

DECEMBER CIRCULAR LETTER



2008

VERENIGING *"Gouden - Kruisdragers Vierdaagse"*

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Preface

It is a pleasure to write a preface for this circular letter. As usual you received this edition in the last month of the year. Many of you will rather be thinking about the Holidays than the 4 Days Marches. Which is logical ofcourse. In this month we are on the edge of both an old and a new calendar year. The end of the old one is coming near. The year of the 92nd 4 Days Marches, but of course also of the Olympics in Beijing, The year of the Walk Challenge China, the European Championships Soccer, the 100th anniversary of the KNBLO-NL and lots of other interesting daily events. Also a year of which everyone of us will have his or her own personal memories, the 4 Days Marches most likely being one of those. This will certainly be the case for our members for whom the 92nd 4 Days Marches were a personal climax. Due to a lustrum, or simply because it was a special week we had. In these days in the month of December there is time for reflection, reflection on what has become recent history. Although I seldom intrude my own experience, I would like to make an exception in this preface. During the Marches of 2008 I had the honor to look at the Marches from an Airforce helicopter on the third day, together with the Deputy-Secretary of Defense and the mayor of Nijmegen. Literally and figuratively a climax. From above one could see an amazing ribbon of ten thousands of walkers, waving to the – for them unknown – passengers of the helicopter that was passing by at low altitude, energetically walking through the hilly area of Mook and Groesbeek. With in and around Breedeweg and Groesbeek huge crowds of spectators. At the same time, in an extreme serene stillness, the immense impact of the Marches could be witnessed. While the ‘tail of the ribbon’ was still in Plasmolen, and a variety of people were busy with cleaning up rest areas, one could see in the corner of the eye huge amounts of people walking from Nijmegen-East to the finish area. And, in the blend of views, while the helicopter maneuvered away to avoid noise for people on the ground I noticed the ceremony on the Canadian War cemetery. That special place along the Zevenheuvelenweg, where the celebration of the “walk of the World” made way for awareness. Where the Marches met itself for a while in the reality of both past and future. For the cliché is just as trite as right. Time doesn’t stand still. Future is on its way. In January 2009 the walking season will start for many of us. At the end of that first month of the new year the brochure for enrollment can be found in the (digital) mailbox. It will be the first signal for the upcoming 4 Days Marches. Early February the enrollment for the 93rd 4 Days Marches will open. And before we all realize it, the Marches will be knocking on our doors.

We would be greatful if we could participate in the 93rd 4 Days Marches in good health. I wish this will be true for each one of you and, on behalf of the board, I also wish you a merry Christmas and a happy 2009.

*Henny Sackers,
Chairman*

Announcements of the board

Website

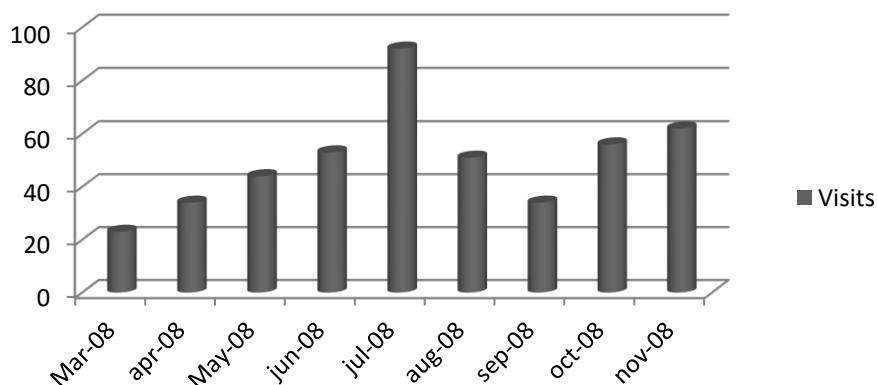
For a couple of months already, the new layout of our website can be seen online. As planned it became online just before the Marches of 2008. After the Marches we continued with adjusting and improving our website. Since then a photo gallery was implemented as well as a guestbook. Furthermore, new messages are posted regularly.

Also our foreign members and interested foreigners are not forgotten. Unfortunately it is not possible to translate all new messages, but currently the pages “General information”, “Board” and “New members” are available in English and we will try to have these pages available in German before the 4 Days Marches in 2009.

