



British Foosball Association

October Newsletter 2007

UK MASTERS RESULTS

**MANCHESTER OPEN
ANNOUNCED**

**DAVE BAREHAM
INTERVIEWED**



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Contents:

2-3. Dave Bareham

4-7. UK Masters Results and Report

8. Manchester Tornado Open (MTO)

9-10. Larry Davies Article on ITSF

11. Tornado WCS Report

12-13. MTO organiser Antony Kay Interviewed

13. Shorts

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October Newsletter 2007

Dave Bareham

Dave has developed into one of the top defenders in the game on both Tornado and Garlando as well as having a filthy singles game.

How did you get started playing?

I started playing about 5 years ago at Cirencester College. I didn't study much and there wasn't that much to do in the area. There were (hopefully there still are) 2 of Geoff Brice's garlando tables in the refectory. I played with a group of friends and when we became the best in college we obviously thought that we were awesome. Then Geoff came in to service the tables and destroyed us all. He told us about the Oxford V tournament. I went to that and saw Rob, Lazslo etc and I was inspired to go to more tournaments.

How much time do you spend playing?

I don't play as much as I used to since getting a job last month. I used to play at least an hour a day most days. Now I'm lucky if I can play once a week against other people and get in maybe an hour a week of solo practice. No wonder I misexecute everything.

Do you have any specific practice or training regimes?

Not really. I chuck a ball in and practice a bit of everything until I get distracted.

What do your uni-mates think of your foos obsession - is it cool or just sad? And are they bitten with the foos bug at all?

Well the usual response that I get is of course something like "They have tournaments for foosball? No way!". I don't think people see it as particularly cool or sad. It's just a game that some people enjoy playing. Most people are quite curious as to how the world of foosball works. Lots of people are reasonably interested and play a few games on my table, but nobody is into it enough to buy a table or go to a tournament.

What's your favourite moment in foosball?

My best moment in foosball has to be the OD final at the Woxford Open. It felt great to finally win an OD event after me and Joe having had so many near misses. Also good to have an all Bristol final too.

And your worst moment?

The only negative memories I ever have from foosball tournaments are when there are arguments, whether I am involved in them or not. It just ruins a good game. I know if there is genuine disagreement then disputes are bound to occur, but sometimes they go too far.

Aspirations for this year?

I would like to make an impact at an international tournament. I am gutted that I can't make the tornado worlds this year, but maybe there will be other tournaments where we can get a good group of Brits going.



October Newsletter 2007

Dave Bareham (cont)



Dave – pictured at the recent UK Masters Event

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Toughest Opponent?

Well besides Rob I would say that Juj is my toughest opponent. Unlike most players he always seems comfortable playing slow or fast paced games, which is quite a tough skill to master. He always seems to put in a strong performance regardless of opponent, position, table type etc.

Where do you rate UK foos on the International scene?

Obviously Rob is our only genuinely world class player. However I think that there are about a dozen other players who are capable of beating pretty much anybody given the right conditions. I think our own games have improved massively over the last 2-3 years. We just need more experience playing on different tables and against different playing styles. If we can get used to playing against a greater variety of styles of play then I think many of us could do very well on the international scene.

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

I would keep the warzone. I think since it was introduced the rest of the forum has improved as a result. We didn't get sponsorship before we had the warzone and I don't think taking it away will help.

Any finally do you have any pre-tournament rituals?

I have a lucky lobster.



