



GOLD!

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Magazine van de Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse

In dit nummer:

- What you wear is what you look like
- Years without the Four Days Marches
- Henny Sackers about a 2020 without Four Days Marches





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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: Arjan Versteeg*

A peculiar week

Dear fellow-walkers,

One moment you are making plans for the walking season ahead and the next moment you become aware of a painful happening that is going on. An invisible virus is wreaking havoc on the world. People are falling ill and are even dying. Schools are closed, walking events are cancelled and we have to stay indoors. More and more major events are scrapped from the calendar. And the next thing that happens is what no one would have dreamt of: 'the Four Days' Marches, our Marches, are cancelled. That is a bitter pill to swallow.

During the weeks preceding the cancellation we had been in close contact with the board of the Marches' Foundation. Lots of volunteers and permanent members had already been working hard to make sure that this year's edition would be running smoothly. The fact that this event had to be cancelled was a tremendous blow for everyone - directly or indirectly - involved. But in the capacity of the committee of the Gold Cross Owners' Association we unequivocally support their decision to cancel the Marches.

But let us look on the bright side of things. By not letting the Marches go ahead we diminish the chance of participants spreading the corona virus and bringing it to their village, town or country. People who had signed up will get a refund of more than half of the fee they had paid. As a result, there is a fair chance that the Marches will be held again in 2021. Apart from that, throughout the period of the intelligent lockdown we were able to go outdoors to keep walking, be it on our own or with a partner. The weather here in the Netherlands was favourable and I do not know about your area, but I discovered beautiful spots that I did not know existed in close vicinity to where I live.

It will be an uncanny week, the week of the 2020 Marches. We hope we are offering you some extra reading pleasure with this bigger than usual edition of GOUD! in spite of everything. And above all, keep walking, so we'll be able to meet again during the 2021 Marches.

Leonie Vink, chairwoman.



Photo: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Bianca van Uden

News ** News ** News ** News

KWBN membership (Royal Netherlands Walking Association)

This year again, we received an invoice of KWBN walking association for some 250 changes in memberships. These changes have to be checked manually in our administration; this requires several days of work. At the end, we had to charge 175 members of our association for additional contributions to KWBN.

Some members felt surprised by this. But when we double-checked the data for members who reacted, it turned out that every charge had been correct. In none of the cases our association or KWBN had charged a contribution by mistake or had double-charged a contribution.

What are the membership rules exactly?

A Golden Cross Bearers Association membership includes a membership of walking association KWBN. As long as you are also a member of another Dutch walking club, the KWBN contribution will be charged by that club. In that case, our association will not charge this contribution. Changes occur when someone cancels or changes his or her membership of a walking club. KWBN will then charge the contribution at the association or club in which the member has the longest lasting membership – in that case the Golden Cross Bearers.

To summarize: we would like to ask our members to inform us in case of changes in membership, address, email address or bank account.

Four Days Marches church service 2020

You will understand that due to the cancellation of the Vierdaagse the traditional church service on Sunday 19 July has been cancelled accordingly.

We hope that we will be able to give



Photo: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Bianca van Uden

shape to the service next year, on Sunday 18 July 2021. We will keep you informed.

With kind regards,
on behalf of Stichting Vierdaagsemis,

Ms. Gien Langen, secretary and treasurer

€1600!

That's the amount our association received through Sponsorkliks. Sponsorkliks is an online platform through which you can sponsor a (sports)club or association by making online purchases through the sponsorklik-website. The webshop donates a certain amount.

News ** News ** News ** News

Unfortunately Sponsorkliks is not available in all countries, but is in Austria, Belgium, Germany and Ireland. So, it is now also possible to support us even though you're living somewhere else.

If you like to help us out and need more information or support in making it work, just drop us a message and we'll do our best to help you.

Go to <https://www.goudenkruisdragers.nl/wp/index.php/sponsorkliks/> to get started.

Change of address, new e-mail address, change of bank?

Should you move, please let us know your address in good time, so that we can send your mail to your new address. It would

be nice if you state the membership number that is available on the pass you have received from the walking association (KWBN). We would also appreciate it if you could also inform us of any changes with regards to your email address or bank account. The latter is especially important in case you pay your fee by direct debit. You can send your message regarding any changes to ledenadministratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl. Thanks in advance.

Cancellation of membership

The board asks you urgently to announce your intention of terminating your membership per 2021 before 1st of October 2020. The membership will be terminated at 31st of December 2020. We will be able to report your termination to the KWBN in time. After 1st of October 2020

you owe the membership fee for 2021, since our association has to pay remittance 2021 to KWBN. Be aware of these regulations, it prevents a lot of annoyance in case of late terminations.

General meeting July

As communicated through e-mails and our website, the general meeting from last April is rescheduled to Sunday July 19, 2020. The agenda can be found in GOUD! December 2019 and on our website.

Reünie & Powered by

As communicated earlier through e-mail and our website, the Powered-by GKD and reunion in Elburg on September 26 2020 are cancelled. This is caused by the uncertainty of which corona-measures would or would not be in place in that month.



Photo: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Ger Loeffen

Four Days Marches comic of.....

