

GOUD

A PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE GOLD CROSS BEARERS

IN THIS ISSUE

Honorary citizen of Nijmegen and much more...

Bert van der Lans

4 Days' Marches reorganised:

The ins and outs of the mobility service

Boundless walking, destination Finland



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 d.d. 24 july 1952, no. 46

Foreword by the Chairman

Dear Golden Cross Bearers,

The 4-days marches week is approaching and you will undoubtedly be training

A group of new volunteers is very far in making arrangements for our Meeting point, they took up the task from honor member Francie de Leeuw, who was preparing out Meeting points for years and years. At such a moment you realize how much effort Francie has put in this and that is why we thank her so very much!

It is going well with our association, the board and volunteers make beautiful editions of GOLD!

And the most recent "powered by GKD" tour through Rotterdam drew a lot of our members to this RET (Rotterdam Electrical Tramways) walking tour.

Our relation with the Koninklijke Wandelbond Nederland has improved greatly, to bad that I had to resign from my membership of the members council, but my membership is filled in by our treasurer Dauphine.

Unfortunately we will have to live with the passing away of our honor member Bart van der Lans and this will be difficult for a lot of us, he was an icon of the 4-days marches and now he isn't there anymore we do miss a piece of 4-days marches.

Financially our association is fine, but we will have to adapt to rising costs of services and supplies.

For years we managed to compensate the price risings with getting more members than planned, but the rise of the amount of members is not obvious anymore, therefore it became time to raise the membership fee, which will be in effect in 2026.

At last we have opened our "Gouden-Kruisdragers pad" to all the 4-days marches walkers; in the storytrails-app everyone can learn about the stories and the history of the 4-days marches.

And now our 4-days marches are approaching, let's hope it will be a great week and we will be able to walk the planned distance every day.

Walkers passing Overasselt will have to get used to a little change and the little loop at Vianen will look differently too. I wish you a lot of fun, togetherness and "gezelligheid" during your walk; the world around us is not always friendly but in Nijmegen we'll find old and new friends every year again

Signed
Frans Leijtens
Chairman



Gold Cross Bearers trail now public

Our jubilee trail was first exclusively available to members. All members had been sent the booklet by mail, which gave access to the app via the QR code. From now on, the trail is public in the Storytrails app. That means that everybody can see the route and watch the videos. The booklets are still available against a fee (on our website or in the center of Nijmegen in the Citystore and bookshop Dekker and Van de Vegt), but they are also sent to new members of our association, for as long as they will be in stock



Flag Parade. Are you walking with us?

Just like in the previous years, our association will be allowed to bear flags during the Flag Parade on Sunday afternoon before the 4Daagse (Sunday 13 July). At the time of writing of this article there is no more concrete information available, but the event will probably unfold in the same way as in the previous years. It will take place in the second half of Sunday afternoon and start in the Westerpark, pass through the Waterkwartier and the city center, and will end at the Wedren for the official 4Daagse opening by the March Leader. For now, 36 flags have been assigned to our association. We would like to participate in this Flag Parade with a large group – at least

40 people to bear the flags and the association banner – but we want to show that we are an association. It is therefore greatly appreciated if the participants could wear a shirt of the association! However, it will not be possible to buy such a shirt this year. Would you like to take part in this Flag Parade? Please register via rino.hamelink@gouden-kruisdragers.nl.





Applications for grandstand tickets at the 4Daagse entry.

Every year, in cooperation with the 4Daagse foundation, we provide our loyal members with tickets for the grandstand at the entry on Friday. If you have walked the 4Daagse 36 times or more, you can apply for one ticket. If you have walked the 4Daagse 41 times or more, you can apply for 2 grandstand tickets. We will of course check via the 4Daagse foundation how many times you have walked. The application for 1 or 2 tickets can be done by sending an email to our volunteer, Ms. Francie de Leeuw – de Bruijn, via franciedeleeuw@ziggo.nl. Applications for the tickets will have to be made before 1 July, so that we will have enough time to prepare the tickets with the 4Daagse foundation. The tickets will be handed out in the Van der Valk hotel in Lent on the Monday before the 4Daagse between 13.00 and 13.50. If you will not be able to pick up your tickets there, please mention this clearly in the email, together with your address.

Your picture on the cover of GOUD!?

Do you have a fine camera or a good smartphone camera, and do you have a keen eye for making beautiful pictures? And will you make the perfect shot this 4Daagse? If so, send in your picture via redactie@goudenkruisdragers.nl and maybe your picture will shine at the cover of one of the next editions of the magazine of our association.

