

June circular letter



2008

VERENIGING *"Gouden - Kruisdragers Vierdaagse"*

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Preface

Receiving this circular letter faces us with the inevitable, but cheerful fact that within a couple of weeks the 92nd Four Days Marches starts. We look forward to it. What will bring the “third week of July” every single one of us? Will it be an easy one, or will it be a tough one? We will know that the 18th of July. It’s a cliché, but nevertheless true. Every gold cross bearer knows that every edition of the marches is different, regardless of the times participated. Did we train enough, what will the weather do? Questions that are common with the building tension towards the start on Tuesday morning, and will disappear once the first couple of kilometers have passed. Then it’s time to start enjoying this remarkable event. I wish all of you, as participant, supporter, or everybody else who is close to the Marches a lot of success and together with you I hope to have a sportive and relaxing week in Nijmegen.

*Henny Sackers,
Chairman*

Announcements of the board

Website

At this moment mainly behind the scenes, we are still developing our new website. A couple of months ago we changed over to a new provider. With the old provider we did not have enough remaining space for new information and photos and furthermore not enough space to give our website a new look. Now this so called migration is completed, we have enough space to provide you with a lot of news. That's why we like to recommend to frequently pay a visit to our website.

Currently we are working on the new lay-out and we hope to have that finished before the Marches start this year.

One thing directly visible for you after the migration are the new e-mail addresses of the association.

You can reach us at:

redactie@goudenkruisdragers.nl (for the circular letter)

webmaster@goudenkruisdragers.nl

reunie@goudenkruisdragers.nl (reunion)

ledenadministratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl (member administration)

secretaris@goudenkruisdragers.nl (secretary)

penningmeester@goudenkruisdragers.nl (treasurer)

bestuur@goudenkruisdragers.nl (board)

voorzitter@goudenkruisdragers.nl (chairman)

Of course you don't need to remember these addresses. After a while all these addresses can be found on our website.

Contribution for foreign members

At this moment there are some members who live abroad who did not pay their contribution for 2008 yet. These members can pay their contribution on Monday July 14 between 1 and 2 pm, in cash to the treasurer in Kolpinghuis.

In case you live within the EU you can also pay per bank transfer. Please mention the following codes with the transfer:

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

Termination membership

Every year a couple of our members terminate their membership, after receiving a reminder. Some other members don't inform us at all and just don't pay their contribution.

As result, the board terminated the membership of 27 members per May 1, 2008. Therefore, the board asks you to, in case you would like to terminate your membership, unsubscribe before October 1 of any year.

The membership will then be terminated per December 31. Please keep in mind these rules, as they save the association a lot of money and lot of time for your board.

4 Days Marches news

As usual we always try to keep you informed as good as possible regarding any news facts regarding the Marches. However, this year we did not receive any news facts before printing this circular letter that have not been published yet.

Invitation General Meeting July 14th 2008

You are hereby invited to the General Assembly on Monday, July 14, 2008. 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 Meeting April 19, 2008 minutes (published in this circular letter)
5. The 92nd Four Days Marches
6. Reunion 2008 in The Hague
7. Proposed date and place of 2009 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 19 2008

Location: Kolpinghuis Nijmegen, 11.30 a.m.

Number of voting members: 29

1. Opening by the chairman

At 11.35 a.m. the meeting is opened by the Chair, who welcomes the members present at this general assembly, which at the same time is the annual meeting. Next, the Chair extends a special word of welcome to honorary member Mr. van der Lans and to new members who are likely to be present at one of our meetings for the first time. The quiet of this meeting will no doubt contrast strongly with the hectic meeting in July. As a result, there is ample time for a smooth debate and for thinking along with the board.

Seeing that no foreign members are present, the Chair - with general assent - refrains from his intended word of welcome in German, English or French. Next, he asks those present to sign the attendance list and invites everyone beforehand to a homely lunch at the end of the meeting.

In view of the December circular letter, the Association of Gold Cross Bearers had already fixed the date of this meeting in October. Later it appeared that that the KNBLO, too, had chosen this date for her meeting, which takes place at only 150 yards from the Kolpinghuis (in the City Theatre). Moreover, the Blossom Tour in Geldermalsen also takes place today. As a result, a number of members is at this moment present in the City Theatre, as is Mrs. Vicky Delaney, in the function of board member of the walking-association. The rest of the board members are here and are introduced to those present.

