



GOLD!

Nr. 9 - December 2017 EN

Magazine van de Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse

In dit nummer:

On lonely preparations
and massive
performance

Members at high
speed in Huizen

Nijmegen 're-
powered'





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

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Trevor Day (UK)
Sune Keller (Switzerland)
Jurg Tschabold (Switzerland)

Contact

Editorial staff

Arjan Versteeg
Jos Knooff
E-mail: redactie@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Secretariat

Frans Leijtens
Van Karnebeekstraat 153
3317 KW Dordrecht
E-mail: secretaris@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Online

www.goudenkruisdragers.nl
www.facebook.nl/groups/goudenkruisdragers

Member administration

Gerard Aarts
Derde Morgendreef 6
5233 NK 's-Hertogenbosch
E-mail: ledenadministratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Treasurer

Francien van den Heuvel
BIC-code: INGNL2A
IBAN-code: NL70 INGB 0000375702
attn.: Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse, 's-Hertogenbosch

The association Gold-Crossbearers Vierdaagse is founded on 24 July 1951 and approved by royal decree d.d. 24 July 1952, no. 46.

Only human(s)

You are a member of the Gold Cross Owners' Association. Twice a year you receive this magazine. You may spot our badge from time to time on the rucksacks of fellow members. Perhaps you attend our members' meetings in April or on the Monday of the Marches, or come to the reunion in September. But, likely, you are just a member because you are proud of having successfully finished the Marches ten times or more.

It may seem that only little is going on in our association. However, behind the scenes there are many volunteers who keep you informed, make sure you are able to purchase a shirt, or receive a lustrum award and a birthday card. The committee meets on a regular basis, and there are ambassadors as liaisons for foreign members. The editors take care of this magazine, others see to translations or send in pictures. Yet another group of people looks after our website and facebook page. There is a financial committee and a selection committee. And let us not forget the voluntary crew members at our meeting points during the Marches!

Without these people our association would fail to exist. And because we are all getting busier and busier, the pressure on our volunteers increases. We intend to relieve this pressure by spreading it among more people. We will shortly organize another poll to find out how you look upon our association and whether there is anything that you are missing or that you wish to see changed. So, when you receive this poll before long, please consider if there is anything you would be able or willing to do for our association! For it is thanks to the effort of volunteers that we are able to keep the contribution fee low, which is for the profit of everyone.

Volunteers are to be found everywhere, also at the Four Days' Marches. In October we said goodbye to one such super volunteer. After 38 years in the organization, Marches Leader Johan Willemstein took his leave. We shall miss him and his unremitting sympathy with the people around him. But I am sure that we shall come across him during walks anywhere, perhaps even during the 2018 Marches. And of course we would like to extend our best wishes to his successor Henny Sackers, fellow member and ex-chairman of our association. But we are confident that he will make a success of it, for he has already been (walking) around for a long time.

Leonie Vink, chair



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70 times Four Days Marches

So everyone knows; in the month prior to the Four Days Marches it took a lot of attention in several media: will Bert van der Lans complete his 70th March?

We can answer this question with a full Yes!!

We congratulate Bert with his 70th Four Days Marches. The board of the 4Daagse had a new cross made for this occasion and the association has made an effort to arrange a new lustrum award.

Membership fee 2018 automatic collection

The membership fee of members that have given an authorization for an automatic collection will be collected mid-January.

Registration Four Days Marches 2018, don't forget your reduction.

As from February on you can register for the Four Days Marches 2018. If you mark on

your registration form that you are a member of KWBN you will receive a reduction.

In 2017 this was € 5.00. It could be that you are asked for your membership number.

If so, you can find this on your membership card that you will receive in December/January.

How do I settle my membership fee if I live outside of the euro zone?

Basically, PayPal is applicable. This currently applies to our members in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, UK, Finland, Japan, Norway, United States, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland.

There is an exception to this rule: if one of these members has a bank account in



Member of the board Francie de Leeuw hands over the lustrum reward to Bert van der Lans.

euro and in the euro zone, then a SEPA direct debit is possible. If that is the case, we'd very much obliged if you align with our membership administration (leden-administratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl) in order to collect the membership fee annually from your euro account. In this way, you will significantly reduce the workload of our volunteers.