Vicky Henriksen - Delaney

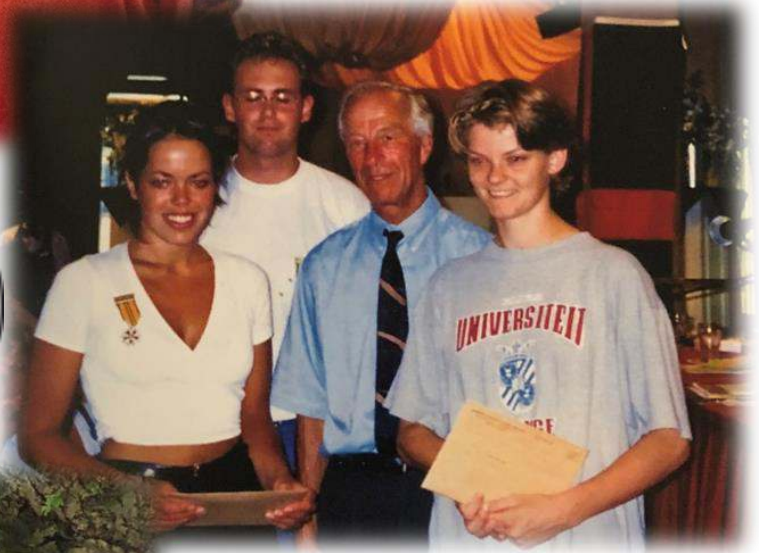


1989

My first edition. On the picture are my mom Mimi Mengerink (also a member), Bep Keizer-den Tuinder (passed away, member as well) and Sjors van der Laar (passed away).

1999

At the association's meeting as one of the three 1500th members.



2016

55 km participation.

2009

With Tue Henriksen, now my husband.



93ste 4Daagse Nijmegen 2009

Four Days Marches comic of.....

Paul Scharp



My Four Days Marches history began in 1958 when I participated as individual soldier on the 40km with marching kit, but I don't have a picture of that. In 1959 I participated for the second time, now as detachment commander (most right person on the photo).

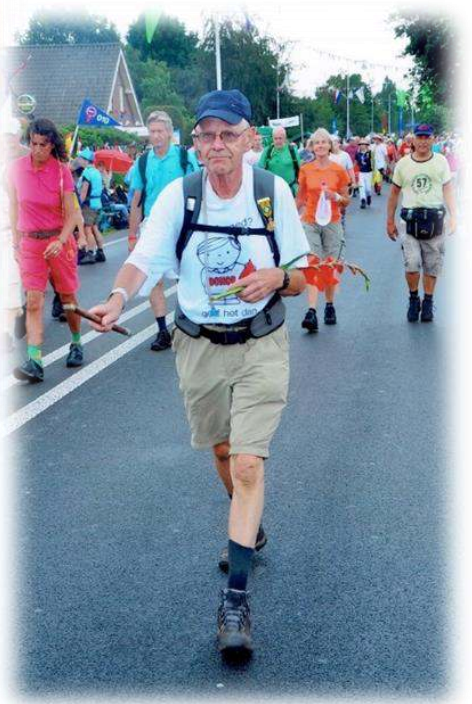
In 1963 I participated for the sixth time. This time together with ensign De Heer walking 50km without marching kit.



vierdaagse nijmegen 1963



In 2016, the 100th edition, my 42nd, on the Via Gladiola.



In 1984 my daughter participates together with a friend. They walked 40km, I did 50km as individual soldier for the 13th time. This photo was taken on the fourth day at the entry stands where we are welcomed by retired major general M. de Jong.

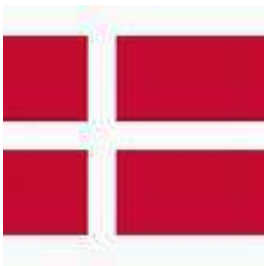
Finish line Heumensoord

Welcome to the beer tent!

Because that's where it all happens, at Heumensoord at least. For many military participants, the beer tent is every day's finish line and it became a tradition to make a 'fashionable', but most of all original, entry. Something many participants - and especially Gold Cross Bearers - have heard of, but haven't witnessed. With thanks to Frans Leijtens for sharing some of his photos, we can give the civil participants a glance of what happens over there.



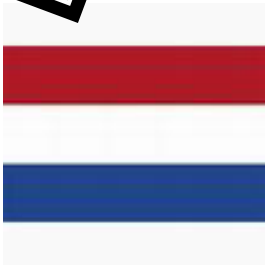
German soldiers



Danish Navy

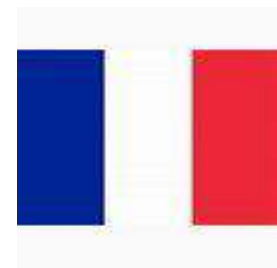


Dutch National Reserve





French
cadets



Duth
Military Police



German
soldiers



Years without Four Days Marches

Was there any year without “Four Days Marches” before?

The Covid19-virus is active around the world, borders and airspaces are closed, walking can only be realized within the 1,50 mtr social distance rules and (inter)national sport events are prohibited, delayed or cancelled. Also the “Four Days Marches 2020” is cancelled. Did such a cancellation occur before?

A contribution made by Marcel M. Claassen.

When the first “Four Days Marches” started on sept 1st 1909 ,one day after Queens Day at that time in The Netherlands, the marches were intended to train the military infantry conscripts.

The start of World war I (Aug 1914) blocked the 6th “Four Days Marches” for The Netherlands as a neutral country. Our neutrality required the mobilization of the field army, the soldiers had only to look out for an enemy that never came. The Defense Welfare organization was looking for different ways of development and relaxation (O & O) and for that

