

# AMSTERDAM STUN

*The paper for you*

Number 140

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

August 2006



# The Editor's Bit

I hope that the closure of Mister Coco's didn't put too many of you off coming to our party last month. We were in there delivering Stuns the night before they closed down and were assured that there would be plenty of beer for the party a week later. It came as quite a shock when we started getting calls from concerned Stun readers the following day.

I would like to thank everybody who offered us alternative venues for the party, but in the end, we chose the Wonder Bar because of its location; a couple of doors down from Coco's. Having good beer, nice staff, DJ booth and being smoker friendly helped a lot too. Alon, thank you for helping us out at such short notice.

Anyway, it was a great night and we've got loads of pictures for you, in colour, (thank you Victor and Jan Willem), starting from page 16. Elly also writes about the party in Tales from the Gutter.

No Dear Dorothy this month; she seems to have wandered off and got lost. It must be the hot weather reminding her of Africa. I'm sure she'll be back when it cools down a bit, but if anybody does bump into her before then, can you let us know?

Somebody else who has wandered off is Lenny (ex-Coco's). She sent us an e-mail from Brazil and we thought her friends in Amsterdam would like to read it too. It's on page 30.

Frank gives us his predictions for the new season in the Premiership. If you think you can predict the final table better than Frank, why not enter our Premiership Predictions League. The entry form is just after Being Frank On Football.

We've also got all our usual stuff, like jokes, music and loads of pictures, so enjoy this month's Stun.

*Andy*

# SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't miss out on your copy of **The Amsterdam Stun**: Take out a subscription and the latest edition will come through your letter-box every month. Our prices barely cover the cost of the postage, so you are getting a bargain.

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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**:

- Elaine Long
- Frank Weston
- Lin Sargent
- Rush
- Tom McKeown

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The Finishing Touch  
1018 AJ Amsterdam



Here's Iris with the wallet that was Found in Lost in Amsterdam



It's always wonderful to see Rachel in the Wonder Bar

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Annie took an unplanned dip in the canal outside Susie's Saloon and found it quite refreshing



Kiwi Kate loves her new job in the Newcastle Pub



Happy Birthday Ann, Lenore, Billy, Terry, Mick, Marie, Marcelle, Marcel, Blom, Chuara, Adrian, Nicole, Rikki, Kiz, Jasmin, tRacY, Jim, Singh, Jasmina, Michelle, Brian, Fiona, Leo, Zoe, Jamie, Vivienne, Hennie, Tommy, Dave, Rebecca, Matilde, Wendy, Mike, Gregg, Ken, Alan, John, James, Vicky, Ray, Andy, Mary, Amy & Rory.

Happy anniversary Anita & Tim, Nic & Harriet, Cathy & Chick.

# TALES



Congratulations Amy! The reason we haven't seen much of Amy (The End) lately, she's currently got a bun in the oven! Soon we'll start seeing more of her, with an update on the current bun-size.



No, Jeroen & Kerstin did not elope! I know we mentioned (in January or something?) they were tying the knot in August, & we would fill you in on the details, but due to personal circumstances the wedding has been postponed. We will let you know when & where.

It was wonderful seeing so many people we don't see very regularly all gathered at Andy's 50th birthday & the Amsterdam Stun's party.

Our friends Janni from Denmark (who had a lousy hotel & found herself another one just so she could get some sleep) & Alan from Britain (who couldn't get a flight, therefore had to travel by train, boat, & several trains again to get here) stayed in Amsterdam for a while.

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# FROM THE GUTTER



Here we are, in the Old Highlander, getting ready for Maloe Melo (must have been Tuesday, we wanted to experience the “Rebirth of Burlesque” (my first impression) with WCBO, locally known as the Groovy Tuesdays), but four (Janni) & three (Alan) days in Amsterdam took their toll. In the end we didn’t make it.

Janni went to her just-around-the-corner hotel, Andy & I escorted Alan back to Pete’s before we cycled home ourselves (more like dragged ourselves home!).

Our friend Nancy from Assen, who on finding Alan realised they knew each other, had her own reunion, and of course there were lots of people who live in/or very close to Amsterdam & heard about the change of venue in time to be there. (photo’s on middle pages).

A few people who I thought would be there, should have been there (I won’t name names, you little Irish twxt & you tall tattooed blonde!) but weren’t & we missed them.

