



**British Foosball
Association**
June Newsletter 2009

MASE THE ACE!

Exclusive Interview

And

Report from The Major

XMOS Competition:

Winners and New Competition Announced

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The Major Results

OPEN SINGLES

1. Atha, Rob
2. Moore, Ryan
3. Shovelton, Alex

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Rank Name

1. Racy, Mayya
2. Herring, Louise
3. Brice, Sarah

FORWARD SHOOT OUT

1. Moore, Ryan
2. Addison, Graeme
3. Lawlor, Dave

SENIOR SINGLES

1. Kircher, Hans-Friedrich
2. Ziemann, David
3. O'Rourke, Des

2-BALL RB SUPER-MÊLÉE

1. Hofmann, Rainer
1. Jones, Adam
1. Mason, Benjamin

PRO SINGLES

1. Tkautz, Andreas
2. Esterbauer, Andreas
3. Ziemann, David

OPEN DOUBLES

1. Atha, Rob & Cloney, Norman
2. O'Rourke, Des & Moore, Ryan
3. Burdett, Tom & Amsden, Mike

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

1. Lasecka, Olga & Herring, Louise
2. Racy, Mayya & Walding, Jody
3. Brice, Sarah & Kraus, Natasha

OPEN MIXED

1. Fogarty, Sharon & Moore, Ryan
2. Atha, Rob & Lasecka, Olga
3. Hamilton, Joe & Kraus, Natasha

SENIOR DOUBLES

1. Ziemann, David & Kircher, Hans-Friedrich
2. Haddon, Christopher & Oates, Dave
3. Bulley, Chris & Harris, Martyn

MASTER'S DOUBLES

1. Moore, Ryan & Esterbauer, Andreas
2. Bareham, Dave & Davey, Rob
3. Hamilton, Joe & Blazic, Michael

PRO DOUBLES

- 1 Nubbert, Andrew & Bareham, Dave
- 2 Herring, Louise & Ziemann, David
- 3 May, Jonathan & Lyall, Stephen



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The Major Results

NO-PRO SINGLES

1. Hofmann, Rainer
2. Deakin, Oliver
3. Yeung, Simon

SEMI-PRO SINGLES

1. Bloch, Giles
2. Hofmann, Rainer
3. Marsh, Richard

AMATEUR SINGLES

1. Nubbert, Thomas
2. Addison, Graeme
3. Nubbert, Mark

NOVICE SINGLES

1. Sampson, Luke
2. Fogarty, Sharon
3. Marcek, Andres

HANDICAPPED DOUBLES

1. Atha, Rob & Bareham, Dave
2. Hamilton, Joe & Amsden, Mike
3. Bundy, Joe & Lyall, Stephen

NO-PRO DOUBLES

1. Kim, Jeeha & Nubbert, Thomas
2. Deakin, Oliver & Ramlee, Hannah
3. Bundy, Joe & Potts, Richard

SEMI-PRO DOUBLES

1. Lyall, Christopher & Marsh, Richard
2. Bloch, Giles & Brown, Catherine
3. Brice, Sarah & Moss, Robert

AMATEUR DOUBLES

1. Addison, Graeme & Nubbert, Mark
2. Jenkins, Simon & Curtis, Tom
3. Kim, Jeeha & Nubbert, Thomas

NOVICE DOUBLES

1. Rathke, Joules & Petr, Tomas
2. Glavin, Damian & Fogarty, Sharon
3. Wheeler, Steve & Trapmore, Andrew

PRO-AM

1. Kim, Jeeha & May, Jonathan
2. Glavin, Damian & Moore, Ryan
3. Sampson, Luke & Hamilton, Joe



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The Major Report

Eurosport commentator Chris Lyall reports exclusively in the BFA Newsletter on the Major.

Chris commented on the recent coverage of the ITSF WCS for Eurosport 2, providing the expert analysis on table football tactics and skills and bringing awareness of the intricacies of the game to a whole new audience.

