



GOLD!

Nr. 15 - December 2020 EN

Magazine van de Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse

In dit nummer:

- 2019: the last classic?
- The alternative checkpoint
- 4Days turns into 2Days





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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*

Stay Positive!

Stay positive and look for little highlights – that’s my new mantra. A whole year has gone by and as an organization, there has been little that we could do. No general assembly meeting in April, no ‘Powered by GKD’ walks, no flag parade, no Four Days Marches, no reunion. Organized walks have been cancelled, bars and restaurants are closed. One would almost get depressed, especially when the days are short and the weather is bad.

But let’s look at what we CAN do. In July, on what should have been Four Days Marches Sunday, we were able to have our meeting. It was a memorable one, with Four Days Marches leader Henny Sackers as our guest speaker. This was the last time in the Kolpinghuis building, because the building will be repurposed. Throughout the year, we have been able to go outside and walk, in small groups or by ourselves. And that makes me happy and gives me energy!

Not doing anything and just waiting is simply not an option. The Board continues to plan. 2021 will be a better year, with the activities that we had planned for this past year. New organized walks, an assembly meeting, a flag parade, a reunion and the Four Days Marches – the Board of the Four Days Marches Foundation plans to have it take place, in any way, shape or form. Of course, we don’t know what the COVID-19 virus still has in store for us. But the plans are there, and as soon as it is safe to do so, we will pick up where we have left off.

For now, on behalf of the Board, I wish you positive Holidays, with lots of little highlights, and a safe, healthy and happy 2021.

Leonie Vink
Chairwoman



Source: Geralt, www.pixabay.com

News ** News ** News ** News

Results puzzle

In the last edition of GOUD! a puzzle was published; the solution is GLADIOOL. There were a dozen members that sent in the right answer. A winner was selected amongst them and his name is Arie van Nielen.

Congratulations with the gift voucher!

Unfortunately, we weren't able to translate this puzzle into English; it was too complicated for that.

Members fee 2021

Members of our association, who have not issued a direct debit mandate, have received the invoice for the dues for 2021 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 2021 will take place in the 1st week of January 2021.

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

Flag parade 2021

The Flag Parade is every year a great event since the reintroduction in 2016. The association has been asked to participate and carry flags. Again in 2021, the association will participate in the Flag Parade on the Sunday prior to the Four Days Marches. Please send an e-mail to rino.hamelink@goudenkruisdragers.nl, if you are interested in walking along.

GKD-Shirt

In 2021 we like again to issue a GKDT-shirt if the Four Days Marches will be held. The shirt will have a coloured logo without the year of issue. If you are interested, please send a mail to rino.hamelink@goudenkruisdragers.nl so we get an idea about



View on downtown Nijmegen
Foto: Herman Schimmel

Calendar

- 05 april 2021 - Powered-by March Almkerk

17 april 2021 - General membersmeeting

19 juli 2021 - Membersmeeting
- 20-23 juli 2021 - Four Days Marches Nijmegen

25 september 2021 - Powered-by and reunion Elburg

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.

T. Arnhold	Niederzier	L. Hoogeveen	Nuenen
J. Beeren	Voorburg	M.T.H. de Jong-Leistra	Bleiswijk
J. van den Berg-Bonnhof	Hierden	G. Meenken	Lettelbert
A. Boeijenk	Groningen	A. Nijenhuis	Zeist
B. Buxtorff	Nunspeet	A.J. Sijtsma de Haam	Dronten
G. Derks	Son	A. Vlamings	Dinteloord
G. Flinterman	Driebergen-Rijsenburg		



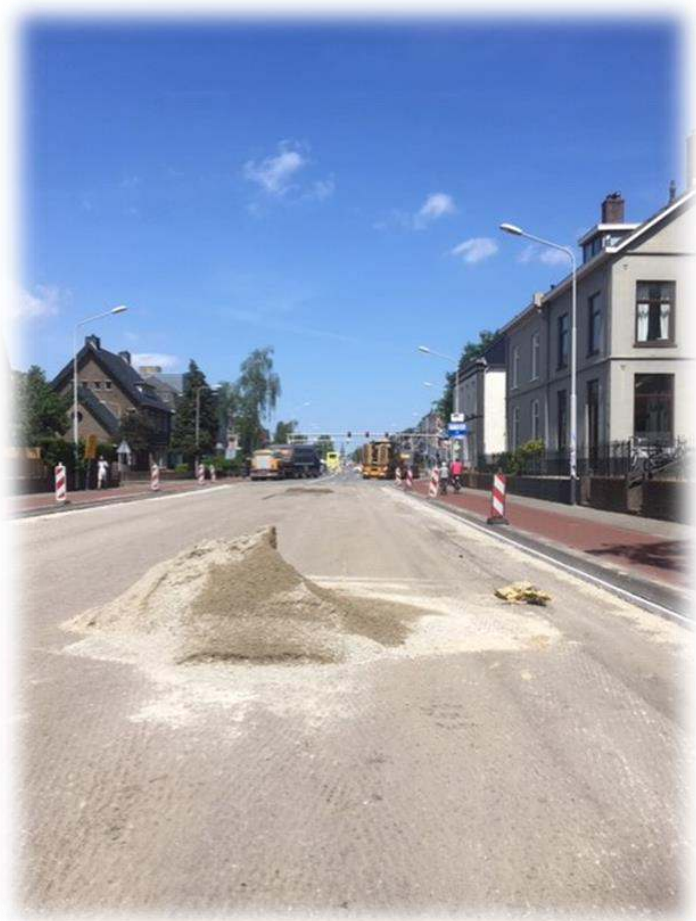
Kronenburg Park
Foto: Herman Schimmel

Four Days Marches comic of.....

Francie de Leeuw



1980: My thirteenth Four Days Marches.



