

FOOSBALL 2009

MAGAZINE
FOR THE NET
□ JULY □



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JULY : 2009

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from the pits...

Welcome to the second issue of Foosball Magazine (FM). The first issue was well received with well over 30,000 views. Figures like that give me the encouragement to carry on with this publication. As a brief explanation I did have the second issue ready for an April release but my hard drive crashed from the Conficker virus taking most of the data to the grave. The issue was so new I had not archived it and thus redoing the issue on short notice was out of the question. This all brings up a fundamental point concerning issue frequency. I would like to do these issues every month but without help, advertisers, contributors it's just impossible.

Our features this issue are exceptionally eclectic in nature. Up front this month is Phil Schlaefter. and the Foosball Master Tour **FMT** as seen on the Versus Network in June. **PAGE 4**



Following FMT is an article about foosball from **South America** by our roving world reporter Fred Gower. He reposts foosball is alive and doing well down south. **PAGE 12**

Next up is a very infomative interview with Larry davis who heads up the **USTSF**. An orgnization which struggles to keep the attention of the player in the shadow of its big brother. **PAGE 20**

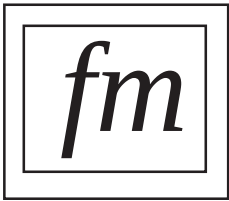
As pure intertainment I am pleased to present **"The Slaying of The Oliphant"** Developed post by post from the old EZbaord from players who were actively involved in discussing the day to day ramblings of foosabll. **PAGE 25**

Phil Kennedy
editor & publisher

PHIL SCHLAEFER

FMT: **national network
features foosball**

Foosball Masters Tour



Intro: By

now everyone has seen the Foosball Masters Tour on TV. It has been well documented on the board but few know the man behind it and the amount of time and effort and pure old hard work it has taken to get these first couple of episodes on the Versus network. I will forego a



Bio on Phil as he explains in his interview the background it has taken to arrive at this juncture. Phil is one of the premier foosball promoters of our sport and the reason Foosball Magazine is so pleased he has given us this informative and insightful interview.

FM: I want to thank you for the time we spent in Arlington discussing the Master Tour. I will get to the tour but first I would like to ask the status of the interchangeable handles you were promoting awhile back?

Phil: Once the dust settles on the Valley sale, I expect a gradual change over. As you have seen, the current Standard Handles with the 'grip' are on the tables now but secured old style with the full roll pin. These have the inner octagon to convert when ready.

FM: I guess what everyone would like to know is what gave you the idea for the masters TV tour program and how long has it taken you to take it from a dream to reality?

Phil: I have had the dream and idea for years, as have many other longtime foosers I suspect. I had concepts and outlines from back in '89 and '90 but never followed through. In 1990, I had a bit of a run in with Tornado's owner Ed McCloud at the time which prompted me to quit Foos cold turkey for almost 6 years. At that point I never thought I would get back into it as I threw myself into weight training and competitive softball, hoping to reach the 'A' leagues and play for a traveling team, which I did. When Valley bought Tornado and introduced the league program based on their highly successful Billiard leagues, I thought the idea was a winner. I was only going to 'promote' but the old competitive drive kicked in almost immediately and I started playing



tourneys again. As I have learned, it's impossible to be a top player and a top promoter at the same time. There were many periods where my promotions were clicking and then my play suffered, and vice versa. In 1999, I bought one of my pool hall locations and transformed it into Champions. I built a bleacher pit area with the original stadium seats from the Oakland Coliseum and featured 6 to 10 tables for almost 4 years. We set up cameras to film matches and had TV's hanging all over showing the matches. That inspired the old notions for TV or DVD type stuff. I looked around and saw that there still was not a definitive instructional Foos piece, so with the help of Brad Laurine, I made the "Winning Foosball" volume 1. More vivid TV ideas came from that and it was good experience producing and editing for the first time. I still have all the footage for volume 2 and 3 in the can but got side tracked and never completed the editing. Mark Teague and I intend to freshen them up with the FMT style by the way and re-release them.

Moving forward a few years, I was watching the World Series of Poker when I

recognized the Tournament Director, Matt Savage, whom I've known for over 20 years. We had lost touch but I still had his contact info. We re-connected at lunch when he came to town for a WPT event here in San Jose. After shooting the breeze for awhile, he was the one who encouraged me to really consider a serious production for TV after hearing my ideas. In 2005, we set up some meetings with some network executives. Everyone was looking for the next poker. As much as you and I love Foosball, we could not honestly say that Foosball would ever approach poker in popularity what with the casinos, off shore gambling and big money driving it. The first proposals were for a pretty standard production, showing Foosball as a serious sport closer to golf or tennis. Playing it very straight. The serious foosier would appreciate it but the studios were unimpressed. And network after network turned us down or teased us over the next 2 years. They just could not see it like I did. Enter Mark Teague. I had

not seen him in years also. A chance meeting with him at the San Diego ComicCon in 2007 was the next fortuitous turn. He had great success at Disney Studios as a multi-talented creator in the '90's and knew the ropes. He's always working on 10 projects at once but he loved the idea when I decided to go for a more in your face, high energy show about a game that has many more facets to it than meets the eye at first glance. He came up with the great



graphics for a nice website and we decided to go to the 2008 Hall of Fame at the Riv and start filming to put together an all new presentation to the networks. I hand picked some players that I thought would have nice presence on camera and staged some play and interviews. Then lots of hours mixing and matching to put together a fast moving trailer. Then we launched the website. To test it, we decided to debut it at the 2008 San Diego ComicCon which is the largest multi-media event of the year. All the major movie studios, gaming companies, and media creators in all fields are there as well as over 130,000 people over 4 days. A perfect crowd of civilians and networks, producers, directors and fans. Just a few weeks before, Warner Bros Music contacted me about making some custom Foosballs for the band 'Against Me'. They love Foos and bring a table with them everywhere they tour. Next thing I know, the manager for the band 'Disturbed' called and asked for a custom table. We made it and brought it down to the studio. The VP comes out of his office and says "holy *#@!" that's awesome! How much for 4 more?!" I negotiated a deal with him. I'll make 4 more but let me use one of their songs to put together a music video for our site.

He agreed and we unveiled it at the ComicCon along with 2 models, a stash of

Warner Bros swag(Disturbed, shirts, stickers, and cd's) and a 50" monitor playing the trailer. My booth was packed for 4 days straight. People played Foos non-stop and stopped to check out the trailer and watch me give some Foos demonstrations. Word gets around and Versus gets to me! So to sum up, 4 years of hard core working to get the show this far and 20 years of thinking about it.

FM: I would like to compliment you on the first two shows. I think the players are still taking this all in but I must ask are you pleased with the initial reaction to the show? What can the players do to pump up the Versus network on the program?

Phil: With the state of Foosball the last few years, I understand the players trepidation at change and this type of thing. We've been through a lot of ups and downs in this sport. So that being said, the feedback I have gotten has been overwhelmingly positive. Sure, there's been some criticism and I think you are correct about some players still taking it all in. It's the same for me: Is it really on TV? A bit surreal. As far as players pumping up the Versus Network, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Constant e-mail to feedback@versus.com letting them know that you want more shows and you are telling your friends. ANY show on TV needs that all the time, not just for one week. It's a tough business so consistent fan following is crucial.

