



British Foosball Association

March Newsletter 2008

FARID LOUNAS INTERVIEWED ITSF PRESIDENT EXCLUSIVE BFA AGM Minutes ITSF MASTERS Hereford Tournament: Full Details HOLYWELL 2 - RESULTS



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ITSF PRESIDENT: FARID LOUNAS INTERVIEWED

1. How did you get started playing, and how long have you been playing for?

I started in 1990 at school.

2. When and why did you get involved in the organisational side of the game?

I started to get involved in the organisational side of the game in 1991, while organizing tournaments in France, first locally and regionally, then on the national level in 1992 (president of French Federation in 2000) and on international level in 1998.

I could see the problems linked to international organization of the game and its recognition by national and international sports authorities. I knew someone would have to come forward and get fully involved in the the development of the various aspects of the game.

At first I was like everybody else, waiting to see who would offer tackle that job, but after a while, when I realized nobody really wanted to do it, I decided to get more involved.

The main goal then was to have table soccer taken seriously by players, fans, media, sports authorities...

3. The ITSF has overseen amazing growth in the formalisation and organisation of tournaments into a global pyramid. What have been the key steps to doing this and what have been the biggest problems that you have faced in pushing through the required changes?

For an overview of these steps, please refer to the presentation of ITSF and table soccer which is to be found on our website:

http://www.table-soccer.org/itsf/documents/2007_ITSF_presentation.pdf

In fact, all the steps that have taken place are linked to each other, whether it be the introduction of the Women's, and then Junior and Senior categories in the World Rankings; or the first World Championships...

The evolution is ongoing.

Biggest problems? probably trying to get people to understand that table soccer is a "normal" sport practised in a "normal" environment. It is very difficult to rally the right people to work and move things forward because often they don't believe in the potential of the sport. At the same time, we have to make sure we don't rush towards inaccessible goals. One thing at a time.



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4. What are the biggest challenges facing the ITSF in the next year?

Future challenges: see p 6, 7 and 9 of the presentation document.

The biggest challenge is actually the development of our member federations; some of them work hard, others have a very long way to go in order to have a proper structure and truly represent table soccer in their countries.

5. A lot of people think the ITSF has the aim of getting table football into the Olympics, can you clarify what are the medium to long term aims of the ITSF?

Relationships with the Olympic Movement.

No, we are not looking for table soccer to become an Olympic sport at the Olympic Games!

Too many sports, with a much higher number of players and which are much more publicized than table soccer, are waiting for their turn to become an Olympic sport.

Rather our aim is to be recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

The IOC cannot be a governance body for ITSF, it is not an issue of control. But we can be partners. Being recognized by the IOC as a sport would help for the development of the game in each country.

To get that recognition, several steps have to be taken as shown in the graph on page 7 of our presentation document. It will be a long road, ITSF and all federation will have to work hard for this.

6. The ITSF has been instrumental in bringing a convergence of different tables design, and the rules. Would you like to see complete uniformity, or do you see it beneficial to have a variety (much like tennis has different surfaces and football tournaments use balls from different manufacturers that have slightly different behaviour).

I know I feel slightly uncomfortable about exclusion of manufacturers who are not one of the 5 official tables. Can you clarify the ITSF position towards other manufacturers - how do you ensure that ITSF manages to be inclusive to other manufacturers, and ensure that the quality of play possible is the key attribute to table selection rather than simply giving to the richest manufacturers?

Of course, having a single style of play and using only one table would make a lot of things easier! However that would mean a series of very lengthy alterations in the various playing styles and on the different tables ; we are very far from that!



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If it ever happens, it won't be in the near future.

Plus, it would not necessarily be in the best interest of the players worldwide. One of ITSF aims, as stated at the beginning of our Statutes is:

"to promote the development of table soccer throughout the world and to tighten the ties of friendship which unite players of all countries by setting up lasting relationships between the groups they represent and to nurture the improvement of our sport practise in every way"

This is very important. We have to make sure that the move towards a more homogeneous style of play doesn't go against this. It is a tight rope we are walking on:

on the one hand, variety is important as it allows us to rally more and more players worldwide, even though we are well aware that still many people are unfortunately left behind.

on the other hand, the limitation of the number of sanctioned tables has been instrumental to the development of the ITSF and the current organization of the ITSF Tour.