2020: Too bad about my fiftieth Vierdaagse!

2014: Together with my – in the meantime deceased – walking friend Janus and Corine van Dijk from Radio Gelderland.



... but I did walk the alternative



Four Days Marches comic of.....

Arjan Versteeg

1993: Since my first edition in 19889 it was a returning event; participate in the Flagparade in Goffert stadium. Walking club Nooit-Gedacht was one of the few, or maybe only civilian walking club at that time that participated.



2019: My daughter Laura can participate for the first time. Really cool!



2017: A milestone, the 25th time. My kids welcome me at the Via Gladiola. A great moment!



1999: Then chairman Ben Hoge congratulates me with being the 1500th member of our association.

Concept minutes of meeting

Summary concept minutes

This is a summary of the concept minutes of the General Meeting on July 19, 2020. The complete minutes of meeting will be made available at the latest three weeks prior to the meeting on April 17, 2021. These minutes can be downloaded from our website. Please do take into account that these will be in Dutch only.

On July 19, 2020, the Sunday on which in normal times the Four Days Marches church service would have taken place, 51 members gathered in the Kolpinghuis Nijmegen building for the annual meeting. Everyone was seated in accordance with the rules for social distance, including the Board members.

March Leader and honorary member Henny Sackers was present as well; this time not to wish us good luck with the marches, but again to explain the state of affairs in the Four Days Marches Foundation. 75% of the revenues come from registration fees, and regardless the marches taking place or not: the foundation always has to deal with fixed costs, such as the costs of the staff and the office.

Thus, the foundation had to do everything in its powers to avoid a financial disaster. On the one hand, consumer law stipulates that registrants are entitled to a refund, as far as the financial situation allows this. On the other hand, cultural heritage law says that the Four Days Marches are an event that has to be preserved and kept alive. That is why the registration fees had not been refunded in full to the registrants. Henny also had an optimistic message: the foundation will organize another Four Days Marches, even if there will be the faintest possibility to do so.

Chairwoman Leonie Vink then looked back upon a busy year with two 'Powered by GKD' walks; the second one was combined with the reunion in Valkenswaard. After that, seven attending honorary members, members of merit and ambassadors received the new volunteer pin; Henny Sackers was the first one to receive one earlier this year. We then commemo-



Henny Sackers gives a comment on the impact caused by the cancellation of the Four Days Marches and looks forward on the preparations of next year.

rated the 40 members who passed away this year.

The minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2019 and the 2019 financial statements were approved without any modification, in accordance with the positive advice from the financial committee. This means that 9,600 euros can be added to the organization's reserves, due to the growing

number of members, among other things. In addition, the budget was approved, which meant that the 2021 member fee was set at 10 euros plus the KWBN contribution. In total, members will pay 20.50 euros for a basic membership, and 26.20 euros for a full membership.

Joke Poppe will be leaving the financial committee this year, and José Honkoop

will become reserve member. Frans Leijtens and Rino Hamelink were re-elected to the Board, for a 3-year period.

Harry van Dijk, who has been the membership administrator for a number of years, will succeed Martin Pegels as a Board Member, and the Board indicated it plans to transfer the position of Secretary from Frans Leijtens to Harry van Dijk. Martin Pegels was not present at the meeting – he had announced that he wanted to leave the Board without great fanfare.

Nevertheless, Leonie gave a nice speech to honor Martin, because he has contributed greatly to our organization – setting up the Ambassador program, creating the payment options via PayPal, as well as managing the revision of the rules of procedure.

During any other business, Marcel Claassen corrected one question in the GOUD! puzzle. Leonie then thanked René Salemink, manager of the Kolpinghuis building. We have been guests here since 1963, so René has been closely involved in our meetings over the years.

The building will be repurposed in October, so this was our last meeting there. René spoke some warm words and then we listened to the Four Days Marches song played on the music system (because singing along is prohibited). The meeting was adjourned, and a few drinks and snacks were served.



The board maintains social distance, so the everyday management only behind the table.



Leonie thanks René Salemink for many years of hospitality in the Kolpinghuis.



General Members Meeting April 2021

You're welcome!

We invite you to gather for the General Membersmeeting on Saturday 17 April 2021. The location is not known yet. We inform you as soon as possible via the website and facebook. The meeting starts at 2:00 PM and takes about an hour.

The board suggests the following agenda:

1. Opening by the chairman
2. Incoming correspondance & announcements of the board
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2020
4. Annual report of the board on 2020
 - a. Secretary's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
5. Report of cash audit team
6. Appointment of cash audit team 2021
7. Budget 2022 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.

Item 7: The Board proposes to set the membership fee for 2022 at € 10.00 + remittance to the KWBN.

Item 8: Ed Hendriks is periodically outgoing and eligible for re-election. Periodicly outgoing and not eligible for re-election is Arjan Versteeg. The board has no other candidates to propose at the moment.

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 members eligible to vote.

Item 9: Th board proposes to organize the reunion 2021 together with the 'powered by GKD' walk. It will be in Elburg on Saturday 25th September 2021.

The board intends to close the meeting at 3:00 PM



Powered by GKD

35th Vrijbuiters Easter Walk

On Monday, 5th April 2021 (Easter Monday), walking club De Vrijbuiters will hold their Vrijbuiters Easter Walk, 'powered by Golden Cross Bearers', from the village of Almkerk in the Noord-Brabant province. On this day, you can choose distances from 7 to 50 kilometers through the Land van Altena area (south of the city of Gorinchem). During this walk you can meet other Golden Cross Bearers, train for the Four Days Marches or maybe earn the next stamp on your stamp card for the 'powered by Golden Cross Bearers'-pin.

