

December circular letter



2007

VERENIGING "Gouden - Kruisdragers Vierdaagse"
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Board of the association

Chairman

Mr. H.J.B. Sackers
De Haaghe 15
6641 JA Beuningen

Secretary

F.J.M. Leijtens
Van Karnebeekstraat 153
3317 KW Dordrecht

Treasurer & vice-chairman

Mw. F.M. van den Heuvel
Derde Morgendreef 6
5233 NK 's-Hertogenbosch

Members

Mw. Drs. V.M.L. Delaney
Koningsmantelhof 19
6533 SJ Nijmegen

M. Pegels
Lavadijk 261
706 KZ Roosendaal

Mw. F.J. de Leeuw-de Bruijn
Wedesteinbroek 2007
6546 RS Nijmegen

A.C. Versteeg
Vliehors 5
2134 XM Hoofddorp

Honorary members of the association

Hr. Mr. B.H.O. Hoge, Hr. L.M.G. van der Lans

Member of merit

Mw. R.B.J. Langen-Van Kolck

Secretariat

Van Karnebeekstraat 153
3317 KW Dordrecht
E-mail address: frans.leijtens@hetnet.nl
Website: www.goudenkruisdragers.nl

Treasurer

Phone: +31 73 6414627 (after 6 PM)
Bank account: 375702 attn.
Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse,
's-Hertogenbosch
Contribution minimum: € 9,00

Editorial staff

A.C. Versteeg
Vliehors 5
2134 XM Hoofddorp
E-mail address: ac_versteeg@hotmail.com

Member administration

G.A.J. Aarts
Derde Morgendreef 6
5233 NK 's-Hertogenbosch
Phone: +31 73 6414627 (after 6 PM)

Preface

It is a pleasure to write a preface for this December circular. As usual you have received this newsletter in the last month of the year. A special month. It is after all a festive month. In this month of December we are on the verge of an old and a new year. For many Golden Medallists it is the last month to look back to this year's Four Days Marches. During the next month for many of us the new walking season will start again, although many will claim to have enjoyed beautiful marches this autumn. The typical Four Days Marches walker starts preparing in the New Year. For at the end of that first month of the New Year the registration brochure is delivered. The first sign that the new Four Days Marches is on its way. And even before we realise it, the new Four Days Marches is on our doorstep. However, that's not yet the case. We can still look back on July 2007, for the majority of us a peaceful and relaxing 91st edition. Looking back on the departure of Wim Jansen and on an entertaining reunion in Almere. It is pleasant that our memory usually focuses on the highlights. In the end the heavy rain on the fourth day was not that terrible. It may have slightly spoilt the party on the Via Gladiola; it was not at all a patch on the fantastic achievement and the unique week! That is how we wish the next edition to be. A year in which our mother organisation, the KNBLO-NL, celebrates its 100th anniversary. We wish to enjoy that week in good spirits and in good health. I wish you exactly that, and, on behalf of the board, a joyful Christmas and a very happy 2008.

*Henny Sackers,
Chairman*



Announcements of the board

New address?

Should you move house, please inform us of your new address as soon as possible. This way we can send all correspondence to the correct address. If available, please include your membership number.

Budget 2008

During the annual general meeting on 14 April 2007, the budget for 2008 has been established. The risk of the early preparation of the budget is that unforeseen matters and price changes can occur. This has been the case, as next year the contribution for the KNBLO-NL (the Royal Dutch Walking Association, our mother organisation) has risen to € 6.50. Furthermore, we are planning to create a meeting point for our members during the Four Days Marches. The budgeted shortfall therefore is approximately € 2,300. You may understand that we will suggest an increase of the annual contribution for 2009.

Reunion 2008

Contrary to what was suggested during the meeting on 16 July last, the reunion will take place in The Hague rather than in Hilversum.

Website

This month (December) our website will move to a different server, resulting in new e-mail addresses being available to contact the board and the editor. These new e-mail addresses will be available on www.goudenkruisdragers.nl.

Contribution 2008

Contribution for foreign members

Members who live abroad can pay their contribution of € 9,00 by bank. You need the following codes:

- IBAN: NL22 PSTB 0000 3757 02
- BIC: PSTBNL21

We appreciate your timely payment.

