

June circular letter



2007

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Preface

“As you see time did not stand still”. With this phrase the famous Dutch writer Toon Kortooms used to conclude his novels. These words spring to my mind when writing this preface, realising that when you read this we are already on the eve of the 91st edition of the Four Days’ Marches. Time did not stand still indeed. It seems only recently that the unrealistic message was communicated that the 90th edition of the Four Days’ Marches was cancelled. The heat of the subsequent discussions barely seem to have cooled down. However, it can’t be denied: the countdown for the 91st edition has started. This year’s edition will not be a regular one though. During the general meeting of our association last April I shared my view that the events surrounding the 90th edition will only become a part of the past when the 91st edition will have taken place without any substantial problems. I express this hope explicitly. The 91st has to take place without any terrorist threats and ‘normal’ weather. I sincerely hope that Wim Jansen, retiring as general manager this year, can leave with an old-fashioned successful edition of the four Days’ Marches. I also sincerely hope that our honorary member Bert van der Lans will complete his 60th on 20 July 2007. And that all our other active members can reach their goals from 2006. The same goes for our members who don’t participate any longer, and enjoy the event in a different way. Grown richer from last year’s experiences, and having become stronger in coping with disappointments, I hope that everyone will enjoy this one week in July more than ever. This week during which we all start the physical and mental challenge as equals in the special ambiance of the Four Day’s Marches. With, more than ever, attention for each other’s wellbeing. In the tradition of famous members of our association, such as Annie Berkhout, Chris Hartog and many others, who have shown us the way. Finally, on behalf of the board, I wish you a fantastic and successful 91st Four Days’ Marches. I add to that that I wish Wim Jansen and all of his volunteers a peaceful and smoothly running Four Days’ Marches.

Henny Sackers,

Chairman

Announcements by the board

Contribution for foreign members

At the moment some of our members who live abroad have not paid their contributions for 2006. The membership fee can be paid in cash on Monday 16 July between 2pm and 3pm in the Kolpinghuis in Nijmegen.

Should you live in the EU, you can also transfer your contribution by bank. You need the following codes:

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

Cancellation membership

Each year some members cancel their membership after having received a reminder. Other members don't pay and don't cancel either. Please keep in mind that this is not a pleasant way of working. Should you wish to cancel your membership, please let us know before 30 November 2007. Your membership will then be cancelled as from 1 January 2008. This saves us a lot of time and administrative costs. We appreciate your cooperation.

Membership figure

The board is pleased to announce that on 31 December 2006 our membership figure was 1885.

