

AMSTERDAM STUN

The paper for you

Number 135

www.amsterdamstun.com

March 2006



The Editor's Bit

There I was last month, ranting on about how much heavier *The Stun* is, and now you're holding this skinny, lightweight copy. Oh well, if you've been crawling around the bars over the last few weeks, you must have noticed that it's been pretty quiet around town. It's difficult taking pictures in empty bars, but we've done our best.

Before I tell you what we have got in this month's *Stun*, some other stuff first.

Next month, on Sunday 16th April, it will be exactly 12½ years since the very first *Stun* appeared on the streets of Amsterdam. We were going to throw a party to celebrate, but we realised we're better at attending parties than organising them, so reluctantly, we had to scrap the idea. Of course, if anybody thinks that there should be a party to mark the momentous occasion, you're welcome to organise and finance it yourself: Elly and myself will be only too happy to attend.

So, less pages because we haven't been to so many parties, but also less big adverts. We've still got *Tales from the Gutter*, *Dear Dorothy*, *What's On*, the *Gig List*, *Round The Bars*, *Behind Bars*, the jokes page and *Being Frank on Football*. We've also got pictures from the *Curry Club* and *Paddy's 50th*.

Sadly, we also say goodbye to Greg; he was *The Stun's* *Mystery Quizmaster* six years ago, but not a lot of people knew that.

Andy

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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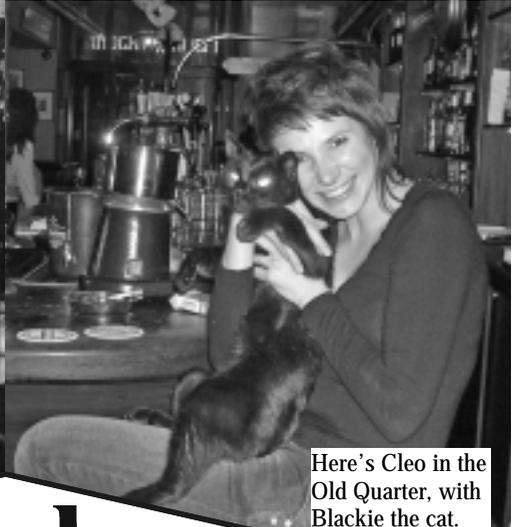
If you would like to contribute a story or even a regular column, don't be shy: we're all amateurs doing our best here.

The following people also contributed to this edition of **The Amsterdam Stun**:

- * Dorothy Braithwaiteshire-Llyons
- * Frank Weston
- * Jo Foxall
- * Lin Sargent
- * Rush

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1018 AJ Amsterdam

Rory thought Rachel in the Wonder Bar looked like she came out of a Gauguin painting.



Here's Cleo in the Old Quarter, with Blackie the cat.

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Here's Lara in Lost In Amsterdam



Maja works there too

TALES FROM

Happy Birthday Ans (50), Maartje (21), Jo, Paddy (50), Diann, Rita, Crista, Jur, Pat, Joseph, Elke, Francesco, Sharon, Saraain, Mike, Jessica, Kestrel, Ken, Tony, Fish, Shaun, Tanya, Melodie, Mark, Ilona, Monica, Veeru, Asha, Billy C.(Paddy's Day), Anne, Tommy, Vera, Nancy, Tim, Art, Franklin, Patricia, John, Dirk, Alan, Maeve, Charlie, Callum, Liz, Ruud, Dave, Jaqueline, Danny, Astrid, Keith, Joop, Francis, Marijke, Christino, Dick, Paula, Nick, Wende, Jim, Roy, Sam, Karin, Hannah, Raymond, Saleh, Peter, Manuel, Bob, Katie, Linda, Trevor, Elke, Ruud, Frans, Elias, Oggie, Lindsay, Barbara, Bobbie, Gabriel,

Happy Anniversary Willy & Paula, Richard & Tineke, Willem & Monique, John & Suchada, Henk & Sharon,

Lennie has become proud Auntie to young Eamonn, Congratulations!

Dennis, hope you feel better soon!



Jo's Mum (she says she is, but she doesn't look old enough!) came over to celebrate her daughters birthday.



Ray didn't believe we remembered his birthday, so we showed him!