Every year again, the Easter Walk provides surprising routes that contain as much nature and landmarks as possible. In order to come up with new beautiful walks, the 35th Easter Walk will this time not start from the village of Wijk en Aalburg (usually the base of the Vrijbuiters), but from the fields of football club Almkerk. Last year, the Vrijbuiters' jubilee Kennedy March, 'the 80k of Altena' also started from this location. In the river landscape of Almkerk and its surroundings you will find windmills, forts from the former Dutch Water Defense Line and beautiful tracks through nature. The volunteers from the Vrijbuiters, who are all experienced walkers, manage to create a nice walk every year.

Participation will cost you 2.50 Euros. First aid will be available along the route, as well as resting posts that will be set up at regular intervals. Matching the Easter mood, large amounts of eggs are always distributed among the walkers in the Easter Walk.

Address:

v.v. Almkerk football club,
Sportlaan 1,
4286 ES Almkerk

Start times:

from 7.00 for the 30k, 40k and 50k,
from 8.00 for the 20k and
from 9.00 for the 7k, 10k and 15k.

Are you travelling by car?

Then take exit 22 from the A27 motorway (Nieuwendijk/Almkerk) and follow regional road A322 for about 1.5 kilometers to Almkerk. You will enter the village at the roundabout in front of the cinema, and after a few hundred meters you will arrive at football club Almkerk.

Are you travelling by public transport?

Bus route 400 (Utrecht – Oosterhout) stops along the A27 motorway. From there it is a walk of 1.5 kilometers to football club Almkerk. There are also several local minibuses that stop close to football club Almkerk. But keep in mind that this service will be very limited on Easter Monday.

<https://wsvdevrijbuiters.wordpress.com>
devrijbuiters@live.nl

35^e Vrijbuiters Paaswandeltocht

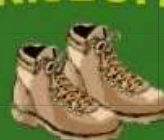
Maandag 2^e Paasdag

7, 10, 15, 20, 30,
40 en 50km

**Start ACKC
ALMKERK
(N. Br.)**



Wandelsportvereniging
DE VRIJBUITERS



Wijk en Aalburg

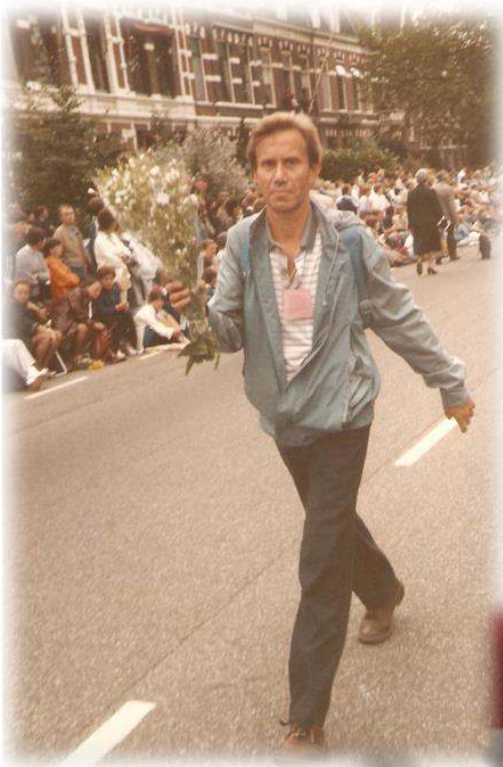
~~13 April 2020~~

5 April 2021

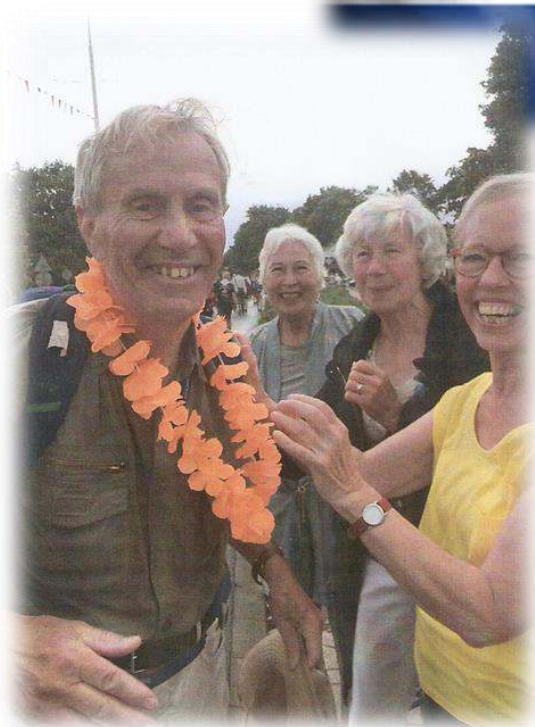
Four Days Marches comic of.....

Kees Brinkman

Via Gladiola 1984.



My fanclub in Malden, 2016.



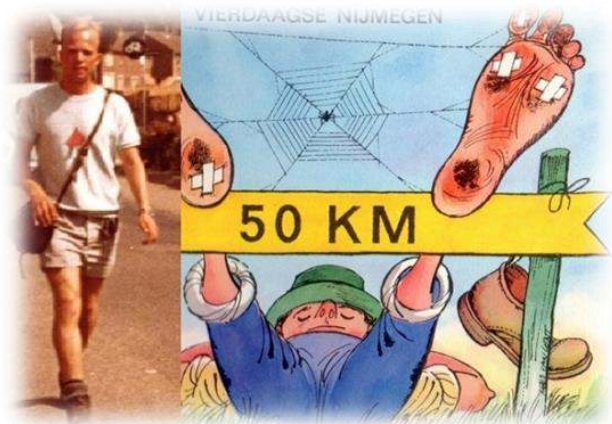
The third day in 2009.



With Ms. Mittendorff, the charming mayor of Heumen, in 2019

Four Days Marches comic of.....

Klaus op de Hipt



In 1967 was my first participation in the Vierdaagse. It was succesful, but my feet looked like those on this picture. That's what I only started again in Nijmegen in 1983.

