



GOLD!

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Magazine van de Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse

In dit nummer:

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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: Frans Leijtens*

Foreword

Dear Gold Crossbearers,

For the first time I can address you in the foreword of our beautiful magazine GOLD! For the time being I do so as a vice-chairman, but I expect the board will decide soon that the position as chair will be assigned to me.

My first task as a chairman is to get fulfilled all positions in the board. Major changes have taken place in the board: Harry van Dijk will continue to work on the membership administration and has transferred the duties of first secretary to Coert Peeters. This has resulted in a change of the address of the association. Leonie Vink has resigned from board after ten years and a few days: She has done wonderful things for and with our association and has been rewarded with honorary membership. We will miss her input, that's for sure!

Irene van Haren has been re-elected and will remain on our board. It might be a minor point to mention, but nowadays it is no longer common to commit yourself as a volunteer for years: so some attention at this point can do no harm. Finally, the team has been re-inforced with Jaimy Pieterse and Michael Kors, they will be in charge of different tasks as a board member and candidate board member respectively. I expect that we can manage these changes very well and the new board members together with Rino, Irene, Ed, Coert and Harry will run our association in a proper way.

This all is very nice and welcome, since the Four Days Marches spirit has taken over our hearts and minds again after a relative standstill of two years. At the moment there are 44000 registered walkers for the 104th Four Days Marches. We are looking for members to carry the flags during the opening ceremony and volunteers prepare the daily meeting points along the different routes. We will also arrange grandstand tickets for the entry at Friday and hopefully hand out a lot of lustrum awards at the end of September.

At least 41 members attended our first 'powered by GKD' walking march in Almkerk and we are already planning the next one in combination with a reunion in Elberg on September 24th. The agenda is filling up for the coming months and I notice that everyone gets started with renewed energy.

We all have had two difficult years, years in which we have lost relatives or lost sight of friends. I hope that we can renew those friendships during the coming Four Days Marches and that we can enjoy and meet in a sporty way. Please visit our meeting points or visit the members meeting in Lent on Monday, so you can get acquainted with the Golden Cross bearers even better.

I wish you many (old and new) friendships and of course a wonderful and successful Four Days Marches

Frans Leijtens
vice-chair



Let's introduce myself



My name is Jaimy Pieterse. I was born in Nijmegen, but grew up in Leiderdorp and now live in Amersfoort with my boyfriend. My dad is the one who ‘infected’ me with the Four Days Marches virus early on. You’re allowed to participate in the year that you’re 12, so that’s when I immediately registered. Exactly 10 years later, in 2019, I finished my 10th edition and became a member of GKV.

Actually, I participated illegally in 2009, when I was 10 and thus too young to register. My brother was old enough, and I really didn’t want to wait another year. So really, I walked 11 times, of which 10 times in an official manner.

The Four Days Marches are in my family’s DNA. At one time, there were actually four generations: my dad, my grandfather and my great-greatmother. Now we all walk our own distance. The photo to the right was taken in 2019; four of us walked 40 k, and my oldest brother and dad walked 50 k together. We would always meet where the routes cross over. It’s a nice picture, despite the tired-looking faces.

I work for the Dutch Armed Forces. In 2021, I finished my Officer education at the Royal Military Academy (KMA) – I hope to one day walk the Marches as a military participant.

I look forward to being actively involved for the GKD and hope to further develop

my organizational talents. I like taking initiative, have plenty of ideas and hope to offer a fresh perspective for the Board. I look forward to meeting you at the members’ meeting on the Monday prior to the Marches!



2009

Invitation Membersmeeting

Will you join the Membersmeeting in Lent?

You are invited to attend the Membersmeeting on monday July 18th 2022 in the Van der Valk hotel in Lent. The meeting starts at 2 pm and will take about an hour.

The board proposes the following agenda:

1. Opening by the chairman
2. Contribution from the march leader of DE 4DAAGSE and/or delegation of the KWBN
3. Incoming correspondence & announcements from the board
4. Minutes of the General Meeting held on April 23 2022
5. Reünion and 'powered by GKD'-walk in Elburg, 24 september 2022
6. Reunion 2023
7. (other) Proposals of the board
8. Proposals from the members
9. Any other business
10. Closure with Four Days Marches song



Notes to the agenda

Item 6: The board is looking for members that like to help with the organisation of the reunion en 'powered-by GKD' walk in the autumn of 2023

Item 8 en 9: When members have proposals or questions for the board, the board likes to be informed prior the meeting in order to prepare and/or discuss the issue raised and address it during the meeting.

The board requests anyone with questions that take some preparation, to sent those to the secretariat, if possible in writing and at least one week before the meeting.

If there is wish on behalf of the KWBN and / or The 4DAAGSE to address the meeting, it will take place immediately after the opening of the meeting. The board aims to end the meeting at 15.00.