Hello Kim, hope you still receive the Stun?

A near future issue of 'The Lancet' magazine will have a 'Miraculous Recovery, Doctors Are Baffled' story, and it's about someone we all know. Just after Christmas she was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of intestinal cancer, and they didn't give her much hope. Then, when she was in hospital to get operated on, the medics did a scan to see where they had to go, and they found there was no sign of the disease anymore! They want to turn her inside out now, to see what she's made of.

Her brother is a bit of a freak, too. He didn't even bleed when the dentist pulled three of his molars! We're gonna keep an eye on that family!

Tel: 020 683 6191

BRITISH GENERAL STORES

1e Constantijn Huygenstraat 94, Amsterdam

THE GUTTER

Our sister in law Ans celebrated her birthday from Saturday afternoon, when she accidentally spoiled her "Surprise!!" birthday party by spotting some friends who had just told her over the phone they couldn't make it, to Sunday evening, when the last guests, Andy & me, left.



She had a great time.

Kerstin & Jeroen, we haven't heard from you, are you alright?

Alex had one of her recipe's published in 'Allerhande Magazine', Albert Heijn's monthly. Because it had carrot in it, they asked her if she could wear something orange. That colour doesn't feature in her wardrobe, so then they asked if she could look like an aubergine! She had a wonderful day.



Ashanty has an idea for new Mr. Coco's T-shirts. The one she's wearing here, however, is an on loan limited edition, but it does look good on her.

Ladies, remember the cruise I mentioned last month. It will take you to picturesque little towns like Dwingelo, Stadskanaal & Musselkanaal, and some old Dutch cities like Assen & Groningen, before hitting the German border. That's the first leg. And the position is still open!

Jannie, I'm also a bad letter-writer. I start, but I can't seem to be able to finish the letter. They turn into short stories, I just keep rambling on. But I'll keep trying.

I can honestly say, for the first time in god knows how long, that I'm pleased with this year's elections outcome. I really do hope that by the time the next general election is up, people will vote the same.

It's about time we get rid of the CDA, VVD and their cronies, because they only think about their own pockets, and how they can fill them.

Maybe next year...

Elly

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WARMOESSTRAAT

CENTRUM



Jan and Berber feel at home in Buster's, especially with Peter behind the bar.



In our gig-list, we always mention who the Old Quarter Trio's guests are every Monday, but never who the Old Quarter Trio are. To make amends, the Old Quarter's Jazz Supremo, Paul, introduced us to Wolfgang Maiwald, Thomas Winther Andersen and Joost Kesselaar.

Paul again, this time with Jos and Ellie.



Buster's is closed on Mondays, so that gives Neil the chance to visit a few other bars. When he dropped into the Old Quarter, he insisted on posing with Stun editor Andy.

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CURRY CLUB

After writing about the Friday Night Curry Club in the last two Stuns, we decided it was time to try out Sarala's culinary delights and meet some of the other diners.



Janette was the hostess for the evening and she got Sarala out of the kitchen for a photo.



It didn't take the international crowd very long to get friendly in the cosy atmosphere and all agreed that the food was very tasty.



Visit www.abfabdining.com for details of the next Friday Night Curry Club.

15 YEARS

Jo and Karen had a party in café Propeller to celebrate 15 years of living in Amsterdam. We couldn't make it, so Jo sent us the photos.



There were plenty of familiar faces there...



And they had a karaoke show.



Dear Dorothy

Dear Dorothy,

My nerves are in tatters. I'm "on the run" after ripping off Big Jones the Snow at the Sheep Dip nightclub in Port Talbot. Since then, I've had the Taffia (Welsh Mafia) on my tail. I'm hiding in me Mum's attic by 'ere and wonder, can I escape to Amsterdam? My question is, are the Taffia big in Amsterdam or only in Rhyl is it?

Yours Sincerely,

Nervous Ewan

P.S. Please don't mention about my mum's attic, okay.

Dear Ewan,

Although we have representatives from most European Countries within the criminal element, the Taffia seem to confine their business dealings to West Glamorgan. Air Wales are planning to start the Swansea/Amsterdam route again in July. In the meantime, I am sending you a copy of Anne Franks Diary; you can pick up some good tips on attic dwelling.