Huge efforts were required to reach the current balance. Playing on 5 Official Tables is a major challenge for international players. As for the manufacturers of these 5 tables, they have worked a lot towards making it possible for players to adapt their playing styles more easily from one table to the next.

As you know, ITSF also sanctions another category of tables : Recognized Tables.

These tables are sanctioned by ITSF for the practice of table soccer leading to major international competition.

Whereas all event categories can be organized on Official Tables, Recognized Tables can be used only in Master Series and Pro Tour events.

2 tables have been granted ITSF sanctioning as Recognized Tables; there is room left for 3 more, as the maximum number allowed is 5 (same as for Official Tables). So there probably will be more Recognized Tables in the near future.

Regarding the quality of ITSF sanctioned tables, 2 major elements have to be taken into consideration:



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1. the quality of the materials of course, as overseen by ITSF Technical Commission
2. the more subjective idea of quality, as seen by players who feel their home tables are necessarily the best ones, since they feel more comfortable playing on them, because that's what they are used to, etc.

A player who's played 20 or 30 years on the same table will definitely find it hard to play on a new table, even if it's better quality.

Apart from these 2 aspects, ITSF also takes into consideration various criteria:

“the table company must be able to sell its tables worldwide.

It must respect its competitors, especially with regards to copyright.

It must also respect the ITSF Charter for the Environment and Human Rights ...”

Please note that the manufacturers who currently have their tables sanctioned by ITSF are not the biggest or richest table soccer companies; in fact many "richer" manufacturers are not ITSF partners. It is rather the ones making the tables that the players know the best who are currently our partner manufacturers.

7. What development in the game that you have been involved in gives you the greatest pride?

It is nice when people get involved in the development aspect of our sport, when they don't just care about the game or their personal interest but instead are eager to help build the right kind of structures (national and international). These people are hard to come by to, especially the ones who not only want to help but are also able to help. Also, too often people might enjoy the idea of holding a position within an Executive Committee or any type of Commissions within a federation, but then they might not be ready to do the work it entails.

The World Ranking is a good start. It sets some objective ways to measure the players' performances, although it is obvious that many players can not attend tournaments the same way others can, for financial reasons, lack of free time, etc... But at least it is a move in the right direction.

Ranking (regional, national or international) have to give motivation to competition players to practise, to go to tournament and to do their best. This is not always the case...



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8. What do you see the strengths and weaknesses of the British game and the BFA in particular are - what needs improvement?

What are the key points of advice that you can give to the British players and organisers to help grow the game?

Of course the work of each national federation has a strong influence on the game itself.

Each federation needs a strong team of people ready to move the development of the sport forward and fulfill their responsibilities.

That involves managing/organizing table soccer for all (amateurs, competitors, juniors, women...) on the whole national territory.

Waiting for other people to do it just won't do. This is the hardest part because it involves work in various areas: administration; sports management; political issues (such as the relations with the National Olympic Committee and other sports authorities in the country); focusing on the needs of the players, manufacturers, distributors; etc.

Every country is different so a real effort is needed to understand what the national federation can do to adapt as best as possible to the situation in the country, instead of following a pre-established plan that might work for one place but not for another.

We had a meeting in London last January, with some members of your executive, you certainly saw that you have many options to develop table soccer in UK, it is just a question of making choice and do the job.

9. Where do you think the UK lie in the overall world order? Do you think the UK game is developing as well as it is in other comparable countries, or is it in danger of being left behind? And finally, will we be seeing you in the UK for one of the ITSF ranking tournaments this year?

It is always nice to meet representatives and players from national federations in their own countries and witness the work being done.

Sometimes the visit of ITSF representatives can also have an impact in terms of relations with the media or political figures.

However, we get many requests of this kind, this is why we have to ensure that this type of trips are well prepared in order to really be useful for the national federation requesting it.



