

Yes It's Time For.....

**GIFFY'S
BEGIUM
INVASION
2000**

Belgium 2000

We would like to extend a very warm back to our regular tourists and a big hello to our many newcomers to the first Belgium tour of the new millennium. This annual pilgrimage is now in it's 14th year and the Green Devils tournament becomes a bigger affair every year. Last year the men's competition was won by the Nigerian National team and our girls lost out in a hard fought final.

The hockey in Belgium is secondary holiday it provides – the late nights, early morning, the dancing till dawn comes (nice girl) and the traditional presentation ceremony.

As with most years the recruitment of the male players has not been a major problem, whereas the gathering of the ladies has proved more difficult than usual. May I take this opportunity to formally apologise for the lack of numbers in the ladies ranks which I hope will not affect anyone's enjoyment this weekend. Overall numbers are very good and the number of youngsters is at an all time high.

Things Not To Say This Weekend

1. Boastful remarks about our national football team.
2. Marauders men are playing first in the morning.
3. Where is Baldrick
4. Wake up Billy, it's closing time
5. Saints men are playing well this weekend

Things To Say This Weekend

1. Giffy, would you like a drink?
2. Barry was unlucky to be sent off in that last game
3. That Belgium umpire with the beard has found his contact lenses this year.
4. Good goal Giffy
5. Can I come back next year, I've had a great time.

Itinerary

Thursday

- 17.00 Pick up at Lord Protector, Huntingdon.
- 17.45 Coach arrives at Ernulf school.
- 18.30 Coach leaves Ernulf school.
- 19.00 Pick up at park and ride in Cambridge
- 20.15 Pick up Wurzel at Thurrock services
- 20.16 Leave Thurrock services - hopefully with Wurzel and Tony on board.
- 23.00 Ferry leaves Doer for Calais - hopefully with us on it.

Friday Belgium times now quoted

- 03.00 Arrive at Green Devils H.C. Pitch tents and crash out
- 11.00 All showered and refreshed - coach to depart for Brugges
- 12.00 More likely time to leave for Brugges
- 13.00 Hopefully have definitely left for Brugges by now.
- 18.00 Depart from Brugges
- 19.00 Probable time to leave Brugges
- 20.00 Lasagne, beer and partying until whenever.
- 21.30 All say goodnight to Uncle Roger.

Saturday

- 06.00 Giffy and most of Marauders men to leave disco.
- 09.00 Giffy gets up to watch the Saints men play.
- 12.00 Marauders men prepare to play with a sharp beer.
- 18.00 Girls happy as they shower having won all their games.
- 19.00 BBQ and free drinks - everybody happy.

Sunday

- 06.00 Giffy and most of Marauders men to leave disco.
- 09.00 Giffy gets up to watch the Saints men play.
- 16.00 Both mens teams eliminated so go to bar to get beers to drink whilst watching our ladies in the final.
- 17.00 Presentations.
- 17.24 Speech by the big bloke from Ammersfoort.
- 18.00 Showers, pack up tents and go to the little restaurant for food.
- 19.30 Get the bill.
- 19.55 Finally sort the bill out.
- 20.00 Coach departs Ternat.
- 23.00 Ferry departs - time for that final couple of beers.

Monday

- 04.00 Everybody home, heading home or lost.

Tuesday

- All day Feel like a bear has pooped in your mouth and someone has attacked your vocal chords with a cheese grater.

Wednesday

- All day Giffy starts planning the 2001 trip.

Budget

Coach/Ferry/Booze	60.00	Balls	1.00
Entry/Food	18.00	October Event	4.00
Kit/Gifts	35.00		
Admin	2.00	Total	<u>120.00</u>

In Memorial

Since last years Belgium two of the regular supporters of this trip and good personal friends of all of us have sadly died. We thought it fitting that we pay tribute to them here.

Kiwi – Pete Burrows

Kiwi died last year in unfortunate and sudden circumstances, much to the regret of everyone who knew him. Kiwi first came to Belgium as a friend of Andy and Sue Edgington but over the course of the years became one of the first names to go down on the guest list. Kiwi captained the Saints team that won the tournament in 1994 and the following year enabled the trip to go ahead by finding a clutch of players from London to attend the tour. Latterly Kiwi joined St. Ives Hockey Club through his friendship with Paula and was their first team captain at the time of his death. Kiwi was always a ‘total commitment’ type of person. He gave everything on the pitch and was a great guy to be around.

Jacko – Jack Grenville

Jack sadly passed away less than a month ago after a wretched year following a brain tumour and a succession of serious heart attacks. Jack had been the backbone of Haverhill Hockey Club for many years and was a firm believer in enjoying life to the full. Jacko was a key figure in the sporting life of the Haverhill girls as they grew up and truly cared about all around him. Jacko until now had only ever missed the first Belgium trip and more recently travelled over from Ireland to join in the annual pilgrimage. Belgium will never be the same without Jacko supping his Jamesons whilst playing on the left wing, playing the spoons in the centre of Brussels and slurring his words as he tells everyone what a great time he is having.