FM: I noticed a distinct change from the first episode to the second. The second seemed in tune with the player's suggestions. Will you be tweaking this formula from episode to episode?

Phil: I wish I could say that we were able to act upon the players suggestions so quickly. However, never having done the show, the 10 week time period we had to get the 1st one done really went by fast. I had 3 different "scripts" but settled on the version you saw. My intention was to give each of the players some face time. Well, a 30 minute show is actually only 24 minutes of content. The rest is commercial. We narrowed the version down each week and still needed to cut 5 more minutes with less than 1 week to go. At the point of no return now. Too late to re-work it significantly so I'll just have to trim as best as I can. Once we got the final version done and sent to Mark to finish some more graphics, there simply was no time left for him to put the 'vapor trails' in and the 'score bar graphic'. Once the product was finished, it goes to the Close Captioning people, then to Versus for review. If they do not like something, say the placement of a graphic, or too much red(red does not show well on broadcast TV so there are strict color codes to pass)



or a typo, or the time is off (tv and it's commercials are to the exact frame, the show is 23:56:35 = 23 minutes, 56 seconds, and 35 frames exactly!), we have to fix it and overnight another copy. Originally, the show was to air the first episode on Wednesday and then the 2nd episode 2 days later. Versus helped us out by suggesting that we switch to episode 1 one week and number 2 the next. That extra week allowed us to edit a bit more and put the graphics in.

The player's suggestions were great. As with any show, there will be some tweaks to get it just right. Watch The World Series of Poker. In the 90's, it was hard to watch, drab announcing, no pocket cam, no nice graphics, no real drama. When it was upgraded in 2002 and the amateur from New York won, Gabe Kaplan was still the drab color guy and Lon McCheron had a more subdued style as well. The pocket cam was not perfected and the graphics were marginal. 2003 everything hit perfect for them. Gabe Kaplan was replaced with the wisecracking Norman Chad, Lon's "play by play" was more dynamic, the graphics package was significantly upgraded, and the pocket cam was perfected. The addition of %'s, player segments, and more personalities all added a ton. And then of course, the final piece: The amateur Chris Moneymaker gets in by winning a \$65 online qualifier (instead of forking out \$10k!) and wins the whole thing. A lot of things had to hit just right.

What I intend to do for the next FMT is to have some regional qualifying tourneys for the other divisions. For example, the winning amateur team at a Texas State gets a paid spot on the FMT Championship Bracket! The Semi-Pro, Pro, womens, etc. This would be great for the promoter and for drama on the show. The 2 out of 3 single elimination non-seeded format was chosen to heighten the drama and insure that the same 1 or 2 teams may not always win. If you heard, the tension in the pits when we filmed was awesome.

FM: I know you were in town talking with possible sponsors, Any luck?

Phil: I have been speaking with potential sponsors daily. Once the show aired, response has been great. In this economy and with an unproven product, most out there had a "wait and see" attitude. Is it going to be any good? Production value? Will people like it? Versus called me right away to say how much they liked it and when am I doing more. They also noticed the feedback response. Keep it coming!



TO LEAVE FEEDBACK FOR THE SHOW:

feedback@versus.com

FM: I want to thank you for the great interview and in close when will we know if the show will progress beyond these two test shows?

Phil: We are laying the groundwork for the next filmings now. Lots of logistics involved as you would expect. The shows will go to 1 hour in length and could go to 8 to 10 episodes per event. We have tons of great stuff you have not seen yet to augment it. The first 2 episodes we did are being re-edited slightly to play as a 1 hour show when they re-air before the new ones. We did go back and put the 'vapor trails' in episode 1 and the 'score bars' so when Versus re-airs they are set. The DVD is going to have some extended footage, interviews, and just more stuff. We advertised 4 to 6 weeks for shipment. It will be close. I hope to have some formal announcements soon.

FM

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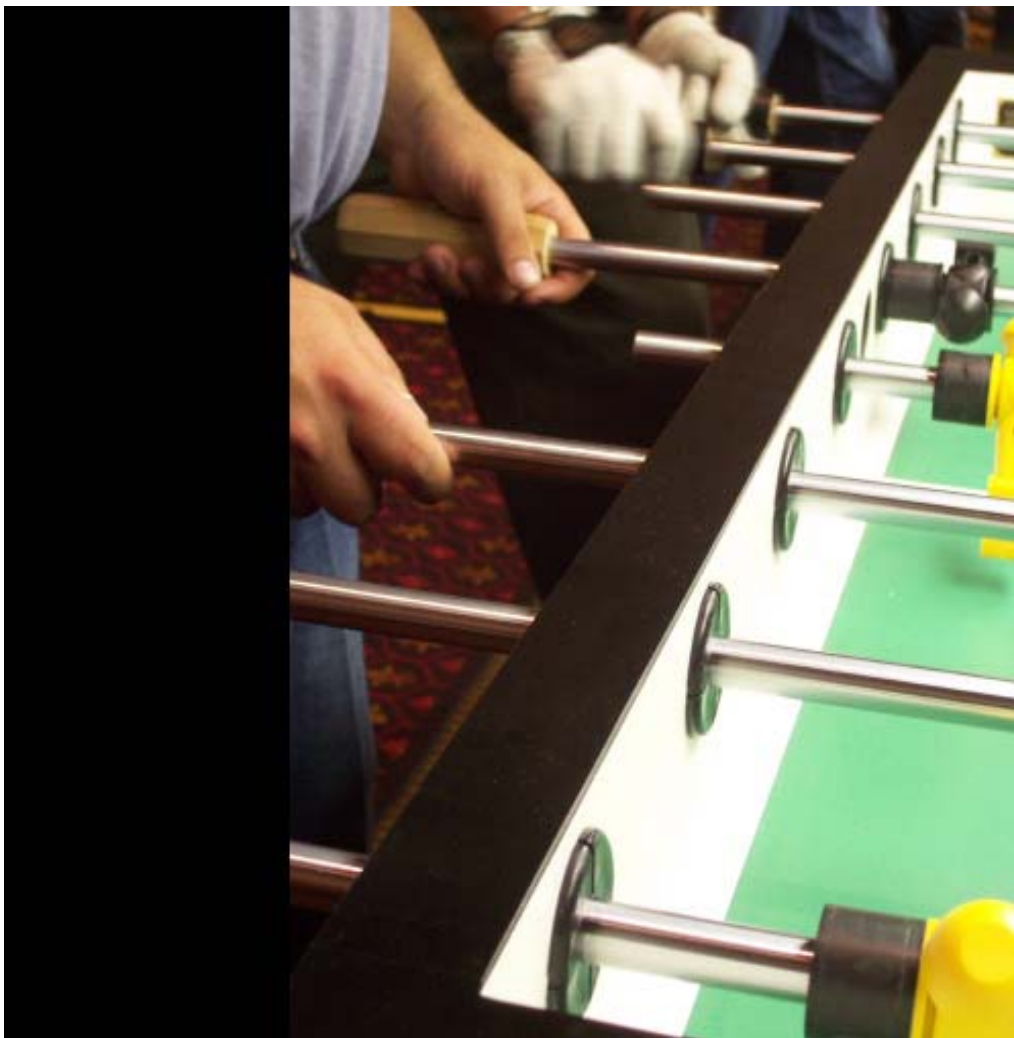
WWW.FOOSBALLMASTERTOUR.COM