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About the BFA, I'll just mention a few points:

on the up side:

- great variety of players, who play on different types of tables
- good knowledge of the game itself, partly due to the fact that British players travel to other tournaments in Europe or elsewhere
- hence the high level of play of such players as Rob Atha and others...

on the down side:

- the BFA needs to be more structured, with a clear program including goals and deadlines, which would enable all players to know where the federation is at and where it is going to
- getting involved and making things happen is not an easy task but it has a snowball effect: more people then want to join in because they are aware that things are moving and they are in a better position to help when they see a group of strongly motivated people already at work. Then it is just a matter of moving one step at a time, keeping close to the reality, not making promises that can not be fulfilled. And of course, the ITSF is ready to help all its member federations do this kind of work.

Thank you Farid for taking the time to answer these queries.

It is notable from your point of view that the key impression is that the BFA needs organising in a more professional manner. I agree that this is the thing that most needs developing in the UK.

I know I have strong feelings on that as well, although ultimately it actually comes down to a lack of time that people have to commit, and it is something that requires a change in attitude of everyone in the UK who aspires to play at the top level.

Basically what it comes down to is that there is no point sitting there complaining about the BFA, and what they are/are not doing. It is down to everyone to put the effort in to help out, and help professionalise the sport.

If not then the game in the UK will be left behind by the rest of the world just at the point that the international game is threatening to take off.



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Holywell Open 2

Results

Open Singles

- 1 Rob Atha
- 2 Tom Burdett
- 3 Alex Shovelton

Friday DYP

- 1 Tom Burdett & Dave Bareham
- 2 Harry Cummings & Stephen Lyall
- 3 Nik Doran & Rob Atha

Master's Doubles

1. Jon May & Paddy Grover
2. Tom Burdett & Stephen Lyall
3. Andrew Nubberr & Mike Amsden

Senior Singles

- 1 Dave Ziemann
- 2 Chris Haddon
- 3 Bill Ormerod

Amateur Singles

- 1 Krisztian Juhasz
- 2 Elliot Cole
- 3 Chris Bushnell

Semi-Pro Singles

- 1 Rich Marsh
- 2 Gregorz Zakowski
- 3 John Blanchard

Novice Doubles

- 1 Pete Hedges & Liam Donovan
- 2 Stanislav Burlakov & Alan Shirfan
- 3 John Harvey & Dan Merzon

4-Ball roto rollerball

1. Grover, Blanchard, Amsden, Deakin
2. Burdett, Ashley, Fallon, Marsh
- 3 Kingston, Lyall S, Cummings Darragh (Brice L, Iwan)

Open Doubles

- 1 Rob Atha & Joe Hamilton
- 2 Stephen Lyall & Tom Burdett
- 3 Alex Shovelton & Paddy Grover

Women's Singles

- 1 Jody Walding
- 2 Mayya Racy
- 3 Alina Iwan

Master's Singles

- 1 Joe Hamilton
- 2 Tom Burdett
- 3 Jon May

Women's Doubles

1. Mayya Racy & Caroline Wong
2. Alina Iwan & Jody Walding
3. Suki Jaffer & Olga Lasecka

Semi-Pro Doubles

- 1 JeeHa Kim & John Blanchard
- 2 Christopher Lyall & Chris Haigh
- 3 Krisztian Juhasz & Gregorz Zakowski

Amateur Doubles

- 1 Tom Keevil & Dan Tipton
- 2 Graeme Addison & Tom Nubberr
- 3 Sam Fitzpatrick & Chris Bushnell

Mixed Doubles

1. Rob Atha & Olga Lasecka
2. Jon May & Mayya Racy
3. Stephen Lyall & Louise Brice

Super Melee

- 1 Sam Fitzpatrick
- 2 Bill Ormerod
- 3 John Blanchard



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Holywell Open 2

Pictures



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March Newsletter 2008

Hereford Tornado

Open 2008

The British Foosball Association Proudly presents



The HEREFORD

OPEN 2008

ITSF MASTERS SERIES

Friday 4th April - Sunday 6th April 2008

Karlo's
171 Widemarsh Street
Hereford
HR4 9HE

Package Deals (for non seniors, juniors and women)

Novice Package £30 includes OS, OD, NPS, AD, ND or NPD and the weekends table fee.

mateur Package £41 includes OS, OD, NPS, NPD, AD and the weekends table fee.