Besides that we will continue with developing new functionalities for the website, better organizing available information and professionalize the site.

We are pleased with the sound attention our website is getting. Since March 2008, the first month with our new provider, the daily average of visitors is increasing with a – logical – climax of 92 in July. Through further development we hope to continue with a sustainable growth. The graph below shows the daily average of visitors per month.

Gemiddeld aantal bezoekers per dag



Subscription by foreign members

Debit

The subscription 2009 for members living in The Netherlands and who gave authorization for automatic debit will be collected early January.

Giro

Members living in The Netherlands who pay the subscription via giro have received a letter early October to pay the subscription for 2009. Please be so kind as to pay in time. If you are in doubt, please verify. Your treasurer hopes that she not has to send any exhortations this year.

Members living abroad

Members who live abroad have received a request in October for payment of the contribution. They can transfer the contribution of € 13,20 to bank account 375702 to the attention of Gouden Kruisdragers Vierdaagse in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands. Per January 1, 2009 the IBAN- and BICcode will be changed. The IBAN-code will be: NL70 INGB 0000375702; the BIC-code is: INGNL2A.

You can also send cash in an envelope or pay on Monday July 20 in the Kolpinghuis, prior to the General Meeting.

Can I count on your cooperation?

*Francien van den Heuvel,
Treasurer*

Moving house?

If you are moving house, will you please inform us about your change of address in time for us to send your mail to the new address? We appreciate it if you also state your membership number.

Schedule of Walks in the Netherlands and membership card to be mailed by KNBLO-NL

This month, KNBLO-NL will send the Schedule of Walks in the Netherlands for 2009 together with the 2009 membership card by post.

New members

This year, some 840 walkers were awarded the Gold Cross Medal after completing the Four Days' Marches. Together with a congratulatory letter they were sent a canvassing leaflet of our association. These leaflets were also distributed at our meeting points, and new members subscribed spontaneously on our website thanks to the attention paid to our society during the Marches by the media and the press. The success of these actions was proved by the fact that we have been able to welcome about 200 new members to our association.

News from the Four Days' Marches

A lot of research was done during the 2008 Marches. By now, the (first) results have been made known. The Four Days' Marches committee commissioned a bureau of investigation to investigate the level of satisfaction among the walkers. This resulted in an enormous response, to such an extent that those who had received a questionnaire – but did not want to return it until after the holidays – were informed that the maximum that could be incorporated in the survey had already been reached as early as mid-August. On the basis of the outcome it appeared that the average walker was quite satisfied about the Marches. The organisation got as many as eight points out of ten. But despite all the praise, some critical remarks were made as well with which the organisation can occupy themselves in 2009. The prices of consumptions, for instance, scored low, and the number of toilets along the route should be increased.

One of the characteristics from the research results was that most of participants look for almost all fact and figures concerning the Four Days Marches by means of the Internet site. Particularly the so-called “Information brochure” (the issue which is generally transmitted in the middle of May to the registered participants) is only read by a minority. Because of the high costs for pressing and sending such a brochure, as from 2009 the number of “paper” expressions is reduced. However, the “almanac” will stay.

Another research has been done under the over six hundred volunteers who make the organisation of the Four Days Marches possible. They come from everywhere in the Netherlands and take, just like the walker, generally a free week in order to realize their voluntarily job within the Four Days Marches. This research focused on the volunteers' opinion regarding the working circumstances, the working hours, the instructions and the activities on behalf of the volunteers. They too indicated in wide majority that they are satisfied about what they recover for their efforts. And then it concerns of course the material aspects, but especially also the pleasure. Many volunteers appreciate the thanks of the walker, the more so if it has resulted in someone reaching, in spite of adversity, the finish.

The “novelties” from 2008 will be continued in 2009. Therefore, the Flags Parade will again be kept on the Sunday evening. Like march leader Johan Willemstein already said during our reunion: satisfaction concerning the shift to Sunday, now still trying to obtain satisfaction concerning contents and duration of the Flags Parade. Also presenting at the recording offices will be possible in 2009 on the Sunday afternoon before the start of The Four Days Marches as from 13.00 CET till 17.00 CET. Over 13,000 people came in 2008 already on Sunday. Also on Monday enrolling is possible (as always).

