



British Foosball Association

March Newsletter 2009

THE TOUR KICK OFF

- The Future of Foosball has already arrived.



© Dave Ziemann

Oxford International Open Announced £5000 Prize Fund

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For further information and all the latest details please check out:

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March Newsletter 2009

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL

OPEN 2009:

ITSF PRO TOUR

Minimum estimated prize fund of £5000!*

As well as a number of other prizes including:

- Goody bags for those who pre-register
- Two trips for two to Europe
- One Blocky-foot Garlando (TBC)
- Booby prizes

“You'll have to come to find out more!” 😊

Venue

Oxford Hawkwell Hotel
Church Way
Iffley Village
Oxford, OX4 4DZ
www.hawkwellhouse.co.uk/

Tables and balls

- 10 ITSF Garlandos
- 6 Roberto Sports
- About 8 Blocky Telescopic Garlandos
- A Fireball !! **

All tables will be the proper specification. All balls will be of the newest model. Amateur and Novice Singles/Doubles will be run on the Blocky-foot Garlandos. Unless otherwise specified, all other events will run on ITSF Garlandos.

Tournament Director: Mayya Racy, Jonathan May

Tournament Organisers: Mayya Racy, Jonathan May

Head Official: Alex Shovelton

Tournament Sponsors: To be announced when they are happy to be made public

The organisers need 3 people on Friday 3rd at 3pm and then on Sunday 5th after events finish to help unpack/pack the tables. For EACH day, they are offering half price on core entry fees (excluding add-ons, see below). So helpers can either work on just one day, and pay half price, or work both days and pay no core entry fees. The organisers need 3 helpers on each day – contact Mayya Racy on Britfoos.

* This is a minimum estimate, which uses confirmed sponsorship and a conservative estimate of turnout, and ignores as yet unconfirmed sponsorship. The organisers will continue to work on sponsorship/turnout until with the aim to get a prize fund of at least £6000. This number is net of costs.

** This is coming from China – to be confirmed once it is actually here/under the control of the tournament organisers.



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INTERNATIONAL

OPEN 2009

Events

Friday:

18:00: Junior Singles
18:00: Senior Singles
19:00: Junior Doubles
19:00: Senior Doubles
20:00: 2-ball Swiss

Saturday:

10:00: Semi-Pro Doubles Garlando (SP ONLY)
10:00: Masters Roberto-Sport Singles (P and PM ONLY)
10:00: Novice Singles
10:30: Novice Doubles
11:00: Masters Roberto-Sport Doubles (P and PM ONLY)
11:00: Amateur Singles
11:30: Amateur Doubles
12:30: Open Singles
16:00: Women's Singles
16:00: No-Pro Singles
16:30: No-Pro Doubles
18:30: Mixed Doubles
19:00: The Organisers might run another fun event for people who are out!

SPD, RSS, NS, ND, AS, AD, OS, NPS, NPD will finish on Saturday

Sunday:

10:00: Completion of MD, WS and RSD
10:30: Open Doubles
12:00: Pro-Am*
12:00: Handicap Doubles on Blocky Garlando and Roberto Sport*
14:00: Women's Doubles

RSD, MD, OD, PA, WS, WD, and Handicap will finish on Sunday. The organisers aim to finish sufficiently early on Sunday to help the return of International, as well as local, players. Pro-Am and Handicap Doubles are mutually exclusive for Pros and Pro-Masters.

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INTERNATIONAL

OPEN 2009

Formats

DE – (5/3) – JS, JS, SS, SD, RSS, RSD, MD and PA (losers 1/9)
Groups and DE – (1/9, 1/7) – NS, ND, AS, AD, NPS, NPD
Groups and DE – (1/7, 1/7) - SPD
DE - (5/3) becoming (5/5) - OS, OD, WS, WD

Fees

Semi-pro - Pro-Master: £40
SP (SPD NPS NPD OS OD MD PA H) or £8 per event
P and PM (RSS RSD OS OD MD PAorH) or P = £10 per event PM = £15
Amateur: £35 (AS AD NPS NPD OS OD MD PA H) or £7 per event
Novice: £25 (NS ND AS AD NPS NPD OS OD MD PA H) or £5 per event
Add-ons:
- £5 if you want to enter any/all of Senior, Women or Junior events
- £5 for 2 ball
- £5 table fees per day

For those who prefer to not search for a cashpoint, carry cash and queue at the desk, the organisers will be providing a very simple, safe way to pay entry fees online with the pre-reg link.

Accommodation

The organisers highly recommend you book in the venue asap as there are limited rooms. The deal they have agreed with the venue cannot be beaten easily in price and value, let alone in location and quality. The special deal for foosball players is: £55 for B&B per night per double room if you book for two nights, £65 if for one night ie staying for 2 nights rather than 1 is just £22 more per person. FYI the cost of breakfast alone is £13 normally. It is a beautiful location, just out of the centre of Oxford with excellent links into it. The venue has a large car park.