Among other things, the board will today give account of an ordinary course of this year and the quiet 91st Nijmegen Four Days' Marches. The happenings in 2006 have resulted in a considerable improvement of the quality of the Marches, such as the use of news screens, Mr. Hopman's exertion-research and the installation of a meteorologist for the Organization of the Four Days' Marches.

The 2007 Marches also meant the departure of general manager Wim Jansen. During our meeting in July 2007 we bade farewell to him respectfully for his services rendered: in the meantime, the Chair has contacted Wim's wife asking her if he ever wears the T-shirt. She could not ascertain this with certainty. Wim Jansen's successor, Mr. Johan Willemstein, is a member of our association and we are free to tackle him with extra interest about any wishes that may exist in our association.

After an increase in the number of our members after the 2007 Marches, hope is arising that we may welcome out 2000th member in 2008. Finally, the Chair briefly mentions the reunion in Almere and says what joy it was to be able to hand out lustrum awards again. He was particularly pleased with the rewards for the 50th

Marches for Messrs van Kooten and Koning and of course Bert van der Lans, who as active flag bearer of our association may hopefully add many more Marches to his 60th.

The quiet year 2007 was made the most of by the committee to formulate plans for the future, but first they are to give account of 2007. The Chair starts by reading the names of members who passed away this last year, and a moment's silence is observed.

Back to the order of the meeting, the Chair asks for any additions by members to the agenda. Mr. van Breukelen asks for item 7 on the agenda (Budget 2009 and fixing of contribution) to be moved to item 10 (in between Proposals by members and Other Business). The Chair points out that the concept budget is to be accounted for by the current members of the board. Furthermore, some members wish to go to the meeting in the City Theatre as soon as possible after the budget has been dealt with. The Chair promises to supply the meeting timely with the necessary information. Mr. van Breukelen agrees to that promise.

2. Documents received and Board notices

The secretary gives an overview of the correspondence received. For example, an invitation to the opening of the Royal Road on Friday, April 14, was received. The Royal Road is a new hiking path from The Hague to Apeldoorn. A delegation of the Board attended the opening. The Board also received an invitation to a conference on event logistics, but no one was able to attend.



There was also a request from the 'KNBLO One Hundredth Anniversary' Association to contribute to a present for KNBLO (Royal Dutch Hiking Sport Organization), on behalf of all hikers and hiking organizations in the Netherlands. The idea was to make a mold for a little hiker figurine, of which KNBLO can then easily make copies and give them to its members. The Board decided to contribute 10 Eurocents per member, which brought our contribution to a total of 200 Euros. Mr. Purmer

announces that the mold and some copies have now been made and he thanks our Association for its contribution> Mr. Van der Lans comments that this means that many hikers belonging to more hiking clubs, would pay double. The Chair recognizes this fact, but deemed it worthwhile.

The Association also received an invitation to KNBLO's General Assembly on June 28.

Next, the Chair proceeds with some Board notices. The Board has come up with the idea of setting up a Meeting Point on Tuesday and Thursday of the upcoming Marches. On Tuesday, the Meeting Point will be located at Dorpsstraat in Oosterhout; on Thursday, it will be on Oude Kleefsebaan in Berg & Dal. The Meeting Point is meant for brief encounters between members and non-members. Once can get a free drink by bringing the coupon in this newsletter.

Please note that making a stop at the Meeting Point is absolutely not mandatory. Hopefully, having a Meeting Point will increase our visibility. The location will be marked by poster boards along the route. Members have asked for an initiative like this for years.

The Board members will not be able to tend to the people at the Meeting Point personally, but some volunteers have already been found. The exact Meeting Point locations will be listed in the June newsletter. Ms. Borst thinks this is a great idea and suggests a small contribution from our members. The Chairman explains that the Association should benefit from the increased visibility and name recognition. Therefore, the expenses should be charged to the Association directly. Mr. Van Breukelen feels that this initiative is already a fact, not just an idea. He is also worried that many non-members will stop at the Meeting Point, resulting in less space for our members. Mr. Sackers explains that the Board is simply executing an ardent wish of its members. Large numbers of non-members are not expected; perhaps some walking companions who would like to meet us. Throughout 2007, details of the plan were worked out and locations looked into. The year 2008 will be a try-out; the Board will evaluate the Meeting Point initiative and the execution of the plan, and will then make a final decision.

Mr. Wouters wonders about the reason of the coupon. Mr. Sackers thinks this will prevent any people who have no interest in our association whatsoever, to stop at the Meeting Point. A flyer will be made to give to those who are interested in becoming a member.