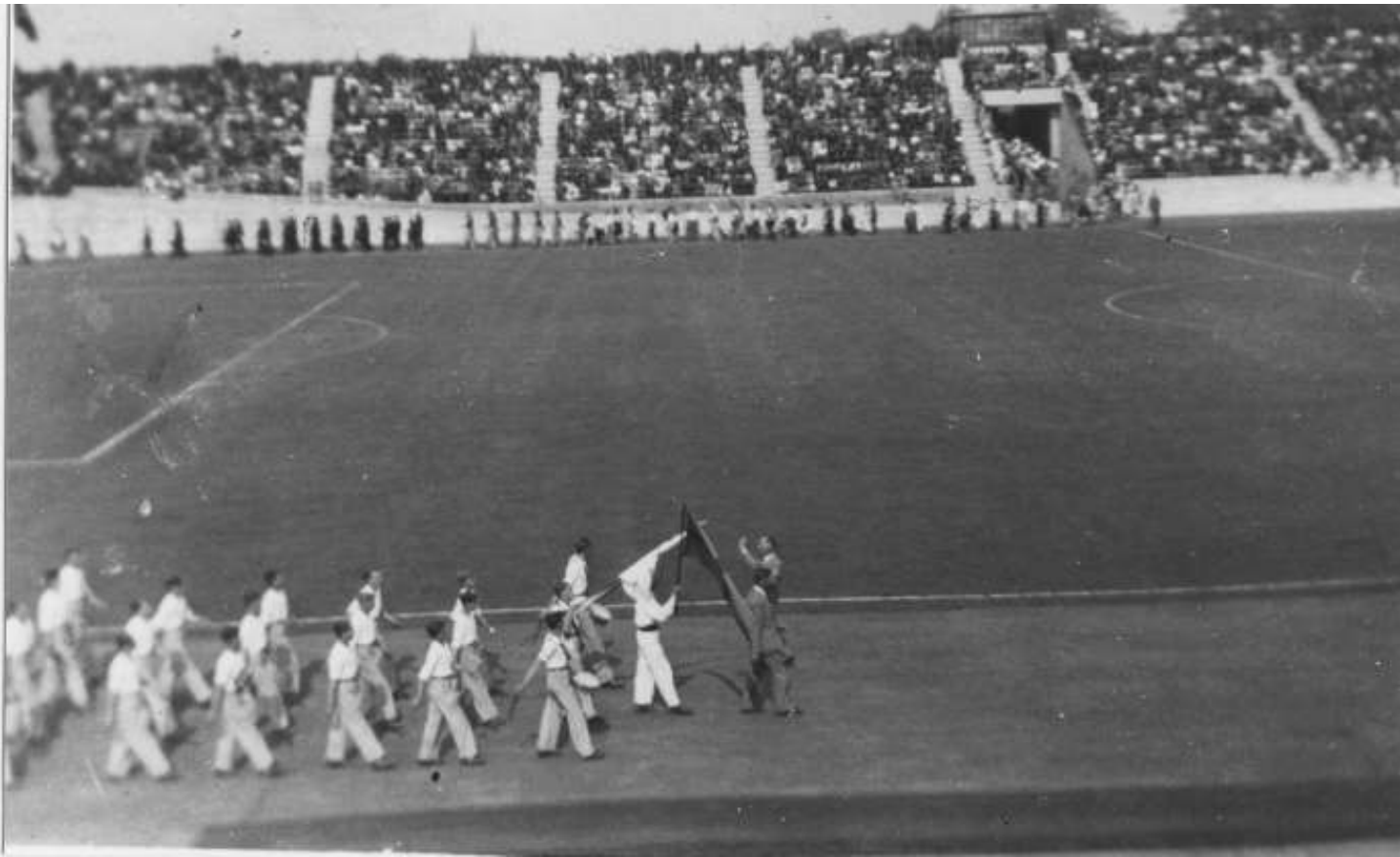
reason, after the lost years 1914/1915, the “Four Days Marches” were resumed in 1916 around camp Nieuw-Millingen on the Veluwe. The first World War ended November 11th 1918.

Twenty years later political tensions in the world increased again and our army was mobilized in September 1939. The Netherlands once again remained neutral. The NBvLO (the Dutch organization for gymnastics, the fore-runner of the Dutch Walking Union – KWBN) believed for that reason only a national “ Four Days Marches” could be realized in 1940> It was postponed several times, announced

again and was cancelled on June 16th. Newspaper “De Gelderlander” wrote : De NBvLO is waiting for better times.

Because the occupying power thought the people had a right to sports and relaxations, the Nijmegen Walking Association (NWV) organized the “The Four Days Marches in distress” in August 1940: On Thursday an evening walk of 15 km, on Friday 20 km and a 25 km march on Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday August 18th, a train coming from bombed Rotterdam, arrived in Nijmegen with a club of walkers. Those walkers had already walked 3 days in



An impression of the march-past at the end of the Four Days Marches in distress in 1940 on the cinder track of the Goffert stadium during the sports day for the purpose of the war victims. Photo: Unknown - Source: KNBLO-NL, Regionaal Archief Nijmegen

Rotterdam and finished their event in Nijmegen with a 30 km march. The march ended in the Goffert Stadium with a march-past Mayor Steinweg and march manager J.N.Breunesse.

The intended “Four Days Marches” of 1941 fell through because the authorities had banned out meetings of more than 5 people.

As a result, it was also impossible to organize (and walk) the “Four Days Marches” in the remaining years of the Second World War, although some people did so on an “individual” basis.

Very shortly after the liberation, it was not possible to organize the march in 1945, but in the last full week of July 1946, 4004 walkers returned tot the also bombed city of Nijmegen, some even on borrowed footwear.

Utrecht, Haarlem and Amsterdam would

have liked to “help” replace Nijmegen (temporarily) with the lay-out of the 30th “Four Days Marches”

75 Years after the liberation (and 74 events later) the “Four Days Marches” are cancelled again, now because of a health issue. The event was not threatened by the Spanish flu in 1918 (in The Netherlands), but it was already threatened in 1987 with “mad cow disease” and with Q-fever 20 years later.

Two years later, the Mexican flu prompted the naive question from a journalist whether the Mexicans could participate in the “Four Days Marches”. The 104th “Four Days Marches 2020” can not take place because of the Corona virus. We will have to live with it and wait for the “new normal” after the “Corona normal”.