Vacancy Member of the Board

secretary, but also as a general board member who has the editing of GOUD! as a secondary role. Have you been thinking for some time if a task as volunteer in the board of our association is something for you? Please contact the chair free of obligations via: voorzitter@goudenkruisdragers.nl.

Will you also visit our meeting points?

Although our meetings points have been along the route for quite some years now, we frequently get the question who is allowed to use these rest areas. The answer to this is simple: all our members, and their walking partners, are welcome in our party tents to enjoy a drink and some small snacks. You don't need to show a membership card or to sing the 4Daagse song: we believe you on your word! So, feel free to drop by in Bemmelen, Beuningen, Berg en Dal and Malden and take your friend with you who might not yet be a Gold Cross Bearer, but could become one in the future. Our exact locations are to be found in this edition, but also on our website: www.goudenkruisdragers.nl!

Gain a Pin with 'Powered-by GKD' Walks

Although, as association, we do not organize any walks ourselves, we do each year "adopt" a number of walks criss-cross over the country. In doing so, we try to support the organizing party by paying special attention to their walk. It gives us the opportunity to give some publicity to our association while at the same time enabling our members to meet outside the third week of July.

A number of years ago, a special card was introduced to be stamped at these walks. 5 completed walks are awarded by a bronze pin of our association and after 10 walks even a silver version of this pin can be had.

Members who have applied in advance by email are exempted from entry fees for taking part of these Powered-by Walks.



Apply for Powered-by Walks by sending an email (up to a week in advance) to rino.hamelink@gouden-kruisdragers.nl

Clearly state name, address, date of birth and distance.

Three Powered-by Walks have been scheduled this year:

22 March	RET walk	10, 15, 20, 25, 40	Rotterdam	RET
27 Septt	Markdal walk	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40	Breda	WIEGO
2 Nov	Bargermarkewalk	5, 10, 15, 20, 30	Emmen	Bargermarke

Reünie: Save the date!

Zaterdag 27 september 2025

De reünie wordt dit jaar wederom gehouden in combinatie met een 'Powered-by' wandeltocht. De wandeltocht en de reünie zullen plaatsvinden op zaterdag 27 september 2025 in Breda in het stadsdeel Ginneken.

Op het moment van schrijven van dit stukje wordt er nog hard gewerkt aan het definitieve programma (wat bij uitkomen van dit blad misschien al op de website staat). Houd de website in de gaten!



Bert van der Lans

A walker has died...

Bert van der Lans passed away on 15 January 2025.

Member of the Order of Orange-Nassau

4Daagse Medal, record holder with 71 participations

Holder of the Traianuspenning Noviomagus (medal of honor awarded by the city of Nijmegen)

Honorary Member of the Association of Gold Cross Bearers 4Daagse

Bert was born in The Hague on 30 May 1932 and walked his first 4Daagse in 1947. In 2017 he became the first walker ever to have finished the 4Daagse seventy times. In the next year, he was faced with a declining health. After having finished the marches in 2018 for the 71st time, he decided that it had been enough.

Bert was a member of the Board of the Gold Cross Bearers' Association from 1959 until 2001. At the end, he became honorary member of the association. One of his roles during those years was to act as the liaison with the Dutch walking association at that time, the K.N.B.L.O. – which is now K.W.B.N. – a role that he fulfilled outstandingly. He was often called the 'Haarlemmer olie' of the association, a Dutch term for a universal remedy. For more than forty years, Bert was responsible for the organization of the yearly reunion, a task of which he took the utmost care. On top of that, he took care of the meeting room and other practical support for the General Members Meeting on the Monday before the 4Daagse for 39 years. From 1963 he arranged the tickets for the Flag Parade and the grandstand at the entry. He attended more than 150 board meetings, and he did not



keep silent there. Together with his wife Ria, Bert did a lot of work for the jubilee book 1951 – 2001. He donated a new official flag to the association, and he donated another one to the Vierdaagse Foundation. Bert has given assistance to the Vierdaagse for many years, together with his friend Ms. Gien van Langen.

This flag was draped on his coffin during the farewell ceremony on 25 January of this year.

