



British Foosball Association

February Newsletter 2009

ROB AND JOE: WORLD CHAMPS



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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. World Championships | 10-11. UKFP Foosball Tour |
| 3-6. World Championships: Rob Atha | 12. Liverpool Open Results |
| 7. World Championships : Dave Ziemann | 13. ATEI Report |
| 8-9 World Cup Photos | 14. BFA AGM Announcement |
| | 15. Shorts |

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February Newsletter 2009

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

What a fantastic result at the ITSF World Championships: Rob Atha and Joe Hamilton are ITSF World Champions! They took the most prestigious doubles title available. To put that in perspective is actually very difficult. Rob has had individual and doubles (some with Joe) success, however winning the ITSF World Championships is on another level yet again.

Hopefully this success will enable Rob and Joe to gain valuable publicity for the UK game – showcasing the talent at the top – and what is possible.

Rob deserves so much credit, not only for his awesome talent, but also the coaching of tactics and psychology for the rest of the UK team.

Joe has stepped up his game to become one of the top players in the World in the last year. It is notable that he only came into contact with the top players/tournament scene in April 2005 and it is amazing that he has come so far in such a short space of time.

The UK team went out in the last 16 of the Men's World Cup and the last 8 (ranking 5th) of the Women's World Cup. It is a good sign for the future of the British game that the general response to this was "We played well but are disappointed not to go further!"

In the Women's Doubles, Cath Brown and Hannah Ramlee finished 9th in the Women's Doubles out of 34 teams, on a par with some very big names, in a great performance.

The Newsletter this month contains a lot of feedback from the Britfoos forum, thanks to all those team members who posted there, and to Dave Ziemann and Ezekiel Moore for the photos included here!



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February Newsletter 2009

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Rob Atha

Rob Atha's report of the World Cup as posted on the Britfoos forum:

Lets Start with the World Cup.

As we were taking our strongest possible team we had high hopes of doing really well.

In the Group we just had to win it to get a good draw for the 1st round, first of all Algeria didn't turn up so we won 16-0, next up was Russia, we ended up winning 15-1, there youngest player/superstar played really well in one of his singles matches on tornado to win their only leg.

Going into the match against Hungary we were confident knowing a draw would be enough to top the group as they only won 14-2 vs Russia.

Alex played their best player in singles, and it ended 1-1, Alex raped him on tornado while lost narrowly on Garlando. I won my singles 2-0 against their 4th best singles player. Joe ended up losing 2 very tight sweatball games against Tamas Beh who played out of his skin on Tornado to take that one. Tom never really got going in his singles game against Tibor Szabo and lost both too, so that put some pressure on us going into doubles as we were down 5-3. We knew doubles is always our strong part and we had 4 solid doubles teams out there for a comeback.

All the doubles were tied apart from Tom/Jon May winning both of their games to level it up. Well done boys.

That put us top of the group. We knew it would be the Swiss next on Bobby Sport, we knew it would be a tight one going in but thought we would come out on top.

The Swiss have 2 top players and about 3 good players on the team, so I knew it would be the luck of the Draw, I needed to take out at least 1 of the best players but unfortunately I played against their worst player, which sucked cos I know any of our singles players would beat him. I put myself at number 3 because against Austria, the Swiss put their best players (Perrin, Ramser) at number 3/4 so i figured they would do the same, but against us it was different.

Juj came out of the blocks like a man possessed in his singles match and won easily on tornado and quite easily on Roberto Sport. I knew he would deliver if needed be.

Joe got drawn vs Perrin, their number 1, it was a tight match which went to the tie break but Perrin narrowly beat Joe in this one. Jon May put up a good fight against Mirko Ramser too, which went to the tie break but just couldn't get on a roll on Bobby Sport whereas Mirko was playing strong on Tornado. I won my singles against a guy who plays a back pin to tie it up at 2-2 going into the doubles.



February Newsletter 2009

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Rob Atha

I played with Tom Burdett in this match, we won easily on Tornado, then lost 5-3 on Bobby Sport and going into the last game they skanked 3 in on tornado which put us under intense pressure but Tom played great up front on Bobby Sport and we won 8-6 i believe in the tiebreak.

Juj/Jon May played a stormer in their doubles killing them 2-0, played great as a team on both tables, well done!!

