



GOLD!

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Magazine van de Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse

In dit nummer:

- A new honorary member
- 1953, a year close to a walking disaster
- More lustrum rewards





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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: Louis Titselaar*

We need you!

It's almost that time of the year again: in a few weeks, the Four Days Marches will start! Have you been preparing from the start of the year? Or are you someone who walks the whole year round? Or are you no longer participating, and following the events from the sidelines? Regardless of our preparations, every year we are all looking forward to this fantastic event again. And every year again, I am just filled with admiration for the organization and its many volunteers, who manage to turn the marches into such a memorable event, year after year. And, of course, admiration for the tens of thousands of walkers who come to Nijmegen from all over the world – well-trained or not – to have 'a little walk around the block' together.

Every year, the success of the event depends on these people. And this is actually true for all activities. Without people who invent, organize and participate, it is simply not possible to hold an event. It was sad to see such a clear demonstration of this rule last January, when I participated in the 'Oliebollenwalk' in the Dutch town of Apeldoorn. (Oliebollen are traditional Dutch doughnut-like cakes that are eaten around New Year). It was the last edition of the walk, because local walking club EAWC Wandellust has to stop organizing the event due to a lack of volunteers. It's a pity, but this is a widespread phenomenon. The numbers of members of walking clubs are dropping and the average age of the members is rising. Young people who like walking, do this often in a non-organized setting or they search for alternative ways to walk, such as in the form of geocaching.

In our association, we also depend on volunteers to have our plans carried out. There are enough plans, but there is a shortage of people to realize them. Why precisely do we need these people? We need them to organize or help organize activities, such as the reunion, the flag parade and the Powered By-walks. And to take photos, to maintain our website and to monitor our Facebook page. In addition, we also need new board members. We are planning a speed date session in the autumn where we would like to get to know all the people who want to do some work for the association. We will draw up a list of all the tasks that will have to be fulfilled. If you are able to handle a task and you want to do your bit, we would like to see you at this autumn session. Keep an eye to your email, our website and our Facebook page for further information. You can also register beforehand by just sending an email to voorzitter@goudenkruisdragers.nl.

On behalf of the board I would like to wish you a beautiful summer with much hiking pleasure. We hope to see you at our General Assembly on the Four Days Marches Monday, 15th of July, in the Kolpinghuis in Nijmegen!

Leonie Vink
Chair of the Golden Cross Bearers Association



Foto: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Hans Teunissen

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Lustrum rewards

When achieving a lustrum (15x, 20th time etc.) our members will receive a reward; a pendant for the ladies and a pin for the gentlemen. Being a member of our association for at least two years is a condition for receiving the award though. Members wear their reward on occasion to show their performance.

For your information: An lustrum (anniversary) is a period of 5 years or celebrating the end of a period of five years. The lustrum was originally a sacrificial festival that the Romans held every five years.

In recent years we have often experienced disappointments from members who did not receive their lustrum reward in time. That indeed happened and the reason for that is: we don't know, of course, which members are participating in the Four Days Marches and are entitled to a lustrum reward. We have to contact Stichting DE 4DAAGSE about this. For an adequate check immediately after the Four Days Marches, we do need correct data.

If there are differences between our member registration and the registration of the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE, then the check will go wrong. We compare by name, initials, zip code, gender and date of birth and, when available, also on the Four Day Marches registration number (which we did not have in our records



Foto: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Ger Loeffen

until recently). At the beginning of this year, all members, of whom we had the correct e-mail address, were asked to provide us with the Four Days Marches registration number in the next year that they are entitled to a lustrum reward. Many members have already done that, but certainly not all.

We therefore ask everyone who has registered this year and is counting on a lustrum reward to send an e-mail to ed.hendriks@goudenkruisdragers.nl with mention of Wandelpas KWBN / GKD member number, surname, initials, Four Days Marches 4Days registration number and the number of successful participations in the Four Days Marches (incl 2019).

The coming years we will repeat this request, so that ultimately our registration is complete. You only have to provide the Four Daus Marches registration number once.

GKD-Shirt

Due to multiple requests, we chose to issue a shirt without a year on it. It is a white, technical shirt with the logo of our association. A picture and further information will be e-mailed seperately and

will be published on our website. This year, for the first time, it will be possible to collect the shirt on Sunday at the Wedren as well.