On Queensday 2004, Bert received a royal decoration from the mayor of Nijmegen, Ms. Guusje Ter Horst, for his outstanding service to the Gold Cross Bearers' Association. He became a member in the Order of Orange-Nassau. In 2023 he received the Traianus medal of honor from the city of Nijmegen, presented to him by Mayor Mr. Bruls. This is the highest decoration for those who have made a unique contribution to the city. This made Bert van der Lans a honorary citizen of Nijmegen. At the decoration ceremony, mayor Bruls reminded how Bert had been promoting the city through his 71 participations in the 4Daagse.

Whether it was among leaders or among walkers, everybody knew Bert van der Lans. He will be missed, but certainly not forgotten!

Resume General Member Meeting for Gold!, in Nijmegen at April 5th 2025

The chairman opens the meeting with a welcome, thereafter the announcements of the board are done.

- Dauphine Nordanes is chosen as a member of the member-gathering KWbN, our association has with her an important representative in this union.

- The board has had an informal meeting with the board of the "Stichting Vierdaagse".

- Important points of this meeting were amongst others, more attention to toilets for female walkers and a small change in the route which will be announced later this year.

The association counts at the moment of this meeting 2960 members, a little less than expected.

- Our "anniversary path" is open to everyone now, guides can be obtained through the website.

A visible marking of the route is, unfortunately, not allowed by the city of Nijmegen.

- There is room for new members of the "sounding board group" registrations can be done through the chairman.

Two members of the board are going to resign in a little time, the board is looking for replacements, interested members are encouraged to report themselves.

- The "meetingpoints" are looking for "hands" in particular for Wednesday and Friday.

Interested parties can report with Jaimy Peterson

- The gathering is reflecting of the death of honor member Bert van der Lans.

The chairman praises him and a little film in which Bert is talking is shown

Thereafter the gathering holds a moment of silence to think about all the ones that have passed away the past year.

- The resume of the general member gathering of July 2024 is approved without remarks.

- The year resume of the secretary gets no substantive remarks.

- With the accountability of the financial policies the written message of the financial commission is used, none of the members can be present, the board is granted a discharge.

The treasurer explains the financial policies and the proposed budget.

Because of the smaller amount of members a raise of contribution till € 13.50 is a necessity to get a balanced budget.

This is with acclamation accorded by the gathering

A proposal to change the articles of association is being prepared. This proposal will be posted at the website shortly. Members can react to this, the plan is that the changes can be certified during the July gathering



Membership meeting july 14, 2025

We invite all our members to our membership meeting which will take place on Monday July 14th 2025 in the Van der Valk hotel in Lent.

The gathering will start at 14:00 hours and will take about one hour.

The board proposes next agenda:

1. Opening by the chairman
2. A contribution of the march-leader of the 4-days marches and/or a delegate of the KWBN
3. Incoming documents and board announcements
4. Notes of the general meeting of April 5th 2025
5. Reunion and "powered by GKD" walking tour WIEGO in Breda on the 28th of September '25
6. Bargermarke "powered by GKD" walking tour in Emmen on the 2nd of November '25
7. Determination of the new articles of the association
8. Board election
9. Introducing of the members
10. Time for questions that have come up
11. Closure with the 4-days song

Explanation of some points of the agenda:

Item 7: The concepts of the new articles of the association will be publicized on the website, so members can discuss the adaptations or remarks with the board before the membership meeting.

We request all the members to cooperate with this way of working, so we have a smooth course of the meeting

Item 8: Secretary Coert Peeters announced that he will resign his function of board member.

At the time the agenda was formed, no candidate board member was known yet, but the board strives for making the name of a candidate known well in time before the meeting.

Item 9: When members have proposals or questions for the board, the board would like to know before the meeting, thus making it possible to react to the proposal or question during the meeting. The board requests everyone, to issue their questions, that may require some research, when possible in writing at least one week before the meeting, they can do so at the secretariat

The board will try to end the meeting about 15:00 hours



Report of the walk in Rotterdam on 22 March 2025

This was the RET walk, 'Powered by GKD' (RET is the public transport service in Rotterdam).

By Ms. Finie Groenewoud

This morning, I got up early and I headed for Rotterdam.

When I arrived at Sluisjesdijk, I soon noticed the Gold Cross Bearers Flag, so that I knew where I had to be. I had some problems to park my car: I had to drive on for quite some time until I found a parking spot. I had to walk for more than 10 minutes to get to the start.

At the starting point, the walkers had formed a long queue which stretched outside, so I just joined it. When it was my turn to register it turned out that I was in the wrong queue, for you had to register at another table if you had pre-registered via the Gold Cross Bearers. So, I joined the queue again.