I was feeling confident at this stage but the Swiss played great in the next 2 matches. Joe/Mike A had to play Gilles Perrin/partner, which was a tough one, Gilles is the world champion on Bobby Sport but Mike/Joe held their own but it was down to just 1 goal either way in the tie break again, the matches we lost were all in the tie break. We couldn't get any luck.

Rob D/Shovo on the other hand, lost 5-4 on Tornado in the 1st game but then spanked them 5-0 on Bobby Sport, thought match over, they don't have a chance as Bobby D didn't miss a shot in the whole match, but Mirko stole 2-3 passes at the start of the last game which gave them a big advantage which we couldn't get back from.

So its 4-4, everyone is nervous as it is only 1 game to 7, 2 balls on each table. We had a solid team in the tie break with Tom Burdett/Mike Amsden going in, but so did they, Kaiser/Stingerlin, not the best players but as a team they always get good results. It was going ball for ball, at 1 stage we were down 5-3 going to Bobby Sport but then we got 2 on their table, and then we were up 6-5 but Kaiser scored a nice pull from the back on tornado. we ended up losing 8-6 in the tie break, which was heart breaking. Everyone on the team was fighting and giving there all!! Even though we went out I'm still proud of this team and to captain it, i know we will all learn from this and next time we will do a lot better.

We really did have a heavenly draw, up next would of been the Dutch, then the Danes in the semi-final. I really think we would of made the final if we beat the Swiss. Hopefully next time we will have the same draw and make the most of it!



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February Newsletter 2009

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Rob Atha

In the Open Doubles it was just a lot of fun, we were seeded number 1 so we thought its only right if we win it. We went in confident of winning until we heard that Tom Yore's partner Bobby Diaz pulled out and Tony Spredeman stepped in to replace him, that hurt a little bit.

In the first round we played a weak French team, we spanked them 3-0. 2 on tornado 1 on Bonzini.

2nd round we played the best French team, and again we spanked them 3-0, 2 on Tornado and 1 on Bonzini.

3rd Round we had a tough one against the Danes, Sven/Jens. They play really solid on Bonzini, Sven knocked out Fred last time on Bonzini so this one went all the way to the tie break. We got lucky a little bit because we lost the coin toss to choose which table first, we both said to them, lets play Tornado first and strangely enough they agreed. We said it in a way like we really didn't want them to think that we were desperate to play Tornado first but said it like we didn't care, when they agreed i started laughing inside! This was huge as it put them under a lot of pressure, it was 2-2 in games and then 2 balls on each table, we scored the first 2 on tornado which gave us a good advantage, we then scored 1/2 on Bonzo, so its 3-1, then it was 1-1 on Tornado, 4-2, then i scored on Bonzo to win the match, Joe played great as the match went on, at the start Sven's pin was on fire but at the end Joe shut him down and slammed a few passes to me which were big.

That win put us in the semi against Austria (Garlando) its like we knew we would win this one, We started on fire, winning 5-1 on Garlando, but then threw it away on Tornado, Vlado started scoring from the back which put us under pressure, we were then 3-1 down in the 3rd on Garlando, from that point on i don't think they scored another point, we steam rolled them to win 5-3 and I'm pretty sure it was 5-0 on Tornado the next game to put us in the final.

In the final we really didn't want to play against the Americans, Tony/Tom Yore; they had to play the Germans on Tecball, Dirk Wahl (Lehmacher elite player) and Tim Ludwig very consistent on all tables, the Germans won 8-6 on the tie break which made us a little bit happier and gave us more confidence.

I knew we would never get a better chance to win the Worlds than this. I generally feel good on Tecball but i didn't know how Joe would do, he surprised me once again. 1st game on Tecball we were both on fire, Joe passed to me at least 4 times and we won 5-3 i think. The next game on tornado we won 5-3 or 5-2, at this stage i thought it was gonna be over in 3 games, feeling really confident, maybe too confident which wasn't a good idea. The crowd was gathering, after every little thing the crowd would go oooooohhhh. Dirk Caught fire and spanked us in that game, Tim blocked well too.



February Newsletter 2009

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Rob Atha



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I knew just 1 win on Tornado and its ours, tbh I played really fast, i wanted it to be over asap. They went 3-0 in like 20 seconds it felt like it, Dirk was blocking everything i was doing, Tim was scoring a little better and everything would land on his 3 bar. so it goes to a 5th game, and we took some time between games, i needed it as I thought I just blew it. We both regathered our thoughts for one final push. I really wanted a 2 points on Tecball, we scored the 1st and thought I have to steal his pass, i just guessed right and stole it and passed/scored. It goes back and forth from here on but I remember it was 3-3 going to Tornado, we made the first one and then the ref calls a technical on us for 3 jars. That hurt, but Joe (Peter Shilton) blocked both of them. To get to the point, we ended up winning 8-6, Joe played so good under pressure, blocking/passing and scoring the final point!!!! We went crazy, a very good feeling to have and a great experience for both of us I'm sure.