2015: On the pontoon bridge in Cuijk: The commander of the Dutch Engineers (Commandant van het Regiment Genietroepen) congratulates me on my 30th participation.



2012: My 28th participation. Oh, how nice to march in the constant rain!



2019: With my group at the finish. This is how it should be again in 2021!



Four Days Marches 2019: the last classic edition?

Corona - impact

In the Vierdaagse history, the year 2020 has been, is, and will be the disastrous Corona year, for both the marches and everything related to them. This article, which will provide an overview until the middle of October, will therefore have a rather sad tone. After the overview, it will focus on two developments in and near Cuijk. We conclude with a little rime to cheer you up and make you see things in perspective.

A contribution of Kees Brinkman

The prelude.

March.

The world is shocked by the coronavirus outbreak. The number of cases explodes and soon there is a pandemic. Many Vierdaagse walkers started their training for the 2020 marches in January. The uncertainty is growing and they wonder if they should continue.

On 12 March the Board states that it is too early to decide on measures. They repeat that on 18 March, but on 20 March they seem less certain about it: we are taking various scenarios into account. Meanwhile, registration continues and closes at 50.500 walking enthusiasts on 27 March. After checks and corrections, the number is adjusted to 49.000, so a drawing of lots need not to take place.

15 April.

The marches and festivities can only be organized if several of the restrictions will end: bars and restaurants have to be open again, the social distance obligation and the ban on large groups should be removed, there has to be full access to all roads and paths, and some more things. It is unlikely that these measures will be lifted, so no Vierdaagse.

Knock out.

17 April.

The council of local security authorities advises to maintain the ban on all events until 1 September. This would mean that the marches and the festivities cannot take place. 21 April. It's all over for the Vierdaagse 2020. The national government decides to follow the advice. The

Board announces the sad news to the registrants the same day. This is a blow that will be felt for a very long time, by the Board, the March Leader and all volunteers and others involved. For the first time since 1945 there will be no Four Days Marches. Local newspaper De Gelderlander reports the next day that the Board, as well as the events sector, are in total shock.

23 April.

Even the Vierdaagse 2021 is in danger. March Leader Henny Sackers has no idea how they should continue. He and his staff are deeply affected by the news, just like the walkers, and all need to overcome their disappointment first.

Consequences.

A new problem emerges. The organization has spent money on the preparations. It is a very demanding task to carry out the cancellation and to reimburse the registrants. Because of contractual obligations and a prudent financial approach, it is only possible to reimburse an amount of 60 euros, and not the full registration fee. It's a great Dutch tradition to strongly complain in such a case, but other participants decided to donate their registration fees entirely to the foundation.

20 May.

Newspaper De Gelderlander is very pessimistic: the total events sector is crumbling down because we are still waiting



Foto: Ronald van der Schot

for a vaccine.

15 July.

Mayor Bruls of Nijmegen is worried about the observance of Corona measures during the fall. There will be a higher risk of infections then. In the following period it appears that St. Nicholas entries, marathons, cycling races and carnival festivities are cancelled. There is a continuous flow of news about a vaccine. On 4 September, the World Health Organization warns that it will take at least until the second half of 2021 before a large-scale distribution of a vaccine could start.

24 September.

The number of infections rises and the risk level in the Netherlands is raised from 'cautious' to 'concern'. Restaurants and bars are placed under a curfew of 1 a.m. The maximum number of people that are allowed at a meeting is reduced to fifty.

29 September.

The second virus wave is a fact. Stricter measures need to be imposed. Bars and restaurants have to close at 9 p.m., cafeterias at sports clubs need to close down entirely, spectators are not allowed at football matches any more. Among experts there is still a debate about the effects of face masks. The ban on large gatherings is extended to groups of thirty people or more.

13 October.

The stricter measures will be in effect for at least one month. All bars and restaurants have to close. Amateur football matches are banned and all other sports matches have to be played without spectators.

Vierdaagse 2021?

17 July.

Serious worries over Vierdaagse 2021. De Gelderlander wonders if the festivities are also in danger. In the scenario that the virus will not be under control, it would seem impossible to organize the marches with far less participants. At the Golden Cross Bearers meeting on 19 July, March Leader Sackers warns against being too



*The bridge for cyclists seen from the right border of the Maas on 23 september 2020.
Foto: Kees Brinkman*

optimistic. He stresses that he wants to be realistic and to look at the various options, but it's impossible to hold a classic Vierdaagse with reduced distances. 8 September. De Gelderlander concludes that a traditional Vierdaagse would be too risky next year and will not return. It has to be done in a different way. But how? Nobody knows the answer.

Cuijk.

Among the municipalities that the Vierdaagse passes through, Cuijk might be the heaviest casualty. On 7 January 2020, De Gelderlander reported that the local Vierdaagse festivities will not be organized in the future.

After fifteen years, the seven-day festival on the quay along the river Maas will disappear. It takes many meetings during working hours to comply with all the rules and to receive the permissions. This has become too demanding for the volunteers. In 2019, the organization had to deal with a shortfall of 23.000 euros on a total budget of over 100.000 euros.

No pontoon bridge any more?

The cycle bridge as seen from the right bank of the river Maas on 23 September 2020.

After more than 10 years of preparations, the cycle bridge over the river Maas between Mook and Katwijk has been placed, just south of the railway bridge in the Nijmegen-Boxmeer line. It has cost 19 million euros. Its name: 'de Maasover'. The official opening was on Saturday 26 September.

Keep walking

The Marches, Corona could them destroy for those in search of excitement and joy in this four nights and days of walking feast, they shall have to wait a year at least. But you can always keep on walking! Don't keep wondering if you still can do the walk and just don't mind other people's talk. People, just start walking! Keep yourself in condition and stay healthy so you can walk round the world on a penny. People, dare to walk! My rucksack packed, a jacket against the wind, I don't care what they may think. Yes, I will keep on walking!

