

# AMSTERDAM STUN

The great idea

Number 147

[www.amsterdamstun.com](http://www.amsterdamstun.com)

April 2007



# The Editor's Bit

Doesn't time fly? Only a couple of weeks to go and it will be Queen's Day once again. Not that we've got anything about Queen's Day in this month's Stun, apart from what's in the gig-list. We'll be out and about with our camera on the big day, so there's something to look forward to next month.

The Amsterdam Stun is now part of Stun Publishing, a new company I've set up with the intention of producing more free magazines to keep you informed about what's going on in town. We're planning to have the first one, Live Around Amsterdam, out on the streets in the very near future. I know I promised to tell you all about it in this Stun, but we're a bit behind schedule, so you'll have to wait a bit longer to find out what it's all about.

Having a business also means I have to charge VAT on anything I sell. This, and the increased price of postage, means we've had to adjust the price of subscriptions to The Stun. The new prices are on the right.

So, what have we got for you this month? We welcome Tig Barra as a sponsor, have pictures from great gigs, parties, Paddy's Day and from around the bars in general. Tales from the Gutter, Dear Dorothy, Jokes, Being Frank on Football, they're all here, plus a gig review from Vicky on the music page and pictures from Hans and Tamara.

Enjoy your Stun

*Andy*

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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 Braithwaitshire-Llyons
- Frank Weston
- Hans Niemeijer
- Lin Sargent
- Rush
- Tamara Milten
- Vicky Brown

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The Finishing Touch

1018 AJ Amsterdam

This month's Page Three Stunners  
all work in the London Bridge



Femke



Deb

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4    
**SPORT 1**



Esther



Maria

# TALES FROM

Happy Birthday Maureen & Cathy, Marjolein, Sophia, Guusje, Danny, Noi, Gordon, Johanna, Imogen, Rachel, Joan, Josep, Milo, Dick, Liz, Mellie, Colin, Justine, Hilton, Paula, May, Glynnis, Cathal, Miriam, Avril, John, Selena, Daniel, Abe, Tammie, Arend, Iris, Steve, Joey, Fish, Ken, Jill, Anita & Elina, Beth, Roxanne, Kathleen, Jessica, Truus, Harry, Nina, Heike, Aaron, Mickey, Ilona, Arabella, Helena, Ann, Norbert, Sarah, Daria, Billy, Virgil, Mac, Kevin, Jochem, Hildegard, Adrian, Maria,

Happy Anniversary Alma & Ken, Susan & Glen, Carol & Rainor, Lisa & Lamar

What a Happy Reunion it will be when our friend Kim returns to the Dam. We missed him & his music, his humour, his talent. Welcome Back, Kim!

And Mark is back from India, I wonder if he brought back some mysterious sounds?

Willy & Paula celebrated their wedding-anniversary in March. Yes, they had a little tiff, no, they're not splitting up (what's a little disagreement between best friends, right!)



Alan & Sarah were over the moon when presented with the pics-collection Andy took on Kealan's birthday.



Amy is back behind the bar in the End, but not such long hours anymore. The new addition to the family demands a lot of time & attention, but I'm sure she loves it!

Linda is very happy with, and looking forward to Nicola's future family addition. Yes,

# THE GUTTER



Nicola will be mother, which makes Linda granny! The first echo revealed they won't have twins or triplets (they run in both families), but congratulations anyway!



Terry was over for a visit, and met up with good friends Vikki & Alex. I would have liked to go out with them, have a girls night out, but I haven't been feeling all hunky-dory lately. I'm not avoiding you lot, honest!

How can the council even think about moving the Jordaan festival out of the Jordaan!

What's next? Turn the Westerkerk into a shopping centre?

But coming up with stupid ideas is not the only thing wrong in this wonderful city. I've personally complained to the stadsdeel about enormous wastes of energy. In our street & surrounding areas the streetlights have been on for weeks now, day & night. Not for the first time either. I see it all the time, all over the place. Am I the only one pissed off with the waste? Lets do something about it, be responsible citizens. The stadsdeel gave me a phone nr., I hereby pass it on to you. Dienst IVF 020-597 26 26. Use it.