Semi Pro Package £56 includes OD, OD NPS, NPD, SPD, PS and the weekends table fee.

Pro Package £50 includes OD, OS, MD, PS and the weekends table fee.

Pro Master Package £55 includes OD, OS, MD and the weekends table fee.

Junior Package (rookie and below) others available on request.

£28 includes OS, OD, NPS, AD, ND, JD, JS and the weekends table fee.

Senior Package Includes OS, OD, SS, SD and the weekends table fees. Other events to be paid for separately. Nov £25, Rook £34, SP £40, Pro £50, PM £60

Womens Package Includes OS, OD, WS, WD, MxD and the weekends table fee. Other events to be paid separately. Nov £30, Rookie £36, SP £45, Pro £55, PM £65

For full details of individual entry fees, prize funds and all the small print, please see the Britfoos website.

<http://www.britfoos.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=6051>

PLEASE CHECK THIS LINK FOR ALL THE :ATEST REVISED DETAILS OF THE EVENT



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Hereford Tornado

Open 2008

FRIDAY

Registration 2:30 pm for

FSO Start time 3:00

race to 9 winners, race to 7 losers

Registration 4:00 pm for

Pro-Am Start time 4:30

race to 9 winners, race to 7 losers

Registration 6:30 pm for

DYP Start time 7:00

race to 9 winners, race to 7 losers

Venue close 3am

SATURDAY

Venue opens 9:45am. Desk opens 10:00am.

Registration 10:00 am for OS, SS# and WS

OS Start time 10:30

best of 3 first to five for first 2 rounds of winners, 5 and 5 from there on, losers best of 3 first to 5 all the time.

WS Start time 12:00

best of 3 first to 5 winners, race to 7 losers.

SS# Start time 12:00

best of 3 first to 5 winners, race to 7 losers.

Registration 12:30 for MD*,NPS#,SPD*,AD*

NPS# (no pro singles) Start time 13:00

groups, then DE/SE (turnout dependent)

AD (Amateur Doubles)* Start time 14:00

Groups then SE race to 7

MD(masters doubles)* Start time 14:30

best of 3 first to 5 winners, race to 7 losers

SPD (semi pro doubles)* Start time 16:00

race to 9 winners race to 7 losers

Bar closes when we finish drinking. Poker tables will be up all day in the side bar.

* means you can only enter if that is your rank.

means you can not enter two events on the same day with this mark

@ means you can enter only one of these two events.

% Juniors are not permitted to enter NPD if entering Junior events.

!! Please note any players still in OD and NPD may not enter PS. Money will be refunded to those that are withdrawn.

SUNDAY

Venue opens 9:45. Desk opens 10:00.

Registration for OD, SD#, JD%, JS% and WD#.

Please note any players still in OD and NPD may not enter PS. Money will be refunded to those that are withdrawn.

OD Start time 10:30

best of 3 first to five for first 2 rounds of winners, 5 and 5 from there on, losers best of 3 first to 5 all the time.

JS%(only to go ahead if there are 4 or more teams) Start time 11:30

best of 3 first to 5 winners, race to 7 losers.

SD# Start time 12:00

best of 3 first to 5 winners, race to 7 losers.

WD#(senior women can enter both WD and SD) Start time 12:00

best of 3 first to 5 winners, race to 7 losers.

JD% (only to go ahead if there are 4 or

more teams) Start time 12:00

best of 3 first to 5 winners, race to 7 losers.

Registration for 12.30 NPD#,ND#,MxD and PS

NPD%# Start time 13:00

groups then DE/SE (turnout dependent)

ND# Start time 13:00

To be decided on turnout.