An alternative checkpoint

Joke and Mieke supervising again during Corona

This year there was no Four Days Marches event held and everyone knows the reason. Nevertheless, things around the “Four Days Marches” were organized. For example, there was an alternative checkpoint on Friday along the provincial road at Malden. How did it come about? We interviewed two veterans of the control department, Joke in den Bosch and Mieke Engelaar, respectively 20 and 30 years involved in the inspection service. A story full of tales and anecdotes.

A contribution of Coert Peeters

How did you get to the Four Days Marches?

Mieke: From the time I was little, I grew up with the Four Days Marches. I lived in Lent, where the Four Days Marches came to pass us by on Tuesday very early in the morning. The whole family was walking except me, so I was in charge with care. She remembers Prince Claus was passing by. She was asked to do the supervising about 30 years ago (it was still quite an honor at that time).

During my first supervising duty there was a pouring rain on Tuesday, not my most favorite experience, but I remained dutiful. It became funny when we got back to the Vereniging. Bad weather brings a bit of rowdiness to the walkers and supervisors. On day 4 (Friday) I had done it anyway. Another anecdote immediately follows: Supervisors knew about my trip to Moskou the day after the Four Days Marches, I would receive a quarter (25 cents) from everyone for sending a postcard; that led to a whole stream of postcards from everyone from all over the world. All these contacts have grown into a large family.

Joke: I used to be a walker. I participated 6 times. But physical discomfort made walking more difficult, 4 times 40 Km could not be done anymore and I didn't have a click with the 30 km distance. I was asked to join the supervising department. Supervisors were (and are) asked by acquaintances of acquaintances and family of relatives; - this was also the case with me, Coert Peeters - I've been doing it for 20 years now. I am so intertwined with the Four Days Marches; you know so well



what the walkers are feeling at the end of the day...

For that reason I made a fridge magnet for everyone at the supervisors reunion with the following text: “Family becomes friends and friends become family”, that happens during the supervising. Both ladies are living in Nijmegen; staying in the city during the Four Days Marches is no problem anyway. You do have to take care of your own breakfast on time, sometimes you forget something. – wal-

kers staying in a guesthouse are better off, according to Mieke. But camping guests will have to do it themselves too. Joke has been used to take care of herself for years already: I don't often fail in the morning, not even during the week.

ANECDOTES: the 2 ladies are fed up with stories:

Mieke: Supervisors have a meeting every evening; the day is discussed and striking matters are passed on. She remembers one of the first cases; a lady had a dog with here, that is not allowed but she had no baby(dog)sitter. The lady received a warning and this case was discussed during the meeting. The next day a supervisor saw another lady with a dog quite similar to the previous day. That lady said; “Yes, I saw someone with a dog on the trail yesterday. So I thought; I'll bring my dog too tomorrow” (the story seemed authentic, so it was just a warning this time). In the past, people sometimes walked with a handcart, people were also less aware of the rules. The rules have also been tightened up in the last few years.

Different story:

On the last day I was at a supervising station in Beers and one of the inspectors drew my attention to a woman crying by the side of the road. There were already many people around her, but the lady was not able to explain clearly what was going on with her. I went there and sat down with that lady to comfort her. She had just received a very drastic family message. Mieke's first thought was: How can you call a person at such a particular moment, should it not have been possible to send the message either earlier or

later. Then she realized the lady had probably just had a regular home call for a rather normal reason of just talking to the person and during this call she received the very bad news. "How many times did you participate?" Mieke asks the lady "This is my 10th participation" The lady answers. Mieke: "Now you become a Golden Cross Bearer!" First you have to finish this event though. I'll walk with you for a while and I would like to see you at the finish stand. Dedicate your Golden Cross to your relative. A day like this one always goes in a different way from what you have planned, but most likely this lady became a Golden Cross Bearer. I think I accompanied her about 2 km – just about as far as the pontoon bridge – and I think that lady will be proud of her Golden Cross.

Joke: Coincidentally I was on a supervising station and a lady shouted in a panic way: "I have lost my card" and sometimes you make not very useful remarks. So I said: "But then you have to go back to where you have lost your card" and immediately the lady starts crying inconsolable!! But Mieke already had a replacement card for her. A lost card is a "Thing anyway". Mieke also mentions this when instructing new supervisors.

"Sometimes people have really lost their card" The coordinator then decides whether a "lost card story" is reliable or not. Walkers have to know you will not "just" get a replacement card along the way, supervisors are really trained for it. Occasionally, a walker must be referred to the desk clerks at the finish. Because he didn't receive a replacement card he will have to make a claim for it over there. If someone gets a replacement card on his/her way, this card is marked just for the organization. Both subsequent checkpoints and the office staff recognize this card during check-out.

Joke: Sometimes taking a short cut is an item". I was in Grave and was going to do the last lap in Malden. I am well known over there, so know the "in-between" roads. I was driving from one station to



Mieke in her element.



Joke supervising for 20 years

the other and saw a few walkers with a four-day band along the way. I talked to them; the ladies were on their way to Malden but now directly from Nijmegen. They didn't have any intention to take the official route, so I cut off their wristbands. They considered this as very very silly.

It even happened once that a walker was taken off the track of the Four Days Marches by the police. We were at a checkpoint and one of the supervisors had seen someone on a bike near Malden, where he had been checked and got on his bike again. We were posting in Milsbeek and were warned. Then we saw someone approaching us who had parked his bike just ahead of the checkpoint. A policeman on a motorbike who happened to be there addressed the man and confiscated his ticket. End of story.