The loss of both these friends has affected many of us over the last year and can remind all of us of our own vulnerability. Belgium is a time for us all to enjoy ourselves and raise a glass to absent friends.

MARAUDERS MEN

Captain Fish – Most likely to be found asleep, drinking, eating or belching. Never quiet or subtle on the pitch.

Vice – Nick Manly – A man who can turn goal scoring into an art form and tackling into a violent form.

3. Brownie – An unknown quantity in goal who is sure to make a lasting impression of his own. Hopefully we can remove the stain.

4. Samba Sequins – Our honorary treasurer who is easy to spot on tour as his head reflects the sun and his shirts illuminate the disco.

5. Giffy – The slowest mover on the pitch and on the dance floor who should be bought drinks at regular intervals and listened to sparingly.

6. Angus – Local boy who has been conned into the annual pilgrimage for the first time. Likely to say little, drink a lot and remember a lot.

7. Muttley – The luckiest man on the tour as he blessed with unique talents on the pitch and charm on the dance floor.

8. Crossey – The small hairy creature returns once more – and still has the same thing on his mind!!!!

9. Hello Rent Boy Would You Like A BJ – A new recruit from St.Ives who should improve the Saints forward line despite failing to score in a 9-0 drubbing of St. Neots 5th team.

10. Black Tony – A stalwart of many a trip. Hoping to bring his kids with him at long last.

11. Mel Y.T.A.H.C.R.S. Emery – Returning to the trip after many years in the wilderness (known to us as St.Ives H.C.)

12. Eddie – Granted a green card from her that must be obeyed. A veteran of many a tour and even more hangovers.

13. Wurzel – A living legend in his own lunchtime. He has gained an unfair reputation for being a talented performer.

14. Big Kev 2 – A large influence on the tour who can turn a game with one blow of his whistle. Likely to sink a few over the weekend.

15. Tray – Marauders most consistent performer over the past few years. Since joining the team in 1997 Tray has not missed one of our matches. Her contributions have kept the team nicely oiled.

16. Grumpy – The other new St.Ivo recruit who, judging by his nickname, should be the Saints mens side.

SAINTS MEN

Captain Geoff – Man of charm and charisma who is famed for scoring in Surrey this year and being mistaken for a ‘ringer’ by an aged club player.

Vice – Possie – An unusually sensible person on tour whose tackling is a one handed version of Barry’s. He is the only Combwick player here this weekend.

3. Stevie Moore – Known to his friends as the six million dollar man – a man barely alive. Against the odds Stevie has patched up again, his legs back and knees have been rested and he is ready to take the field for the first couple of minutes of Saints opening game on Saturday morning.

4. Andy Land – Another St. Ivo recruit making his Belgium debut, he will hopefully inject a bit of common sense into the Saints side.

5. Bazza – Not surprising that he is now a gardener by trade considering he has been scything down opposing players with a hockey stick for years.

6. Batman – Noted for holding a good position on the Ipswich bench last season so he should be fresh for this tournament.

7. Craig Edwards – After seasons at St. Neots H.C. including some as chairman Craig has finally summoned up the courage to come on its biggest trip. However, he still isn’t sure about it so won’t be joining us until Saturday afternoon.

8. Turnip – As you know a turnip is a dull carrot. Voted as the person most likely to benefit from a year’s growth as he can now reach the bar to order his round of drinks.

9. Jimmy The Kid – Suffers from delusions of adequacy.

10. Waynetta – By having Waynetta here with us this weekend we are depriving a village somewhere of his services.

11. Windy – Whilst Simon is here this weekend his parents are holding a car boot sale of his stuff and moving house, this is the first he has heard about it.

12. Goldilocks – Here again to keep an eye on Turnip. Much respected for his performance on the Saturday night last year, at 8.00 in the evening he was completely trolled at 4am the next morning he was still on the dance floor (OK so he was slow dancing with Giffy but it was still a sterling effort).

13. Jimbo – Last year’s captain has returned to see if the team are as bad as he thought or if it was just bad captaincy.

14. Lance – A man noted for his three man lift routine. He also has a degree of accuracy in front of goal that even Samba Sequins would be ashamed of.

16. Uncle Roger – Restored to full health, this international star of stage, screen and hockey pitch will give everyone the benefit of his wisdom (whether you want it or not).

MARAUDERS LADIES

Captain Manda – Her fourth appearance on the tour but will not be joining us until Friday afternoon.

Vice – Sir Laughalot – Another returning tourist who had a year off last year whilst taking her golf handicap down to the correct level. Would all those golfers who lost money to her last year when she was playing off 29 please note that she now has a correct handicap of 9.

3. Boynie – A lot of money is being on bet on Boynie breaking her own personal best in the golden baps competition. The record stands at the Dartford Crossing.