Mxd Dubs@ Start time 14:30

race to 9 winners race to 7 losers

PS@!! (pro singles [Semi pro's and Pro's

only]) Start time 15:00

race to 9 winners, race to 7 losers



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BFA AGM 2008

Minutes of the British Foosball Association Annual General Meeting

Sunday 10th February 2008 - The Holywell, Hinckley

Meeting opened 1550hrs

1. Attendance and apologies

Present

Boris Atha, Chris Haddon, Suki Jaffer, John Worthington, Mike Amsden, Paddy Dunleavy, Ben Mason, John Shovelton, Steve Lyall, Luke Ashley

Apologies

Alex Shovelton, Jon May, Dave Morgan

2. Minutes of the 2007 AGM

The minutes of the 2007 AGM and April 2007 EGM were read agreed as a true and accurate record

Matters arising – Organisation for ranking across all tables now levelled, so if you go up rank, you can also go down. Referee committee on form. Also would like table football to be recognised as a sport within schools, youth clubs, etc.

3. Outgoing committee reports

- Chairman

Constitutional changes – committee expanded, democratic veto on appointed committee members, separation of constitution and policy documents

Membership – paid membership introduced with 3-tier membership for individuals.

National Championships – First multitable national championships held July 2007 with qualification required for OS and OD.

Club membership scheme agreed and ready to implement (subject to website development)

- Treasurer

Provided accounts – see appendix – Noted although accounts show a loss in 2007 much of this was due to one-off expenditure. Will strictly adhere to the Expenses Policy. If expenses aren't shown fully, they won't be paid out.

- Secretary

77 full members

236 provisional members

£688 raised in membership fees



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4. Working Group Reports

Tournament Coordination Committee - Boris

The TCC has sanctioned the following tournaments:

2006/7 season - 2x Garlando, 1x Tornado, 1x Bonzini (Feb-Jun 2007)

2007/8 Season - 4x Garlando, 5x Tornado

The TCC has developed and refined the criteria for tournaments gaining ranking status - a policy ratified as document 10 by the BFA Committee in November 2007. The TCC continues to review applications by tournaments for BFA and/or ITSF ranking status. Rankings for all tables brought under a common system in Dec 2007 for implementation Jan 08

Commercial Development – Jon May - Commercial Activities of the BFA in 2007

Disclaimers:

1. Precise Numbers of Amounts Made to be filled in by Mr John Worthington.
2. I might have missed some stuff.

Pilot TV Episode Made - Alex Shovelton, Joe Hamilton, Tom Burdett and Jonathan May made a pilot TV episode. I have finally received the pilot episode. It is not clear where this is going, but I will try to ensure that if the production company does not use it the BFA will secure rights to use it or at least to make it publicly available.

Entertainment Profiles on Site - We have active profiles for Rob Atha, Alex Shovelton, John Shovelton, Joe Hamilton and myself on Atmosphere Entertainment. Work on these profiles is likely to raise the profile of the BFA and possibly the revenue from Expert Challenge events. Currently the profiles are inadequately completed.

Bonzini Events - [Boris best placed to comment] – Proposed tour sponsored by a soft-drinks company, no contact since Dec 07 when tour reduced to a single event at BK.

Atmosphere Event and Ingram Micro Retail Expo event at Wembley - This event was attended by Jonathan May, and raised X for the BFA

Mobile Event – Event for major mobile phone network through but still in contact and might need our services at a later date

University Championship Sponsorship - Is obtained, event will be postponed until Michaelmas 2008.

Leo Burnett - [Mase best placed to comment] – Marketing agency

Warrington Event - Alex Shovelton and Sarah Brice attended in expert challenge for opening of Golden Square Shopping centre, Tables supplied by Boris and the BFA.

David Noel at Neighbourhood Club W10 - Event fell through

Garlando UK Banner - Delayed advertising banner but would probably be interested if asked again

Revamped Website Sections - I rewrote most of the pages on the corporate events/sponsorship/commercial development parts of the site. I think that there is a lot more we can do, most of which I have already written but needs editing and someone to take greater care about image/placement/development. Thanks a lot to John Shovelton for implementing most of the changes.