It would have been better to have hung up signs above the tables, so that people could have joined the right queue at once. After I had registered, I wanted to get a route description. I had decided to walk the 25k, but they had run out of prints, so I had to wait until they had printed a new batch. I heard people from the organization say that they had not been expecting such a crowd of walkers.

After I finally got my route description, I could start. The route was not marked with arrows, but it was possible to scan a QR code at Komoot, Google Maps or a gpx app. I decided to use the description on paper, as I don't have Komoot or gpx and I personally don't like to have my phone on all the time. Soon we reached the Maastunnel, where we took the escalator down. I had personally never walked in the Maastunnel,



so this itself was quite an experience to me. After the Maastunnel the escalator up again, but this went so fast that I got a bit dizzy; later I heard that more people suffered the same discomfort. I followed the rest of the walkers, but we soon reached a point where many walkers were in doubt about the way to go. So that meant halting, reading the description again and then trying to guess the right direction. Because I don't know my way around in Rotterdam at all, I asked two other walkers on the route if I could join them. They also walked the 25k. I



have to say that I appreciated that very much, because I would not have figured out the route on my own.



A part of the route followed the Westzeedijk; it was special to see a windmill in the middle of Rotterdam. Along the route we saw little harbours with houseboats and beautiful old sailing ships. Lovely spots of Rotterdam.

Yet, at some moment we wanted to have a rest. It is always good to stop for a coffee and to find a place to go the loo. No sooner said than done, we found a café at a corner where we could have a nice cup of coffee with something to eat. The staff at the restaurant did not know that many walkers would pass by, so they urgently phoned for some extra people to assist. Because of that it took a bit longer before we got our delicacies. If I may give the organization a tip: it might be a good idea to inform a restaurant that a lot of walkers will pass by, and inform the walkers in the route description that it is an option to have a rest there.

After the coffee we started to walk again, following the description. We arrived at a market where many stalls had been put up, so we couldn't see the street signs. We used Google Maps and saw that we had walked too far, so back into another little street, which lead us to the same place again. We visited the Cube Houses, which were nice, but here it was also not clear in which direction we should continue. All in all, it was a sometimes like an orienteering run, where we frequently had to check the route on Google Maps. At the end, we figured everything out, but it took us a lot of time. We walked along the Maas again for some parts of the route. We passed the Erasmus Bridge, which we had already spotted frequently from far away. We also passed the Holland Amerika Lijn, the location of the former head office. Before we arrived at the last part of the route, we saw the amphibious bus enter the water; it was very special to see this at close quarters.

I don't remember at what time we arrived at the finish, but it doesn't matter at all, because walking is about the attainment and not about a competition. We had a nice walking day and now I have two new friends. Because that's what walking is also for: to make new walking friends.

The weather also played a part in this: it was dry all day, and in the afternoon the sun broke through, which made it even more pleasant. I was amazed by this nice walk in Rotterdam.



IML and IVV-Olympiad Finland



IML

Being "The Walk of the World", the 4Days Marches are, of course, member of the International Marching League (IML). The IML was established on 31 October 1987 in Higashimatsuyama in Japan and so has been in existence for almost 40 years. It is no coincidence that this city north west of Tokyo is in partnership with Nijmegen and each year in October-going-on-November an international three-day-walk takes place there. The purpose of the IML is to improve health and international friendly relations worldwide by means of (organized) walking under the Latin motto of "Nos Iungat Ambulare", or "May Walking Unite Us". By now, 27 countries worldwide are united in this international walking league, in most cases by means of a multiple-day walking-event. Some major countries such as China, the United States, but also Japan are on the IML-calendar with two walking-events. For those who have kept count: there are now in total 30 IML-Walks, 18 of which are in Europe and 12 in the so-called Pan-Pacific Region, the countries round the Great Ocean. Anyone who so wishes can get an IML-booklet and have it stamped after finishing an IML-linked walk. For more information see <https://imlwalking.org>

IVV

Besides the IML there is a second border-crossing walking-organization, the Internationale Volkssports Verband, IVV. This organization, German by origin, has been in existence longer than the IML. It was founded in the German city of Lindau in 1968 by the four countries bordering on Lake Bodensee: Germany, Liechtenstein, Austria and Switzerland. At present, more than forty countries, among which the Netherlands, have joined this league. Every association that organizes a walk can ask for a special oblong IVV stamp with which participants of that walk can have their booklets stamped. As was discussed during the annual meeting in July 2024, the Gold Cross Bearers' Association also intends to organize, in the near future, walks with IVV status. The 4Days Marches already have this

stamp. It is a praiseworthy initiative of our association to promote the IVV in the Netherlands, which is by no means superfluous. See <https://ivv-web.org>

