



## Importers of the finest Belgian Beers.

Check out our website: [www.globalbeer.com](http://www.globalbeer.com)  
the largest on Belgian Beer!

### NEWSLETTER

Vol.8 No 2



**"Absolutely one of the top five beers of the world!"**

*Petit Futé: Guide to Belgian Beers'*

*Available on Amazon.com & globalbeer.com*

A triple by strength, an IPA (Indian Pale Ale) by history. Triple means that the brewer used three times the normal amount of barley malt, thus starting with more starches, getting more sugars after cooking, and more alcohol after a long fermentation. The Piraat is re-fermented in the bottle, and in the keg! The original style of the Piraat is similar to the IPA style. It is a beer that was created many centuries ago to go on ships. Indeed, sailors drank beer on board. Nobody drank water on land, why would anybody then take water on a boat? Even the Pilgrim fathers landed in Plymouth Rock because they were out of beer, and had to land to find fresh water to brew more beer. So says their logbook.

When people started to sail out for longer voyages, the captains needed a beer with high "food" value that could be kept fresh for a long time. The Flemish sailors, called merchants by their friends and pirates by their enemies, had a very strong and potent beer like the Piraat on board.

Piraat is a wickedly rich and rounded brew that packs a mighty punch. Taste it, and understand why captains like this beer so much. Nothing holds sailors (or Pirates) back after a pint of this brew.



*"Absolutely one of the  
top 5 beers of the world!"  
— Guide to Belgian Beers*

## The President of the Belgian Parliament is an avid Beer lover.

In the June issue of "Het Brouwersblad", the publication of the Belgian Brewers, the President of the Belgian Parliament, Mr. Herman De Croo, is interviewed, and he offers some remarkable statements for a man of his stature—certainly in our American eyes. De Croo is known in Belgium to speak his mind. Some excerpts:



on horseback from pub to pub. The horse knows the way home and will not walk against a tree.)

- Pubs in Flanders are the meeting places without standoffishness where everyone's on an equal footing: "I'll get this round, and you get the next."

- Beer plays an important role in Belgian politics: after every meeting, we go for a glass of beer, and that mellows the relationships and washes the tensions away.

The social function of drinking beer in a pub with friends and other people is still widely recognized in Belgium.

## Fun & Beer tour in Belgium 2002.

While we are producing this Newsletter, 22 fellow Americans are having the time of their life in Belgium, visiting breweries, savoring beer-cuisine in top notch restaurants, tasting over a hundred different Belgian beers, all while enjoying good company in the most beautiful historic sceneries.

We'll bring you a few pictures in our next issue. Will we see you on our 2003 tour?

- I visit 10 to 15 pubs per week. Everybody knows me. Before I go home after a function, I always stop at one of the pubs in my neighborhood. To drink a beer with a group of friends in an attractive pub is one thing in life I invest in. Everywhere I come, I always drink a dark beer, preferably the local specialty. And I have been in every village, city and hamlet in Belgium during my 40 year long political career. At the Royal Palace and at many embassies in Brussels, they know I prefer a good tasty beer, and they always have it waiting for me. All my guests at the Parliament are offered a nice selection of specialty beers during our official meetings and functions.

- I've said it many times: "My grandfather was able to drink 100 glasses of beer per day, my father 50, but I can only have 25." The truth is that I can handle 15 if I stay with the same brand. My rule is not to mix, and then I still can ride home on my horse. (Indeed, Mr. Herman De Croo has his own horse stable, and visits his constituents



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

## Belgian beer lovers demonstrate against Interbrew.

Interbrew, the third largest brewer in the world, headquartered in Belgium, and brewer of the Labatt, Hoegaarden, Stella, Leffe, Sol, Rolling Rock brands and many more, was the target of a street demonstration on May 5, 2002, in Aalst Belgium. In a typical Belgian pouring rain, a fake funeral procession followed by a few hundred people and led by a fanfare walked the streets to 'celebrate' the life of another part of Belgian Beer Culture forever gone. Wreaths were placed on the port of the closed brewery De Geest, and at the recently closed malt house Dewolf-Cosyns.

The Objectieve Beer Proevers (OBP), the Flemish chapter of CAMRA, claims that Interbrew hurts the Belgian Beer Culture by closing the malt maker DeWolf-Cosyns in Aalst, a company they bought a few years back, and that was selling special malts to many brewers in Belgium and abroad. Interbrew successfully bought many independent breweries in the last 30 years, and closed them one by one, after stopping to brew the beers from these breweries. Over hundred of unique Belgian beers have been lost. Now, Interbrew is buying and closing the independent malt-factories as well, eliminating in the process a source of special malts for the independent Belgian brewers.

The OBP is not going so far as to ask for a boy-cot of the Interbrew beers. But, they clearly wanted to ring the alarm-bell. The Belgian TV-stations and the Belgian newspapers all brought attention to the manifestation, and the problem of the dominant player willingly hurting the bio-diversity of the Belgian beer culture. OBP warned Interbrew that it will continue to inform the beer drinking public about their devastating policies. The manifestation ended on the market square where the organizers toasted their success with specialty beers from a few independent breweries.



**"Beer is good for you - even better for you than red wine."**

*Wall Street Journal, August 13, 2002*

Finally, the main stream press dares to print it. The message we have been blasting all over for so many years.

To know more about beer and your health, visit our web site [www.globalbeer.com](http://www.globalbeer.com) or the web site [www.beerandhealth.com](http://www.beerandhealth.com).

The Wall Street Journal article cites among many other things an interesting survey at Kaiser Permanente managed care system, that shows that beer drinkers among the group of 128,934 adults were statistically at a significantly lower risk of coronary-artery disease than men who drank red wine or spirits.



## Golf, a sport created in Flanders.

Dr. Heiner Gillmeister, Professor in sports history at the university of Bonn in Germany, proved in a recent study that the sport of golf was originally created in Flanders, and was called "kolf". His study was published in the International Journal of History of Sport. Kolf, in Flemish, means wooden stick, and later also the wooden part of a musket and rifle.

Wittekerke in cans: a great idea for finally having a great tasting and refreshing beer on the golf-course.

## Beer-export, the Walloon way.

All governments promote and aid the export of the products made in their territory. The Walloon government has recently adopted a strange promotion.

A couple of small Wallonian breweries received subsidies to relocate abroad. Brasserie La Rochefortoise is relocating to Congo Brazzaville, and another one is going to Chile.

The owners take the whole brewery and their know-how with them to their new homeland.

The day the Walloon government succeeds 100 % in this promotional effort, there will be no Wallonian beer left in Belgium.



## Cats love beer, but too much is too much.

Katie Perfitt, a young lady in Ingleby Warwick (UK), didn't understand why her tom cat showed strange wild behavior when coming back home after a night out. The veterinarian diagnosed a swollen liver.



One night Katie followed her cat secretly and saw him entering the local pub. Patrons in the pub shared portions of their beer with the cat, which had become a popular attraction and a 'regular' at the pub. The cat is grounded!