October Newsletter 2007

UK MASTERS

RESULTS

Open Singles

1. Rob Atha
2. Joe Hamilton
3. Rob Davey

Women's Singles

1. Caroline Wong
2. Hannah Ramlee
3. Donna Walker

Semi-Pro Singles

1. Rob Davey
2. Tom Burdett
3. Blonky Bains

Rookie Singles

1. Charles Allen
2. Lukasz Bicki
3. Richard Bindloss

Goalie War

1. Rob Atha
2. Alex Shovelton
3. Olga Lasecka

Open Doubles

1. Rob Atha & John Shovelton
2. Tom Burdett & Dave Bareham
3. Alex Shovelton & Joe Hamilton

Women's Doubles

1. Caroline Wong & Olga Lasecka
2. Louise Brice & Sarah Brice
3. Donna Walker & Hannah Ramlee

Semi-Pro Doubles

1. Rob Davey & Tom Burdett
2. James Harrold & Joe Latimer
3. Steve Lyall & Shafiq Haniff

Rookie Doubles

1. Luke Ashley & Andrew Nubbert
2. Chris Haddon & Grzegorz Zakowski
3. Ben Mason & Sarah Brice

Mixed Doubles

1. Olga Lasecka & Alex Shovelton
2. Tich Degun & Penelope Cruz
3. Joe Hamilton & Cai Mei Khoo

DYP

1. Les Jones & Martyn Harris
2. Rob Kay & Artur Chojecki
3. Ben Mason & Oli Deakin



October Newsletter 2007

UK MASTERS REPORT

– Ben Mason

(BFA Vice-Chairman)

This year's Floatel saw a slightly different feel pre-tournament. With the immanent news of this prestigious venue's demolition, many people made the effort to come and grace the warped floorboards one last time.

For those who arrived early on the Friday they were met by the laughing face of "our Eddie" overalls on putting the finishing touches to the tables whilst laying on the cheer and welcomes thick and fast. A balmy evening on the Terrace and an easy paced Goalie wars tournament led to a relaxed enjoyable evening. Many people took the few empty tables as opportunity to practice, reminding us all of the benefits of table fees as opposed to "pay to play" tournaments. The Goalie Wars event lasted only a few hours and saw the pre-event favourite Rob Atha take 1st with Alex Shovelton 2nd and Olga Lasecka 3rd.

As appears to be the norm, the latter hours of Friday were filled with mostly responsible drinking and some friendly poker. The Friday poker tournament saw Ben Mason taking second and John "Queen, Ten" Shovelton taking a commanding first.

Richard Bindloss



© Dave Ziemann

Cai Mei Khoo



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October Newsletter 2007

UK MASTERS

REPORT

Saturday morning came around with an assured abruptness and hazy heads made their way to the games room to register for the day's events. The first event of the day was Rookie Singles which saw some furious play and a few outbursts. The eventual winner was Chaz Allen (winner of Sub 1050 @ HTO in April). 2nd and 3rd were taken by Lukasz Bicki and Richard Blindloss respectfully. Open singles with a total of 55 entrants started roughly on time a few rounds in and the sad news of Dave Ziemann's retirement from all weekend's events was announced. Following a chat with Dave, his shoulder and neck were giving him large amounts of pain and he felt to carry on would only make things worse. This however was better news for Joe Latimer and Donna Walker who both benefited from walkovers. The "Bristol massive" represented themselves extremely well with Alex Shovelton and Dave Bareham the lowest placed Bristolians finishing 9th and 13th respectfully. The top three also contained 2 Bristolians, Rob Davey 3rd and Joe "Kid foos" Hamilton 2nd, with the Magician from Wigan Rob Atha 1st.

Les Jones



© Dave Ziemann

Late afternoon saw the endless cash poker game still in action with many poker regulars gambling from 10am till 8 pm.

Adam Bushell



© Dave Ziemann

Women's Singles was a smaller contest with only 7 entries, however the seven was of high quality and provided some fantastic clashes, notably Wong and Brice and the outcome favouring Caroline Wong. Caroline went on to take 1st place with Hannah Ramlee 2nd and Donna Walker 3rd also on the podium. Semi Pro singles kicked off with 1 name being mentioned for the winner's position and there was no shock with Rob Davey taking a convincing first place. Semi Pro Singles also saw the return of Blonky Baines who took 3rd, with Tom Burdett taking 2nd. Open Doubles was a late start on the Saturday night with only a few rounds being played. It did however see the return of the much missed Dave Perrott playing with rookie Ben Mason who together took a surprising 9th. Open Doubles was another well fought contest with 4 Bristolians making up six players of the top 3 pairs. The top three in reverse order were; Joe Hamilton and Alex Shovelton, Dave Bareham and Tom Brudett, Rob Atha and John Shovelton.