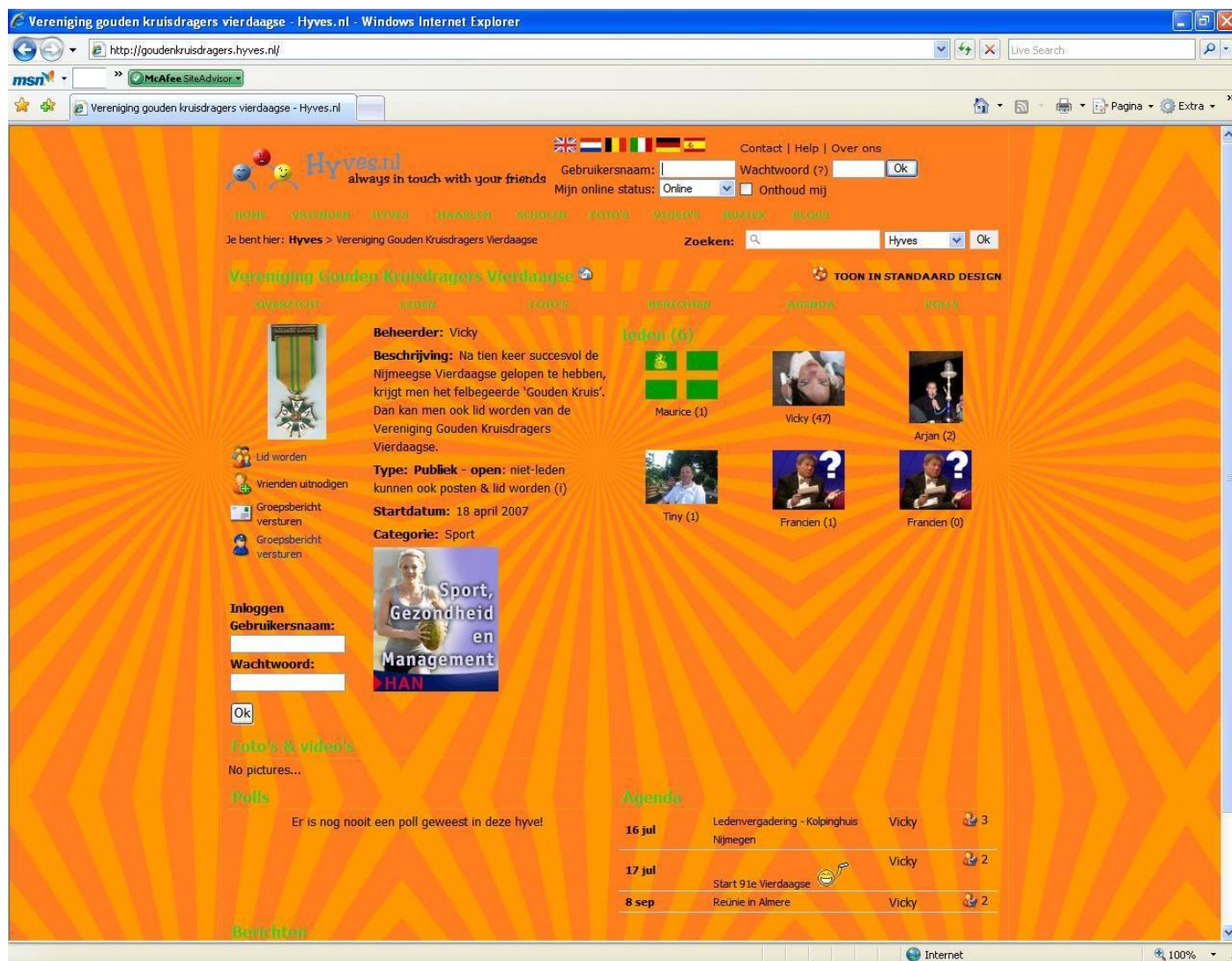
Annual reports

Annual reports of the secretary and treasurer as well as the budget of this year are not added to this circular letter. These documents are provided at the meeting of last April 14th. Are you still interested in these documents then you can download these documents from the website www.goudenkruisdragers.nl.

Own "hyve" for our association

In these modern times our association cannot remain without a hyve on the internet of course. Hyves exists since October 2004 and is a free Dutch profile site (foreign languages available though) which focuses on maintaining and extending relationships. Hyves has over 3 million users. In the hyve people can post messages, note down dates in the agenda, publish photos and polls. So this is an excellent way for our members to stay in contact with each other!

Signing up with Hyves is free of charge and is quite easy by clicking "join now" on the homepage (www.hyves.nl). Fill out your data and follow the instructions. Next, you can sign up for our own hyve www.goudenkruisdragers.hyves.nl by clicking "become a member". Until hyves!



Screenshot of the “goudenkruisdragers-hyves”.

News about the 91st 4 Days Marches

The city of Nijmegen proclaims a mobility plan 2007 concerning the 4-days marches

For years already it is a serious problem to arrive in the centre of Nijmegen during the 4-days marches event.

And who arrives finally near her/his destination (sometimes after delays due to traffic-jams), has problems to park the car and/or bicycle.

As long as the second bridge over the river Waal isn't realised, the city of Nijmegen will do their utmost to improve the mobility during the week of the 4-days marches event.

The municipal executives will announce many actions to improve the situation.

Those actions provide for (better) transferia, capacity-extension for parking/storing of cars/bicycles, a more appropriate effort of the public transport, and other arrangements to ensure that traffic runs more smoothly, including moving slides and other statements above or along the approach roads direction Nijmegen.

Wim Jansen's last 4 Days Marches

It was already known for a longer time, but the 91st 4-days marches event will be the latest one for Wim Jansen as the general manager.

Certainly after the 2006 incidents, it is permitted to him the 2007 issue will pass without considerable problems.

In the autumn of this year, on different moments, Wim Jansen will say good-buy to the 4-days marches organization and to the walkers.

His successor is Johan Willemstein, he wears the 4-d golden cross, is member of our society and will use the 91st issue, besides his job as a technical manager, mainly to get familiar with his new job as the general manager.

For the time being it is unknown who will be the new technical manager in 2008.

What about if the weather conditions will be tropical like last year

Especially for the 91st issue a complete new script has been written, coming into force as soon as the weather develops unexpectedly like a spoilsport.

A special new team will judge the weather conditions, one of the team-members is a meteorologist, who will punctually follow all developments for the 4-days marches tracks.

Every day, on different spots, all the relevant data will be collected and sent directly to the nerve-centre at the start/finish location.

Just due to this procedure the organization is able to follow the situation every hour, and decisions can be taken much quicker and more careful.

Not being dependent on data collected by a third party and unclear how these data have to be interpret for the "Nijmegen situation", is a real extra advantage.

Apart from the meteorologist, also the physiologist and the sport-psychologist will follow all the developments and are adding their expertise.

The new script is not named “heath-script” any longer, but the new name reads from now on “script for weather-extremities”. For what reasons ??