Flag parade

As we shared earlier, Stichting DE 4DAAGSE asked us if we would like to carry flags at this year's flag parade (Sunday July 14 starting 15:30 hrs.). Our association has been assigned 36 flags. We would like to participate in the flag parade with a big group (at least 36 people to carry the flags) and we would like to show everybody that we are an association.

Purchase of the shirt when participating in the parade is highly appreciated! Are you interested in participating? Please get in touch with Rino Hamelink at rino.hamelink@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Rectification

In the Dutch version of GOUD! of last December, the name of the writer of 'From the members' fell off. The contribution was made by Kees Brinkman.

Office365

With around 3700 members we are quite



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a big association. It's not just a high amount, but our members can be found throughout The Netherlands and even in other countries; the same applies to our board members and volunteers. In order to improve communication and collaboration we are currently implementing Office365. This allows us to work on the same document in parallel with others, but also to make our archive more accessible to all board members.

By using programs like Skype and Microsoft Teams we even have the opportunity to arrange online meetings. We will test this functionality later this year for the first time. Implementation of Office365 will lead to a more professional way of working and should lead to more efficiency and reduction in workload.

Do you have tips yourself that could help

our association? Please let us know through redactie@goudenkruisdragers.nl

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 chan-

ges to ledenadministratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl. Thanks in advance.

Cancellation of membership

The board asks you urgently to announce your intention of terminating your membership per 2020 before 1st of October 2019. The membership will be terminated at 31st of December 2019. We will be able to report your termination to the KWBN in time.

After 1st of October 2019 you owe the membership fee for 2020, since our association has to pay remittance 2020 to KWBN. Be aware of these regulations, it prevents a lot of annoyance in case of late terminations.



Foto: Stichting DE 4DAAGSE - Ger Loeffen

Concept minutes of meeting

Draft

These are the concept minutes of the meeting of the general members meeting on April 6 2019. The complete minutes will be published and can be downloaded from the website three weeks before the general members meeting on July 15 2019.

28 members gather for the general meeting at the Kolpinghuis in Nijmegen; however, the attendance list has with certainty not been signed by a number of members.

Opening by the Chair

The Chair welcomes all those present and, of course, in particular honorary members Mr. Bert van der Lans and Mr. Henny Sackers, and also member of merit Mrs. Gien Langen-van Kolck. Absent with notice are board members Mr. Frans Leijten and Mr. Rino Hamelink as well as Mr. Marcel Claassen and Mr. Wim Zeegers. The Chair reviews the past year. The number of members has stabilized at around 3,700; two issues of our magazine GOUD! Were published and "Powered by"-walks were organized in Bellinghen and Woerden. Furthermore, a new club shirt was introduced and an ambassador for the Asia-Pacific region was installed, Eiji Takemoto. At the previous meeting, a covenant with the Vierdaagse administration was signed, which states the agreements that we have made, such as the yearly consultation with the Vierdaagse. Many of our members successfully finished the Marches in 2018, among whom leader Bert van der Lans, who received his 71st cross, closely followed by Mr. Dick Koopman with 69 completed Marches. As many as 393 members had a special jubilee, for which they received a lustrum award by mail. Unfortunately, as a result of differences between our membership list and the list used by the Vierdaagse administration, things did not always go well. For as far as we have been able to find the administrative mistakes, everyone received their reward in the end. In our membership records, we shall from now on also register the number that is used to register for the Marches; provided of course that the members in-

form us of this number. Our new birthday cards were much appreciated. In the view of a lack of interest, the reunion planned for September was cancelled. In February, our board had their annual consultation with the board of the Four Days Marches Association. One of the topics was the obstructions of the route during the Marches, such as the town centre of Wijchen and the Hertogstraat on the second day. The latter in particular has been paid attention to by the Vierdaagse in their evaluation. Furthermore, the rules concerning dispensation of the starting time on medical grounds have been abolished. Excluded from this are walkers who received dispensation in 2017 or 2018; they will be exempted one more time. This alteration is due to the new privacy regulations which no longer allow the Vierdaagse to have access to the medical files of those concerned. The starting area will be rearranged. The 30 and 40km bureaus are as of old in the Julianapark, but this time in the shade; the 50km bureaus are on the other side in the small park on Prins Bernhardstraat. Starting tickets for an early start will no longer be issued, which puts a stop to the exchange of starting tickets. Nevertheless, it is always allowed to have a late start. At this point the Chairman is interrupted by the question if the walker knows whether he or she has an early start. On being asked, Henny Sackers confirms that this is the case. One member suggest creating the option to change the starting time online. Leonie continues and says that the starting time for the 40kms will be advanced by a quarter of an hour in order to spread the walkers more evenly along the route. There are no changes in the routes worth mentioning, but this year, too, the 30km walkers will do more extra miles compared to the other distances. The route markers are dependent on the infrastruc-