We had so many goodies given by our sponsors, over a third of the raffle tickets had a prize attached (full list on page 21), so Andy gave as good as he got! We didn’t buy any raffle tickets ourselves, but we did get the best prize! A holiday in the Sun for the Amsterdam Stun. It was never meant for the raffle of course, it was a present from Andy’s sister Kay, & it made our day. (Did I say day? I meant years!).

Andy also got bubbly, a t-shirt, a future antique (still in it’s box!), grass, a bottle of Jame-

son’s (Jannie won it in the raffle, but she gave it to Andy), a 50 badge, a 50 balloon, we kept one of the Waterhole’s bags, lots of money, and a great evening with lots of fun!



My brother Albert & his family didn’t make it to the party (would have been too much for the kids anyway), but they drove up to the Dam a couple of weeks ago, and spent a very pleasant afternoon with us. Because Anita wanted to find out about a boat-tour over the canals, we arranged to meet up in town later, where we had a few drinks in the Flying Dutchman & I turned her on to the cherry-beer.

Once again, I’m afraid The Dutch are a laughing stock, politically, in the eyes of the world. Not only did we first give a woman, who lied about her name, age & country of birth, a passport & a job in Government (???), now we have (another woman!) Gonny van Oudenallen, who was cautioned & punished (albeit not very harsh!) over her “creative” use of her expense-account during her short stint in the Amsterdam council. She is now under investigation of fraud, but she has just wangled a 2-year income from the state for having registered (one day before the deadline, with a bit of help from her friends of the LPF) for the house of commons. I find it hard to believe she will actually be chosen, but she will be paid a very nice sum for two years. What’s wrong with Holland?



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# WARMOESSTRAAT

## CENTRUM

Marije was in The Stun in May for her first day working in the Old Quarter and here she is with Saskia on her last.



We seem to be seeing Berber more often than Buster in Buster's, which is a good thing: She doesn't bark or beg for biscuits.



Old Quarter's Monday night jazz session keeps Bob and Agnes busy in the kitchen.



Lars got in the picture with Lotte in the Stone's Café.

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Geranne was behind the Waterhole bar with Frank and Kees for this month's picture.



Here's Linda in the Old Highlander, about to get a well deserved tip.

Jur introduced us to Madonna; all the stars like to drop into Maloe Melo.



# BEHIND

Veronica, Tristan and Uroš have got a beer tap that keeps them cool, now that they serve Heineken Extra Cold in Coco's Outback.



Paul described the Friday jam session in Finnegan's Rainbow as acoustic-ish.



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# BARS

As soon as she turns 18, I'm sure Nanna will be pulling pints in Susie's Saloon with Nina, just like her mum did. Until then, she's taking care of the empty glasses.



Walter introduced us to another new face behind the bar in the Newcastle Pub, Danielle.



If you call out "Deb" in the London Bridge, you could attract the attention of Debbie and Deb when they're both behind the bar.

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Eddy's Karaoke is back, with a new venue and even more songs for you to choose from. Every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9 pm until 1 am, Eddy's ready to play your requests at the Honey, which is in Molensteeg, between Zeedijk and Oudezijds Achterburgwal.

Eddy introduced us to Said, owner of the Honey, when we dropped by recently.



We'll get a picture of "G" and Adrianna singing next time we're there.

The Honey is an International bar, so they need an International Karaoke and with songs in 15 languages, Eddy certainly fits the bill. He's recently added Brazilian, Polish, German and Arabic to the English, French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Thai, Filipino, Indonesian, Greek, Chinese (and one other) that he already offered, so he's sure to have something that will bring out the star in you.

Get down to the Honey and get singing; you'll have a great time!



**Every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
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# GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Gone, gone are the Amsterdam Stun photo's taken in Mr. Coco's. They were meant to go on one of the walls, for the party. People could buy them so we could raise money for Andy's new camera. We will not forget.

Gone is my Mr. Coco's t-shirt; Ashanti never gave it back. (There were more Coco-shirts but Ray wore them to clean out the shit in the cellar, so I didn't want them back anyway, but that's not the point!). I will not forget.

Gone is a valise from a friend of ours, with amongst other things some valuable heirloom jewellery, irreplaceable. His heart aches. He will not forget.