How to book:

Either contact the hotel direct on 01865 332101 or email Reservations@hawkwellhouse.co.uk, and quote reference number 1615 or mention International Table Football Tournament.

How to get there:

For driving instructions from the North and South, see <http://www.hawkwellhouse.co.uk/locate.php>
For those flying, the closest airport is Heathrow – Heathrow Airport is 50 minutes by bus, 1h30 by train, Luton is 2h by bus, 2h30 by train, Stansted 3h30 by bus, 2h50 by train

UK Bus website: www.nationalexpress.com

UK Rail website: www.nationalrail.com

For latest details keep an eye on:

<http://www.britfoos.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=7384>



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The Tour Kick Off

UK Foosball Promotions

inaugural tournament

Open Singles

1. Atha, Rob
2. Burdett, Tom
3. Hamilton, Joe

Women's Singles SE

1. Kraus, Natasha
2. Lasecka, Olga
3. Ramlee, Hannah

Open Doubles

1. Hamilton, Joe, Atha, Rob
2. Ziemann, David, Burdett, Tom
3. Shovelton, John, Davey, Rob

Pro Singles SE

1. Shovelton, Alex
2. Shovelton, John
3. Lyall, Stephen

No Pro Singles SE

1. Jones, Les
2. Lyall, Christopher
3. Eid, George

Women's Doubles SE

1. Lasecka, Olga, Kraus, Natasha
2. Jaffer, Sukaina, Ramlee, Hannah

Amateur Singles SE

1. Kay, Antony
2. Zakowski, Grzegorz
3. Bicki, Lukasz

2 Ball Roller Ball Supermelée (12 Rounds!)

1. Ellis, William
2. Morgan, David
3. Deakin, Oliver

No Pro Doubles SE

1. Lasecka, Olga, Kraus, Natasha
2. Cree, Stuart, Jones, Les
3. Eid, George, Eid, George Junior

Mixed Doubles SE

1. Davey, Rob, Cieslik, Marta
2. Lyall, Stephen, Darragh Alina

DYP Winners

1. Yeung, Simon & Amsden, Mike
2. Darragh, Brendan & Ziemann, Dave
3. Davey, Rob & Edwards, Eddie

Handicap Doubles SE

1. Amsden, Mike, Burdett, Tom
2. Edwards, Stephen, McHugh, Phil
3. Deakin, Oliver, Ramlee, Hannah

DYP Losers

1. Lyall, Stephen & Kay, Rob
2. Moss, Rob & Cree, Stuart
3. Marsh, Rich & Lyall, Christopher

Pro Doubles SE

1. Morgan, David, Shovelton, Alex
2. Shovelton, John, Lyall, Stephen
3. Atha, Boris, Edwards, Stephen

Amateur Doubles SE:

1. Buczek, Tomasz, Kay, Antony
2. Zakowski, Grzegorz, Kay, Rob
3. Bicki, Lukasz, Paulukanis, Krzysztof

3000 Ltd SE

1. Bundy, Joe, Kraus, Natasha
2. Addison, Graeme, Lyall, Christopher
3. Bicki, Lukasz, Paulukanis, Krzysztof



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The Tour Kick Off

- Photos



Clockwise from top left:

1. Eddie Edwards
2. Alex Shovelton, Dave Morgan & Oli Deakin
3. Natasha Kraus
4. Si Yeung & Chris Lyall

All photos are © Dave Ziemann





March Newsletter 2009 BFA AGM and EGM announcement

The BFA AGM was held on Sunday 15th February at the Axa centre near Bristol. The full minutes will be published in due course, but the preliminary announcement by re-elected Chairman Boris Atha is given below.

The new committee is:

Boris Atha - Chair
John Worthington - Treasurer
Ben Mason - Vice-Chair

Steve Lyall
Alex Shovelton
Tom Burdett
Dave Morgan
J-P Thompson

Women's Officer - Two candidates - Suki Jaffer and Mayya Racy - No formal nomination or election result has been received from the Women's Commission by the time of the AGM. An EGM will therefore be held at the next available tournament (Oxford as Altrincham has insufficient notice) for ratification of the candidate elected by the Women's Commission (Powder Room), if no such election result has been held or notified the EGM will conduct an election between the declared candidates. If the WC/PR elects a candidate in the meantime she will be entitled to sit on the committee as an observer and contribute to discussions but cannot have a formal vote until ratified.

Secretary - to be decided from the 5 outstanding committee electees and appointed in acting role until ratified by the EGM.

Webmaster - No nominations received for Webmaster and it was proposed that the position be abolished and delegated to the Computing WG as a whole, with one committee member (TBC) responsible for chairing the group and for overseeing the implementation of policy decisions from the committee.