Parents or guardians of young children have been permitted to escort their child on the thirty kilometres as “accompany walker” in 2008. Approximately 250 parents used this possibility. In spite of accompaniment seventeen young people had to give up the fight. It is remarkable that of the escorts 27 people dropped out. Also in 2009, the accompaniment possibility will be offered. Details can be found in the regulation “Accompany walker”. In order to prevent abuse of this regulation (in 2008, people had by means of Internet sites submitted an application to act as “escort” for young people), it will be checked if the youngster is really accompanied by someone who is entitled to this end, and for example not by a stranger, who tries to participate on a new type of “certificate-distance”.

Beginning February 2009 the registration will start again. Everyone who has accomplished the 92nd Four Days Marches successfully, or has dropped out in the 92nd Four Days Marches, but has accomplished the 91st Four Days Marches, or who is born in 1997, can register without risk of drawing lots in the first period. The first period starts on 2nd February 2009 at 00.01 CET.

The maximum for the 93rd Four Days Marches has been stipulated on 45,000 registrations. In case this limit should not be reached after the second period of registration, there will be the possibility of an additional registration (as long as the meter does not stand on 45,000). This is only possible by means of Internet and against a higher inscription fee. If it should be necessary to draw lots, then this will only take place under those who want to participate for the first time.

Concerning modifications in routes currently hardly anything can be said now (December 2008). By local media it has been communicated that the route of the first day (on the route Oosterhout-Nijmegen) will run possibly by means of the “Fruitlaan” (a street in the newly built suburb Nijmegen-North, the so-called “Waaljump area”). After the dramatic events on the Oosterhoutsedijk in 2006, the Service “Routes” is busy with study of alternatives for the Oosterhoutsedijk. In 2007, and 2008, those alternatives (still) were not present. It is, however, not impossible that the situation will be modified by the summer of 2009.

Another point of study into routes’ change concerns the last day, and more precisely: the very last bit. It is examined whether the old arrival route can be recovered. This implies that after the passage of “Keizer Karelplein”, the route continues by means of the “Oranjesingel” direction “Prins Bernhardstraat”, and not by means of the secondary road to the “Wilhelminasingel” and “Waldeck Pyrmontsingel”. This depends if there can be found an acceptable solution for the separation of the large flows of entering and leaving walkers on the Start and Finish area.

New is the Walk Challenge Nijmegen 2009. This is a cooperation project of the Four Days Marches and KNBLO-NL. It concerns a project intended for first year walkers. The management of the Four Days Marches wants to call a halt to the high dropout percentages under the beginners, more exact to the large claim the first years make

on the medical assistance. First years drop out (in percentage) two times as frequently as experienced participants and need, by injuries often caused by insufficient training, more often medical assistance (blister treatment, joint- and muscle problems). With the Walk Challenge project they are accompanied intensively as from early spring in setting up and implementation of training and good preparation to the Four Days Marches.

Professor Dr. Maria Hopman as well as Dr. Rico Schuijers (the endeavour physiologist and the sport psychologist of the Four Days Marches) have done research in 2008 among walkers. Both intend to do again in 2009 more far-reaching researches. Maria Hopman will continue the study of the impact on the body, whereas Rico Schuijers will continue to do further research to the motives of walkers to continue walking, against all odds, as well as to the reasons of people to stop.

At his farewell of the Executive Committee Jan Timmermans (separating head of the Service "Protocol") has been appointed as honorary member of the Executive Committee of the Four Days Marches because of his commitment for the Four Days Marches. A rather unique event, since this honor was only granted two times before, viz. Wim Avenarius and Jan Sprenger. Jan Timmermans, member of our association, will further support the management of the Four Days Marches in the background. Another head of a Service, Ton Kokke (Service "Logistics") has also made his adieux in that quality this autumn, but Ton remains active for the Four Days Marches in several functions within the Executive Committee. There will be no successor for him. The Service "Logistics" is brought together in 2009 with the Facility Service, which stands already very long under the control of Freek Zevalkink. The new service aims entirely at the internal service.

The Four Days Marches 2008 has been recognized as the largest sport event of 2008 during the Response Events Top 100. The management of the Four Days Marches has been delighted concerning that first place, but even more by the fact that the Four Days Marches with that implicitly also obtains recognition as a sport event. In 2007, the Four Days Marches had already been exclaimed to the largest public event in the Netherlands. In the category one-day events the Fortis marathon Rotterdam is the absolute number one.