Gavin still works in Coco's. On Thorbeckeplein. Lee is one of his new colleagues. Gavin will try not to forget the good times.



Liam had hoped he could work until he had to use his return-ticket. Well he had to forget about that, didn't he? Maybe Misty can help him forget.



Ray and Martijn have found another bar already, the Old Highlander. Nicola works there, which makes it a lot easier to forget.



# MUSIC NEWS &



Saskia Larou is off to the States for a few weeks, so we're unlikely to see her blasting on her trumpet in Lost In Amsterdam until she gets back in September.



Amsterdam Streetpunk band Heros & Zeiros were playing at an anti-squat laws benefit in the Volta when we dropped in last month. Even though the Volta is a youth centre for

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most of the week, on the nights they have live music, the place is open to everybody and the beer is cheap too! They're having a summer break at the moment, but they'll be open again in September, with a Reggae jam session on the 13th. We'll have all the dates in next month's gig-list.

The End don't have any live bands playing this month, but they will have a Karaoke contest every Saturday in August, with King in



charge of the music. It's free for spectators, but to be in with a chance of the first prize of €500, (2nd; €200, 3rd; €100), it will cost you €10 to enter. Only 60 people can enter the contest, so sign up for it now! The final will be held on Saturday 26th August.

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# WHAT'S ON



Tuesday session leader Rory celebrated his birthday on stage in the Waterhole, during Gus Genser's Thursday Jam.



Thursday is also the night that Lamar and Rahim run the Blues session in Maloe Melo.

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White Cowbell Oklahoma made themselves at home in Maloe Melo during their European tour this summer. Between their major gigs, they played three Tuesdays, a Sunday and here, during Rahim's Thursday session.



Due to contractual obligations, they couldn't play under their real name, so they became Groovy Tuesday with W.C.B.O. During their show in Paradiso, Jur from Maloe Melo joined them on stage. If you didn't catch any of their totally manic shows and want to see what you missed, their Paradiso concert can be seen online at [www.fabchannel.com](http://www.fabchannel.com).

Mark Mysterious is back in Finnegan's Rainbow on most Fridays, with an acoustic-ish jam session.

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# STUN

## Tuesday 08 August

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Jam Session with Arwen  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

## Wednesday 09 August

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Open Podium  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Real Jam

## Thursday 10 August

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Blues Session  
with Lamar Chase  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole 20:00 Augusto  
22:30 Gus Genser Jam

## Friday 11 August

Finnegans R'bow Acoustic(ish) Jam with  
Mark Mysterious & Friends  
Maloe Melo Beatnight Live: De Biet  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole 20:00 Theo de M.  
22:30 Kingfisher

## Saturday 12 August

Huntenpop, Laberinto, Stereo MC's,  
Varsselder  
Maloe Melo Ladies On Stage  
with P.E.P. + Buitenpoes  
The End Karaoke Competition:  
2nd Round  
The Waterhole 20:00 Rory & Lisa  
22:30 Brenda Joan Band

## Sunday 13 August

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Acoustic session with Gavin  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Ladies Nite  
with Joyce & Baukje

## Monday 14 August

Bourbon Street Latin Jam with Gregorio  
Maloe Melo Acoustic session  
with Peter Lavell  
Old Quarter Jazz Session with  
the Old Quarter Trio  
guest: Jasper Blom  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Magic Sem's Jam

## Tuesday 15 August

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Jam Session with Arwen  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

## Wednesday 16 August

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Open Podium  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Real Jam

## Thursday 17 August

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Blues Session  
with Lamar Chase  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole 20:00 Augusto  
22:30 Gus Genser Jam

## Friday 18 August

Bourbon Street Santanico  
Finnegans R'bow Acoustic(ish) Jam with  
Mark Mysterious & Friends  
Maloe Melo Tear It Up (ex-Wildcats)  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole 20:00 Rory & Friends  
22:30 Mosquito

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# GIG-LIST

## **Saturday 19 August**

Maloe Melo t.b.a.  
The End Karaoke Competition:  
3rd Round  
The Waterhole 20:00 Third Addiction  
22:30 One Night Stan

## **Sunday 20 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Acoustic session with Gavin  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Ladies Nite  
with Joyce & Baukje