You can also pay your contribution during the annual meeting in the Kolpinghuis on Monday 14 July 2008.

Francien van den Heuvel,
Treasurer

News about the Four Days Marches

“Showing the flags” on Sunday

In 2008 the “Showing the flags” parade will take place on Sunday night, starting time is still unknown. Theme of the show will also be the hundredth anniversary of the KNBLO-NL.



Showing the flags 2007 (picture by Jan de Leeuw)

Register offices are opened already on Sunday

In 2008 announcements can be made already on Sunday afternoon from 13.00 - 17.00 hr, preceding the FDM start on Tuesday. With this arrangement the organization meets the urgent desires from the Nijmegen city police to do everything in reducing the heavy traffic downtown and around the city of Nijmegen, on Monday. Announcements also can be made on Monday, as usual.

Extension of the Goffert stadium

Anyway, the organization of the “Showing the Flags” parade obtains a new challenge in the near future. NEC, the professional soccer organization presented plans to supply the Goffert stadium with a second ring. The stadium capacity (12.500 at the moment) can increase up to 20.000. The plans still have to be approved.

Registration 92nd 4-Days Marches

Early February 2008 the registration procedure will start again. Everybody who completed the 91st FDM successfully, or those who dropped out during the 91st FDM but completed the 89th FDM, or those who are born in 1996, can be signed up during the first period without any risk to be eliminated by lottery. The first period starts on Monday February 4th 2008 at 00.00 hr.

Participation limit 92nd 4-Days Marches

The limit has been fixed upon 45.000 registrations, if this limit has not been achieved during the second period, there will be a possibility for an after-registration (till the counter reaches number 45.000). Anyway, the after-registration can only be realised by internet and involves a higher registration fee.

Team Participation

Team participation is pushed very strongly. Who wants to walk the FDM together with another 10 walkers, uniformly dressed, will be favoured with special facilities (next to sympathetic registration possibilities). Besides the existing facilities a special parking place for vehicles will be made available, just near the start / finish location.

The “Walking along” attendant

In 2008 it will be allowed to parents and/or attendants of young children, to accompany them on the 30 km route. Those parents and/or attendants have to be registered, but they don't receive the 4-Days Cross.

Research

In 2008 both Prof. Dr. Maria Hopman and Dr. Rico Schuijers (Physiologist and Sport-psychologist) will do again some study amongst the walkers. Maria Hopman will continue the study about physical stress, while Rico Schuijers will investigate why some walkers are determined to continue the walking trip, against one's better judgement. Reasons to stop the trip will be investigated as well.

In 2007 Maria Hopman carried out investigations amongst 60 walkers, together with her “Radboud University” team. The 60 walkers have swallowed a so-called FDM pill. The first conclusions are quite clear, for instance: the necessity to drink, differs much more from person to person than we thought up to now. In this respect it is rather difficult to give general instructions about the amount of liquid one has to drink. Once again it turned out; not everybody drinks enough at the right time. Especially if the weather conditions are rather cool, the necessity to keep on drinking is recognised insufficiently.

News about the routes

Work on the lock in the Maas/Waal channel at Weurt (passage on the second day) makes progress according to schedule. Ministry of Waterways and Public Works expect to finish the job (start in Aug 2006) at the end of February 2008. “The second day” route during the FDM 2008 will be just like before.

New participants

The French army has showed interest to participate the FDM with much more soldiers. At the same time the participation of a French Military Orchestra is investigated. Due to the "The Nijmegen Students Sport council" anniversary, the Radboud University wants to have students participating the FDM. The slogan is: Who goes to university at Nijmegen, has to complete the FDM at least once.

Johan Willemstein, new general manager



He, as member of our society, will experience the 92nd FDM as general manager. He succeeded Wim Jansen as chairman of the FDM board. Wim Velings, former manager of the criminal investigation department at the Nijmegen Police Office, and nowadays commissioner at Maastricht, is a new FDM manager. When Wim Jansen leaved the executive committee, he was appointed honorary member of the FDM, his wife received the gold medal for attendants. Chris Bos was appointed honorary member before, while the gold medal for attendants was distributed 3 times before (as far as known).

Correct or incorrect distances ?