One thing positive is utilising the tram-rails for more than public transport, it keeps heavy traffic out of town, there's less congestion, better traffic flow etc. There must be more things the council could do with trams. Wedding tram has been done, bring it back. Party tram (use the old decrepit ones), product promotion tram etc. Have you got a novel idea?

This year's Fantastic Film Festival organises the "Zombie Walk"! (the Zombie Tram?) If you want to participate (& break the Guinness Book record), go register in ClubNL, on Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal, by the Dam or De Diepte, Sint Pieterspoortsteeg 3.

*Elly*

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# WARMOESSTRAAT

CENTRUM

John is moving to Spain after eight years of working in Hill Street Blues. Kirsty and Matt couldn't let him go without getting his picture in The Stun.



Cheryl and Marlene were all dressed up for the Saint Patrick's Day party in Hotel Old Quarter.



Don and a dressed up Raymond introduced us to Alfred, the new chef in the Old Quarter.



Bjorn looked happy to see us when we walked into the Sláinte on Paddy's Day, but it was business as usual for Nyree and Nikita: Those beers don't pour themselves.

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# WELCOME



It's been a few years since we last dropped into Tig Barra, so when Enda told us he was back working there, we had to pay him and owner Ruan a visit.

Tig Barra has a great terrace and it's the perfect place to unwind after a hard day at work or even after a day in Vondel Park, which is only a five minute walk away.

Being a genuine Irish bar, (Ruan is from Dublin) you can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome as soon as you walk in.



You can also be certain of a seriously good pint of Guinness, but if that's a bit too rich for you, the house beer is Grolsch and they also have Kilkenny, Palm, Grolsch Weizen, a guest beer and Magners Cider on draught.

If you're feeling a bit peckish, Tig Barra has an extensive menu, with everything from snacks to full meals and the kitchen is open from eleven in the morning all the way through till ten at night, every day.

New in Tig Barra is the function room at the back. With its own bar and seating for up to 100 people, it's a great place for private parties or gatherings, but also comes in handy if they have a live band playing or there's a big sporting event on TV.



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# Dear Dorothy

Dear Dorothee,

I am working at a call centre in Sloterdijk with many English peoples. Every Friday after work, they all go together to the pub for many drinks. This week, I was very proud when my new work colleagues invite me to go with them to a pub after work. Here in the pub I learn the ritual of buying a “round”, I seem popular at first as my round is always more frequent than my colleagues’s. Then our team leader (he from London) tells the group, “I could murder an Indian”. I’m thinking this is English humour, but the entire team agreed with him. I got out of there pretty damn quick I can say. I cannot comprehend their behaviour to me. Am I so bad company?

Rajiv Patel  
Amsterdam

Dear Rajiv

*When an Englishman says that he would like to “Murder an Indian” that means he is hungry. Your life was never in danger. There are lots of phrases you should learn when working with infidels. An Indian Summer means the second Thursday in August. While an Indian giver is a person who gives a present, then wants it back. (A bit like the tax system) An Indian wager is a bet that is never paid. If you ever thought that Dutch was hard to understand, double Dutch is impossible to understand, while going Dutch is impossible for only the ladies to understand. If I had the choice between murdering an Indian or just going for a Brazilian, I know which one I’d choose. Do you? I hope this helps,*

*Dorothy (correct spelling)*

Dear Dorothy,

I hate people who offer you one biscuit and then put the lid back on the tin, and take them away. Is this a Dutch habit? I would at least leave the tin out until the coffee is finished

Martin G

Dear Martin,

*Try kicking the lid secretly under the settee. This should help.*

*Dorothy.*

Dear Dorothy,

I worked in a sausage factory on quality control for 15 years before I relocated to Amsterdam last month. After years of handling big pork sausages, I now find that sex is just not the same. I have trouble arousing myself, although my boyfriend has not complained. Will my normal urges return? Or do you think that I have a physiological problem to overcome?