Mieke: There is a great solidarity among the walkers with regard to competitive spirit. When a walker spots someone who does not stick to the rules, they pass it on to the checkpoints. A short thing about dogs amidst the walkers on the route. Day 1, Bommel. There is a dog on the track "Whose dog is that?" No reaction. A conversation with one of the walkers starts "Madam, is that your dog?" "No, it isn't". "Okay, walk on." Dog follows. – "Please halt". Dog stops. – "And you are telling me that that dog isn't yours?" (Such a dog always betrays its owner).

Joke: Because walkers are so focussed, they hate it when other walkers do not stick to the rules. If you do your best to reach your goal and you want others to be able to do the same.

Walking backwards, is that something you practise?

Supervisors walk backwards as much as forward. On Saturday after the marches you can still feel your calf muscles playing up. We do have supervisors who are not very good at this, but they do not stay in function very long. Mieke had a trainee supervisor demonstrating walking backwards in her living room.

Military: a special challenge for supervisors?

There are supervisors who actually like checking groups, others are more indifferent, but ideally all supervisors should be skilled at checking groups. Weighing the backpacks of the military does not take place at the regular checkpoints. Mieke: I witnessed once that a soldier was carrying slightly too little weight. (Most likely he had set out with the correct weight, but had drunk some of it on the way). The difference was not tremendously big, but he had to adjust it on the spot with any means available. That was a bit awkward with respect to his colleagues, but at least he could continue on his way. But if one is caught carrying clearly too little, he or she will have to quit immediately.

This year: COVID-19. When did it become clear to you that the Marches would not be held this year?

Joke: I work for a company that is organizing events; therefore, I already suspected in April that the Marches would most likely be cancelled. A serious warning was issued earlier this year.

Mieke: The Marches are a massive event, so it did not take long before it became obvious that the marches would not be held. At the moment, all sorts of possibilities are investigated to see what can be done next year.

With respect to communication: the official announcement that the Marches would not be held was made relatively late. The ladies appreciate the cancellati-



on, but the way communication was handled was far from ideal.

Joke: My granddaughter was to take part for the first time with the Via Vierdaagse (a special training programme that also offers an admittance to the marches). The KWBN (Royal Dutch Walkers' Association) was very quick at communicating about the cancellation; Via Vierdaagse, however, took a long time to do this. The financial rounding off of refunds, too caused a lot of dissatisfaction with many people. If next year the Marches have to be cancelled once again, even more people will be discontented. A lot of money is involved in organizing the Marches, especially since many things are no longer paid for by the Ministry of Defence, so the entry fees are considerable and for many people €130 is a lot of money.

This year: the third week of July is approaching and everyone knows that "Nijmegen" is off. What does that do to you then? Mieke had plans of 'just' celebrating the Marches. As always there were lots of walkers in town. Sitting on a terrace, the idea was picked up to plan something that had to do with the 'alternative Marches'. – "In that case, we shall carry out 'alternative' checks. After all, for us Nijmegen is the place to be." Lots of people announced on -especially- Facebook that

they would simply walk the regular route. Joke's son did the regular route on Friday. There was a special atmosphere in town that week. Mieke was not the only one to hang out the Marches' flag. The idea was to maintain the typical Marches' atmosphere as much as possible. The local broadcasting station "omroep Gelderland" cooperated, too. Mieke went out to look for all the places where the spirit of the Marches was still alive. Then the idea came up to put up a 'checkpoint' on Friday. Elsewhere in the country participants of the alternative Marches were also cheered and supported by spectators. "But yes: we live in Nijmegen, the Marches ARE Nijmegen, so we were along the route as usual on that final day. And it was terrific!"

We (Joke, Mieke and myself) stood there, along the Rijksweg between Malden and the Scheidingsweg. Joke's granddaughter counted the number of people passing the 'alternative checkpoint'. Nearly 1,100 walkers passed by that day, in spite of there being no Marches. We guided them to our post with chalk marks and it turned out to be a great day for everyone. A dish of cucumber slices was put ready, which is a 'trigger' for walkers. "We missed that", we heard people say. Mieke had not reckoned with a large number of walkers. She had thought there would be a few

people whom she could offer a slice of cake and coffee, but that was not feasible with these numbers. Walkers did keep their distance, but – as said – there were over a thousand of them.

Afterwards, we were sitting in the garden of the Vereeniging, where we saw walkers 'crossing the finish line' and we cheered them, joking that they did 'not finish in time'. So, in spite of all regulations, it did seem like 'real' Marches. It was a very enjoyable Friday.

Any expectations for next year?

Mieke: I do think there are opportunities. People are giving it a long and hard thought, so I am quite optimistic.

Joke: I made a number of suggestions. Everyone is very much involved. The organisers have made it absolutely clear that they want international Marches. Bottlenecks are to be avoided at all cost. It will by no means be easy to organize an event of this scale with a minimum of bottlenecks and congestions.

Everyone is very much looking forward to the Marches in 2021: the event is sadly missed.

Ladies, thank you so much for this interview.



The 'crew' of the only checkpoint this year.

Four Days turns into Two Days

A spontaneous idea results in a 2-days march in and around Nijmegen

A contribution by Ferry Rinsampessy

Spontaneous idea ends up in a tw-day march around Nijmegen

The idea arose to walk one or two days of the alternative 4-days marches in the surroundings of Nijmegen we would walk with a little group.

The Moluccan/Papuan group of friends called K2RS The Walking Dads, picked up the idea and organized their own 2-days march.

25 Moluccan and Papuan walkers, walked together a part of their share of the alternative 4 days marches and/of the 100 Km Covid Challenge Death march in those 2 days.

The walkers came from various hometowns to the 4-days city of Nijmegen, just for the 4-days feeling, but especially as a tribute to the local Moluccan community. Walkers came from all over the country, and starting and experienced walkers took up the challenge.