ture and the permissions by councils and police. There is a fair bit of criticism that the route on Wednesday follows the Waal Quay, instead of leading through the city centre. That, in its turn, is due to the fact that that market vendors refuse to make way. In exactly 100 days the 103rd edition will commence. Leonie concludes by mentioning that in total 52,330 people had enlisted; the drawing of lots reduced this number to 47,000 participants. Next, the members who have passed away since the last general meeting are remembered.

Incoming correspondence and announcements by the Board

No correspondence has been received and there are no further statements by the board.

Minutes of the General Meeting of 16 July 2018

The minutes are passed unaltered, with thanks to the secretary.

Annual report of the Board on 2018

The annual report, drafted by the secretary, is presented to the members. The meeting welcomes the report, which is adopted unaltered. After that, treasurer Ed Hendriks informs the meeting on the annual accounts. Ed explains, among other things, that the underlined amounts in the overview turned out to be lower than budgeted. "We are quite economical", says Ed, "and that produces a surplus of € 12,800". Mr. Jan Woordes asks how the surplus will be allocated. The treasurer explains that the surplus will be added to the reserves, also with a view to the 70th anniversary in two years. Mr. Bert van der Lans asks about the cost of the cancelled reunion. Ed answers that the reunion is supposed to cover its own cost; however, there have of course been some

cancellation costs. Mr. Ton van 't Hullenaar asks about the stock in jubilee rewards. The treasurer explains that the stock has been activated as an asset on the balance, and that the yearly use will be charged to the profit and loss account.

Report of the Financial Committee

The Chair mentions that the agenda uses the old term for this committee ('kascommissie') in error, but this name is of course no longer in use. Mrs. Ynske van den Brakel-Visser gives an explanation on behalf of the committee. On 16 March, the books were examined by the committee members then present, Mr. Theo Vermeer, Mr. Michiel Boot and Ynske, in the presence of the treasurer. Ed reported that the treasury matters had been handed over well by Mrs. Francien van den Heuvel.

Payments, transfers and the like, are now all being processed digitally, partly due to a new bookkeeping system. This made it also possible to send the annual accounts to the committee in advance, together with the annexes. Moreover, the documents that are to be audited, have now been reduced to a single file only. This enabled the committee members to study the documents at home and to concentrate the meeting on posing questions and making remarks. The questions and remarks only led to additional explanations on various items on the accounts. They did not result in comments on the accounts themselves. Therefore, the committee proposes the general meeting to adopt the annual accounts and, as a consequence, to grant discharge to the treasurer and the board as a whole for the policy they have pursued in 2018. The members approve this by acclamation. The Chair concludes that the members have discharged the board for their policy in 2018 and thanks them for their full confidence. She also thanks the Financial Committee for their activities, which are highly appreciated.

Appointment of the Financial Committee

The Chair mentions that the agenda still uses the name 'Financial Committee

2018', although this committee is now a permanent committee instead of being appointed just for every single year. The Chair further informs the meeting that, according to the rotation schedule of the committee, Ynske van den Brakel-Visser resigns and is not eligible for re-appointment. The financial committee proposes to appoint Mr. Michiel Boot, who serves already as a reserve member of the committee, in her place. The meeting approves this by acclamation.

The Chair then announces that Mr. Ruurd van Slageren is also resigning by rotation, but he is eligible for re-appointment. She asks whether the meeting agrees to his re-appointment. The members approve this by acclamation. The Chair remarks that these decisions mean that we have to find a new reserve member. Mrs. Joke Poppe presents herself at the meeting. The members approve her appointment as a reserve member, again by acclamation. The Chair concludes that Michiel Boot and Ruurd van Slageren have been appointed and reappointed respectively as members of the financial committee, and that Joke Poppe has been appointed as reserve member. Ynske van den Brakel-Visser thanks the board, and in particular the treasurer, for the agreeable cooperation.