Because not only the chance of a heat-wave has to be taken into account, but also the chance of extremely coldness and/or extremely wet weather conditions.

Whether actions have to be realised doesn’t depend only on the forecasted temperature, but just as much on the forecasted wind-force, relative humidity and precipitation.

From the end of April trials have been made with measuring instruments, in and around the city of Nijmegen.

Anyway a separate script concerning extremely weather-conditions has been fixed by the Ministry of Defense, just for the military participants.

Monument

On the Saturday before the 4 Days Marches a (new) monument will be presented in Juliana Park. With this monument participants who died during the 4 Days Marches will be remembered. Of course, the ideas for the monument were initiated after the death of two participants in 2006, but with this monument other participants who died will be remembered. For example, in 1972 extreme circumstances resulted in casualties as well. The park contains more monuments related to the 4 Days Marches, under which the “Breunese-bench”.

Ton Kokke regally decorated

Head of Logistics has been regally decorated by the mayor of Nijmegen, Thom de Graaf. Ton Kokke is responsible for all logistical activities during the 4 Days Marches for years and years. The Logistics Department makes sure that all teams and departments are well supplied, toilets along the road for example. His department makes sure that the toilets are available in time, that enough toilet paper is at hand and that the toilets are cleaned regularly. A valid decoration for one of the quiet workers behind the scenes, without whom the 4 Days Marches would be impossible. Ton Kokke announced 2008 to be the last edition with him being Head of Logistics. This also applies to Jan Timmermans, Head of Protocol.

New agreement with sports masseurs

Coming 4 Days Marches a new agreement will be signed between the 4DAAGSE and the “Genootschap voor Sportmassage” (Association for Sports massage). For many years the association delivers service to the participants. The masseurs are located in the “Dansschool” at the Bijleveldsingel.

Short news

+++ New start gate for civil groups at the Waldeck Pymontsingel. The construction will replace the old sign that was hardly visible anymore. +++ There will be a Meeting Point at the Start/Finish area. Participant scan meet each other at this point. +++ Vitens, the water company of the province of Gelderland, made an agreement with the 4DAAGSE to supply water at multiple locations along the road. +++ Besides SBS6 and RTV Gelderland, also KRO will pay much attention to the 4 Days

Marches. +++ Participants from 63 different countries will be present during the 91st edition. +++

News that was already published on the website:

- Change of start procedure 40 km (Wedren). The 40km starts in two groups.
- Reporting to the administration on Monday can now be done until 8 pm.
- In 2008 it might be possible to report to the administration on Sunday already.
- For 2008 it is being considered to move the Flag Parade to Sunday evening.
- For the 91st 4 Days Marches there are no route changes. However, as already foreseen for 2006, there will be a temporary bridge to cross the Maas- and Waalcanal. The route will also follow the Waalkade.

The text below was finished at May 21 2007. News, received after this date, will be published on our website.

Invitation to the General Assembly, July 16 2007

You are hereby invited to the General Assembly on Monday, July 16, 2007. The meeting will be held in the Kolpinghuis, Smetiusstraat 1 in Nijmegen, and will start at 2 p.m.

Agenda

1. Opening of the Assembly by the Chair
2. Documents received
3. Board announcements
4. General Assembly April 14, 2007 minutes
5. The 91st Four Days Marches
6. 2007 reunion in Almere
7. Proposed date and place of 2008 reunion
8. Proposals by board and/or members, if applicable
9. Any other business
10. Closing and Four Days Marches song

Please submit your questions to the Secretary in writing and no later than one week prior to the Assembly. This will allow the Board to do research if necessary.

If KNBLO or Stichting De 4DAAGSE wishes to address the Assembly, they will do so immediately after the Opening.

Prior to printing this magazine, the Board did not expect to make any proposals.

The Board anticipates closing the Assembly no later than 3 p.m.

Minutes General Meeting dating April 14 2007

At the beginning of the meeting there were 28 members and 7 board members present. Amongst the attendees were honorary member Mr. Van der Lans and member of merit Mrs. Langen – Van Kolck. During the meeting 4 more attendees joined the meeting.

1. Opening by the chairman

At 11.30 the chairman opens the meeting and welcomes the attendees.



The board, with from left to right Vicky Delaney, Francie de Leeuw, Frans Leijtens, Henny Sackers, Francien v/d Heuvel, Arjan Versteeg and Martin Pegels.

After this he gives a special welcome to our honorary member and member of merit. As usual the chairman repeats this in French, German and English. After commemorating some house rules and the request to sign the attendance list the chairman introduces the other members of the board.

In this meeting the board will be accounted for the year 2006. Although not foreseen, 2006 became a special year. This was mainly due to the events on July 18 on that "small piece of dike". Mr. Heijne Makkreel, a member of the Hermans- committee, is also present. The quality improvement, recommended by the committee has been initiated by the board of the 4DAAGSE.