IVV Europiad and Olympiad

The IML and the IVV are seeking to improve cooperation, which has resulted in beautiful yearly walking- and sports events. In even years – as the name suggests – a so-called IVV Europiad is organized in a European country and in uneven years somewhere on earth an IVV Olympiad takes place. These are sporting events spread over a number of days, where people can walk, cycle and/or swim. In other words, some sort of slow triathlon. The Europiads are often held in the border area of two countries, an interesting thought. In 2022 that was the case in the well known French city of Strasbourg and the German town of Kehl on either side of the Rhine. In the middle of the walking-bridge, right on the border of these two important European countries, the opening took place while the chorus of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Ode an die Freude - the unofficial European anthem - was played. We are now in the uneven year 2025, time for the next Olympiad, to be held in Tampere in Finland.

Finland

Finland is one of the five North European countries. The connection between these countries is expressed in their flags, which all contain the same cross. The flag of the country of the thousand lakes (in fact, there are over 160,000), has a blue cross on a white background. Finland is about eight times the size of the Netherlands and has about 5,5 million inhabitants. Helsinki, the capital city, lies in the south on the Gulf of Finland and with its over 600,000 inhabitants it is by far the largest city in the country. This northern republic has only been independent since 1917, having long been part of its big neighbour Russia. At present, Finland is a much developed welfare state, it is part of the EU and has for a number of years also been a member of the NATO. In 2002 the Euro currency was introduced in Finland, which makes it one of the twelve original Euro Countries. Education stands on a very high level and for the eighth consecutive year it tops the list of the happiest countries of the world. The almost twenty-four-hour darkness in the heart of winter seems to be of little influence.

Vaasa

Each year in the second weekend of August, the three-day Vaasan Marssi, Finland's IML-walk, takes place in this city on the Gulf of Bothnia. (See <https://www.vaasanmarssi.fi>) Vaasa has almost 70,000 inhabitants and is said to be the sunniest place in Finland. In summer, temperatures can rise to 30 degrees or even higher. Vaasa has a Swedish history, it has had city rights since 1606 and during its 400th anniversary it was honoured with the royal visit of King Carl Gustav of Sweden. A lot of Swedish is spoken on the Gulf of Bothnia, where it is the mother tongue of one in four inhabitants. Spoken by 6% of the people, it is the second official language in the country. The Finnish IML-event starts on Thursday afternoon with a flag parade that ends on the big central square in the city centre. On Friday, the first walking-day, there is the opportunity to walk on the archipelago





of Kvarken. This is a special UNESCO World Heritage area, which is gradually increasing in size as a result of an annual uplift. At the present rate, the islands will have become one whole in 2,000 years' time and thus, the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia will by then have become a lake. On Saturday and Sunday walking distances vary from 10 to a maximum of 42 kilometres a day.

Tampere

With its around a quarter of a million inhabitants, Tampere is the third city of Finland in population after Helsinki and Espoo. It is situated more or less halfway between Helsinki and Vaasa and it is the largest North European city that is not on the sea. In its historic centre lies the district of Finlayson, called after the Scottish engineer who founded a cotton factory here in 1820, after which the cotton industry grew rapidly. This gave Tampere the nickname of "Finland's Manchester". The most important sight is no doubt the theme park Särkänniemi, which apart from its 30 attractions offers an aquarium, a dolphinarium and a planetarium. The biggest eyecatcher in the park is the over 130-metre high watchtower Näsinneula, the highest of its kind in North Europe. The design is based on the Space Needle in the American city of Seattle. On the top floor there is a rotating restaurant commanding a splendid view of the city while enjoying a drink and a meal.

From Thursday 14 August up to and including Sunday 17 August the 19th IVV Olympiad is held here. The flag parade and the opening ceremony take place on Thursday afternoon. Other than walking, one can also go for cycling, swimming and even canoeing or orienteering. That makes it a very interesting and varied program. Having walked the required number of kilometres, a special one-off stamp can be had in the IML booklet. For further information see <https://ivvfinland.fi/en/>

Should there be any Gold Medallists looking for a holiday destination, this might be an interesting proposition. This albeit rather unknown, but beautiful, quiet and friendly country is well worth a visit.