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National League – Mase

2006 league not concluded final not played – not awarded Warwick/Bushbabies – both equally culpable for 2nd leg of final not being played. 2007 season – 6x new teams 3 pulled out due to experience and travelling to venues., league grown, Cardiff Uni, Liverpool, Keele, growing organically. Next league season will start alongside start of academic year and end in August 2009. 2007 league now at SF stage. Pissheads want to go away. League committee working. No cheques banked. League get together for prospective teams. Thanks to Shovo & Dan G for website and rules.

Computing WG - Shovo

Main job from Dec 06 to recover main website from neglect during previous reign, vote of thanks to Dan Gallon, John Shovelton & Chaz Allen for updates, not been redeveloped but maintained. Tom King had done a redesign but not followed through. CWG – membership software and national league to allow online applications/payments for club memberships. Dan K – rankings integration.

National Team – Boris

Great Britain fielded national teams in 4 out of the 5 WCS Nation Cup events in 2007.

Bonzini – 5-8th – beat Algeria lost to France

Roberto-Sport – 9-16th – lost 1st round the Czech Republic

Garlando – 2nd – beat France, Belgium and Switzerland, lost to Austria in final

Tornado – 5-8th – lost to USA first round

GB failed to raise a team for the Tec-Ball WCS

Official team strips have been purchased and remain property of the BFA – spent a lot on clothing – Shovo keeping track – P4P – better coordination

Refereeing Commission - Mase

After a slow start, the refereeing commission has become active in recent weeks, working towards an accreditation procedure for BFA competitions. Officials clinics to be held at some of the larger UK tournaments in 2008. Basic/simplified rules sheet agreed – awaiting publication for inclusion in all tables sold in the UK (requested by distributors at ATEi – along with BFA leaflet – abandon idea of advertising.

Youth & Grass Roots Development – Mase

WG activity slow, no-one has enough time to devote to youth development. Re schools Geoff B not happy with snake as it slows down takings and is concerned that the only shot that would be taught is the snake shot. Suggest stickers on tables to promote BFA. Rob A offered to train players in coaching, so that they can coach in schools– CRB checks, 6th forms crying out for something positive for the kids. PD mentioned that there needs to be (BFA) brand awareness within the tables. Suggest develop progress sheet for new players and/or training DVD. Club membership and/or ITSF training centres should grow organically. Pilot scheme. JW – Britfoos poll – what is grass roots?



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Sports Commission – Boris

The Sports Commission is tasked with getting foosball recognised officially as a sport in the UK, and the BFA as an official governing body. Initial contact have been made with the DCMS, the deadlines for applications are March and September each year. Massive advantage of being a sport is not having to abide by ITSF criteria, automatic membership of NOC. Club membership key to establishing scale of foosball in the UK and a viable 'sports' structure.

Womens Commission – Suki Jaffer

Has gone moribund. Caroline was elected and didn't do anything – note that womens events now usually have 'proper' formats and increased turnouts noted. Suki checks regularly.

Disciplinary Commission - Mase

1x official complaint in 2007, thoroughly explored and handled. Not handled at the time (during the tournament). Need revised disciplinary code & policy. Deposit for post-hoc complaints. Britfoos Code of Conduct to be revised. Whatever decision the referee gives, has to be abided by. HO needs to bring CoC to each tournament.

Newsletter – Dan Gallon

A newsletter has been introduced this year in an attempt to professionalise the image of the BFA. Successes have notably included the interviews with players and others involved in the foos business, and the relative consistency of publication, From the point of view of acting as a professional organisation to outsiders - newcomers and the industry in general - the newsletter is an important addition to the BFA.

Many thanks must go to all those who have produced items for the newsletter, supplied photos and taken part in interviews. (Dave Ziemann deserves a special mention for number of items used)

On the downside, more pro-activity from other members of the BFA community in helping produce items for the newsletter would be very welcome - it is particularly disappointing that there are some tournaments where no one ends up writing a report. The entry to the competitions (with genuine, worthwhile and financially rewarding prizes) has in general been absolutely pathetic.