The actual distance from every day is a serious subject and many walkers want to know more about it. With the GPS system the actual distance can be calculated very precisely, but everybody still has his own final result. Conducted by Arno Bernards, manager of the FDM routes , total agreement has been achieved about the right way of measurement, because the measuring procedures so far caused the differences as to the final results. As soon as the routes are fixed, an accurate measurement will be carried out.

Good-bye commissioners

The 92nd FDM will be the latest one for 2 commissioners. Ton Kokke (chief logistics) and Jan Timmermans (chief protocol) will say good-bye and leave their departments, they have been in service for several years. The FDM 2008 will be used to make their successors (Hans Boutier and Jan Janssen) familiar with their job. Hans Boutier is already busy for years within the Heumensoord department and Jan Janssen is already acting head protocol for some time.

Support from the Ministry of Defence

The FDM still will be supported by the MoD, in spite of the fact this MoD department is weighted down by heavy financial pressure. In principal the MoD management has consented to prepare a new agreement between MoD, the city of Nijmegen and the FDM. The actual agreement expires in 2008, but concerning MoD this can be extended with at least one year.

Wim Jansen honorary member KNBLO-NL

During the General Meeting of the KNBLO-NL of 17 November 2007, Wim Jansen is named honorary member of the union.



OORKONDE

Op voordracht van de Algemene Ledenvergadering is

WIM JANSEN

geboren op 15 december 1941

benoemd tot

ERELID

van de KNBLO-Wandelsportorganisatie Nederland.

Hij heeft een waarlijk en in alle opzichten buitengewoon verdienstelijke bestuurlijke bijdrage geleverd aan het transformatieproces, dat de KNBLO, sedert 2004 de KNBLO-NL, heeft ondergaan en nog steeds ondergaat. Niet alleen de noodzakelijke, organisatorische ontvlechting van de Vierdaagse Internationale Afstandsmarsen Nijmegen van de Bond, maar ook de als een metamorfose te typeren onvermijdelijke veranderingen binnen en buiten de KNBLO-NL, noodzaakten geregeld tot meer dan gemiddelde stuurmanskunst en vaardigheden die daarbij horen. Het is juist en vooral hier waar Wim Jansen, zijn bestuurskwaliteiten voluit heeft getoond. Bedachtzaam, waar nodig afwisselend, sturend en/of bijsturend, stimulerend en/of remmend, de confrontatie niet uit de weggaand, als hij daar aanleiding voor vond, heeft hij alom veel waardering en respect gekregen en zeker niet alleen op bondsniveau. Op het conto van deze vice-voorzitter staan daardoor onomstotelijk herkenbaar, concreet herkenbare kwaliteitsverbeteringen in vele bedrijfsprocessen en - mede daardoor - de gerespecteerde positie die de KNBLO-NL thans inneemt binnen het domein 'breedtesport'. Bij dit laatste mag de Vierdaagse Nijmegen andermaal beslist niet ongenoemd blijven. 'Bedankt voor alles', is een korte, maar wel een alles dekkende afsluiting in woorden, van een ongetwijfeld enerverende periode bestuurlijk vrijwilligerswerk in jouw leven.

Nijmegen, 17 november 2007

E.M.L.H. Termont
voorzitter



Invitation General Meeting April 19th 2008

As from 2006 the General Meeting which is also the annual meeting is not anymore held on the Monday preceding the Four Day Marches. The session on that particular Monday (the next one is on July 14th 2008) will be continued as a General Meeting, together with the opportunity to collect admission tickets for the final entry on Friday. You will receive more details on the possibility of obtaining tickets for the Flags Parade in the future. We herewith invite you for the General Meeting, which is the annual meeting as well. The board offers all members the opportunity to discuss the items being part of the agenda of the annual meeting. This annual meeting will be held on:

**Saturday April 19th 2008, Kolpinghuis, Smetiusstraat 1, Nijmegen;
Start time 11.30 CET**

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 July 16th 2007
4. Annual report of the board on 2007
 - a. Secretary's report
 - b. Treasury's report
5. Report Cash Audit Team
6. Appointment Cash Audit Team 2008
7. Budget 2009 & determination subscription
8. Election of the board
9. (Other) Proposals from the board
10. Any other business
11. Closure

Explanatory notes:

Item 3. Please refer to the draft minutes of the General Meeting held on July 16th 2007 published in this circular.