The minutes currently only exist in note form, once they have been fully written-up and approved by the incoming committee they will be published.

The accounts spreadsheet which was e-mailed to me corrupted when it was opened at the meeting, this is being sorted now and an accounts summary will be included in the minutes. The accounts will also need to be ratified at the EGM.



March Newsletter 2009 BFA AGM and EGM announcement

Membership fees remain unchanged at £1 for provisional and £5 for full, however players will only be able to pay £1 if they attend a single tournament and must pay the full membership fee if they wish to attend more than one event during the year - the £1 would not count towards the full fee. Full members will now receive a mailed-out newssheet twice a year (a digest of the downloadable quasi-monthly newsletters), to include tournament results and forthcoming tournament dates.

The major announcement was of an official sponsorship deal for the BFA with a major drinks company. Due to a confidentiality agreement the details cannot be reproduced here until the sponsors and the BFA have jointly approved and un-embargoed a press release. Although the financial support involved for the coming year is relatively modest, the sponsor's campaign should provide a major boost to grass-roots foosball in the UK, and, if successful, there are prospects of closer cooperation in the future. The deal has been signed by both parties and a further announcement can be expected shortly.

As announced on the Brtfoos forum by BFA Chair Boris Atha, there will be an EGM to complete the outstanding issues:

A BFA EGM will be held during the Oxford International Open, on April 4th (time TBC).

Agenda

1. Ratification of BFA Secretary - it was not possible to elect the new secretary at the AGM and a suitable candidate will be appointed from amongst elected committee members.
2. Ratification of Women's Officer - at the AGM there were two candidates and an election must be held by the female BFA members .
3. Ratification of 2008-09 accounts - Errors were identified at the AGM and subsequently, the corrected accounts will be made available for inspection beforehand.

The meeting should only take a few minutes (previous EGMs have lasted between 3 minutes and 11 minutes), but requires the attendance of a minimum of 6x fully paid-up members.

Good luck to the new Committee, it is a thankless task, but with hard work, attention to detail and support from the BFA membership great things can be achieved!



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Chris Haddon Interview

Chris is one of the most frequent attendees of UK Tournaments, with international experience as well. A regular player at the Nuneaton venues, he kindly gave up the time to answer some questions:

1 When did you first start playing table football? Did you keep playing off and on all the time, or did you ever give up completely?

I first started playing table football when I was 16 at the Corner House pub, in Bulkington. I was a motorbiker and this was where they all congregated. The room we used was small but had a Table Sport football table in it. Nobody else used this room as look at us long haired leather clad bikers was enough to put anyone off.

I remember putting our motorbiker gloves down the goal mouths to stop the balls going down but this turned out to be a mistake! One night when we held the table up at one end, at about 45° to get the balls out, and the Landlord came in. He promptly banned us, but let us all back after a few days and a telling off.

I met Ann (who is now my wife) at the Corner House and she also played table football. I think it was in 1972 when I started going to the Chetwynd where I met Bill Ormerod and a few other regular players. I already knew Derek Parsons as he was a motorbiker and used to visit the motorbike shop where I worked. We would meet at the Chetwynd for a few games then tour Nuneaton to play other good players. I gave up playing when I was about 22, by this time I was married, with a motorbike!

2. You are a regular player on each and every table - what is your preferred table? And are there any that you really can't play on at all?

I played Garlando most of the time, but I have a Tornado and Garlando at home. I haven't got a preference between these 2 tables as I like both equally. There are some tables I have yet to play on, but I think I could adapt to most types, as I don't use the same shot all the time.

3. You have travelled a lot to different tournaments national and international - any favourite tournaments? And any stories?

My favourite tournaments in this country were at the Floatel, I will really miss them. The Garlando Worlds in Austria hold some good memories. Andrei Russell-Gebbett and I played Frederico and Jamal in Open Doubles – obviously we didn't win but we took them to sweat ball in one game.

4. And what does your wife think?

My wife is very good and never complains about me playing Fridays or tournaments, even abroad. She comes with me to some tournaments just for a break. I am very lucky to be able to attend so many tournaments without any moaning – although she might be glad to see the back of me for a while.



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Chris Haddon

5. You play regularly at Nuneaton which has had a thriving scene for 10 years that I remember - what is the secret of success there? Any tips for other local scenes?

Nuneaton has had a thriving scene for over 30 years, although I stopped playing around 1977, and started again about 8 years ago. I think our success is because we don't take it too seriously, we have a good laugh and it doesn't matter if you win or lose. We have players of all ages and regular players travelling up to 70 miles on a Friday for our DYP. My tip would be play for fun and not to win, don't shoot the snake shot all the time as this can be a bit boring, a variety of shots makes the game more interesting and more fun. Have more serious games once a month where you pick your partner rather than a DYP.

