

# **DECEMBER CIRCULAR LETTER**



**2010**

## **Vereniging "Gouden - Kruisdragers Vierdaagse"**

Opgericht 24 juli 1951 - Goedgekeurd bij Koninklijk besluit d.d. 24 juli 1952, no. 46

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

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## **Preface**

I hope you all agree that we can look back on another beautiful edition of the Four Days Marches; the days were filled with sunshine and plenty of water sources. In addition, we had some great volunteers at our Meeting Points; they did a wonderful job representing our Association.

And then there was the wonderful, well-organized reunion in Middelburg, with beautiful costumes and a horse-drawn trolley. We already look forward to 2011, which will mark our 60th anniversary, can you imagine?

To our new members: welcome to our Association! We look forward to a beautiful new year with you. Rest assured that we will give you a lot of attention. Preparations for the 2011 reunion are in full swing, but we'll keep you in suspense for now; all we will say is that the reunion will be held around THE city of the Four Days Marches. Just keep an eye out for our June newsletter!

On behalf of the Board I would like to wish you Happy Holidays. We look forward to our next rendez-vous!

Francie de Leeuw



## **Announcements (by the board)**

### **Payment of annual fee**

#### **Automatic collection**

The fee for the year 2011 of members resident in the Netherlands who applied for automatic collection will be cashed in January.

#### **Credit slip**

Members, resident in the Netherlands, paying with preprinted giro credit slip have received an invitation to pay the fee for 2011. You would please us by paying in time. Any doubts? Check if you have payed yet?

#### **Members resident abroad**

Those member that are resident outside the Netherlands have received a request in October to pay the fee. They can transfer the fee Euro 16.10 to bank account number 375702 of the Gouden Kruisdragers Vierdaagse at 's-Hertogenbosch. The IBAN-code is: NL70 INGB 0000375702, the BIC-code is: INGBNL2A. You can send the money by mail if you like. (to: Derde Morgendreef 6, 5233 NK 's-Hertogenbosch)

May I count on your cooperation?

Thanks.

Francien van den Heuvel,  
treasurer.

#### **Absence secretary**

I will be on mission from January 3rd till July 11th 2011 to Travnik in Bosnia Herzegovina.

I will lead a group of EU observers as part of the division EUFOR 13A. You will be able to get in touch with me through e-mail ([secretaris@goudenkruisdragers.nl](mailto:secretaris@goudenkruisdragers.nl)) and facebook. I will report my experiences in Travnik every now and then via my Picasa album (<http://picasaweb.google.nl/centurion949>)

I kindly request you to send your letter to another member of the board if you want to send anything to the association that needs immediate attention. My mailbox will be emptied once every two weeks.

If you like to send me a postcard or something else (mail is always welcome and you need to put stamps on for Utrecht) the address is:

Kap. FJM Leijtens  
16279  
1(NLD) EUFOR 13A  
NAPO 45  
3509VP UTRECHT

I will have leave twice during the mission, thus don't be surprised if you spot me on a walking march. Finally, there will be nothing left of any value at my home address ;-)

### **Change in personal information**

When you move to another house, would you be so kind to sent us your new address, making it possible to sent the mail to your new address. It would be practical if you use your member-number in your correspondence. When your e-mail address or your bankaccount number changes, please let us know. Especially we like to be notified when your account number has changed in case you have authorized the treasurer for authomatic collection of the annual fee.

### **Change of border municipalities Nijmegen and Oosterhout**

Mail sent to several members in Oosterhout (Gelderland) has been returned to the association. We presume that some streets have been transferred to the municipality of Nijmegen and that the streetnames and/or zip codes have been changed. We don't know exactly what happened. We appeal to you: do you know any members that reside in Oosterhout and that have not received any mail from the association then their addresses have probably changed. Would you like to notify and ask them to inform the administrator, so he will be able to sent the mail to the right address. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **Successful recruitment of new members**

In cooperation with KNBLO-NL we produced another colourful leaflet for recruitment of new members. This leaflet has been sent to new golden cross bearers after the marches. The leaflet has also been sent to bearers that completed the marches in between 20 and 25 times and not yet member of the association. This recruitment resulted in 195 new members. We welcome them warmly in the association.

### **New flags**

The association flags were sold out quickly in 2009, so the board decided to order another 300 flags. The flags measure 50 by 30 cm and decorate your backpack nicely. A nice way to promote the association. To get a flag, transfer Euro 17,50 to account

number 375702 of Goudenkruisdragers vierdaagse in 's-Hertogenbosch. The flag will be sent to your home address.

### **News from the 4days marches**

In this circular letter no news about the next 4days marches.

### **Jubilee book**

A jubilee book was printed in 2003 on occasion of the 50th anniversary of the association Golden Cross Bearers 4days marches. This book has been sent to all members at the time. There are hundred copies left at this moment. When you are interested contact mrs Francie de Leeuw, Weerdensteinbroek 2007, 6546 RS Nijmegen, telephone +31(0)24-3788463. She will sent you a copy. Good to know: first come, first served.

### **Welcome and Congratulations!**

Greetings from the Association of Holders of the Four Days Marches Gold Cross! On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate you on becoming a member, and thank you that you have allowed us to 'adopt you'. We hope you enjoyed participating in the 2010 Marches for the 10th or more time, and we welcome you to our Association!