Joe, couldn't of done it without ya, You are an awesome partner and who would believe that we are world champions! Thanks for playing and making me laugh at the most stressful times. Looking forward to repeating it again next year.

To any new players reading this, Joe started playing only 4 years ago and now has become world champion, all it takes is a lot of practice and dedication and there is no reason why it can't happen.



February Newsletter 2009

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Dave Ziemann

Here is Dave Ziemann's report on the World Championships, as posted on the Britfoos forum:

In SS I played 8 games in the qualifying stage, 5 on Tornado, 2 on Bobby and 1 on Tecball. I was top of the leader board after the qualifiers, losing only one game to Wahl (the eventual Champion) 6-7 on Tecball. Wahl was 2nd in the qualifiers, also with 7 out of 8 wins, but with 4 goal difference points less. This gave me a bye into the quarter finals where I played Cicchelli, another German player, in a nasty 5 game match on Tornado.

In the first game he slopped me out. I fought back to win the next two. The 4th was tight and I had a chance to win on 4-4. I was shooting the pull, he gave me a split and took it away to make the block, eventually scoring the winner. The 5th game was a lot of slop again, and I was so gutted when I lost, particularly as I had played and beaten him twice in the qualifiers, 7-3 and 7-5 (and also last year as well). I was surprised when he came 2nd.

In Senior Doubles qualifiers we played 5 on Tornado, and 1 each on Bobby, Bonzo and Tecball. Tich played front on Tornado and backs on the other tables. We won them all bar one, the Tecball game against Stoepel and Kircher. Stoepel, who was also on the German team, is an excellent pin shooter on Tecball. They beat us 4-7, leaving us 2nd in the qualifying rankings with 1 goal difference point less than Stopel & Kircher. We got a bye and then played Wahl & Cichelli in the KO stage. We knew they would be very strong on Tecball, but we made the fatal mistake of losing the first game on Tornado, something we could not pull back from. Wahl is a terrific pin shooter on Tecball and he shot really well on Tich.

So I ended up 5th in both singles and doubles. It's brutal format and can be a bit of a lottery with no second chances. The Germans were able to field 3 players in Senior Singles, all of whom placed. They also fielded 3 doubles teams all of whom placed.

Obviously it's a huge disappointment personally, because I know I can beat all of those players. But I'm also really devastated not to be bringing back the titles to the UK again. Thank goodness Rob & Joe came up with the goods in OD to ensure that we have a title!

I got a consolation prize, which was 3rd place in the Senior Singles rankings for the year.



© Ezekiel, the Iceman, Moore



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February Newsletter 2009

World Cup Photos



© Ezekiel, the Iceman, Moore



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February Newsletter 2009

World Cup Photos



© Dave Ziemann



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February Newsletter 2009

UKFP – Tornado Tour

Steve Lyall and Ben Mason have set up UK Foosball Promotions to run a Tornado Tour – here they set out the plans for the current year:

Season 2008/09 will have 3 TOUR EVENTS to be held on fully upgraded Foos4Fun Tornado tables:

20th - 22nd February 2009 - [THE TOUR KICK OFF](#) – Venue TBC (Unfortunately the chain owning the original venue went into receivership in January)

1st - 3rd May 2009 - [THE SPRING TIME CLASSIC](#) - The Holywell, Hinckley, Leicestershire

3rd - 5th July 2009 - [THE MAJOR](#) - Warren's Holiday Village, Bristol

The UK Foosball Tour provides many unique features and opportunities:

