



# British Foosball Association

## May Newsletter 2008

# Sarah Brice Interviewed!



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## May Newsletter 2008

# Sarah Brice

**Sarah is one of the top Women players in the UK. A thoroughbred of the game (dad Geoff has been one of the UK's top table football operators) she has taken some great scalps at home and abroad as a great member of the GB team.**

### **1. How old were you when you first started playing table football?**

I think pretty much as soon as I could reach the handles. I remember finding a photo of myself on my tiptoes looking over the table watching my dad and others play in our garden. Of course it was only really when I was old enough to go down the pubs and play that I consider being the age when I started, so about 16/17.

### **2. Have you played consistently all your life, or is it something you have only started taking seriously recently?**

I feel I've only really started playing consistently and seriously the last couple of years. When I first started tagging along to tournaments it was all for the fun of it. I saw it as just a great night with new people and a new pub to play in. I guess when I started doing quite well and then being encouraged to practice mainly by those at Keele that I started taking it seriously. Before it was simply a good boozy night down the Barrels, although with quite intense games might I add.

### **3. What is your favourite moment in foos?**

That is the hardest question ever as I've had so many amazing times with foos. The earliest one I can think of is the first WD event my sister and I won. We double dipped Louise Herring and Jody Haddon at the Floatel in '04 I think. I can't really remember much of the game apart from wanting to win so much and fighting like a trooper.

Another time that stands out is coming 3rd in Amateur WS in Kentucky '07, and then 9th in Open WS. Beating some truly great women.

A further great moment would have to be having match point against Verena Rohrer in the Garlando Worlds '07 for the Nations Cup. Playing in the pit with the whole British team cheering me on, actually this must be my best moment. Also watching Joe 100% Hamilton and Dan Kingston destroy Switzerland in the decider game, we were all such a spirited team. That was a fantastic tournament. Of course this is also quite an honourable moment as well Dan!

### **4. And your worst?**

I know I've had some bad games and unfortunate losses, but luckily those are the ones I usually forget. Probably moments like losing to my sister and have her knock me out of events I was striving to win, which has happened numerous times.

### **5. You have travelled to quite a few international tournaments – do you see it as something that you will be able to keep up, or is it just a bit of fun while at university, and not something you see continuing?**

Oh yes I would love to continue travelling and playing. I have had so many great , and purely because of the people I have met I wish to continue. I realise there is not enough money in the



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### Sarah Brice (continued)

for a women fooser to have a Rob Atha lifestyle even if I was to get to the top women standard. However my plans for after uni include working alongside my dad, which will help with the funds, and this way I should also have the time off I'll need.

#### **6. You are obviously one of the top women players in the UK, but how highly do you rate yourself on the International scene?**

I don't really rate myself that high at all internationally. What I said earlier about my best moments was due to those wonderful fluky days where you play amazingly and then don't remember how. Although I do feel if I can keep it up I can perhaps get to a high level internationally. I'm definitely aiming for the top, and feel I can put up a reasonably good fight with most of the elite players right now.

#### **7. Was there any foos scene at Keele before you got there? And how are the efforts to promote the game there going? Are you going to be challenging Warwick as the top university any time soon?**

There was not a glimpse of a foos scene when I arrived at Keele-a couple of badly maintained and abandoned tables and that was it. I was also very disappointed with the universities enthusiasm to let a student put a table in a student bar, despite all my best efforts-even to offer 100% of the profit for one night of free foos for the society. I tried to promote the game a lot and after much nagging was given a small room away from any bar or student scene to have a table. I think this is the main reason why-to be honest-there still isn't much of a scene now. I am grateful to the few enthusiastic members such as Sam Fitzpatric and Chris Bushnell for helping me get this far. We're determined to have a final attempt to increase the scene next year. I'm assuming your question about challenging Warwick as top university was sarcastic hehe. We are hoping to have some kind of Keele v. Warwick match, although only perhaps to give some of their freshers a chance to play.

#### **8. Table football is obviously a very male dominated game in bars and pubs. Do you often get the chance to take the smile off the face of the arrogant guy who thinks he's good – and BTW I don't mean when you and Stan beat me and Frank at Oxford....**

Well, as bad as it sounds that is probably the main reason my sister and I started playing hehe. A great night down the pub giving all the guys a tough game, winning the majority, teasing them about it while all their friends watched-it's great! Don't think we've had anyone get really annoyed-that could just perhaps be the foosers at the tournaments. I know I've got a few enemies in the Nubbert family for instance. Unfortunately we get recognised quite often now at our local and they even put a photo of us up above the table holding trophies, almost as a warning hehe, so our hustling days are over.