Dorothy

Dear Dorothy,

Is a Gary Glitter signed album and T-shirt worth anything today?

Randy

St. Louis, USA

Dear Randy,

No

Dorothy

Dear Dorothy,

I've been reading Private Eye and noticed how many begging letters there are in the classifieds: Do you think this works? I mean, would anyone send money to a student for no reason?

Bert

Aarhus

Dear Bert,

I reckon P.E. put some of the ads in themselves, hoping that others will follow and fill their classified pages. We tried it in the Stun, but it didn't catch on with our readers; perhaps they were too lazy. I've never had any response to my numerous ads anyway.

Dorothy

Dear Dorothy,

My home is infested with mice. I've tried poison, traps and the neighbour's cat, but they are still there. Horrible little bleeders get everywhere, even in my sock drawer! My mother is coming to visit next month, and I need to get rid of the mouse problem before she arrives. Do you have any good solutions/methods of execution?

Dan D.

Amsterdam.

Dear Dan,

If the cat cannot control them, why not treat them as pets. They can be useful; they pick-up any crumbs left lying around. If you make a little "mouse home" with a running wheel, etc., you can pretend they are pygmy hamsters. Perhaps your mum will believe you. One Stun reader stapled mice to his... Oooh, sorry, we've run out of space. I'll finish off next month.

Dorothy

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Five nights a week, Sunday to Thursday from 9 pm 'til 3 am, it's Eddy's Karaoke in The End, Nieuwebrugsteeg 32. And only on Karaoke nights, it's **Happy Hour** between 10 and 11 pm, where all drinks are currently two for the price of one.

There's glamour in store on Sunday 26th March, because that's when Eddy will be hosting the Miss Karaoke contest. There's still room for more contestants and Eddy told us that it doesn't matter how you sing as long as you look good on stage. If you're interested in entering, you can get more information at the bar. If you're more interested in watching the show, it starts at 9 pm.

The final of the International Karaoke competition drew a big crowd to see the four finalists battle it out for the prizes in The End. It was Num who won the hearts of the judges and the audience on the night and he picked up first prize: a return trip to Thailand.



Kong was second and he took home a DVD player and a pair of microphones.



Third place went to Tuk Ta and her prize was €100 of free drinks in The End.

Eddy's Karaoke isn't all competitions; it's all about having fun and everybody is welcome on stage. With a big international collection of hit songs to choose from, Eddy's bound to have some of your favourites, so get down to The End and give it a go.



at The End, Nieuwebrugsteeg 32, Amsterdam

WHAT'S ON

There's live music in the Sláinte on Paddy's day (17th) and you don't have to be a genius to guess who's playing: It's their favourite band, Nuclear Kazoo! If you've seen them playing in the Sláinte before, you'll understand why they keep getting asked back. If you haven't, I'm sure they will be on fine form for Paddy's day because it will mark two years since Ken, Kris, Daan, Berk and Frans got together to form Nuclear Kazoo, so they'll be in a party mood.

Still in the Sláinte, they have a Pub Quiz every Thursday, which is a great way to start the weekend early. After that, you might as well stay out late and forget about work the next day, because Thursday night has a couple of the best Jam Sessions in town.

In the Waterhole, Gus Genser hosts a rocking session with Stan, Joyce and friends which will leave you shouting for more.



The Blues session in Maloe Melo always attracts some of the finest musicians around. Rahim is leading the session this month.

The Old Highlander, on St. Jacobsstraat, will be having a Caribbean Night on Saturday 25th March, starting at 7 pm. There'll be a real Caribbean food buffet, punch, music and a raffle. At €6 a head, it sounds like fun.

The Forty Licks Fanclub are holding a Rolling Stones day in the Waterhole on Sunday 26th March. There will be live music from Black & Blue, videos, etc. Doors open at noon and admission is €7.50.

One for your diary: The Blasters will be playing in Maloe Melo on Thursday 13th April. Their music has been used in dark, pulp films including From Dusk to Dawn and Streets of Fire. Should be a good night!