If next time you have a Four Days Marches lustrum, please let us know, as we will give you a beautiful pin. Once you put it on your lapel, you will feel like a true Four Days Marches hero!. We applaud you for your great achievement and hope you will stay with our Association for many more years!

Francie de Leeuw.

## **Invitation General Meeting 2 April 2011**

Herewith we like to invite you for the General Meeting, which is the annual meeting as well, in Nijmegen on Saturday 2 April 2011 in Kolpinghuis, Smetiusstraat 1, 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 19 July 2010
4. Annual report of the board on 2010
  - a. Secretary's report
  - b. Treasury's report
5. Report Cash Audit Team
6. Appointment Cash Audit Team 2011
7. Budget 2012 & 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 3: The draught minutes of the General Meeting of July 19 2010 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 contribution for 2012 at € 16,30 and to give a reduction of € 7,10 for members where the remittance to the KNBLO-NL . Both amounts are raised by € 0,20 because the remittance to the KNBLO-NL is raised with the same amount.

Item 8: Periodically outgoing and immediately eligible for re-election are Mrs. F. van den Heuvel and Mr. A. Versteeg. 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. Submitting candidacy in an earlier stage is of course possible through the secretariat of the association.

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 2010 at item 2. It is self-evident that the members in the meeting can respond to it.

Item 10: Members who would like to make a proposal, are requested to provide these written to the board in such a timely manner 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 of the General Meeting 19 July 2010**

There are 136 voting members present, including the entire Board.

### **1. Opening**

At 14: 03 hours the Chairman opens the meeting and promises directly that he does not will ask permission (such as he did in 2006) to continue the meeting in shirtsleeves. That entails no luck. He also reports that 1 p.m. this afternoon, it was decided to launch the Roadmap weather extremes so that the start will take place with one hour in advance. The start of the 30 km tomorrow morning has been moved forward even with one and a half hours.



*The chairman opens the meeting.*

Then the Chairman reminds the attendees to the fact that we already since 1963 all 47 years are guests in the Kolpinghuis and he thanks the host for the hospitality all these years. In 1963 our Association counted almost 100 members, but now our Association being 59 years old, we're certainly very much alive and vital. In addition, we currently have more than 2,200 members.

Our Honorary Member, Mr. Bert van der Lans, and our Member of merit, Mrs. Gien Langen-van Kolck are also at the meeting. We are very pleased to have them this afternoon in the meeting.

But we also appreciate the presence of Mr. Miel Termont, Chairman of the K.N.B.L.O.- wandelsportorganisatie Nederland. Like every year, Mr. Termont is willing to address us once again and no doubt he will find a good characterisation of our Association, such as the elite troops of the Vierdaagse or the standard-bearers of the hiking.

However, it always make us blush. Because in the Chairman of the walking organisation we have also a great helmsman, who was leading a huge walking legion in China and Israel. The Board of the K.N.B.L.O.- wandelsportorganisatie Nederland facilitates professional guidance of every human being with a couple of hefty legs, a great luck to nature.

Tomorrow the K.N.B.L.O.- wandelsportorganisatie Nederland will sign a cooperation agreement signs with the Koninklijke Nederlandse Atletiek Unie (Royal Dutch Athletics Union) in order to support even more the moving man. But in this respect

our Chairman still has some suggestions. In the early years of the Vierdaagse we were in fact also an event on horseback, on cycles and in row-boat. Undoubtedly, the relevant Dutch associations will also favor cooperation.

Mr. Termont takes the floor, and thanks our Chairman, because now the half of the planned speech has already been held. The meeting is accustomed to see him appear together with Mr. Willemstein, but the last one is just as busy with nearly the entire Dutch press corps. Therefore, for the time being, he will address the special forces of the walking world in its own. The common sport has currently strong attention within the NOC \* NSF (Netherlands Olympic Committee). The Chairman of the NOC \* NSF was even to be a guest on the Rode Kruis Bloesemtocht (Red Cross Blossoms tour) and showed himself surprised that all these sports fans were not watching, but actively engaged.

The K.N.B.L.O.- wandelsportorganisatie Nederland currently takes part in the new Task force common sport, together with 29 smaller unions. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the interests of the walkers and he refers, of course, regularly to our Association as the diehards of walking. The organisation is also still working on the extension of the 8 current hiking centers to a number of 25 in order to improve the infrastructure of the walking. There are also international initiatives. There is contact with Beijing: they want to extend their two-days event up to a four-days one. Of course, we have been in Israel for a walking tour that ended at the two-day in Gilboa. But there have also been talks with Brazil about a Walk Challenge in 2016 and contacts were established with Peru.

In 2016, the NOC \* NSF aims at having seventy percent of the Dutch (even the ageing of the population) engaged with the sports. The K.N.B.L.O.- wandelsportorganisatie Nederland can and will substantially contribute to the Olympic spirit.

Our own Chairman thanks Mr. Termont for his contribution and is pleased to announce that in case Mr. Willemstein still comes in, he will suspend the order of the meeting to give him the floor. The Chairman attends a special word of welcome to new members who join for the first time our meeting as well as to our foreign members, which he addresses in English, French and German.