Budget 2020 and membership fees

The Chair gives the floor to the treasurer, who outlines the budget. On the revenue side, the income from member fees has been estimated more carefully compared to the usual estimations in the previous years, while on the cost side the same approach has been applied to items that used to have underspending. On balance, this leads to a budgeted positive result of € 4,627.

Member of honour and former Chair Henny Sackers is slightly worried about the year this budget concerns; is this really '2010' as mentioned on the Powerpoint slide? Fortunately, the Chair can quickly take away these worries. Mr. Pieter Hiemstra asks for some explanation on the term 'safer budgeting'. The Chair then

announces that the Board proposes the members to determine the membership fee for the association year 2020 on € 10.00 before addition of the remittance to KWBN (the National Dutch Walking Association). This remittance amounts € 16.00 for the full KWBN package (walking pass, magazine and walking program) and € 10.00 for the walking pass only. Bert van der Lans wants to know if the content of the 'package' is still the same. The Chair confirms this. Mr. Ton Swart, supported by Mr. Henk Bergamin, remarks that the general meeting of KWBN had decided to approve the budget for each year – including the remittances – not any longer in October of the preceding year, but in the spring of the year itself. Also, the remittances have been increased every year up to and including 2019, while they will now remain the same. The members approve the budget, including the proposal for the membership fees, by acclamation.

Election of the Board

Leonie informs us that for two Board members the terms are ending. Francie de Leeuw is not up for re-election, whereas Leonie is. Firstly, Leonie wants to address the resignation of Francie and asks her to leave the room. She then proceeds to tell the attendees about the enormous amounts of work carried out by Francie, ever since becoming a Board member in 2001. Article 5.3 allows awarding an honorary membership to those who have shown extraordinary service to the organization. This certainly applies to Francie. Therefore, the Board has asked the Nomination Committee to nominate Francie as an Honorary Member, to which the Committee wholeheartedly agreed. The Board now proposes the members to award Francie the honorary membership – next to Bert van der Lans, Henny Sackers and Francien van den Heuvel. The members approve this nomination proposal by acclamation. The Chair concludes that the general meeting has appointed Francie as honorary member. She calls Francie back into the room and addresses her. She characterizes Francie as the doer of the Board, a true 'no-nonsen-

se centipede'. For example: Francie found, managed and supplied the meeting points. She and Francien also made sure that every member would get a birthday card. She arranged for the Flag Parade and the Intocht tickets (admission to the bleachers on 4th day). Moreover, Francie always enthusiastically engaged in the reunions, and she truly cared about everything that went on in the Board and the organization.

Francie will continue part of her tasks as Chief Operations of the Support Committee. Leonie hands Francie the award certificate for honorary membership, as well as a small statue. The Chair mentions that article 9 now applies; the number of Board members has decreased to less than 7. In their next meeting, the Board will determine how to rearrange the tasks, and members give the Board the mandate to look for a new Board member. Vice-Chair Ed Hendriks reminds the members that Leonie is up for re-election. Since there are no other candidates, no election will take place, and the proposal is Leonie is appointed Chair for another three years (Article 9.3). The members show their agreement by applauding.

Nominations Committee

The Chair refers to the Nominations Committee, which advises with regard to the nomination of a member for honorary or outstanding Membership. Members of this committee are Ab Schreurs, Ruurd van Slageren, Ton Swart, with Ynskje van den Brakel-Visser as a reserve member. Due to health issues, Ab Schreurs has resigned from the Committee. The Board would like to nominate Francien van den Heuvel as a new member of the Committee (Art. 5.1). Members agree by acclamation.