4. Babs – Batmans minder who is able to let her hair down a bit more this year as the kids are being left at home.

5. Hooch – Expected to make her first ever appearance in a Belgium hockey match sober. Although as she arriving in Belgium before the rest of us and leaving after us we do expect her to be slaughtered when we arrive.

6. Mad Mel – Congratulations to Mel who this year becomes the latest member of the ten tours in a row club. We understand that she has a new pair of bright shorts for the occasion.

7. Lucy – One of the true oddballs on tour. Likely to make a lasting impression on the dancefloor before crashing out in a big way.

8. Cat – Having toured North Staffs and Surrey already this year the young keeper has quickly made an impression on and off the field of play.

9. Shaggy – We never found out the real reason why she is called Shaggy although fans of Scooby Doo will recall that in the cartoon Shaggy had an untidy beard.

10. Ali Kiddie – A lady who is very at home on the dancefloor although recently she was sacked from Riverdance for using her arms.

SAINTS LADIES

Captain Tina Bunch – One of the few Havelhill girls not to travel directly this year and a virgin to the wonderful world of Belgium captaincy.

Vice Crabby – The youngest vice captain we have ever had but having been to Belgium before she should know what to expect. Last year she picked up an accolade when the Saints men voted her the best up and coming something or other (I can't remember what, but I'm sure they will).

3. Sumo – Back after a year in the wilderness Sumo will add some welcome experience to a young Saints side and will no doubt be soaking up the Belgium hospitality.

4. Cat – Having toured North Staffs and Surrey already this year the young keeper has quickly made an impression on and off the field of play.

5. The Hockey Monster – Katie, as she often called, is one of the new breed of St. Neots ladies who is a graduate of the Wombles academy. Although having only been playing for a year, Katie has already got under a belt a crunch tackle against Roz Twemlow which Katie won – Scary.

6. Anne – Even Sumo needs looking after and as usual Anne gets this erstwhile task. She is also intending to play a bit of hockey and drink a little.

7. Sarah Moore – Making her virgin pilgrimage Sarah has recently broken into the St. Neots firsts and is sure to add something to the Saints line up.

8. Lucy Page – Another Haverhill lady although the only one who is making her maiden voyage on this trip.

9. Amy Martin – Coming from Lincolnshire Amy is excited at the prospect of the coach passing by some hills on the journey to Ternat.

10. Juliet Fabb – Juliet is a member of St. Ives and is currently on holiday from college (isn't college one big holiday anyway). Juliet may play in goal or on pitch depending upon how much she has to drink.

ADVICE

After the introduction of Air France' new express service for Concorde passengers – airport to hotel in 2 minutes – the following advice has been issued to pilots. Please bare in mind these points the next time you fly.

1. Every takeoff is optional. Every landing is mandatory.
2. If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller. That is unless you keep the stick all the way back, then they get bigger again.
3. Flying isn't dangerous. Crashing is what's dangerous.
4. It's always better to be down here wishing you were up there than up there wishing you were down here.
5. The ONLY time you have too much fuel is when you are on fire.
6. The propeller is just a big fan in front of the plane used to keep the pilot cool. When it stops you actually watch the pilot start sweating.
7. When in doubt hold on to your altitude. No one has ever collided with the sky.
8. A 'good' landing is one from which you can walk away. A 'great' landing is one after which you can use the plane again.
9. Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.
10. You know you've landed with the wheels up if it takes full power to taxi to the ramp.
11. The probability of survival is inversely proportional to the angle of arrival. Large angle of arrival, small probability of survival and vice versa.
12. Never let an aircraft take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier.
13. Stay out of clouds. The silver lining everyone keeps talking about might be another airplane going in the opposite direction. Reliable sources also report that mountains have been known to hide out in clouds.
14. Always try to keep the lumber of landings you make equal to the number of takeoffs.
15. There are three simple rules for making a smooth landing. Unfortunately no one knows what they are.
16. You start with a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. The trick is to fill the bag of experience before you empty the bag of luck.
17. Helicopters can't fly; they're just so ugly the earth repels them.
18. In the ongoing battle between objects made of aluminium going hundreds of miles an hour and the ground going zero miles an hour, the ground has yet to lose.
19. Good judgement comes from experience. Unfortunately, experience comes from bad judgement.
20. It's always a good idea to keep the pointy end going forward as much as possible.
21. The three most useless things to a pilot are the altitude above, the runway behind you and a tenth of a second ago.

ADDITIONAL TOURISTS

Ben Hall – Marauders Men, Charlotte Hall – Marauders Men, Simon Halse – Saints Men, Katie Hall – Saints Men, Paula Granger – Anyone that wants her, E.B. – Anyone who buys him a beer, Dave Martin – Anyone who buys him two beers, Chris Diment – Marauders Ladies, and Sam Bass – Saints Ladies.