Still to end on an optimistic note, the BFA Newsletter is far better than I envisaged it last year when I started it, and hopefully it will continue to get better.

Table Sponsorship Scheme

A group of senior players have collectively sponsored the purchase of 10x Garlando Master Champion tables for use at UK tournaments until December 2009, to be paid for by table fees without requiring initial outlay from organisers. After sponsors have been repaid plus modest interest, any balance at the conclusion of the scheme will revert to the BFA. Organisers must sign a contract outlining their and the scheme's responsibilities.



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5. Constitutional Amendments & Required Votes

No Constitutional Amendments

Membership fees

Membership fees are currently £1 provisional, £5 full membership.

1st Action – Page on website – “what does my membership fee give me?”

2nd Action – Secretary to monitor membership register and fees on a regular basis. Amount that is given by members should match what is put into bank.

Provisional membership can no longer be put towards full membership.

Proposal to give 18 months for first full membership – failed - £5 for 12 months (rolling) – approved unanimously

Secretary to keep list of full members at every tournament. – reduces admin and provides incentive to sign up for full membership – agreed unanimously Page to be created on website with list of full members and the expiry date of their membership. Longer term membership – life membership? For further discussion.

Quorum for general meetings – leave at 6 – discussion of whether it should be an odd number – pointed out that chairman has casting vote which must be used to preserve the status quo.

Spending limit – Limit of £500 to remain (per cheque)

6. Executive Committee Elections

Chairman - Matthew 'Boris' Atha - Re-elected nem con

Treasurer - John Worthington – Re-Elected nem con

Webmaster – Chaz Allen – ratified nem con

Womens Officer – Suki Jaffer –ratified nem con

Elected posts (5 from 6 candidates)

Dave Morgan – Ratified as **Secretary**

Ben Mason - Ratified as **Vice Chair**

John Shovelton – Exec Member

Alex Shovelton – Exec Member

Tom Burdett – Exec Member

Sarah Brice failed to achieve re-election.

7. Any Other Business

ITSF

BFA to pay tournament sanction fees – 'Regular' Membership status confirmed February 2007 – Note that sticker fees > membership in 2007

FAST Software

delegated to CWG for implementation if/when translated into English

Refereeing Commission

Alex Shovelton to be chairman and coordinate accreditation programme



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BFA AGM 2008

Sport application

JW to take lead – needs to be top priority for 2008. Note that if a rival organisation were to achieve NOC recognition they would automatically take the place of the BFA within ITSF.

UK Championship

format, qualifying criteria, venue and date to be decided by Executive committee

National Team

as before – selected from those present – if more attend than required for the team then Executive Cttee decides

ITSF Dress Code

Cultural differences between UK and Europe – noted that 'sports attire' associated with UK 'Chav' culture with highly negative image, creating problems with access to venues from door staff (noted problems in Liverpool with Spanish players refused access until Boris intervened). Show off GB team with higher profile on website. It is up to the Head Official to enforce the dress code. At Hereford the dress code will be enforced for matches 4th or better in OS/OD. Current code does not suit criteria – some non-approved clothing (e.g. cycling shorts) appears to have no logical basis.

BFA Logo

needs updating. JW suggested removing the yellow background colour and leaving logo background white.

War Zone

Bad image for BFA. Arguments OK but not abuse. WZ to be abolished - unanimous. General posts to be moderated more aggressively. Sanctions can include suspension or ban from forum, and serious/repeated offences can result in bans from competition.

Club Membership

web-page/thread – need wider membership for sports recognition – suspend membership fees until something concrete to offer. Update website with useful information/features. Club membership mandatory for entry to 2008-09 league. Issue of graduated system so new clubs are not put off by being trashed by pros.

Agent

Paddy Dunleavy – BFA needs an agent for Expert Challenge events & Sponsorship

Website

website to refurbished with up and coming tournaments, photo of Team GB and a suggestions box for suggestions to be posted.

