

BRUSSELS has been waiting a long time for it but, finally, a new gay party of international standards has arrived. The location: an Old Beer Brewery in the heart of the city. A unique location and one crying out for something 'happening' to hit it!

The 27th November 2004 was the date of the first party with around 2,500 enthusiastic people gathering for a perfect night out. Two guys from Rotterdam were at the centre of this new concept and showed us just what's possible with this first party. What some say Amsterdam has lost during recent years, has been recaptured by Edgar Bonte with Rapido.

In Amsterdam it is almost impossible to organise a good party. The locations are very limited and the fire department has too many restrictive rules. Also, closing times are limited till 5-6am, just when most parties are running at their best.

The other problem in the Netherlands is the heavy security looking for drugs in all big discotheques. Some clubbers have even complained how security have even been known to search in customer's underwear! Understandably, the public are no longer willing to put up with such attitudes; waiting long in line, in the rain, the rude security and their own rules! Rapido aimed to rectify all this.

With the opening party, Rapido promised to bring something new and spectacular to the scene. The stage construction, complete with lasers, was impressive to say the least. Coupled with a good sound system and 5 top DJ's programmed over the long, long night. Dance shows from Paris were of a high standard with 10 fantastic dancers keeping their choreography to the rhythm of the music played by the DJs. So, with no disturbing breaks for shows, everything fitted well.

Also, part of this formula was the stunning selection of the best go-go's from Europe, whose performances interacted with the crowd. Wherever you were watching, there were gogo's everywhere



RAPIDO!

LEON STAALLEKKER reports on Europe's newest essential international gay party

on several stages in Aussie Bum underwear!

The crazy entertainment also included Ibiza-style acts on roller blades and stilt-birds. The visitors who made the trip to Brussels went home with an unbelievable feeling. The club experience was like a tornado from start till the end.

As you know, on the scene the opening night has to be the best otherwise you can forget it for the future. And here at Rapido the start was right with lots of entertainment, good music, reasonable prices for drinks and lots of free gifts!

The 5 Top DJ's (Steven Redant, Gonzalo, Santiago, Giangi Cappai and Nicolas Nucci) kept the venue rocking. For the second party on Saturday 22nd January, scheduled to play are DJ Aron

and America's gay-favourite Tracy Young.

All-in-all, we got a real good insight into the start of a big new international party. International because Brussels is very well located for Paris, Cologne, Amsterdam (just 2 hours away) and London.

The capacity of the venue was maybe a bit too big, because it can easily accomodate 5,000 people. But, as word spreads, they hope that next time there will be 3,500 party-guys in attendance, coming to sample something new and very exciting.

Coaches are coming from Paris, Lille, Cologne and Amsterdam to fill the venue. As the promoters have stated, they aim to keep the same standard of quality clubbing, but with some great new ideas.

> Rapido is on Saturday 22nd January in Brussels, 22:30 - 9am. For a chance to win a VIP trip for two to Rapido, see X-Tracts in this issue, page 06



Pics by Kika D

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