Strategic Plan 2019-2024

The Chair regrets that the Strategic Plan has not been posted on the website until recently, and asks the members if the plan could nevertheless be addressed now, to which the members agree. The Chair explains that the last Strategic Plan covered the period until 2018. The draft for the

new plan is partly based on the opinions of the newly erected Soundboard Group, our ambassadors and several other members. One of the key items is the vision: what is the main direction of our organization in the medium and long run? That has been formulated as follows: in five years, we still want to be a successful and financially sound organization, that functions as a consulting partner of the Vierdaagse organization, representing the needs of its members – anywhere in the world – and promoting its ties with the Four Days Marches. After having seen a growth in members during the past years, we are now striving to stabilize the organization and the membership base. Our mission, the most essential inspiration of our organization, is: United we Go. This means that, as an organization, but also as individual members, we stand united with each other and with the 4DAAGSE. In the coming years, we want to focus on maintaining the low threshold for the membership, attracting more young members, attracting more international members, and generating positive publicity for our association. We want to review our activities and our image. Given that the plan was available to the members only shortly before this meeting, the Board welcomes your feedback via email. Please don't hesitate to do so, concludes Leonie.

Theo Vermeer points to the contribution to our positive image of our participation in the Flag Parade. Joke Poppe asks if the feedback needs to be given by a certain time. The Chair responds that any feedback is welcome, anytime. Ynskje van den Brakel-Visser suggest that – given the small number of Board members – we should join activities that are already being organized by other parties, rather than organizing these ourselves. Bert van der Lans remarks that in our advisory role towards the Vierdaagse, we should not become a kind of "complaints office". He also emphasizes the importance of small-scale and local activities. Ton van 't Hullenaar reports that, during the Flag Parade, the non-members of the association did not always handle their flags rather

orderly and respectfully. The Chair concludes that the members agree to the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan and that it will now be published.

Other propositions from the Board

The Chair announces that for the 2019 reunion, the Board is considering joining the Liberation Walk on Sunday 22nd September at Valkenswaard and Dommen. We are looking into the option to make this a "powered by"-walk, which might be combined with a short reunion at the end of the afternoon. We are still seeking for a suitable activity for the non-walkers. More news will follow through the website and e-mails, according to Leonie.

Propositions from the members

The Chairman announces that there are no propositions from the members.

Any other business

Pieter Hiemstra has been asked by Mr. Ab Schreurs to bring over his kind regards to this meeting. Pieter asks all the members to put their name on a postcard to Ab, together with their number of realized Four Days Marches. This gesture is highly appreciated by the members.

Closing

Without any more topics on the table, the Chairman decides to close the meeting, after she announced that drinks and snacks are available. She concludes with the new slogan "Keep on walking!"



Honorary member Francie de Leeuw (left) with Leonie Vink.

Photo: Martin Raasveld

General Membersmeeting invitation

You're welcome!

We invite you to gather for the General Membersmeeting on 16 July 2018 2:00 PM in Kolpinghuis, Smetiusstraat 1 in Nijmegen.

The board proposes the following agenda:

1. Opening by the chairman
2. Incoming correspondence & announcements from the board
3. Minutes of the General Meeting held on April 6 2019
4. The 103rd Four Days Marches and (other) business regarding the Marches
5. Reunion 2019
6. Reunion 2020
7. (other) Proposals of the board
8. Proposals from the members
9. Any other business
10. Closure

Notes to the agenda

Item 6: The board would only like to look into new proposals for a reunion in 2020 when the date doesn't cause a conflict with the Airborne March.

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

At the moment of printing of this magazine, the board had no intentions to present any proposals to the general meeting.

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



Alexas Fotos, Pixabay

1953, a year close to a walking disaster

What do we remember of the year 1953?

Walkers experience the Four Days' Marches as a walking event without a single false note. A military march of a competitive nature but with lots of pleasure, merriment and physical discomfort. Yet there once was a period of crisis, which this article is about. What do we remember of the year 1953? Of course there was the flood disaster with its consequences and, less well known, the armistice of 27th July which put an end to the Korean War. For the Marches' Organization it was to be an eventful year, becoming a player in conflicts with the NWB (Dutch Walking Association) and the Red Cross. The newly formed Gold Cross Bearers' Association must have been amazed by what was going on.

An article by Kees Brinkman

The conflict with the NWB

In March 1934 the KNAU (Royal Dutch Athletics Union) made its walking department autonomous: the Dutch Walking Sport Union (NUW), later changed into Dutch Walking Sport Federation (NWF), and then again into Dutch Walking Sport Association (NWB).