If you do not have a bank account in euro and in the euro zone, you will receive an email at the end of the year, a so-called "pre-notification" - in most cases from an email address that ends on "@goudenkruisdragers.nl". This email describes the further process. Shortly thereafter, you will receive a payment request from PayPal to pay the membership fee.

PayPal will specify that the request is made by the email address membership-

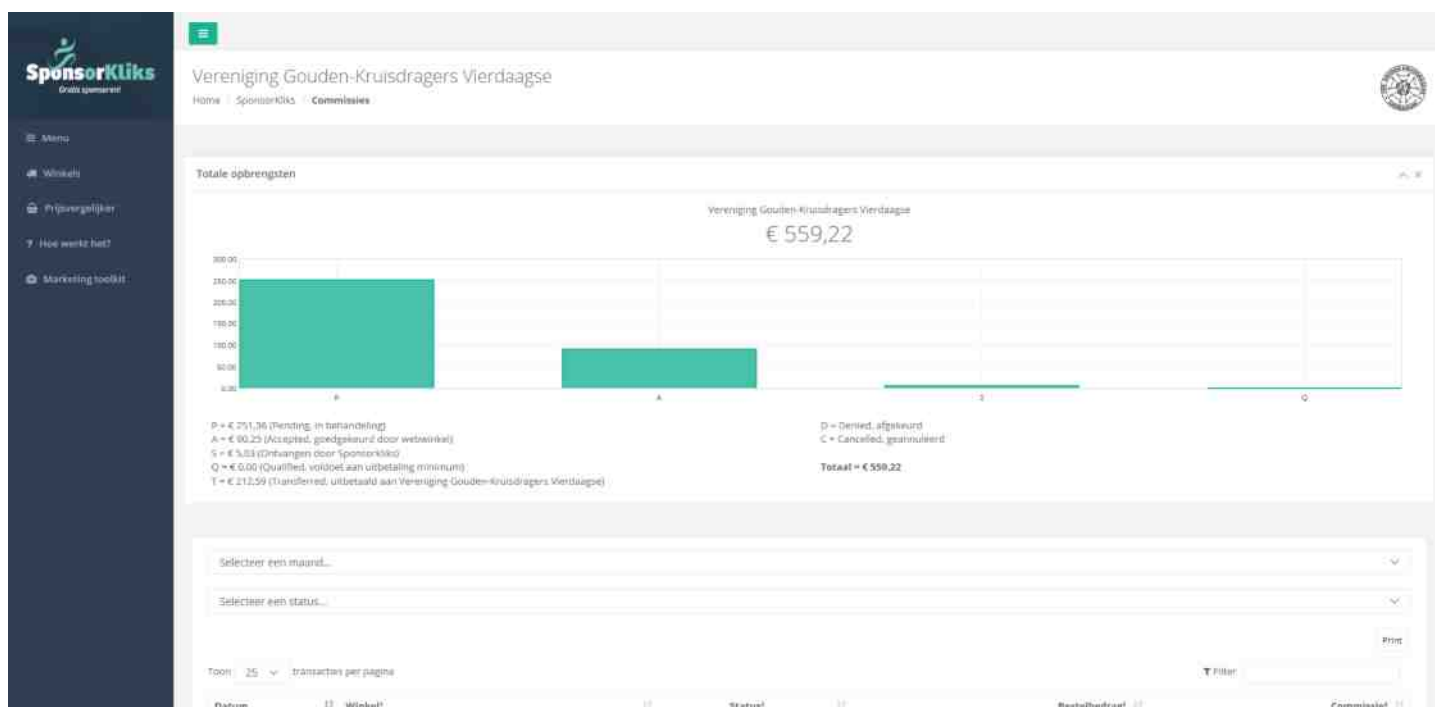
fee@goudenkruisdragers.nl.

In case you have already a PayPal account, you will know what to do. It appears that many of our members in the above-mentioned target group are active on PayPal already.

Otherwise, we ask you kindly to create a PayPal account. This is free of charge. One aspect is important: you need to link a bank account or your credit card to your PayPal account. If you do this, PayPal asks you to confirm the selected account. Your bank or credit card account will be charged and shows "GOUDENKRDR" as a beneficiary. Your payment will be processed by our membership administration.