It has been well documented that people attend tournaments for a wide variety of reasons – some come simply for the fun of playing table football, others come for the intense competition and many come largely for the social side of the event. Rarely does a tournament manage to satisfy such a wide range of outlooks as thoroughly as UK Foosball Promotions' 'The Major' early last July managed to.

Set in the secluded Warren's Holiday Village of Clevedon roughly 10 miles outside of Bristol, this tournament combined Ben Mason's somewhat signature system of tight format events with good scheduling and financial management to ensure that people could enjoy their own tournament experience.

For the Pros there was a high turnout, long open event format against strong competition and a generous prize fund. The less serious players were free to enjoy the highest quality of tornado tables to be found in the UK, and the preference for group stage followed by single elimination knockouts ensured that there were always a lot of games to be played against a wide variety of opponents. For the social players Warrens provided its own amusements besides the foosball and the bar was open all day.

Friday began in early afternoon without too much delay with the Forward Shoot-Out, a somewhat rare event but interesting as a practice for the more serious ones to follow. Stateside celebrity Ryan 'Mind Games' Moore managed to edge past Oxford grad student Graeme Addison to take this one and claim the first medal of the day.

Shortly to follow that afternoon were more of the comparatively minor warm-up events - Pro Am, Senior Singles and Doubles, Master Doubles, and No Pro Doubles. It must be said that the day was somewhat let down by the lack of a DYP – Friday traditionally being the social introduction of any tournament felt more like another standard day tacked on to the front. The international crowd present probably appreciated this though and were impressive in number.

Saturday saw a hurried start to Open Singles as well as a slew of other events to fill up the time. One couldn't help but feel that while UKFP clearly meant well in providing Amateur Singles, Semi-Pro Singles and No-Pro Singles all on the same day, it may have been less stressful and altogether more fulfilling to drop the extra events and allow players more pickup time on tables.



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The Major Report (continued)

The group stage qualification system was also abused a little to speed things up resulting in some players feeling hard done by. Besides this though there was little to complain about – the registration process was simple and quick, games were hurried on where they could be and the formats were largely adhered to.

Results-wise Alex Shovelton has proven that he really does play his best table football against internationals on Tornado, finishing an impressive 3rd in Open Singles, beaten in the Losers' Final by Rob Atha who then went on to play the match of the year against Ryan Moore, double-dipping the American to take the gold. The day culminated in a Swiss 2BRB competition which was largely unattended – everyone too tired maybe?

Open Doubles was the main event of Sunday and things proceeded much as they did the day before, though some of our more frail pro-masters were evidently beginning to feel the strain, often needing to be coaxed away from the poker tables, cigarettes and in some cases out of bed by forceful blasts of derision across the PA system.

As well as the Federer/Roddick match projected across the room, it was again Rob Atha and Ryan Moore that excited the crowds with their Open Final. Rob, together with Irish star Norm Clooney, fresh from beating Tom Burdett and Mike Amsden in a noteworthy Floatel '08 reprisal, managed to again double-dip Ryan Moore and fellow Irish partner Des O'Rourke to claim the title.

A fine way to end such a high-profile Master Series event, and encouraging viewing in lieu of the UK's push towards a stronger international status.

Altogether a very enjoyable tournament – we can only look anxiously at next year to see what new delights UKFP might have in store for us.





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The XMOS FoosTech Ideas Competition 2009

The [XMOS](#) FoosTech Ideas Competition 2009
In association with the Oxford International Open 2009



www.xmos.com

In April 2009 XMOS announced the FoosTech Ideas Competition 2009. The competition received a large number of high-quality entries from all over the world. We would like to thank all of those who entered.

The competition was judged on commercial potential, innovation and creativity. The top entries were very hard to separate. In the end, the judges agreed that one of the ideas – a very simple concept – represented the goals of the competition most accurately, with considerable commercial potential and vision.

Therefore the XMOS FoosTech Ideas Competition 2009 winner is:

Ben Mason

– for his entry based on a speedometer and display system built into a commercial table.

The runners up receive \$150 of free kit from the XMOS store. They are:

Chris Haigh and Jee Ha Kim

The presentation was made at The Major ITSF Master Series tournament in Bristol by XMOS CTO David May on Saturday July 4th.