Summarized:

The “Four Days Marches” did not take place in
1914 , 1915
1940-1945
2020

The unfinished 2006 event is to be considered as started and cancelled after the first day.

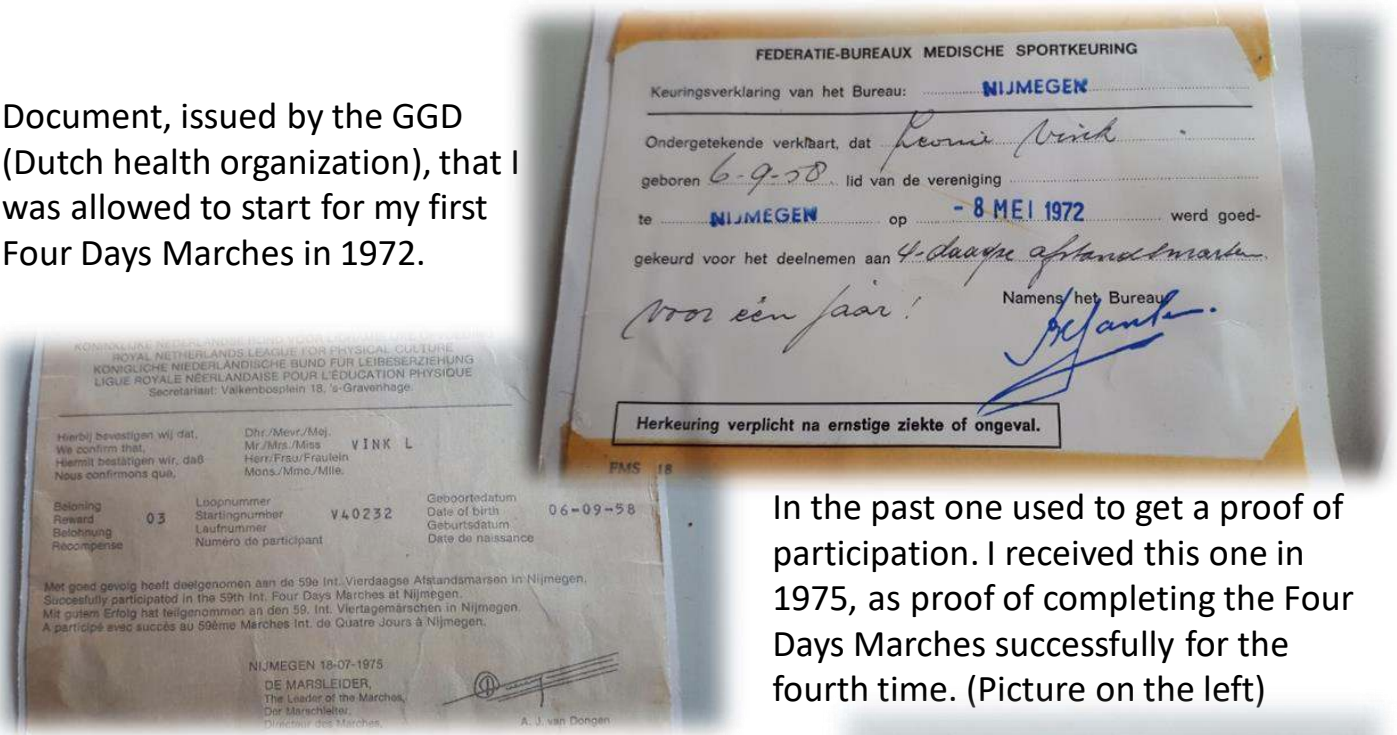


Photo: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Toon de Vos

Four Days Marches comic of.....

Leonie Vink

Document, issued by the GGD (Dutch health organization), that I was allowed to start for my first Four Days Marches in 1972.



In the past one used to get a proof of participation. I received this one in 1975, as proof of completing the Four Days Marches successfully for the fourth time. (Picture on the left)

My last Four Days Marches being part of the organization. As remembrance a picture with some of my colleagues.



In 1979 I was part of a group of the Protection Population (similar to British Home Guard and ceased to exist in 1986). I was very proud of course.

Four Days Marches comic of.....

Michiel van Reenen

My first and before last Four Days Marches. In both cases it was Drs. E. (Bert) van Rijssen MBA who pinned up the medal.



During my first Four Days Marches I met record holder Annie Berkhout during the last kilometer. It was her 65th time. A moment of deep respect from my side, which I will never forget. Like many other Four Days Marches moments.

My final meters.
Consummatum est: golden cross, with crown.



A ritual that was withheld from me in 2005 (due to shortening of distances) and in 2006 (due to cancellation), like singing the Dutch National Anthem when entering Grave: kissing the ground after Balgoy upon reaching the dike near Niftrik.

Four Days Marches comic of.....

Francien van den Heuvel



Four Days Marches 1970, as 14-year-old I was allowed to participate for the first time; with our youth-association W.S.C.J.C.H. from 's-Hertogenbosch. On Friday we were walking in uniform, a grey pleated skirt, white polo and green sweats. I am left on the photo and my friend Marian Besems on the right.

Four Days Marches 1972, my third. When we came back home on Saturday, neighbours decorated the street and a group photo needed to be made of course. I'm sitting fourth from left, back row.



Four Days Marches 2011, a special one for me. After not being able to participate in 2008 due to worn hips and having to abandon in 2009 and 2010 due to health issues, I succeeded in 2011. On this picture I am together with my husband Gerard Aarts.

Four Days Marches 2013, after another four hip surgeries I received the medal for 40 successful participations from bureauclist Janny Versteeg. A nice anniversary to cherish.



Four Days Marches comic of.....