There is no longer the possibility to pay the membership fee in cash on Monday before the Four Days Marches in the Kol-

News ** News ** News ** News



Is it possible to pay outside the euro zone by bank transfer? We do not recommend doing it. On the one hand, it complicates the process on our site. The Treasurer, membership administration and the member of the Board, responsible for PayPal, need to deal with each of these exceptions from the rule. On the other hand, your bank calculates transfer costs – and, at worst, even us; most likely, these costs are far beyond the fees that PayPal charges us (the PayPal payment is free of charge for you).

For PayPal, we are a "non-profit" organization and for this reason the PayPal payment fees are minimal. In other words: make it easy, for you and for the association, and opt for PayPal!

Memorial Stone Prince Claus

This year it has been 50 years ago that Prince Claus finished his Four Days Marches. Last July a plaque has been revealed on the Via Gladiola to remember his attendance at the Four Days Marches. The memorial stone is located at the premises of De Vereniging. The plaque lays in the green of De Vereniging where the pave-

ment adjoins the Sint Annastraat.

Update Sponsorkliks

Since spring 2016 we offer the option to sponsor us through Sponsorkliks. We wrote about this in GOUD! June 2016. After a slow start, we now collected and amount of almost €560, of which nearly €213 has been transferred to our association's bank account. This is great and we are very pleased with this!

'Powered by' goes Denmark

After a first foreign trip to Belgium, the next foreign 'powered by' march will be further away. On April 29 and 30 2018 "Ravning Brovandring" will be 'powered by GKD'.

Since the confirmation of this came in after the deadline for this magazine, we were not able to pay more attention to this. More information can be found at <http://www.ravningbrovandring.dk/>

Will you participate as well?

Winner gift card

During the 'Trainingstocht voor de Vier-

daagse'(Training march for the Four Days Marches) organized by RWV and 'powered by GKD' last summer we raffled a gift card amongst the participating members of our association. This time the lucky person was Ferdi Rinsampessy. Congratulations!



Concept minutes of meeting

Summary concept minutes

This is a summary of the concept minutes of the General Meeting on July 17, 2017. The complete minutes of meeting will be made available at the latest three weeks prior to the meeting on April 7, 2018. These minutes can be downloaded from our website. Please do take into account that these will be in Dutch only.



Ambassador Katrien Delanote and the other attendees are ready for the meeting. (Photo: Frans Leijters)

On Monday July 17th 2017, 163 members are joining the general members meeting of the Association of Gold Medallist-st in the Kolpinghuis in Nijmegen. Honorary member Bert van der Lans and members of Merit Gien Langen – van Kolck and Vicky Henriksen – Delaney are present. For the first time the brand new KWBN manager, Paul Sanders, takes the floor.

Paul remarks he is a manager with experience, but knows very little about walking and the Four Days Marches. During the opening ceremony he has been faced with the energy of this event and the importance to cherish our traditions. Also, he wants to cherish our volunteers and for that reason the confederation is on the way to reinvent itself. The confederation wants to be more present for associations and walkers, this means the confederation has to clean up their own home as soon as possible. But first he wants to see, feel and listen to what is going on during this Four Days Marches event.

Now, Johan Willemstein takes the floor; his final appearance as chairman of the Stichting De 4Daagse. Though being a normal walker next year, our association gave binoculars as a farewell gift so he can keep an eye on everything. Johan runs quickly through interesting facts and figures and the latest news around the Four



from left to right: Paul Sanders, Johan Willemstein and Trevor Day (Photo: Frans Leijters)

Days Marches. He mentions the change of the route on the first day where walkers go the "other way round" for safety and health reasons. These reasons apply also as to the new system concerning the check-out offices. Anyone can choose the shortest row, unless one has a favorite officer one chooses the longest row.

Finally, the agreements with Ministry of Defense and the city of Nijmegen are extended until 2022. He wishes his successor, Henny Sackers, a lot of success and asks the present members to have confidence in him. The meeting thanks Johan and applauds him loudly.

The chairman announces we have 3620 members now from 20 different countries and that we have Rino Hamelink as a new board member, replacing Vicky Henriksen-Delaney. Everyone who has the right to a lustrum reward shall be served automatically as from this year. After the successful 'Powered by GKD' walking tours in Schelle, Belgium and Rotterdam, there will be walking tours again as meeting location for members on November 25th and 26th in Enschede and on February 20th 2018 in Nijmegen.