For those who did not win the competition, this is not the end. After the success of the Ideas Competition, XMOS is sponsoring the FoosTech Create Competition – to actually build an enhancement to a foosball table using XMOS technology. The prize for the winning entry is £500... and a brand new Fireball foosball table! Keep reading overleaf for more information!



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The XMOS FoosTech Create Competition 2009

The [XMOS](http://www.xmos.com) FoosTech Create Competition 2009



www.xmos.com

XMOS and Fireball are delighted to announce the FoosTech Create Competition 2009. The challenge is to build an improvement or enhancement to a foosball table that incorporates XMOS technology.

The prize for the best entry is £500 and a brand new Fireball table.

The competition runs in two Phases (you can join in at the second Phase if you want). In Phase 1, you submit a brief description of your idea and your team for the chance to get up to £140 in financial support for your project. In Phase 2, you build your demonstration project. The deadline for Phase 1 is the end of July, Phase 2 in early October. (NB due to publication deadlines for this newsletter the deadline for Phase 1 is already past.)

More information can be found at xmos.com/foostech.

The competition is open to absolutely everyone - and you can team up as you wish. The competition is even open to XMOS internal staff... so if you have a great idea but no technical knowledge, head on to the Xlinkers.org forums and ask for help - you might find a partner!

Additional information and clarification regarding this event will be posted on the Britfoos forum. Keep an eye on:

<http://forum.britfoos.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=7685>



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Ben “Mase” Mason

Interview

Mase is the driving force behind UK Foosball Promotions, and has organised many of the most successful tournaments of the last few years.

1. How did you get started playing?

Like many a Herefordian male I was in the Barrels when I spotted two girls wearing next to nothing playing table football. My attention was caught, especially as the two guys playing were losing, “fools” I thought. I approached placed a 20p, little did I know that would be the end of my life as I knew it. Those girls (the Brices) stuffed me and my mate John 8-1. However I did realise that the game was awesome fun and returned nearly every night for a month armed with 20ps. From there I made acquaintance with various Barrel regulars and Sarah told me to check out Britfoos. The rest as they say.....

2. You are a player that has managed to make great improvements since you started. What has been the most important influence do you think: Practicing alone, playing with some of the highest ranked UK players regularly or just regularly playing against anyone and everyone whenever you get the chance - or of course any other reason?

In the beginning, the biggest influences in foosball for me were the videos of a young braggart who posted on the forum with disdain to newcomers and irreverence towards his brother. Upon meeting Alex ([Shovelton](#)) I found out this was his actual personality as well as his online persona. At my first tournament he was really helpful and encouraging, as were Mark Williams and Bobby Moss. This cemented the passion.

As time passed I got no better, I was just as bad after 4 months as I was after 3 years. I didn't have a table and never practiced, went to tournaments and got beaten regularly, BUT I had a great time with friends and had the odd good game.

I struck a friendship in that time with Joe Hamilton who quickly became one of my closest friends, I'd drive to Bristol and we'd play for a couple of hours, he would give me advice on how to play, I wouldn't listen then we would go out and party/gamble. 18months later we up moved in with Dave Bareham (massive player in turning my game around and really should be interviewed next, has some very interesting thoughts on Foos ([Interviewed in 2008](#))) and Chris Hutton (probably the most natural 5 bar I've ever seen). The four of us played hours of foosball and I improved. However still no method to what I was doing.

The inevitable happened.....VEGAS....we discussed it for ages (35seconds) then booked the flights and we were set. We practiced loads, my snake was really good and I shot ok from the back. We arrived in Vegas and I encountered my two biggest inspirations. A guy called Ron (no idea of the surname) warmed up against me, whilst he was bent over passing, he mumbled through a crooked smile said “great snake buddy, you come here for FSO?” To which I laughed gently as I didn't really get what he was talking about. He stood up, looked at me and said “I mean you ain't never getting it up front unless you reach in and pick it up, your 5 bar sucks” he then smiled a big smile and walked off. He was right, in 6 events I won 5 games. Shot about 70% but never got the ball so what did it matter.