## **Monday 21 August**

Bourbon Street Latin Jam with Gregorio  
Maloe Melo Acoustic session  
with Peter Lavell  
Old Quarter Jazz Session with  
the Old Quarter Trio  
guest: Susanne Alt  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Magic Sem's Jam

## **Tuesday 22 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Jam Session with Arwen  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

## **Wednesday 23 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Open Podium  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Real Jam

## **Thursday 24 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Blues Session  
with Lamar Chase  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole 20:00 Stan & Friends  
22:30 Gus Genser Jam

## **Friday 25 August**

Finnegans R'bow Acoustic(ish) Jam with  
Mark Mysterious & Friends  
Maloe Melo Riptide  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole 20:00 Augusto  
22:30 Lemon

## **Saturday 26 August**

Maloe Melo Pelt  
The End Karaoke Competition - Final  
The Waterhole 20:00 Stan & Friends  
22:30 Waterhole Gang

## **Sunday 27 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Acoustic session with Gavin  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Ladies Nite  
with Joyce & Baukje

## **Monday 28 August**

Bourbon Street Latin Jam with Gregorio  
Maloe Melo Acoustic session  
with Peter Lavell  
Old Quarter Jazz Session with  
the Old Quarter Trio  
guest: Benjamin Herman  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Magic Sem's Jam

## **Tuesday 29 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Jam Session with Arwen  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Rory's Open Mic

## **Wednesday 30 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Open Podium  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole Real Jam

## **Thursday 31 August**

Honey Eddy's Karaoke  
Maloe Melo Blues Session  
with Lamar Chase  
The End Karaoke  
The Waterhole 20:00 Rory & Friends  
22:30 Gus Genser Jam

# THE PARTY...



We never even got round to the auction, but at least we did the raffle... From the time we arrived (late afternoon) to the time we left (late), there was a constant coming & going of friends, Stun readers, well-wishers, party-animals & lucky strangers who happened to stumble into a Wonder (ful) bar, with beautiful people, great atmosphere, good music, etc., etc.

Some people came early, because they had to work, some people came late, after work. Some people stayed all the time. Nice!

Andy was in his element, taking photo's (see the following pages). We can't fit them all in, he took so many. We forgot, however, to take one from the Custom Built Special Celebration Jim-Joint. We smoked it! Alan took photo's, Janni, & Nic, me. And I'm sure I saw more people with cameras. We would like to see all the photo's you lot took, so please contact us?



A lot of the prizes in the raffle came from Lin in the British General Store, a great big box full of goodies. We gave some away before the raffle started. Sticks of Rock for the kids, the jelly mice too. Janet took one for Michael, but it never made it home. And we gave one of the money-boxes to a big spender. The full list is on page 21; if you didn't get your prize or voucher yet, contact us.

And you can still bid for the Complete Collection of Amsterdam Stuns, pictured above.

Up to now there are 140, so we'll throw in the next ten for free.

With a bit of luck, Andy might have enough money to buy that camera he likes!



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# THE PICTURES...

