Invitation General Meeting March 28th 2009

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 20th 2009) will be continued as a General Meeting, together with the opportunity to collect admission tickets for the final entry on Friday. 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 March 28th 2009, 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 14th 2008
4. Annual report of the board on 2008
 - a. Secretary's report
 - b. Treasury's report
5. Report Cash Audit Team
6. Appointment Cash Audit Team 2009
7. Budget 2010 & determination subscription
8. Election of the board
9. (Other) Proposals from the board
10. Proposals from the members
11. Any other business
12. Closure

Explanatory notes:

Item 2: See second phrase of the note at item 9.

Item 3: The draught minutes of the General Meeting of July 14 2008 are printed in this circular letter.

Items 4 and 7: The pieces belonging to this agenda item will be available at a later date, though at least three weeks prior to the date of the General Meeting (see below).

Item 7: The board proposes to set the subscription for 2010 at € 13,40 and to give a reduction of € 4,40 for those members where the remittance to the KNBLO-NL is paid elsewhere.

Item 8: Periodically outgoing and immediately eligible for re-election is member and chairman Mr. Dr. H.J.B. Sackers. Every other member who wishes to nominate him or herself is obliged to make known to the board his candidacy in writing, at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting, accompanied by at least 10 signatures of entitled members.

Item 9: The board does not have the intention to make any proposals. The board will handle the proposal of continuing with the meeting points in 2009, based on the evaluation of 2008 at item 2. It is self-evident that the members in the meeting can respond to it.

Item 10: If possible a representative of the committee ad hoc, initiated for advising with the purchase of a new flag for the association, will report about their progress. Members who intend to make proposals, are kindly requested to submit these to the board in writing at the earliest so that they can be added to the pieces for the meeting.

“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 Meeting July 14th 2008

1. Opening by the chairman

Chairman of the Board, Mr. Henny Sackers, opens the meeting at 2.02 PM. One hundred and six members, among whom the entire Board, are present. The Chair expresses a warm welcome to everyone, particularly to Honorary Member Mr. Bert van der Lans, and to Member of Merit, Mrs. Gien Langen-van Kolck.

He then welcomes Mr. Miel Termont, chairman of KNBLO Netherlands, and to Mr. Johan Willemstein, chairman of the 4-DAAGSE Foundation. It is Mr. Willemstein's first time as the new leader of the Marches.

Finally, Mr. Sackers welcomes our newest and our international members. For the latter, he translates his welcoming words to English, German and French.

He then brings all kinds of new developments to our attention. According to the press, the 92nd edition will be one focusing on research. Science has discovered the Marches: Dr. Maria Hopman will conduct a second physiology research project. A group of participants will take a pill which -through the walker's cellphone- will send a signal to computers located at the start premises. There, researchers will monitor the participant's body temperature and will send a text message to the walker in case his/her body temperature rises too much.

It goes without saying that we are very interested in this new technology; we would love to send a text message to all of our 992 potential new members on Friday afternoon, congratulating them and inviting them to join our Association.

Hopefully, this edition of the Four Days Marches will be a triumph for Mr. Willemstein, the new General Manager. It will definitely be an edition of some very impressive lustrums. Three of our members hope to get their 50th Four Days Marches: Mrs. Groot-Laribij from Soest, Mr. Franken from Dordrecht and Mr. Loode from Staphorst. Former Chair and Honorary member, Mr. Ben Hoge hopes to finish for the 55th time, Ms. Greet Meenken is going for her 60th, and Mr. Van der Lans hopes to receive his 61st medal. We all hope it will be a memorable, fantastic week.

Before we continue our meeting, we want to pay our respects to a number of our members who passed away. After a moment of silence, Mr. Sackers continues the meeting. The agenda will be slightly revised, as two guests have requested to say a few words.

Mr. Termont is honored to be a guest at our meeting for the eighth time. Of course he hopes we will get at least 900 new Holders of the Gold Cross, because that should lead to at least 100 new members for KNBLO.

This year is KNBLO's 100th anniversary and already half of all the festive activities have taken place, such as special hikes, which each attracted 1,000 participants on an average. And soon, a number of people will participate in the 2008 Walking Challenge in China.