Items 4 & 7. The documents with respect to these items are published in this circular and will be available separately later, but at least three weeks before the date of the General Meeting.

Determination of the budget 2009 in this meeting implies that the board must foresee developments for next association's year. As a consequence, inescapable developments and new ideas cannot always been translated in financial terms correctly. Meanwhile, for instance, it has become clear that the contribution to KNBLO-NL will be € 1,30 per member higher as was budgeted.

Because of this increase every member, however, has (in addition to the existing facilities) a free subscription (six times a year) to the “Wandelsportmagazine”. In between the board also developed new plans, among which the organisation of a meeting point for our members during the Four Day Marches, as well as migration and further improvement of the website. It appeared that both activities can trust on broad support within the association. The project costs can be accommodated as yet within current budget, but this does not apply to next years. The board deems it necessary for the benefit of an in financial terms healthier organisation to increase the subscription. It proposes to determine the subscription for 2009 on € 13,20 (in words: thirteen euro and twenty eurocents). The board also proposes to grant a reduction of € 4,00 (in words: four euro) to those members, who (make) pay the contribution to KNBLO-NL via another association. The proposal has been forwarded to the Cash Audit Team for advice.

Item 8. Periodically outgoing and immediately eligible for re-election are the members of the board Mrs. V.M.L. Delaney as well as Mr. M. Pegels. Any other member who candidates needs the candidature to be presented to the board in writing at least 30 minutes in advance of the meeting, accompanied with at least 10 signatures of entitled members.

Item 9. The board intends to propose the General Meeting to cover the vacancy within the Committee for Nominations, caused by Mr. Chr. Hartog's decease, by appointing Mr. A. Schreurs. The intended appointment has the agreement of the sitting members.

Item 10. Members who intend to do a proposal, are kindly asked to transfer it in advance in writing to the board, as far as possible, on such a time that the proposal can be added to the meeting documents.

“It will be investigated”

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

Availability of meeting documents

The board imagines that not all members will be able to be present at the General Meeting, but on the other hand wish to have the meeting documents at one's disposal. If you intend to visit the meeting, than you surely will want the documents to be available. They can be obtained in two ways. Three weeks in advance of the meeting the documents will be published on our website. Besides of that, every member has the possibility of having the papers sent by mail. In that case we kindly ask you to request them in advance, by mail or e-mail. As a matter of fact the documents will be available before the meeting in the assembly room.

Minutes General Assembly, July 16, 2007

1. Opening by Chair

Mr. Sackers, Chair of the Gold Cross Association opens the meeting at 2 PM and welcomes everyone. Last year, he suggested keeping the meeting informal by allowing people to take off their jackets. Since that was not a success, the Chair suggests a compromise: ties may be taken off, but the Chair will keep his jacket on, since it has the Gold Cross on it.



(Picture by Jan de Leeuw)

The Chair especially welcomes honorary members Mr. Van der Lans and Mrs. Langen-Van Kolck, as well as Mr. Termont (Chairman of KNBLO) and Mr. Jansen (General Manager of the DE 4DAAGSE Foundation). Finally, Mr. Sackers welcomes all new members present for the first time. He hopes they will soon feel at home. As usual, the Chair repeats his word of welcome in English, German and French.

We are at the brink of the 91st edition of the Four Days Marches, which, throughout this whole year, was the centre of attention. We will no longer look back; instead, we will focus on all participants meeting next week; both holders of the Gold Cross as well as debutants.

Every edition is unique in the sense that we never know what is ahead of us. The weather at least is supposed to be perfect, perhaps with some minor rain. Hopefully, on Friday afternoon, we'll be able to say that it was a perfect week.

The Chair then asks for a moment of silence to commemorate the members who passed away this year. The same was done at the meeting in April.

Next, Mr. Sackers gives the floor over to Mr. Miel Termont, Chair of KNBLO Netherlands. Mr. Termont says that, since he's here with us for the seventh year, he really wasn't sure what to tell us this time. He starts by saying that, in an hour, KNBLO will present the program for its 100th anniversary. Mr. Termont already invites us to some of the events. KNBLO is very proud of its members, especially holders of the Gold Cross. Therefore, the very first invitation is to our members, to participate in one of the jubilee hikes (one in each province, as well as a national one). Mr. Termont would like to thank two groups in particular: first, the many hundreds of volunteers making the hikes possible, and second, of course, the thousands of hikers who are the very reason for our existence. It goes without saying that he hopes to see all of us again on Friday afternoon.