<http://www.versus.com/sports>

On May 8, 2009, a limited partnership controlled by Mr. Kelye Stites acquired substantially all of Valley-Dynamo, LLC's operating assets including the Valley, Dynamo, and Tornado coin-operated and consumer pool, air hockey and foosball table brands. Kelye is the owner of Champion Shuffleboard, Inc., in addition to other businesses in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Valley-Dynamo will operate as an independent business going forward and expects to continue its relationship with you. Business will continue on an interim basis out of the company's current distribution center in Grand Prairie, TX, pending the identification of a new location.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact **Valley/Dynamo at (800) 248 2837**.





OFFICIAL FM WEBSITE

Welcome Nebraska Foosers!

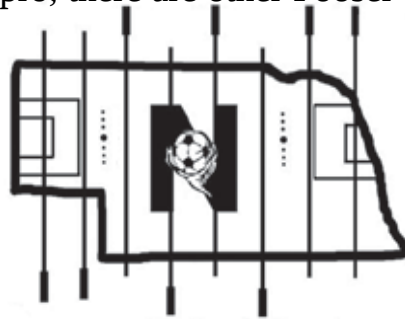
Welcome to Nebraska Foosball.com! This Website is dedicated to promoting Foosball in Lincoln and surrounding areas for players of all ages and abilities. Inside you'll find information for getting started in Foosball, where to play, upcoming tournaments and events, and where to find a league that matches your ability. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned pro, there are other Foosers out there to be found and we want to bring you together.

Email:

Dick Danger

General Information: dickdanger@nebraskafoosball.com

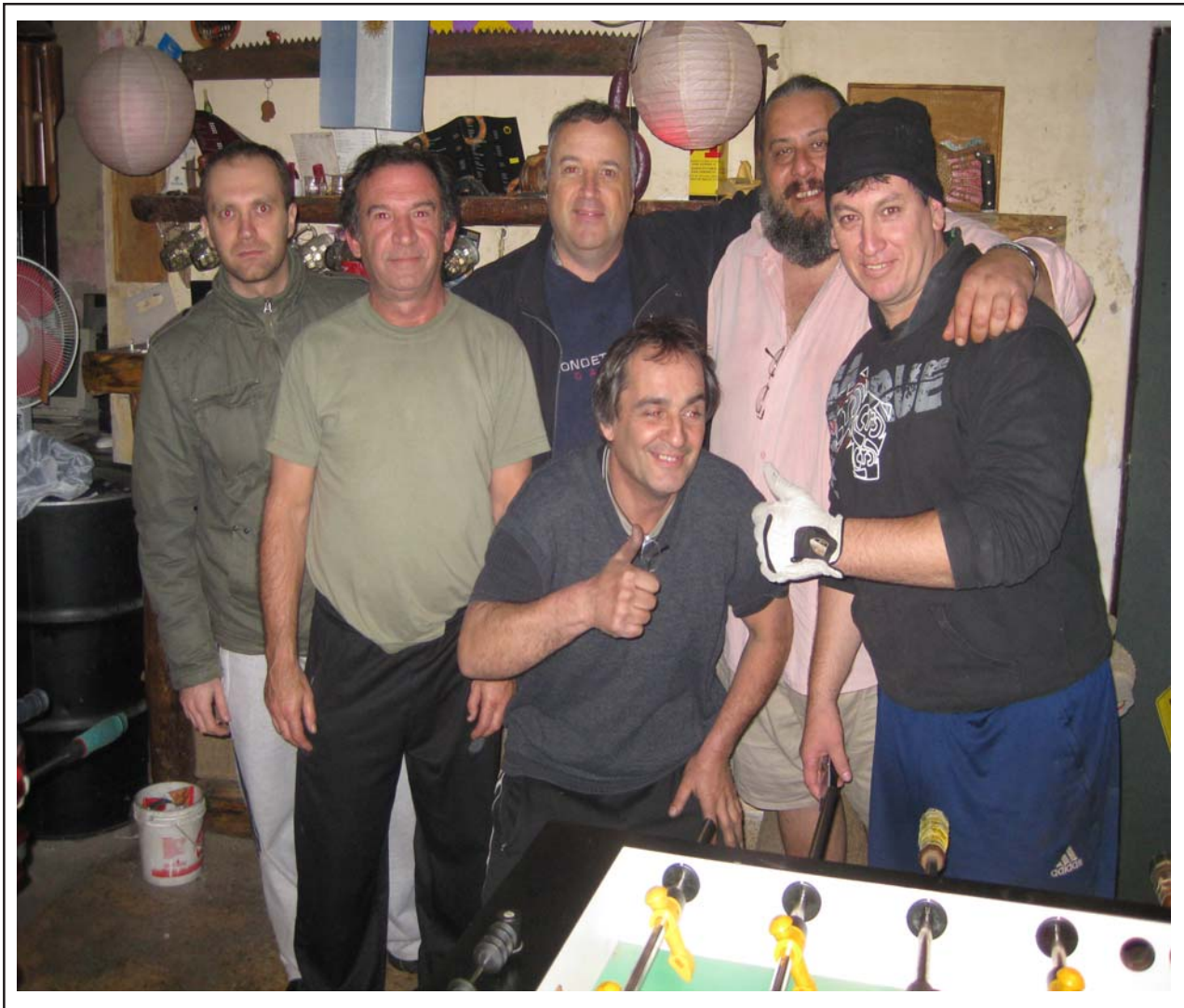
Webmaster: benstone@nebraskafoosball.com



FOOSBALL:

South American Style

— Fred Gower —



Intro: As many know Fred Gower lived in China for several years and reported back on Asia/Oceanic foosball scene. In the last year he has returned to the states where he now lives in Florida. Fred has agreed to become Foosball Magazine's world traveler reporter and with this issue he has visited South America. For this issue he visited Brazil and Argentina and reports foosball is growing in both countries who embrace soccer like a religion and have seen the popularity of foosball come and go and come back again just like in North America.

Foosball in Brazil:

My first stop in exploring South American foosball are the twin cities of Sao Vicente and Santos in Brazil. They are a 45 minute drive from Sao Paulo which at 19 million people is the largest city in the country. Similar to football in the U.S. or ice hockey in Canada soccer is beyond a sport in Brazil - it is something closer to a religion and is core to a Brazilian's national identity.

Brazilian Training Center

As a teenager, I was introduced to Brazilian soccer when I saw Pele play when he was with the New York Cosmos. I still remember that Pele was from this same area of Brazil and it is where he again lives today. So, I thought it was fitting then that another person from this same city was now introducing me to Brazilian foosball.