The chairman looks forward to the upcoming Marches. We are on the eve of the 94th Four Days Marches Nijmegen, the largest multi-day sporting event in the Netherlands and together with the Four-Day Festival the biggest public event. The Marches, together with the Elfstedentocht, "Sinterklaas" (St. Nicholas) and finding the first plover, is listed one of the hundreds of typical Dutch classics.

In the rich history of the Marches of course there are special moments to be memorable this year. For example, ten years ago, it was the last Marches starting from De Vereeniging, was it 20 years ago that Chris Bos became general manager of the Marches and were the participants of the 30 kilometer banned to the Julianaplein. Thirty years ago, for the first time, women were allowed to walk 50 kilometer and died our member Van der Maessen de Sombreff. And why is it so special? In 1909, he was the only civilian to participate in the very first Marches held. Forty years ago the Zomerfeesten (Summer Festival) started, which is thus organized for the 41st time this year. And fifty years ago, the incentive medal for juveniles was set aside. In the same year (1960) it is the first time there are no Belgian paratroopers in the marches; due to the crisis in Congo they were held in the barracks. Of course we can continue like this for a while, but it is also important to look ahead to the upcoming Marches.

Because, as always, we are excited about what the upcoming Marches will bring us. Did we train enough, will everyone stay free of injuries? How will our walking friends do? And what is the weather like? These are questions that are yet to be answered and it is impossible to predict how this will go down in the history of the Marches. Perhaps as the Four Day Marches of the wristband, but hopefully as a relaxed, festive and sporting Marches.

Also this year some impressive anniversaries can be achieved during the Marches . Our member, Mr. Van Breukelen from Delft will hopefully fulfill his fiftieth Marches and Mr. Luijten even walks his 55th. And we hope that Mr. Bert van der Lans can pin number 63 on his ribbon on Friday. In any case, we wish everyone fun.

It is the sad duty of the chairman this afternoon to note that some of our members, our walking friends, are not longer amongst us. Their names are already mentioned the annual meeting in April and there they are respectfully commemorated. Yet it is a good practice to, also on the eve of the Marches, have a moment of silence to commemorate all deceased Holders of the Gold Cross. The meeting takes a moment's silence.

The Chairman closes the opening of the meeting with introducing the members of the board and remembers everyone to sign the attendance list. After this, it's the Secretary's turn.

## **2. Documents received**

Mr Breed from Bussum has checked out for this meeting with the secretary.

Mr Peters from Arnhem has asked us to mediate in the case of Mr Winkler, known in the media as the “pitiful Swiss”. The secretary responded that there is nothing we can do for Mr Winkler and that the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE, contrary to news reports, took the trouble to try and rectify his registration.

Mr Van Ameron from Rijnsburg submitted three questions prior to this meeting: the chairman will deal with these questions first thing at the end of the meeting.

Furthermore, we have been told by the De Kruif family that Mr de Kruif, who was to take part for the tenth time, appeared not to have been registered due to miscommunication with the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE. Unfortunately, the secretary was forced to let the family know that in this case there is no possibility for us to enable Mr de Kruif to enlist.

Finally, Mr Van der Velden from Utrecht has informed us about his communication with Shipmate, manufacturer of the miniature flags of our association. The manufacturer can probably supply us with another considerable number of flags at a very reasonable price. The secretary informs him that as a result the treasurer has in the mean time contacted the manufacturer and that the committee will tackle this action. So, we may have miniature flags for sale again before long.

## **3. Board announcements**

The chairman has only one announcement on behalf of the committee.

As each year, we shall again organise meeting points on the first three days of the Marches. The locations were mentioned in the June circular and are as follows: on the left hand side of the Dorpsstraat in Oosterhout on the first day, on the left hand side (house number 16) of the Hogewaldstraat in Beuningen on Wednesday and on the small square in front of the church left of the Oude Kleefsebaan in Berg en Dal on the third day.

Of course, this service is only made possible thanks to the cooperation of our volunteers who are to man these meeting points.

Meanwhile, general manager and leader of the Four Days’ Marches and member of our association, Johan Willemstein, has joined the meeting. The chairman still remembers having had the honour of addressing former Marches’ leaders Chris Bos and Wim Janssen and it is therefore a privilege to welcome also the present Marches’ leader amidst his fellow Gold-Cross bearers.

Tomorrow morning, Mr Willemstein will fire the starting shot to afford over 40,000 people an unforgettable week: novices, military and civil participants and of course Gold Cross bearers.

Our chairman has been informed that the starting shot will no longer be fired with a cap pistol, but with a real starting pistol. This fulfils at least one wish of our association. Whether the Marches' leader is able to fulfil another long cherished wish we do not know, of course, but we would like to have a dry finale at last after three years of rain. With this aim the chairman has made several suggestions to the Marches leader over the past few years, such as a Chinese invention to shoot away rain clouds or the introduction of a theologian in the weather advisory body. Perhaps the Marches' leader should consider the German octopus.

