

BRUSSELS

The Slutte, from Jette to the London catwalks

The best beer in the world in the “IPA specialty” category comes from ... Jette!

The indoor soccer team of the Saint-Pieters Sports Club in Jette is still struggling to realize the news that fell on them a few weeks ago. The beer, which they decided to brew between team mates a year ago, was voted the best in the world at the World Beer Awards in London.

The beautiful story begins at the Jette Sports Hall. Since 1974 (the year of the opening of the hall), the players of the Saint-Pieters Sports Club have been training there every Saturday morning. And who says football often says third half-time... in their case watered with beer. Two years ago, the idea of creating their own beverage germinated in the heads of the Jettois players. “We all drank different beers after training,” they said. “We then decided to give a list of our nine favourite beers to a brewer and asked him to create a beer that would please everyone on the team. So that’s how the Slutte was born, since that’s how teammates, who are friends above all, decided to name their new drink. Made at the Grain d’Orge Brewery in the village of Hombourg in the province of Liège, it rapidly started to seduce beyond their own circle. “We received our first brew on August 3, 2018,” the merry band says. “Initially, we had to make 3,000 bottles. We thought we’d have beer

for a year. They were put up for sale at the Tennis Chalet in front of the sports hall and at the Excelsior, a bar not far from there. And we’ve also created gift packages for Christmas. We realized in October that we had already poured 2,000 bottles! So we decided to restart a brew but the small tank of our brewer was already reserved months in advance. So we had to go to the big tank and we had to make 6,000 bottles. Today, we are in our fourth brew and we have already poured more than 20,000 bottles.”

FOR THE FUN

At the beginning of 2019, the apprentice brewers are taking on a somewhat crazy challenge, in their image in a way: that of registering for the “World Beer Awards”. “We saw that the registration cost was only 150 euros and we started for fun. A few months later, we received an invitation to the final which was held in London. This was totally unexpected, and it meant that we had already passed the preselection’s in Belgium. On August 7, we went to the British capital for the final round, but the results were not unsighted until the month of September. And we were voted the best beer in the category “IPA specialty”! We finished in front of renowned beers like the Leffe Royale Blonde or the



3 of the 13 members of the indoor football team made it to the final in London. © FTS

Guillotine who would also compete! A true fairy tale for the thirteen “shareholder” friends who decided to launch a fifth brew as the end of year approached. And, good news never comes alone: they have reached an agreement with the famous Brewery of the Mirror on Queen Astrid Square in Jette which now offers Slutte on its menu. **VINCENT MILLER**

Focus

What is the World Beer Awards?



A spicy IPA with a coppery color. © FTS

This is a competition organized since 2007 that judges and rewards only those who have been registered beforehand. Participants therefore enter their beer in the category and subcategory they want (IPA Specialty with regard to the Slutte). Then, a jury of

brewers, distributors and food journalists first determines the best beer in the country for each of the subcategories. A final round then pits the winners between the different countries by category. **V.M.**

The story around

A legend

The Slutte: a somewhat provocative name if it is amalgamated with its meaning in English. But the creators of the beer assure, their ambition is not to shock, nor to create a polemic on gender equality. Whacky, they prefer to refer to the story of a certain Germaine Slutte, a legend that they meticulously manufacture from month to month on their website. Germaine Slutte was born in a family of brewers in 1920 in Jette and died in 1968 in New York. After studying at the Sacred Heart of Jette, she is said to have been migrating by boat with her father to the “Big Apple” in 1933. In October of that same year, he was reportedly hired by the “Lion Brewery”, a famous New York brewer. The rest of the story will be known at the next (and surely not) last episode. **V.M.**

Worth noting More information about www.slutte.be

On the other hand,

The award-winning brewer without his knowledge!

Unbelievable but true, Benoît Johnen, the brewer of the Grain d’Orge Brewery in Homburg was not aware that the Slutte, which he brews in his installations, had been awarded the title of best beer in the world! He heard the news only until after the facts. “When people found out that he was the one where we were brewing the Slutte, they contacted him to get it, but he didn’t

have any in stock. Imagine, we are voted the best beer in the world, and so curious people flock to his brewery to taste it, but our brewer had none in stock because the beer had been sent to Brussels. But it is the rarity of the product that makes all its charm” laughs the thirteen friends among whom Yves Willems. As graduated brewer engineer, he worked closely with the Grain

d’Orge Brewery to concoct this special beverage. A hoppy drink about which he uncovers part of the mystery: “This is a spicy Indian Pale Ale with high hopping. It has body, a pronounced bitterness, a coppery color and a good length in the mouth. Rye has also been incorporated to have a little acidity without having too much trouble. Cheers! **V.M.**

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