Mr. Sackers thanks Mr. Termont for his time and introduces the General Manager of the Four Days Marches. Mr. Jansen immediately starts by saying that if it's up to him, this meeting would take an hour tops, but that is hard to do if Mr. Termont is given the floor first!

The De 4DAAGSE Foundation is well prepared and therefore will not look back. They will just make this edition of the Four Days Marches a nice one and Mr. Jansen proposes to make next week a good one. He is greeted with applause. Mr. Jansen then quickly explains the lower number of participants: this is mainly due to a reduction in first-timers, which means that now everyone, in The Netherlands and abroad, realizes that the Four Days Marches are not to be taken lightly. Mr. Jansen concludes by wishing everyone good luck. After all, thanks to the holders of the Gold Cross, the percentage of drop-outs is low. Hopefully, we'll manage to keep it under nine percent this year.

Mr. Sackers briefly takes back the floor, because he doesn't want to pass up to a chance to thank Wim Jansen. Our association gives out an old-fashioned, printed newsletter, with all the latest news. Mr. Jansen always reads the newsletter and every time, he comments on the fact that the editors always seem to be the first ones to know about the latest news.

For example, in the newsletter of June, 2005, it was reported that Wim Jansen would step down as General Manager after the Four Days Marches of 2007. This is a perfect moment to pay attention to that fact, and on behalf of the Association, the Chair would like to thank Wim Jansen wholeheartedly. Mr. Jansen should realize that, here, he is among friends; people who are just happy when another Four Days Marches is organized. We simply want the Marches to be nice and quiet.

All of our members together count for nearly 47,000 finished editions of the Marches, so we are aware of all the concerns that a manager has: wheelchairs, the IRS, protocols for limiting the number of participants, etc. Members of the Association always wonder if that is all about OUR Four Days Marches. Still, in all those hectic times, Mr. Jansen managed to make time for us on Monday prior to each edition and during our informal gathering in January. Granted, so did his predecessors, but Mr. Jansen was the only one who would give members of our Board the chance to take place in the Four Days Marches Foundation Board, or the national Board.

In fact, Mr. Jansen is really honouring us, since his successor holds the Gold Cross. Mr. Jansen must really love us! Just like Wim Jansen always does with others, Mr. Sackers now unwraps our gift to Wim Jansen and says he expects Wim to actually wear it.



(Picture by Jan de Leeuw)

Mr. Jansen thanks everyone for the beautiful T-shirt and explains that he will have to take it off for the ceremonial opening of the Four Days Marches later that day. After which he and Mr. Termont leave the room.

Mr. Sackers explains there are a few errors in the agenda as printed in the newsletter, and quickly mentions the changes. He also mentions that Board member Martin Pegels was needed elsewhere, which of course we understand. We do hope, however, that he will be able to report back to Nijmegen before 8 PM tonight.

2. Reported announcements

The secretary reads a list with names of people that have reported their absence, Mr. Breed from Bussum, Mr. Bijl from Amersfoort en Mr. Brons from Oudorp. A letter has been received from Mr. Hopman from Ede. Mr. Hopman likes his participation this year to be sponsored. The revenues will be spent on charity. His request is announced through an internet site as well and if you want to take a sponsorship, Mr. Hopman is available after the meeting.

3. Announcements of the board

The chairman tells that the board is considering arranging a meeting point every day of the four days marches. This meeting point won't be a rest stop but you are invited to come by if you like. This idea needs to be developed and information will be available in coming circulars and the internet site.

Members have asked the board twice what the exact purpose is of the financial committee and why this committee couldn't have an advisory function. The board has accepted this idea and the chairman of the financial committee agrees on this point and is happy to introduce this function

The chairman remembers the audience that a vacancy has come into existence for the committee on appointments since Mr. Chris Hartog has passed away. Mr. Ab Scheurs from Haaksbergen, former member of the board, has accepted temporary membership and he will be officially nominated for this function by the board at the General Members Meeting in April.