Some people suggest we give that flyer to eligible hikers the moment they receive their Gold Cross medal. However, due to privacy laws, we are only allowed to send a letter through the 4DAAGSE organization. Other ideas to increase our reputation include giving out or selling merchandise, and finishing as a group on Friday (possibly in uniform clothing).

According to the Chair, the same ideas were presented already back in 2004, but failed to be successful. It is believed that, for now, we should focus on the Meeting Points.

As the Flag Parade will be held on Sunday night from now on, tickets to the Parade can no longer be handed out at Monday's meeting. Members who would like to get an admission ticket, should fill out the information in the June newsletter and send it to Mrs. De Leeuw immediately. On the Sunday afternoon preceding the Marches (between 1 and 5 PM), the Association will have a box office on the Wedren where people can pick up their tickets. Mailing the tickets would be too expensive, and picking them up at one of the Board members' homes is not an option. Tickets for the bleachers will still be distributed at Monday's meeting.

In January, at the informal meeting with the 4DAAGSE organization, our Association requested more tickets for the bleachers. The current number was determined nine years ago. Due to the increase in members, the chance of getting a ticket obviously has decreased. The 4DAAGSE organization is taking it into consideration, but surely members will understand that this discussion is a tough one, and needs to be handled carefully.

At the meeting with the 4DAAGSE organization, also some of the members' requests and comments were submitted. The most noteworthy result was Mr. Claassen's idea to alternate the early start days for the different 40K booths. For example, those reporting to booth A, last year got an early start on Tuesday and Thursday, but will now start early on Wednesday and Friday. As most people know, one will usually report to the same starting booth year in, year out. By alternating the days, one will not have the same early start days every time. It is just a small example, but it shows that it is worthwhile to submit your proposals and ideas to the Board.

3. Minutes of the general meeting of 16th July 2007

The secretary informs those present that he only needed to send one set of the annual reports by post; he assumes that the other members have had the opportunity to download the statement from the internet. The chairman and the members of the meeting go through the minutes. As there are no further comments the minutes are established. The chairman thanks the secretary for the correct reproduction of the meeting.

4. Annual report of the board on 2007

a. Report by the secretary

The members of the meeting go through the annual report. Mr. Van Breukelen points out that there is a clerical error on the second page which is subsequently corrected by the secretary, apart from this no further changes in the report are suggested. The annual report is subsequently adopted by the members of the meeting.

b. Report by the treasurer

The treasurer gives an explanation of the annual report. Mr. Van Breukelen enquires after the stock valuation and asks whether the lustrum rewards could be included in the balance at the legal price of € 1,--. The chairman explains that at present the old system of valuation is being used. Now that the audit committee has been requested to act as a financial committee with regard to the new contribution proposal, it is possible to seek the committee's advice on this somewhat complicated matter next year.

5. Report by the audit committee

Mr. Purmer speaks on behalf of the audit committee. He informs the members of the meeting that the committee has had a meeting in Nijmegen on 25th February 2008. The year 2007 gave a positive result of € 3.400,-. The treasurer presented a surveyable account because of which the control passed off successfully. The committee puts in a petition to discharge its board and thanks the treasurer for the annual account of 2007. The proposal is met by the members of the meeting with an applause after which the chairman thanks the auditing committee for its efforts as well as thanking the members of the meeting for their positive reaction.



6. Appointment of the audit committee 2008

As the audit committee functions well in its present assembly it is proposed to keep it unchanged (Messrs. Purmer, Vermeer, Hurten and Van Maanen). The annual change of the assembly does not take place this year subsequently the audit committee of 2007 and 2008 will remain as it is.

7. Budget 2009 and establishment of the contribution

The chairman agrees to Mr. Van Breukelen's proposal to firstly discuss the contribution and then the budget for 2009 as well as not to bring in radical proposals under point 9 of the agenda.

The proposal to increase the contribution is a.o. based on the new plans of the board which are made at the request of the members. It is therefore that the budget for 2009 is based on policy instead of on the index of costs. Unfortunately the budget proposal will be complicated by the question of the pay over to the K.N.B.L.O.-walking sport organization Holland, which was not established at the time when the budget was being drawn up.

Mr. Van der Lans expects rather an increase than a decrease of new members by the Meeting Points. Some members remark that an increase of almost 50% will mean a large increase to most members. The chairman expresses his concern about the possibility that the increase will lead to many resignations. On the long term f.i. by 2010, no reasons that would make a further increase necessary are foreseen.