Author: Henk Rutten

In memoriam

Cees Verloo	Terheijden
Henk van Reenen	Haarlem
Albert Rebel	Rijswijk
Hans Lankhaar	Veenendaal
Hans Schortinghuis	Diemen
Ton Theunissen	Malden
Leo de Coninck	Doesburg
Emilie Fraterman	Breda
Gunther Meijer	Stiens
C.A.G.M. Mols	Linne
E.M. Berendse	Heemskerk
G. Stumpf	Hoogeveen
A.H. Grisel	Beneden-Leeuwen
Olof Glorie	Egmond aan den Hoef
E. Landeweerd	Heiloo
Frans van der Logt	Wezep
Simon van der Marel	Vlaardingen
J.A. Damen-Bles	Huissen
Aad van Grevenbroek	Bronnegerveen



Dickie Trumpie-Brokkelkamp	Dordrecht
Herry in den Bosch	Overloon
Ronald de Waal	Alphen aan den Rijn
J.D. Gosselink	Sint-Michielsgestel
C.W.A.M. Eimermann	Breda
H.A.J. Ketels	Druten
Bert van der Lans	Nijmegen





Stichting Vierdaagsemeis

a highlight of the many 4-days festivities which will take place. The theme of the celebration is "Peace and understanding". This theme connects seemingly with the reading of that day the good Samaritan and at the intrinsic message of the 4-days marches: Walking is done together.

Church pastors are pastor Johan Dorst, father Ruud Willemsen and chaplain Manuel Kuhn (Switzerland).

The celebration will be accompanied by the singing association Vivace from Millingen with conductor Frans Coerwinkel and a saxophone quartet.

Organ player is Cor van Wageningen.

I promises to be a beautiful celebration.

4Daysmass 2025 in the Stevenskerk

62nd 4-days marches mass at Sunday July 13th 2025 At 10:00 hours (church will be open at 09:15) in the Stevens-church. Entry is free but at the website one can order special tickets, from 09:45 all remaining places will be free for people that arrive later

At Sunday before the 4-days marches the well known 4-days marches mass will be held in the Stevens-church in Nijmegen

Sunset March

After the General Meeting of 5 April, a group of members walked the Sunset March.

The Sunset March has been a daily tribute to the allied soldiers who fought for the freedom of the Netherlands since 19 October 2014. A new city bridge has been built in Nijmegen; the Oversteek. Close to the part of the Waal where American soldiers crossed the river on 20 September 1944 during Operation Market Garden. During this so-called 'Waal-crossing', 48 allied soldiers were killed.

The lighting of this new bridge is very special. There are 48 pairs of lamp posts on the bridge. Around sunset, these lights come on, pair by pair, one after the other at the pace of a slow march. Every evening, when the first pair of light poles is lit, a veteran walks the Sunset March at the pace at which the lights come on.

With this initiative, not only do the veterans want to commemorate the sacrifice that the American soldiers made here far from home for the freedom of the Dutch people, but they also want to create a visible bridge to all veterans who have

contributed to missions all over the world and who continue to contribute to peace and freedom.

Source www.sunsetmarch.nl



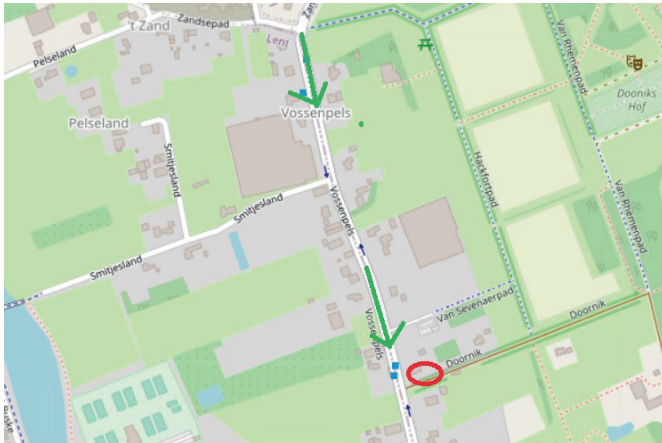
GKD meeting point locations

During the coming 4-days marches we hope to meet a lot of our members at the meeting points. Our volunteers are along the route every day to provide you with some snacks and drinks. At the meeting points you can meet other Golden Cross Bearers, but you can also bring non-members to introduce them to our association.