Clayton Fonseca remembers 30 years ago when he was 8 years old that there seemed to be foosball tables on every corner of Brazil.

“Pebolim” as it is known in the South, or “Toto” as it is known in the North, was very popular throughout Brazil. In the '80s and '90s, as in the U.S. video games took a big bite out of the popularity of foosball in Brazil. The growth going on now is a resurgence of a game that many here thought was gone forever but with a new emphasis now on table quality.

Clayton started playing seriously when at age 14 they bought a table for his family's restaurant. Later, when he lived in Florida for a few years he would play at Lost Weekend in Palm Beach and at Dirty Harry's in Fort Lauderdale. When it was time to return to Brazil, he was determined to keep playing and to keep growing the game.

Clayton is now full time into foosball. He is a table manufacturer, promoter, player, and is also the head of the foosball federation in Brazil. They are ITSF members and have taken part in the last two ITSF competitions in Italy and in France.



If you know Brazilian soccer, you know that they play like artists

whereas say Germans for instance play the game more like a well oiled machine. It is not surprising then to see that on the foosball table, most Brazilians are full of style and flair. They improvise more than utilizing a set series of shots and passes. Clayton's play is a little different from this in that he still can improvise very well but he also has a very nice Euro-front toe and Pull shot series from the 3 bar.

I had a really fun evening at their national training center. The ground floor was the shop where Clayton builds his own table for the Brazilian market. The Naja ("Nah-Jah") is a well built, solid feeling table with solid rods. The men feel like the newer and grippier Garlando men. All shooting and passing series

are possible on it. What is really cool about it is the illuminated scoring system. In addition to keeping track of the goals, it also tells you the speed of a shot that goes in the goal. One of their models even tells you the time of possession on each rod by way of sensors in the side walls.



Clayton Fonseca Kneeling

FRED

On the second floor was the training center with 4 tables - Naja, Tornado, Roberto Sport Adrenaline, and another popular Brazilian made table. I tried all the tables and found them to all play well. The Roberto Sport was their new model with the textured playing surface and the men with a contoured toe. It is still not my favorite table but it is much improved from the older models.

The players were kind enough to let me play on the Tornado table throughout the night even though most of them play on the Tornado only rarely. There is a 110% duty on imported tables like the Tornado so there are very few of them in Brazil. Clayton is only aware of the one Tornado that we are playing on.

The top Brazilian players are very knowledgeable and respectful of North American and European pro master players and are beginning to study their styles on Youtube.

It was nice to see so many women out to play while I was there and my foosball playing friends in Japan will be interested to know that two of the players I met are of Japanese ancestry. I have since learned that many Japanese have immigrated to Brazil and seem especially fond of the game of foosball.

In addition to Clayton, the other Brazilian federation heads are Rogerio Goncalves of Espirito Santo, as well as Carlos Volpi and Edimar Gandini of Sau Paulo. They are also top ranked players as well.

The reasons to come to Brazil are many. The famous Carnival, the people, the music, the food, and the beaches. The passionate foosball players here want you to add foosball to that list in the future. If you need a dubs partner to come with you, hit me up. I can't wait to go back!

Obrigado
Brasil!



Related links:

Brazil

Clayton Fonseca email
clayton@pebolim.com.br

Brazil foosball federation
www.febrape.com.br
Translated into English

Foosball in Argentina:

On my second stop I was very lucky to meet up and to play some foosball with Rafael Colaso in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I found him through the ITSF website. Forty five year old Rafael is the current head of the Asociacion Argentina de Futbol de Mesa.

The group was originally started by Tony Caruso, an Argentine who at one time lived in Florida. In 1998, Tony was the first to bring in Tornado foosball tables to Argentina which was quite a commitment with the 75% additional import duty and a large shipping expense on top of that. Four of the tables remain in use today although since they are quite old now and well used, the table that we played on was a little past its' prime. However, it is still pretty cool to be playing on a Tornado of any kind in this beautiful city.

Rafael speaks very little English and I speak even less Spanish. Luckily, enough of the players speak enough English to make everything work out. The playing location is in a large garage of a business run by one of the players. The two main



Rafael Colaso

tables that we used have good lighting so it is a nice place to play. I found all the players to be very friendly and accommodating.

About 6 of the top players made it out to an event that they had organized to coincide with my visit. The top male players in Argentina are Rafael and his son along with Frederico Cappa, Daniel Juarez, Marcos Lombardo, Miguel Centeno, and Claudio Yanchuk. The top womens players are Soledad Colaso and Paola Mansilla.

Locally, the game has two names: “Metegol”, which translates to something similar to “Put it in the Goal”, and “Futbol di Mesa” which translates to “Football of the Table”.

The first table

I tried was an Argentine made table by the name of “Cosmos”. Most interesting was the fact that the men were made out of cast aluminum with a rough toe. With a grippy plastic ball, it was a pretty good table for a front toe series but since the men were not counter balanced it was not a great table for rollovers. The table is a fairly old design now but still a lot of fun to play on. I found it interesting that the color scheme of the men was Brazilian yellow and Argentine blue jerseys. Argentina and Brazil are passionate rivals in the world of soccer as well.

The local players I met were Argentine pro level players and very experienced on the table so of course they played quite well on it. They used a variety of shots including pull shots, Euros, rollovers, pull and push kicks, and tic-tacks.

In terms of major competitions, the players are very proud of their first and only national Argentina championship to date which was held in 2005. It drew 545 players in seven events over three days.

For the ITSF events in Hamburg and St Vincente, the national team was selected through a separate qualification tournament. In Hamburg, they were in a very tough group with Italy, Holland, and Denmark but still had a very respectable showing.



Cosmos Table

In St. Vincente Italy, the Argentines played the U.S. team and are fans of many of the great U.S. players. Their table of choice at ITSF events is Tornado although many of them use a Euro front pin series so they should do well on all of the tables given more experience on them in the coming years. At their national headquarters they also have a Bonzini and a Roberto Sport table.

The top finish

for an Argentine player was in 1998 when Rafael teamed up with Michael Bates to defeat Frederic Collignon and partner to win the DYP at Worlds in Dallas/Fort Worth.

When he was younger, Rafael remembers when foosball tables were everywhere in Argentina. Video games of course took their toll on the sport over the years but as recently as 1996, 45,000 tables were sold annually in the country. Things have continued to slow for the sport but Rafael still estimates that there are at least 15,000 tables still actively played on throughout Argentina.

Their group is determined to grow the game once again and I was able to meet with the government representative in charge of foosball for the country. I met him in the Casa Rosada which is the historic pink palace that Evita Peron was in when she was asking Argentina “not to Cry for her”. This part always seems to make my wife start singing when she reads it.

Rafael and I talked with the government representative about a number of alternatives and I was happy to offer whatever advice that I could. The Argentine players wanted to especially thank David Carter of the UK as well as Gregg Perrie for their help over the years.

Because Tornado tables are not available in a large number of public places in Argentina, I don’t see it as being a big foosball destination for U.S. Players. However for the ones that do plan to visit Argentina anyway and want to play some foosball as well, you will find the Argentine players to be great hosts and strong competition.