- The **ONLY** Tornado tournaments in the UK to use the superior Foos4Fun tables
- Use **A NEW RANKING SYSTEM** to be set alongside the official BFA rankings to enable Player Of the Year (POY) qualification for the end of season UK Championships (details and ranking list to follow) **FOR THE ENTIRITY OF THE FIRST EVENT THE CURRENT BFA RANKINGS WILL BE USED.**
- **CHEAPER ENTRY FEES, MORE EVENTS AND DEEPER PAYOUTS** mean tournaments are no longer a financial burden and **BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY**
- **STUDENT AND U18 DISCOUNTS (10% and 20% off respectively)** acknowledge the situation of a large portion of the current player base
- The return of flat rate fees for the Open events mean you are **NO LONGER PUNISHED FOR BEING HIGHLY RANKED**
- Its with great pleasure that we also launch our **RETURN TO FOOS CAMPAIGN**. Any player who has not attended a BFA ranking tournament in the last year will have **25%** taken off their entry fees.
- **YOUR CUSTOM AND LOYALTY ARE HIGHLY VALUED AND REWARDED** - discounts for regular attendees and end of season UKFP player awards
- OVERSEAS PLAYER DISCOUNT** All non UK residents attending their first UK Foosball Promotions event will receive a **20% discount** from their entry fees.
- A **SPONSORSHIP SCHEME** is in place - details to be announced soon



UK FOOSBALL PROMOTIONS

PRESENTS

THE 1ST

UK FOOSBALL TOUR!

"Take on the World Champions of Foosball"

This season features 3 Tour Events

THE TOUR KICK-OFF 20TH-22ND FEBRUARY 2009

REPLACEMENT VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED ~~---The Floate!, Northwich, CW9 5HD~~

THE SPRING TIME CLASSIC 1ST-3RD MAY 2009

The Holywell, Hinckley, LE10 1HL

THE MAJOR *itsf* 3RD-5TH JULY 2009
(ITSF MASTERS SERIES)

Warren's Holiday Village, Bristol, BS21 6TQ

END OF SEASON PLAYER AWARDS!

DISCOUNTS ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME!

Student - 10% off

Under 18 - 20% off

Overseas Player - 20% off

Return to Foos campaign - 25% off

Bring 2 new players - £5 off

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ALL TOURNAMENTS ARE
BFA RANKING EVENTS



PLAY MORE.



UK FOOSBALL PROMOTIONS

TORNADO TABLES PROVIDED BY
FOOS 4 FUN





February Newsletter 2009

Liverpool Open

Results

Open Doubles

- 1.Atha, Rob, Hamilton, Joe
- 2.Kubiatowicz, Filip, Ziencikiewicz, Jakub
- 3.Ziemann, David, Burdett, Tom

Open Singles

- 1.Atha, Rob
- 2.Kiss, Geza
- 3.Hamilton, Joe

Women's Doubles

- 1.Kraus, Natasha, Lasecka, Olga
- 2.Walding, Jody, Racy, Mayya
- 3.Bielacka, Ewelina, Cieslik, Marta

Women's Singles

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

Senior Singles

- 1.Ziemann, David
- 2.Bindloss, Richard
- 3.Haddon, Christopher

Junior Singles

- 1.Cordle, Stephen
- 2.Sampson, Luke
- 3.Ally, Aaron

Semi-Pro Doubles

- 1.Nubbert, Mark, Nubbert, Thomas
- 2.Walding, Jody, Bundy, Joe
- 3.Juhasz, Krisztian, Zakowski, Grzegorz

Semi-Pro Singles

- 1.Nubbert, Thomas
- 2.Walding, Jody
- 3.Walding, Scott

Amateur Doubles

- 1.Eilon, Josh, Merzon, Dan
- 2.Kraus, Natasha, Potts, Richard
- 3.Bielacka, Ewelina, Woszczek, Slawek

Amateur Singles

- 1.Bindloss, Richard
- 2.Glaus, Christian
- 3.Bundy, Joe

Novice Doubles

- 1.Woszczek, Slawek, Bielacka, Ewelina
- 2.Cordle, Stephen, Ally, Aaron
- 3.Sampson, Luke, Eilon, Josh

Mixed Doubles

- 1.Lasecka, Olga, Atha, Rob
- 2.Hamilton, Joe, Kraus, Natasha
- 3.May, Jonathan, Racy, Mayya

2 Ball Rollerball

- 1.Burdett, Tom, Yeung, Simon
- 2.Atha, Rob, Lasecka, Olga
- 3.May, Jonathan, Racy, Mayya

Pro-Am

- 1.Kiss, Geza, Woszczek, Slawek
- 2.Marsh, Richard, Nubbert, Mark
- 3.Beh, Tamas, Bielacka, Ewelina

DYP

- 1.Atha, Boris, Nubbert, Andrew
- 2.Nguyen, Chris, May, Jonathan
- 3.Hemmings, Oliver-John, Lyall, Stephen



February Newsletter 2009

ATEI Report

BFA Chair Boris Atha visited the ATEI at Earls Court again this year, here is his report:

The end of January brought the amusement world on its annual pilgrimage to Earls Court, albeit that the numbers of the faithful (both exhibitors and delegates) appear to have been decimated by the Credit Crunch, with few willing to risk significant investment in new products. There was none of the usual crush, and many empty spaces in the booths.

