



GOLD!

Nr. 17 - December 2021 EN

Magazine van de Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse

In dit nummer:

- An extraordinary year
- Kalorama: a walk for the good cause
- Future full of hope





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Goud! is an issue of the association Gold-Crossbearers Vierdaagse.

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*The association Gold-Crossbearers Vierdaagse is founded on 24 July 1951 and approved by royal decree d.d. 24 July 1952, no. 46.
Cover photo: Herman Schimmel*

An extraordinary year

Text: Leonie Vink, Chair, photo: Herman Schimmel

In the December issue we traditionally look back on the past year. Our activities remained limited because so many walking events, including our Four Days Marches, were cancelled. Likewise, we did not hold the 'Powered-by-GKD'-walks and the yearly reunion, for it was not safe to have large gatherings. I know that many of you just kept on walking this year. Maybe even more than in the past years. We rediscovered nature and we thankfully took advantage of its opportunities.

This summer, when it was allowed again to gather in large groups, we took the chance to hold our General Meeting on the new location, the Van der Valk hotel in Lent. It was in the week which, under normal circumstances, should have been the Vierdaagse week. At this meeting we celebrated – in a modest way – the seventieth anniversary of the Four Days Marches Golden Cross Bearers Association. A beautiful location, a fruitful meeting where we could see each other in person again, the opportunity to catch up with old walking friends, and an excellent dinner to round off the day nicely. We realise that not everybody who wanted so could join the meeting, because we had to limit the capacity to one hundred participants. But as the Board we are already busy working on a new event where we can meet again, this time while walking. Keep an eye on the next issues of GOUD! for an update on the latest developments.

There are not so many associations that have existed as long as our association has. We should feel proud about that. For we have managed to preserve the traditional values of our association, while staying modern at the same time. Of course, this would not have been possible without the dedication of capable board members and many volunteers. I am very thankful that we have always been able to count on these people. And I am sure that, when I will lay down the gavel after having served as your chair for ten years, I will leave our association in good hands. I thank you all for your ideas, your support and your warm words during the past years, and I say: see you at the General Meeting or somewhere on the way!



Concept minutes of meeting

Text: Harry van Dijk - Secretary
Photos: Herman Schimmel

This is a transcript of the general members assembly held on July 18, 2021
The full minutes will be published at least 3 weeks ahead of the general members assembly in April 2022, they may be downloaded off our website.

On Sunday, July 18th the general members assembly was held on a new location.
For the first time we met each other in the "Van der Valk" hotel in Lent.
Due to the corona-rules there could be no more than 100 persons present, because of this we unfortunately had to disappoint some people.

After the opening word of our chairperson Leonie Vink the podium was transferred to the honorary member and march leader Prof. Mr. Henny Sackers.
The march leader pointed out the dilemmas with which the Fourdays was struggling; after last year this year would be another one without the Fourdays marches, the reason for this was that there were still a lot of different Corona-rules in effect.
There was a study though to look for other routes, one through Germany, other start-and finishtimes, as a last resort even starting on postcode!
None of these alternatives proved to be



Arjan Versteeg was named honorary member by the members because of important and long lasting contributions to the association.

achievable in a practical way.
The biggest problem was not the people who participated in the Fourdays marches but all the spectators in that week in and around Nijmegen.
There was an extensive attention to the 70th anniversary of the association.
Corona also disrupted the reunion and

the GKD "powered by" walks which could not take place this year.
The minutes of the members assembly 2020 and the annual accounts of 2020 were accepted without changes and with a positive advice of the financial commission.

In the board Arjan Versteeg is resigning, he can not be re-elected. After a voting session Coert Peeters is admitted to the board, he will take over Arjan's tasks.
There is an expression of thanks to Arjan for his large contribution to the association and a present is offered to him, he is also named to be a honorary member of the association.

After a short enquiry the meeting is concluded as usual; with the Fourdays song. At the end the members went to the restaurant for a joint meal





Loek Habraken is addressing the members. Since 1 January 2020 he is the chair of the Supervisory Board of the Royal Walking Association.

The chairman of the Foundation 4Days and member of honour of our association, congratulated board and members during the members meeting.



Annemieke Martinus-Claus has made one of her paintings available for the anniversary of the association. She handed it over to Arjan Versteeg.