4. Minutes General Members Meeting 14th April 2007

The chairman is going through the minutes with the audience: Mr. Sprakel from Raalte indicates that 'Mr. Brakel' in the minutes should be replaced by 'Mr. Sprakel'. The secretary confirms that he will change it. There are no further comments and with respect to earlier mentioned adjustment the minutes are accepted by the audience.

5. The 91st four days marches and concerning matters

The chairman invites the members to put forward their questions. At first Mr. Sprakel brings up a question about the monument that has been exposed last weekend. He appreciates the monument but asks why just the two people who passed away in 2006 are honoured. In the history of the four days marches a number of participating walkers have died.

The chairman answers that the monument is erected by the city of Nijmegen. The association has advised not to put any names on the monument. Since the monument is erected in remembrance of all deceased; there is one problem: one needs to be accurate and it is not known when each of the victims has passed away.

That is the reason the board of the association of golden cross-bearers four days marches and the foundation 'De 4daagse' have advised not to put any of the names of the victims on the monument.

Mrs. Langen-Van Kolck from Lent recalls bullet 15 of the four days marches regulation concerning doping. She hopes that a participant won't be expelled for drinking a glass of beer based on this regulation.

The chairman announces that the board of the foundation 'De 4daagse' won't organize check outs. However the authorities might address walkers in case of a probable violation of the law on opium (drugs).

Mr. Van der Velden from Utrecht has understood that the dike between Oosterhout and Lent will disappear from the trail in 2008. He would appreciate to hear more news about this subject through our association.

Mr. Scharp urged the K.N.B.L.O-walking organisation to spread the start of the participants on the 40 kilometre distance. He asks the board to collect comments on the plan (this year the start of participants is spread for the first time) and discuss these comments with the foundation 'De 4daagse' in January.

The chairman says the board is happy to do this since the board is very much in favour of expressing the feeling of the members. Everyone who likes to take part in this discussion is invited to share his opinion with the secretary.

Mr. Van de Maden from Wijchen asks if the showing the flags will be moved to the Sunday night.

This will be confirmed by the chairman: in the last week the board of the foundation has checked if the starting area can be made available on Sunday. This turned out positive, so next year the registration will start on Sunday 1 pm and the showing the flags will be held definitively on Sunday night.

Mr. Vermeer from Nijmegen points out the risk that it will be impossible for everyone to join the showing the flags.

The chairman announces that foreign soldiers are willing to come and that the ministry of Defence promised that Dutch military detachments will be there.

Mr. Mol from Breda asks if all events will be shifted to earlier moments, the 4daagse service is held on Sunday.

The chairman knows the 4daagse service is not willing to move to another moment in time.

Mr. Verhoeven indicates that one is obliged to arrive in Nijmegen on Sunday.

6. The reunion 2007 at Almere

Coert Peters is speaking, member of the reunion commission from Almere. He told us that he was very pleased to stand in front of the members, together with Hans Koppelman. The third member of this commission, Richard van Dijk, will be present in April for sure.

Mr. Koppelman invites everyone to come to Almere in September. He lives already a long time in Almere, and knows the meaning "unknown makes unloved". Nevertheless, he advises everyone to come and look what Almere can offer you! Mr. Peters translated this invitation in English at the meeting.



The chairman said thanks to Coert and Hans, especially because Coert kept his story short; the chairman was afraid that Coert would repeat his invitation in 17 languages. The board and members are looking forward to September 8, 2007 in Almere.

7. Reunion 2008; putting a date and a place

At the people present at the meeting is asked; if they had any proposal to organise the reunion in 2008 [and likely not in Flevoland, because we will visit Almere in Flevoland in 2007]. The reunion will be held on September 13, 2008.

There was no response at first, but than mr. Vugt from Hilversum said; that he will discuss with board member miss. De Leeuw-de Bruijn, if they could organise something around Hilversum.

8. Possible proposals from the board and/or the members

No one had a proposal, so we could pass this agenda-item easily.

9. Matters arising

Mr. Peynenburg from Apeldoorn asks if it is possible to put the text of the "4-day's-song" printed in the circular letter in June.

Miss. Borst from Drunen tells that miss. Lauterslager from Tilburg, also known as "mum of the 4-day's", wishes us all a good 4-day's. She thinks about us, and "lives with us". The chairman wishes miss. Lauterslager a good time as well.