Photo: Frans Leijtens

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Four Days Mass July 17th 2022

Sunday July 17th 2022 the traditional Four-days church mass will be held in the Stevenschurch in Nijmegen. The mass will start at 10:00 hours and the church will be opened at 09:15.

This year a renovation is taking place in the church, this causes regrettably a loss of seats in the church. We kindly ask you for your understanding.

On behalf of the "Stichting Vierdaagsemiss" Gien Langen, Secretary/Treasurer

Sunday afternoon before the Four Days Marches (Sunday July 17th)

A number of 36 flags have been appointed to our association.

We would like to take part in this Flag-parade with a large group, of course a minimum of 36 persons to carry the flags. But we would like to show that we are one association. If you are taking part it will be highly appreciated if you would like to obtain an association shirt.

Would you like to participate in this Flag-parade? Then sign up with the following e-mail address:
Rino.hamelink@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Flag Parade

Like we mentioned before, our association has been asked this year to carry the flags during the Flag parade which is kept

Two depreciations contribution

In many ways, 2021 was a quiet year, but behind the scenes we ended up (just like

Stichting DE4DAAGSE before) in a discussion with the tax authorities about whether we are subject to VAT.

Unfortunately, in the eyes of the tax authorities, we are no longer a small association with a marginal turnover and therefore have to pay VAT on our income. With the help of tax advisors and the KWBN, we have found a way to limit the financial consequences for our association and our members.

We have had to make a distinction between the contribution that you pay to our association (subject to VAT) and the contribution that you pay to the KWBN via our association (not subject to VAT). That is why your contribution has been written off in two parts.

Many Members have rightly asked us questions about this: we would have liked to have had more time to communicate this clearly with you in advance.



Photo: Frans Leijters

A large crowd of people, including many in military uniforms, marching down a wide, paved street in a city. The street is lined with trees and buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

Every year, our most loyal members receive a grandstand ticket for the Friday parade at the finish of the Nijmegen Marches. Members that have walked more than 36 editions of the Nijmegen Marches receive 1 ticket and members that have completed more than 41 editions receive 2 grandstand tickets.

You can apply for tickets online through our website www.goudenkruisdragers.nl. If you are not able to do this online, you can use the form below; fill it in and send it to: Francie de Leeuw, Wedesteinbroek 2007, 6546 RS Nijmegen.

Applications will be accepted until 1 July (this is the date the requests have to be received by us). The distribution of the tickets will take place on the Monday preceding the Four Days Marches between 13.00 and 13.50 hrs at Van der Valk hotel in Lent.

Name: _____

Residence: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of Four Days Marches completed: _____

KWBN memberpass number: _____

I like to reserve grandstand tickets:

36-40 times: ☐ 1 free ticket

41 times or more: ☐ 1 free ticket of ☐ 2 free tickets

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

C.W. Aarts	De Lier	S. Ouwerkerk	Leiderdorp
A. Anemaat	Vught	T.W. Peelen	Delft
P. van den Berg	Nijmegen	H. Peters	's-Hertogenbosch
F. van Dam	Doornenburg	J. Ponse	Roosendaal
J.J. van Deventer	's-Gravenhage	C. Reinshagen	Roosendaal
A. van der Ent	Heiloo	G. Rozenberg - Sijtema	Enschede
A. de Graaf - Van der Starre	Santpoort Noord	W. Staudt	Maartensdijk
N.P. van der Horst	Heerenveen	C. Verbeek	Ovezande
H. de Jager	Delft	M.J.W van Wees	Grave
O. Mantel	Purmerend		



Report of the General Meeting of the Gold Crossbearers Association

Saturday 23rd April 2022, Hotel Van Der Valk, Lent/Nijmegen

SUMMARY

23 members were present, among whom honorary member Mrs de Leeuw and member of merit Mrs Langen. After a word of welcome, there was a moment's silence for those who passed away in the past year.

The chair memorises the 70th anniversary of the association, which was characterised by the cancellation of the Four Days' Marches. The celebration of our anniversary was therefore less festive than had been intended.

Happily, new activities had taken place:

The Powered-by Walk in Almkerk on Easter Monday was a success. 41 members of our association took part in this first Powered-by walk in two years. These walks are strongly recommended; the association pays the entry fees for members.

Apart from our magazine GOUD! which is published twice a year, a start was made this year with the mailing of interim digital newsletters in order to inform members of current news items. These newsletters are welcomed by members.

In July this year we are having our Marches again after a two-year break. Tickets are available for the Four Days Marches' Mass. The flag parade will be organized as well. Help has been requested from us and volunteers can register with board member Rino Harmelink. The Meeting



Points during the Marches welcome volunteers as well. Please contact the board.