Mr. Termont wonders who KNBLO's target group really should be. Looking around, he sees veterans who have participated 59, 60 times; people who are called the Young Elderly. Therefore, KNBLO will start to design shorter hikes of 2-5 kilometers. Later on, when the Young Elderly become Elderly, they too, can take advantage of these short hikes!

Mr. Sackers thanks Mr. Termont, but is happy that for us, 'short' still means 30, 40, or 50 kilometers. He then gives the floor to Mr. Willemstein, General Manager of the Four Days Marches. Mr. Willemstein agrees with Mr. Sackers; let's all just first try to finish this 92nd edition. He is pleased to be with the hard core today: people who made the Four Days Marches to what they are today. Even though Mr. Willemstein only finished 12 editions of the Marches and realizes he's in short pants in our Association, this is a moment of peace and quiet for him, where he can be himself and feel among 'family' for just a little while.



Johan Willemstein speaking (picture taken by J. de Leeuw)

Tomorrow morning, nearly 40,000 participants will start under fair weather conditions. There will be some rain showers, but -as he already stated on TV-

participants expect it and are prepared. As the new General Manager, he will not make any big changes; the formula will remain largely unchanged, with the traditional routes and the traditional finish. Of course, some little things may change, but they will always be at the service of the participants and the organization.

Mr. Willemstein tells us he is very happy with the new shoelace chips. This way, management can get better insight in the staggering of participants on the routes and in so-called crowd control. Other research projects concerning health, training, etc. are meant to give more information to the participants and can be used to an even better preparation of this event.

The General Manager then talks a little more about Dr. Hopman's research. It shows that 17% of participants are unprepared. This means that of the 12,740 first-timers, nearly 2,000 are unprepared, which of course is completely unacceptable. It also shows that these kinds of research projects remain very important.

Finally, he discusses the upcoming satisfaction survey among nearly 3,500 participants, asking them what it is that they like about the Four Days Marches. It goes without saying that our members can continue to take proposals to the Association's Board. The Board will then present them to the Four Days Marches Board. Mr. Willemstein wishes everyone best of luck and hopes to see us all on Friday. He then surprises our Treasurer, Ms. Van den Heuvel. She has walked over 1,000 kilometers in preparation of this edition, but due to medical issues, she won't be able to start; hence the flowers. Mrs. Van den Heuvel kindly thanks the General Manager for his words: if you can't do what you want, you must want what you can do.



The treasurer (Picture taken by J. de Leeuw)

Mr. Sackers thanks Mr. Termont and Mr. Willemstein for their words and presence. We understand that both gentlemen have to leave early due to other engagements.

2. Incoming correspondence

The secretary has received several questions about merchandising by mail and e-mail: questions about badges, flags and other logos.

Two proposals have been received (by Mr. Mooijman from Plasmolen and Mr. Van der Velden from Utrecht) that will be addressed later during this meeting. Mr. Breed from Bussum has sent a message to announce his absence for this meeting.

We received a selfmade card of his 56th four days marches from Mr. Flinterman. We received an invitation for the four-days mass from the Stichting Vierdaagsemiss. The service has been visited by a delegation of the board.

3. Announcements of the Board

The chairman announces the following:

A meeting point will be available for members on the first and third day of the marches. Members should not feel obliged to visit, however everybody is welcome to do so. The chairman asks the three volunteers who will run the meeting point to rise, so they can be introduced.

The internet site (www.goudenkruisdragers.nl) has been restyled: we recommend visiting it. The third announcement involves internet as well; The Hyvers of the Goldcross-bearers will be expected for a tour at the Wedren at 16:00. Some members question what this all about; The chairman explains that this initiative has to do with younger members that are active with Hyves.

4. Minutes General Meeting April 19 2008

The chairman goes through the minutes page by page with the present members. Mr Peeters from Almere has two questions about page 11: He can't find the raise in subscription fee and he asks if a quorum was needed for the decision on the subscription taken in the meeting last april.

The chairman explains that the proposal for raising the subscription is part of the concept budget. The treasurer adds that the new subscription will be Euro 13.20 and a reduction of Euro 4.20 is given to those members that are already members of one of the walking associations of the K.N.B.L.O walkingsports organisation.