Of course, we have also heard that after the Four Days' Marches Mr Willemstein will walk part of the Camino, the pilgrims' way to Santiago de Compostella. Quite a few Gold Cross bearers have gone before him, such as our member Chris Janssen. It is from him that the chairman quotes the motto: "the trip to Santiago is a standing still while walking and a meeting on foot". That is our wish for our Marches leader: standing still figuratively speaking and meeting literally. If only he is be back in time for the 95th Matches; although no doubt the most important positions within the Marches are taken in pairs, just like the Dutch football team of Bert van Marwijk. We nevertheless prefer the Marches leader to swap the pilgrim's staff in time for the starting pistol. And we have already bought Mr Willemstein that pilgrim's staff, a necessary attribute. Subsequently, the chairman hands Mr Willemstein the walking stick, accompanied with the best wishes.



*Mr. Willemstein receives the walking stick.*

Next, Mr Willemstein addresses the meeting and thanks the chairman for his present. He apologises for his late arrival, owing to a lot of camera crews questioning him for information. The only thing he wants to say about the starting pistol is that he missed twice last year. He cannot say what the cause was, but he does not exclude duds. Then he reacts to the request about a dry finale: he affirms that he had nearly succeeded in acquiring Octopus Paul, but the animal had already ended up on the barbecue. Besides, in all brochures walkers are advised to train in all possible weather conditions and consequently he would deem it poorly if the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE were not to offer all possible weather conditions during the event. In any case, Mr Willemstein will be standing at the finish on Friday, and if the walkers get wet, so will he.

The only certainty is that he will leave in two weeks' time to walk the last 1,600 kilometres to Santiago. Indeed, he was looking for a small pilgrim's stick and so ours will certainly be carried along. He wishes to add that our chairman has allowed the president of the KNBLO Walkers' Association, just like himself, to leave the meeting at an earlier moment. In the case of the president, this would not have been necessary.

Yesterday, everybody was able to witness a special moment of tradition and reflection (the Marches' leader refers to the Four Days' Marches church service) and yesterday, as today, a good 40,000 people met at the Wedren and Heumensoord, where they put on their wristlet.

Yesterday he opened the Marches with a parade and a great show during the Flagparade and, after ample consultation of doctors and the weatherman, he will fire the starting shot at 3 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The weatherman forecast 32 degrees for Tuesday, which was this morning adjusted to 33 degrees.

The committee of the Stchting already had plans to advance the start by half an hour, but since 13.10 hrs that has been changed to a full hour. And because the elderly and children do 30 kilometres, they start as much as an hour and a half earlier. All walkers are advised to drink sufficiently and never to walk with an empty water bottle. On the last twelve kilometres, starting from Slijk-Ewijk, four large water supply points will be placed, so that there will be enough to drink.

Walkers are advised to cover head and neck and in order to stimulate everyone to make use of the early starting time, the last check-in on Tuesday will be advanced with one hour. The Marches will be over before you know it and so Mr Willemstein stresses the opportunity to enjoy it while it lasts and to make use of the time allowed.

Enjoyment is, according to the Marches' leader, the most important thing: taking pleasure in walking together and the entertainment of the Four Days' Festivities. Walking together brings out the best in people and that is something the world can do with. So, Nijmegen is ready for it, the Festivities are ready for it and the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE is ready for it: hopefully, those present are as well. Thereupon he wishes everyone the best of luck and hopes to see all again on Friday on the Via Gladiola.

The chairman thanks Mr Willemstein for his presence and requests the members to ask any questions to the board later, at the end of the meeting.

#### **4. Minutes General Meeting 10 April 2010**

The secretary announces that in point 7 the year is incorrect. Mr. Peeters adds that his name consists of 3 e's rather than 2. Mr. Van der Velden from Utrecht asks whether the association's flags can be placed more prominently around the meeting points during the Four Days' Marches.

#### **5. The 94th edition of the Four Days' Marches and related topics**

Mr. Nefkens indicates he would like to know the starting times for all four days and says that according to the NOS the temperature is expected to raise to 34 degrees. Mr. Peeters says he can't start earlier due to his train connection and he draws the conclusion that he will have an hour less to complete the first day. Mr. Sharp replies that he has understood that only the first day will have an earlier start. Mrs. Borst-

Brunsmann advises people to immediately have a drink when arriving at the Wedren when finishing, to prevent having to sign off exhausted and distressed. Mr. Sprakel wonders whether the 40 km will still start in two groups.

Mr. Breukelaar always sends postcards during the Four Days' Marches and is disappointed that the Four Days' Marches stamps no longer exist. One of the members claims that TNT sells these stamps; Mr. Breukelaar is afraid these are old supplies.

Mrs. Velthuyse-Hermes has registered correctly this year. Unfortunately she can't participate, therefore she has also signed out correctly. She worries about her participation next year: is she assured of participation?

Mr. Van der Meer from Maasland is of the opinion that the project Via Vierdaagse has become a means to take advantage of the system and suggests to set the sign off time to 3 pm: the Four Days' Marches is an achievement.

The chairman answers several questions. The starting time will be decided on a daily basis. Therefore, for now, only the starting time on Tuesday has been adjusted. The 40 km will still start in two groups: at 4.15 am and 5.15 am. The Four Days' Marches weather man, Jules Geirnardt, has a weather station on four sites alongside the route and together with the KNMI, the forecast is 33 degrees. Mrs. Velthuyse-Hermes is guaranteed participation next year.

