



British Foosball Association

November Newsletter 2009



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BFA EGM

07/11/09

Minutes of BFA EGM 7/11/09

Venue: Déjà vu, Reading

Present

Mike Amsden, Boris Atha, Simon Yeung, Steve Lyall, John Shovelton, Hannah Ramlee, Oli Deakin, Rob Davey, Alex Shovelton, Greg Zakowski, Kris Juhasz, Dave Morgan, Bill Donne, Tom Burdett, Mayya Racy, Ben Mason, Jon May, Andrew Nubbert

Meeting opened 1840hrs

Committee By-Elections - Steve Lyall (Secretary) and Alex Shovelton have stood down from the BFA Executive committee

Joe Bundy and Andrew Nubbert elected nem con to BFA Executive committee

Joe Bundy ratified as BFA secretary nem con

Brief details of BFA table scheme announced

Meeting closed 1845hrs

The BFA committee, would like to express thanks and appreciation for the work put in by Steve Lyall and Alex Shovelton during their tenure as committee members.

The BFA is always in need of more volunteers to help out – either on the committee, or helping out in any of the working groups.

If you would like to help, or to find out more information, please contact any of the current committee:

Boris Atha, John Worthington, Ben Mason, Tom Burdett, Dave Morgan, Mayya Racy, Joe Bundy and Andrew Nubbert.



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World Cup 2010

Squad

The Teams for the 2010 ITSF World Cup have been picked! Rob Atha has completed his selection of the Men's and Senior Teams while, due to a lack of applicants, the Junior and Women's Teams currently pick themselves. The World Cup will take place on the 6th - 10th January 2010 in Nantes, France.

Applications for Junior and Women's Team places are therefore still welcome!

Men:

Rob Atha
Dave Bareham
Tom Burdett
Rob Davey
Joe Hamilton
Jon May
Alex Shovelton
John Shovelton
Jujhar Singh Sohi

Junior:

James Oates
Luke Sampson

Women:

Sarah Brice
Alina Darragh
Hannah Ramlee
Jody Walding
Mayya Racy
Emily Knox

Senior:

Boris Atha
Chris Haddon
Martyn Harris
Paul Martin
Dave Oates
Dave Ziemann

Congratulations to all of the above, and good luck!

Team Coaches – Alex Shovelton gives us the run down on the wannabe Capellos (or should that be turnip Taylors?) Find out who could be the “Special” ones, and who could be Wallies with Brollies

Men: Dave Morgan Dave has represented the UK a number of times at the Garlando and Roberto-Sport World Championships, and his many years in the Oxford University league has honed his tactical nous, particularly valuable for the short format of the World Cup. Most importantly Dave will bring an invaluable boost to morale and team spirit.

Women: Oli Deakin Oli Coached the Women's team at the 2009 World Cup, inspiring them to excellent results in a tough group stage including a draw against the 2006 World Cup Winners Austria. He's also a legend.

Junior: Rich Potts Rich was one of our Junior representatives last year, so brings experience to role, as well as his cheeky brummie charm.

Senior: TBA - Hopefully the old boys wont be left to their own devices, they might not make it to the venue.



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BFA Chairman - Table Update

The BFA now has access to the following tables for use at tournaments and/or beat-the-expert or similar corporate events:

10x Tornado - We have reached an agreement for purchase of 10x Tornado tables at a cost of £1400 per year over 5 years, after 2x years 4x tables will become property of the BFA with two further tables each year until the scheme is completed.

10x Garlando Master Champion - We have paid off the Garlando Table Scheme trustees with the balance owing on the Garlando Scheme to completion.

Roberto-Sport - The current stock of prototype RS ITSF tables remains for sale (2x freeplays £200 each, 3x coin-ops £175 ea) and we have been offered replacement freeplay tables in exchange.