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THE STUN

Monday 13 March

Maloe Melo Acoustic session
Old Quarter Jazz Session with
the Old Quarter Trio
guest: Michael Moore
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Magic Sem's session

Tuesday 14 March

Maloe Melo Blues Session
with Peter Lavell
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

Wednesday 15 March

Maloe Melo Band Stand with Nico
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Jamming with Julius

Thursday 16 March

Maloe Melo Blues Session with Rahim
Old Nickel Peter Lavell
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole The Gus Genser Jam

Friday 17 March

Maloe Melo Luke & Juke Jumpers
Slaínte Nuclear Kazoo
The End New Bands - Live
The Waterhole 20:00 Coco & Friends
23:00 Rubber

Saturday 18 March

Maloe Melo Jantjes Verjaardag with
Blue Bite, Gaya,
Tribal Countdown
The End New Bands - Live
The Waterhole 20:00 Coco & Friends
23:00 Yellow Pearl

Sunday 19 March

Finnegans R'bow Irish Dancing Afternoon
Maloe Melo Acoustic session
with T-Bone Fisher
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Ladies Nite
with Joyce & Baukje

Monday 20 March

Maloe Melo Acoustic session
Old Quarter Jazz Session with
the Old Quarter Trio
guest: Arthur Heuwekemeijer
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Magic Sem's session

Tuesday 21 March

Maloe Melo V.S.P.A. Student Session
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

Wednesday 22 March

Maloe Melo Big Dez
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Jamming with Julius

Thursday 23 March

Maloe Melo Blues Session with Rahim
Old Nickel Peter Lavell
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole The Gus Genser Jam

Friday 24 March

Maloe Melo Rootsclub with Bert Boot,
Rik & Jan the Lazyman
The End New Bands - Live
The Waterhole 20:00 Coco & Friends
23:00 Jack's On Five

Saturday 25 March

Maloe Melo Cindy Peress
The End La Fahrt
The Waterhole 20:00 Coco & Friends
23:00 Brenda Joan Band

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GIG-LIST

Sunday 26 March

- The Waterhole Forty Licks Jamday
(12:00 - 18:00)
Finnegans R'bow Irish Dancing Afternoon
Maloe Melo Acoustic session
with T-Bone Fisher
The End Miss Karaoke Competition
The Waterhole Ladies Nite
with Joyce & Baukje

Monday 27 March

- Bourbon Street Latin Jam with Gregorio
Maloe Melo Acoustic session
Old Quarter Jazz Session with
the Old Quarter Trio
guests: Paul Feen Quartet
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Brenda Joan Jam

Tuesday 28 March

- Maloe Melo Blues Session
with Peter Lavell
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

Wednesday 29 March

- Maloe Melo Kids Downstairs
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Jamming with Julius

Thursday 30 March

- Maloe Melo Blues Session with Rahim
Old Nickel Peter Lavell
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole The Gus Genser Jam

Friday 31 March

- Maloe Melo Reno Brothers
The End New Bands - Live
The Waterhole 20:00 Blaffende Vis
23:00 Strolling Bones

Saturday 01 April

- Maloe Melo Beatclub Live! with
The Killer Bananazz
& The West Hell Three
The End New Bands - Live
The Waterhole 20:00 Coco & Friends
23:00 Wicked Fruit Co.

Sunday 02 April

- Finnegans R'bow Irish Dancing Afternoon
Maloe Melo Acoustic session
with T-Bone Fisher
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Ladies Nite
with Joyce & Baukje

Monday 03 April

- Bourbon Street Latin Jam with Gregorio
Maloe Melo Acoustic session
Old Quarter Jazz Session with
the Old Quarter Trio
guests: Bertil Strandberg
& Michael Rorby
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Brenda Joan Jam

Tuesday 04 April

- Maloe Melo Blues Session
with Peter Lavell
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

Wednesday 05 April

- Maloe Melo Band Stand with Nico
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole Jam Session

Thursday 06 April

- Maloe Melo Session
The End Karaoke by Eddy
The Waterhole The Gus Genser Jam

TheEnd

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Sunday - Thursday: Karaoke with Eddy

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ROUND



Franky came third in the Nachtburgermeester election last month. If he'd won, he'd have been too busy to relax in the Wonder Bar with Yoanna and Ger.



