social Building is located in the middle of campus, next to the student Union building and visible from the Arts Centre. Should you get lost on campus please just ask a passing student to point you in the right direction.

ITSF Rules of play will apply.

The dress code will be strictly sports wear only!

- The organisers reserve the right to alter the programme to ensure the smooth running of the event.
- Overseas players not ranked in Garlando or ITSF competitions will be provisionally ranked as semi-pro, USTSA/EuroTornado Pro-Master, P4P Master/Elite or International Garlando Semi-Pro = Pro
- Players will be treated as having their highest rank based on BFA Garlando or International Garlando or ITSF points lists (ITSF total points - SP 50-99pts, Pro 100-199pts, PM 200+pts - IGR points SP 100-499, Pro 500-999, PM 1000+)
- Womens singles is included in packages for women
- The prize fund may vary according to turnout
- Any event with fewer than 3x competitors or teams will be cancelled.
- The promoter reserves the right to refuse entry
- All prize money must be collected on the day
- No refunds will be given on package deals
- All players must agree to abide by the BFA code of conduct and teams will face disqualification for violent or abusive conduct.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Upcoming Events

There will be a Bonzini Open held at Bar Kick on Sunday 3rd June, at Bar Kick, 127 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 6JE. This is a great chance to get some serious games in at the top table football venue in the UK, with all the UK's best French style players in attendance. Events will include Open Doubles, Open Singles, Women's Singles and Rookie Doubles. Further details are found elsewhere in this newsletter. The venue is ideal for tournaments, and hopefully if there is a good turnout, then there will be regular Open Events held here.

The **Oxford Open** scheduled for the 16th and 17th June has unfortunately been cancelled due to venue problems. This is particularly sad for the UK's longest running tournament, held since 2000. Luckily those nice chaps at **Warwick** are looking to pull the cat out of the bag by holding a one day tournament on Saturday 23rd June. Proposed events are to be OS, OD, No-pro D (Swiss) and WS. Full details and confirmation of this event were still awaited as this Newsletter was published. Check out the Britfoos site and forum for the latest details on this event.

On 6th-8th July there will be the Multitable **UK Championships** for UK players only held at Pro-5 in Brislington, Bristol. The venue will also host the Bristol Open 2007 on the same weekend. **Foos4Fun** are the good guys again, organising the venue and Tornado tables, and helping BFA Chair Boris Atha get this prestigious event off the ground. More details on this event are given elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The **UK Masters** will be held on Tornado as usual at The Floatel, Northwich and is in the diary for the 7th-9th September (Subject to confirmation).

On the International scene, a number of UK players are expected to go to the **Roberto-Sport** and **Garlando World Championships** in July. The Roberto-Sport WCS event is held on the 13th to 15th July, while the Garlando WCS is on the 18th to 22nd July, the Garlando in particular expected to see a large UK entry.

The final ITSF WCS event is the **Tornado World Championships** in Las Vegas in September, from the 26th to the 30th. Again a number of UK foosers are expected to combine a fantastic week away at the unique cultural phenomenon that could only be found in the USA, while still finding time to play top quality foosball against the World's highest standard of players.



British Foosball Association

June Newsletter 2007

Shorts

Cambridge University sponsored by Oliver Wyman

Cambridge University Table Football Society is delighted to announce that Oliver Wyman will be sponsoring the society in the national league, for equipment, for running the local league and local competitions and for tournament attendance.

The winners of the May monthly BYP at the Bush were *Tom Stickland* and *Shafiq Haniq*, who beat hot favorites, *Rob Davey* and *Martyn Harris* in the final. Next BYP is Thursday 7th June.

The winners of the 2nd Old Bank Shield held on May 19th are *Tom Burdett* and *Grzegorz "Zaku" Zakowski*, who beat *Mike Amsden* and *Dave Bareham* in the Grand Final.

Next month's Newsletter will include a full report on the Bonzini World Championships, reports on the Bar Kick Open and the "Woxford" Open, and interviews with two of the driving forces behind the UK's table football scene - at the local and at the national level!

To include any results in this section of the newsletter, please e-mail newsletter@britfoos.com.

Player of the Year Update

Open Doubles - top 5

1 Alex Shovelton	281
2 Jujhar Sohi	268
3 Rob Atha	240
4 Joe Hamilton	217
5 Mike Amsden	216

Open Singles - top 5

1 Jujhar Sohi	328
2 Alex Shovelton	261
3 Tom Burdett	244
4 Jon May	215
5 Rob Atha	210

Women's Singles – top 5

1 Hannah Ramlee	133
2 Mayya Racy	100
3 Sarah Brice	78
4 Caroline Wong	58
5 Louise Brice	55

To include articles or feature an event in this Newsletter, please contact newsletter@britfoos.com. To advertise in the BFA Newsletter, please contact commercial@britfoos.com.

Edited by Dan Gallon

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