Kalorama Walk for a Good Cause

Text and photos: Herman Schimmel

When crossing the Waal River to Nijmegen and onto Beek-Ubbergen, the sun starts to send its first rays over the German Reichswald treetops, carefully getting rid of the fog over the damp meadows in the Ooijpolder. The first participants in the 82nd Kalorama Walk have just started. A little after 8 am I am greeted by enthusiastic volunteers at the start. 'We were really looking forward to organizing this walk', Carel Wolf, Chairman of the Kalorama Walk Foundation. Normally, we do this in May, which makes it a great preparation for the Four Days Marches. People can either walk for one day, or for two. Usually, we have approximately 2,000-2,500 participants, but not this year, because we don't have a 40 k route this time. The parking spots are filling up, groups of participants start to come in. Teunis Kui-

pers from Ede is one of them. He is a GKV member. 'My first Four Days Marches was in 1960, and then didn't walk again until much later. I miss it and am glad to be able to walk here today.'

A Good Deed

'The Kalorama Walk was first held in 1936', says leader Carel Wolf. He immediately hands me the booklet that was prepared for the 60th edition. In 1936, then-medical director of Sanatorium Kalorama in Beek near Nijmegen wrote that "walking in order to serve the sick is an extraordinarily good deed". Around 1955, record numbers of around 10,000 participants were recorded. The two-day edition started in 1964 and has always remained since then. Most GKV members know of the Four Days Marches song, but did you

know there is also a Kalorama Marches song?

Route

The 20 k route quickly goes past the little late-Gothic church in Persingen. Through Ooijpolder, participants walk to the German Wylermeer (Wyler Lake), cross the highway to Kleve in Germany, and after 15 k arrive at restaurant De Duivelsberg (Devil's Mountain). And of course, they then walk past Kalorama nursing home, through Beek back to the start. In 2022, the 83rd edition will be held on May 21 and 22.



Soon after the start of the Kalorama Walking Tour, the walkers enter the Ooijpolder. Enjoying the rising sun, the participants first arrive in Persingen, with only 40 households also known as the smallest church village in the Netherlands. The photos were taken towards the late medieval Gothic church in Persingen.



Teunis Kuipers from Ede



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Members fee 2022

Members of our association, who have not issued a direct debit mandate, have received the invoice for the dues for 2022 by mail or post.

Foreign members living outside the non-Euro countries have received a payment request via Paypal.

From the members in the Euro countries, who have issued a direct debit mandate, the collection of the dues 2022 will take place in the 1st week of January 2022.

The SEPA payee ID of the Association Gouden Kruisdragers Vierdaagse is NL11ZZZ401450240000. The mandate reference contains the membership number and the date of issue of the mandate.

To avoid confusion, no invoice has been sent to these members.

If you have questions about the contribution collection, please send an e-mail to penningmeester@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Relocation or new e-mail address?

If you are moving, would you please notify us of your change of address in good time so that we can send the mail to the new address? It is useful if you also state your membership number; this is the number that is on the membership card that you receive from the walking association (KWBN). We would also like to hear from you if your e-mail address changes. We like to keep the e-mail addresses up to date, so we can contact you quickly if there is reason to do so.



Members meeting 2022

The board suggests the following agenda:

1. Opening by the chairman
2. Incoming correspondence & announcements of the board
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2021
4. Annual report of the board on 2021
 - a. Secretary's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
5. Report of cash audit team
6. Appointment of cash audit team 2022
7. Budget 2023 and determination subscription
8. Election of the board
9. (other) Proposals of the board
10. Any other business
11. Closure

Notes on the agenda:

Item 4, 7: The documents supporting this point will be available at a later date, but at least three weeks before the date of the meeting.

Editorial

As you may have already heard, Arjan Versteeg has stepped down as a member of the board. He also has transferred his job as editor of GOUD! to Coert Peeters. Without Arjan there was GOUD! was not possible in its present form. Together with Herman Schimmel and Jos Knooff, Coert forms the new editorial team of GOUD! We hope to be able to continue the line that Arjan has set. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

"Copy Wanted"

As you can see, the magazine GOUD! counts 12 pages this time. The main reason is, of course, that the Four Days Marches have not been held for the second time this year. Other organized walking tours could only be organized incidentally. This makes our walking life a bit 'sparse', but the editors are always looking for opportunities to share our beautiful Four Days Marches memories. So when you have experienced a beautiful Four Days Marches, or if you have a special memory of one specific Four Days Marches, do not hesitate and send your story (preferably with a photo) to the editors: redactie@goudenkruisdragers.nl



Creating a Jubilee Route: Help needed

Unfortunately, the jubilee years of our association and those of the Marches are no longer in sync. Nevertheless, on the occasion of the 105th Four Days' Marches we would like to create a special gift for Stichting DE 4DAAGSE (i.e. the organization of the Marches) and for our members, consisting of a walking route along which stories (short films) are presented by Gold Cross owners telling about the origin and history of the Marches. Where did the Marches start from in the past, who was Wammes, what did the first Pink Wednesday look like, why is the bowling alley such a special place for the military? This walking route may capture sweetmemories and teach first-time walkers, during their training, about the Marches' traditions and background.