The association paid a visit to Van Veluw in May this year and has ordered for T-shirts again, those T-shirts were worn for the first time the day prior to the meeting during the opening ceremony and flag-parade. Because a lot of members were in doubt about their requested stand tickets, our chairman received some tickets just now through Stichting De Vierdaagse.

The concerning members can collect their tickets on the Wednesday tomorrow, by contacting Leonie Vink.

A new ambassador, Trevor Day, has been found for our English members. He introduces himself with a big sense of humour.

Frans Leijtens explains the program of the coming reunion in Huizen (Noord-Holland): it is still possible to register for this reunion. Our host is Coronel Kart racing and our members learn much more about the historical essence and traditional costumes from Huizen. At noon the participants can make either a walk around or a drive around Huizen, but karting is also possible.

Joke Poppe announces the 2018 reunion in Ouwerkerk (Zeeland) at the Watersnoodmuseum. Both the 2017 and 2018 reunion coincide with the Airborne Walking Tour in Oosterbeek, some members make a critical note to this issue.

Unfortunately sometimes it is not possible to choose an optimal date for such a big event.

Finally, there are only a few questions. The minutes from the last general meeting are approved without alterations. At



The board, with from left to right: Arjan Versteeg, Rino Hamelink, Frans Leijtens, Leonie Vink, Francien van den Heuvel, Francie de Leeuw and Martin Pegels.

the end of the meeting chairman Leonie Vink thanks all present members and specifically Rene Saleming who is the operator of the Kolpinghuis. She wishes everybody a lot of success during the Four Days Marches.

The meeting is closed with the Four Days Marches hymne with musical accompaniment of the "Blue Mops".



Blue Mops (Photo: Frans Leijtens)

General Membersmeeting invitation

You're welcome!

We invite you to gather for the General Membersmeeting on 7 April 2018 10:00 AM in Nijmegen Kolpinghuis, Smetiusstraat 1.

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 17 July 2017
4. Annual report of the board on 2017
 - a. Secretary's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
5. Report of cash audit team
6. Change in regulations
7. Appointment of cash audit team 2018
8. Budget 2019 and determination subscription
9. Election of the board
10. (other) Proposals of the board
11. Proposals from the members
12. Any other business
13. Closure



Notes on the agenda:

Item 3: A summary of the Annual General Meeting of July 17, 2017 is printed in this magazine. The draft minutes will be available on the website at a later date, but at least three weeks before the date of the meeting.

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

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

Item 8: The Board proposes to set the membership fee for 2019 at € 10.00 + remittance to the KWBN. The remittance is € 16.00 for the full package of the KWBN or € 10.00 if one chooses to only receive the walking pass.

Item 9: Periodically outgoing and eligible for re-election is Mr. Arjan Versteeg. Periodically outgoing and not eligible for re-election is Mrs. Francien van den Heuvel.

Any (other) member who proposes his candidacy needs to apply in writing to the board at least 30 minutes before the meeting, accompanied by signatures of at least ten voting members.

"It will be investigated"

The board kindly asks you to communicate questions, which reasonably demand some research, to the board some time before the date of the meeting, in writing or by e-mail.

Availability of documents

Three weeks before the meeting, the documents will be placed on our website. Besides that, every member has the opportunity to request the documents by e-mail or regular mail. The documents will also be present in the meeting room prior to the meeting.

Nijmegen 're-powered'

Haterste Vennentocht (Hartertse Fens March)

January 2018 WS'78 will organize a march starting in Nijmegen; again 'powered by GKD'.

Early 2016 the same organization organized the Gouden-Kruisdragerstocht. This march was a huge success with a high number of participants.

On January 20, 2018, they will organize the Hartertse Vennentocht. We hope that the attendance will be as big or....even bigger.

Please note the date in your agenda and discover the area of the Four Days Marches in a different time of the year.

Starting times: 40 km at 09.00 hrs, 20 km from 9.00 to 10.00 hrs

Latest finish time: 17.30 hrs

Location: Jan Massinkhal, Nieuwe Dukenburgseweg 5, 6534 AD Nijmegen.