Gold medallist Olivia Wardenaar tells us that the 4-days marches is one of the highlights she is always looking forward to. "An annual get together with (walking) friends from all over the country, young and old, starters and golden cross bearers.

But also breaking down, pushing boundaries, and getting to know people (better) and creating awareness by walking with flags. All this with the goal to cross the finish together in happiness and joy".

Covid-19

The Corona virus controls us in 2020, and limits us all so we are not able to walk in mass. Walking tours were cancelled and still are, due to government rules concerning our health and the health of others.

Walking organizations are still busy to develop walking tours so we can keep on



23 July 2020 Start 2Daagse at Station Nijmegen NS Copyright: Kawan2 Djalan / K2D WalkingFriend

moving one way or the other. For example there was a real Corona march 4-days viral, organized by the 40 mile foundation. The new "normal" is walking viral.

In organizing the 2-days marches a conscious choice was made to spread the word using WhatsApp within our own group of friends and acquaintances. At that time the RIVM rules were to be taken into account.

The city of Nijmegen and the police in the region were informed and they supported the initiative

(Note: RIVM is the Dutch National institute for public health and environment, comparable with the CDC, Robert Koch Institute, for example)

Walker reacted positively on the initiative to walk together in the surroundings of Nijmegen for 2 days

Shirley Tuheteru who would walk for het

bronze cross this year, was very enthusiastic about the plan of walking part of the 4-days route with a group of walkers, of course Coronaproof walking

(Note: Corona proof walking is walking in a group with all members 1,5 metres apart of each other)

Maurice Rugebrecht was unlucky that he had to skip the 4-days marches for the second time, last year he was not admitted and this year Corona came into his and others path. He was very joyful about this initiative. He tells us "I was signed up this year the moment I could, so I was very disappointed when I came to know the 4-days marches were cancelled this year. Now when I heard about the 2-days I was very excited"

The 2 days walk

Thursday July 23rd was the day! We were going to meet at 09:30 at the Central Station of Nijmegen.

It was a great day for the walkers with a shining sun in a clear blue sky.

After explaining the rules and making a group photo in front of the station in Nijmegen the tour of about 40 km started to Hatert, Dukenburg (both Nijmegen quarters) across "the Oversteek" (a bridge named after the crossing of American soldiers in 1944) to the towns of Elst and Bommel and thereafter cross the Waal-bridge back to the Nijmegen Station.

Tjikkus Salakory tells us "walking together in the well known surroundings, came close to the 4-days feeling, that we missed so much"

Cynthia Lawalata liked the ambiance and feeling very much "I experienced more than the 4-days feelings, it was different but I wouldn't have missed it for the world!"

Friday July 24th we started 09:30 again at the station, the walkers then walked to the Moluccan quarters in Gennip and stopped at Molenhoek and in café "Malle Jan" in Plasmolen. The last part went through Cuijk to finish at the station in Nijmegen where after a cool drink this special 2 days was ended.

Every year they are ready for us, now come and visit them!

When walkers during the annual "Walk of the World" see the flying of the South Moluccan Rainbow and the West Papuan Morningstar flags it's those people that support the walkers during their 4-days march

This time the walkers brought a visit to the local Moluccan community. The appreciation was so much that the Moluccan youth in Hatert, together with the communitycenter Dukenburg, the Moluccan welfare organizations; Maluku Elst Foundation (SME), Foundation Kulit Bia Bommel, Foundation Tjenke Muda and the Muluccan ward council in Gennip had organized a warm reception for the walkers.

Hospitality is a very important issue in the Moluccan communities. Usually the community is ready during the 4-days marches to support all the walkers, and their fellow citizens in particular with applause, a drink or something to snack.

During this 2 days this was all relived by the walkers.

"It was another feeling than usual, along the road there were some people to support us. Honking cars and cyclists coming along were there to wish you success. On the way of our route we noticed that

some 4-days marches flags (green with orange cross) were displayed. There were no dixies, catering was closed. But a good sign of hospitality was that it was possible just to ring the bell of any house for a sany stop and the people would open the door and let you in." Tells Brigitte Souwuwat--Papilaja us.

The walkers look back to a successful 2 days with a very satisfied feeling, in which togetherness, mutual appreciation has revived the 4-days feeling for a while in the surroundings of the 4-days city of Nijmegen.

With the quote of Shirley, I close this report:

"walking is good for my body and spirit. Especially in this Corona-age, in which I am obligated to work at home all day behind a laptop. The ultimate solution to start of a great day is to start your working day with a short 5 km walk!"

Impression of the K2RS The walking dad 2 days op YouTube

<https://youtu.be/BtTeZjLMEDc> en <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoOgJ8X-bAk>
#Alternatieve4daagse #100kmCovidChallenge #WalkingTogether #StaySafe

Facts

K2RS The walking dads is a part of the Moluccan an Papuan walkingfriends-group Kawan, Kawan Djalan / K2D WalkingFriends. Walking friends that apart from the 4-day marches also take part in various walking tours, like Kennedy marches and the 100 km Deathmarch in Bornem (Belgium)

The 4 days week 2020 was originally from 21 till 24 july. One week before the Covid Challenge 100km deathmarch started from july 13 till august 9th 2020

Walkers came from: Amsterdam, Arnhem, Blankenham, Capelle aan den IJssel, Culemborg, Den Haag, Deventer, Doesburg, Elst, Musselkanaal, Nijmegen, Rhenen, Rotterdam, Tiel, Tilburg, Utrecht, Woerden en Zutphen.