However the Marches in 2006 can be finally closed when the 2007 edition has been successfully closed. Last night the registration for the 91st edition closed and the number of participants will be between 42,000 and 43,000. The exact number will be known within a few days.

The cancellation of the 2006 edition did not have a lot of influence on the association. We did not have a lot of new members and we did not give away lustrum awards. In a conversation in with the reunion committee it was decided to not cancel the reunion. The reunion was in Beverwijk with excellent weather.

The chairman notes that the association's website has been updated frequently the past year. This results in more and more visitors. And, of course 2006 was a year of celebration. Our association exists already for 55 years.

The members deceased in 2006 are remembered. In connection to that the chairman holds an In Memoriam for our honorary member Chris Hartog who recently passed away.

Mr. Van Breukelen proposes to change item 9 into 'Possible propositions of the board and the members'. This proposal is accepted.

2. Incoming correspondence / announcements from the board

The secretary states the incoming and outgoing correspondence, by letter or e-mail. Apologies for absence arrived from Mr. Van Balen and Ms. Sponselee. Next the association received invitations from the K.N.B.L.O.-wandelsportorganisatie Nederland for its General Assembly and Advisory Board. Of course numerous changes of addressed came in, together with some applications of new members and, of course, many Christmas cards.

De Stichting DE 4DAAGSE invited the board for an informal talk on January 24th of this year and Mr. Woordes raised a question per e-mail towards the board. The chairman states that Mr. Woordes' question will be answered later on during the meeting.

Mr. Van Breukelen indicates that in September 2006 he wrote a letter in which he evaluated the Four Day Marches and did numerous suggestions for the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE. He asks the board what happened with this letter. The chairman explains that this letter, together with similar letters and e-mails of other members, has been brought forward during the meeting on January 27th with the board of Stichting DE 4DAAGSE.

3. Minutes of the general meeting July 17th 2006

The reproduction of the minutes on page 9 of December's circular letter (green cover) will be managed per page.

Referring to page 9 Ms. Van Slageren informs whether the trip to China of K.N.B.L.O.-wandelsportorganisatie Nederland will be proceeded; from a regional chairman she understood that perhaps this might not be case. Ms. Delaney states that her concerns are idle. The trip to China will take place.

The chairman indicates that apologies for absence have been omitted in the representation in the circular letter. In the original minutes they are stated properly. The Budget Committee asks whether the board reflected upon the suggestion to upgrade the Budget Committee to a Financial Committee. The Committee could then not only check the treasurer, but also advise invited and uninvited the board. The Budget Committee in any way did not consider the suggestion. The chairman tells that this requires a change of the regulations together with a quorum. A change request is in progress but this will take some more time.

The chairman determines that in view of proceeding comments the minutes can be approved by the meeting. Hereupon the members do not have any objections ; with a hammer stroke the chairman fixes the minutes.

4a. The board's annual report 2006: secretary's report

The chairman recalls the fact that only after agenda item 5 the formal, complete approval of the annual reports can be given. The secretary's report will be discussed per chapter.

In Mr. Van Breukelen view 51 members attended the meeting in stead of 31. The secretary indicates in his view 31 is the correct number; he will check it since he still has the attendance list.

Mr. Van Breukelen comments on the chapter "Investigatory Committees" that it states that mainly 30 KM walkers came into problems. He cannot agree with this statement. Ms. Brint-Brunsmann remarks that also many 40 and 50 KM walkers had problems. Maybe mainly walkers who participated for the first time encountered problems? The chairman observes that these data came from investigatory reports. People who according the statistics asked for medical assistance held relatively many 30 KM walkers. But they included also people from the surrounding public. Mr. Heijne Makkreel indicates that the construction of the sentence is ambiguous. The sentence in question will be replaced by: "It appeared that many walkers who run into problems, did the 30 KM. Assistance workers had the impression that many people with problems were not quite prepared for extreme conditions".

Mr. Sprakel informs whether people with problems were younger or elder. The chairman explains that the surveys are based on people who effectively have been

transported towards a hospital. Here we have a slight overrepresentation of 50+. Ms. Van der Westen agrees that spraying water by the fire brigade was quite dangerous; you could not bypass it. The chairman tells that the fire brigades have been addressed in this respect.

Ms. Van der Westen stresses next that the Four Day Marches pin really is a good reminder of the 90th Vierdaagse. The chairman points out that a number of people really returned the pin. These participants only wanted the Four Day Marches cross, since it never had been pointed out explicitly in the regulations that the Four Day Marches consist of four marching days. This eventually resulted in a juridical debate and meanwhile the “Stichting DE 4DAAGSE” changed the regulations.