Furthermore, several bus and train companies have been contacted in order to start their services an hour earlier. Everything will be done to adjust this too. Mr. Peeters is worried: he is forced to walk faster. Also Mr. Van der Velden from Utrecht and Mr. Brouwers from Aalten do not agree with the earlier start. Walkers might not be informed and may therefore be excluded. They insist the chairman discusses this matter with the march leader later today. This is followed by a round of applause.

## **6. Reunion 2010 in Middelburg on 11 September 2010**

Ms. Poppe introduces herself and the other members of the reunion committee. Monuments will be the theme of this reunion. Guests are welcome as from 10 am at the theatre, where they will be welcomed by the mayor of Middelburg. This is followed by a traditional costumes show and a lunch. Subsequently guests can choose to either walk through the beautiful town of Middelburg, take a ride on a horse tram or enjoy a boat trip. One can indicate their preference on the registration form sent with the June circular letter. The committee hopes to welcome many people.



*Ms. Poppe.*

## **7. Date and location for the reunion in 2011**

The chairman suggests to organise the reunion in 2011 on 10 September. As this is a lustrum, the board itself will attempt to find a good location around Nijmegen. A member suggests Zaltbommel. As soon as the board knows more, this will be communicated.

## **8. Proposals by the board and/or members**

This year neither the members, nor the board, submitted any proposals.

## **9. Any other business**

Mr. Scharp wishes everyone good luck on the march on behalf of Theo Goossen, a member of our association. He also points out that he is assembling a list of 'Four Days' Marches Heroes'.

Mr. De Koning is surprised that the KNBLO-NL (Royal Dutch Walking Association) and the KNAU (Royal Dutch Athletics Associations) are having contact. The KNAU used to aim for fast walking times, which drove walkers away.

Mrs. Borst-Brunsmann from Drunen again points out the importance of drinking something immediately after finishing.

Mr. Van Balen from Westervoort completed the Four Days' Marches 25 times, however, he cannot participate anymore. He does not want to receive the Wandelsport Magazine (walking magazine) from the KNBLO-NL anymore.

Mr. Peeters from Almere offers to explore the possibilities for the reunion in 2012 and will inform us during this meeting in 2011.

Mr. Bloem suggests that member wear a button of our association in order to be recognisable. Also, he suggests to send new members a letter with a button, requesting to wear this during the Four Days' Marches.

The chairman answers all the questions, starting with questions asked by mail. Mr. Van Amerom has sent in a question regarding the minimum number of members legally required at the general meeting in April. Normally around 30 members make decisions for all 2200 members. The chairman answers that this is possible and legally correct, with the exception of a few specific matters that – according to the decrees – require a minimum quorum.

Furthermore, Mr. Van Amerom wonders whether the reunion is intentionally organised on the National Monuments Day. The chairman says this has been the case since 1992.

Finally, he asked why the chairman had prepared an opening speech in 19 languages, while we only have members in 14 countries. The chairman points out that he spoke to members in Frisian at the reunion in 1998 in Parrega. Furthermore, Switzerland has three national languages. Also, he can speak Flemish to our Belgian members. The chairman adds that he thinks Mr. Van Amerom thought the chairman was bragging about the 19 languages. And of course Mr. Amerom was entirely right.

The chairman says he will communicate the request of Mr. Van Balen to the KNBLO-NL. He will also pass on Mr. De Koning's idea. All other suggestions will be considered later: these do not necessarily need to be answered during this meeting.

## **10. Closure and Four Days' Marches song**

The chairman thanks everyone and wishes everyone a cheerful walk during the 94th edition of the Four Days' Marches. The meeting is closed with the Four Days' Marches song.

## **In memoriam**

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

|     |                       |      |                       |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Mr. | C. Koopman            | 1927 | Heiloo                |
| Mr. | G.F. Lafeber          | 1920 | Soesterberg           |
| Mr. | K.H. Ott              | 1941 | Matten bei Interlaken |
| Mr. | C.J.A. Smits          | 1933 | Kaatsheuvel           |
| Mr. | J.G. Steunenberg      | 1926 | Apeldoorn             |
| Mr. | W.H.D. van der Vegt   | 1935 | Groesbeek             |
| Mr. | J.A.H. van der Westen | 1930 | Breda                 |
| Mr. | H.J. Wijts            | 1949 | Beverwijk             |

Our condolences go out to the relatives.

## **In memoriam: Chris Bos**

Chris Bos , our former march manager, passed away on November 4th 2010.

The “4 days marches” has lost an amiable and very involved human being, a great and dynamic management consultant, but on the first place a good friend with a heart-warming personality. With an indomitable effort concerned the “4 days marches” during many long years, with a not ceasing interest as to the “4 days marches” and certainly also as to the walkers fortunes.

Even after his spectacular farewell celebration in 1988 he still remained unabated fascinated by all the “4 days marches” affairs.

Chris and his wife Roos were respectable quests on several occasions.

Never in vain an appeal was made to his experience and knowledge, either he knew it directly or it was available and filed away at home in Wijchen.

Chris joined the march management in 1988, after the departure of Tonnie van Dongen the decision was made to install a troika as the management team, in 1989 the troika was already reduced to a two-headed management and a year later Chris started as the single-headed manager.