Accessibility by train: via NS-station Nijmegen Goffert



Today we leave the Jan Massinkhal in Nijmegen in the direction of the Maas-Waal Canal and continue through the Owls' Wood to the Berendonck recreation area. Walking along the golfcourse and through the woods of the Hatert and Overasselt Fens and crossing some private grounds, we reach the soup stall at the Diervoort farm. This farm is also passed on the second and fourth day of the Nijmegen Marches.



Hartertse en Overasseltse Vennen (Source:Wikimedia).

From here, the 40km walkers weave their way through woods and along pastureland to the half-way rest post in Heumen. After this stop, we walk – in reverse direction of the Marches – along the dyke to Overasselt and through a statuepark. Then a short stretch of less attractive tarmac, followed by grass covered paths leading to St Walrick and along the well-known ruin with its nearby "fever tree".

(According to legend, people can be cured of ailments by hanging up a piece of personal garment here (ed.))

After a short distance we reach the Diervoort Farm again and join the 20km walkers, crossing the viaduct over the A73 motorway to a residential area and to the Vogelenzang (Birdsong) Woods. Going through the residential area again we get to the fruit stall. From there the route takes us to the Maas-Waal Canal and across the bridge back to the Jan Massinkhal.



St. Walrickkapel/St. Walrick chapel (Source: Wikimedia)

Experience of a lifetime

Reunion Huizen

Since the youngest Gold Cross medalists are in their twenties and record holders are in their 80s, it is not an easy job for Reunion Committees to come up with a program that pleases all.

A review made by Marcel Claassen with an addition by Arjan Versteeg

Since a 21 year-old can be a Gold Cross medalist and the record holders are in their 80s, it is not very easy for the Reunion Committees to come up with a program that enjoys all.

This is why at the last reunion, four events were organized from which the attendees could choose. Even though one could feel more like a car racer than a walker based on the location, only 8.33% of the participants ended up taking part in the karting activity.

After the coffee break we were given an explanation about the farmer's village that Huizen used to be, and about the original way of dressing; practical and expensive costumes. So practical and orthodox in fact, that the museum was very comfortable letting people touch the skirts, hats and 'ear irons' (peasant jewelry, originally used to secure scull caps).

After an extensive lunch, the sunny weather was an invitation for many to take part in the city walk and see the cultural historic slides in real life. Others decided to leave the city and go for a nature walk.

After a small detour through the Nautical Neighborhood, we quickly found ourselves in the middle of nature, with some woods on the left and the view of Lake Gooi and Flevoland on the right. We could even clearly see the center of Almere; it looked a lot closer than the six kilometers.



The entrance of Coronel Karting (Photo: Frans Leijtens)



Nautisch Kwartier (Photo: Arjan Versteeg)



A small street in the Oude Dorp (Old Village, center of Huizen) (Photo: Frans Leijtens)

During the walk, a guide talked about all kinds of facts about Huizen and the surrounding area, such as the 'water tree'; a tree that could be used as a water well. Even though the warm weather made us thirsty, we thought it was better to forget the rain water in the tree though...

Through Christmas tree farms we went to Mount Euken (Eukenberg); certainly not the Mont Blanc or the Nijmegen Seven Hills Road, but still an interesting small challenge given the provisional stairs and nature path downhill. Thereafter we went back to Huizen and after a short break at the Huizer Museum we went to Coronel Karting.



The 'dare devils' amongst our members: these Gold Cross Medallists chose high speed and tested the kart track.

I really liked the karting event. About 20 years ago, I have done this for the first time at a personnel outing in Amsterdam, but I wasn't able to block others then. The tough guys who did manage to block and weave, ended up in no time in the hay bales, and eventually two girls ended up winning!

Coronel has a race track that made me experience the G-forces that Max Verstappen feels in his racing car. While my opponents were 20-30 seconds further out, I started sweating profusely and after the first round I crawled out of my kart on hands and knees.



Catching up and waiting for the lustrum rewards.

But after a short break, I gave it another shot and tried to stay closer to my opponents. At first, I was successful, but I ended up backwards on the track. Safety first, so I let everyone pass, then calmly drove to start-finish and finished 'out of time'.

Frans Leijtens, the winner of the match, helped me out of my kart and I warmed up in the sun. Despite 55 Four Days Marches, karting makes for a memorable experience for a 70 year-old!

From the members

On lonely preparations and a massive performance

What is the importance of a walk? Is it useful? Why is football important and why is the long jump useful? Walking is a sport, it doesn't need to be useful. It's enough to simply enjoy oneself.

