

ANFIELD REVIEW WITH...

THE OLSC FLEMISH REDS

Brian Devolder (far-left in photo) the secretary of one of the club's official supporters clubs in Belgium, on a longstanding love-affair with Liverpool

The Flemish Reds were formed back in January 2007 and one of our founding members, Christophe Cogghe [fourth from left in picture], became president the following year. I became secretary in the 2009/10 season.

We have around 700 members all over Flanders and we gather to watch the match together in pubs in Oostende, Antwerp, Leuven, Rilaar and Lummen.

Every year we also organise a 'fan weekend' in Oostende. We always have a Liverpool FC legend who comes along. Ian Rush, Phil Thompson, John Aldridge, David Fairclough, Ian Callaghan, John Barnes, Robbie Fowler and Jamie Carragher have all been to see us previously. Our next weekend is in January 2020 when Jason McAteer will be the guest.

Two weeks ago we went to the UEFA Youth League game to watch the youngsters [Liverpool Under-19s] against Genk, and afterwards they came to thank us for the support. Then we went to the city-centre for a pre-match drink with the Liverpool fans. Some of us had tickets while others drove to Hasselt [a town a few miles southwest of Genk] to watch the game in the local Irish pub.

Tonight seven of us will be in Liverpool with four at the match. We can't wait for another amazing Champions League night under the floodlights.

Our president Christophe is the most passionate fan I know. We have members who were already Liverpool supporters when they played Club Bruges at Wembley in the 1978 European Cup final - Christophe's parents Patricia and Robert went to that one.

In fact a lot of Belgians who attended that game came back as Liverpool supporters, like another one of our members, Luc Van Hecke - he knows everything about the history of LFC.

Our funniest members are probably William and Stijn, always singing Reds songs when we're on our way to Liverpool.

I'm over every month for a game at Anfield. Once I went to three games in a week and my dad went a bit crazy, but for me Liverpool is always like coming home.

We were here for the recent game against Tottenham in the Premier League and usually for a Sunday fixture we'll arrive on the Saturday morning. I like to have a beer in the Richmond pub in the city-centre [near the LFC official



store on Williamson Square] and a visit to the Cavern Club is always on the menu.

At Anfield before the game I go to the King Harry [Anfield Road]. For me that's the place to be. We're well-known there and we've shared a lot of joy.

I love European nights and I follow Liverpool all over the Continent as much as I can. The most legendary home games I've attended are Borussia Dortmund in the Europa League [April 2016] and Barcelona in last season's Champions League semi-final.

Thanks to Simon Mignolet a few of us were at

the 2018 semi-final second leg against Roma. We try to travel in a group and if we don't have tickets we just want to be there for the atmosphere.

Around 30 of us went to Madrid. Some had tickets, some didn't. Some took the plane, others drove all the way by car. What can I say? A big football feast, an incredible atmosphere, and again we're the champions of Europe!

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