October Newsletter 2007

UK MASTERS

REPORT

Saturday night at the Floatel has been the background for many an apocryphal tale but this is an experience we will all miss with the type of certainty that goes hand in hand that night follows day. After four hours of guitar sing-along and a sleep breaking rendition of "Hey Jude", the hour was early morning as these revelers went to bed for what can at best been 4 hours sleep.

Sunday's events were thick and fast with Rookie Doubles and Semi Pro doubles taking place at the same time. Rookie doubles favourites Chaz Allen and Simon Yeung made a shock 2 and out exit which threw open the field. The Top 3 placing were; Luke Ashley and Andrew Nubbert 1st, Chris Haddon and Gregorz Zakowski 2nd, Ben Mason and Sarah Brice 3rd. Semi Pro doubles was won by the very strong pairing of Rob Davey and Tom Burdett. James Harrold and Joe Latimer, Steve Lyall and Shafiq Haniff finishing 2nd and 3rd respectfully.

A last minute change to entry restrictions allowed players to enter both Masters' Doubles and Mixed Doubles; with two small fields this did not create too many queued games. These two events saw the Shovelton brothers both taking first place crowns, Alex Shovelton and Olga Lasecka taking 1st in Mixed with, John Shovelton and Rob Atha taking 1st in Masters' Doubles.

Three ladies teams made up the Women's' doubles competition with Caroline Wong and Ola Lasecka taking first place in a close fought final from the Brice girls.

By now many people had decided to make the long journey home leaving only a dozen or so people in the games room. Those not still in events were allowed to enter a DYP which saw 4 teams compete, Martyn Harris (another Bristolian) and Les Jones took this title with a cunning blend of slop and experience.

A big thank you must go out to Eddie and Bengie for all their efforts getting this event on. I'm sure many of us will be sad to see the Floatel go as it has become a Mecca for foos each September, however, keep your eyes peeled for more tournaments in the North of England with Eddie promising to hold a tournament once they have finished the new Floatel being built down the road. Also on behalf of all the players at the tournament thanks to those behind the desk, to mention a few, John Shovelton, Matt Cotterill and Chaz Allen.

See you all at the next one,

Mase



October Newsletter 2007

Manchester Tornado Open

Friday 16th-Sunday 18th

November

Riley's American Pool & Snooker Club

City Centre
76-78 Deansgate (Between the Moon Under Water & La Tasca)
Manchester
Lancashire
M3 2FW
(0161) 839 9521

Age restriction is 16+ only. Dress Code is unrestricted for 2007. Held on 10 T2000 tournament specification Tornado tables. 100% payout in all events subject to a minimum turnout of 50 players. All tables will be freeplay. ITSF rules will be used in all events.

EVENT SCHEDULE- All Events Double Elimination

Friday 16th November

10pm Draw Your Partner* (£5 per team)

Saturday 17th November

11am Registration for all events
12pm Rookie Singles
1pm Open Singles
2pm Semi-Pro Singles
4pm Women's Singles
7pm Open Doubles
10pm DYP-Pro-Am-2-Ball-Rollerball (£5 per team)

Sunday 18th November

10am Continuation of Events (if necessary)
11am Rookie Doubles
12pm Semi-Pro Doubles
2pm Women's Doubles
2pm Masters' Doubles (Pro/Pro-Masters only)
5pm Goalie War (£5 per team, time permitting/dependant on helpers to help disassemble the tables)

Entry Fees – as per most current rankings, nationally and internationally

Packages – (Do not include 2Ball Rollerball, DYP or Goalie War)

Rookie £26 (RS, RD, SPS, SPD, OD, OS)

Semi-Pro £35 (SPS, SPD, OS, OD)

Per Event – Unranked £2. Rookie £5, SP £10, P £15, PM £20

For the latest details, all the small print and info on parking etc please check out:

<http://www.britfoos.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=5491>



October Newsletter 2007

LARRY DAVIES

As posted on the www.foosball.com forum,
Larry explains why the ITSF, its rules and
Valley Dynamo are good for the game!