# THE RAFFLE

**Thank you to our sponsors, who donated all these wonderful prizes.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Finnegans Rainbow	Sunday Roast Dinner for Two	24	Shaun
Café Tapas Joselito	Dinner for Two + ½ litre house wine	277	Ans
Kamasutra or Vijaya	Dinner for Two	21	Jim Henry
Coco's Outback	€30 Voucher	165	Josie & Neil
The Blarney Stone	A bottle of Jamesons	56	Janni
Buster's Café	A bottle of Stolichnaya Vodka	8	Tam
The Flying Dutchman	A Mystery bottle from Willie	165	Andy & Brenda
The Old Highlander	A bottle of Mickey Finns	312	Josie & Neil
Café De Poort	A bottle of Jenever	44	Liza Chase
Amsterdam Stun	12 month subscription	202	John & Suchada
Amsterdam Stun	6 month subscription	33	Steve
Amsterdam Stun	6 month subscription	29	Janet
British General Stores	Set of Tapas dishes	347	Petra
Amsterdam Stun	Underwater camera	222	Neil
Buster's Café	A Buster's T-Shirt	170	Andy & Brenda
The Flying Dutchman	A Flying dutchman T-Shirt	313	Josie & Neil
British General Stores	A Simpsons T-Shirt	11	Zippy
British General Stores	A Power Rangers T-Shirt	348	Beverly
British General Stores	A Power Rangers T-Shirt	296	John & Suchada
British General Stores	An Aqua Vitae T-Shirt	314	Josie & Neil
Susies Saloon	Five Pints of Beer	49	Zippy
Susies Saloon	Five Pints of Beer	27	Janet
The Waterhole	A Pitcher of Beer	40	Tony/Toosh
The Waterhole	A Pitcher of Beer	7	Tam
British General Stores	Book: The Joy of Sexism	499	Jude
British General Stores	Book: Inept Crime	401	Paddy
British General Stores	Welsh Dragon Tea Towel	205	John & Suchada
British General Stores	Money Box	311	Josie & Neil
British General Stores	A jar of Ashtray Pot Pourri	161	Josie & Neil
British General Stores	A jar of Ashtray Pot Pourri	54	Toosh
British General Stores	A jar of Ashtray Pot Pourri	150	Paddy
British General Stores	A jar of Ashtray Pot Pourri	5	Col. Mike
The Waterhole	A Waterhole Bag	35	Steve
The Waterhole	A Waterhole Bag	450	DJ Phil
The Waterhole	A Waterhole Bag	71	Ruairi
The Waterhole	A Waterhole Bag	48	Hanny

And thanks to everybody who came to the party and bought raffle tickets.

# PRIZES GALORE



Connor was happy to give Elly a bottle of Jameson's, donated by the Blarney Stone, in exchange for Janni's winning voucher.



Neil and Josie won a lot of prizes, but they also bought a lot of tickets.



Bolton John won a Welsh flag tea towel and a Power Rangers T-shirt, donated by British General Stores, plus a one year subscription to The Stun. He swapped the T-shirt with Neil, gave the Stun subscription to his mate Bob in England, but kept quiet about the Welsh flag.



Andy won the mystery bottle from Willie in the Flying Dutchman, which turned out to be Tequila, and a T-shirt from Buster's.



# VISITORS

Joey and husband Adam will be coming from Florida to Amsterdam for their honeymoon in August: What a surprise for her when she sees her dad Gary in The Stun with Robbie in Café Corso.



Weir and Joan were over from Ireland with the twins, Aiden and Owen, and when we met them in the Blarney Stone, Weir finally agreed to appear in The Stun after all these years.



Ann was with another member of her clan in the Old Highlander; her cousin Annie, over with Ginger for the first time in 28 years.



Chas has left Amsterdam and his favourite barman, Willie in the Flying Dutchman, and moved to Kenya, but we caught him passing through on his way to America.

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# CHANGE OF

The Sláinte changed ownership on the 1st of August, but unlike Mister Coco's, everybody knew about it, nobody lost their job and they threw a party to celebrate!



A lot of the staff, past and present were there, some in fancy dress, some not.

We haven't got room to mention everybody, so we'll just say DJ EeVee did the music.



# OWNERSHIP





# ROUND THE

When we're making the first Stun delivery, we'll only get the camera out for something special. Janet, on her birthday, getting Terry to pose with her counts as special.



Phil wanted his picture taken with Mirka in the London Bridge, because he's known her since she's been here. How could we refuse the DJ who did such a good job at our party?



The Sláinte mob, Ruairi, Liam and Susan, know the best bars in town; that's why they were in the Newcastle with Andy.



Marion and Josie are still undecided about the wine in the Old Highlander, so they keep going back for more.

## **THE OLD HIGHLANDER**

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# BARS



We hadn't seen Mickey Llewellyn (on or off stage) for ages, but there he was, larger than life, with Ingrid in the Flying Dutchman.



Miella had a night off, so she went to the Waterhole with her best friend Maya.



We didn't recognise Callum when we saw him with mum Lesley and Ruairi, but it is a very long time since he was last in The Stun.



Martina and Anna looked like they were having fun in Lost In Amsterdam.

Elske, doing her DJ bit in the Wonder Bar.



# MORE



Jackie was giving her daughter Strawberry an introduction to life on Nieuwendijk.



Nina has told Frank, the new manager in Susie's Saloon, all about The Stun.



Reduan and Shahid in the Kamasutra can expect our raffle winner, Jim, to drop in soon.



Another one for the wall in the Waterhole: Geranne with Youssef.