Marcos Lombardo

As a city, Buenos Aires is architecturally stunning and has a very European look and feel to it. I highly recommend a visit. You may even want to try a little Metegol as well. Muchos gracias Argentina!

Argentina

Related Links:

Rafael Colaso email

metegol@futboldemesa.org.ar

Argentina Foosball Federation

<http://www.futboldemesa.org.ar/>

Translated into English

<http://translate.google.com/translate?u=futboldemesa.org.ar&sl=es&tl=en&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>

FM



All Photos Courtesy Toothpick Ted Productions



USTSF: Larry Davis *interview*

Intro: I really don't think

Larry needs an introduction. If you do not know who he is then I'm almost positive you're not a foosball player or at least so new to the game rookie would apply. Let's move on to the fact that Larry has served the sport of foosball in just about every capacity that one can. Player, promoter, organizer, game room owner, manufacturer rep and now has put all this to good use at the Pentagon protecting us. I knew when I asked Larry for an interview he was a detailed person but the interview he sent me back sort of blew my doors off. I struggled for number of days trying to put

my arms around it and get it down to the length I have. I explain all this because the following interview has been edited down. If you would like the full interview feel free to email me and I'll send you the complete interview but I think I have highlighted the major portions of the interview. Larry of course is the current president of the USTSF and as such has the inside scoop that we all wonder about. Enjoy.



FM: First let me congratulate you on your new baby. I know this has kept you busy but I have to ask has the USTSF progressed in the U.S. the way you would have liked it under your tutelage?

Larry: Thanks, having a new baby has been great but it hasn't exactly freed up any more time! Yes, the USTSF has indeed made some progress. What I've found, however, is that with all our volunteer staff being workaholics in their own lives, the time we have and the amount we can contribute at any one time is limited thus the progress we've made has been slow, incremental and while important, it has certainly not kept pace with people's expectations.

FM: What major goals were set and have you reached them this year?

Larry: This year's goals included:

- a) Our first full tax filing (which brings us up to date for the first time in six years). Until recently none of the USTSF Board of Directors had much tax accounting experience and because our total operating budget has almost always been less than \$10,000 annually we've been able to extend the full filing until now.

- b) The establishment of the structure for a national state championships program (which Kathy Brainard initiated, drafted and disseminated to the new volunteer USTSFS Regional and State Directors that we've already established in 32 states). And a follow-on dissemination of instructional information from myself to the state directors on how to run better state-level tournaments in their areas, to include working with local businesses, charities, sports authorities, convention & visitors bureaus and media, and coordinating these to gain sponsors for their events and greater visibility for the sport.
- c) Continuing to conduct open USTSFS General/National Assembly meetings – the first for this year being held at the Tornado HOF in Las Vegas and the next being at the Tornado World Championship Series in Dallas this coming September – at which all players, promoters and operators were/are invited to participate. In connection with both we invited ITSF's President Farid Lounas to attend and to hold open-to-all question and answer sessions.
- d) Conducting open elections for those USTSFS Board of Directors positions that will become available again this year. This election will take place at Tornado Worlds in Dallas in September, and all interested should contact Pat Ryan to submit an application. By the way, in 2010 another two Board positions will open up to new candidates, as will my own position.
- e) Continued work on maintaining positive, ongoing relations with all USA manufacturers and/or manufacturer reps, including Tornado, Warrior, Bonzini USA, Shelti, Medalist and others. As can be seen, such relations do not imply total engagement or even partial engagement in their respective marketing projects, it could be as simple as just an open dialogue. Of note, USTSFS is free to work with any manufacturer on any promotion – we are not somehow locked into supporting only ITSF tables at the expense of furthering the sport as a whole. But I think one of your next questions will go into this topic deeper.
- f) USTSFS has been assembling its five-year update package to the U.S. Olympic Credentials Committee. The USOC can't actually act on our initial, quite extensive package (submitted in 2003 and acknowledged by the USOC in early 2004) until in fact, the sport becomes "recognized" as a sport by the International Olympic Committee – ITSF's main task and reason for being. As result, the five-year update package (a huge project in itself) remains only a reminder to the USOC of our structural progress and continued work as a National Governing Body for the sport in the USA.
- g) Continued duties as a National Governing Body, such as sanctioning of tournaments, qualification of National Champions and selection of a U.S. National Team for international competitions, media & player communications and sport development (including the previously mentioned National State Championships program, our Tables for Kids and Tables for Troops programs, establishment of our Sponsorship Best Practices, Ask the U.S. National Team and State Directors' web forums at Foosball.com, and more). in terms of either our goals or impact to the players. Proposed means of additional (non-ITSF) funding support that will continue to have no out-of-pocket cost to the players, and means for hiring full and part time employees will be on the agenda for the upcoming National Assembly meeting.

- h) Where we've come up short (as we always do) is in fundraising. Many of the potential projects and ideas we have (or that people have suggested to us) require either at least one full-time staffer and an office space, or in some various other ways require funding support to even get them off the ground. As to date we've never charged any players any dues, membership, licensing or administrative fees, we've relied 100% on donations. It's only in this last year that we've also begun to receive disbursements from the ITSF's national federation development fund (which ITSF receives from the manufacturers' sales of ITSF tables in those federations' respective countries). At this point however, that amount is still very modest (a total of 5K over the last 12 months) and not sufficient to alone help us accomplish anything of significant scope in terms of either our goals or impact to the players. Proposed means of additional (non-ITSF) funding support that will continue to have no out-of-pocket cost to the players, and means for hiring full and part time employees will be on the agenda for the upcoming National Assembly meeting.
- i) A national ratings system – this is ALWAYS a contentious issue among players, promoters, and manufacturers alike. Moreover, any system used is data entry intensive, again requiring that USTSF at some point pay someone to validate and verify the accuracy of tournament results submitted and to administer the system as a whole. While we have motivated volunteers on a ratings committee, each of whom have their own ideas and perspectives as to how to work a system that can satisfy the greater majority, another agenda item for the National Assembly meeting will be who that will be (such as Shaun Cooper, Mark Winker, Bruce Nardoci or others) and how to compensate them. In the meantime, as President I have set as the policy going forward that the USTSF will have a stand-alone, unbiased, unaltered system. And based on a vote at the last USTSF Board of Directors meeting in Vegas last March, I have endorsed the further concept that if any manufacturer or promoter does NOT want to use the USTSF's system and published points they can either 1) take the USTSF's points and "adjust" them as they see fit (example: USTSA) provided that they first document their system for those adjustments and have their system certified by USTSF, or 2) use their own ratings system and have that certified by USTSF as a whole (example: Bonzini USA). In any of these cases, if a tournament is sanctioned by USTSF, all charts for rated events are required to be submitted to USTSF within 10 days and updated ratings to be posted online within 30 days. In all cases a certified system will be in place, providing compliance with USOC requirements of USTSF as a governing body.

<http://ustsf.foosball.com/>

FM: How does the USTSF support the ITSF?