In the foosball department, of the 'big players, only Garlando, Roberto-Sport and FAS had full stalls. Roberto were exhibiting for the first time the Kombat and Adrenaline ITSF tables, which debuted at our own UK Open. Garlando had a good cross section of their range (all of which had pinny-feet) but their stall highlight was a 'concept' table with a futuristic (in an art-deco retro sense) with wooden men shaped like inverted cones fixed/counterbalanced via the top of the head - and pinny feet. FAS had a stall featuring predominantly block-feet tables and they are still developing a tournament-standard model.

Other tables seen about the place included an electronic Japanese effort with pinball-style feed, the Taiwan-built Legend which is targeted on the Tornado market - I even managed a curler with one of their balls which is a slightly stickier version of the Tornado ball, and two makers of Spanish Futbolin tables with their curved playfields, ceramic balls and 1-3-3-4 formation.

The exhibition attracts a number of 'fringe' events the most significant of which was the Intergame Expo held at the nearby Ibis hotel. Here were to be found Stan McKenna and Excel Leisure, who confirm they will soon have in stock the new 'official' Garlando ball, which will be made available to BFA members at 'bottom trade' prices.

In future Garlando tournaments players will need to buy their own ball at registration as is now the norm at the Worlds and other international events.



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February Newsletter 2009

BFA AGM 2009

The 2009 BFA AGM is now confirmed for 2pm on Sunday 15th February at:

AXA Centre , Briery Furlong ,Stoke Gifford ,Bristol ,BS34 8SW , (approx 1/4 mile from Bristol Parkway station) Go to reception and ask for Ben Mason or Dave Oates. Please contact Dave Oates in advance if you are intending on attending so he can let security will know you are coming.

Provisional Agenda

Present/Apologies

Minutes of 2008 AGM

Matters Arising

Reports

Chairman's report, Secretary's report (membership update), Treasurer report - accounts, Working Group Reports,

Administration

Constitution - No proposed changes, Set GM Quorum, Set expenditure limits, Set membership fees

Election of officers

Chair, Treasurer, Ratification of Webmaster/Women's Rep, (CWG and Powder room need to nominate/elect these posts beforehand) ,Election of remaining 5x EC Posts

<BREAK> 15 min

Allocation/Ratification of remaining officer posts (Vice-Chair, Secretary) & Roles of committee members

Any Other Business

ITSF Issues (membership/sanction fees, FAST software), Referee Accreditation, Club Membership & Grass Roots Development, Sport Application, UKC 2009, Roberto-Sport WCS, National Team, Policy re Recognition of Official Tables

Post-meeting foos at Crown, Bush or George & Dragon (tbc)

Can anyone interested in standing for the Executive Committee, or who have any specific motions to put forward for the meeting, please get in touch with Boris Atha via PM or e-mail (chair@britfoos.com).



February Newsletter 2009

SHORTS

Wheelchair Foosball

BFA Chair. Boris Atha reports great news from those generous guys at Roberto-Sport:

Roberto Sport have kindly donated one of their wheelchair-accessible tables to the BFA, which we in turn have donated to Wheelpower, the UK disabled sports federation, based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium near Aylesbury.

After all, of all sports, foosball owes its very existence to the pioneers who developed the game in the 1920s as a means of rehabilitating WW1 veterans who had lost limbs in the conflict.

We hope the table can enable wheelchair athletes to enjoy foosball and hopefully raise a team to win the world title in 2010!

Welsh Foosball

There will be a beginners' DYP at the Mumbles Yacht Club (in the Gower near Swansea), on Sunday 8th February. This is being organised by Simon Jenkins and Tom Curtis.

The event page has been set up at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/event.php?eid=59886124049>

Excel Leisure

Excel Leisure (official distributors of Garlando tables) have announced they are to merge with Simply Pool. For more details see:

http://www.coin-opnews.eu/index_files/aad0d5a17cc96faa625ece1fd5595d23-929.html

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Published by the BFA, BCM1731 Foosball, London, WC1N 3XX

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