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# BELGIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA, INC.

(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

PAUL CUYPERS  
PRESIDENT

PHILIPPE BOETS  
MARK DE VLIEDER  
VICE-PRESIDENTS

RICHARD BIRKENWALD  
LEGAL COUNSEL

HONORARY CHAIRMAN  
GUY GOVAERT  
CONSUL OF BELGIUM

# NEWSLETTER

1 JULY 1990

VOL 1 - NR 2

## WELCOME TO THE! SECOND ISSUE

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Here we are again to keep you up to date on what's happening.

Our Belgian Fridays are really going well. After 4 of these events, we had a total of 120 people attending. The nice thing to mention is that we had a high turnover of different people coming by. That's the whole idea about these get-togethers: just stop by when you feel like it!

May 24 we had our Fort Lauderdale Friday at the French Place. Once more, Jean-Pierre and Diane did a wonderful job offering hot hors-d'oeuvres.

June 1 at the Hofbrau was remarkably attended by quite a few people. Especially the Meurrens/Jaubin families were strongly represented. We even had the opportunity to watch a very intense game of cards involving Edgard Meurrens, Kris De Witte, Karel Dupre and Chantal De Wit. Unfortunately we were not successful in our negotiation about the price of the Belgian beer. You will see notes about the next Fridays further in this letter.

On the membership front we have now reached 60 families, which represents over 150 people. Of course we want to continue to grow and count on you to spread the word!

See you soon, tot binnenkort, a bientôt,

Paul Cuypers

### A BUSY WEEK FOR THE CLUB

The first week in June saw 3 events where our Club and its network demonstrated a nice spirit of solidarity.

Marc De Vliedier was listening to the Belgian BRT shortwave radio one night and heard a "distress call" on behalf of a family from Kortrijk trying to get in touch with one of their family members. The only indication was that he was sailing on a red sailboat called "Namaste" in the region of Fort Lauderdale.

Fort Lauderdale checking all the sailboat anchorages and marinas. Their patience paid off when they discovered the Namaste II at Bahia Mar Marina. No one was on board, so Paul left a message and called the family in Kortrijk the next morning who told him the sailor had meanwhile returned, after having been contacted by the Belgian Consulate. Still, they were quite impressed and grateful for the job.

The next day, Marc got a call from the Consulate about two young tourists who had been attacked and robbed twice by an armed gang in Pompano Beach. Both from Antwerp, Koen Spruyt and Rene De Ren were stranded in their hotel. No money, no food, no more rent-a-car, no nothing! Paul took them to our committee meeting that same night. Jef Verhelst gave them a Belgian first-aid kit, a case of beer! They swallowed their first meal in 36 hours in no time. Another member arranged for overnight funds from Belgium. After spending the night on board of "Brussels Sprout", Koen and Rene were re-born and they enjoyed the rest of their vacation, while Jean-Pierre kept them in shape foodwise.

That same week, Ginette Mertens heard about recently arrived Jean-Francois Godts being in the hospital for surgery. She didn't know him at all but being a registered nurse and a good samaritan, she thought it would be a good idea to look him up and bring him the best medicine available: a bottle of triple Grimbergen Trappist!

The above shows one of the nice side-effects of having our Club: solidarity among members and fellow Belgians in need.

## THE PALM BEACHES

Good news for our members and prospective members: Andre Paulus has accepted to be an active member of our committee and will be our contact person for the Palm Beaches area. He is a very active person and already has ideas about organizing activities in his area.  
Address: Andre Paulus  
4307 43rd Way  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
phone: (407)697.3278

## WORLD CUP FOOTBALL

"Soccer" for our American friends. The football party in Sunrise was a tremendous success. All together, we were about 70 Belgians, not including the Belgian team on the 3 screens. Not including Guy Thys who, cigar in hand, led our team to a victory of skill and art over Uruguay. Electricity in the air, shouting and screaming of Heysel standards, hot dogs and Maes Pils, a happy event. Our sincere thanks to Mona De Vlieger and Chantal De Wit, without whose constant care we would have never made it. We had everything in place to repeat the happening on July 1 for a match against Cameroon and on July 4 and so forth till the finals... No such luck. Luck is the right word: England had tons of it and kicked us out in the last minute. We heard all the echoes of Belgians who got together to watch that unexpectedly sad-match. Funeral spirit all the way. Anyhow, it did prove once again the old saying: Shared joy is double joy, shared sorrow is halved sorrow. Without further whining, let's look forward to 1994 when more than likely the finals will be played at Joe Robbie Stadium, right on our doorstep!

## LAGS

At the next picnic, we would like to honour our two Belgian Cultural communities by having their flag flying beside our national colours. We found a "Stamse Leeuw", but are still looking for a "Coq Wallon". Paul thinks our

## BELGIAN RADIO IN FLORIDA

In this and following newsletters, we will keep you informed about the wonderful world of shortwave. In a world of modern technology, a small hand-held radio can bring you the voices from home. The frequencies we are using at this time are:

21810 Khz	7:30 AM	"Het Vlakke Land"
	8:00 AM	Nieuws & Aktueel - S.O.S.
	8:30 AM	Brussels Calling
	9:00 AM	Ici Bruxelles
9925 Khz	5:30 PM	Ici Bruxelles
	6:00 PM	Wereldomroep - Journaal - S.O.S.
	6:30 PM	Transeuropa '92
	7:00 PM	Aqui Bruselas
	7:30 PM	Brussels Calling

If you need to purchase a shortwave radio, it is important to get a digital one. This enables you to tune into the exact frequency. For instance Panasonic or Sony (between \$ 150 - 350). An outdoor antenna can be a great help for bettering the reception!  
Happy listening !!