Mr. Breukelaar from Wijlre gives his admiration to the board because of their devotion on their work, and gives his thanks to them on behalf of all people present at the meeting. Mr. Koopman joins these words and tells about the new beautiful 4-day's at Alkmaar; he invites everyone to join these marches next year

Mr. Scharp tells about his imitative to make a list of all the people who walked the 4-day's 25X or more. He asks everyone to help him, there are small papers with his e-mail address present, on which he would like to receive supplements to his list.

Mr. Aarts from 's-Hertogenbosch said that there where bidons, with a logo of our union printed on it, for sale for 2 euro.

10. Closing the meeting and 4-day's-song

At the end the chairman asks if everyone was able to speak, or ask questions. Well, it seemed so.

Than he wishes everyone, Bert van der Lans: 60X and Geert Meenken: 59X for sure, good luck in coming week. As usual the meeting will be closed by singing the 4-day's-song together.

There were today 101 members (including the board) at the meeting, at the Kolpinghuis, Nijmegen.



(Picture by Jan de Leeuw)

In memoriam

After appearance of the last circular letter, we have received notice of the decease of the following people:

Mw. J.M. Mansveld-van de Fluit	1926	Leiden
Hr. L.W. van Pelt	1923	Ridderkerk

Our condolences go out to the relatives.

The additional Four Days' Marches of 1947

In 1947, sixty years ago today, the history of the Marches shows something extraordinary, this being the year in which two Marches were organised. This had to do with the participation of old of police contingents. The police have a long tradition in the Nijmegen Marches. In 1924, Haaglanden Police (the then Police Sports Organisation of The Hague and Rotterdam) were the first to partake with one contingent. Next, in 1927, were Amsterdam and Rotterdam. More corps followed suit, and with the addition of Breda and Arnhem in 1938, the number of policemen taking part in the pre-war Marches had increased to several hundreds. After the war, everybody, including the police, was eager to do the Marches again. As many as thirty police contingents took part in the first post-war Marches of 1946. But in 1947 something went completely wrong. All over the Netherlands, there was a lot of unrest that summer. It all started with demonstrations against the military intervention in the former Dutch Indies. Rioters joined in. Many policemen were given to understand that there was a chance of their not being allowed to go to Nijmegen. In Maastricht, Rotterdam and Velzen there was such fierce rioting that participation of the Four Days' Marches was denied by the commanding police officers. Other corps did the same. And where things were quieter, only depleted contingents were allowed to go to Nijmegen. The disappointment among policemen was so great, that something unique happened in that year. After peace had been restored, the organisation of the Marches arranged a once-only extra edition, from 16th to 19th September 1947, for police personnel only, with start and finish located in the former Police Headquarters in Nijmegen. An official supervised each contingent by bike. The routes were not marked by arrows and rumour has it that here and there a group had to be redirected to the correct route. There was even a small-scale entry on the last day, because hundreds of inhabitants had gathered along the last part of the route for a festive welcome of all policemen.

The Home Minister appreciated the organisation of these extra marches so much, that he sent a letter to all police corps (including State Police, Country Police and River Police), encouraging them to go to Nijmegen in 1948 as one group, in order "to demonstrate to the Dutch nation the valour and marching skill of the Dutch police." Whether this summons led to the debut in 1948 of the Haarlem police, as representatives of the law in Kennemerland, can no longer be ascertained.

But what is certain, though, is that since then the Haarlem police have without interruption turned up at the start and finish of the Marches. For the sixtieth time in 2007. Earlier on, a report of these special Four Days' Marches of September 1947 was published in the circular letter by former board member Paul van Kessel. Part of this report has been published in the book "Fifty Years of Gold Cross Owners".

Lustrum list

We congratulate the following members after all with the achievement of a lustrum during the 4 Days Marches of 2007.