These are available to tournament organisers (promoters) on the following basis:

- The BFA take 100% of table fees* (minimum £5 per person per day or £10 per person per weekend)
- The BFA will arrange delivery of tables to the venue and collection after the event †
- Organisers must provide full postal address for delivery and name/mobile number of contact person, and at least one person to assist with loading and/or unloading
- All boxes must be preserved intact in a dry place during the tournament, tables must be fully packed away in boxes at the end of the event and the boxes sealed and bound with nylon cargo-bands - Organisers should ensure they have at least 2x 50m rolls of gaffer tape available
- All loose parts from each table must be replaced within the table in a secure bag at the end of the tournament
- Organisers are responsible for ensuring there are sufficient people present to assist with table assembly and disassembly, and for providing the necessary tools unless otherwise agreed.
- Organisers are personally liable for any shortfall of funds or damage arising from mishandling of the tables

* Where an organiser provides his/her own tables fees may be apportioned pro-rata if agreed in writing in advance. If so the BFA share will always be based on having provided all the available scheme tables in that category, e.g. with a 12 table Garlando or Tornado tournament including some tables provided by the organiser, the organiser will receive a maximum 2/12 of table fees whether s/he has provided 2, 4, or even 9x tables. No pro-rata apportionment will be made until the BFA share of table fees exceeds 150% of the transport costs.

† Our current quote for UK delivery and collection is £290 plus VAT per tournament. Organisers may provide their own transport if the cost is lower than this sum.

The big advantage of this scheme is that organisers no longer have to worry about minimum payments. The funds for the scheme will be ring-fenced with any profits going towards the purchase of new and replacement tables/spare parts etc. However no distinction will be made between funds arising from tournaments on different table types, so cross-subsidy can occur. It is hoped to use scheme funds, if sufficient are available, to purchase ex-tournament Bonzini and/or Tec-Ball tables if available at a substantial discount.



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Tomahawk Foosball Update – Martin “Elvis” Landers

(This article was originally received in August, however due to technical issues (Internet access!) this is the first Newsletter since then. Apologies for the delay.)

We officially launched Tomahawk table football on July 11th with a Tournament. We held a doubles event based on the soccer world cup. 64 teams took part and we gave a prize to the team who dressed the best e.g. in their nations colours - Teams were allocated a nation 2 weeks prior to the event. If any players had a particular affiliation to a country we let them choose their own. We had two Slovakiens, two Germans, two Scots, and a Spaniard. He and his colleague won the event - each took home a replica world cup.

The event was brilliant - everyone had a class time - the pub it was held in was ideal - we used 3 plasma screen TV's to beam fixtures and results. I created some elaborate Microsoft Excel based workbooks which really looked the part when linked to the TVs through lap tops.

We also had a top class MC on the microphone - he had the gift of the gab.

The singles event had 64 (!) competitors and was won by a doctor - he beat me in the final. (The Git) I was 3-1 up as well.

The event courted a bit of media attention and was covered in the local paper and it even featured on a BBC news bulletin the same evening.

In terms of the businesses' progress - We now have 4 tables sighted in Darlington, adding our fourth this week. I have a couple of irons in the fire though so we may be adding more soon.

We are keen to get 10 tables in Darlington before next years real world cup. Our hope is that by then sufficient interest will have developed to establish a league.





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George Eid Interview

1. How did you get started playing foosball?

Dan, I started playing when I was 10 on the street of Beyrouth ,an amusement arcade with two home made tables put on the pavement outside - through metal rods with hand made wooden men bolted on the rods, 25 cent per game, 7 balls.

I used go to the arcade at 9AM played till 1PM then after siesta 4pm till 9PM in the summer holidays. Games were singles al-volo, no doubles then, We played 25 cent in 25 cent to win - popular shots were pull push and back pin. I stopped playing at about 16 when girls beer and cigs became more interesting but still played a few games to earn money for cigs - 40cent per packet.

15 years later Manchester, we used have foos night out casino staff once a month at the Dean Brook Inn, a local pub, they had a Garlando Coperto. We used to play for couple of hours, none of the staff's main attraction was foos, it was mainly getting wasted and after a few more hours the Garlando was a table for the pints!

A few more years later and the Hard Rock Casino was born and I had a chance to exploit foos to the limit with the customers winning prizes if they can beet me on the Garlando al-volo style and after playing about 30 to 40 games on the week ends my al-volo game was very good, I met with some people from the Rainbow club and they told me about Tornado ,I went one night to see the action as Boris was having a DYP. Billy Papas ,Rob and few more where at the club ,I was watching with intense confusion at how slow that game was, not al-volo? Stopping the ball shooting snake shots I did not know what it was then ,someone felt sorry for me and asked if I would play with him (Dave Parrot). First game against Rob Atha and I can't remember I stopped the ball like everyone was doing and scored a pull shot then Rob got wound up and scored 4 shots from the back, A few weeks later Tornado was a must at the HRC, and ,after that weekly comps were on, also monthly championship and it was great for about 3 years and you know the rest.