Johanna has grown a lot since we last saw her. John doesn't hang around in the Flying Dutchman so much since becoming a dad.

Andy in the Newcastle Pub got regulars Walter, Niels, Amber and Chris to join him for this picture.



Matt was spotted in the Old Highlander with Kirsty and her mum, Lynne.

Sam, Annie and Edward were in Susie's Saloon saying goodbye to Aiden.



THE BARS

Rob, Anton, Brendan and Rod, who we met in Buster's, described themselves as two sheep-shaggers and two northerners.



Bill, Pat and John have made the London Bridge their local and with Mirka behind the bar, who can blame them.

Thursday night in Maloe Melo and the place was rocking, so we can't tell you what Eirik, Mickey, Valerie or Hilton had to say.



Mickey and Gavin helped Angela feel at home in Mister Coco's when she was in town for her daughter Jo's birthday.



Open Daily for any drinks, from a very good coffee, to an 18 year old single malt, from noon to 1:00 am
With a wide range of food, from a club sandwich to fish & chips, from a salad to an egg-burger
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Nieuwendijk 3

BEHIND



Ashanty had Baltazar with her in Mister Coco's, so we had to get a picture of them together.



Another good reason to visit Maloe Melo: Jur, great musician, great barman. You can't keep a good (bar)man down. Peter is working weekends in Buster's.



Stacy and Tim were behind the bar in Susie's Saloon when we dropped in late on a Friday evening.



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BARS



Susan and Lisette always have fun behind the bar in the Stone's Café.

Alan jumped in to help behind the bar on a busy night in the Old Highlander.



Paul just got back from Thailand and had to work the same day in Finnegan's.



It was fairly busy in the London Bridge, but Nicole and VJ can handle it.

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LITTLE PADDY'S

Little Paddy celebrated reaching his half century with a party in the Blarney Stone, where he's been barman forever.



His wife Petra suggested buying him a communal present, because he was in need of a new bike. The money he received was enough to get him one that "nearly cycles by itself" and with the rest he can get a new digital camera.

Petra also came up with a book for everybody to put anecdotes about Paddy in. We made two pages of clippings from The Stun, including a Being Frank On Paddy, which Frank handed to him personally.



Henry was guarding the door to the bar.



Dave was one of the early arrivals.



Phil and Mickey paid a quick visit.

BIG 5-0 PARTY

Pauline and Petra are both with a Paddy.



Dermot, Charlie, Tom and Paddy are all from Kildare, but we won't see them together again for a while.

It was on Nieuwendijk, so Roy was there.



Carol was behind the bar for the party.

Don't know who they are with Pauline.



John and Frank "got the wrong train", so they came back to the Blarney and crashed at Charlie's.

MORE



Chris is a regular at the Thursday Jam with Gus in The Waterhole.

Chaja was singing when we dropped in, but Stan told us she also plays drums.



Debbie and Paul from Glasgow were introduced to us by John of the Stone's Café.



Paul and Marcel were helping Ray celebrate his birthday in the Flying Dutchman.

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ROUNDS

Andy, from Worcs., is one of the “Stamgasten” in Buster’s.



It was a slow afternoon in the Dutchman, so Joop got Tineke to pose for a photo.



Alison is the face behind the sign writing in Coco’s Outback.


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BEHIND MORE BARS

It's been a few months since Mario was last in The Stun, so when we saw him behind the bar on our last visit to Café Corso, we got the camera out.



Behind the bar in the Waterhole, it's Frank and Joya.



Ebru, Lara and Maja are “John’s Angels” in Lost In Amsterdam.

Johnny and AB; old and new faces to the Amsterdam horeca.



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THE JOKES PAGE

With our Guest Jokers: Rush & Lin

Brian came home from the pub late one Friday evening, stinking drunk, as he often did, and crept into bed beside his wife who was already asleep. He gave her a peck on the cheek and fell asleep. When he awoke he found a strange man standing at the end of his bed wearing a long flowing white robe.

"Who the hell are you?" demanded Brian, "and what are you doing in my bedroom?"

The mysterious man answered, "This isn't your bedroom and I'm St Peter".