The chairman thanks the Financial committee for her advice and the treasurer for drawing up the budget which is adopted by the members of the meeting.

8. Election of the board

The chairman clarifies that two board members are outgoing and eligible for re-election. No other candidates have come forward to the board and the chairman asks permission to elect by acclamation. No objections are raised. Then the chairman proposes to re-elect Mrs. Vicky Delaney for a three year's term. Approving applause from the members follows. Next, the chairman proposes to re-elect Mr. Martin Pegels for a period of three years and again the meeting responds approvingly with applause.

With this both members of the board have been re-elected and the chairman renders thanks to the members for their trust, also in behalf of Vicky and Martin.

9. (other) Proposals by the board

Then only one proposal by the board remains, namely the election of former member of the board Ab Schreurs into the Nomination Committee. Except for this quality many people know Mr. Schreurs as member of the board of "K.N.B.L.O – wandelsportorganisatie Nederland" and as financial manager of "Stichting DE 4DAAGSE". The election of Ab Schreurs is approved by the members by acclamation.

10. Proposals by the members

Preliminary to the meeting no proposals have been submitted to the board. This is the procedure desired; after all, in this way an explanation of the proposal can be added to the meeting documents. Nevertheless, the chairman informs whether there

any proposals from the members, not submitted in advance. This not being the case the next item on the agenda comes up.

11. Any other business

Considering the time frame the chairman informs how many questions there are. It appears that there are about four ones, but first the board wants to highlight some points. Mrs. Francie de Leeuw gives a short explanation of next reunion on behalf of the Reunion Committee 2008. On September 13th we will stay at “Van der Valk” near Scheveningen Pier where we will be welcomed between 10.00 h and 10.30 h CET. Endeavors are being made to invite the mayor, but in any case a shanty chorus – sponsored by Electrabel – will be present to welcome everybody.

The lunch will also be held at the Pier, after which we will visit Sea life on the Boulevard. Here we will have a ray show and everybody will have the opportunity to look around. About 15.45 h CET there will be an appetizer followed by the distribution of the lustrum rewards. The whole program will cost at about € 32,50.

Mr. Toussaint wonders how one can recognize our members when visiting a Meeting Point during the Four Day Marches. The chairman explains that the members in any case will have their consumption tickets at hand; furthermore, we will have to gain experiences.

Mr. Sprakel brings forward that he, and many participants with him, would regret it when the Oosterhout Dyke would be called off due to an itinerary change. The chairman knows the latest news: the Dyke remains part of the track, but as a consequence of the growth of Nijmegen into the North new alternatives for the Dyke might become available. Those alternatives are yet not present.

Mrs. Borst informs how many times Mr. Johan Willemstein participated in the Four Day Marches. The board does not have a shadow of a change to answer since several members report already that the new General Manager succeeded 12 times. Mrs. Borst shows herself pleased. The chairman points out that meanwhile three of five members of the board of “Stichting DE 4DAAGSE” are member of our association.

Mr. Van der Lans asks whether the new starting procedure for the 40 KM has been evaluated. This is not yet the case and opinions remain in disagreement. Some people are very positive whereas other want to start four days early. Mr. Van der Lans observed that the “exchange post” was used hardly. The chairman agrees: this post was mainly “window dressing” since the exchange in “early” tickets developed via other ways, like the internet.

Next, Mr. Van der Lans questions whether there should not be a second specimen of our association’s flag. In case the board would develop a proposal for a second flag incl. costs, Mr. Van der Lans would be prepared to participate at the occasion of his 60th Four Day Marches. The chairman is prepared to promise this and will individually get in touch with Mr. Van der Lans. It would be beautiful that Mr. Van der Lans’ name permanently would be connected with our association also in this way.



12. Closure

The chairman remarks that he had to speed up, but that we will succeed realizing the deadline of 13.30 h CET for lunch. He renders thanks to all present for coming and sticks to the opinion that the treatment of association's matters can take place in this meeting most adequately. He wishes everybody a good preparation of coming Four Day Marches and hopes to see everybody again in July. And, of course, he wishes everybody a pleasant lunch and a good homeward journey. The meeting is closed at 13.23 h CET.

In memoriam

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

Mrs.	M. van Berkel - Van Wieren	1919	Breda
Mr.	D. van Egmond	1953	Huizen
Mr.	A. Honkoop	1936	Nijmegen
Mr.	H. de Kaasjager	1927	Terborg
Mr.	P. de Ruijter	1940	Breda
Mr.	C. Schipper	1933	Oosterhout
Mrs.	J. Verhoeven - Ederveen	1935	Gendt
Mrs.	A. Voesenek	1938	Etten-Leur

Our condolences go out to the relatives.