Deidre Wallis

Dear Deidre,

*I’m sure that you have read lots of women’s magazines on how to spice up your sex life. Which is exactly what you need to do. Instead of KY as a lubricant, try lard. Instead of aromatics, use sage & onion in the oil burner (sage & thyme also work). Whatever you do, remember technique is important when wanting to get your man in the mood, so get chipolatas out of your mind completely. This action could cause your partner some damage, if not watery eyes. I hope this helps you to overcome your problem.*

*Dorothy.*

Dear Dorothy,

Who invented the Easter Egg? And why.? Little Tommy (9¾ years)

Dear Tommy,

*Why do you want to know?*

*Dorothy.*

# BEHIND



This is the first time we've had a picture of Allison and Tineke together in the Dutchman.



Andy has got another Andy working behind the bar in the Newcastle now.



Ireen is modelling the top Susie's Saloon barmaids will be wearing this summer.



Barbour joined Tanja and Ewa when our camera came out in the Wonder Bar.



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# BARS

Peter and Caroline were behind the bar when we dropped into Tig Barra.



Here's Mirella on her first day in the Stone's Café, with Rachel showing her the ropes.



Another new face to The Stun: This is Lucky, who's working behind the bar in the only Aussie bar in town, Coco's Outback



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# THE WATERHOLE

It was a rocking night when Art Napolitano and the GG Turner Band kicked off their European tour in a packed Waterhole in March. They even got Edgar to join them on stage.



Here's bass player LB with Frank, who did a great job getting the band to the Waterhole.

Loes, Penny, Floor and Kees made sure nobody got thirsty.



Melkweg (Eat at Joes) crew Dic, Zoe and Jason know where the best bands are playing.

Carrie was visiting Ian, who is also from LA, but lives here and jams with Magic Sem.

# WATERHOLE

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# MUSIC NEWS

## Jam session at the Prop

Sunday 25th February, we decided to check out the jam session at the Prop, where a lot of young talented players, and a few older ones as well, created a great atmosphere and played some great tunes.

Ron has got together a good crowd. The music was a mix of rock, metal, blues, some oldies and a few other numbers thrown in. As the night wore on and the drinks went down, a few more plucked up the courage to get up and jam including Owen, not a bad singer, and then an even bigger shock for me was when Ann McGuire got up and sang. Unfortunately (fortunately) neither Linda nor René got up to join them.

One of the many highlights of the evening was an impressive drum solo by a young man called Mathijs from the band Midway.

A good night was had by all and we will be going to the next one on Sunday 29th April. This time I will take my digital camera and try to get some decent pictures (phone pics not very good).

The jam sessions are on the last Sunday of every month, but if it keeps being as successful as it has, maybe they will happen more often.

*Vicky*



The S(t)unday Afternoon Jam is up and running in The End. Bob and Richard are there most Sundays; why not join them?



The Waterhole's favourite band, Spyglass, are back for another three nights: 26th -28th.

The Healers, featuring the in-your-face Thomas Buck-Nasty will be back in Maloe Melo on Saturday 28th April.



*Café de Prop*  
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*Last Sunday of the month:*  
*Jam session with Ron*  
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## Monday

### Weekly

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,  
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Acoustic roots & blues jam, *with Peter Lavell (except 30<sup>th</sup>)*  
22:00, **Bourbon Street**, The International Latin Jam with Santanico, *open latin jam*  
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Magic Sem's Jam,  
**16 April**  
21:00, **Old Quarter**, Jazz Session with the Old Quarter Trio, *special guests: Kai von Rosenberg Quartet*

### 23 April

21:00, **Old Quarter**, Jazz Session with the Old Quarter Trio, *special guests: Shooster - The Band*

### 30 April

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Stan,  
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Queensday Blues,  
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Jack's On Five,  
**7 May**

21:00, **Old Quarter**, Jazz Session with the Old Quarter Trio, *special guests: Paul van der Feen Quartet*

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## Tuesday

### Weekly

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,  
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Rory's Open Mike,  
**10 April**

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, American Roots Music, *with Laurens Joensen & Souldier* €5

### 17 April

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Student Jam presented by VSPA, *Musicians welcome*

### 24 April

21:00, **TWSTD**, Talent Night, *hosted by Ken Parsons*  
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Blues & rock session, *with Marcel Scherpenzeel*