#### **9. Your dad obviously has a reputation of being anti-snake, but where do you stand on it – is it boring/cheating/the devil's shot, or is it the ultimate expression of pure foos ability? (I do accept it is possible your view may be somewhere between these extremes!)**

Well, when I first started competing the game was very snake orientated. My first thoughts were 'gee, this is impossible how do I stop this?!' and 'this is certainly not as much fun as playing at the Barrels'. Also, knowing my dad's opinion of how it used to be much more fun to play and watch before this shot was used, I quickly began to dislike it. I then found myself not enjoying some of my



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### Sarah Brice (continued)

games, which is a massive rarity for me. In fact I remember feeling quite bitter at one point and didn't come to a tournament for over a year. However I realised if I actually wanted to compete again I'm going to have to suck it up and understand this devil shot. Now after lots of people offering great advice and me really taking the time to think about the shot, I began to figure it out and now feel like I actually have a pretty good snake defence. Now when they pin the ball, instead of cursing the shot in my head I'm thinking bring it on! Getting here was tough and agonising, but I have even warmed to the shot enough to learn it myself.

My dad and I frequently debate this. We agree that it is definitely boring and takes a lot of the fun out of the game, so if someone doesn't want to face it or even take the time to try and understand it then fair enough, I can completely understand. What I hate the most is seeing new people play and having a great time then to have someone challenge them at which they just continuously shoot a snake. They of course have absolutely no idea how to defend it, and usually have to wait half an hour for them to pin the ball, causing their enthusiasm to fade. There are 100's of keen players at colleges that I have been to which all seem to have a similar opinion about the shot, basically what I described above, and it is rather frustrating that their thoughts can't get heard. Although I am not saying I have a solution for this either. My dad's No-Snake tournament was held for these students, of whom the majority decided they don't have time or money to make this stand.

I think the shot does require a bit of a new thought process for those who aren't used to it. I don't really agree with those who think they're just complaining because they can't stop it. Plenty of players use just one shot which is hard to block and people are usually still impressed by them, or at least enjoy the struggle to find a successful defence. I can't really sit on the fence more than that, but basically I don't mind facing the shot myself anymore, but I don't think it does this fun, exciting and jolly game justice.

**Excellent reply there. Pretty much sums up my personal thoughts on the issue. Well apart from the bit about debating this with my dad a lot, admittedly.**

**10. Your sister is a very good player as well. How much rivalry do you have? And how important to developing your skills was it to have her around?**

No, there is no rivalry really. She's less serious about the game than I am and we really differ in our passion for the tournaments. She's very happy for me though when I do well, and is still definitely good enough to thrash the average guy down the pub. If it wasn't for her I really don't think I would have got this far. Louise would never practise or analyse shots with me (in fact she'll tap her foot in disgust when I'd try to) but was always there for me when it matters-with an awesome night and a great atmosphere of fun silly foos.

**11. Who is your toughest opponent?**

At the moment I'm thinking of Jody Walding's face when I'm practising and banging in my shots hehe. This has changed throughout my foosball career, I've lost count of how many voodoo dolls I've stuck pins in throughout the years. I feel we have a rather large group of women to worry about, but at the moment Jody has the strongest 3 bar which has got her winning quite consistently. When Jody gets her game adjusted nicely to tornado I'm screwed!



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### Sarah Brice (continued)

#### 12. What are your aspirations for the coming year?

I'm practising a lot more now I have eager practice buddies, including honorary Keele member Bobby Moss, and I am determined to have a decent, if not a killer 3 bar within the year. I hope to make a couple of international tournaments, but mainly I just want to improve my game to a top SP standard.

It's my final year of uni next year however, so I'm going to try and focus on more practice and fewer tournaments...well, that's the plan.

#### 13. And finally, do you have any pre-tournament rituals?

Haha, I try not to have a drink if I have important matches coming up. I'm a little concerned that I could be at the stage where I want early nights to feel good the next day, but who am I kidding-I have far too much fun with you guys!

# Bonzini Worlds 2008

The Bonzini World Championship Series was held at Eaubonne in the first weekend of May. Stand out performances include Rob Atha reaching a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Open Doubles (with Tim Ludwig), coupled with a great 9<sup>th</sup> in the singles, on what is not Rob's preferred table.

Britain managed to beat Romania in the first round of the Nation's Cup, however lost to a very strong Denmark team in the next round.

As usual Frederic Collignon was in awesome form, managing to double up with the Open Singles and Doubles competitions (where he was partnered by Arturo Carletto).

Estelle Kerkhof of France took the Women's Singles crown. Kerkhof, accompanied by Alice Denmanivong, also won the doubles.

The next WCS competition will be Tecball on July 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, in Aschaffenburg, Germany while the Garlando Worlds are to be held the following week on July 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> in Tulln, Austria.

Later in the year the Roberto-Sport WCS will be held on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September in Giubiasco, Switzerland. The Tornado WCS will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas.