Ferry Rinsampessy

2007



2007 - De dike between Oosterhout and Lent/Nijmegen. The first day after 2006, the year of the cancellation after the first day.

2008



2008 – Under all circumstances you meet friends or make new friends. On the way together with my walking brother Joasab Risamasu, probably to Wijchen. We would walk miles and miles together for many years.

2009



2009 – Together with Moluccan and Papuan friends and acquaintances we sang all week long. Many walkers joint us. Besides musicality and the nice ambiance, we could feel the solidarity.

2015- First time ever for me to abandon. It was on the first day. Because I always carry the flags of East-Timor and South-Moluccas I walked on to the finish. I arrived at 17:10. These flags symbolize not only my ancestry, but also my parents. A year later, the 100th edition, I had to abandon again; this time due to the heat on the second day. Finish at 17:05. Due to this I would complete the Four Days Marches for te 25th time on the 50km in 2020. Unfortunately this is not going to happen because of the cancellation due to Covid-19.

2015



The story behind the cancellation

Henny Sackers about a 2020 without the Four Days Marches

It's a sunny day at the end of May when -while practicing social distancing- I sit down with Henny Sackers, March Coordinator of the Four Days Marches.

It has been a while since the announcement that the 2020 edition of the Marches was cancelled. However, many people – Henny not the least of them – have not overcome their disappointment about the cancellation. Henny takes us through the events leading up to the cancellation.

Written by Arjan Versteeg

He takes us back to January of this year. The weather circumstances in 2018 and particularly in 2019 (it turned extremely hot right after the Marches) made people realize how incredibly lucky they had been, and the Board knew it had to prepare for other scenarios. Because one day we wouldn't be so lucky: it was very well possible that future editions would have to be cancelled (either leading up to or during that week) because of extreme weather, just like what happened in 2006. It is the Board's responsibility to make sure that a financial blow like that can be handled.

In order to be able to survive another cancellation, the Board then decided to raise the registration fee to € 100. This was supposed to be a temporary raise, for 2020 only. Of course, at that time, no one expected that this would all become very real, very quickly... Because the painful truth was that the desired financial buffer had not been realized. Henny points out that quite a few people complained about the raise of the fee. However, the current situation has proved that it was the right decision, although it is very bitter to have to find that out in this way.

Henny then takes us to the start of registration – the moment when journalists already had started to ask questions about the possible impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Four Days Marches. Henny then indicated that the Board would evaluate the situation around May 1; a decision that he fully supported at that moment, because even

though some events, such as training marches, were already being canceled, there did not seem to be any reason yet to prepare for all sorts of doom scenarios.

Soon it became clear that the number of registrations was increasing very quickly. Henny notes that if the COVID-19 pandemic had not happened, the limit would have been reached, just like in a usual year, and a lottery would have to be held. This was the situation around March 1, about four weeks into the registration period; neither the higher registration fee nor the COVID-19 threat seemed to have any effect.

Until the mid of March, no one really realized how quickly the virus was spreading around the world. However, it soon became clear that this was going to be a very serious threat.

'It was then when the Board had a terrible dilemma', Henny said. 'You know that there is a high risk that your event cannot take place, but you don't want to cancel prematurely, in case a cancellation will turn out to be unnecessary. You have to think about 45,000 participants, who would be very disappointed, and you have to consider the economic effects of the Four Days Marches week on the Nijmegen region.'

Moreover, the Marches had never before been cancelled in peacetime. The Board was facing a terrible dilemma.

However, the bigger the threat became, the less of a dilemma it was. At some point, all you can do is hope for a small

miracle, and still be prepared for the slightest chance that the Marches will be held.

Henny indicates that the secretariat continued the normal daily operations and communication, even though the chances of the Four Days Marches actually happening became smaller every day.

Around March 20 the Board members – who are all volunteers – were no longer able to meet physically; meetings were to take place remotely. But the COVID-19 situation had a bigger impact on the staff members in the office. Measures such as the 6-feet distance forced people to work from home. That was not an issue for the regular staff, but during the registration period there are a lot of temporary workers. They simply can't work from home: they have to answer phone calls and emails, and need to be coached continuously. It was also around this time that the organization had to face the financial consequences of a near-certain cancellation of the 2020 Marches, which had to be estimated in all their details.

Many people were wondering at that time why registration remained open. Henny explains that hindsight is 20/20, but like the Dutch Prime-Minister used to say during that time: you need to take a 100% good decision while only 50% of the facts and insights are available. That same principle applied to the Board of the Four Days Marches.

Finally, it was the Dutch government who decided on April 21 that no events should be held until September 1. In the press



Photo: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Ger Loeffen

conference, the Four Days Marches were specifically mentioned. That was when it all became clear to the outside world. Since the Board had already prepared for this very scenario, an email went out to the registrants that same night. A month earlier, it had already been communicated that the Board would try to do its best to return as much money as possible. That promise has been kept, by working extremely hard, Henny says. During this time, all efforts were made to keep all costs normally associated with the Marches at a bare minimum. The Board also looked into the multi-year contracts with its usual suppliers, such as for the stands and barriers. The advantage of these contracts is that one can negotiate discounts. However, those discounts are given under certain legal constructions such as cancellation provisions. This means that in some cases a certain percentage must be paid, even though no product or service has been delivered. In other cases, products had

actually been delivered, for example the 50,000 wrist bands; they had to be delivered early, because otherwise there would not be enough time to link them to the registrants' barcodes. According to Henny, most major suppliers have proven to be incredibly loyal; they have decided to keep working with the Four Days Marches, to avoid mutual claims if possible and to renew contracts for another year, both parties wishing each other good luck to overcome all the difficulties. There is another group of financial stakeholders that should not be forgotten: the sponsors. Enormous amounts are involved here, and these contracts have similar stipulations as the suppliers' contracts. A sponsor pays a certain amount to the Four Days Marches based on exposure. If there is no or only partial exposure, there will be financial consequences. For example, Iowa is the main sponsor on the letterhead and website, but its main exposure takes place during the week itself.