Thanks to the ITSF and in particular the USTSF, foosball has received more public and coin industry media attention in the last 18-24 months than was received in the entire seven years (beginning to end) of the T.S. Million Dollar Tours -- media coverage that has included recent articles in the New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, SportsIllustrated.com, MSNBC, the Washington Post, and global syndication by Associated Press, among others. The ITSF World Cup in Italy was attended by over 50 media representatives and members of the German, Italian and other Olympic Committees, with worldwide coverage by EuroSport (international sports new network similar to ESPN) and was even on Fox News here in the states. At the Hall of Fame Classic last March, there was more media present than any other tournament Valley has run in 35 years, with stories during the tournament run on a number of local Vegas television channels in Vegas papers. If you genuinely looked around at the last few Vegas tourneys, you would have seen them all filming and doing interviews. The same has been true for many of the USTSF/ITSF sanctioned tour events all year. Attached is an email I sent out last Spring with a description of just a portion of the coverage we've gained. There's far more listed on the foosball.com forum. This kind of media coverage generates exposure, both to the public and the media, which in turn draws the attention of potential sponsors, like Corona Light. But it's not just big companies that want exposure in return for sponsorship, since any individual player could show this amount of local, national and international media coverage to obtain their own individual sponsor and the sponsor would likely be delighted to get something more out of their investment than "give me money and I'll wear your logo on my shirt." It was done by countless foosball players in the 1970s, and there's no reason players shouldn't be doing it now. At the same time, the coin industry exposure via all the national and international trade magazines and websites has kept up / revitalized distributor and operator interest in the concept of even putting foosball into a location, which itself is a massive achievement when compared to the revenues distributors, operators and bar owners make from placing alternative games such as video poker and other "fruit" gaming machines instead of a floor space hog like foosball.

Valley-Dynamo does not systematically rip off the rookies. The rookies have a prize fund, which is more than they had on the entire Million Dollar Tour (first place in most tour events for rookie was trophies only). Thanks to Tornado/Valley/Dynamo, since the mid-1980s they not only get prize money but also get package deals, which they (or anybody else) didn't have on the Million Dollar Tour. Blame Tournament Soccer, not Valley-Dynamo, if you want to blame someone for ripping off rookies and novices. And blame nearly all the other promoters for the last 35 years for running their tournaments from DYPs up to tour events at the expense of rookies and semi-pros, because that's what they've been doing. Either way, the Pros & Masters do in fact pay more money to enter most all their events, and thereby incur greater risk, and further have invested a great deal more in training time in getting good and staying good than do rookies. Why shouldn't they have bigger prizes? In what sport do beginners/rookies/ams make as much as the top athletes in the world? Aren't all the rookies in most every other sport also paying into those sports in various ways that all ultimately pays for the top athlete's prizes or massive contracts (not to mention what fans



October Newsletter 2007

LARRY DAVIES

(continued)

pay to just watch those other sports that foosball "fans" don't have to pay at all)? Rookies and even fans in all sports buy into those sports because they enjoy the game and/or want to get better and unlike most any other sport in the world, foosball rookies can go to any pro tour event in the world and not only watch the top players up close and for free, but get to talk with them, ask them questions, and even play against them. And if you want to see a rip-off of a prize breakdown for rookies thru semi-pro in skill levels, take a look at any table tennis, darts, billiards, bowling, or chess tournament prize breakdown. The U.S. Open for Table Tennis, a sport supposedly much "bigger" than foosball, is a laughing stock by comparison.