Larry: The USTSF primarily provides the following support to ITSF via:

- a) annual national federation membership dues (approximately \$1,400 per year as an ITSF “Regular” [full] member at the current exchange rate),
- b) coordination and processing ITSF tournament sanctioning requests from manufacturers and promoters in the USA,
- c) promoting those events on the USTSF website and via targeted national and international press release distributions,
- d) ensuring qualification opportunities for USA players to the ITSF World Championships and selection of a U.S. National Team to participate in the ITSF World Cup tournaments, and
- e) acting as ITSF’s official representative at ITSF sanctioned tournaments and in media events/ interviews at those tournaments in the case where ITSF has no other officials present.

FM: Who are the major mover and shakers in the USTSF and what are their agendas?

Larry: “Movers and shakers...” I like that phrase, but of our current primary all-volunteer Board of Directors (myself, Jim Waterman, Pat Ryan, Kathy Brainard, Bruce Nardoci and Jim Stevens) it would be hard to call anybody a mover and shaker. I think that out of those, I would be the most likely to fit that description not on hard-charging, outgoing personality but on creation and implementation of ideas – if only I had the time and resources. Pat has been key to development of By-laws, Sport Code and other USOC compliance, Bruce to the website. (Note: by and large, our agendas are one with our goals, as described earlier.)

FM: Why is it perceived that the USTSF and ITSF is just a promoting wing of Valley?

Larry: I’m personally not sure exactly why that is. I would start first with the obvious confusion for some that USTSF is not USTSA, which is in fact a marketing arm of Valley-Dynamo along with VIFA. We’ve been fortunate enough that we’ve received sponsorships for U.S. National Team uniforms from Valley, Warrior, Bonzini USA and others. USTSF has sanctioned and promoted dozens of Valley, IFP and Bonzini tournaments and is even free to sanction others if requested, such as say, on Medalist. This naturally means that USTSF does not genuinely work for either USTSA/Valley-Dynamo or ITSF. However, it does turn out that until this year, the only ones asking USTSF for sanctioning were either USTSA/Valley-Dynamo As a direct result, the only tournaments we were promoting were, yes, on Tornado or Bonzini which are, yes, among five ITSF “Official” tables/partner manufacturers. On ITSF being a promoting wing for Valley, that inherently just doesn’t make sense. ITSF has an agenda to support and grow organized, competitive table soccer in as many countries worldwide as they can

FM: As a follow up has anyone contacted Brendan or Mary about involving them in ITSF/USTSF promotions?

Larry: USTSF has offered IFP/Warrior the opportunity to have their tables reviewed/endorsed to ITSF by USTSF's Equipment Standards Committee. At first Mary and Brendan were motivated to do that, and to have their tables reviewed by two other federations as required (Canada and the UK, I think), but then came an interfering factor – Brunswick's threat to take legal action regarding patent infringement of the playing figure (and possibly the bearings, but I'm not 100% sure on the latter). They then opted to wait until a new playing figure was developed which would further reduce ITSF's objections as for the most part, ITSF partner manufacturers can't be suing each other. I know Brendan's a savvy businessman, so I'm sure if/when the time is right he'll re-engage that issue.

FM: Anything you would like to add that the USTSF is doing that maybe we aren't aware of and could support?

Larry: There's two key areas in which we need help. One is, we need Ed Geer to remain more focused on our accounting and tax filings (the area in which he originally volunteered to help USTSF). As such we also need some tech-savvy volunteers to help in managing USTSF's stand-alone ratings system (Mury Johnson and Shaun Cooper were doing it for a long time but their personal lives have severely restricted their volunteer time). Next is, we need another volunteer – someone with a good marketing and budget projection background – to put together a proper 5-year marketing plan for us. Beyond that, USTSF will have Board of Directors positions opening up, all our committees need to be staffed and projects worked. We need volunteers to work our collegiate program, our Tables for Kids program, and our Tables for Troops program. The list goes on and on. USTSF has always been about open player involvement & participation, but what we REALLY need are doers who love the sport as much as we do and if given a project have the will and motivation and time to run with it.

FM: Good job Larry, detailed as always and I would say the USTSF has a bright future.

Larry: Thanks Phil, and thanks to all who've made it this far in reading this interview! I know people prefer short, concise answers but my view is that if you don't know the full reason, rationale or detail then all that remains is rumor and speculation.

Larry Davis, President

United States Table Soccer Federation

<http://www.foospick.com/>

The Chronicles Of EZboard:

“THE SLAYING of the OLIPHANT”

Authors:

Liz Day
Brandon Moreland
Moya Tielens
David Pena
Karsten Hendrick

*THE FOLLOWING STORY WAS PENNED AND
CREATED BY PLAYERS AND FREQUENT
POSTERS OF THE OLD EZBOARD.*

1

This ain't Star Wars, so don't trust your feelings

Standing amidst a pile of shattered bodies, the lone Guardian of Truth and Justice, Sir

Karsten Foosalot pauses to wipe his bloody brow. His Armor of Truth is dented, his massive Shield of Reason shattered to pieces from many emotional blows. Sir Karsten leans on the hilt of his long sword, Logic, the end of which is still stuck in the corpse of failed arguments. No rest for the righteous he realizes as he scans the nearby hilltops, another screaming barbarian horde of female foosers emerges from out of the mist.

How odd, he reflects, they all look like My Fair Lady Moya. But these female foosers are clad head-to-toe in the Armor of Emotion, and wielding great bloody axes of Circular Logic. He knows their favorite target all too well, as he adjusts the chain mesh covering the gap between his plate armored legs.

Sir Karsten mounts his great horse, Corvette, and dashes off for the safety of the walls of Castle Homey, where the Robber Knight “Radack Fooskiller” is already loading the Catapult of Painful Insults with a misogynistic load of hot oil and sexist drivel. Sir Karsten feels a little pity for the female horde, which is chasing him to Castle Homey, but his balls are grateful as they churn in dangled anticipation!

2

The Slaying

Safety at last my King Homey! Sir Karsten Foosalot’s raucous laughter echoes off the courtyard walls for all to hear. Rejuvenated, he mounts his warhorse, Corvette once again and thunders out across the war-scarred plains to abolish the evil thing which doest cause great consternation among the peoples. As he approaches, he sees it is large, much larger than the mouth of the Dragon Leo. It is the biggest elephant he has ever seen. It is no elephant; it is an Oliphant, a dread creature of legend. Sir Karsten must check his chivalry, for the beast, he has noticed, is female. The unholy beast raises its massive trunk.

“Separate points systems,” it blares at him! “Who you calling an elephant? Why are you being argumentative?” Growls the Oliphant.

Despite these and other emotional jabs, he lowers his visor and charges, armed with the Lance of Lightning Wit. Deadly blow after dealy blow he deals by striking it between its dastardly titties and into its black heart! The beast lashes out, dismounting him with its trunk.

Recovering his balance he draws the Longsword Logic, and deals the final deathblow to this irrational monster! As the Oluphant colapses the Exhausted knight return to the Castle Homey. Wearily he dismounts and drains a great flagon of ale and grins with joy that his balls are still intact beneath the armor.

“Have we heard the last about that Elephant, now,” he wonders out loud...