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# STUN

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## Wednesday

### Weekly

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,  
22:30, **The Waterhole**, Stan's Guitar Jam,  
22:00, **Old Nickel**, Peter Lavell or Etienne Boucher,

### 11 April

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Super Jam, *with Arwen*

### 18 April

21:00, **Volta**, Reggae-jam, *i.s.m. Ghettoish*,  
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Conservatorium Pop Jam presented by Plien, *Musicians welcome*

### 25 April

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Gehakdag, live: Strike First, Birds of a Feather, Nothing Done, *punk/hardcore* €4

### 2 May

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Band Stand, *presented by Nico*

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## Thursday

### Weekly

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,  
22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Blues Session, *with Lamar Chase*

### 12 April

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Rory & Friends,  
21:00, **Volta**, Rock Night, *with Kodiak, Ken Send Me, Roodkapje & Het Blauwe Gevaar* €5

22:30, **The Waterhole**, Gus Genser's Rock Jam,

### 19 April

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Rory & Friends,  
21:00, **Volta**, Emo Night, *with Kensington, A Change of Plan* €5

22:30, **The Waterhole**, Gus Genser's Rock Jam,

### 26 April

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Jeroen,

# GIG-LIST

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21:00, **Volta**, GaragePunk Night, *with Rene SG + 2 other bands* €5

22:30, **The Waterhole**, Spyglass, *from France, our favourites*

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## Friday Weekly

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,

**13 April**

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Clara Baker Duo,

22:00, **Volta**, Relaxing Ragga & R&B,

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, El Rio Trio, *rockabilly* €5

23:00, **The Waterhole**, Rubber,

**20 April**

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Dan & Friends,

22:00, **Molly Malones**, Paul Hennessy,

22:00, **Volta**, Tripl-x,

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, The Pastrellis, *rock&roll, swing* €5

23:00, **The Waterhole**, Filterkick,

**27 April**

20:00, **London Bridge**, Karaoke Party,

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Marike & Friends,

22:00, **Volta**, Free Fresh Friday,

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, De Biet, *Back to the Sixties* €5

23:00, **The Waterhole**, Spyglass, *from France, our favourites*

**4 May**

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, Fugu + Rolf De Band, *ska* €5

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## Saturday Weekly

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,

**14 April**

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Stan,

22:00, **Volta**, Club S / Dooie Mus Award, *5 bands, 1 winner* €3.99

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, Marcel Scherpenzeel & Band, *blues + bluesrock* €5

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23:00, **The Waterhole**, Santanico,

**21 April**

20:00, **Finnegan's Rainbow**, Pub Quiz,

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Clara Baker Duo,

22:00, **Molly Malones**, Paul Hennessy,

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, t.b.a., €5

23:00, **The Waterhole**, Roxy,

**28 April**

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Dan & Friends,

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, The Healers feat. Thomas Bucknasty, *blues* €5

23:00, **The Waterhole**, Spyglass, *from*

*France, our favourites*

**5 May**

23:00, **Maloe Melo**, Fleur Du Mal, *blues, r&b* €5

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## Sunday Weekly

14:00, **The Waterhole**, Matinée Jam with Theo de Mosquito,

16:00, **The End**, S(t)unday Afternoon Jam,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Acoustic session, *with Yanko (except 29<sup>th</sup>)*

22:00, **The End**, Karaoke,

22:30, **The Waterhole**, Ladies Nite with

Joyce & Baukje, *(except 29<sup>th</sup>)*

**29 April**

17:00, **Café de Prop**, Sunday Jam in Noord with Ron,

20:45, **The Waterhole**, Joyce Special,

22:00, **Maloe Melo**, Beat Club Queen's Night, *live: The Madd, West Hell Three plus Two* €8