For more information, call me: (305)742.5236 - after 9 PM please  
Marc De Vlieger  
Official Monitor of the BRT for North & South America

## CLASSIFIEDS

This space is yours... Send in ads you'd like us to publish.  
Examples: babysitters, Belgian videos/books etc., good bicycles (no junk please), Stella glasses, collector items, tips, recipes,...

## PICNIC NOVEMBER 17

Does anyone have a good suggestion for this year's location?  
We are looking for space (around 250 people), shade, seating capacity, outdoors, children activities, cooking facilities (at least to warm up), electricity, a little privacy, parking, central location, easy access.  
If you do, please call one of us before August 15.

## LOST AND FOUND

At the football party (June 17), someone left 4 beach towels, a bag with toys and a small rubberboat. Please call Mark De Vlieger at (305)742.5236

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

They are still in the pipeline but will be mailed out soon. Thanks for your patience.

## MONTHLY GET-TOGETHERS

Last Friday (July 27 only)  
Rose & Crown Pub  
3660 80 W. Commercial Blvd  
Ft Lauderdale  
Ph: (305)731.6245

(map enclosed - 1/4 mile east of 441)  
back to the French place for Aug 31

First Friday (Aug 3, etc..)  
Hofbrau Pub & Grill  
172 Giralda Ave  
Miami (Coral Gables)  
Ph: (305)442.2730

(Maes Pils still expensive; their  
German beer is O.K. and cheap)

- ... .. in ... .. have one. Please let us know.

## HAPPY SUMMER PARTY - JUNE 24

Over 50 people showed up at the party organized by The French place on Sunday night. After dinner a disc-jockey started spinning records and the crowd got on the dance floor. Some hadn't danced for years, but no one had forgotten! Impressive dancers among our members. And good singers! Ginette Mertens stole the spotlight with a surprise repertoire of old French songs... What an ambiance that evening. Belgian style all the way!

## CARDS

Many have asked us to organize cardgames. The first thing is for us to know who wants to play, when and where.. Enclosed you find a form. Please send it back and in the next letter we'll print a list, so you can contact each other. If there's enough interest, we will gladly put together a little tournament.

## DOING BUSINESS

Since the start of our Club, there has already been some new business among members who hardly knew each other before. Great! We all know that business and pleasure do not always mix well. But when they do, it is a pleasure doing business! Whether you have your own business, are employed, retired, not working right now,... it doesn't matter. Everyone has some skills, knowledge or experience that may be of interest or helpful to someone else. With your replies, we will publish a small Business Directory. The sooner we get back your forms, the better.

## 21 JULY - NATIONAL DAY

Happy National Day to all! This first Club year we were really not ready to organize something and will stick to the "traditional" Fall Picnic. The date has been set for November 17. Details to follow.. But for 1991, a 21 July celebration will be on the agenda.

## EATING BELGIAN STYLE IN MIAMI

The Fort Lauderdale Belgians are lucky. Anytime they are craving for Belgian food, they can take a quick drive to Jean-Pierre's. But do you know that Miami also has its Belgian restaurant?

Gourmet Diner  
13900 Biscayne Boulevard  
North Miami

Jean-Pierre Lejeune, the owner, is originally from Liege and a Club member. We are recommending the place to all. The food is positively delicious!

## MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

We still miss a lot of the familiar names. And we do need the funds to keep going. So for those who forgot, we enclose another enrollment form. Thanks for mailing it in as soon as possible. And when you come across another Belgian, please copy it or give us a call.

## CONTACT NUMBERS

For easy reference, we repeat our contact phone numbers:

Gaul Cuypers : (305)445.6215 - Miami (305)523.4154 - Ft Lauderdale  
Philippe Boets : (305)591.7272 - Miami  
Marc De Vlioger: (305)742.5236 - Sunrise  
Jef Verhelst : (305)748.2770 - Lauderdale  
Andre Paulus : (407)697.3278 - West Palm Beach

Secretariat: c/o Melroe International  
2121 Ponce De Leon Blvd. • Suite 730  
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Contact Phone Numbers:

Paul Cuypers:	(305) 523-4154	Ft. Lauderdale
Philippe Boets:	(305) 591-7272	Miami
Marc De Vlieger:	(305) 742-5236	Sunrise
Jef Verhelst:	(305) 748-2770	Sunrise
Andre Paulus:	(305) 697-3278	West Palm Beach
Thomas Hart:	(305) 979-8240	Ft. Lauderdale



**MONTHLY MEETINGS AND  
OTHER ACTIVITIES  
FOR  
BELGIANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**