According the statutes a quorum is needed for a change in the statutes or the prorogation of the association. For other proposals approval of a majority of present members is sufficient.

There are no other remarks about the minutes after this explanation so the minutes are determined and the secretary is thanked for making these minutes.

5. The 92nd 4 Days Marches and (other) business

The chairman gives members with a proposal about this or coming four days marches the opportunity to speak out. The first one to speak is Mr. Wiersma from Maarssen who pays his respect to the Stichting 4DAAGSe and the K.B.N.L.O Walkingsports organisation Netherlands. Last year he wasn't able to take part and this year he could because he was able to attend during the second registration period. He Proposes that experienced walkers of the marches should be able to register for the marches during the first registration period. He regrets that the opening ceremony has been moved. He expects less walkers to be present at Sunday night and asks if his assumption can be checked.

Mr. Meier from Teterow, Germany reports that the distribution of tickets for the Goffertstadion was a chaos. Mr. Bloem from Waddinxveen confirms this issue. He was at 15:15 at the registration office and there were no tickets left. He paid a Euro 9 for a ticket at the 'Uitbureau' that stated a price of Euro 8.

The chairman calls attention to the fact that one can buy a ticket for the flagparade in the Goffertstadion but as a member of our association one has a right to get a nice seat in the stadium. One can apply for such a seat through the applicationform attached to the circulair in June. Apparently some people are not aware of this possibility. Mr. Bloem states that he never received a circulair.

Mr. Wouters has already walked the distance of thirty kilometers for many times and experiences large crowds at the service stations. He asks himself if it is possible to start the 30 km walk thirty minutes earlier. Mr. Mol from Breda says that it was very difficult to get back to the city after the opening ceremony by public transport. There was not enough transport available so one was more or less obliged to take a taxi. Mr. Bijlo has become member last year after the completion of ten and a quarter (2006) four days marches. He asks if there will be a guarantee ever that the marches will be held under all circumstances.

The chairman replies Mr. Wiersma that we appeal for the registration of experienced walkers during the first registration period and that, if we get impression it would be better to move the flagparade to another moment in time, we would bring this issue up in talks with Stichting 4DAAGSE.

Towards Mr. Meier and Mr. Bloem he replies that their complaints will be reported to the Stichting. It is regretful that Mr. Bloem didn't receive a circulair and that, since the available tickets were gone within the hour, our service to provide members with free tickets will be continued. The remarks of Mr. Wouters and Mr. Mol will also be reported to the Stichting. A guarantee as mentioned by Mr. Bijlo won't be given: There are several scenarios made to prevent unthoughtful cancellations, but there is no guarantee that something unexpected will happen.

Finally several members report that the flagparade lasted too long. They suggest that program can be shortened by leaving the side acts out, so everyone can return home at a reasonable hour.

6. Reunion 2008 at The Hague

Contrary to a message, published in the Wandelsportmagazine, the reunion is taken place on Saturday September 13th at Scheveningen. Mrs. de Leeuw, as a board member, gives some details about that day's program: "We are quest on the Scheveningen Pier, a shanty choir will come along to give a performance and we will visit the aquarium on the Scheveningen promenade. Registrations have to be realized before August 9th ". Mrs. Funnekotter, from Lent, was very enthusiastic about the last Almere reunion. Because she doesn't have a car she wonders now if a carpool arrangement could be set up. The chairman approves this idea what possible fits well on the new website. If Mrs. Funnekotter gets in touch with the board, we will try to realise something like that for herself (and others).

7. Reunion 2009, determine location and date

First of all the chairman invites all members to give ideas if someone wants to organise a nice day in her/his residence. Mr. Roelofs, from Escharen, proposes to organise the reunion at the city of Nijmegen by occasion of the 100th 4-days walking anniversary. If more people have ideas, during the coming days or later on, they are kindly invited to contact the board.

8. Any proposals from the Board and/or the members

Two proposals are presented to the board. The first one concerns Mr. Van der Lans offer to give a new association banner. Both Mr. van der Velden and Mr. Van der Lans, want to establish an ad-hoc committee to guide the banner's design and purchase procedure. The committee is established by return, Mr. V.d.Lans, Mr. V.d.Velden and Mr. Sackers (on behalf of the board) are the members.