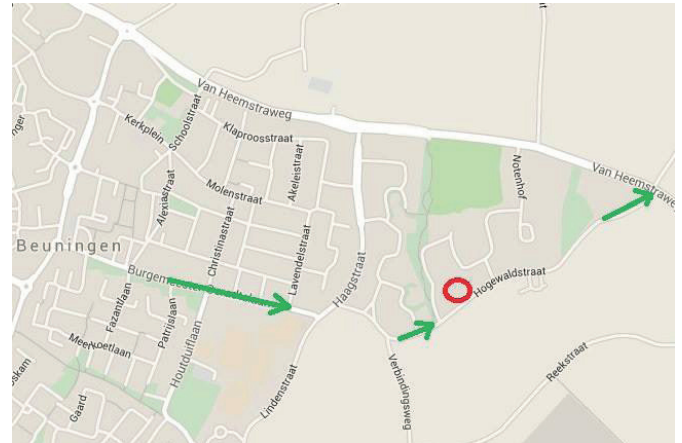
You don't need to show a pass or button, you are just welcome!

A couple of hundreds of meters ahead of the meeting point you will encounter our signs and of course our beach-banners will be present at every meeting point, so you can hardly miss us.

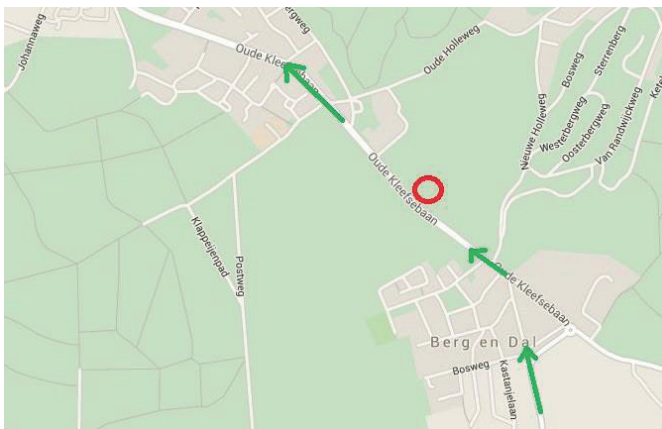
We are looking forward to see you, will you meet us there?



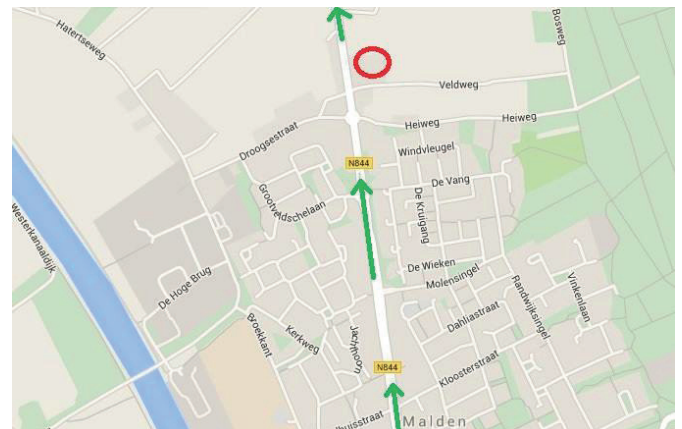
Tuesday: to the left of the walk, Vossenpels 38 in Bemmelland, just before Lent



Wednesday: to the left of the walk, Hoge Waldstraat 18 in Beuningen, just before you walk out of the village (mind you it is 1 house further than other years)



Thursday: to the right of the walk, Oude Kleefsebaan 17 in Berg en Dal, at the square in front of the church before Nijmegen



Friday: to the right of the walk, Rijksweg 73 in Malden, right as you leave the town



4Days Marches reorganized

Then we'll just do it ourselves...?

Author: Fred Kruijer

The Four Days Marches of Nijmegen is not a static event in changing times. Not only the routes are regularly adapted to changes in local infrastructure, but also the organization is conforming itself to demands of the new era. The biggest change this year?

The police is no longer taking its part in the organization. March, organization, safety and guidance are all monitored by the Stichting 4DAAGSE and are now centrally organized

Police

The resignation of the police from the Four Days Marches fits in the modern policy of the new National Police, that want to focus on the execution of her main tasks: investigation and enforcing public order and safety. She asks – for sure in case of (sports) events - more often and more own efforts, although she remains available and deployable to deliver requested support and long arm, where needed. Hans Teunissen was chief inspector of the Nijmegen police and now head of Mobility Service of the Stichting 4DAAGSE. "In the past the police occupied static posts, such as busy crossroads. She directed the traffic, but not anymore. She is available and the coöperation is fine. Yearly, she provided scripts regarding traffic for alle routes. And she coördinated and briefed traffic controllers in all municipalities. That all has disappeared."