In the pictures, screenshots are shown of the first four films that we have made in cooperation with the Storyshot company.

However, the committee is not capable of doing this on their own and is looking for help from you. During a speed date session last year, we have already found a number of enthusiastic volunteers, but for some jobs, which are described in the paragraphs below, we are still on the lookout for help from a few members. Should you be prepared to adopt – together with others – one of these tasks, we would like to hear from you. In that case, please contact our committee members. Obviously, we want to keep our jubilee route a bit of a secret and therefore do not share all the details with you. Moreover, there is still ample space for your ideas, since not all of our plans are a hard and fast line. If things go according to plan, we shall unveil the jubilee route in the beginning of 2023, so most preparations will take place in 2022. The committee has become quite adept at coordinating and working online, which is why we intend



to organize and settle many of these activities online as well.

Route Commission

We are looking for walkers, preferably from Nijmegen and surroundings, to help us create and describe the route. If you are experienced in drawing up a route and gpx-files, we would like to hear from you. In due course, the route will also have to be measured out and marked, possibly with the use of stickers. We intend to maintain the route for at least five years, which means that we shall have to check the markings every year. So, for this group we are hoping to find members who enjoy walking outdoors and creating routes.

Marketing and Fundraising

Our association has already built up financial reserves to bear the cost of the jubilee project. Yet, we do not wish to be com-

pletely dependent of our own capital. If we can find a few sponsors or a way to subsidize our enterprise, we shall need to contribute less money or we can add more films to our jubilee route. These tasks can for the main part also be carried out from home, from behind the computer.

App and Website Creator

While thinking up these plans we have already been in touch with a not too expensive app builder for advice and a quotation. But if there are members who are able and willing to do this themselves (possibly for a small fee), we prefer to create together with you an accompanying app to follow the route with a smartphone. We also want to make a website about our jubilee route, which can be seen next to the site of our association. If you are capable of creating such an app, we would like to hear from you, too.



A future full of hope

Text and images: Kees Brinkman

We currently live in the third period in the history without the Four Days Marches. Because of the threat of war, there was no way of organizing marches in 1914 and 1915. During the German occupation in the years 1940-1945 the Dutch had other things to worry about than organizing a multi-day walking event. And so, the years 2020 and 2021 will enter history as the Third marchless Aera, be it with some reservations. Where the article speaks about the Foundation, we mean; the official organization of the Four Days Marches, called the 'Stichting DeVierdaagse'.

Is there anything to report about the time from January till mid-October of 2021? There have been highs and lows. The Foundation starts the year hopeful in January, but soon, doubts rise. Everything is done to organize our wonderful walking event, when possible with the necessary adaptations. The outlooks are not favorable.

There is strong language in De Gelderlander, the local newspaper in Nijmegen, on January 13: The Four Days Festivities will go on this year, no matter what, but in April the organizing committee has to admit that the festivities cannot take place. Also in January, virologists speak clearly: "Forget about that beautiful sports-filled Summer, with the European Championships Football, The Tokyo Olympics and the Formula 1 Grand Prix of Zandvoort". And this same fate is predicted for the Four Days Marches of Nijmegen.

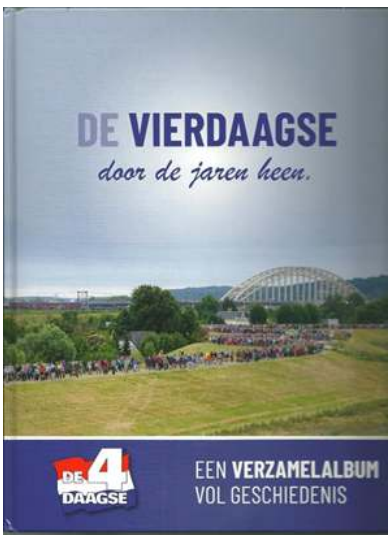
February 8: What was feared, became a reality. In 2021 again there will be no Four Days Marches. With aching heart the Foundation has to decide that the 104th edition of the Marches will not take place this year. The corona pandemic, the additional health and safety measures and the gloomy prospects make it impossible to organize the Four Days Marches in a way that you may expect of the organization. May 5: JOVD, the youth department of the



Liberal Party wants to organize alternative Four Days Marches for those who have received two shots of vaccination. Will it happen? We haven't heard of the plan since.

Sunday July 18: During the General Assembly of the Golden Cross bearer Society, Henny Sackers exclaims: "I am a March Leader without a march".

Jumbo Supermarkets in Nijmegen, Elst and Wijchen initiate a nice picture book, following a well-known recipe: stimulating sales by making customers collect pictures. It will take you a while to collect and organize all 318 pictures, but the result is a unique document.