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Ben “Mase” Mason

Interview

(Continued)

The second being a guy many of you will have heard of ICEMAN, he is a kind and clever man, showed me properly how to wrist the ball not palm it, changed my stance for my snake and really just educated me and my game in an hour. He still is a massive help, via facebook he gives me help with the mental side of the game.

This could easily turn in to an 8-page story on Vegas but I'll stick to the point. I came home and started to practice my 5 a little and then some more. I now enjoy Foosball far more and passing is the secret. At the Major this year I played really well in OS (lost 5-3 in the third to an on fire JeeHa) SPS (5th) and OD (9th Dave B was awesome) and this is due to the change of thought as to what I should practice. Since the event I have practiced about 30 minutes a day, mainly 2 bar shooting and 5-bar passing. The biggest thing for me now I suppose is the regular practice I get against Dave Bareham (got to be the best defender in the UK), keeps me sharp and offers up different challenges. Foos has also become more of a family thing now Vicki enjoys it too, try to have a dozen games of goalie wars each week and the way she has come on and enjoys it makes me enjoy it more too.

3. You regularly organise tournaments. Why do you bother - what motivates you to take all the hassle and organisational headache?

I detest the new Garlando ball so have no wish to play on the table, before the change I was in talks with Karlos to host a Garlando event (cest la vie). Tornado tournaments would not have happened this year if UKFP had not got involved. F4F would not have hired their tables to others as they have come back mistreated in the past and they had no wish to put on their own events as they got little help with tables.

Why do I organise them, simple answer, I love Foosball. The more complex answer I wrote then removed, it really depends what day I'm writing this as to my justification. So I'll try another but shorter one with less vitriol and bitterness to people who constantly make me question “why do I bother”.

Foosballs growth is dependent on 3 things.

- 1) Interest being generated (pubs, schools and clubs)
- 2) Cultivation of interest (Brit Foos, regular haunts, skills demos and the like)
- 3) Tournaments. I see that by hosting events I am helping with this process. Seeing new players attend one of my events always makes me very happy and I try to make them feel that they have spent money the right way (lots of events and plenty of fun).

There is a lot of hassle organising events but it is made easier with people like the Shovs. Alex does my flyers, never said no yet and John helps with player registration and the prize fund. Without these two my life would be a lot harder. I don't think anyone truly understand how much time and energy John Shovelton puts in and saves me as a result.



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Ben “Mase” Mason

Interview

(Continued)

A couple of things really grind me to the point where I don't understand how I haven't hit the people acting in that way.

1) If you come to an event and you come to play then bloody well PLAY. Don't sit there and wait for the third recall, you are rude and selfish. It's disgusting behaviour. These are the same people usually that moan when they get scratched or lose the toss. Go play in America see what happens.

2) Constant criticism of the formats. These have been chosen for a reason (in my case, usually advertised before hand). If you don't like them, then don't come. The simple truth is that short formats do allow slop to be more influential, but stopping slop is a skill. If you win the toss, pass and score five times in a race to five you win. Don't blame the formats for losing to slop! That said I would like to have had 4-6 more tables so I could have lengthened the format in the SE to best of 3.

3) Bring the damn results to the desk. There were 5 occasions at the Major where people who had won didn't return the results for over 15 minutes after the game had finished. One person twice went straight from their game to eat and didn't return the result. This holds the events up massively.

4) People keep coming to the desk saying, “who do I have next?”. Look I understand you want to know but we have other stuff going on. As a young Joe Calzaghe once said “the order doesn't bother me, I just have to beat who ever is put in front of me next”. Having said that I have two monitor pc's so that people will be able to see who they are playing and their groups also.

As one would expect I have blown all of these out of proportion but when they are repeated 20-30 times a day over three days then it really starts to make you question “why do I do it when all these people do is complain.” In all honesty it's a dozen that always complain the same ones that are late to tables and don't get their results in.

One stupid person said “Mase when we host a tournament we won't shout at people to get to their table and you watch how smooth it runs”. Bollocks they couldn't run a bloody bath useless pair of half-wits, they can barely get to their table on time or without having to check who they play in 6 games.