After 1945, the Sticht Gooise Wandelsport Bond, a walking-organization affiliated with the NWB, organized evening four-day walks in Utrecht, Amersfoort and Bussum. In 1952 the NWB decided to organize a four-day walk of its own and Apeldoorn presented itself as hometown of the event. In spite of a departmental request and talks to relinquish a second four-day walk, the first Apeldoorn Four-day Marches were organized in 1954. A flashback.

Developments in 1953

On January 10th the Volkskrant (a Dutch national newspaper) splashed: Four Days' Marches under threat. The four days' marches split up as a result of bickering in the walking sport. The NWB made an effort to arrange participation by the military. It was not obvious that Dutch and foreign troops would be divided over two walking events.

As was to be expected of a military man, in this case marches' leader major Breunese, he did not hold back. "I am not afraid of the NWB. I stand on my rights," he de-



J.N. Breunese at a reception somewhere between 1940 and 1950.

Photo: 't Sticht, Utrecht

Source: KNBLO-NL, Regionaal Archief Nijmegen

clared. The Telegraaf (another Dutch national newspaper) of 19th January named it a biting speech and the attitude of the NWB unbecoming the walking sport. This hassle led to other people starting to sway public opinion. It resulted in the setting up of a committee "Save the Four Days' Marches", which asked the NBvLO (Dutch Association of Physical Training) to declare all walkers welcome in Nijmegen.

At the same time, it made a plea for an arbitration board to be set up that was to give a verdict binding to both parties on

the demarcation of their conflicting competences. Unhindered by the disastrous effects of the Flood disaster of 31st January/1st February, both parties kept on harassing one another.

Thus it happened that in De Tijd (yet another Dutch national newspaper) of 18th February 1953 Mr Leurs from Nijmegen sent a letter to the editor, deeming the conduct of the NWB annoyingly unsporting. "What narrow-minded unsportsmanlike goings-on!" he wrote. Minister Beel stepped in and De Volkskrant reported on 30th March: "At the express re-

quest of the government, the NWB and the NBvLO have agreed on an armistice after months of quarrelling. For the time being, it has been decided that only the original Four Days' Marches will take place. The NWB will not hold their own marches in Apeldoorn in 1953. Should no agreement be reached on 1st October 1953, they will have a right to organize their own marches."

"Until 1st November they leave open the possibility to come to an agreement with the NBvLO, if needed by mediation of the government. After that, they will organize their marches in the same week as the Nijmegen marches," wrote the Leeuwarder Courant (a regional Dutch newspaper). This led to disappointment and irritation with the government.

The Vrije Pers (another newspaper) of 14th November 1953 published an ominous article: The Four Days' Marches (Nijmegen) are at risk! "The government has declared not to cooperate with Four Days' Marches. Military personnel and civil servants are not allowed to participate." All signs indicated that the next year (1954) no Marches would be organized. "As was to be expected, the conflict in the walking sport has caused more and more of an upheaval," the Leeuwarder Courant wrote on 16th November.

The Dutch federation of walking sport organizations, without the NWB, however, turned to the Cabinet ministers, the chairmen of the parliamentary parties and the Dutch Olympic Committee for help. In their view, these bodies showed an astonishing lack of knowledge of the way the walking sport in the Netherlands was organized.

Developments in 1954

Civil servants and military personnel were back in the Four Days' Marches. "The Minister of Education hoped that the conflicts would be solved before long, for which reason he offered his cooperation to allow civil servants to participate," wrote Het Vrije Volk (25/2) and Het Parool

(12/3) (two newspapers). The NWB were not bent on ending a conflict, but on organizing marches of their own. "We have never intended to see the demise of the Nijmegen Marches", the committee claimed in the Nieuwsblad van het Noorden (a regional paper) on 29th March.

But what DID they want? That became clear when on 3rd April De Volkskrant expressed the demands of the NWB: the exclusive right to organize evening four-day marches. On top of that, De Tijd of 31st July mentioned two more motives of the NWB: to maintain their prestige and to meet the demand of their members to have their own four-day marches.

Conclusion

What curious motives! The aim was not to serve the walking-sport, but to wage a battle of prestige where only reputation and power mattered. The intimation that NWB-members wanted to have their own marches and that the committee was supposed to just carry out their wishes does not sound convincing; of course the committee, too, wanted to have their marches.

Both Four Days' Marches leader major Breunese and NWB chairman Mr. Korn proved unsuited for the role of politician. Did they not realize that a struggle for prestige invariably results in losers? The only thing they were capable of was quarrelling, drawing each other out.