22:30, **The Waterhole**, Waste,

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# The End

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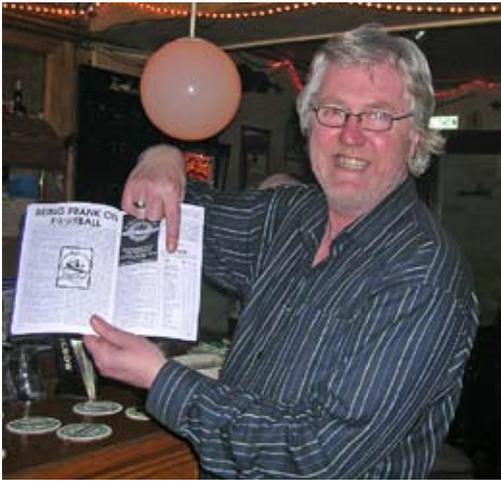
Sunday - Thursday: Karaoke

Nieuwebrugsteeg 32, Amsterdam

Tel: 06-49048839

# ROUND

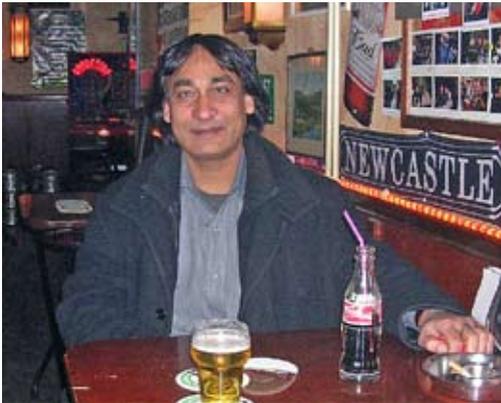
Man United fans Terry, H. and Jody were getting comfortable in the Flying Dutchman before the kick-off against Lille.



Finnegan's regular Andy was joint bottom of our Premiership Predictions League; his dad Gerry was at the top.



Tonje and Lenny dropped into Susie's Saloon to see Mara. Tonje and Mara used to play 'soccer' together in Australia.



Singh from the Kamasutra is living the half-bachelor life until his wife joins him in Amsterdam, enjoying his day off in the Newcastle.



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# THE BARS

Linda and Ann with Stewart, who was one of only three Rangers supporters in a very full Old Highlander for the Old Firm match.



David was carving the new 'jamon' in Josélito: it was very tasty.



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Andrea and Lana are part of the furniture in the Newcastle; they even met there.

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# PADDY'S

Denise introduced us to Sheila and Julie as soon as we walked into Molly Malone's.



De Beatzers had everybody on their feet in the Sláinte: It's not every day you come across a bluegrass gypsy ska band!

Sylvia and friends were having fun.



Bernadette, Majella, Rebecca, Teresa and Mary were in the party mood.



Michael and Pauline hit the big city to celebrate Paddy's Day with Alan and Sarah. They don't get the Stun out in the sticks, but they can read it online at [www.amsterdamstun.com](http://www.amsterdamstun.com).



In keeping with the occasion, Peter and Ralph were downing a few pints.



# DAY

They might have been working, but Daniel, Tom and Jonathan were still having fun behind the bar in Molly's.



It's Denise again, this time with Jill.

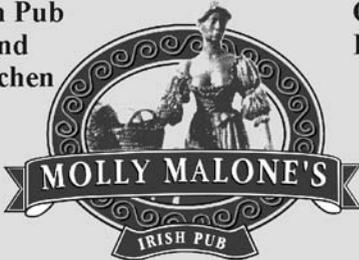


The Blarney Stone had a late license, so we had to drop in to see Carol and Pauline. Conner was still hanging around too.



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# OFF TO MUNICH

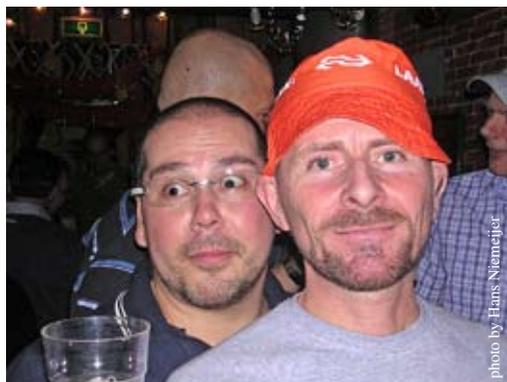


photo by Hans Niemeijer

Mike and Andrew have gone to Munich, but before they left, they had a party in the Old Highlander to say goodbye to their friends. We had to skip the captions to get more people in. Thank you Hans for the extra pictures.