4b. The board's annual report 2006: treasury's report

The treasurer explains that 1.856 members effectively paid the contribution in 2006. Furthermore there is still poor experience with regards to the estimation of the new annual meeting in April. Travel expenses as well as other statements of expenses from the board turn out low: the board regularly prefers car pooling.

The post office forgot to charge an item during the latest circular letter in June. The cost of the moulds for the new lustrum rewards have fully been debited to the profit and loss account of 2006. There were no lustrum rewards in 2006 and both circumstances compensate each other more or less. Next years, there will therefore be no depreciation of moulds. Finally the treasurer explains in short the balance statement.

Mr. Van der Lans informs why we purchased the lustrum rewards from a new company. The treasurer explains that the change has been made in view of the favourable price of the Van Veluw company compared to the Zilverstad company. The chairman remarks that Zilverstad could not cope with the price advantage the Van Veluw company offers as part of the umbrella agreement between Van Veluw and the “Stichting DE 4DAAGSE”. Mr. Van der Lans then informs whether the quality of the rewards is being guaranteed. The chairman confirms this point: the quality is as usual.

5. Report from the Budget Committee

Mr. Purmer addresses the meeting on behalf of the Budget Committee. He took a pleasure in the previous discussion about the transformation of the Budget Committee into a Financial Committee. Furthermore, the financial papers really are impressive. The budget 2006 and the actuals 2006 are close together and every deviation has a proper explanation. The session on February 19th 2006 during which the financial data 2006 have been checked by the Committee in presence of the treasurer really was a pleasure.

However, two members of the Budget Committee did not appear in view of a huge travel distance to Nijmegen, as a consequence of which Mr. Purmer asks both members to abandon their position within the Committee.

Mr. Purmer thereupon reads out a statement in which the Budget Committee suggests to discharge the board for 2006 and to thank especially the treasurer for doing a splendid job. By means of applause the members show their approval. The chairman asks the members to agree with the annual reports on 2006. There is no opposition from the members; so the board is being discharged for the annual reports on 2006.

6. Election onto Budget Committee 2007

Last year a fourth member has been elected onto the Budget Committee, with which Mr. Van der Geest will leave the Committee. The Budget Committee will therefore be made up of Mr. Purmer, Mr. Vermeer, Mr. Hurten and Mr. Van Breukelen as stand-by member.

Mr. Van Breukelen informs whether the written comments regarding the financial data which he sent to the treasurer, have been discussed. Mr. Purmer confirms this has happened and excuses himself for not quoting this during the previous item on the agenda. Mr. Van Breukelen states that he resigns as a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Van der Maden (Wijchen) candidates as new stand-by member in stead of Mr. Van Breukelen. Mr. Woordes wonders why the audit always takes place in Nijmegen. The chairman puts forward that this is up to the Committee, not to the board. Mr. Van der Lans asks why Mr. Van der Maden is a stand-by member. The chairman explains that last year four members took place in the Budget Committee since one of them had a backlog in his subscription.

7. Budget 2008 and determination of subscription

In short the treasurer explains the larger deviations and changes of the budget.

Ms. Borst-Brunsmann wonders why we cannot advertise in the “Wandelsportmagazine” in order to promote ourselves. Ms. Delaney explains that in next edition of the magazine information about our association will be published and that next we will be mentioned in the colophon. However, this will only happen in case our organisation really has something to bring forward. Also, in coming Vierdaagsemagazine an extensive article about our union will be published.

The chairman informs whether there are other remarks regarding the Budget 2008. This not being the case the chairman resolves on the Budget 2008. In case there might be reasons to change the budget in the course of 2007, this will be stated in next general meeting.

8. Election of the Board

Mrs. Van den Heuvel and Mr. Versteeg are up for re-election. The Chair asks the members if anyone is opposed to either one being re-elected. No one opposes and both candidates are re-elected for a period of three years.

9. Proposals by Board or members

The Chair gives the word to Mr. Coert Peeters, who speaks on behalf of the 2007 Reunion Committee. Mr. Peeters says that last year, he attended this general meeting for the first time. Last year, on Queen's Day, Queen Beatrix was pleasantly surprised by the beautiful city of Almere. The 2007 Reunion Committee wants to equally surprise the members of this association. Mr. Coen Peeters, Mr. Richard van Dijk and Mr. Hans Koppelman –all from the city of Almere- will organize the reunion program, in which the Royal Tour will take a central place. Mr. Van Dijk explains that the program will consist of 4 parts, in a 'merry-go-round' manner: the Royal Tour, a bus tour through the city, a lunch and a surprise presentation. After that, everyone will have some time to explore Almere individually, followed by the traditional reunion closing. He welcomes everyone to this young, dynamic city.