When I talk to people about my hiking escapades, they think I'm acting a bit strangely. You prepare yourself for months in solitude, enjoying the silence, just to participate in a noisy and massive circus for four days.

By Kees Brinkman

Lonely preparations

When the sunbeams colour the young leaves green and the earth comes to life, when the mist rolls over the fields in the morning, at that moment I am itching to go out. My feet just want to walk. Walking is solitary, lonely, it is a prehistoric sport. We are built to walk. I don't have many reflections during walking, even though there is plenty of time for that. Walking on your own is an uncomplicated activity. I always agree with myself, there are no lengthy discussions on where and how far to go, whether I shall take a rest or walk on. Outdoors, I only have to deal with myself, in summer and in winter.

Walking means also: following the lines of history, walking along an old quay, along an ancient silted-up creek or a swell in the landscape. This cannot be matched by talk shows or game shows on TV. I don't walk to get somewhere. For me, walking is a goal in itself. I want to get out of the comfort of civilization, I want to be in motion; that is the feeling of walking, the joy of being on the road. What makes a walking day so fascinating? It gives you a feeling of fulfilment, even when you experience nothing special. The route that I take is usually familiar to me and in my area the landscape is flat everywhere. I know the turns and the holes in the roads. But it's all about the moments when I'm astonished by all the things that I hear and see: the shadows of the reeds and their rustling, singing birds, the greet by another walker, the silhouette of a village in the polder.

Sometimes, like on this afternoon when



The lone walker..... (source: Pixabay)

the western sky started to darken, I experience something special. A wall of dark clouds was rising, in the same dark colour as that of a black eye, already intermingled with some rain shafts.



(source: Pixabay)

It was clear what was going to happen and it was clear that I was going to be hit hard in this open and straight landscape. 'Suddenly' is the word that is often used

in obituary notices. Suddenly the first drops of rain came down. Then hail. Then sleet. And above all there was the wind. I listened with thrill in my little flexible Agu tent. To meet with unavoidable adversity is good for us. In our streamlined lives there is a solution for everything, but when you are on the road you overcome this adversity in your own way. Life is being reduced to elementary things: eating, drinking, the road and shelter. There are no issues, matters, problems or meetings that are more important than these things. In this way, life is very simple. I like to have a beer after a walk. I think that I have deserved such a treat, but that's another story.

Fortunate is the man who wants to make a journey

Fortunate is the man who is still able to

go on foot

Fortunate is the man who still wants to go on foot

Fortunate is the man who dares to take familiar roads and never loses courage

May the walking bring us together, or more solemnly: nos iungat ambulare.

Well, we are pretty successful in this regard in the third full week of July. Why do all these people voluntarily submit to this mass activity? Isn't everybody in our individualistic society saying that they do their own thing? All these desires of hundreds of thousands of people fuse together once a year into the same goal: walking and experiencing the Vierdaagse, and to many that means physical inconvenience. But remember: the pain lasts only a short time, the achievement lasts a lifetime.

Massively we plunge into the crowds, full of excitement and animation, either walker or spectator. With far-reaching consequences: congested roads, Nijmegen overflows with people, every bed in the wider surroundings is taken, bars and restaurants make record profits, private families offer bed and breakfast, drivers just have to find out how they can deliver their goods. The authorities, police, emergency services and volunteers work very hard to deal with it all. They have to be prepared for any eventuality. Everything for the spectators and the walkers who want to go outside for four days. The builders of tents and mobile stands are up and about for days to provide everybody with beds and seats. Huge amounts of gladdies are being harvested and bunched.

'All these walkers, they make us so tired'. Source: Via Gladiola. 100 jaar Vierdaagse ten voeten uit by Marjolein van Rotterdam.

Sometimes the stage is heavy, but not heavy enough, like on the Wednesday in 2016. The air was humid and hot. Crow's feet turned into irrigation channels, biting salt that soaked into your eyes. Yes,

taking part can be bad sometimes, but not taking part is worse. An older man who participated at the end of the nine-ties might have had the same experience. On the last day he stumbled into Nijmegen; he was determined to make it. He was exhausted, completely worn out. A group of youngsters caught up with him, formed a circle and sang a Dutch rhyme: What a tough guy is that man, what a tough guy is that man, now that's a man who can walk, what a tough guy is that man, what a tough guy is that man, it's a man who can do everything.