The transformation from police support to volunteers and hired traffic controllers was a huge undertaking. Teunissen: "Hirs Advies, a traffic engineering agency has been hired to guide us in a smooth transformation right from the start. They do this for the second year in row. They deliver a mobilityplan not only per day, but also for the flagparade and the

phases of contruction and phasing out."

Hirs rewrote all old scripts based on the new CROW96b guideline. Teunissen: "This guideline describes rules for taking temporary measures in case of events and road-works. When a (small) accident happens and the measures taken did not comply to the guidelines, we can be held responsible. Therefore, we check if the measures related to traffic comply to the guideline, together with the municipalities along the routes of the Four Days Marches every year. The coöperation is fine, as we have a common interest."

Beside these scripts Hirs helped to rewrite the instructions for each of the 240 posts.

The hiring of external expertise is always a costly matter. Teunissen: "We manage to stay within budget but it becomes - as everything else - more expensive every year. A traffic controller costs us two euro more per hour compared to last year.

Wijchen

This year, Teunissen considered together with the board of the Stichting 4DAAGSE, the bottlenecks of the routes of last year. Again, a ma-





junction point was the center of Wijchen where all routes, 30, 40/40 military and 50 merge on the Markt. Subsequently, the routes are pushed together in the small Kasteellaan, to pass the defilé point halfway the Kasteellaan. It happened regularly over the last years that participants needed to stop walking.

Teunissen: "Wijchen is a funnel at that point, probably the most busiest point during the Four Days Marches." But that is going to change this year. For the municipality of Wijchen and the local entrepreneurs it is a must that the whole March takes part in the defilé. The defilé point will be moved from the castle to the town hall further down the Kasteellaan to meet this requirement. This makes it possible for 30km walkers to choose voluntarily to avoid the funnel in the Kasteellaan by taking the bypass along the Mr. Van Coothlaan in Wijchen to arrive at the defilé point. Those who want to pass the Markt and Kasteellaan – p.e. to eat and drinks on traditional stops - , can choose to do so and take the original route.

The Mobility Service consists of 55 volunteers, all certified 'event traffic controllers'. Each year the Stichting 4DAAGSE hires over four hundred shifts of traffic controllers. These are static posts that usually occupy the crossroads along the routes.

The Mobility Service of the Stichting 4DAAGSE is fully responsible for setting up the routes and the route signing. The preparations start every year in March.

Teunissen: "This with the changes like the one in Wijchen in mind. We need to check in time if traffic situations have changed. To avoid surprises we communicate with municipalities and provinces all year round.

Every night before a marching day, six volunteers go out to prepare the four routes of the next day with panels and road signs.

We have ten buses from AVIS available that will be driven by ourselves. Furthermore, seventeen motorcycles are available. These motorcycles enable the Mobility Service not only to do any preparations but also to conduct mobile surveillance on the routes during the marching days. Twelve motorcycles keep an eye on routes while riding and they accompany the broom wagons on all routes at the end of the day. The buses commute between Wierden and broom wagon."

Safety Car

The motorcyclists accompany a new phenomenon during the Four Days Marches: The Safetycar. Teunissen: "This Safetycar rides with eight kilometers per hour in front of the first (fast) walkers. We limit knowingly and willingly their walking speed. Faster is not necessary. These are the Four Days Marches, not an athletic competition! In the past we saw these fast walkers on the 50 march through places in the dark where traffic measures were not yet effective. We have an agreement with all the municipalities that we limit the speed with the Safetycar and that they have taken all necessary measures before we pass. The motorcyclists ride in front of the Safetycar to check if that is the case. And finally, at the end of all walking days of the 107th edition of the Four Days Marches of Nijmegen, the motorcyclist takes care, as well as the broom wagons, that no one is missed or left behind unexpectedly.

A Stitch to Wear...

As Gold Medallists we all have our special link with the Nijmegen Marches, be it a particular reason for taking up walking, keeping or having kept taking part, or cherishing all memories of the 4Days Marches. There are people who have immortalized feelings like these on their bodies. A few walkers share their impressive tattoos with us.



Lisette Melisse



Monique Hijkoop



Monique Hijkoop



Tineke Peul



Tineke Peul



Michael Kors



Patrick Balfort