His name was joined to the “4 days marches” already for a long time, he was a “Committee foreign affairs” member at that time, as team manager responsible for the “Flags parade” and looked after the “Via Gladiola Entree” comments for years. Till 1999 the face of the “4 days marches” was determined by Chris.

Many “Golden Cross bearers” will remember him as the march manager who made the “4 days marches” event as it is today, a great and international event with good financial properties. But, above all, Chris was that manager who brought down the Russian soldiers towards Nijmegen in 1989, still before the Berlin wall collapsed.

The Soviet participation to the “4days marches” was absolutely news on front pages at home and abroad, everyone was excited. Also for Chris it must have been a dream that came true. As a old-air force officer, who was gotten familiar with the “east European danger” during his career, he knew exactly how to use the walking sport as a ultimate fraternization, proved by a 4 days thunderous applause for the Russian detachment. All this was inspiring Chris for more.

A year later (1990) Polish soldiers are present and still more nationalities are joining the “4 days marches”, every year more flags are flying during the “Flags parade”, also the flag from South Korea and just this flag was connected with a special story, a story told by Chris many times later on. The Korean people had a completely wrong idea about this event, they thought to join a walking-run, promptly they were disqualified, but the joke after their return home was as follows : the Korean media made reference to their VICTORY during the “4 days marches”.

In one respect the tradition of his predecessor Tonnie van Dongen was continued by Chris, namely : The : “Golden Cross bearers” were closely involved in many “4 days marches” affairs, our management was asked for advice regularly also concerning difficult matters, for instance the participation of wheelchair users.

Only in 2008 science had made sufficient progress to make sensible comparisons between the performances of valid and wheelchair participants.

When it was clear the performances of both categories were equivalent under specified conditions, Chris was the first one to welcome their participation.

“a pity” as he sighed, “that this conclusion isn’t made earlier by the scientist”, because if it was known earlier I could have spared my unpleasant confrontation with the State Secretary at that time. Difficult files he didn’t avoid.

Always with a stiff backbone, listening to arguments, considering and taking decisions if necessary. In this way Chris will stay in my mind, but above all as the march

manager who approached me after the “4 days marches” Mass in 1997 and asked me if it was true that due to my injury I was forced to miss the “4 days marches” event as a participant. I remember my affirmative answer but particular how he asked for my interest just to assist him during this “4 days marches” week.

During my last conversation with Chris earlier this year, with a view to my prospective position as an interim march manager and with reference to his 1997 question, he just smiled and said : “This had to be so”, a short and revealing answer.

“Little Chris thank you”, in this way thousands of walkers were quoted by the daily newspaper De



Gelderlander, all these walkers passing the seats of honour during the Via Gladiola entrée in 1998, were singing as a circulating canon for their retiring march manager. Dear Chris, on behalf of all the “Golden Cross bearers”, I repeat those words from 1998 with deep respect and most grateful for what you have done in favour of the “4 days marches”, for our association and for each walker,

Chris, we thank you so much!

May you rest in peace, you arrived the finish point, the march is completed.

Henny Sackers  
Chairman

### **Lustrum list**

We congratulate the following members after all with the achievement of a lustrum during the 4 Days Marches of 2010.

Did you had a lustrum this year, but is your name not on the list? Then your request was not received or not received in time or you indicated that you did not appreciate to be in the list. It's not necessary to mention it to us.

#### **15X**

|                         |                    |                          |               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Mr. J. Aland            | Almere-Stad        | Mr. J.S. Klaver          | Anna Paulowna |
| Mr. J.W. Albrecht       | Zeist              | Mrs.E.M.M. Koopman-Ursem | Alkmaar       |
| Mr. J.G. Bach           | Millingen a/d Rijn | Mr.R.Miechels            | Arnhem        |
| Mrs. S.L.M.M. Blom-Kint | Oss                | Mr.R.F.A. Mugie          | Velp          |
| Mr. J.H. Boersbroek     | Nijmegen           | Mr J.G.J.Peters          | Nijmegen      |
| Mr. F.B. Dede           | Den Haag           | Mr.M.Pegels              | Roosendaal    |
| Mr. H. Dikken           | Hilversum          | Mrs.M.I.S.Ragetlie-Vosch | Deurne        |
| Mr. C.W. Th. Ederveen   | Nijmegen           | Mr.P.J.G.M.Van der Sloot | Vught         |
| Mr. H.W. Eekhoudt       | Berkel-Rodenrijs   | Mr.B.A.A. Vermeulen      | Wijchen       |
| Mr. J.H. Jansen         | Oude Pekela        | Mr.H.Verheijen           | Alverna       |
| Mr. R.P.M. Joosen       | Oosterhout         | Mr.A.Th van der Voort    | Dinteloord    |