## THE OLD HIGHLANDER

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photo by Hans Niemeijer



# MAHONES IN

Canada's premier Irish-punk rock band, The Mahones, were back in town last month. We would have mentioned it in the last Stun, but we only heard about it after we hit the streets.



Birthday girl Mirjana was one of only two people wearing a Mahones T-shirt, so it was easy getting the band to pose with her.

Even though it was short notice, Jur managed to squeeze them in on a Thursday night. It was drummer Nikos' first European tour with the Mahones, so we had to get a picture of him with Maloe Melo's main man.



Paul gets a 'thanks' on the Mahones latest CD, "Take No Prisoners".

Melkweg (Eat at Joes) crew Dic, Esther and Jason know where the best bands are playing.

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# MALOE

# NO MORE DOPE



Tamara from musicpixels.net told us it was Mirjana's birthday.  
Been a while since we last saw Toot.



It was me wearing the other Mahones T-shirt.



Despite the efforts of mayor Job Cohen to get the government to change their mind, Saturday 31st March saw the end of the 44 Hash Cafés in Amsterdam. From now on, they can either sell beer or soft drugs, but not both. The majority decided to go further as coffeeshops, but four decided to stick with the beer.

It was an easy decision for Rick's Café, as Jim and Charon pointed out: You can still smoke in Rick's and Wild Style next door has gone coffeeshop.



The Nes Café nearly went coffeeshop, but after a customer revolt, Dexter and Dan will only be serving alcohol in future.



# NO MORE BEER

In one foul swoop, Amsterdam lost forty places to enjoy a beer and a joint together when the majority of the Hash Cafés became coffeeshops. We had to visit some of our old haunts for one last beer.

We caught Alexandra pulling some of the last beers in Hunter's bar.



Juliana with the last beer in Wild Style. The taps were out already.



Zusana, Ad, Pascal & Domingo made a special trip for the last night of beer in Stone's Corner.



All the staff and their friends were in Hill Street Blues for the end of alcohol.

John senior and junior were taking a break from the free beer in De Kuil.



# MOOSE ON THE LOOSE

It's over 12 years since Moose last appeared in The Stun, so when he came over for the weekend with Linda, Kerry, Lisa and Tommy, we had to meet up for a drink or two. They enjoyed watching the world go by while drinking in the Newcastle.



Moose couldn't resist snacking up in McDonalds, even though it's bad for his street cred back in Westport.



Lisa loved the Red Light District "with all those women".



Tommy, birthday girl Kerry and Linda kept going until The End.



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# MORE ROUNDS

Jacqui was over from Dublin, so Deirdre took her to the London Bridge to see Claire.



Jenny, Lynne, Matt, Lydia and Darcy were in The End for the S(t)unday Afternoon Jam.

Birthday boy Bjorn is in there somewhere.



Paul has been here for 15 years and never been in The Stun. Here he is with Phil and Janet in the Flying Dutchman.

Beth got her uncle Percy and his mate Edward absolutely hammered when they visited the Newcastle.



Doug, Mandy and Liam joined Susie behind the bar in De Kerk.

# JOKES

With our Guest Jokers: Rush & Lin

Recently, a large corporation hired several cannibals to increase their diversity; “You are all part of our team now,” said the Human Resources rep during the welcoming briefing. “You get all the usual benefits and you can go to the cafeteria for something to eat, but please don’t eat any employees”.

The cannibals promised they would not.

Four weeks later their boss remarked, “You’re all working very hard and I’m satisfied with your work. We have noticed a marked increase in the whole company’s performance. However, one of our secretaries has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to her?”

The cannibals all shook their heads, “No.”

After the boss had left, the leader of the cannibals said to the others, “Which one of you idiots ate the secretary?”

A hand rose hesitantly. “You fool!” the leader continued. “For four weeks we’ve been eating managers and no one noticed anything. But NOOOooooo, you had to go and eat someone who actually does something!!!”