Mrs. Van der Westen informs what the closest train station would be for this reunion. Mr. Peeters says there will be shuttle buses from Almere station. Mrs. Van Slageren is wondering how the 'merry-go-round' would work. The Committee explains that one will constantly run into each other and that, of course, everyone will lunch together. The Chair notes that with this reunion, Mr. Van der Lans' wish to visit every province, will finally become a reality.

The Chair then invites Mr. Woordes to further explain to everyone the letter he sent to the Board. Mr. Woordes explains that associations who are a region member of KNBLO Netherlands can put forward proposals for discussion to KNBLO through these regions. However, our association doesn't even discuss KNBLO's general assembly agenda, and Mr. Woordes wonders why we even are a member then. The Chair explains that the status quo of our membership is still the same. There will be no virtual region, since WS'78 and our association don't see the benefits of such region. We will stick to the old situation (as regulated by statute), which means that we are a legal entity and a direct member of KNBLO.

Mr. Woordes wonders if we have the same rights as other KNBLO members then. The Chair says that KNBLO matters are not the association's first priority, since it is not our primary goal. Mr. Van der Maden would like to know if this means that he can't comment at KNBLO's general assembly as an individual member. This is correct; this can only be done through our association or through a region, which is a time-consuming process, but at the same time is the principle of democracy.

The Board mentions that if members have any comments concerning our sport or the Four Days Marches, the Board will forward these to KNBLO. However, the Board will only try to influence KNBLO's policy if it concerns all of our members or the Four Days Marches. Mr. Sprakel asks if the Board will forward comments to the 4DAAGSE Foundation. The Board admits it fulfills this role more towards the Foundation than towards KNBLO. Some attendees then say they would like to KNBLO matters on the agenda of a next meeting. The Chair thinks this is a good idea. He then says that

according to him, there are no further proposals to vote about, unless the attendees have any other proposals.

Mr. Van der Lans mentions that the Appointing Committee needs a new member, since Mr. Hartog passed away.

Mr. Van Slageren would like to know if membership dues will increase because of a possible raise in dues to KNBLO Netherlands. The Chair says that this is not the case yet, but the Board is paying close attention to this; there are 4 possible scenarios, one of which could be very advantageous to our association.

Mr. Van Breukelen: the June newsletter states that the Board has regular meetings with the 4DAAGSE foundation. He would like to know who takes part in these meetings. The Chair explains all Board members take part in this; we should cherish the fact that we are the only conversation partner as such. Mr. Van Breukelen suggests setting up a sounding board group. The Chair states that this would undoubtedly be to prevent tunnel vision, but that the Board feels that all members attending this meeting are an excellent sounding board and that formalizing this any further doesn't seem to give any other advantages.

Mr. Kilwinger suggests to not discuss the minutes of this meeting until April of 2008, and the July 2007 minutes not until July 2008. The Chair sees what he means and tells him to think about this.

10. Other matters

Mr. Straathof says he didn't arrive until 11:50 am because of a bomb threat at a meeting. When he arrived, the doors of the Kolpinghuis were close. Mr. Kilwinger confirms this. The Chair agrees to keep this in mind for next year.

Mrs. Borst-Brunsmann wonders why older, vulnerable 30 k participants are not allowed to start any earlier during the Marches. Mr. Van Breukelen says that this was one of his proposals in his letter to the Board. The Chair then briefly explains the new scenario and says that there is now a 20 k route in case of emergency.

Mr. Van der Lans notices that 5 members of the Board and 7 attendees have not yet signed the attendance list and asks them to do so after the meeting.

Mr. Kilwinger mentions that there is a pop-up on the website and wonders why that is. The secretary explains that it is because we still use a provider who doesn't charge us, and they make money by 'renting out' pop-ups. The association is looking at switching to a paid provider; this will cost us more, but there won't be any pop-up ads. The transition to a new provider depends on the Four Days Marches; we don't want to switch right before or right after the Marches.

Mr. Koning received an invitation to register for the 2007 Marches and is wondering if the same will happen in 2008. The Chair answers that in the Fall of 2007, the Board will determine the next registration procedure, so he can't answer that question yet. Mrs. Van der Westen is bothered by the double starting times for the 40 k participants. However, the 2008 procedure is not expected to change radically.

Mr. Brakel is interested in hearing if the emergency 20 k route would be just for the 30 k walkers, or for everybody. The Chair explains that the Investigation Committee (Hermans Committee) advised a new scenario for extreme weather conditions, with a wide range of measures. The measures taken will depend on the situation at hand.

11. Closing

The Chair makes sure that all attendees and the Board have had enough opportunity to discuss everything. He then expresses his gratitude to the members for attending this meeting. Once again, it shows the value of the gathering. Right after the meeting, there will be soup and a sandwich for everyone attending. He wishes everyone a safe trip and good luck in preparing for the 91st edition of the Four Days Marches.