Arguments with the Red Cross

On 14th July 1953 Het Parool found out that the Red Cross did not offer their services to the Marches. There was a difference of opinion with the Marches' organization concerning the treatment of blisters: iodine or sticking plaster. Up to 1952, the Red Cross had acted in agreement with the instructions of the Marches, although they preferred a different method. After complaints in 1952, the Red Cross turned to the Royal Nether-

lands Medical Association for advice.

Their verdict was that the treatment by the Red Cross – pricking and the use of iodine – was correct, and not what the Marches insisted on. This verdict was brushed aside by the Marches' organization, whereupon the Red Cross decided not to have anything to do with the Marches. Fortunately, things did not end there: "Red Cross assists with medical care", De Tijd headline ran on 20th July 1953. A storm in a teacup, commented on by a certain Pasquino in De Telegraaf of 20th July. He wrote:

Treatment of blisters.

A debate has now, however, arisen with the organizers of the Marches about the treatment of blisters. Iodine, science says, as does the Red Cross. Plasters, say the Marches' organizers. Now, one thing is certain; if I wish to have information concerning a four days' walk, I will not turn to the Red Cross. But if I want to know what to do in the case of appendicitis, cholera, typhoid, blisters and cinchona barks, I will certainly not ask the Marches' organization for advice.

As it happens, they do not know the first thing about that. It is for that very reason that I find it headstrong that these gentlemen have induced a conflict with the Red Cross, an institution in this country that is at least as popular as the Four Days' Marches and is not active for a mere four days, but for three hundred and sixty-five days a year...

N.B. Pasquino is the pen name of a writer unknown to me and it is also the name of a Roman statue. For ages, satirical epigrams were attached to it, in which topical political issues and their excesses were ridiculed.

GKD Meeting Points

Meet Four Days Marches friends

Years ago, we started with Meeting Points along the route where Gold Medallists could meet. Since we can welcome many new members each year we will list the locations of our Meeting Points once more in our magazine.

Will we see you in July?

Meeting Point day 1

The first day, you will find the Meeting Point in Lent. After swapping the route last year, it's the second time we have set up our tent here.

The Meeting Point is at the address Vossenpelstraat 38 in Lent; this is at the left side of the road. On the photo below you will get a first impression of the location where we like to host you.



Meeting Point day 2

The Meeting Point on the second day will be in Beuningen at the Hogewaldstraat number 16, near the intersection with the verbindingsweg.

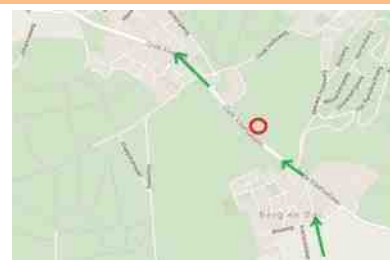
This is situated just before leaving the village.



Meeting Point day 3

On the third day you'll find the Meeting Point leaving Bergen Dal at the right side of the road on the Oude Kleefsebaan number 123.

The little square in front of the church (Parish the Resurrection) gives us a nice spot close to the road.



Meeting Point day 4

The fourth day you find the Meeting Point in Malden, just before passing the Intratuin at the right side of the road.



The Meeting Points are announced by boards and can be recognized by our own beach banners.



Lustrum rewards

Congratulations

We congratulate the below members with achieving a lustrum during the Four Days Marches of 2018. Mainly due to the previously mentioned problems with 'matching' names in different databasses, these members couldn't be mentioned in GOUD! of last December, but we are more than happy to make some space available in this edition.

15X

W. Bens, Volkel ♦ D. Boekel, Erp ♦ A. Donkerlo, Amsterdam ♦ G.H. van Gotkum, Groesbeek ♦ N. Hermans, Haarlem ♦ M. Houben, Doesburg ♦ M. Linssen, Deventer ♦ D. Mans, Meeuwen ♦ H. Kamphuis, Nijmegen ♦ J. Schutte, De Meern ♦ I.L. Vergeer, Warnsveld

20X

W. Chapman, Engeland ♦ Th. Folker, Bemmelen ♦ J.F. Hendriksen, Scherpenzeel ♦ J. de Jong, Acquoy ♦ H.H.M. Merx, Venlo ♦ P. Penning, Zwijndrecht

25X

C.H. Cuvener

Haarlem

30X

T. Peters

J. Vleugels

Wijchen

Puth

35X

I.S.C. Risamasu

Eibergen

50X

P.J. Kenniphaas

V. Vos

Velsen

Den Helder

55X

A. den Uil

Hardinxveld-
Giessendam



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.