Brian was stunned. "You mean I'm dead! That can't be. I have so much to live for, I haven't said goodbye to my family. You've got to send me back straight away!"

St Peter replied, "Yes you can be reincarnated, but there are restrictions. We can only send you back as a dog or a hen."

Brian was devastated, but knowing there was a farm not far from his house, he requested to be sent back as a hen.

A flash of light later, he was covered in feathers and clucking around pecking the ground.

"This ain't so bad", he thought until he felt a strange feeling welling up inside him.

Just then, the farmyard rooster strolled over and said. "So you're the new hen, how are you enjoying your first day here?"

"It's not so bad," replies Brian. "But I have this strange feeling inside like I'm about to explode".

"You're ovulating," explained the rooster. "Don't tell me you've never laid an egg before?"

"Never" replies Brian.

"Well just relax and let it happen"

And so he did and after a few uncomfortable seconds, an egg popped out from under his tail. An immense feeling of relief swept over him and his emotions surged, as he experienced motherhood for the first time.

When he laid his second egg, the feeling of happiness was overwhelming and he knew that being reincarnated as a hen was the best thing that ever happened to him.

The joy kept coming and as he was just about to lay his third egg he felt an enormous smack on the back of his head and heard his wife shouting "Brian, wake up you drunken bastard, you're shitting the bed!!"

At the end of the tax year the Tax Office sent an inspector to audit the books of a Synagogue. While he was checking the books he turned to the Rabbi and said, "I notice you buy a lot of candles. What do you do with the candle drippings?"

"Good question," noted the Rabbi. "We save them up and send them back to the candle makers, and every now and then they send us a free box of candles."

"Oh," replied the auditor, somewhat disappointed that his unusual question had a practical answer. But on he went, in his obnoxious way: "What about all these bread-wafer purchases? What do you do with the crumbs?"

"Ah, yes," replied the Rabbi, realising that the inspector was trying to trap him with an unanswerable question. "We collect them and send them back to the manufactures, and every now and then they send us a free box of bread wafers."

"I see," replied the auditor, thinking hard about how he could fluster the know-it-all Rabbi. "Well, Rabbi," he went on, "what do you do with all the leftover foreskins from the circumcisions you perform?"

"Here, too, we do not waste," answered the Rabbi. "What we do is save all the foreskins and send them to the Tax Office, and about once a year they send us a complete prick."

BEING FRANK ON FOOTBALL

Mick McCarthy has been booted out of Sunderland without further ado. It is no real shock I suppose, given his atrocious record, this season especially, and no one could suggest he has been strapped for cash either. The only strange thing about it all is the timing. I mean, you would have thought that the New Year would have been an appropriate moment to give him the push, because at that time, Sunderland still had some hope of avoiding the drop. It was a small hope admittedly, but the miserable have no medicine, only hope and those Sunderland fans certainly know what misery is like, having suffered it in large doses for the last few seasons. It was perhaps a little bit more sufferable when Newcastle were struggling, but even they have suddenly found a new lease of life, which was probably the final straw for Chairman Bob Murray. "I would like to thank Mick McCarthy for his efforts whilst at the club," he said, no doubt with considerable tongue in cheek. Murray was also responsible for disposing of Peter Reid and Howard Wilkinson and now they are on the lookout for their fourth manager in less than four short years. They say that in football, continuity is what it is all about, but expectations are always high in this neck of the woods. With Middlesboro also performing better these days, it is little wonder that they have been feeling like a lame duck of

late and with a manager whose track record is not exactly the stuff to reassure. He has an unenviable record in fact. When he took over in 2003, Sunderland were already more or less doomed and under McCarthy, they lost their last nine Premiership games, recording the lowest points tally, of just nineteen, in the Premier league's history. At the moment, they stand on a measly ten points, having succumbed to thirty-one defeats out of thirty-seven, and have just ten matches to play to surpass that all-time low points tally.

The Premiership title is no longer a race and has not been for quite some time, if we are honest. Chelsea are cantering to the finishing line and every other team seems inferior by comparison. They have an unassailable lead, which is now close to twenty points and it is a long time since this competition has been so one-sided for so long.