2. Your son plays a bit as well - how did he get into it?

Young George started playing at the HRC Sunday nights when all the Tornado players used to come in, He liked playing back because he could hit the ball hard, Now he rarely plays, When he is on leave from Sandhurst we have few drinks and lots of games at home to the detriment of the neighbours (we were told to keep quite a few times). To be honest he dos not play for a while and then comes home and kick my butt he is getting good!

3. You work a lot in the evenings - has this helped or hindered your foosball exploits?

Dan I work on average three nights, 7AM finish a week and most week ends ,it is the nature of the job and I like my work so yes foosball takes a back seat sometimes, no energy to practice can't be off when a good tournament is on and so on. I would liked to have a long term partner which we could practice moves and tactics etc.. But with young George busy I sort of gave up the idea, foos for me is Thursday night which is standard with my colleagues at work - if I need to work Thursday's I would finish at 10PM and go foosing afterwards.



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George Eid Interview

4. Manchester is one of the foos hotbeds of the country - there always seems to be something going on every week. What sort of games do you play - e.g. winner stays on/mini tournaments, and how do you keep encouraging the noobs?

Manchester has two venues Riley's and the Rainbow, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, Also a Tornado at Bolton Riley's - no foos night established yet but a few young ones are playing it according to Anthony, I play at Riley's mainly - we put money on the table fiver each in 50ps, we just don't play the "losers pay" game - it is much more fun and friendly.

I am not against the snake shot but no one shoots the snake at Rileys for some reason, the game is more fluent and a large variety of shots administered - it is very good.

Only once we had DYP it was good will do it again when everyone show's up, once there was 22 people at Riley's 25-30 minutes waiting to play a game, good but for some reason very rarely noobs come back on the long term although Anthony and I are very supportive when new ones shows interest. We always play at the back and let new players play up front to get a feel for the game - some people enjoyed it so much they are regular now but I hope for more people to follow suit it is very hard to up sell foos these days?.

5. What else do you think would make foos more popular in the grass roots? How can new players be encouraged?

The million dollar question, first there is no foosball venues in the UK for people under the age of 18 for a start, and that automatically cancels the first stage (grass root).

Second culture plays a big role, they have coffee bars in Malaysia with a minimum of five Tornados to up to 20 Tornados! Young People socialise in these places. In the UK we have facilities to do the same but I'm not sure why foosball is difficult to sell in these big snooker halls, now we have a good start thanks to Anthony where there has been a connection between Riley's and foosball but on a small scale: Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton but we should have tables all over the UK?

When I had the HRC tournament in the Printwork there was over 100 kids on the weekend who had a game on the tables, people walking past were asking all sorts of question about foos how to get a table where do you normally play etc.. (Day time footfall at the Printwork Saturday and Sunday average 21000).

How can new players be encouraged, I think there is large numbers of people who play foos and enjoy it very much but are not aware of Britfoos and I think we should exploit Rob and Joe's 2009 World Championship victory and Britfoos, encourage young ones to play foos, We should hand out DVD's how to play foos shots and stuff in schools and youth centres .

6. What do you think the BFA is doing well at the moment?

The BFA or the few volunteers are doing great job with what their time allows them to do and the



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George Eid Interview

resources they don't have. The new look web site is good the Fosters beer mats with BFA logo or foos related information in pubs I think is a great job. UK Foosball Promotion team are great as well Mase, Steven and others.

7. And what do you think it is doing "not so well"?

Dan, I can't criticise anyone I know the BFA volunteers have full time jobs and families and other stuff apart from the BFA , however I will put some ideas. The BFA could benefit from social services throughout the UK they are looking for things like the BFA for their youth programs. We could approach counsellors and offer league programmes / training, they will pay large amounts of grants for things like that. (Services user, centres), These are adult centres around the UK funded by social care or the trust and could do with foos leagues, they have completed football league last year and lots of local politicians attended their final in Wigan. We were very close to having a foos table in each of all 35 casinos around the UK but the recession killed that idea! Again the BFA should have a meeting with Riley's head office team and try and install tables around the UK they have 160 venues?