You'd better be careful comes a wistful voice. Our Fair Lady Moya is really an evil witch in disguise and will cast a spell, to bring the dreaded Oliphaunt back to life. Have no fear the fierce Robber Knight Radack Fooskiller has dispatched his foul minions to cremate the remains, with the blessing of King Homey.

3

The Quest

All the bold knights and ladies fair were gathered round the table of foos at King Homey's Castle in the fresh autumn air. Robber Knight Radack Fooskiller and Man-At-Arms "Brandon Wizard Sensei" along with King Homey partied with wild abandon all the while admiring the fair beauty of Lady Moya.

From out of the night a sound like no other. Twas a Siren's call, the wail of a banshee echoing in the hall, breaking the merriment. The mythical female enchantress cajoled "Your kingdom of logic sucks" King Homey was angered at a disruption so bold.

Quoth King Homey, "How dare she bust up my merrymaking with Lady Moya. To be so daft. What great knight shall punish the enchantress with his sword?"

Quoth Sir Karsten, "I shall, my King, I shall ride forth again. I shall find out what's bothering our King." So drunkenly bedight this gallant knight will boldly ride in deep appreciation. Mounting his famous steed Corvette he rode out into the night.

Along the way, a female he met clothed in naught but darkness and shadow, "Shade I say, show me the way, where I can find Whats Bothering King Homey and Lady Moya?"

"Ride boldly ride," the female shade replied, "Over the Mountains of the Bosom and through the Valley of That Time of the Month, Ride, boldly ride, if thou seekest Whats Bothering Moya".

So onward did he ride, over the Mountains of the Bosom and through the Valley of That Time of the Month, crossing the Oceans of Time and Forever's Tomorrow.

After a long journey, unsuccessful in his search for WhatsBotheringMoya, the weary Knight, Sir Karsten Foosalot, finally realizes that nothing on this earth is powerful enough to rid the peasants, King Homey, and his loyal subjects, of the dreaded Oliphaunt.

As she rises from the ashes, with an incredible sense of rejuvenation, the Oliphant raises her massive trunk again and delivers yet another deadly blow. Sir Karsten Foosalot, dizzy by the ferociousness of the risen Oliphaunt, picks up his bloodied body, and retreats, on his faithful old warhorse Corvette back to the Castle Homey. Upon returning to the castle, Sir Karsten Foosalot noticed, to his dismay, that during his last encounter with the Oliphant, his trusted Longsword Logic had been shattered from the near fatal blow. He ponders to himself, as he sits to recoup with his flagon. "I should have known," he thought, "this war will never be over. The only thing that will save the King, his subjects and the peasants now, is to admit to themselves that the dreaded Oliphant is in all actuality, a magnificent creature that commands respect and admiration. Sir Karsten Foosalot, the lone Guardian of Truth and Justice, rises and raises his flagon in praise, and says, for all the lands to hear, "Hail Fair Ladies, and Long Live the Oliphant."

4

Rebirth

It happened in a night. A deep slumbers was all in King Homey's Castle. After finishing troughs of ale and the most potent of herbal entertainment, The King and his loyal knights fell unconscious, King Homey with a cookie in his jaw. What's this? How could such a thorough and reliable Knight forget about the Homeland of the Oliphant? Fair Lady Golfnfoos was a beautiful flaxen haired woman of the Fair Land of Amazons. She received word from one of her flaxen haired sisters, Fair Lady Coy, that Sir Karsten Foosalot had slain their beloved Oliphant. With no time to spare, the sisters mixed up the potion that would be used to raise the Oliphant from the ashes. They dressed for battle, clad head to toe in their Armour of Emotion; they mounted their stallions and rode off into the night. Reaching the site of their beloved Oliphant, they dismounted and began to sprinkle the ashes with the potion. They sang songs and chanted stanzas from The Vagina Monologues, whilst they held hands and circled the ashes. Waiting to Exhale, they danced until the Oliphaunt arose from the ashes, and like Stella, the Oliphant got her groove back. Gleefully rejuvenated they retreated to their Homeland for more ammunition, as they knew King Homey and his loyal followers would not rest until The Fair Ladies of the Homeland of Amazons could be subdued.

5

The Dream

King Homey awoke from his slumber..."Why the hell did that damn jester let me fall asleep with this cookie in my mouth?" he thought. "And where is the rest of the herbal entertainment? I like to waketh and baketh." After repositioning himself in his thrown, King Homey stood up and wandered over to the table of Foos. He began to knock a foostone around when he remembered his dream. He dreamed of a bloody encounter with the Oliphant! King Homey was standing eye to eye with the great beast. It bellowed loudly.

"I will kick your ass!!!"

How could this be? Hadn't the Oliphant been slain by the trusty Knight Sir Karsten Foosalot? The King immediately reached for his weapon, the Great Sword. Without hesitation, the Oliphant from his dream swung her trunk and knocked the King to the ground.

"The Oliphant is powerful," a voice said.

"The Oliphant is powerful," a second voice said...then a third, then a fourth, and so on.

The Room of Recreation echoed the chant. The King's head was spinning. Unsure of his proximity, he jumped to his feet and much to his dismay the Room of Recreation was filled with flaxen-haired women from the Fair Land of the Amazons. They continued the chant in unison.

"The Oilphant is powerful"

Regaining his balance and composure, the King thought, "This is odd, the Oliphant is surely known for it's defensive nature and prowess and I for my natural aggression and strength. Yet, she has become the aggressor." While pondering this thought, the King deftly dodged a second attack. The flaxen-haired Amazons are encouraging the Oliphant! That is it! But, how do I silence these Witches? Another voice spoke. This voice was deep and masculine, much unlike the echoing chant of the Amazons.

"The Oliphant is not your enemy, my lord." It was The Great Wizard Sensei. "She lives but she is not your enemy."

(King Homey now knew that this was not a dream, but it was a vision. The Oilphanut lived. She was resurrected, but how? The King rushed to the reading room. He began sifting through his books. "They are gone!" shouted the King. Missing were his copies of the Ya-Ya sisterhood songbook, The Vagina Monologues, and the current issue of Maximus magazine.

"Nooo!!!! Those Witches will pay!!!! THEY WILL PAY!!!!"

Running back to the Room of Recreation, the King shouted for the Robber Knight Radack Fooskiller, Man-At-Arms Brandon, and Sir Karsten Foosalot

"The Oliphant lives!" shouted the King. "Bring her to me alive. And bring the Amazons. All of them!!!!"

6

The Foos Odyssey

So Sir Karsten set forth and gathered up an army of the Plant City Irregulars and Nickel City Crew, whilst Robber Knight Radack Fooskiller and Man-At-Arms Brandon awoke their fellow swordsmen from Pugsley's Taverns. This Invincible Army of Knights of the Foos proceeded straight to Amazonia and the impregnable Fortress of Virgins. High aloft along the walls, lined with Amazon bow warriors amid its buttresses, the Ladies Marianne, Liz and the fair-haired warrior Moya gazed down upon them with glee. The sky turned black with arrows of spite, snide, and female contempt. So the army of men rode safely away and sought cover in a field of hemp. Growling with anger, Robber Knight Radack Fooskiller pulled three emotional barbs out of his butt. Sir Karsten gazed at his shield in dismay; the pattern of arrows was a heart like array!