C. Bakker	Nijmegen
T. van den Berg	Kampen
N. de Bruin	Arnhem
H.P.J. Franken	Son
A. van der Heide	Buitenpost
N.A. Lukkenaer	's-Gravenhage
R.F.A. Mugie	Arnhem
J. Schreurs-Nijkamp	Haaksbergen
H. Slytermelink	Amstelveen
T. van Swaal	Rotterdam
B. Tanck	Babberich
G.J. Tijdeman	Deventer



Image by pixel2013 from Pixabay

Portrait of a member

Name: Klaus op de Hipt
Residence: München, Germany
Age: 74



How would you describe yourself in just one sentence?

I was raised conservatively and like to follow rules, but I have no problems being around young people (for example during the Four Days Marches, or when sailing, which is my hobby).

What is your profession?

I am a retired Engineer officer of the German Bundeswehr. After my retirement, I started to work as a sailing instructor, training young people.

What makes you happy?

To feel every day again that my body and mind work OK, despite my age.

When did you start the "4 days marches"?

It was in 1967 but then I was not well prepared; I had a lot of problems and barely managed to finish the march. Therefore, I decided 'never again ...'. But in 1983, I let myself be persuaded to try it again and since then I have started nearly every year in Nijmegen.

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

To march with a group of young people and to make sure that they are successful. Then there is no time to think about your own problems.

What's your favorite meeting and/or memory of the "4 days marches"?

I don't really have just one. Ever since 2004, it is really wonderful to meet our hosts Diny and Jan in Molenhoek. They take care of my group and me with outstanding hospitality.

When did you walk your last march?

The Vierdaagse 2018, and since then I did some hikes in the mountains, as well as a 50 kilometer training march with my group in February.

Do you have anything to add?

I am looking forward to start my 34th Vierdaagse with a group of soldiers in July of 2019.

Four Days Marches Church Service 2019



Foto: Hans Braxmeier, Pixabay

On Sunday July 14 the "4 days celebration mass" will take place in the St. Stevenschurch in Nijmegen; this year for the 58th time.

The royal mixed choir Orpheus, conducted by Maarten-Jan Dongelman, will perform the "Missa in Bes from FX Sussmayr".

The Königorgan will be played by Cor van Wageningen.

The celebration starts at 10.00 o'clock, the church is open from 09.00. Everybody is welcome to join the celebration.

On behalf of "Stichting Vierdaagsemis",

Gien Langen, secretary/treasurer



Application grandstand tickets

Every year, our most loyal members receive a grandstand ticket for the Friday parade at the finish of the Nijmegen Marches. Members that have walked more than 35 editions of the Nijmegen Marches receive 1 ticket and members that have completed more than 40 editions receive 2 grandstand tickets.

You can apply for tickets online through our website www.gouden-kruisdragers.nl.

If you are not able to do this online, you can use the form on the right; fill it in and send it to: Francie de Leeuw, We-desteinbroek 2007, 6546 RS Nijmegen. Applications will be accepted until 1 July (this is the date the requests have to be received by us). The distribution of the tickets will take place on the Monday preceding the Four Days Marches between 13.00 and 13.50 hrs at the Kolpinghuis in Nijmegen.

Entry stand tickets

Request form

Name :
Initials :
Address :
Zip code :
City :
Phone :
E-mail :

I would like to request the following tickets:

36-39 times:

O 1 ticket free

40 times or more:

O 1 ticket free or O 2 tickets free

Your request will be verified with Stichting DE 4DAAGSE and if possible, granted with 1 or 2 tickets. You will not receive a written confirmation regarding acceptance or rejection of your request, due to the high number of requests we need to handle in a short period of time.



The Swiss band of the Kantonspolizei Bern (SUI) presents itself in front of "De Kinkelenburg" on the first day of the 64th Four Days Marches in 1980.

Photo: Unknown

Source: KNBLO-NL, Regionaal Archief Nijmegen