\*\*\*\*\*

The body builder takes off his shirt and the blonde says, “What a great chest you have.” He tells her, “That’s 100 lbs. of dynamite, baby.” He takes off his pants and the blonde says, “What massive calves you have.”

The body builder tells her, “That’s 100 lbs. of dynamite, baby.”

He then removes his underwear and the blonde goes running out of the apartment screaming in fear.

The body builder puts his clothes back on and chases after her. He catches up to her and asks why she ran out of the apartment like that.

The blonde replies, “I was afraid to be around all that dynamite after I saw how short the fuse was”.

An Englishman, Irishman, Welshman, Scotsman were captured while fighting in a far-off foreign land, and the leader of the captors said: “we’re going to line you up in front of a firing squad and shoot you all in turn. But first, you each can make a final request.”

The Englishman says: “I’d like to hear God Save The Queen just one more time to remind me of the old country, played by the London All Boys Choir, with Morris Dancers dancing to the tune.

The Irishman says: “I’d like to hear Danny Boy just one more time to remind me of the auld country, sung in the style of Daniel O’Donnell, with Riverdance dancers skipping gaily to the tune.”

The Welshman says: “I’d like to hear Men Of Harlech just one more time to remind me of the auld country, sung as if by the Aberavon Male Voice Choir.”

The Scotsman says: “I’d like to be shot first.”

\*\*\*\*\*

A couple made a deal that whoever died first would come back and inform the other of the afterlife. Their biggest fear was that there was no afterlife.

After a long life, the husband was the first to go, and true to his word he made contact, “Mary. Mary.”

“Is that you, Fred?” she asked.

He replied, “Yes, I’ve come back like we agreed.”

“What’s it like?” Mary asked him.

“Well, I get up in the morning, I have sex, I have breakfast, off to the golf course, I have sex, I bathe in the sun, and then I have sex twice. I have lunch, another romp around the golf course, then sex pretty much all afternoon. After supper, golf course again. Then have sex until late at night. The next day it starts again.”

“Oh, Fred you surely must be in heaven.”

“Not exactly, I’m a rabbit in Cornwall.”

# BEING FRANK ON FOOTBALL

Abraham Lincoln apparently once said, "It has been my experience that people with no vices have very few virtues." The virtue of appointing Steve McClaren as England manager would seem to be questionable given his horrendous start, but it is too early to jump on the bandwagon and condemn him so soon into his new role. Sometimes he appears to be whiter than white with that broad grin and goofy smile, but I am sure the England players see another side to him that is projected in his team talks and tactical awareness. It is easy to have a pop, but we must resist and wait and see for now. It is far too soon to make sweeping statements about his capabilities. The chief executive of the FA, Brian Barwick, is adamant that Mr. McClaren has what it takes to produce the goods.

"He is a strong man and I know from speaking with him that he is totally focused on delivering success to England." The next question perhaps is what is defined

as success? Does this mean more than simply qualifying for a major tournament or could we anticipate and perhaps expect something more tangible - like maybe reaching the finals of a major international event such as the European Championships or dare I say it... the World Cup? The signs so far are not encouraging and I am only referring now to qualification. He has

had, in anybody's language, a disastrous start and the fact that he was even the FA's second choice just makes thing even more difficult for him. Of course, only time will tell whether he is up to the job or conversely, if that Cheshire cat grin is wiped off planet football forever.

The result of the European Championships last week was the magnificent victory for Northern Ireland against Sweden by two goals to one at Windsor Park. Both goals

scored, incidentally, by the seemingly unstoppable David Healey. He has now scored an amazing nine goals in just ten European Championship qualifiers and yet extraordinarily, he struggles to stay in the Leeds United team, who are currently propping up the Championship table. The most fantastic statistic of all however is his goals tally so far in a Northern Irish shirt. In just fifty-six internationals for his country, he has already put the ball in the net on no less than twenty-nine occasions! You don't have to be a statistician to realize that this translates into more than one goal every two games. This great feat includes a hat-trick



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against Spain and the winner against England in the last World Cup encounter between these fierce rivals.

The South of Ireland remain in the hunt in a very difficult Group D which includes the Czech Republic and the mighty Germans. All three nations are now on thirteen points, but because of games in hand, their rivals remain clear favourites to progress at Ireland's expense.