8. If you could change one of the foosball rules what would it be and why?

I would change the ITSF ruling about making tables equal like having to put kit on Tornado! Because every table is made to play different and the ITSF should respect that skills on some tables are different from others because the way they were built ,on Tornado a goalie would lose 30% of skills on the one goalie Tornado.

9. Who do you most enjoy playing against, and who do you least enjoy?

I enjoy playing against players better than me which makes me want to play better ,I never met anyone wh I could say I dislike playing with them. Hmm, slow games are boring, people making too much fuss and complaining a lot make me annoyed, nothing I can remember, never had a dispute with anyone!

10. What would you like to see more of at tournaments - and what do you least like?

Would like to see more fun and games after the tournament ended ,Poker karaoke 2ball rolar,4x4 swaps, time off for food and drinks during the day ,maybe a one week foos camp well advertised in advance many will be able to book the time off work ,student would be on holidays July, August? That would be something special for the UK foos ,imagine all the Internationals they would love that, BBQs in the camping site loads of fundream on George!

11. And finally what are your foosball goals for the next year?

Make more time for foos, more practice and discipline with my game ,plan better for the UK competitions to be able to attend, surprise everyone at a tournament once and win SPS or SPD or do really well ,take it serious for once and play to a certain discipline. I don't know, I feel that foos plays big part in my life and the fun and pleasure I get from foos is more than enough, I can't ask for more.



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Keele Open I

To be held at The Ballroom, Keele University Students' Union, November 28th-29th 2009 on 10 Garlando tables

Tournament Organiser - Sam Fitzpatrick. With the Keele table football society.

Tournament Director - Joe Bundy.

Schedule:

Saturday

11am – Registration and practice.

11.30am - Handicap Doubles (groups 7.1 SE 7.1)***

12pm – Novice Doubles (Groups 7.1, DE 9.1 throughout)***

- Women's Doubles (DE 5.3 throughout)**

- Senior Doubles (DE 5.3 throughout)**

1pm – Open Singles (DE 5.5 winners, 5.3 losers)

3pm – Pro Doubles (Groups 7.1)*

– Amateur Doubles (Groups 7.1 SE 5.3)

5pm – Pro Doubles KO (SE 5.3)*

- Pro Doubles Plate (SE 9.1)*

6pm – Women's Singles (DE 5.3 throughout)**

- Senior Singles (DE 5.3 throughout)**

8pm – Saturday DYP (Groups 7.1 SE 5.3)

Sunday

10am - Events continue, practice and registration

10.30am - Junior Singles (DE 5.3 throughout)**

11am – Open Doubles (DE 5.5 winners, 5.3 losers)

1pm - Amateur Singles (Groups 7.1 SE 5.3)

2pm – Pro Singles (Groups 7.1)*

3pm -Junior Doubles (DE 5.3 throughout)**

4pm - Novice Singles (Groups 7.1, DE 9.1 throughout)

- Pro Singles KO (SE 5.3)*

- Pro Singles Plate (SE 9.1)*

6pm – Team event! To use the new (women's) world cup format – 6 players per team, 2 singles doubles, each player can only play one game. Games are 7.1 in format. In addition, if a draw occurs then penalty shoot out to win! (Each team elects a goalie, and then other 5 members of team take a shot on the 3 in turn (standard FSO rules). Team who has highest score after full 5 rounds wins. If there is a draw then sudden death will occur – the order of players taking a shot will remain the same as the initial 5 rounds.

No Snake!

Event format DE – for players out of events – Teams are Captain's pick (captain's are to be the highest ranked players in event)



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Keele Open I

* Pro singles/doubles will be for semi-pro and pro ranked players. The top 2 in each group will be taken through to a KO stage, the rest through to a plate. KO/Plate times estimated.

** Events with less than 4 entries will be groups 5.3 - results based on group placing.

*** Handicap doubles and novice doubles are exclusive (if you are eligible, you can play in one or the other).

Entry fees:

Table fees, £10 for weekend, £6 per day

Open Singles/Open Doubles, £12 (PM) £10 (P/SP) £5 (A) £3 (N) Free (Unranked)

Novice Singles/Doubles - £2

Amateur Singles/Doubles - £5 (A), £2 (N/U)

Pro Singles/Doubles - £7 (P/SP)

W/S/J Singles/Doubles - £5 (PM/P/SP/A) £2 (N/U)

Handicap - £5 all ranks

Saturday DYP – £2 all ranks

Team Event - Free!