Whatever we want to say about Jose Mourinho, he has not done much wrong since he took over the helm at Stamford Bridge. Yes, he has had money to spend like, perhaps, no other manager in the history of the English game, but he has generally spent it wisely and unless he gets bored with winning, or that horrible fish and chips, he could be with Chelsea for a life-time – however long in football that is? Personally, I quite like the guy, because he is a complete one-off and



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teen points clear of the chasing pack, with just nine games to go and Sheffield United are favorites to join them in the automatic promotion stakes. Leeds United, Watford, Crystal Palace and Preston are all likely to be in the play-offs, but don't write off Cardiff, Wolves or even Ipswich to not come with a late surge.

In Scotland, it is Celtic all the way in another one-horse race. Hearts could nick second spot though, but Rangers may still have something to say on that score and so too Hibernian, where Tony Mowbray has transformed this club in recent times.

Here in the Netherlands, PSV are firmly in the driving seat and perhaps only Feyenoord have a realistic chance of catching them – although this is seemingly more remote by the week. Ajax have re-kindled some form of late, with another resounding six goals to nil victory last weekend, but they can only hope that they face the out of sorts AZ Alkmaar in the play-offs, because they are struggling in the final phase of the season, having lost in Europe once again.

And finally, a special mention for Southend United, who with very limited resources and against all reasonable odds, look to be coming up to the Championship - when not even die-hard supporters like Martin Murray could ever have thought it possible. With a six points cushion, they are in prime position and if they can hold their nerve and avoid too many serious injuries, then a place in the league below the Premiership is surely within their grasp!

Frank

where there is a hint of insanity, there is usually a trace of ingenuity too.

At the bottom of the Premiership, old Harry Redknapp seems doomed. Since he came back to Portsmouth, nothing significant has occurred and just three wins in fifteen matches is relegation form, without a shadow of a doubt. It would not be so bad had he taken over at the start of the season, but when he resumed responsibilities for the club, they were already in dire straights and now the writing is on the wall for sure. My other tip for the drop is not Birmingham, who I think have just enough quality to survive, but West Bromwich Albion, who look decidedly uncomfortable under the stewardship of Brian Robson. Last season they avoided the drop by a whisker, but this time they won't, in my view.

In the Championship, Steve Coppell's Reading are the runaway leaders and they are doing a Chelsea in terms of their consistency and points total. They currently stand four-

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IN THE BACK

Niall couldn't contact Vera for 4 weeks when he left his phone behind. It would have been longer if he hadn't contacted The Stun. With a story like that, we had to take a picture when we saw them in Susie's Saloon.



Keyboard player Rory is the leader of the open microphone session in the Waterhole every Tuesday.



When we heard about John's new look, we had to go and see him in Lost In Amsterdam.



Pete and Ken were discussing skiing holidays in Mister Coco's.

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GREG

12th June 1953 – 9th March 2006



His body was worn out
But his spirit
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Is now free to soar, and explore
Beyond the borders of time & space

For Greg this might be like
an "Out Of Body Experience",

Or the first step of a whole
different journey

But whatever awaits him
He'll be ready

And he'll love it
More to learn & to know

His only wish would be
To share it with us

He'll be waiting when we get there.

The funeral service will be at 15:15 on
Tuesday 14th March at Begraafplaats
Westgaarde, Ookmeerweg. You can also
say your personal farewells to Greg until
14:00 at his home:

Korte Leidsedwardsstraat 82-84

HELP

Whether you live in Amsterdam or are
just visiting, we hope you don't need to
make use of this list. But just in case...

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Reporting minor crimes 0900 - 88 44

Kruispost, O.Z. Voorburgwal 129, 624 90 31

Central Doctors Service 592 34 34

Pharmacies (Out of hours) 694 87 09

VD Clinic, Groenburgwal 44, 555 58 22

Juridisch Loket (Legal Aid) 0900 - 8020

Emergency Vet 694 47 66

Dierenambulance 626 21 21

Australian Embassy (070) 310 82 00

British Consulate 676 43 43

Canadian Embassy (070) 361 41 11

French Consulate 624 83 46

German Consulate 673 62 45

Irish Embassy (070) 363 09 93

Italian Consulate 624 00 43

New Zealand Embassy (070) 346 93 24

South African Embassy (070) 392 45 01

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