4 DAYS MASS 2008

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: “WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING IN YOUR BACKPACK!”

Ministers are reverent Evert Wind and chaplain Clemens Crolla.
Music is provided by the University Choir of Potchefstroom (South-Africa).

The celebration starts at 10.00 a.m., the church will be open at 09.00 a.m.
We 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

Lustrum rewards

After the appearance of the circular letter in December we noticed that some of the names in the lustrum list are misspelled. The correct names are printed below as well as the names of the members that have reached their lustrum last year, didn't respond to our call but like to be mentioned.

35x			
Mr. J. Wünsch	Dordrecht		
30x			
Mr. B.L. Bakker	Amsterdam (rectification)		
25x			
Mr. P.A.C. Boele	Arnhem	Mr. R. Hamelink	Best (rectification)
20x			
Mr. J. Knooff	Zoetermeer	Mrs. A. Haarsma	Heerhugowaard
15X			
Mrs. J. Groenewoud	Middelburg	Mr. J.M. Mensink	Deventer
Mr. J. de Hoog	Alkmaar	Mrs. G. Peijs-Fox	Nijmegen
Mr. J. Huber	Karlsruhe, Duitsland	Mr. J.G.A. Strijbosch	Zoetermeer
Mr. W. Jaarsveld	Haarlem	Mr. H.P. van der Velden	Utrecht
Mr. B.M. Leijn	Malden		

Meeting points

The board has had the opportunity to work on the issue of a Meeting Point during the coming four days marches. A meeting point will be arranged at a location along the route where all distances pass. (Future) members of the association are able to meet each other and get a drink on presentation of a ticket printed in this circular. We don't have the intention to set up a service/rest; it is spot to meet other members of the association or to get non-members acquainted with your association.

At the first day you'll find the meeting point in Oosterhout, just before ascending the dam along the river Waal. On the illustrations below you'll get a first impression of the spot where you will be hosted on Tuesday July 15th.



At the third day, Thursday July 17th, you'll reach the Meeting Point just before you'll leave Berg en Dal on the right side: the little square in front of the church is a beautiful spot close to the road.



Three volunteers are already found, willing to set up the Meeting Point and serve drinks. We hope to meet many of you at these Meeting Points!

Reunion The Hague 2008

Dear members,

The board of the association invites you With pleasure to the yearly reunion that will be held this year on September 13th.

We will visit the Pier in Scheveningen and are welcomed at the restaurant De Valk. When you'll arrive by train in The Hague, take the trolley and get off near the Pier.



We start about 10:00/10:30 with coffee and sweets, a VIP is expected to come by. Our being together will be enlightened with a performance of a shanty choir. This choir is being sponsored by Electrabel, the main sponsor of the four days marches. You'll see Electrabel on the other side of the river Waal when walking the dam from Oosterhout towards Nijmegen.



After we've had lunch at the Pier we'll visit Sea Life at the boulevard. This is an underwater world where you'll see surprising fishes and other life forms from the world seas.



You'll be welcomed by one of the members of the entertainment staff and be taken to a presentation about rays. You can have a look around and visit other presentations and forward your questions to the available staff. You'll be expected at 15:45 on the Pier again. We'll present this year's lustrum rewards while having a drink and a snack. We'll end this reunion at 17:00 hoping you've had a pleasant day.

We invite you warmly and the fee per person for this reunion is: Euro 32.50
Please be so kind as to fill out the corresponding form and sent it to:

Francie de Leeuw
Wedesteinbroek 20-07
6546 RS Nijmegen

Are you walking a lustrum this year? Then watch the rules of the game mentioned below!

Request lustrum rewards and cards flag parade 4 Days Marches 2008

LUSTRUMREWARDS

Is the 4 Days Marches 2008 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 13 in The Hague. 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 21 2008. If you admit this, unfortunately, we can't give you a lustrum reward, neither your name will be mentioned in the circular letter in December 2008.

FLAGPARADE

Cards for the flag parade Sunday July 13 2008 are free for our members. We try hard to be able to have enough cards available for members of our association. Those who want to use this offer are **requested to send in the slip before June 21 2008 to Mrs. F. de Leeuw**. You can get the cards on Sunday July 13 between 1 and 5 pm at the 4Daagse tent at the Wedren. The entrance is next to the well-known barometer.

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 2007 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 21 2008 to:

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