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# ROUNDS



I'm sure sisters Joan and Pauline had a lot to talk about in the Blarney Stone.



Andy will probably be singing, while King is doing the spinning, at the Karaoke contest in The End.

Can't remember if we saw Tom at the party in the Sláinte; maybe he was in disguise.



Walter got Dimitri, Bernadette and Heather to smile for the camera in the Newcastle Pub.



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# OLA AMIGO'S

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Well I thought I would let ye know how we are getting on with our big adventure. So if you couldn't give a damn... ya might as well skip over to the jokes page.

We arrived in Rio on Monday morning... happy days, well mostly! We descended from the clouds into what we were hoping would be beautiful sunshine, or at least mediocre weather... hmmm!! Lads, I swear we hit the tarmac just as quick as the plane came out of the cloud... I thought... Jaysus that was fast!! There was fog everywhere; it was hard to even see out the window of the feican plane. I thought about going up to the pilot and informing him that he must have taken a wrong turn somewhere... maybe by some stroke of madness he headed for the Antarctic instead of South America. Unfortunately the man had done his job and we had in fact arrived in 'beautiful Rio', the weather was just SHIT!!!

"Okay" I said to Brian, keep smiling, for god's sake don't panic, this, my dear, is just a glitch in the Matrix, everything will be grand when we get out of the airport... no problemo!! We came out of arrivals and we were descended upon by a flock of vultures... feican mad men everywhere trying to get us in their taxi and whisk us off for a ridiculous price and probably on a very scenic route into Copacabana. After many attempts at ignoring everyone, we chose the most persistent of the lot, bless him, he has a job to do, and we leapt to safety into one of his taxis. I'll tell ya, we were just so bloody tired, we would have hopped on the back of a bicycle, bags and all, just to get to a nice hotel with a warm shower and bed.

So after we dropped off our stuff, our first night was spent wandering about Rio blindly in the fog!!! We had something to eat and many drinks and just took it easy and rambled around... did I mention BLINDLY in the fog?

Yesterday, we bit the bullet and went into the Centre. It was still foggy, so no point going up Sugar Loaf or seeing Christ the Redeemer... wouldn't exactly make for great pictures, the most I would have caught would have been the back of Brian's head!! Rio is beautiful though and I am sure when the sunshine comes, we will be totally blown away. The buildings are huge and the streets crazy! It's really busy and I'm tellin ya, you would not dare to cross the road until the little man goes green and it is safe to cross. You may not see a car coming, but the minute you take a chance and stick your toe out on the road... a bus will come hurtling out of no-where and flatten that very toe like a pancake... these people are feican crazy loonatics behind the wheel. We have already agreed that we will NOT under any circumstances be renting a car... not even a push-bike!

We are staying in a hostel in Copacabana, which is really good, cheap and there are loads of sound ole souls around the place! Unfortunately the weather has got worse instead of better and we were treated to rain beating against the window for most of the day! But not to worry, keep smiling lads, an optimistic mind is a happy one... however foolish! Things can only get better, eh?

We are still having a great time though lads. I suppose you fuckers at home find this hilarious... I bet ye... ye will all be tanning your arses this weekend and we will be roaming around Rio in the fog and rain in our raincoats!

Anyways the weather is the least of our worries... having a ball! Hope to get to a soccer match at the weekend and then head for an island off the coast on Monday when the weather is nicer to us... WOOOHOOO.

Right folks, will get back to ye soon.

**Big Kiss,**

***Elaine & Brian***

# THE JOKES PAGE

With our *Guest Jokers*: Tommy, Rush & Lin

Thought for the day: There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra today than on Alzheimer's research. This means that by 2040, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs and huge erections and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Married 25 years, took a look at my wife one day and said, "Honey, 25 years ago, we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed, and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-year old blond. Now, we have a nice house, nice car, big bed, and plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 50-year old woman. It seems to me that you are not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 25-year old blond, and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, and sleeping on a sofa.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two Scots, Archie and Jock, are sitting in the pub discussing Jock's forthcoming wedding...

"Ach, it's all going grand," says Jock. "I've got everything organised already: the flowers, the church, the cars, the reception, the rings, the minister, even ma stag night..."

Archie nods approvingly.

"Heavens, I've even bought a kilt to be married in!" continues Jock.