Police teams present from regions: East Netherlands, South Gelderland, Center Netherlands (Elst/Bommel) and Limburg (Gennep/Cuijk)

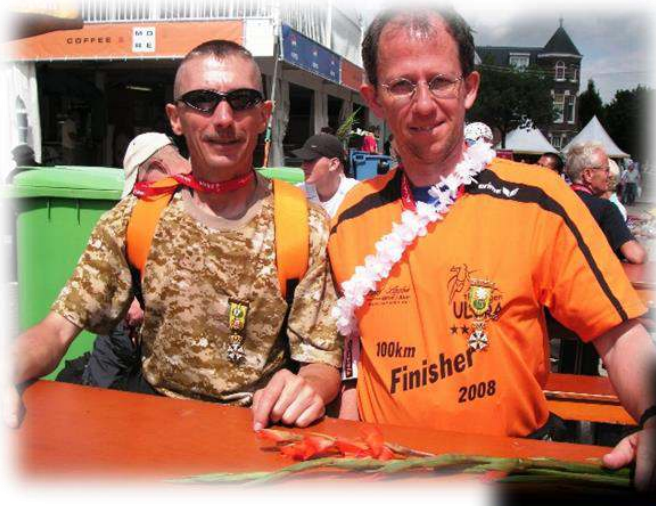


24 july 2020 Finishfoto Station Cuijk NS Copyright: Kawan2 Djalan / K2D WalkingFriends

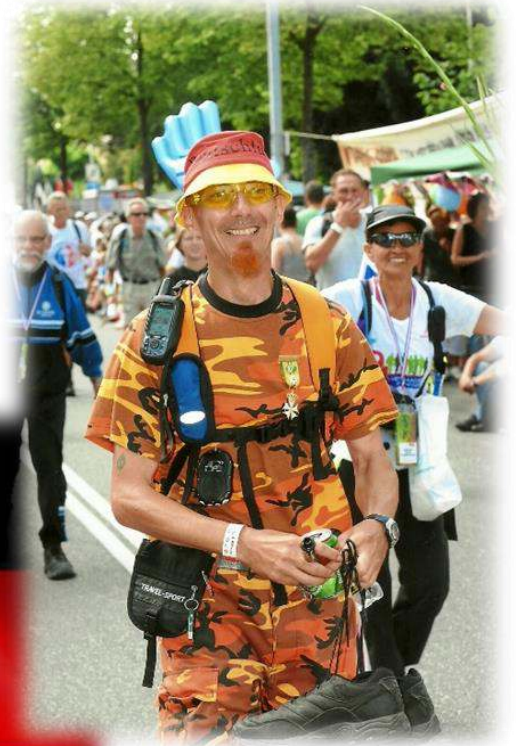
Four Days Marches comic of.....

Jürgen Huber

2009: The guy with the sunglasses is me. I just met an old walking friend. The Four Days Marches, as usual, completed without any problems.



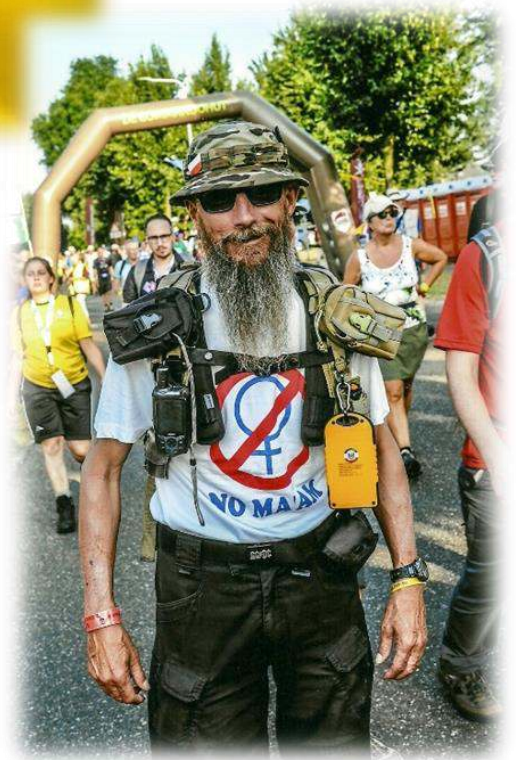
2010: Here I walk barefoot at the Via Gladiola to show I haven't got any blisters.



2014: On my way with the airguitar. Fun along the route!



2018: There isn't much to mention about this photo; it speaks for itself. It is always great on the track.



Portrait of a member



Name: Marcel de Boer
Residence: Papendrecht (a village near Rotterdam)
Age: 50 years

How would you describe yourself in one sentence?
Someone that enjoys life, who likes to walk and cooking outside in my outside kitchen, and the several BBQ's i have

What do you do as a living?
I am a cook or chef



Source: Pegy_Marco, www.pixabay.com

What makes you happy?
Walking, BBQ'ing and having evening outings with friends

Why did you start with the 4-days marches?
I started off with walking the youth four-days marches in Breda a couple of times, after that I was quite hooked to walking and the next step was the 4-days marches

How many time did you walk the 4-days marches?
I finished the 4-days marches 24 times of which three times the distance by choice (at that time that was allowed still) three times I couldn't walk because of illness and one year I walked only one day, just like the rest of the walkers. This was in 2006. (The year it was so hot that the organization thought it was wise to stop after one day because of the heat and the 2 casualties)

What is your secret for a successfull 4-days march?
In the early days I took little time for training because of my job, nowadays I train a little more than that

What is your nicest meeting or remembrance tot he 4-days marches?
I took part in the flag parade in the old Goffert soccer stadium, this was with the hiking association of which I was a member at the time.

What was the last walking trip you made?
This was the "Zwientjestocht" (Swine trip) and then unfortunately Corona happened

Is there anything still you'd like to express?
That we all may stay healthy, and enter 2021 in a positive way, and I hope to be able to take part in the 4-days marches and other walking tours again.





Some individual participants passing the pontonbridge over the river Maas at the fourth day of a Four Days Marches between 1957 and 1963.

Foto: Unknown

Source: KNBLO-NL, Regional Archive Nijmegen