A strong British presence is expected at the Garlando and Tornado tournaments, although there could well be vacancies in the British team at the Tecball and Roberto-Sport Championships. Contact Boris Atha if you are planning on attending these tournaments to discuss eligibility for the British team.



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## ITSF Master Series

### Hereford Open Results

#### Open Singles

- 1 Rob Atha
- 2 Michael Blazic
- 3 Tom Burdett

#### Master's Doubles

- 1 Rob Atha & Juj Sohi
- 2 Joe Hamilton & Boris Atha
- 3 Pawel Sielski & Filip Kubiawicz

#### Senior Singles

- 1 Dave Ziemann
- 2 Martyn Harris
- 3 Chris Haddon

#### No-Pro Singles

- 1 Dan Kingston
- 2 Andrei Russell-Gebbett
- 3 David Morgan

#### Pro-Am

- 1 Joe Hamilton & Phil Hill
- 2 Rob Davey & Alun Oates
- 3 John Shovelton & Grzegorz Zakowski

#### Junior Singles

- 1 Tom Nubbett
- 2 Richard Potts
- 3 James Coomber

#### Semi-Pro Doubles

- 1 Dan Kingston & Simon Yeung
- 2 George Eid & George Eid Jr
- 3 Sarah Brice & Rob Moss

#### Open Doubles

- 1 Rob Atha & Juj Sohi
- 2 Pawel Sielski & Filip Kubiawicz
- 3 Boris Atha & Joe Hamilton

#### Women's Singles

- 1 Sarah Brice
- 2 Jody Walding
- 3 Mayya Racy

#### Master's Singles

- 1 John Shovelton
- 2 Joe Hamilton
- 3 Michael Blazic

#### Women's Doubles

- 1 Olga Lasecka & Tessa Otten
- 2 Mayya Racy & Caroline Wong
- 3 Louise Brice & Sarah Brice

#### No-Pro Doubles

- 1 Cezary Bdzikot & Paul Kalsi
- 2 Robert Moss & Andrei Russell-Gebbett
- 3 Rich Marsh & Colin Fallon

#### Senior Doubles

- 1 Martyn Harris & Chris Bulley
2. Mike Fowler & Chris Haddon
3. Dave Ziemann & Tich Degun

#### Amateur Doubles

- 1 Colin Fallon & Rich Marsh
- 2 Rob Kay & Joe Bundy
- 3 Mark Nubbett & Tom Nubbett

#### Mixed Doubles

- 1 Rob Atha & Olga Lasecka
- 2 Jon May & Sarah Brice
- 3 Tessa Otten & Filip Kubiawicz



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# Floatel Results

### Open Singles

- 1 Rob Atha
- 2 Tom Burdett
- 3 Joe Hamilton

### DYP

- 1 Tom Burdett & John Shovelton
- 2 Dave Bareham & Rob Kay

### Master's Doubles

1. Rob Atha & Tamas Beh
2. Alex Shovelton & John Shovelton
3. Rob Davey & Dave Bareham

### Amateur Singles

- 1 Dave Lawlor
- 2 Shafiq Hanif

### Semi-Pro Singles

- 1 Simon Yeung
- 2 Shafiq Hanif

### 2-Ball Rollerball

1. Rob Atha & Olga Lasecka
2. Jon May & Rob Davey
- 3 Alex Shovelton & John Shovelton

### Open Doubles

- 1 Rob Atha & Norman Clooney
- 2 Mike Amsden & Tom Burdett
- 3 Joe Hamilton & Tamas Beh

### Women's Doubles

1. Louise Herring & Olga Lasecka
2. Mayya Racy & Sarah Brice
3. Cath Brown & Jody Walding

### Semi-Pro Doubles

- 1 Shafiq Hanif & Gregorz Zakowski
- 2 Dave Lawlor & Olga Lasecka
- 3 Simon Yeung & Jo Bundy

### Amateur Doubles

- 1 Shafiq Hanif & Gregorz Zakowski
- 2 Adam Bushell & Scott Walding
- 3 Jody Walding & Olga Lasecka

### Mixed Doubles

1. Shafiq Hanif & Mei
2. Tom Burdett & Mayya Racy



**May Newsletter 2008**

# **Bolton Open**

Boris Atha, Rileys and the BFA Present

## **Bolton Garlando Open**

Friday 23/Saturday 24 May 2008

### **Rileys Bolton**

393 Blackburn Road  
Astley Bridge  
Bolton  
BL1 8NH

12x Garlando Tables

### **Friday 23 May**

9pm DYP

### **Sat 24 May**

11am - AD/SPD (mutually exclusive)

1pm - OS

4pm - OD

6pm - WS

8pm - ND/WD\*

### **Entry Fees**

DYP - £5 per person

AD - £5 per person

SPD - £10 per person

OS - Nov £5, Am/SP £10, Pro/PM £15

OD - Nov £5, Am/SP £10, Pro/PM £15

WS/WD\* - Nov £3, Am £5, SP/P/PM £10

ND\* - Free to those with packages, £3 for others



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# Bolton Open

### Registration Fees

New or Provisional BFA Members - £7 for Sat or £10 for both days

BFA Full Members - £6 for Sat or £9 for weekend

(of which £5/£8 = table fees, £1 BFA provisional-membership and £1 officiating fee)

### Package Deals (including registration-fees)

PM/Pro/SP - £35 (women £40)

Am - £25 (women £30)

Nov £20 (women get WS free)

DYP & WD not included in packages.