The second proposal concerns Mr. Mooyman's idea to urge the 4-days Walking Foundation, to introduce a so-called super-senior 20 km distance course. The chairman makes clear this proposal has been discussed already 7 years ago and at that time all members have advised not to do it. Frankly speaking, according to our chairman, there will be no chance for this proposal today.

Mr. Brouwers, from Aalten, responds as follows: "Although Apeldoorn, with a 20 km distance course, knows different/heavier conditions, the Mr. Mooyman's proposal (see above) has still to be seriously considered". The chairman explains that members always can bring it up to their own board , although it will not be debatable at the 4-DW Foundation. Mrs. Borst-Brunsmann, from Drunen, mentions the senior walkers are the fads and fancies from the walking union and just for this category one may stand up. The chairman adds all arguments from 7 years ago are still effective, although the board wants to pay attention to this item.

9. Reports and Queries

Mr. Roelofs will be pleased with the replacement of the flags parade towards the traditional Monday evening. Mr. Van Rijn, from De Lier, announces the start of his book writing, based on the 100th 4-days walking , to be realised this year by the van Rijn family. One of our members makes a proposal to support the 4-days tune singing, at the end of the meeting, with music.

Mr. Peijnenborgh, from Helvoirt, wonders why the 4-days tune text has not been printed in our circular letter. The same question was actual during the meeting last year. Mr. van der Lans respects the lay-out/design of the conference-room and labels the flags parade as a mockery. Also the transport procedure was on a bad level. Mr. Peeters wonders if it is possible to sent an invitation again in April, just to remember the April general meeting.

Mr. Maassen, from Lent, remarks something about the forms, to be found as circular letter supplements. Fortunately he receives only one letter per home address, but consequently he has to copy the forms himself. One of the members reports the 2009 reunion date should be fixed on the second Saturday in September, as usual. Mr. Breukelaar, from Wijlre, respects and thanks the board, for all the work the board is doing.

After settlement of the last question, the chairman thanks Mrs. de Leeuw for her microphone assistance. No answered questions are registered. The chairman remarks that he has still some doubts about the request to support the 4-days tune by means of an orchestra.

10. Closing and 4-Days Marches tune

The chairman closes with many kindly regards to all members of Mrs. Lauten-Slager. Unfortunately she can't be present any longer. He mentions also the theme of the 4-days church service: "The small backpack, filled up with daily worries." He hopes this backpack will have a light weight for everyone. If not there may be support from a walking partner and/or member. He wishes everybody a lot of success and fun for this week and hopes to see everyone again, either on coming Friday during the entry, or during the September reunion. By singing the 4-days tune, the general meeting is closed.

In memoriam

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

Mr.	W. Beuming	1944	Nijmegen
Mrs.	I. Dekker-Posthumus	1935	Eindhoven
Mrs.	E. Denkers-Kuil	1939	Maasland
Mrs.	T. Himpers-Visser	1921	Den Helder
Mr.	F. de Moet	1930	Arnhem
	W. de Vries	1923	Nijmegen

Our condolences go out to the relatives.

Lustrum list

We congratulate the following members after all with the achievement of a lustrum during the 4 Days Marches of 2008.

15X

Mw. A Aalders	Amstelveen	Hr. A.J. Langenkamp	Geleen
Hr. C.H.J. Appels	Vucht	Hr. J.C. van de Maden	Wijchen
Hr. A. Bauch	Oberhausen, Duitsland	Hr. J.v.d.Mooren	Geertruidenberg
Hr. T.H. van den Berg	Helmond	Hr. J.G.T. Maas	Middelaar
Hr. H. van den Bosch	Nijmegen	Mw. H.C. Ooijen-Oosterhout	Zevenbergen
Hr. G. Bruitzman	Zaandam	Mw. J.C.M. Ooijen-Jooren	Zevenbergen
Hr. E.J. Frasa	Duiven	Mw. C.H.W. Peereboom- Kossen	Oudorp
Hr. J. van Ginkel	Zwijndrecht	Mw. G.M. Pelgrim	Terborg
Hr. A.B.G. de Hommel	Boxtel	Mw. E.F. Romme v. Asveldt	Boxtel
Hr. M.C. Hendriks	Ewijk	Hr. F.R.W. Rinsampessij	Capelle a/d IJssel
Hr. H. Hofland	Winterswijk	Hr. F.C. van Rooyen	Spijkenisse
Hr. B.J. Hoens	Den Haag	Mw. A.M. van Ruuyen-Berends	Woerden
Mw. P.H. Jillissen-v.d. Reyken	Den Haag	Hr. A. Taal	Leiden
Hr. R.T.J. Jongen	Beuningen	Hr. B.P. van Vliet	Sassenheim