Uniforms or at a minimum, a dress code are required for nearly every sport that is recognized as a sport, including several closely identified with table soccer such as table tennis, billiards, bowling and more; and foosball itself has a history of dress codes dating back to the Million Dollar Tour. And yes, rookies and novices did emulate the top players' attire. Wiswell and Fury, Bowers and Alwell, Simon and Lott, the entire Arapahoe Foosball Team and more were the standard and indeed, outstanding players all of whom by their and professional demeanor and exemplary team clothing/image somehow found it easy to attract sponsors. But for whatever reason, I guess that's the last thing anyone today would want to do -- even though it might save them the cost of their entries, hotel, travel, or team clothing as it did for me and plenty others in the 1970s.

ITSF is much further along towards being a "recognized sport" by the International Olympic Committee than most people in the USA know, largely because people in the USA don't bother to find out. This year's progress report from the IOC provided several key recommendations for compliance, all of which are standard for any sport seeking IOC recognition, all of which ITSF has duly acted upon, and which all the member federations and manufacturers are required to implement as appropriate. One is standardized rules, another is athlete dress/uniform standards. Sure, even I think the dress code as currently written may be too restrictive, but in fact most of it is nothing that most anyone couldn't and wouldn't wear at home or working out. Regardless, the ITSF now has 50 participating countries each of which has established an organizational and promotional structure that was not there before except for in only a few. These countries are across five continents and the ITSF world pro tour has reached 62 tournaments annually with combined prizes currently about 50% greater than that of the Million Dollar Tour's annual payout. I really can't see anything wrong with such massive expansion of the sport to so many new countries and new player bases and with so many new participants everywhere. In fact, the achievement is extraordinary and something only imagined even in the 1970s. I believe we can embrace this and continue to see growth, progress and greater participation in the sport worldwide, or we can badmouth it, be apathetic, and complain 'til our face is blue and in the end watch our as lack of support results in fewer tables/places to play leaving only trashed out tables in the back of dingy bars, and further watch as the game is systematically replaced by gaming machines and other more profitable use of revenue per square foot.

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October Newsletter 2007

TORNADO WCS

September saw the foos bandwagon pulling into the cultural Mecca of Las Vegas for the Tornado World Championship Series Event. As usual young Bobby Atha was there to lead the British charge, and it was refreshing to see the ever increasing turnout of competitive UK foosers – Cotterill, Davey, Hamilton, Harris and Williams, joined by a brace of Brices and a pair of Irelands finest.

There were two standout performances. First things first and Louise Herring who came back clutching a World Championship Trophy – winning the No-Pro Women's Singles on Sweat Ball. What a fantastic performance from one of top players in the Irish game. As Martyn Harris wrote on the Britfoos forum:

Let no one be in any doubt what this meant to Louise, she herself had no idea whatsoever how emotional she would be after the game and all of her friends couldn't have been more delighted. Ireland, be very, very proud of your new world champion.

Rob Atha is also slowly edging his way into contention at the Tornado Worlds. His performances in the Open events (5th place in both) suggest he is now in the select band of potential winners of this the most competitive of World Championships. However he was closest to Gold in the other Open event – Mixed Doubles. A fantastic 2nd place partnering Melissa Kegg was the highlight of the British performances – foiled only by the unstoppable Frederico Collignon.

Collignon was as usual the star performer – doing the treble – OS, OD with Todd Loffredo and OM with Joy Steward. I think the most admirable thing is the way he goes into every game of every competition he enters believing he should win, has to win and will win, and playing accordingly. Defeat is simply not an option. There is never a lapse of concentration which hits even the best of the UK players (who said Rob Atha at this years Bristol Open...)

The other Brits performed competitively – notably Davey and Hamilton making the last 64 of Open Doubles – no mean feat seeing as they had to take out the 16th ranked team to get that far!

In the team event, an unlucky draw (USA in the first round) was fantastic experience of playing competitive foos, but in the end only UK Captain Atha scored any points, taking his singles match, but the experience of playing "Pit Foos" in front of a room full of Americans will have done wonders for the development of the other members of the UK team

Finally, as it was Las Vegas there were Shows, Food, Drinks and Gambling – you know the score: 'What Happens In Vegas - Stays In Vegas' - well until it appears on the Britfoos forum for all to see





October Newsletter 2007

Manchester Open 2007 – Antony Kay interviewed

What persuaded you to run a tournament?