"I know how to do this, I know how to attack," burst out Man-At-Arms Brandon

"we shall make a peace offering and then overcome them!"

"And I know what the offering must be".

Lady Liz did give away their desires in a weak moment" said Sir Karsten. So this army of knights became woodsmen overnight. Chopping down trees from dusk to daylight. They fashioned something no virgin lady could resist. As dawn broke, the cry from the minarets was an "Ohh!!!" in unison. For the men had fashioned a "Big Unit" on wheels. The biggest unit ever seen, it even dwarfed the Oliphant Queen! Amidst screaming and confusion, the Ladies Liz, Moya, and Marianne could no longer contain their troops, who dropped the drawbridge and chased after the "Big Unit" with wild whoops! Leading the charge was the Oliphant Queen, her titties were well formed and a sight for sore elephant eyes. Overwhelmed by the sight of this awesome charge, the knights wisely about-faced and dashed for home dragging the "Big Unit" with them at top speed. As luck would have it, Castle Homey's drawbridge was down, and the knights made it back into the safety of Homeytown! And as bad luck would have it, the "Big Unit" in tow did follow along, but with an awesome smash, its head crashed into the gate hole and became stuck. So now Castle Homey was under siege by the Virgin Army and the Oliphant Queen. There was one among them, Lorena Bobbit by name, who thought she could conquer the men all the same. In darkness of night, she snuck to the gate, and cut the head of the "Big Unit" from its body. Now the body of the "Big Unit" was flaccid and would never work the same, and from the Virgin army could be heard a roar of shame. So King Homey addressed the Virgin Army from atop his castle walls.

“Ladies, I’m sorry about the Big Unit’s fall. But there are plenty of units in here among us all, not quite as large as the one that did fall; yet they do work.”

So... the Oliphaunt Queen and the rest of her troop did enter the castle in a friendly swoop. There was great feasting and foosing at Castle Homey until daylight. Sounds of drinking, partying and pleasures of the night echoed through the castle halls. Back at their castle in Amazon Land, the Fair Ladies Liz, Marianne and Moya wondered what happened to their Virgin Warrior Band. They wondered,
“Could they be having fun...are we missing out?”

7

Long Live the Oliphant

After receiving word from the village idiot regarding the status of the war the Fair Ladies Moya, Liz and Marianne mount their stallions and speed from their homeland, hastily into the night, to join the party at the Castle Homey.

Welcomed by all, the three Fair Ladies give forgiving, warm hugs, to King Homey and his loyal subjects. King Homey dazes across the Room of Recreation and beholds his trusted friend, The Great Wizard Sensei. The Great Wizard Sensei repeats to King Homey,

“The Oliphaunt is not your enemy, my Lord. She lives, but she is not your enemy.”

King Homey rises and raises his Great Sword in tribute.

“Hail Fair Ladies, and Long Live the Oliphant.”

His loyal subjects reply, “Hail Fair Ladies, and Long Live the Oliphant.” And they celebrated throughout the night and well into the morn. For they never had to worry about that great magnificent creature, the Oliphant again.

After a long hard fought battle and days of merriment, Sir Karsten Foosalot, the lone Guardian of Truth and Justice, leaps onto his great stallion once more. Gallantly, he rides off into the daybreak as he thinks,

“My work here is done. Party on sweet children, party on.”

8

The Final Saga

As the Fair Lady Moya gazes across the Room of Recreation, over the days of her empty bottles of Smirnoff Ice, she ponders to herself, “I wonder if that is the last I will see of my Gallant Knight Sir Karsten Foosalot?” For this hard fought battle has come to an end, however, she knows all too well, that the war will never really be over.

“Farewell, Sir Karsten Foosalot, my Lone Guardian of Truth and Justice”
“Until we meet again” Hails Fair Lady Moya.”

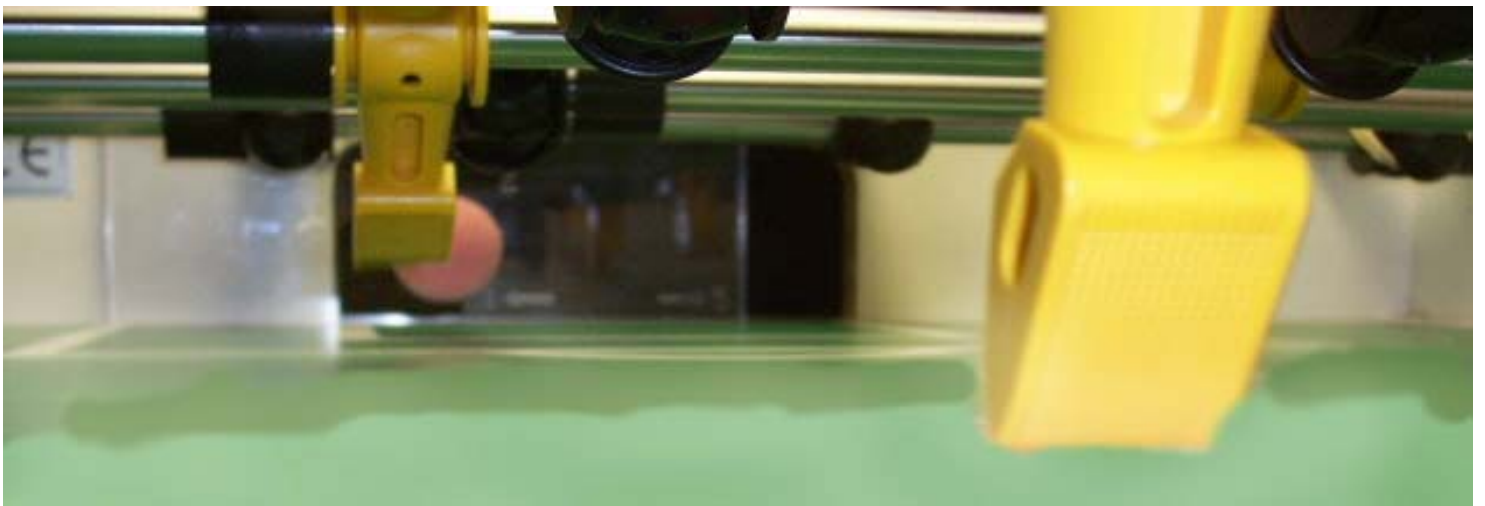
A tear falls from her eye as Fair Lady Moya hears the news across the lands that her dear Gallant Knight, Sir Karsten Foosalot died in a gallant emotional battle. She rides for days and nights, until she comes to his grave marker, placed firmly in the ground. She leans over the grave weeping silently,

“Who will serve Truth and justice now, brave Knight?”

She lays down her Armour of Emotion across the grave.

“Sleep well brave Knight,” she says as she climbs onto her Stallion and gallops off into the distant mist.

-Finis-



“welcome back my friends.....”



“to the show that never ends”

NEXT ISSUE:

(Working on Worlds issue now)
due out the week of worlds in september

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