**20X**

|                      |                 |                        |               |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Mrs.J.M.G.Beekmans   | Beek en Donk    | Mrs.K. Roessler        | Germany       |
| Mr.L.J.Bloem         | Waddinxveen     | Mr.R.M. van der Schot  | Huijbergen    |
| Mr.E.Dikken          | Nijmegen        | Mr.B.E.J.M. Sluijters  | Rheden        |
| Mr.Th.M.Distler      | Germany         | Mr.M.A.M. Steenbakkers | Best          |
| Mrs.W.A.M.de Groot   | Wijchen         | Mr.A.M. Stroebel       | Driebergen    |
| Mr.Chr.Janssen       | Milsbeek        | Mr.T.Swart             | Beverwijk     |
| Mr.R.A.Klein Bennink | Zutphen         | Mr.R.S.Verboekend      | Zeist         |
| Mr.M.Kuperus         | Houten          | Mr.A.H.Vereijken       | Beek en Donk  |
| Mr.Kijk in de Vegte  | Alphen a/d Rijn | Mr.J.R.E.M.Voss        | Koog a/d Zaan |
| Mrs.H.M.W.Oosshot    | Amsterdam       | Mrs.J.Wemmenhove       | Spijkenisse   |
| Mr.C.J.v.Poorten     | Delft           |                        |               |

**25X**

|                     |             |                              |             |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Mr.N.R.Boerman      | Lelystad    | Mr.G.Ostergard               | Denmark     |
| Mr.W.Borghans       | Landgraaf   | Mr.J.A.W.Peters              | Beek        |
| Mr.H.Damen          | Huissen     | Mrs.Schoenmakers-Leenders    | Nijmegen    |
| Mr.J.J.E. van Geest | Gassel      | Mr.W.A.J.Timmermans          | Veghel      |
| Mr.K.op de Hipt     | Germany     | Mrs.F.van de Vegte-van Raaij | Nijmegen    |
| Mr.J.H.Jacobs       | Schoondijke | Mr.M.A.Versteeg              | Papendrecht |
| Mrs.B.Larsen        | Den Haag    | Mrs.A Vink-den Hartog        | Vlaardingen |
| Mr.H.van Oirschot   | Bergen      | Mr.J.Wilhelm                 | Ermelo      |

**30X**

|                       |            |                           |           |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Mrs.A.W.M. Anemaat    | Vught      | Mr.B.Mann                 | Germany   |
| Mr.J.A.A.van den Berg | Zaltbommel | Mrs.M.W.Pelser van de Ven | Bemmel    |
| Mrs.J.C.van Driel     | Bleiswijk  | Mrs.G.M.C.van Wijnen      | Hoogvliet |
| Mr.J.Keetman          | Zaandam    |                           |           |

**35X**

|                      |         |                  |          |
|----------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| Mr.F.van Dam         | Huissen | Mr.P.Mittermeier | Germany  |
| Mrs.G.P.L.van Eldonk | Lent    | Mr.J.N.Nahon     | Voorburg |
| Mr.J.M.Hopman        | Ede     | Mr.W.H.Stevens   | Zevenaar |

**40X**

|                       |            |                 |           |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Mrs.Velders-de Ruyter | Schoonoord | Mr.C.van Wijnen | Hoogvliet |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|

**45X**

|                  |      |                 |            |
|------------------|------|-----------------|------------|
| Mr.J.A.M.Maassen | Lent | Mr.W.Modderkolk | Zoetermeer |
|------------------|------|-----------------|------------|

**50X**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Mr.R.J.van Breukelen | Delft |
|----------------------|-------|

**55X**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr.J.F.Luijten | Hellevoetsluis |
|----------------|----------------|

## **Reunion 11 September 2010 in Middelburg**

This year, the city of Middelburg played host to our annual reunion, and I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised by the sheer beauty of this city. We were given several options to tour the city: the trolley ride, a boat ride, visiting a museum or a city tour.



We saw beautiful old buildings on our horse-drawn trolley ride. All this had been organized by Joke Poppe and Fini Groenewoud, in cooperation with the couple Bass Vooijs-Ellen Harmsen; many thanks to them! They had also arranged for music and a traditional folkore dance group, in beautiful costumes adorned with jewelry.



Lunch at the city theatre was outstanding. Also, 18 lustrum pins were rewarded this year; an event that everyone always looks forward to. Is next year going to be a Four Days Marches lustrum for you? Let us know and a pin will adorn your jacket or vest! Simply look out for the June newsletter and send in your request!

Francie de Leeuw

## **Reunion 2011**

The Board would like to call your attention to the 2011 reunion, which will mark our Association's 60th anniversary. Although we won't tell you everything we have in store for you, we can tell you that you will spend a beautiful day on the water, close to the Cuijk pontoon bridge. More information and a registration form can be found in the June 2011 newsletter. Keep an eye out for it!



## **From members**

### **Les Amis**

The magazine "Internationale Samenwerking" published the following article on august 17. 2010. In the African country of Burundi; at the capital Bujumbura, members of the hiking club Les Amis make their walkings.

The country is recovering from more then 10 years of war between the army and rebels. The walkers were once mistaken for spies of the army, but they call themselves the pioneers of walking. A remarkable story of people from the African country, which have the same hobby as we do!

### **Sunday hike**

The members of Les Amis hiking club, experienced the ups and downs of the city of Bujumbura, Burundi at close quarters. For thirty years they walk every Sunday through the city and surroundings.