George Eid! Seriously, I was thinking of hosting a tourney in 2008 when we'd established a firm following in Manchester. However, it quickly became clear that the foosball scene is much stronger down south, and so bringing them up here would help my initial plan to recruit more people to the game. I discussed the idea with Dave Oates and Rob Davey and it's now well on the way.

What events are you planning?

By the time this newsletter goes out, the official announcement will have been made. However, after attending my first tournament, The Masters, and seeing how well organised/selfless devoted foosers can be, I decided to follow that template: OS, OD, RS, RD, WS, WD, SPS, SPD, a DYP and some sort of 2BRB event to make it a little different. With two extra tables, I hope to keep a tight reign on the events timetable.

And how difficult was it to decide on these?

See above – rookies and semi-pros account for the majority of the foosball community: another reason the Masters template is a winner.

How difficult was it to get everything in place? (Tables, venue, trophies, computer equipment)

We had our Tornado installed back in late-March of this year by Foos4Fun, and I've nothing but good things to say about the support they've provided, hence we'll be using their tournament-quality tables. I work in the venue and my manager encourages my enthusiasm for table football and arranges my work hours around my foosing as much as possible. He lets me organise any foosball how I want, and I wanted a foosball tourney. The trophies have been sourced from a reputable local dealer (steady...). Running other competitions in the club means you get to know a few of them over the years. I think most foosballers are into their computers in one way or another, and I'm no different so getting the equipment together was never going to be a problem. I've already had a few offers to help run this side of it. The main thing I was worried about was the lighting. Being a pool club, obviously ambient lighting is low but I've found a way around that so each table will have its own light source.

How are you feeling coming up to the big tournament?

I'm excited at the prospect of getting new players involved. Even my staff are playing, and will be entering at least the rookies events! I've not seen anything like this done in central Manchester, so it will be interesting to see our regular student pool players' reactions to ten tables being set up in the lounge.

How many people would you say are current "regulars" of Riley's in Manchester?

I'd say anywhere between eight and 16 regularly play in Riley's. It isn't easy to get them all on the same night, though.



October Newsletter 2007

Antony Kay Interview (continued)

If you weren't there do you think Riley's would keep a foosball scene?

The scene certainly wouldn't be as prominent as it is now. If it wasn't for my digging up rules for playing on our then-traditional Garlando table, I wouldn't even know who or what the BFA is! This in turn led me to George who pointed me in the right direction and since then I haven't looked back. Now we have two quality tables and a regular weekly slot. I like to think that's progress.

Are you planning on entering, and if so what are your personal aims?

I'll be in it, defo! I don't care particularly how far I get in each event. At the Masters I surprised myself by not going two-and-out in any event I entered, but I think as a newbie with six months table-time on Tornado it's all about learning different styles of play. I found that out at the Masters. In the long-term, I'd like to be one of those players that people would stand there and watch, like Rob Atha. Making the game look simple, fluid, elegant... I think that's key to enticing new players to the game; brush-snake is so boring to watch, in my opinion. Would you rather watch Manchester United or Chelsea play football? And it's not easy for a Bolton fan to say that!

And finally, any lucky charms when you are playing?

I make my own luck! Or maybe it's the prog-rock. Take your pick.

SHORTS

The winners of the September BYP at **The Bush** in Bristol were Mike Amsden and Rob Davey, who survived a double-dip attempt by Joe Hamilton and Alex Shovelton to take the title. It was deserved victory for Mike and Rob, having managed to go through the group stages unbeaten against a high quality field. The next Bush BYP will be held on Thursday, 4th October.

On Saturday September 1st the 4th Bank Shield competition was won by Rob Davey and Mike Amsden who doubled dipped Joe Hamilton and Alex Shovelton in the final. The next Bank Shield event will be held on October 13th.

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