After the meeting everyone was invited for lunch.

In memory of Chris Hartog

On march 27th this year 2007 Chris Hartog passed away unexpectedly. During a period of 15 years (from 1988 – 2003) he was treasurer of our association, in this period a lot of alterations took place The association has grown into a large one with fast 2000 members, partly due to the yearly campaign amongst the new golden-cross wearers, initiated by him. The membership administration (handwritten) was replaced by the computer, also the handwritten account-book turned into a digital bookkeeping.

At the same time a lot of social developments took place within the payment transactions. When he started as a treasurer most of the subscription fees were paid by cash, during his treasurer-ship the pre-printed giro-credit slip was introduced and the Dutch guilder (fl)was replaced by the euro (€). Chris was more than just a treasurer. Inspired by experiences during his Industrious life as a civil servant and recently as an alderman, he continued undiminished the social policy from his predecessor Sjaak Stuy.

Chris didn't know defaulters among the members, he talked rather about walkers who forgot to pay their subscription fee. Especially the members from abroad were cherished by Chris on a fast personal way, he did everything to coach those members conc. their liabilities.

But he did more. For years he looked after the printing (among which this circular letter) within our association. He managed it from his "far away" residence Ter Apel, but this "far away" wasn't as far as it looked like.

With the common sense of a man from Groningen, he travelled throughout the country to join board and other meetings.

He argued that if you are a northerner (from Groningen), the distance between Ter Apel and Nijmegen is shorter than between Nijmegen and Ter Apel.

This didn't alter the fact that he argued invariably to organize reunions in one of the three northerly provinces, personally he organized the reunion in 2 of the 3 provinces, the last time in the Hortus at Haren. When he left as an administrator, the general meeting appointed him as an honorary member, in appreciation of his great merits regarding the association.



He completed the 4-days marches 39 times in total, unfortunately he was forced afterwards to break off, due to physical discomfort. For him this break off turned out very heavily.

Nevertheless he continued to join the association activities faithfully, up to and including the year 2006. Chris lived to his 81st year. This good-buy is a difficult one, because he was a good administrator of our organization, but above all he was an amiable human being, a good friend and a devoted golden-cross-wearer. He has been cremated in silence and among his children. Our honorary member we will remember with all respect and in great thankfulness.

Mr. Dr. H.J.B. Sackers
Chairman

In memoriam

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

Mr.	J.J. Hensen	1941	Heinenoord
Mrs.	A.J. van der Meulen	1921	Voorschoten
Mrs.	W.C. Poos	1938	Nijmegen
Mr.	C. Hartog	1925	Ter Apel
Mrs.	L.A. Wijnbelt	1913	IJmuiden
Mr.	F. Schmutz	1955	Zürich
Mr.	A. Stakelbeek	1917	Heemskerk

Our condolences go out to the relatives.

4 DAYS MASS 2007

The board of the foundation “Vierdaagsemiss” invites you for the 4 Days Mass on Sunday July 15 2006 in the Grote- of Sint Stevenskerk (Great or St. Stevens’s church) in Nijmegen.

Theme during the mass is: “Dare to rest”.

Ministers are Reverent Gijs Bikker and Father Jan Kortstee O.F.M.
Music is being provided by the Elster Men’s Choir.

The celebration begins at 10 a.m., the church will be open at 9 a.m.
We kindly ask you to be seated timely.

The board of the foundation,

Marcel M. Claassen, Chairman
Gien B.J. Langen – Van Kolck, Secretary
Peter L. Roumen, Treasurer

REUNION 2007 - SATURDAY SEPT.8 IN ALMERE

Esteemed ladies and gentleman.

With great pleasure we would like to invite you for the yearly reunion of the Gold Crossbearer Association, witch will be held on Saturday sept.8 in Almere.

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

You are expected about 10.00 a.m. on the location:

Annapark

Sas van Gentlaan 10-12

1324 CT Almere

The location is easily reachable from highway A6 and has a great parking-lot.

Directions:

- From Utrecht and Hilversum, follow A1 direction Amsterdam, you will see than A6 direction Almere.
- from west and south, go to Amsterdam until you see the signs with Almere on it [first A1 and later A6].
- from east, follow A1 direction Amsterdam, you will see than A6 direction Almere.



For all these directions:

1. on A6 take exit Almere Stad West, this is exit number 3, at stop signs you'll go left.
 2. this viaduct, next stop sign to the right, getting on the Paralleldreef.
 3. next stop sign left, on the Waddendreef.
- through the Flevopolder [from Kampen, Harderwijk]. Follow the Waterlandseweg towards A6, take A6 direction Amsterdam.
 - from Heereveen take A6 direction Lelystad, Almere.
4. on A6 take exit 4, Almere Haven.
 5. at the end of this exit at stop sign left, on the Paralleldreef.
 6. next stop sign right, into the Sas van Gentlaan.