Obviously, that will not happen this year, as a result of which Iowa (and other sponsors) only have to pay a small portion of their sponsor contribution. However, the Four Days Marches budget is based on a 100% contribution. In short, this is what the Board has been dealing with for weeks; these matters cannot be taken care of by a simple email. When asked if there is no 'force majeure' clause in these contracts, Henny indicates that there is, but none of the parties involved wants to invoke this clause. Sure, these are business dealings, but at the same time we are acting in the Four Days Marches atmosphere. None of the major sponsors wants to further jeopardize the Marches. In this respect, in times of need, one really gets to know one's friends. 'And let there be no doubt about this: the Four Day Marches are facing real problems,' Henny says. However, in the case of the participants, the walkers, one cannot apply the 'force majeure' stipulation. Consumer law says

However, in the case of the participants, the walkers, one cannot apply the ‘force majeure’ stipulation. Consumer law says that one has the right to demand a full restitution if services are not rendered, even though in this case the situation was out of the control of the Four Days Marches foundation.

The Board set up crisis teams for financial matters and for communication in order to take action quickly. KWBN assisted in this matter. The result is that the registrants have received a refund of € 62,50. According to Henny, this is currently the maximum amount that the foundation can bear. Because besides the missed income and incurred cost as mentioned, there is also a building to be maintained, and personnel that needs to be paid.

We’re moving away from the business side of things, and start talking about the personal implications. How has all this impacted Henny personally? He admits

that the impact was massive. No one had any experience with a situation like the pandemic, in spite of the scenarios and protocols having been optimized as a result of what happened in 2006, the impact of the Mexican Flue, and the MH-17 situation. There was, however, no scenario that took into account a cancellation like this one.

The 104th edition would have been marked by the 75th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands. One of the special arrangements was the presence of a Canadian military band and we expected a fantastic edition. And then, it’s all gone. It clearly affects Henny deeply on a personal level. And the thought of being the first March Leader in history without an actual March is not very cheerful. It is not a label that you want after having dedicated all your energy to the marches for a whole year, in such a passionate way. As far as responses from registrants are concerned, Henny says that a small mino-

ity responded in a very nasty and unpleasant way. Another small group, however, showed really heart-warming reactions. Several members of our Association reached out to show their support, and that clearly means a lot to our former chairman.

The vast majority, however, did not respond. The partial restitution has been widely accepted without discussion. Henny sees that as a sign that it is acceptable to the walkers, because they understand that the Board has done the best it could.

However, the restitution will have its impact on the foundation. Henny explains that they are in fact stuck between two obligations: the obligation to pay back the whole amount, and the obligation to preserve the Four Days Marches as an intangible part of our cultural heritage. No matter how much the foundation would like to return the remaining regi-



Photo: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Carliet Wortelboer

stration fee, it simply can't: it would mean the end of the Four Days Marches. This situation could possibly change later this year, if the Dutch government decides to give some support, but there are many other events that are in the same situation.

'The financial situation of the Four Days Marches is certainly not bad', Henny says. In the past years, they were at a break-even point (except for the 100th anniversary), and any positive amounts have been invested in making quality improvements, i.e. improvements in the app, but also news tickers and more toilets, also for the disabled. In other words: the investments have always been beneficial for the participants. As a result, there was no financial buffer, and the Board had planned to start building that this year. There is no other safety net, such as an event insurance. Henny tells me that in the past, this was thoroughly looked into, but the premiums of such insurance are

simply much too high – the registration fees would be exorbitantly high. After looking back, we end our conversation by looking forward, and talk about what the future of the Four Days Marches will hold.

At this point in time, it is hard to make any prediction. In September of this year, the preparations for next year's edition will start as usual. Henny thinks it is important to try to stay positive and to communicate that to the public. There is a chance that next summer large events will be allowed and one is morally obliged to start these preparations.

If necessary, those preparations will include the evaluation of possible scenarios that had been discussed for 2020: an edition just for the Dutch, or moving the Four Days Marches to August or the fall break. These were all alternatives that were not deemed feasible for this year. It is possible that the 6-feet society will still apply in 2021, and that would impact

the organization of the Marches. How would it be possible to guarantee those 6 feet? This could change the organization of stands, the start, checkpoints, just to name a few things.

There are also some lessons that we have learned during the COVID-19 crisis. For example, in the future more meetings could take place remotely, which will cut back on travel expenses. However, any such cuts would need to be considered carefully; after all, the Four Days Marches are a social event – and that is likewise the case for the many volunteers. They really appreciate their personal bond, just like the participants do.

Henny finishes by saying that these lessons are the good things that have come out of this rather dark period, because, he says, 'these past three months are absolutely the toughest months I have ever experienced in my time in the Board of the Four Days Marches.'



Photo: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Toon de Vos

What you wear is what you look like

This article is about how walking gear evolved through the years

Walking gear has lost a lot of length over the last years, or wearing long trousers that changed into medium long through short and into even shorter yet!

In the first half of the 20th century a pair of trousers became a symbol of emancipation, a continuing change in how we think, after all the world changes all the time. From 1934 on till 2020, the whole 86 years a lot has changed.