Official Tables

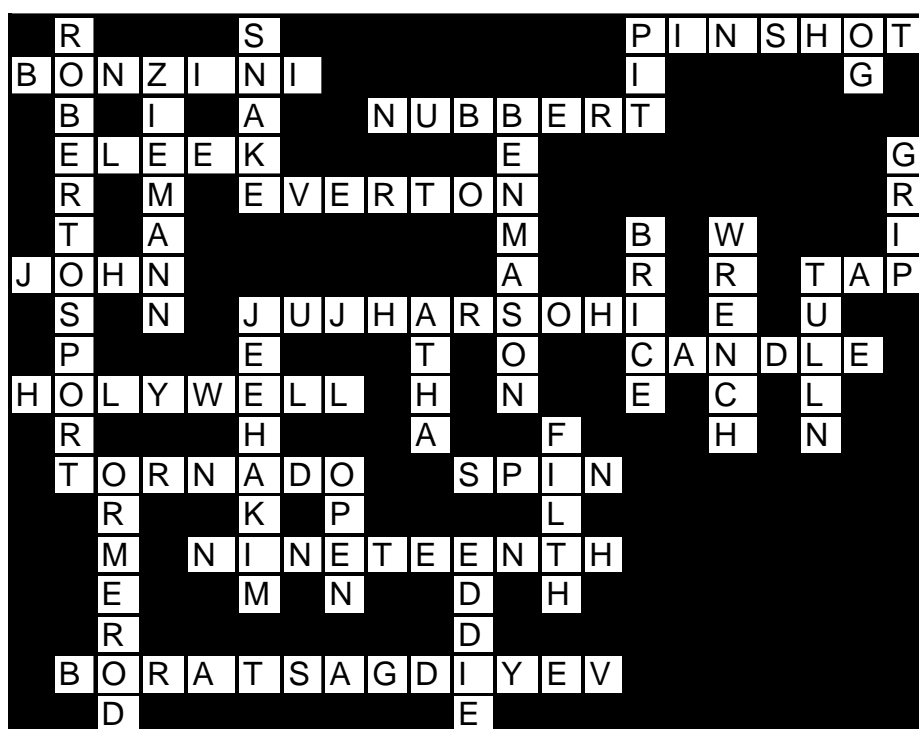
agreed in principle to sanction tables not currently used as official BFA tables. FAS have approached the BFA and asked them to support their new up and coming table. BFA is open to other manufacturers as long as they are willing to support the BFA.

Meeting closed 1920hrs



March Newsletter 2008

February Competition



The shaded squares spelled out “Dan Gallon”. The lucky winner drawn at random from the correct entries was Dan Kingston. There was a staggering turnout of 5 correct entries, for this free entry competition with a prize worth in the region of £20 of entry fees paid for OS and OD at the Holywell 3 tournament in May/June.

Credit goes to the entrant who decided the answer was Garlando. I won't embarrass Tom Burdett further by naming him publicly here.



March Newsletter 2008

Shorts

In a disappointing turnout for the February Bush tournament, the winners were Rob Davey and Dave Bareham, who beat underdogs Chris Hutton and Mike Bangham in the final.

There's a reminder for people to head down to the UK's newest multi-table venue at the Crown in Keynsham, near Bristol on Tuesday nights.

There are a number of tournaments coming up in the next few weeks. Things kick off with The **Oxford Open 9**, held at Riley's Pool Club, Cowley, Oxford on the 7th-9th March. Next up is the **ITSF Master's** event previewed elsewhere in this newsletter. This year it is being held on Tornado tables, at Karlo's, Hereford, from the April 4th to 6th. In late April there will be the last ever **Floatel Tornado** tournament from the 25th to 27th in Northwich

Further ahead there are plans for the UK Open 2008 to be held in Bolton with a multi-table format. The 3rd Holywell Open is to be held in late June with plans for a similar event to the successful tournament in February.

There are plans for a local tournament to be held in Chester:

Telford's Warehouse Table Football Championship

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Time: 6:30pm - 11:00pm

Location: Telford's Warehouse

City/Town: Chester, United Kingdom

This tournament will be played on two (yes Two!!!) old school football tables that have blocky feet, smooth glass and non grippy balls, this will be table football sort of like you remember it! Cost is £5 per pair.

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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