6. Which of the younger Nuneaton players have caught your eye as being ones to watch for the future?

Jody Walding has a natural talent, and has picked the game up very quickly. She has only been playing for a couple of years and is already one of the best players at Nuneaton. We also have some new young players from Coventry attending on a Friday night who look very promising.

7. You haven't generally had a regular partner for tournaments (I know you played a few with your brother etc) - have you ever been tempted to settle down?

I played a couple of tournaments with my brother Steve and as I remember we did quite well, but I don't think he has as much passion for the game as me. I partnered John Worthington a couple of times and had my best result in the Open Doubles coming 2nd at Bolton. Bill Ormerod and I played in the Open Doubles at Gatwick coming 7th out of a strong field, including international players taking a lot of the top places. Having a regular partner would be an advantage, but I quite enjoy playing with different people.

8. What do you think of the BFA? What would you like to see it do that it isn't doing now?

I think the BFA do a good job and without the volunteers that make up the BFA table football in the UK would be a lot worse off.

9. What are your ambitions for 2009?

My ambition for 2009 is to play as many tournaments as possible. I'm not getting any younger and you never know what's around the corner.

11. And finally do you have any pre-tournament rituals?

Pre-tournament rituals consist of me saying to myself over and over I am better than Rob Atha but I am still waiting for this to work. Seriously I don't have any apart from trying to warm up properly before playing a match.



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Mumbles Yacht Club DYP

Simon Jenkins is organising a local scene at the MYC in the Gower near Swansea, and here he reports on their first DYP on February 8th

Mumbles Yacht Club hosted its first table football event on Sunday 8th February 2009. Tom Curtis and I used Facebook to send the event invite to about 750 people and within a week we had about 50 people indicating they were attending. About half that number turned up and I think turnout was reduced because of the horrible weather and the rugby international earlier in the day....probably just as well. There were 28 competitors in all and this was just about right for a first event. Registration opened at 6.30pm, play started at 7.15pm and the tournament was over by about 10.15pm. This was perfect as people who had to catch buses back to town had plenty of time and everyone else went to The Antelope pub for more beer.

Fortunately I managed to delegate all the jobs so was able to play. My 8 year old daughter did the mic and called the games, the club secretary ran the desk, Cery Dacey put 50p's into the Tornado and the wife was photographer. We ran a DYP double elimination first to 5 on two tables, a Foons4fun Tornado and my own Garlando. From the loser bracket semis onward, we changed the format to best of 3 games and the final was best of five games.

It was quite interesting because just about everyone preferred the Garlando. Probably because they had never played a Tornado, the finalists even chose to play the match all on the Garlando rather than do a multi table format.



© Simon Jenkins



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Mumbles Yacht Club DYP

I was the only person shooting snake, of sorts, and I think most competitors had not seen this shot previously. Initially it was reasonably successful but once Tom showed the students how to defend it, less successful.

Everyone had a really great time both visitors and locals, and by the end of the night the students were talking about becoming members because they liked the club so much and the locals were looking forward to the next event. A number of the students adopted parents at the event and at least 5 of us from MYC ended up being called "Dad". There is definitely scope to develop a foos scene in Swansea and many thanks to Dave Oates for helping me out in a number of ways already.

The final stages of the tournament were very close with the last 4 matches going to sweat ball final game, however the lucky Tom Curtis and Patrick A won. Not only did they win enough to pay for their taxi but Tom also took (stole) the Garlando match ball as a memento. David Crabb and Tom Brogan came second and they really did look exhausted after playing 3 consecutive matches up to the final.

There was much cheering at the presentation of prizes, thanks to foos4fun for some well sought after T shirts and 4 mini trophies, 3 of which are now prized possessions and a fourth smashed into pieces when it was accidentally sat on.

Can I finally thank Alison Dacey for mainly running the event and Steve Lyall for his e mail advice. More pictures here:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/photo.php?pid=30308848&id=1128675672&ref=mf>



© Simon Jenkins



March Newsletter 2009 GARLANDO ITSF SPEED PLAY BALL

Below is the official Garlando Press release on the new Speed Play Ball, along with details of where you can get it!

“The new Speed Play has just been just issued, authorized by the International Soccer Table Federation and first used at the Nantes World Cup in January, with a great success among the players.

Created after many tests to obtain the best features, it boasts an exclusive combination of plastic materials allowing an excellent compromise between game speed and ball control.

The ITSF Speed Play ball has a 33,65 millimeters diameter and a 22,5 grams weight. It is available both in loose quantities and in blister packaging containing 3 balls, the ideal for shop counters. “

The balls are available from the official distributor of Freeplay Garlando tables in the UK:

<http://www.uktablesports.co.uk/>



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