This is a contribution of Kees Brinkman

Clothing is a subject that made some people publish articles like Ir. J. de Vries who wrote a very large and serious article about what he thought walkers and female walkers should wear or not wear. He published in the “Telegraaf” (a Dutch newspaper) from July 7th 1934 with the title “What you wear is what you look like” (in Dutch a saying De kleren maken den man)

Following is a summary of his long publication:

In the Four Days Marches regulations there are rules regarding excessive ways of dressing during the walking event. In the early days a female walker would wear a pair of breeches or a training outfit and a male walker could wear an old fashioned swimsuit, because of the rules those excesses hardly occur anymore. A ridiculous way of dressing up is not really wanted. Wearing for example Sombrello’s, tall hats, bolar hats, yellow pants or bright red or bright green shirts may seem very ridiculous for Four Days Marches bystanders. It is not a fair or public

entertainment! There is a big difference in the way people dress themselves. Unity in the way walkers dress is a wish for every organizer of walking events. Airy and effective. For gentlemen the most effective dress is a long pair of pants and a sport-shirt. White pants are not what you would like to wear. One could also choose a plusfour (pants with wide legs). The shirt that is worn should have short sleeves and should be open at the neck. Underwear must be airy. As headgear a floppy hat, a quartercap or the top of a hat (cut out of an old hat) may do.

For ladies it is recommended to wear a loose dress, a not too long skirt and a loose blouse. Don’t wear your belt too tight and leave walking medals and other stuff at home during walking. At last the advice: Dress decent!

Regulations issued by the 4-daagse in 1936 focuses on the ladies, walking in skipants, training outfits and breeches is forbidden. They didn’t know jeans and shorts at that time but it is sure that those would be in the blacklist also. These regulations were still in force for years and it was the cause that in 1968 the female contestants of the “Schweizerisches Marschbattalion” (Swiss marchbattalion) had to make skirts specially for the Four Days Marches because their standard outfit only came with trousers and those were banned.

Another publisher, Kees Brands, wrote on July 22nd 1971 in “De Tijd” (Dutch news-media) about the July meeting of the “Gouden Kruisdragers” this article bore



Painting of squire Mr. W.W. Feith

the title “How to go about in the Rijk van Nijmegen”

The Four Days Marches (already the 53rd edition) doesn’t go easy. There are quite some different ceremonies in advance. Like the meeting of the “Vereniging Gouden Kruisdragers” There are already about 7000 of those Cross Bearers, but only a few attended the meeting before the big starting event. The Cross Bearers gathered in the “Kolpinghouse” in the Smethiusstraat which is an excellent place for the Golden Cross Bearers. It happened yesterday in rooms decorated with garlands, there where pipe-smoking gentlemen (there were lady cross bearers too, most of them didn’t smoke at all) wearing their pants nearly under their armpits (as far as I know a typical dress of experienced Four Days Marches walkers at the time) all waiting for the opening words of the



82 year old chairman, squire W. W. Feith (former judge) who will, hopefully, accomplish his 33rd Four Days Marches.

Squire Feith born in 1899 and passed away october 19, 1973 followed a legal career that ended in being the president of the court of Groningen. Mr. Feith was the first chairmain of the association, from 1951 till he deceased. No less than 35 times he finished successfully.

The colourful crowd 2019

One writes a lengthy and serious part about how to dress during the march another is more loose about this issue. How does the organisation stand up to it nowadays? Regulations 2019, article 8 says: Throughout the Four Days Marches, it is forbid-

den for participants to: - express any political views; - behave or dress offensively or dangerously. Clothing should always be decent and the upper body must be covered at all times. You may ask yourself the question, what is decent clothing, and what is decent behaviour, everyone looks at it at a different angle and what is right?

If I can say something about it? From my first 4-days marches in 1955 till now , there is barely any change in how military detachments dress. The amount of civilian groups in uniform has decreased by the year. The majority of 4-days walkers are individuals who, themselves, determine what they wear and what they take with them, they literally color the 4-days marches, they make

it real colorfull event. They all have the same goal, but the way they dress from hat till shoes is totally different. Everyone his own free choice. I think it's all right an enjoy it all.

Thanks tot he regional archive Nijmegen for the meeting report 1971.



Almost uniform dressed participants walking 40km, here between Valburg and Slijk-Ewijk on the first day of the 72nd Four Days Marches in 1988.
Photo: Wim Bloothoofd, Heiloo
Source: KNBLO-NL, Regionaal Archief Nijmegen

It's quiet outside

2020

The last couple of years, the northern shore of the Waal underwent a huge transformation due to which the route of the first day now passes the Lentse Warande.



The first flag parade new style started here as well.

Will we walk here in dusk again next year?

2021?



Photo above: Arjan Versteeg

Photo below: Stixhting DE 4DAAGSE – Hans Teunissen

It's quiet outside

How happy we were that, after having to wait for the railroad crossing in Elst year in year out, a tunnel was finally made.

In 2020, it will be very quiet here in the third full week of July, but in 2021 hopefully not.



Photo above: Arjan Versteeg

Photo below: Tiny Kouters

It's quiet outside

2020



De Waalbrug, an icon. Perhaps one of the locations during the Four Days Marches which is photographed the most.

Last year, construction works were affecting us; that's something that will not bother us this year though.

The end of the renovation is not known yet, but hopefully we can cross a fully renovated bridge again next year.

Photo above: Arjan Versteeg
Photo below: Ronald van der Schot



2021?

It's quiet outside

2020



Until a few years ago, 3FM radio station was located here early morning already to broadcast live. A less striking location, but most of you will probably recognize it: the road – through the forest – towards Alverna on the second day.

2021?