"Allez, mademoiselle Lonnie, we are waiting for you". The row of white T-shirts of Les Amis disappears around the corner from a house under construction. We manoeuvred past piles of stones, parts of fences, pieces of wood. Here is a complete neighborhood under construction at the foot of the hill which lies nestled to Bujumbura. In the tall grass between the plots are grazing cows. Here will soon rise modern bungalows for the middle class. The owners build to their own ideas and aesthetic conception. In Bujumbura, but also in the villages in the surrounding of the city, we'll see houses being built everywhere. "It's the sign that the people have hope again", said one of the Amis. "Building a house is an investment in the future. Once people have saved some money, they buy land, cement and bricks. "Bujumbura is scibbling on, after the civil war that crippled the county in its grip since 1994. "Then one district went to the FNL rebel group, the army hold another district and they shot each other a bit about going downtown", days Christophe, president of the Amis. "Bujumbura was divided into ghettos. Hutus en Tutsis had their own neighborhoods. But the walking club was always and everywhere. We wanted to show that we did not let us down and that we are one people".

### **Tracksuit**

We are stabbing through trenches and ditches on wooden bridges. The path gets steeper, passing the construction of a new district boundary. We pass by a carcass of poles and a corrugated roof. There is a church service in progress. An orchestra with guitars and keyboards play a song, the faithful sing softly. Atop the hill, overlooking the city is breathtaking. Lake Tanganyika, the gripping arms in the port, the green patch to the golf course, the tower of the cathedral, the brewery Brarudi boilers.

"Yes, that is your brewery", ami Epitace laughs. "That is 60 percent owned by Heineken, the rest is state property. Brarudi is the largest taxpayer in Burundi. We continue upwards. The paths are narrow, the grass is higher. We pass a church where they are very colourful with a screaming electric guitar and a frenzied drum solo. The villagers are waving to the walkers. "Look, people smile as they see us. They dare to get outside", said ami Simon Nbirunziza. Since the cease-fire of 2006, it took until 2008 before a final agreement which was also agreed by the last remaining rebel group of the FNL. "Until recently, you could still have a chance to encounter stray rebels. So the shutters and doors were shut tight as we passed by". Besides of the road waving flags of political parties. CNDD-FDD government party gave fully equipped conference rooms, painted in the Burundian red, green, white and the party weapon. President Pierre Nkurunziza, a former rebel who was elected in 2005, remains immensely popular. He is regularly spotted in his tracksuit, at a game of football with the electorate

### **Call-credits**

As we were descending, the anecdotes came. "We were just outside the city, when we were stopped by an armed group, FNL rebels. They were apparently not aware that their leaders already had signed a peace agreement", says Simon Nbirunziza, an retired military and now owns a hotel called Christmas Club. " They claimed that we were spies of the army, disguised as a walking club. We stayed for hours in the sun, we sat and tried to explain that we just walk for fun. Eventually one of them called their boss with the mobile phone of one of us. They had no more credit themselves. Eventually they walked a little way with us on a path that we didn't know so well. So, that was good". Simon isn't the only [former] soldier in the club. Among the more than 200 members of Les Amis de la Montagne [today there are about 50 to join the walk] are many academics, entrepreneurs and military. These do not boxes from the top, kick and wriggle until we go down. Back in the center, the city shows that it awakens. Expats eat a pizza at hotel Ubuntu or at Club Havana, later that day an illegal copy of an American romantic can be seen at the reopened Cameo Cinema. They are strikingly young women in their twenties, often as a volunteer for a organisation dedicated to reconciliation and trauma. We walk past the market where ladies advertise their linen/stuff. The lily is the motif at this moment, preferably against a bright pink or black background. "Business is good", says Rahabu. "There is a lot of competition [she points at her neighbor with exactly the same clothings], but I am known for my good service. I really think about my customers wishes. Since the roads are safe again, I can buy larger. I even get materials from Uganda, which are popular here".

## Healthy mind

Back at the start [of the walk], Les Amis take the car [mind you!!], to go to bar Gato Gato, to have their discussions. The walls are covered with posters of Primus beer, a local beer from the Brarudi brewery. The Amis prefer Amstel or green imported Heineken [bottle 65 cl]. This is the premium beer of the middle class. The waiter in white overalls serves skewers; 30 inches long skewers with chunks of goat meat. With his knife he unzip the skewer in front of you. The gate guard guys outside will look after your car for 100 francs [10 euro cents]. they look after the Nissans and Toyotas of Les Amis, so the mirrors are still there when you return. Because, that is the other side of the city: thousands of young people, particularly boys, during the war years with no family, who were drawn to the city. For them to survive unemployment, they start small trades, such as in stolen car parts.

"We exist 30 years this year. We saw the city grow in the eighties, seen destroyed in the nineties, and since a few years rising again. We call ourselves the pioneers of walking. For Burundians really didn't like sport. Walking around in shorts and sneakers, you didn't; if you had some good family. And to see friends, you took the car. At first, they just laughed as we passed walking by. Nowadays you see people in groups anywhere on Sunday morning marching pace through the streets of the city draw. This is possible because it is safe. A healthy mind in a healthy body. If everyone in Burundi were used to it; then it would be right with this country". A 4-member jury of the route that day, recalls the remarkable events of that day.

Was that last week a collision with a goat, this week was La journaliste hollandaise; who performed with her white Allstars at the first lawn completely into the mud to sink, as 1 of Les Amis pulled her out again, so she had to accomplish the rest of the trip with 2 club feet of brown clay.

text: Lonny Genugten

☆ **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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