15X

Hr. L. Abels	Annen	Hr. J.H.R. Meeuwsen	Nijmegen
Hr. L. van Amerom	Rijnsburg	Mw. M.J.A. van Munster	Den Bosch
Hr. L. van Breukelen	Nijmegen	Mw. A. Mutsaers	Dieren
Hr. K. Brinkman	Heerjansdam	Hr. B. Ozephus	Horst
Mw. J. Bunschoten-Kriek	Huizen	Hr. H. Pool	Wijk bij Duurstede
Mw. A. Dekker	Spijkenisse	Hr. J.J. Salden	Limbricht
Hr. A.L.A. Demont	Huissen	Hr. C.L. Seijn	Veenendaal
Hr. A. Evegroen	Ouderkerk a/d IJssel	Mw. A. Sutton-Welburn	Lincoln, UK
Hr. R.H.B. Fessel	Rotterdam	Hr. B.G. Timmer-Rekers	Aadorp
Hr. T.A.G. Gunterman	Klundert	Hr. H.A.G. Verheijen	Noordwijkerhout
Hr. R. O. Kraaijeveld	Leek	Mw. M.P.W. Verheijen-Tielen	Alverna-Wijchen
Hr. P. Kruidenier	Winterswijk	Hr. C.M. Vermeulen	Breda
Hr. B. Liefhebber	Streefkerk	Hr. A.A.A.J. Vervoort	Siebengewald
Mw. C.B. Maeson-Kikendall	Berg en Dal	Hr. P.J. Vos	Laren

20X

Hr. W.J. Bijl	Bussum	Hr. A.W.H. Nillisen	Groesbeek
Mw. T.G.C. Ederveen	Bemmel	Hr. R.F.M. Otten	Nijmegen
Hr. A.J. van der Ent	Heiloo	Mw. U.M.P. van Rijn-Zomerschoe	Alphen a/d Rijn
Mw. A.I. Gommers-van Daalen	Amsterdam	Hr. H.C. Roos	Goch-Hassum, Germany
Hr. J.E.B. Hut	Haarlem	Hr. M. Rosenthal	Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany
Hr. G. van der Klift	Schiedam	Mw. P. Tapilaha-Turubassa	Deventer
Hr. J.P. Lammeren	Diemen	Mw. G.W. Veldhorst	Austerlitz
Hr. J.M. Leijtens	Drunen	Hr. J. Vissers	Breda
Mw. W. Leliveld	Beek-Ubbergen	Hr. J. Vlugs	Hilversum
Mw. A.C. Mennen-den Bol	Den Bosch		

25X			
Hr. C.G. Bouman	Uithoorn	Hr. J.G.H. Hofman	Hengelo
Mw. J. Eigenhuijsen – Derks	Nijmegen	Hr. N.Y.A.J. Kilwinger	Oosterhout
Hr. R. Eigenhuijsen	Nijmegen	Mw. J.W.C. Knipping-Eerden	Bemmel
Hr. P. Eigenhuijsen	Nijmegen	Mw. M.A.C. Visser-Kommeren	Breda
Hr. M. Hamelijk	Best	Hr. B.M.M. Princen	Amersfoort
30X			
Hr. M. Bakker	Amsterdam	Mw. E. Guley	Leiden
Hr. P.F. Eikenaar	Alkmaar	Hr. G.M.M. Noij	Gennep
Hr. F. Groenewoud	Amsterdam		
35X			
Hr. S. Bethke	Bonn, Germany	Hr. P.H.H. Scharp	Pijnacker
Hr. H. Bosma	Hoogeveen	Mw. M. van Slageren-Kootstra	Parrega
Hr. D. de Graaf	Bussum	Mw. G. Sølvbjerg	Odense, Denmark
Hr. G.C.R. Jansen	Nijmegen		
40X			
Hr. H.A.J. Bax	Nijmegen	Schönamsgruber	Buchholz in der Nordheide, Germany
45X			
Hr. J.Ch. Breukelaar	Wijlre	Mw. B. den Tuinder	Nieuw-Beijerland
Hr. M.M. Claassen	Nijmegen	Hr. H. Keizer	Haarlem
Hr. B. Fraters	Gemert	Hr. H.M. Kwant	Nijmegen
Hr. M.J.H.van Haren	Beuningen	Hr. K. Zwart	Den Haag
50X			
Hr. C. Koning	Veldhoven	Hr. W.J. Teensma	Sneek
Hr. A.W. van Kooten	Zoetermeer		
55X			
Hr. G.H. Flinterman	Ede		
60X			
Hr. L.M.G. van der Lans	Nijmegen		

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Prettige Kerstdagen en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar

Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neujahr

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année

*** Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo***

*** Glædelig Jul og godt nytår ***

*** God Jul och gott nytt år ***

*** Mo'adim Lesimkha. Shana Tova ***