Scotland have performed beyond all expectations, but a two goals to nil loss in Italy put the cat amongst the pigeons and with Ukraine, France and Italy all still very much in the mix, it looks like a Ben Nevis for the Scots to climb.

The Netherlands should make it quite comfortably in what is a relatively undemanding Group G and they will probably be joined by Romania, such is the poor standard of opposition here.

And so we turn our attention back to England and Group E, where two from a possible

four will make it through and England currently find themselves in fourth position, with Russia, Israel and Croatia above them. The key here could be those games against Russia and Croatia and everyone will be hoping that the man with the infectious smile might win those England supporters over with performances that truly reflect everything that is good about the English game. Then again, on the other hand...

*Frank*

## PPL Update

Only five weeks to go and then we will know who takes home the hamper of goodies from British General Stores in our Premiership Predictions League. Here's how the contestants stand on Tuesday 10th April 2007.

Pos.	Name	On	Nr	Pts
1 <sup>st</sup>	Matthew Wright	5	4	19
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gerry	5	4	19
3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Raftery	5	2	17
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gareth Kingdon	4	4	16
5 <sup>th</sup>	Daan The Man	3	6	15
6 <sup>th</sup>	Stones	2	9	15
7 <sup>th</sup>	Alex	4	2	14
8 <sup>th</sup>	Paddy Wynne	4	1	13
9 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Finnegans	2	7	13
10 <sup>th</sup>	Quisippe Ten Brink	4	0	12
11 <sup>th</sup>	Katie Wright	3	3	12
12 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Tandy	1	9	12
13 <sup>th</sup>	Daan Van Kampen	3	2	11
14 <sup>th</sup>	The Prophet	2	4	10
15 <sup>th</sup>	Andy F	2	4	10
16 <sup>th</sup>	J. R. Donoghue	2	3	9
17 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Mahon	2	3	9
18 <sup>th</sup>	Ellan	1	6	9
19 <sup>th</sup>	Holwijn	1	6	9
20 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Weston	2	2	8
21 <sup>st</sup>	Neil Weston	2	1	7
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carlos	1	3	6
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Emanuel Cuvaco	1	2	5
24 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Drost	0	4	4

# IN THE BACK

Jim, Onno and Youssef were in the back of the Waterhole.



In the Newcastle, Emelie introduced us to Susanne and Andy got in the picture too.

James has just taken delivery of the trophies Café Corso will be presenting at the Rugby 7's next month.



Edward and Pat have been busy doing up the middle entrance of Coco's Outback.

Beth got a visit from Emma at Easter.



Frank, Martin and Mart were in Rick's for the last night as a coffeshop.



Josep was in the Flying Dutchman with his friends, Joan and Montse, who came to Amsterdam for two half nights.



Ronald received his initiation into the crew with the help of Miss Airbags.



Erik and Piet are already in the crew.

# 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...**

- Police/Ambulance/Fire (Emergency only) 112
- Police HQ - Elandsgracht 020-559 91 11
- Reporting minor crimes 0900 - 88 44
- Kruispost, O.Z.Voorburgwal 129, 020-624 90 31
- Central Doctors Service 020-592 34 34
- Pharmacies (Out of hours) 020-694 87 09
- VD Clinic, Groenburgwal 44, 020-555 58 22
- Juridisch Loket (Legal Aid) 0900 - 8020

- Emergency Vet 020-694 47 66
- Dierenambulance 020-626 21 21

- Australian Embassy 070-310 82 00
- British Consulate 020-676 43 43
- Canadian Embassy 070-361 41 11
- French Consulate 020-624 83 46
- German Consulate 020-673 62 45
- Irish Embassy 070-363 09 93
- Italian Consulate 020-624 00 43
- New Zealand Embassy 070-346 93 24
- South African Embassy 070-392 45 01
- U.S. Consulate 020-575 53 09

## The following should be more useful

- Public Transport Info 0900 - 9292
- Taxi 9550 0900 - 9550
- TCA Taxi 020-677 77 77

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- Sterk De Clerqstraat 1-7
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