"A kilt?" exclaims Archie, "That's braw, you'll look pure smart in that!"

"And what's the tartan?" Archie then enquires.

"Och," says Jock, "I'd imagine she'll be in white..."

Three guys, a Canadian farmer, Osama bin Laden, and an Australian engineer, are working together one day. They come across a lantern and a Genie pops out of it. "I will give each of you one wish, which is three wishes total," says the Genie.

The Canadian says, "I am a farmer, my dad was a farmer, and my son will also farm. I want the land to be forever fertile in Canada." Pooooof! With the blink of the Genie's eye, the land in Canada was forever made fertile for farming.

Osama bin Ladin was amazed, so he said, "I want a wall around Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran so that no infidels, Jews or Australians can come into our precious state." Pooooof! Again, with the blink of the Genie's eye, there was a huge wall around those countries.

The Australian engineer says, "I am very curious. Please tell me more about this wall." The Genie explains, "Well, it's about 5000 feet high, 500 feet thick and completely surrounds the country. Nothing can get in or out, it's virtually impenetrable."

So the Australian engineer says, "Fill it with water."

\*\*\*\*\*

This old man in his eighties got up and was putting on his coat. His wife says, "Where are you going?" He says, "I'm going to the doctor." She says, "Are you sick?" He says, "No, I'm going to get me some of those new Viagra pills." So his wife gets out of her rocker and puts on her coat. He says, "Where are you going?" She says, "I'm going to the doctor too." He says, "Why?" She says, "If you're going to start using that rusty old thing, I'm going to get a tetanus shot."

# BEING FRANK ON FOOTBALL

A new football season has already commenced in Scotland and is just around the corner here in the Netherlands and of course in England too. I was in Tilburg on two occasions last week, at the grounds of Willem Twee and FC Dordrecht, to see my beloved Ipswich Town in action and this week I am off to the Arena to take in some of the four-team tournament that involves Porto, Ajax, Manchester United and Inter Milan.

As usual, it is time to give you my impressions of the season ahead and let us start with the English Premiership. Don't forget to get your entries in for the PPL – especially if they differ from mine!

**20th: Sheffield United, 1000/1.**

Sadly, this one seems destined to have an uneasy ride. The going will not suit this Yorkshire newcomer and a serious injury to their record signing Claude Davis has just rubbed more salt into the wound and they face an almighty struggle just to survive.

**19th: Aston Villa, 800/1.**

As the season is about to commence, they remain rider-less and even if someone is pulling the reins when things kick off for real, they will be playing catch-up from the off. This has the smell of death about it and although their proud tradition and strong support in former years gives them something to hang on to, I firmly believe they will fall at the first time.

**18th: Wigan Athletic, 500/1.**

They had a fantastic run on their last outing and Paul Jewell is one of the best managers around in my view, but the second outing is even more challenging than the first, as Ipswich proved a few years back when they finished fifth one season and were easily relegated the next. I fear that Wigan may face a similar fate and even the shrewdness of Jewell's judgment may not help this time around, I suspect.

**17th: Reading, 200/1.**

This will be a hard, long battle and perhaps through sheer will-power and collective determination they will avoid the drop, but it will be touch and go all the way. What may save them is a relatively easy start and it is vital they

make the early running and pick up points against Middlesbrough, Villa and Wigan so that they can keep their noses in front for as long as possible. Steve Coppell is a good trainer and he will need all his wit and guile to keep this one in the race.

**16th: Fulham, 150/1.**

They have always been dark horses since Coleman took the reins and I think this campaign could prove very testing. They are usually

entertaining to watch, but this does not always reap rewards and I think as the race progresses, the going will get very tough.

**15th: Charlton Athletic, 150/1.**

The loss of Alan Curbishly is very significant in my view. Darren Bent will have something to prove again though and after the way







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he was ignored in the World Cup, don't be surprised if he is the Premier's top goal scorer this term! That said, I think they will have a difficult time of it and will end the season rudderless.

**14th: Bolton Wanderers, 100/1.**

They have exceeded all expectations in recent years, but this time they could be found wanting. Stan The Man has worked miracles, but sooner or later all good things come to an end and I think they may unseat their rider before the end of the race.