Than for everyone: follow this route:

7. take the third way to the right; Breskensweg.

8. this way will end into a square and ends in the Oosterburgstraat.
9. just before here, on the right hand side is the location at the Sas van Gentlaan.

But of course you can come by public transport to Almere. From Amsterdam C.S., Duivendrecht, Utrecht C.S. and Lelystad are trains running every half hour, into station Almere Centrum. There will be shuttle busses available, to bring you to the location Annapark. And of course at the end of the day, you will be brought back to the station. From 9.30 a.m. these busses will be available to you.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS DAY?

- We will give you a warm welcome, with a cup of coffee and tell you what we will do this day.

Next, we will divide you in groups:

- Group 1 starts with a small walk through the ultramodern new city centre. A guide will join us and explain about the developments in our newest city.
- Group 2 a city historian will give an explanation in the city architectural center. He will show you, how Almere is build in 30 years, into the fastest growing city of the Netherlands. "Founded" on a drawn table, what the architects thought, and how it worked out. NOTE: Almere is also build at the bottom of the former Zuiderzee. A city of this size is extremely unknown for Dutch measures!
- Group 3 they start with a bus tour. With al comfort you will travel through Almere from the harbour to the IJsselmeer coast, from the lepelaars [a stiltwalkingbird] to the elephants, from the strip heroes to the rainbow. A guide will be present as well, for explanation and your questions.



You can join every group, when you finished a group, we will chance from places. Are you placed in a group and your company in another? No problem: changing places between others is no problem. Besides, between our program-activities there is enough time to meet the others, to meet other people. This can be for example at lunchtime, witch we will serve in the brasserie Dooworld, on a beautiful square, in the middle of Almere.

At the end of the day everyone will be brought back to our start-location; Annapark. Again a moment to have a chat. The traditional homage of our jubilee will be held. After a nap, around 17.00 p.m., the day will come to an end. The train travellers are brought back to the station.



WHAT ARE THE COSTS, ON SUCH A DAY? [all inclusive]

We puzzled enough, the prize-level in Almere is almost the same as in Amsterdam. It means, that it is a little bit more expensive, than cities in the country. Though we think, that the price level a person is acceptable.

For E.27,50 a person, for total entertainment this day. An excursion you won t easy get elsewhere!

Excursion, foods and drinks!

When you are going to join us this day, will you please let us know if you want to use the shuttle busses from the station towards Almere City, location Annapark.

We like to see you in September!!!

With kind regards,

Richard van Dijk
Hans Koppelman
Coert Peeters

Are you walking a lustrum this year? Watch then to the rules of the game mentioned below!

Request lustrum rewards and cards flag parade 4 Days Marches 2007

LUSTRUMAWARDS

Is the 4 Days Marches 2007 for you a lustrum and you're at least for 2 years member of our association? Please let us now by sending in the slip of the separate enrolment sheet. Our association will support this achievement by reaching out of the lustrum rewards. This reward will be reached out during the reunion on Saturday September 8 in Almere. When you won't be able to be there, the lustrum reward can be send to you [on request!].

You have only the right on this lustrum reward when you send in the slip of the separate enrolment sheet before June 24 2007. If you admit this, unfortunately, we can't give you a lustrum reward, neither you're name will be mentioned in the circular letter in Dec.2007.

FLAGPARADE

Cards for the flag parade Monday July 16 2007 are free for our members. We try hard to be able to have enough cards available for our members of our association. Those who want to use this offer are **requested to send in the slip before June 24 2007 to Mrs. F. de Leeuw**. You can get the cards on Monday July 16 between 1 an 1.50 pm in the Kolpinghuis. This is just before the yearly meeting there.

STANDCARDS ENTRY

These cards are available for a select group of our members. It concerns members who finished at least 35 times the 4 Days Marches in 2006 according regulations and who are at least for 2 years a member of our association.

36x to 39x	1 card free and 1 card for € 7,00
40x to 49x	2 cards free [maximum].
50x or more	2 cards free for the headstand [if available!].

For members who are walking this year for the 50th time; we make an exception concerned the stand cards at the entry. The foundation 4DAAGSE will get in touch with these jubilees them self and will reach out stand cards to them. If these jubilee on our request will be mentioned [for stand cards], then it quiet often happens that these cards won't be given twice! Although we can imagine that there will be more supporters for someone who will finish for the 50th time, we can't change the rule. The foundation 4DAAGSE also depends on the cards they can give away.

Please send this request sheet before June 24 2007 to:

Mrs. F. de Leeuw-de Bruijn,
Wedesteinbroek 2007,
6546 RS Nijmegen