Then, a miracle happened. His back straightened, blisters and pain were overcome by his will. I had never experienced such a brisk, tailor-made stimulant. The spectators had great fun, ap-

plauded and took up the song.

Why do we do all this? The Dutch poet Driek van Wissen asked himself the same question in 2001, when he wrote these verses:

Al ligt de hele wereld voor ons open, toch blijven we het liefste op één plek. En dus zijn we vier dagen lang zo gek van Nijmegen naar Nijmegen te lopen. Het hoogste ideaal blijft alle jaren de thuiskomst, met de bloemen en de blaren.

Even though the world lies open to us, we prefer to stay at one place. And so, for four days we are so mad to walk from Nijmegen to Nijmegen. The highest goal remains every year coming home, with flowers and blisters.



..... and the massive crowd of the Via Gladiola (photo: Tiny Kouters)

"Walkers bling"

Walkers bling fades out

This is the third and last episode of Walkers bling. Why? Simply because there is no new input.

It's not all that bling this time, but it DOES have to do with the Four Days Marches. And that's still nice to look at of course!



The medals of Riky Witjes from Cuijk.



The IML and Four Days Marches bling of Alie Mennen from 's-Hertogenbosch.



The collection of Horst Wilke, Herdecke (DE) in his showcase.



Special truck for the 100th Four Days Marches; it is less 'bling', but very cool! This truck is part of Annie Stalenberg's collection.



'Four Days Marches wallpaper'



A real 'Four Days Marches wallpaper' with all these tiles. Annie Stalenberg has tiles



Program books, badges, card games, shoelaces.....the showcase of Annie Stalenberg is bulged with things of the Four Days Marches.



There are members who just walk, and only walk. But there are a lot of them who have other hobbies, of course.

This is also the case with Alex van Laar who collects DAF car miniatures. Reason enough to combine his two hobbies in one showcase.

If there are members who would like to discard of their miniatures, they can always get in touch with him. (alex@vanlaar.cc)

New ambassador UK

Let us introduce you to Trevor

Until last summer, David Brooks was our ambassador for the United Kingdom. His successor is Trevor Day, a familiar face to the British participants, and in particular to the military.

We like to use this opportunity to thank David for his efforts and we would like to welcome Trevor and wish him joy and success in his role.

Revd Trevor Day
Ambassador United Kingdom

The ambassador for the United Kingdom, Trevor Day, is addicted to the Four Days Marches. His first Vierdaagse was in 1984 and he has successfully returned either to walk or to support every year since then.

In 1986 he took his first group of walkers from British Telecom, which started a now long-established involvement with the marches; although the group has changed name via Telfort, BT Ignite and now with no formal connection to BT; as the British-Dutch Walking Fellowship, who you will see in their bright Orange tee-shirts.

In his retirement from BT, Trevor has now trained to become a Priest in the Church of England and chaplain with the Royal Navy Reserve [*Sea Cadet Corps*]; you will therefore now more likely see him in his military uniform. He is known affectionately to the Sea Cadets as “Bish” and to the Air and Army Cadets as “Trev the Rev”.

His favourite walking locations have, from an early age, been along the mountain paths of the Lake District in Cumbria [particularly around “*The Langdales*”].

Trevor is enthusiastic about representing the UK as an ambassador for our association.

You can contact Trevor via: trevor.day@goudenkruisdragers.nl



Trevor in the rain, Nijmegen 2011



Lustrum rewards

Congratulations!

We extend our warm congratulations to all members who achieved a lustrum during the 2017 Four Days Marches. You are used to see an overview of members who had requested a lustrum reward in our December edition of GOUD!