To enter separately:

Unranked – 2+2+2+2+10 = £18

Novice – 3+3+2+2+2+2+10 = £24

Amateur – 5+5+5+5+10 = £30

Semi-Pro – 10+10+7+7+10 = £44

Pro – 10+10+7+7+10 = £44

Pro-Master – 12+12+10 = £34

Package deals (excludes W/S/J events, Handicap and DYP):

Unranked - £10

Novice - £20

Amateur - £25

Semi-pro - £40

Pro - £40

PM - £30

BFA Membership is not included in packages - New players can pay £1 for provisional membership, otherwise 12 months full membership is £5



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Keele Open I

Who can enter which events?

Potentially –

Novice – Novice singles, Novice doubles **or** Handicap, Amateur singles/doubles, Open singles/doubles, DYP, Team event

Amateur - Amateur singles/doubles, Open singles/doubles, Handicap, DYP, Team event

Semi-Pro – Pro singles/doubles, Open singles/doubles, Handicap, DYP, Team event

Pro – Pro singles/doubles, Open singles/doubles, Handicap, DYP, Team event

Pro Master - Open singles/doubles, Handicap, DYP, Team event

Venue Information

The Ballroom, Keele University Students' Union

Keele University Students' Union

Newcastle Under Lyme

Staffordshire

ST5 5BJ

Tel: 01782 733700

Fax: 01782 712671

Email: sta15@kusu.keele.ac.uk

Enter the Students Union building at the front left of the building, up the stairs to the first floor and then enter through the doors that emerge behind you on your left.

Additional on-site facilities include 2x bars and a club all serving student prices and open until late, 3x food outlets and a mini supermarket.

Travel

Keele is centrally located within the UK and enjoys excellent communication links for all types of travel. The University is situated two miles west of Newcastle-under-Lyme on the A525 road to Whitchurch, Nantwich and Crewe.

Keele University Campus Map:

It would be a good idea to take a look at/print one of these off as it will guide you around the campus.

http://www.esci.keele.ac.uk/kudis/_camp...colour.pdf

Latest Details

For all the latest details please see the Britfoos forum:

<http://forum.britfoos.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=7760>



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Bar Kick Open

2009 Results

Open Singles

1. May, Jonathan
2. Sohi, Jujhar
3. Shovelton, Alex

Open Doubles

1. Sohi, Jujhar; Burdett, Tom
2. Racy, Mayya; May, Jonathan
3. Amsden, Mike; Hamilton, Joe

Women Singles

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

Women Doubles

1. Racy, Mayya; Walding, Jody
2. Ramlee, Hannah; Brown, Catherine
3. Knox, Emily; Walker, Donna

Open Singles Plate

1. Atha, Boris
2. Kingston, Dan
3. Racy, Mayya

Open Doubles Plate

1. Morgan, David; Shovelton, Alex
2. Shovelton, John; Worthington, John
3. Lyall, Christopher; Lyall, Stephen

Rookie Singles

1. Martin, Paul
2. Walding, Jody
3. Addison, Graeme

Rookie Doubles

1. Brice, Sarah; Potts, Richard
2. Walding, Jody; Walding, Scott
3. Garrido, Angel; Oliveira, Jose



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2009 UK Championships

Open Doubles

1. Davey, Rob ; Shovelton, John
2. Burdett, Tom ; Sohi, Jujhar (forfeit)
3. Kim, Jeeha ; Nubbert, Andrew

Women's Doubles:

1. Racy, Mayya ; Walding, Jody
2. Walker, Donna ; Brice, Sarah
3. Ramlee, Hannah ; Murfin, Vicki

No-Pro Doubles:

1. Fothergill, Craig ; Franklin, Peter
2. Mason, Benjamin ; Kraus, Natasha
3. Bicki, Lukasz ; Paulukanis, Krzysztof

Amateur Doubles:

1. Jenkins, Simon ; Curtis, Tom
2. Oates, James ; Sampson, Luke
3. Leahy, Ben ; Rathke, Joules

Senior Doubles:

1. Ziemann, David ; Haddon, Christopher

Handicap Doubles:

1. Shovelton, Alex ; Morgan, David
2. Bundy, Joe ; Lyall, Stephen
3. Bicki, Lukasz ; Paulukanis, Krzysztof

Junior Doubles:

1. Sampson, Luke ; Oates, James

Open Singles

1. Sohi, Jujhar
2. Hamilton, Joe
3. Amsden, Mike

Women's Singles:

1. Walding, Jody
2. Brice, Sarah
3. Racy, Mayya (forfeit)

No-Pro Singles:

1. Thompson, Jean-Philippe
2. Addison, Graeme
3. Zakowski, Grzegorz

Amateur Singles:

1. Curtis, Tom
2. Pires, Antonio
3. Pearson, Brodie

Senior Singles:

1. Ziemann, David
2. Oates, Dave
3. Haddon, Christopher

Novice Singles:

1. Rathke, Joules
2. Pires, Antonio
3. Pires, Joao Carlos

Junior Singles:

1. Sampson, Luke
2. Oates, James



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Roberto-Sport WCS Report by Boris Atha

Wednesday – Arrived at East Midlands and met Jody after check-in. Rather a hairy landing at Prague, got 10000 crowns (thought it was £100 but was actually about £30 from a cashpoint and caught the bus to the tube terminus. First impressions of outer-Prague were typical central-european buildings, many signs in English as well as or instead of Czech, and wide boulevards to allow the Russian tanks to cruise through unhindered. Tube was disappointing – I half expected Moscow-style palatial stations but they were decorated in an almost 1960s Dr Who style (pressed metal panels with dalek-like bumps), however it got us to our station the other side of town. First impression of the hotel was a French player in the lobby with a cigarette – you can smoke inside in the Czech republic – just as well as it was freezing cold and snowing outside, Met up with Des and Damo from Ireland, had a few drinks in the hotel bar and a foos session in one of the conference rooms.

Thursday – I was partnered with Viteslav Stransky in no-pro doubles, lost the first game but won the rest to finish 26th out of 90-odd teams. Had a bye in the first round KO but then came up against Kubatowicz and Zienciekiewicz who creamed us 3-1, finishing 33rd. The Bristol crew arrived at tea-time and we all had a few beers (which is literally cheaper than water, a pint cost 30 crowns, a bottle of water 40. I'd been blown out by my open doubles partner – Czech teenager whose regular partner had recovered from the illness which had been keeping him out, Viteslav fixed me up with one of his mates, Lukas Reis, and we got registered at the last minute. Attended the Nation Cup draw and were disappointed to draw the Austrians found our first round match. Due to the drop in our national ranking we were no longer seeded so it means that things will be harder from now on.



© Boris Atha



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Roberto-Sport WCS Report by Boris Atha

Friday - In the qualification round Lukas & I were flying, losing only the last match sweat-ball against one of his mates who knew his game inside out. Had a tough match against a Polish team which went to sweat-ball, at which point Lukas took a time out and left me to finish off with a straight snake. We came up against the teenager who blew me out and he must have had about 20 shots against me and scored one (smug).

We were rather astounded to finish 2nd in the qualification table (actually equal 1st with 5 wins and a +18 GD), which gave us a bye in the first round KO. When the KO chart came out I was dismayed to find Kubiutowicz and Zienciekiewicz playing for the right to meet us against an Austrian team, and pleasantly surprised to see the Austrians triumph.

We took our match against them 3-1, should have been 3-0 but at 4-1 in the 4th I was again put up front to finish the match with a push-snake. In the Prize Money!!! We were up against the all-Bonzini clash between the dos Santos Lotes (father & son) and Fleurot/Hickel which went the distance, with the latter triumphing 7-5 in the 5th.

In our next match we went down in 4 sets by the odd goal, losing the 1st and 3rd 5-4 when we had shots to win (but he didn't take the time out) and took the 2nd 5-3. The 4th again went the distance, we equalised at 4-4 but Fleurot passed and scored to knock us out at 17th. We felt a little better about it after they took Ryan Moore and Tony Spredeman to 5-3 in the 5th in the next round.

Meanwhile Jody was teamed up with Jas Johanneke from the Netherlands, qualifying automatically as No 8 seeds but getting knocked out in the second KO round to finalists Aseminia Kirouglou and partner from Germany who prevailed due to an awesome front pin and bank-shots from the back.