I really want to see these types run an event source the dozen tables, collect them, put them up take them down, deal with idiotic bar people, structuring the event for hours before hand so it runs smoothly. I honestly believe these people think it is easy. Good luck to them!

Having said that, I do get to see some good friends and Foos so it's all worth it in the end.



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Ben “Mase” Mason

Interview

(Continued)

4. What would you do for your ideal tournament if money was no object?

Not sure to be honest. Money is a factor and that's a problem. A few things I'd like to see which more money could help with. Firstly, better promotion and awareness to the general public of what we are and what we do. I had some good contacts at Bristol's biggest local paper and still only got 40 words into print. The nationals or an article in the lads' mags would be good. The reason that money would help this is that real life gets in the way and it would be good to pay someone to start this and see it through liaising with the media on a professional basis.

Secondly I'd like to see the event run over 4 days, more days means more van hire which is an added cost. I'd like to have run the MAJOR with the addition of a DYP and a designated Pro-AM over 4 days. Obviously the addition of 2 events wouldn't have created an extra days worth of playing time but it would have allowed me to make all the SE's Best of 3. Lastly I'd like to see the prizes increased with deeper payouts. Be nice to see a good amount paid to the winners but most of all a deep reasonable payout in all events.

5. You have a good relationship with Foos4fun - how have you managed to build this relationship so that UK Foosball Promotions are the only current tournament promoter who use their top quality tables.

Managing a relationship with Dave Oates is easy, one of the nicest guys you will ever meet, doesn't always seem massively organised but don't let the appearance fool you, he has achieved so much and really is clued up. I think as my self as an old school guy, man of my word and I try to treat things as I'd like mine treated.

This is why Dave trusts me with his tables and lets me have them at such a competitive rate. (Without Dave's generous reduction there would have been far less in the prize fund for my events). We as an organisation should feel lucky to have access to such good tables.

If we want access to these for the future I think someone should consider approaching Dave and enquiring about using the tables. There might have to be a deposit basis used to gain Dave's trust, but without these getting used more regularly Dave may (WILL) just operate them in venues as he does with a good number of others where there is far more money to be made.

As a shareholder in Foos4Fun I can say Dave would be better off operating them, he would make far more money but due to his love of the game he keeps these tables free for us lot to use. If people want more Tornado events they should be contacting Dave asking, 'what can we do Dave to keep these tables for tournament use'.

6. What's your favourite moment in Foos?

I have two of these:



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Ben “Mase” Mason

Interview

(Continued)

Playing doubles with Shovie at Manchester, we went on a great run and beat Dave Bareham and Joe Hamilton. No one gave us a chance.

At the MAJOR my game “it just clicked” I have spent the last 18 months playing well at home beating some awesome players in games Davey, Shovs, Hamilton, Bareham, Lyall. However in tournament condition I could do nothing at all and was losing to literally all players, I could not execute or catch a pass, I think nerves played a part to be honest. On the Sunday it all just clicked playing OD (was more relaxed playing with Dave) and SPS, now I’m enjoying Foos more than ever.

7. And your worst?

Altrincham tournament! In brief, played shite, the worst I've ever played. Had a blazing row with a good friend that took both of us 2 months to be civil and then a couple more to get back to being friends, poor turnout despite being begged “to hold one up North” and then as a result a piss poor prize fund.

8. What are your plans for the current year?

I intend to run one more UKFP event this year, will be in either Hereford or Bristol in mid November as its where I can get the most sponsorship money and had 93 competitors in 2008 HTO or back in Bristol for convenience as I’m very busy at work. I have a few other plans Foos wise, none of which are formed enough to discuss now but could be big for Foos in the UK. On a personal note I will have hopefully finished the BBQ I’m building in august and decorated the Foos room. Vicki and I are getting married September 2010, so we have plenty of planning and organising to do for that. Professionally id like to have my next exam under my belt mid September as I’m working towards (about 5months away) being a fully qualified Financial Consultant.

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