After ten years, Leonie Vink resigned as board member. On parting, she was made honorary member of the association. Irene van Haren has been re-elected for a new term. Coert Peters takes over the task of secretary from Harry van Dijk, who continues keeping membership records. The board welcomes Jaimy Pieter-son a new board member. In addition, Michaël Kors will cooperate as supporting member.

Members' subscription fee has been fixed at €10 per annum. This is essentially a reduction, as 21% VAT has been included

in the price.

After the success of the Powered-by Walk in Almkerk in the spring, a new Powered-by Walk will be organized in the autumn. It is to take place in Elburg in September.

A lot of work is being done on the Jubilee Trail, our gift to the Four Days' Marches. Here, too, members can lend a helping hand.

At the close of the meeting, a drink was offered by the board.

Nijmegen on my mind

Text and photos: Marcel van Heel, Helmond

The first time visiting Nijmegen was with my great love Suzanne; a daytrip by train. It was around 1990. What a wonderful city along a river. Hometown of Frank Boeijen, the artist I loved to listen to.

We make a jump through time of about 10 years, again to Nijmegen. Second day of the 4Days Marches. A friend from school Arthur had bought an apartment and invited me to come over to party. When standing alongside the route I told him I had always wanted to participate in the 4Days Marches once. "Well, why don't you start training for it and stay at my place next year during that week". And so it happened.

I kept myself strictly to the training program that the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE had sent me. Well prepared I started the challenge, yet every day was indeed a challenge. And what an experience it was! I just



let it come all over me.

The years after I started enjoying it more and more and walking became easier over time. I also became faster. I started participating in Kennedy walks and mar-

ches of 110km and I also walked the 50km in the Four Days Marches of Apeldoorn twice.

All those years I could stay at Arthur's place.

Sometimes he was home as well, sometimes I had the house just for myself and a cat to take care off.

I had several buddies to walk with like Willem and Hans as well as two friends in a wheel chair, Ed and Leon. The last few years I mostly walk together with Ap (see picture).

I got more or less a second family and a second Hometown, as Adèle sings so beautifully.

In the meantime I have number 18 on my ribbon and I hope to complete the 4Days Marches for the 19th time in 2022. As long as I can I will walk 50km. I do notice it becomes more and more difficult to get leave for that week. I have a daughter, Madelief, with whom I want to spend some time in the summer holidays as well.

We will see what the future brings and if possible I will be present.



Powered-by Walkingtour Almkerk

On April 18th (for the Dutch 2nd easter-day) walkingassociation “De Vrijbuiters” organized the yearly “Easter walkingtour”. Goudenkruisdragers approached this association 3 years ago already to appoint this tourname with the title “Powered by GKD”. But after two cancellations due to Covid, now was the chance to start the tour! Finally!!!

Our clubmembers could join the tour payed by our association (after a mail joining message in advance). 45 members used the invitation to walk the route which was 10, 20, 30 or 40 Km and that started in the town of Almkerk.

It was that day nice and sunny which made the total of attendees 500 of which

100 walked the longest stretches.

The routes, depending the distance, went in the direction of Uppel, Oudendijk, Woudrichem (through the fortress), Giesen and Uitwijk back to Almkerk.

Resting-areas were provided by the “Vrijbuiters” and situated in an company shed and they were very well organized, including the home-made cake and butter-cake (Dutch Boterkoek which isn’t cake)

Next year this tour will not be “Powered-by” but it still will be worth going to on 2nd easterday to Almkerk.





50 years back in time

This year, it will be fifty years ago that the longer distances in the Vierdaagse were reduced for the first time because of an emergency situation. Over the years, the regulations had been changed from time to time, but in the years under March Leader Breunese the distances had been 'frozen' immovably at 30, 40, 50 and 55 kilometers a day. The permanent reduction from 55 to 50 kilometers in 1967 was a welcome relief to most of the male marchers. There is still a persistent rumor that this reduction had been introduced because of the participation of Prince Claus of the Netherlands, but the real reason behind these changes had been the traffic measures in connection to the five kilometers.

On the first marching day in 1972, it was already baking hot early in the day. At the passage of Elst, the thermometer read already 32 degrees Celsius. Several participants fainted, and a Danish officer fell ill and died shortly afterwards. The march leaders then decided to reduce the distances of 40 and 50 kilometers by 10 kilometers for the three remaining days: the 50k-participants had to walk the 40k-route, and the 40k-participants had to walk the 30k-route. Obviously, such a measure required many recalculations to change the route marking and to reposition the first-aid posts and the checkpoints!

The organization tried to inform the participants through the press about the changes, including the start times and the extra time to sign off in the afternoon. Walkers were advised to walk at slower speeds, to have enough rests, and to drink enough. Nevertheless, two Swiss walkers were hit by heat stroke in the following days. One of them died, and the other recovered sufficiently after a long rehabilitation period, although not fully. The Swiss walked their daily 30 kilometers with Trauerflor – mourning ribbons – on their standards during the rest of the marches.