**13th: Portsmouth, 100/1.**

Another one that could be found wanting and only Our Harry can keep this one afloat for long. I think they are destined for mid-table mediocrity and just to rub salt in their wounds, their old rivals Southampton will have a stormer in the Championship and could well even win it!

**12th: Everton, 80/1.**

Nothing to get excited about here either. Moyes is showing signs of losing the plot and

it could just be that he gets the chop before they jump their first big hurdle. A bad start and I think his number's up.

**11th: Watford, 80/1.**

This could be the season's surprise package and already in some of their pre-season friendlies they have been raising eyebrows with their unique brand of football. Like Wigan last year, I have a feeling that Andy Boothroyd knows his stuff and can get the very best out of the squad and comfortably avoid the back of the field.

**10th: Blackburn Rovers, 50/1.**

Mark Hughes is a determined man. He knows how to inspire people and I expect Blackburn to have a reasonable season without setting the world on fire. They can produce the goods against some of the more fancied runners and there is enough belief in the squad to suggest they can comfortably stay the pace.

**9th: Manchester City, 40/1.**

Where would we be without Stuart Pearce? He would never make a librarian, but as a footballer and a football manager, he has the lot! They say that in the modern game, there are not enough characters and then you see this guy and his positivity and honesty are as apparent as the mid-day sun. City may end mid-table, but they are sure to provide us with lots of entertainment along the way with Pearce in charge. Excessive use of the whip could be the problem.

**8th: West Ham United, 40/1.**

This is another one that is bound to provide us with entertainment. Last term they performed admirably and I see steady improvement from here on. I feel they have the motivation to be quick out the blocks this time around, just as Charlton were last season. The fact that they have not enough strength in depth when suspensions and injuries set in is bound to slow them down as the campaign progresses and this handicap will hamper their attempts at staying with the leading pack.

# BEING FRANK...

**7th: Middlesbrough, 40/1.**

Another over-achiever of late and there is every likelihood that this will continue into this term too. They may not have that many household names, but they still pack a punch and against the front-runners they can certainly give anyone a run for their money!

**6th: Newcastle United, 25/1.**

From an over-achiever to an under-achiever, and how this club has suffered over the years, thanks to poor managers and great expectations. The support is fantastic and yet they need very long memories to recall the glory days. I have a feeling they may not have to wait too much longer somehow and I think they are a good outside bet for the F.A. Cup.

**5th: Manchester United, 20/1.**

Life is in a perpetual state of change, but you try telling that to Sir Alex! Losing Ruud may not be the end of the world as we know it, because Wayne Rooney can only get better and better, if he can remain injury and red-card free. Ronaldo may stick around for a while and he may be spurred on by all those jeers, but I think in the end it will get to him. As for Ferguson, he will have to be pushed.

**4th: Tottenham Hotspur, 20/1.**

This will be a good season. I say that not just because of the acquisition of Michael Carrick and Edgar Davids deciding to stay, but also because I think in Martin Jol, they have a man that means business and he is tactically very astute. They have good support and they will come out with all guns firing this term.

**3rd: Liverpool, 10/1.**

I think there is no greater incentive to Liverpool fans and players alike than to be told by Mourinho you are not up to it. He thinks they won't keep the pace and that only Manchester United and Arsenal are real dangers. This is where I beg to differ. I think there will be a Spanish inquisition going on at Anfield after this remark and there is no greater incentive than this to get everyone pulling in the right direction – even before the off!

**2nd: Chelsea, evens.**

I am going to stick my neck out here and say that this time, they won't quite do it. Expectations are of course very high again, but I firmly believe that there is a bit of trouble at mill. Team spirit is low and the incentive to win the Premiership gets a little less the more you win it and anyway, it is all getting a bit boring for me and you and neutral supporters everywhere. Perhaps also for the players? We shall see.

**1st: Arsenal, 2/1.**

Arse Wenger is the shrewdest man around and his poker-face looks just add something to his character. I think a new stadium may be just what the doctor ordered – especially if they make a good start there and then there is Mr. Henry, who just loves the place almost as much as Dennis Bergkamp! This will go to the wire, I feel, but with the desire and technical know-how in great supply, I think they may just want this more than anybody else.

*Frank*

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Charlton	
Chelsea	
Everton	
Fulham	
Liverpool	
Man City	
Man Utd	
Middlesbrough	
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