20X

Hr. E. Bertrand	Driel	Hr. J. Offringa	Joure
Hr. T.J. Brouwers	Aalten	Mw. A.M. van Slageren	Zuidlaren
Hr. H.C. Boom	Leiden	Mw. W.H.A. Schoenmaker	Nijmegen
Hr. K. Bunschoten	Huizen	Hr. J.C.M. Schellekens	Boxtel
Hr. J.M. van Haaren	Wijchen	Hr. L.G.E. Toussaint	Nijmegen
Mw. M.C. de Jong	Amsterdam	Hr. H.G. Veenendaal	Krommenie
Mw. M. Koert-v.Dorr	Spijkenisse	Hr. J. Velema	Zeist
Hr. P. van der Kroft	Reeuwijk-dorp	Hr. H.M. Vleugels	Puth
Hr. K. Krueger	Vettelschob, Duitsland	Hr. M. van der Wilt	Delfgauw

Mw. B.C. Liefhebber-de Jong	Streefkerk	Hr. H.J. v.d.Wielen	Rotterdam
Hr. H. Michels	Lent		
25X			
Hr. V. Amersfoorth	Waalre	Hr. B. Mann	Munchen, Duitsland
Hr. P.W. Boogh	Malden	Hr. Koning	Spijkenisse
Hr. J. Boerhof	Smilde	Hr. J.P. de Mooij	Uden
Mw. S. van Elsloo-Marwa	Nijmegen	Hr. A.J.P. van der Pol	Huizen
Hr. E.C. Grootveld	Sliedrecht	Hr. M.A.P.M. Standaert	Ouderkerk a/d Amstel
Hr. A.H. van Heijningen	Ammerzoden	Mw. E.A.M.G. van der Westen- Frijters	Breda
Hr. P.R. Knijn	Badhoevedorp	Mw. C.A. Zaal	Varsseveld
30X			
Hr. J.W. Aarnoudse	Born	Mw. Hendriksen-Damen	Huissen
Mw. E.C. Engelen-Keller	Gendt	Mw. C.J. Kalbfleisch	Haarlem
Hr. J.H.L. Groenendaal	Spijkenisse	Hr. W. Kersten	Huissen
Hr. J.M. Hendriks	Elst	Hr. J. Wemmenhove	Spijkenisse
35X			
Mw. Hooymans-Looije	Tilburg	Hr. R.G. van Rijn	Alphen a/d Rijn
Mw. M.L.A. v.d.Leensel	Deurne	Hr. W.P.B. Zeegers	Breda
Mw. C. Noij-Kersten	Gennep		
40X			
Mw. M.L.J.H. Distel- Koutstaal	Schupfheim, Zwitserland	Hr. V.L. Vos	Hippolytushoef
Hr. P.J. Kenniphaas	Reeuwijk-dorp	Hr. R.A. Wermuth	Halsteren
Mw. F.J. de Leeuw-de Bruijn	Nijmegen	Hr. W.A.M. van der Wijst	Zeeland
Mw. J.B. Pluimers- Tuinbeek	Enschede		
45X			
Hr. A. van Aalst	Cuijk	Mw. A. den Uil-Westerhout	Hardinxveld- Giessendam
Hr. D.G. Cowan	Larkhall, Engeland	Hr. K. Zwart	Rijswijk
Hr. P.H.H. Hiemstra	Haaksbergen	Hr. J.J. Lamme	Delft
Hr. W.J.M. Underberg	Groenekan		
50X			
Hr. C. Franken	Dordrecht	Hr. G. Loode	Staphorst
Mw. C.J. Groot-Laribij	Soest		
55X			
Hr. B. Hoge	Malden		
60X			
Mw. G. Meenken	Haarlem		

☆ **Prettige Kerstdagen en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar** ☆

☆ **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** ☆

☆ **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** ☆



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