Payouts 80% payback of entry fees (balance to cover trophies and other expenses).

No prize fund for Novice Doubles (if held).

All finals and the WBF/LBF of open events are to be refereed (to give refs experience).

AD/SPD exclusivity, the aim is to get these competitions out of the way early to minimise conflicts, so the tournament does not run over to Sunday. It also allows us to run the events simultaneously.

\*A Non-exclusive Novice Doubles may be added later in the day (say 8pm when tables might come free), or if turnouts are lower than expected, to cater for the local players (min 4 teams). Could have a very low entry fee and no prize fund - trophies only...

May also hold WD if enough demand and time/resources permit, if so may be exclusive with ND.

### Formats

DYP - Depends on turnout but to finish Friday night, starting point 2/5 1/9

AD/SPD - 1/7 Groups plus 2/5 SE KO

OS/OD/WS - 2/5 2/5 (2/5 1/9 if turnout high)

ND - 1/7 DE

Match formats dependent on turnout. AD/SPD proposed as groups plus SE knockout to save time and avoid conflicts. OS/OD proposed as best of 3 in both brackets, but losers bracket can be reduced to 1/9 if turnout is high.

AD/SPD KOs - top two teams from each group qualify for KO, plus any team losing no more one match (i.e. where top 3 teams on equal points no team will lose out on GD). KO seeded by goal average.



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### Telford's Warehouse Doubles Competition

Telford's Warehouse of Chester, held a doubles competition on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

A good turnout of 9 teams led to a lot of competitive matches.

Slovakian's Vlado and Tyro took the final from local chefs Andy and Tom.



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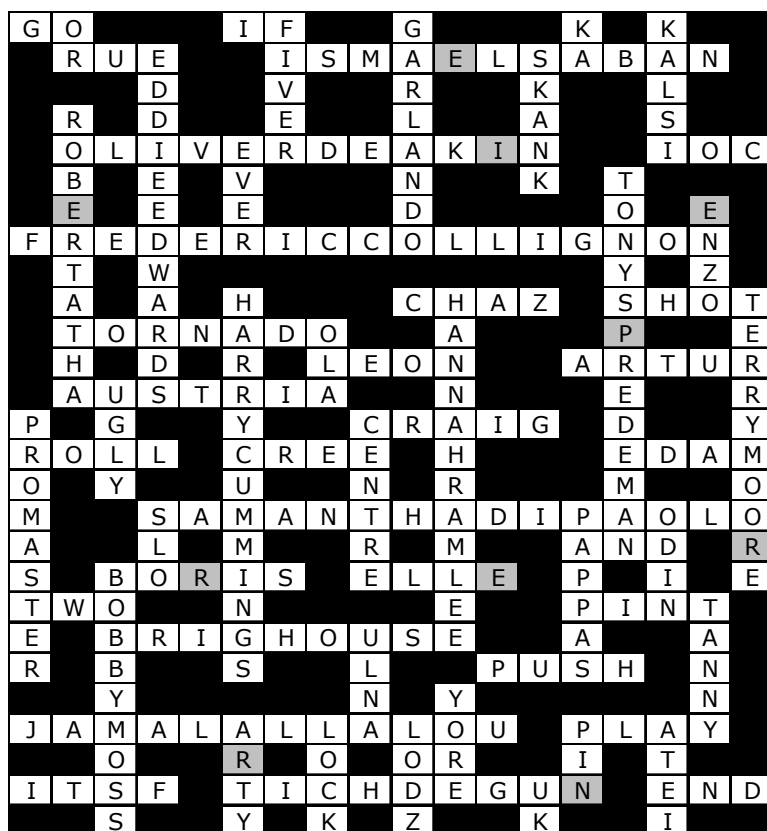
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# May Newsletter 2008

## April Competition Results

Boris Atha devised a great crossword last month with the shaded letters being able to rearrange into something table football related. It was one of the trickiest competitions yet. As Dave Morgan put it – too many eeeeees.



The letters did spell out “Rene Pierre”, and the winner of the April competition who wins free entry to Open events at the Bolton ITSF Pro Tour event is **Dave Bareham** from Bristol.

The turnout for this competition was once again abysmally poor. Some would say that it sums up the apathy of the UK table football scene at the moment.

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Edited by Dan Gallon

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