Photo above: Arjan Versteeg

Photo below: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE – Ger Loeffen

It's quiet outside

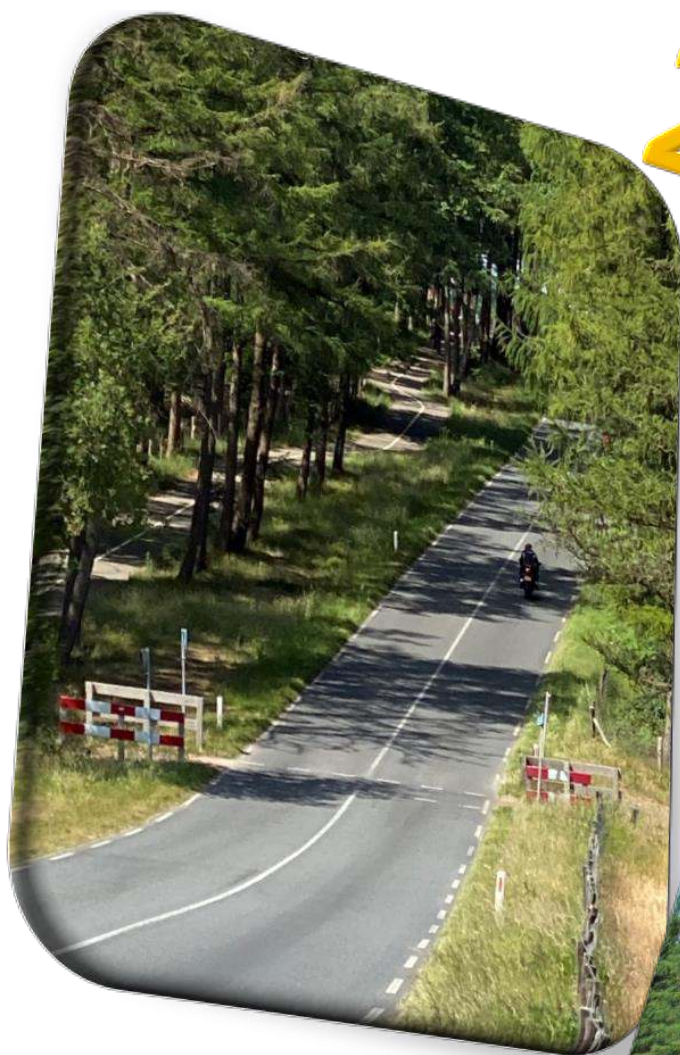


The center of Groesbeek is always a true party; the number of bystanders is tremendous. People will have to wait for another year unfortunately.



Photo above: Arjan Versteeg
Photo below: Frans Leijters

It's quiet outside



2020

Zevenheuvelenweg; Huge amount of people alongside the road. People with motorhomes wait in lines to enter this road to find a good spot. How different it is this year; the Zevenheuvelenweg is almost unrecognizable

2021?



Photo above: Arjan Versteeg
Photo below: Tiny Kouters

It's quiet outside

2020



Who doesn't know them:
the towers of Cuijk.
During the Four Days
Marches there's normally
a pontoon bridge here.
Now, you will have to take
a ferry to cross the water;
just like any other day in
the year.

2021?



Photo above: Arjan Versteeg
Photo below: Tiny Kouters

It's quiet outside

2020

On the last day of the Four days Marches, the monument in remembrance of the deceased walkers in 2006 is being buried in gladiolus, but not this year.

Visiting the statue this year in the third full week of July will give you the chance to have a good look at it though.



2021?

Photo above: Arjan Versteeg
Photo below: Martin Raasveld

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.

D. de Graaf	Bussum	W. Smits-Theijssen	Volkel
E. van de Heetkamp	Arnhem	J.J. van Dorp	Meppel
A. Sent	Millingen aan de Rijn	J. van Nugteren	Beek
H. van den Ekart	Schijndel	P. Gijzen	Zegveld
J. van Driel-Theunissen	Uden	C. Koumendakos	Nijmegen
T. Roelofs	Weurt	J.G. Kooij	Utrecht
W. Bloksma	Gouda	H.J. van den Bosch	Arnhem
H. Dijkstra	Delft	A.W.M. Anemaat	Vught
A.M.J. Peters	Roosendaal		



Kronenburg Park in Nijmegen.
Source: ahundt, Pixabay.com

Portrait of a member



Name: Roland Peters
Place of residence: Wijchen
Age: almost 55

How would you describe yourself in one sentence?
I am a sporty type, I love challenges, I like to keep moving and I like to help other people.

What do you do for a living?
I'm a pastry chef.

What makes you happy?
Winter sports, sport achievements, the fact that I have climbed the Grossvenediger (3,674 meters), nature, having spotted wild animals
The seasons, especially the autumn colors and snow

Why did you start walking the Vierdaagse?
You could say that my love for the Vierdaagse has been passed down in my genes. I have been motivated by my father who has been able to finish 31 times. But also uncles, aunts, cousins and nieces, practically the whole family, participate or have participated (24 persons)

How many times have you finished the Vierdaagse?
40 times

What is your secret to a successful Vierdaagse?
Try to walk in a relaxed way.
Try to turn it into a party; you are also on time if you finish at a quarter to five.

What is your most special meeting during the Vierdaagse, and do you have other special memories?
I have in particular special memories of the 100th Vierdaagse. I walked the 55km, because my father used to do the same in the old days. In June 2016 he was in the last phase of his life, but I was able to

Speak with him about it. Unfortunately he passed away before the 100th and he could not witness it, but in my mind he was with me. He was my greatest fan. HE WAS ALWAYS THERE!

What is the last walk that you have done?
The winter series in the village of Escharen

Is there something you want to add?
I wish that people would become a bit more tolerant





Participants walking 40km are enjoying the displays on in Lienden on the fourth day of the 88th Four Days Marches. Strange birds and other animals is the theme.
Photo: Jan van Teeffelen
Source: KNBLO-NL, Regionaal Archief Nijmegen