July 20-23: In the week, the Marches are normally held, a detachment of the Royal Dutch Marine Corps and the Royal Dutch Air Force walk from the Ghent Barracks in Rotterdam to Nijmegen in four days. They abide by the rules: 40 kilometers per day and a 10 kg pack. The KWBN organized alternative four days marches in the entire country. This stimulates thousands to take up walking; wherever they want and for as long as they want. It is no comparison to the real Four Days Marches, that

originated as a military achievement tour. In the 'Vierdaagseweek 2021', a magazine issued by the Foundation, on July 22 the medical careworkers of the Radboud UMC, the Nijmegen academic hospital, were treated to gladiolas, postcards and a beautiful poem to cheer all these care workers who took and still take so many extra steps during the pandemic.

The poem is by city-poet Heidi Koren:
For all those go-getters, taking care.
Step 1. A good preparation is half the job done.
You look at your planning of this week, and plan your (baby)sitter, leave a message behind for the oldest child.
Align, who will cook on Friday. On Saturday, a fried egg will do as well.
In advance, you take some leftovers from the freezer for tonight

Step2. Allow your body some time to get used to the build-up.
You miss the bus; still, you jump on your bike instead.
Once there, you throw your shoes in the locker and put on your Birkies (white Birkenstock sandals).
Close the buttons of your shirt, roll up your sleeves, a quick comb through your hair.
Just in time for your walking round.

Step 3. Train every week and increase the distance.
You see your own reflection rushing by in the glass window of the reception hall.
A shadow on the shining floor.
If you were to leave a string behind you
The department would be tangling ten kilometers a day

Step 4. Make arrangements with your training partner.
You take over Sandra's shift, you shift your Summer Holiday,
Shorten your weekend and leave the app-message of Jayden unanswered for

now.
Perhaps you can, if you can get some uninterrupted sleep tonight, do something extra. Have fun; you step, step, step.

Don't stop after four days; just get up again.
You smile, caress, stroke, bandage, hook up, drag on, put down.
You take care of someone else's steps. You don't stop with that.
I see you, stop for a moment. I pin a little love on your chest and say thank you. Thank you.

Full of enthusiasm, the Foundation begins the countdown to 2022 on July 24, by placing two clocks: one near the Keizer Trajanusplein and one near the Nijmegen railway station. 'We can't wait' the sign under it reads. Two days later there is so much worry about the Delta-variety of the virus, the government decides, that multi-day festivals cannot take place till September 1st of 2021. This is later on eased to: one-day festivals are allowed with a maximum of 750 participants and under strict conditions.

This is cause for confusion, especially

when on September 3, 4 and 5 the Zandvoort Formula 1 Grand Prix can be held with 70,000 spectators, a camp site and all that comes with it. No apparent measures apply: no social distancing, no face masks. The question arises: what mass events can be stopped and for what reason? The events industry is outraged! A comparable event like Lowlands, a multi-day music festival, is not allowed! Author Saskia Noort works herself up in the newspaper AD; she describes the Formula 1 races as a show-off by Prince Money.



September 9. The first part of Engie-owned electricity factory Gelderland is torn down. The power plant, at the entry of the Maas-Waal Channel was opened in 1982 and was closed for business in December 2015. On the marching Day of Elst, the stack of the factory has been a clear point of orientation since 1985. The next day, the walking course almost passes-by the plant. Clemens Verhoeven

wrote a book about it: "De Centrale. 130 jaar productie van elektriciteit in Nijmegen".
(The plant; 130 years of production of electricity in Nijmegen).
September 25: The 1.5 m social distancing is no longer maintained; face masks remain mandatory on public transport. Multi-day events can take place. If this does not change, the 2022 Four Days Marches can take place!

By the end of August 2021 it has been agreed that the camp site Heumensoord will host no more than 1,000 Afghan refugees until January 1st, 2022. The newspaper De Gelderlander expects that that date will not be met. Do Nijmegen and Heumen want that? Obviously, the Foundation knows about this and she wants to be considerate. Halfway October, it becomes clear that the hospital Intensive Care facilities in some hospitals in the region are in full use and that local patients are being hospitalized elsewhere in the country. Not a good omen.

And thus, the future is one of hope, but still with a lot of uncertainties.

In Memoriam



Photo Pascal Müller

After appearance of the previous magazine, we have received notification of the descease of the below-mentioned members. Our condolences go out to the relatives.

- J.P. Woorders, Alphen aan de Rijn;
- H. Uppelschoten, Geldermalsen;
- H.A.J. Roesdi-Paskamp, 's-Hertogenbosch;
- C. Reinshagen, Enschede;
- J. Balt, Assen;
- A.P.C. van der Burg, Oss;
- C. Verbeek, Oss

 **Via Gladiola** 