As of this year, everyone who has been a member for two years or more will automatically receive the reward through mail (members living abroad: always by mail) or at the reunion. As a result of this change, the number of rewards is much higher: 238. We thought publicizing the names would not be a good idea, as it would take up too much space and it would be illegible. Therefore, we decided to only list those who received a reward for 40 times or more. If you want to see the complete list, please go to www.goudenkruisdragers.nl

40x

Mr. P.F. Eikenaar	Alkmaar	Mr. J. Jonker	Den Haag
Mr. P.J.M. van Haperen	Assen		

45x

Mr. H. Bosma	Hoogeveen	Mrs. G.G. Otter-Kars	Abbega
Mr. F. de Jong	Rozenburg	Mrs. M. van Slageren-Kootstra	Gieten
Mr. C.T.M. Kuijpers	Nijmegen	Mrs. M.P. Ubbink	Bredevoort

50x

Mr. K.A. Althaus	Hagen (DE)	Mrs. E.J.M.C. Leseman	Nijmegen
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55x

Mr. M.M. Claassen	Nijmegen	Mr. H.M. Kwant	Nijmegen
Mr. B. Fraters	Gemert	Mrs. P. Logmans-Boer	Rotterdam
Mr. H. Keizer	Haarlem		

70x

Mr. L.M.G. van der Lans	Nijmegen
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This year, again a lot of members joined for the flagparade (Photo: Frans Leijtens)

In Memoriam

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

Mr.	L. Abels	1930	Annen
Mr.	E. Baas	1956	Ede
Mr.	H.C. Bruisten	1932	Beuningen
Mr.	L.E. Creutzburg	1952	Dronten
Mr.	F.T.M. Gijzemijter	1949	Ede
Mr.	A.F.M. Jansen	1951	Maasland
Mr.	J.G.B. Krabbendam	1934	Leiderdorp
Mr.	G.W. Leene	1929	Beuningen
Mrs.	I.L.A.G.P. Ruland	1954	Oss
Mrs.	C. Smitshoek	1967	Klaaswaal
Mr.	A. de Vries	1935	Soest



Come to Zierikzee

Advance notice reunion - Zierikzee 2018

More detailed information will follow in GOUD! of June 2018, but we want to give you a heads-up already of the reunion next year. In 2018 we will return to Zeeland and this time we will go to Zierikzee on September 1, 2018.



Portrait of a member



Name: Eiji Takemoto

Residence: Otsu, Japan. Otsu lies east of the ancient capital Kyoto, and it is along Lake Biwa which is the largest freshwater lake in Japan

Age: 49

What is your profession?

I am dedicated to walking as a hobby. I have served as a certified volunteering walking guide of the Japan Walking Association (JWA) for 20 years.

My profession is registered Professional Engineer (P.E.Jp), and I work as a test architect for industrial electronic components.

What makes you happy?

I am always delighted when I greet the dawn of the Vierdaagse at day 1, about 6 o'clock in the morning, which means "I have come back to the Vierdaagse!".

Of course, I am also impressed when I am greeted by so many cheers on Via Gladiola and when I get the Vierdaagsekrans.

My first Vierdaagse was in 1998. Many Japanese join package tour travels, which include sightseeing besides walking. I travel individually, visiting IVV-walking

events and travelling further by car.

What is your secret to make the "4 days marches" successfully?

To be successful in the Vierdaagse, I am training in hot weather, so I am prepared for exhausting weather conditions. In Japan, you can experience over 30 degrees Celsius as early as May, so I participate in the hottest walking events on each weekend from May to July.

Also, after I arrive in the Netherlands, I walk 20k as a final check on the Sunday before the Vierdaagse. Ransdaal in the Netherlands is a very good KWBN event for this purpose, walking along the river and through hills.

What's your most beautiful or memorable meeting of the "4 days marches"?

My best meeting was when I met Martin Pegels, the board member. Usually, my summer vacation consists of two separate weeks in July and August, but in 2013 I took a vacation of 4 consecutive weeks.

That year I was walking Castlebar (Ireland), Apeldoorn and Nijmegen.



I met Martin in Apeldoorn and Nijmegen each walking day, which gave me a great opportunity to join the Gold Medallists Four Days Marches.

My last Vierdaagse was the 101st in 2017 when I finished for the 13th time.

Do you want to add something?

Finally, I wish that the sister relationship between Nijmegen and Higashimatsuyama, the city of Japan's 3 Days Marches, and the bonds between the two walking events, will be ever stronger.



Indien onbestelbaar retour: Van Karnebeekstraat 153, 3317 KW, Dordrecht



A detachment Canadian soldiers is passing the pontonbridge across the Maas on the 4th day of the Four Days Marches in the early 70ties. In the back the St. Martinus church.

Photo: M. van der Velde

Source: KNBLO-NL, Regional Archive Nijmegen