Extraordinary situations before.

Ten years earlier, in 1962, the weather was also very harsh on the third marching day: unusually heavy rains lashed the walkers so that they were almost washed away from the tracks. The heart of a young British soldier could not cope with it. He collapsed in Groesbeek and died on his way to the hospital. In 1927, a 32-year-old policeman from Rotterdam was fatally hit by a sun stroke. He was married and a father of five. His wife was expecting their sixth child. He would have started in the marches without any preparations, because he was keen on receiving the bonus of 50 Dutch guilders – which converts to 24 euros – for finishing the Vierdaagse successfully. He could use some extra money – and of course, in that days, 24 euros was worth a lot more than today.

Monument

After the Imperfect Vierdaagse of 2006, with two dead on the first marching day, a monument has been created for all the participants who have who died during

or as a consequence of the Vierdaagse. It has been standing in the Julianapark near the Wedren – which was renamed to Vierdaagsplein in 2016. It cannot be verified exactly how many people it concerns, because there are no statistics on walkers who gave up during the march and on walkers who did not start the next day. However, the medical aspects of the cases above have led to a study into all sort of symptoms in the human body during the Vierdaagse by Maria Hopman of Radboud University.

It remains to be seen whether the COVID-pandemic and global warming will have general consequences for the health aspects of the Vierdaagse, and for the season in which it will be held. The first editions of the Vierdaagse took place around Queen's Day, 31 August in that time, and once, in 1922, in June.

Marcel M. Claassen

Sources: De wereld wandelt, Nijmegen, 1991



Executive Committee ready to go

The Executive Committee is also looking forward to it again!

The Executive Committee, that's the body of all those volunteers who, together, guarantee that the Nijmegen Four Days Marches, every year, like a well oiled machine, can accommodate thousands of walkers in the biggest walking event in the world.

On Sunday, April 3rd, the EC of the Four Days Marches for the first time in two years were able to meet up in real life again. After two years of COVID and an equal number of meetings that could not take place, the Committee-members were finally able to meet again in Concertgebouw De Vereniging in Nijmegen. Just a few steps away from the Wedren, familiar to so many, the members met in the central hall of the Vereeniging for coffee and tea. It was a warm meeting of familiar faces. The 22 man strong Nijme-

gen band 'De KwaKbergband', normally also playing during the Marches, provided the musical atmosphere of the event.



The band on the stairs in the Vereeniging.

Looking forward to the 104th Marches

After the initial reception, everyone went into the big Hall, where March Leader Henny Sackers finally could address the Executive Committee again. For the first

time since July 19, 2019, the last day of the last edition. He was clearly looking forward to the Marches with great enthusiasm; he expressed his joy, to be there again.

Still a bit cautious: "There are no full certainties in life, especially not in corona-times", he carefully sketched the coming Summer: "it really looks like we will be able to welcome some 45,000 marchers in Nijmegen again."

Honouring Volunteers

At the occasion, all volunteers celebrating a jubilee were honoured. There were volunteers, who have worked for the organization already 5, 10, 20 or even 30 years. The absolute record, however, was set by Coen Terpstra, who has been active as a volunteer for the Four Days Marches for 55 years! For this remarkable performance, he got a reward that is equally remarkable: a star is named after him.



Jubilarians

GKD Meeting Points

Meeting points at the 104th Nijmegen Four Days Marches

During the upcoming Four Days Marches we look forward to meeting many of our members at our meeting points. Our volunteers will be by the course every day to provide you with a drink and a snack. At the meeting point you can meet other Gold Medallists, but you may also introduce non-members to our association. There is no need to show a card or badge: you will be welcome regardless.

A few hundred meters before each meeting point these will be announced with clear signs and of course our lovely beach banners will be at each meeting point: you can not overlook us.



Tuesday: left of the course, Vossenpels 38 in Bemmelen, just before Lent.



Wednesday: left of the course, Hoge Waldstraat 16 in Beuningen, just before leaving the village.



Thursday: right of the course, Oude Kleefsebaan 17 in Berg en Dal, on the square in front of the church just before Nijmegen.



Friday: right of the course, Rijksweg 73 in Malden, immediately after leaving Malden.



Organisation Meeting Points is looking for reinforcement

Since the start of the meeting points, Francie de Leeuw-de Bruijn has been the point of contact and driving force behind the visible presence on the march days. Francie has always done her job with full enthusiasm. Now the time has come that she hands over her duties. The board is still looking for one or more volunteers who can take over the coordinating tasks around Francie's meeting points. So do you like to do some work 'behind the scenes', would you like to be 'the face of the meeting points', or do you just like to do your shopping? Do not hesitate and sign up. This can be done through the website or by sending an email to secretaris@goudenkruisdragers.nl