The Nation Cup match against Austria was a bit one-sided, only Jody recording our only win. We'd just kicked off our doubles match when I was called to the desk and told Jody could only play as a man or as a woman, i.e. couldn't play the WS leg and a mens doubles match – I pointed out precedents and threatened an appeal – also pointing out that the person in charge of the 'Sport' decisions, Marko Luftneger was Austrian and could not rule on this due to a conflict of interest. We were allowed to carry on, not that it did us any good. In the meantime Dave Oates was waiting for the Germans to lose as Uli Stoepel was in the German team and also playing senior doubles. He took time out from the quarter-final and played SD, winning it comfortably, with Jet scoring the winner against Pirlet/Ragona with a bank-snake rocket from defence.

The Germans beat the Belgians in the Nations Cup final – by then Des and I had retired to the Chinese restaurant next to the hotel (excellent quality, cheap and huge portions!), although beers rather put paid to thoughts of an early night



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Roberto-Sport WCS Report by Boris Atha

Saturday – Tried to maximise sleep so rushed through the breakfast room and ate during the walk to the hall, didn't have a coffee at the hotel as it was nasty and was looking forward to an espresso at the tournament hall only to find the canteen closed for my first two matches. Both were against opponents I might have beaten if I'd had another 10% of alertness, unfortunately the remaining opponents were better and although my game had improved it wasn't quite good enough to win a match, so I didn't make the cut for the KO (neither did any of us).

Spent the afternoon in a 4-hour ITSF committee meeting. Jody qualified near the top of the non-seeds in WS and won her first round comfortably against a Slovenian girl and then triumphed in the second round against a German girl, but met Kirouglou's defender in the third round suffering a similar fate (9th) as in WD.

When the bar/canteen finally opened there was a new lad behind it who spoke English with an English accent – I said 'I bet you've lived in England' and he said 'No, I'm English' – Oliver has been living in Prague for 7 years and does play foos. I told him he probably had a good chance of being in next year's GB Nation Cup team if it was held here again.

One highlight was watching Italian-style Master Ivan di Stasi playing 'ironman' al-volo against Frederic and Bentivoglio, needless to say this was a competition Frederic didn't win!



Team Photo L-R

Boris Atha, David Evans, Ben Gannon, James Oates, Jody Walding, Dave Oates

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November Newsletter 2009

Roberto-Sport WCS Report by Boris Atha

Sunday – Decided I wanted a lie-in and as everyone qualified from NPS I wasn't that arsed, got there in time for my last qualifying match, coming back from 6-2 down to win on sweat ball, and copped for a lad with an awesome pin shot in the first KO round, thankfully he had no idea how to defend and a couple of 4-4 5-bar hacks got me 2 games up, he won the 3rd game on sweat ball but I took a quick 4-0 lead in the 4th and eventually finished him off with a quick pull-kick.

In the second round I came up against an Italian guy (Caruso) I won the first game easily when he was unsuccessfully trying out al-volo style against me, but then he switched to a snake shot and scored some good stuff from the back (including a couple of goalie-shots – the biter bit eh?) to do me 3-1. He ended up winning quite a few matches, one of which I was called upon to ref.

Meanwhile James O and partner topped the JD group stages, and won their semi-final to reach the final, only to be beaten in a closely-fought contest. A good weekend for the Oateses, both father (Bronze) and son (Silver) bringing home trophies in senior and junior doubles respectively.

I had hoped to travel back to the airport overground but the tram line we were on was a circular rather than radial line, and I wouldn't have had time, so never got to see anything of Prague's historic delights. Next year maybe. Funny on the bus listening to this German Mormon on the seats opposite trying to convert this pretty Czech girl, speaking English.

All in all it was an well-run tournament and pretty cheap too, the public transport to and from the airport cost a quid, pints of beer were a quid each, ciggies about £2.50 a packet, and the very posh hotel cost the same as a Travelodge. I'd thoroughly recommend it to anyone wanting an affordable WCS experience if it is back in Prague next year.

Only downsides were things which went missing – my refs shirt on the Friday, my chilli sauce on the Saturday, and at the airport on Sunday I put down the clear plastic 'security' bag containing my beloved's duty-free perfume for a few seconds to check whether I had enough crowns left to buy a coffee only to find it had disappeared from my feet.

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Edited by Dan Gallon

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