

JUNE CIRCULAR LETTER



2013

VERENIGING *"Gouden - Kruisdragers Vierdaagse"*

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Board of the association

Chairman

Mrs. L. Vink MA
Lavendelheide 11
5704 HA Helmond

Secretary

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

Treasurer & vice-chairman

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

Members

Mrs V.M.L. Henriksen-Delaney MA
Berkenlaan 54
6581 PP Malden

M. Pegels
Lavadijk 261
4706 KZ Roosendaal

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

A.C. Versteeg
Vliehors 5
2134 XM Hoofddorp

Honorary members of the association

L.M.G. van der Lans, Prof. Mr. H.J.B. Sackers

Member of merit of the association

Mrs. R.B.J. Langen – Van Kolck

Secretariat

Van Karnebeekstraat 153
3317 KW Dordrecht
E-mail: secretaris@goudenkruisdragers.nl
Website: www.goudenkruisdragers.nl

Treasurer

Phone: +31-73-6414627 (after 6 PM)
Bank account: 375702 attn.
Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse,
's-Hertogenbosch
BIC-code: INGNL2A
IBAN-code: NL70 INGB 0000375702
Contribution minimum: € 18,50

Editorial staff

A.C. Versteeg
Vliehors 5
2134 XM Hoofddorp
E-mail: redactie@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Member administration

G.A.J. Aarts
Derde Morgendreef 6
5233 NK 's-Hertogenbosch
Phone: 073-6414627 (after 6 PM)
E-mail:
ledenadministratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl

Preface

ON THE MOVE

When you are walking you are moving forward, you don't stand still. This also goes for our association: by moving forward we remain flexible and we certainly are moving forward! Although we are not marathon runners we could call ourselves the elite of the walking Four Days Marches legion. From the questionnaire we held amongst our members at the beginning of this year it appears that most of you joined our association because you like to be part of a group of people that has successfully completed the Four Days Marches ten times or more. You could therefore say that it is pride that unites us.

The questionnaire has also given us a reason to make some changes. One direct result of the outcome is that we will adjust our circular letter to the wishes of our members, giving it a new fresh look. The circular letter that now lies before you is the last version in this form. As from December it will not only look different; the contents will also have changed. To give you an idea of the new version of our circular letter, you will find a new column in this edition in which we introduce new members to you. You will also find a short version of the minutes of the meeting of 13th April last, a summary of the questionnaire and much more.

At this moment in time you are probably preparing yourselves for the 97th Four Days Marches. On our Facebook page individual members give reports on their training and experiences. It is a good thing that digital media are more and more used by our members to share and give advice. This way our Facebook page becomes an important means of communication to our members!

We hope you will read this circular letter with pleasure and I would like to wish you all success with the preparation for this year's Four Days Marches. Enjoy everything that you meet on your way. We look forward to seeing you on the members meeting on 15th July at the Kolpinghuis or else during the Four Days Marches!

Leonie Vink,
Voorzitter

Announcements (by the board)

Contribution for foreign members

Members living abroad who wish to pay the contribution 2014 (€ 20,00) in cash, can do this on Monday July 15 between 13:00 and 13:50 at the treasurer in the Kolpinghuis. If you pay contribution by bank transfer, you will be notified by us in October.

Cancellation membership

Should you wish to cancel your membership, please let us know before **1 October 2013**, as per article 4.03 of our Rules of Procedure. Your membership will then be cancelled as from 31 December 2013. We appreciate your cooperation.

We can notify KNBLO-NL of your cancellation in a timely manner.

After this date you owe the contribution for 2014, because we also have to pay the remittance over 2014 (€10,50) to the KNBLO-NL.

So, please take this into account.

Change in personal information

If we move, most of the times we remember to inform relations about the change of address. But would you also be so kind as inform us when your bank number or email address changes. We then can collect the contribution from the right bank account and send e-mails to the correct address. You can pass on mutations to ledenadministratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl. Thanks for the effort.

Miel Termont

It will hardly anyone fail to notice that there was a management crisis last fall at the KNBLO-NL and that as a result Miel Termont is no longer chairman of the League.

Although it was an unusual farewell, we would like to take this opportunity to touch lightly on it.

We want to thank Miel Termont for his tremendous enthusiasm and commitment for the walking sports in general. Year in, year out, he has given his best in order to professionalize the walking sports in the Netherlands and to modernize the League.

He was also a fan our association. Each year he visited, together with the marching leader, our meeting on the Monday before the Four Day Marches for a short speech. Each year he tried again to express his admiration for our members, who have accomplished the Four Day Marches so many times, in a creative way.

We thank Miel Termont once again for his commitment and wish him the very best!

Circular letter

As you have already read in the preface, this is the last circular in this form.

In December you will see our magazine in a completely different form and also with a different name.

Many of you receive the circular already digitally and we hope that this number will only increase. This will cut our costs (printing and postage) substantially.

Last December we noticed that the digital circular letter could not be delivered to every address and, therefore, we would like asking you to communicate any changes in your email address timely to us (e.g. via our website).

With the renewal of our magazine also the way of distribution of the digital circular will change – and hopefully further improve.

- **Survey**

- **An association to be proud of**

In January of this year, a long-awaited survey was held among our members, to gauge their impressions and expectations. A total of 922 members (34%) took the time to take the survey, a number we are very pleased about! Questions in the survey related to membership demographics, image, activities, communication, and the future. Each of these themes is discussed below.

Membership Demographics

It is important to know if the respondents are a realistic representation of the association. This turned out to be the case; not only regarding age, gender, but also with regard to the number of years of membership.

- **Image**

The vast majority (72%) are honored to be a member of the Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse (Holders of the Gold Cross association). Respondents indicated they feel comfortable (79%), and describe us as a quiet association to be proud of (62%). 86% find advocacy a very important task. 76% is of the opinion that we should make our association more appealing to younger members. 10% find the association old-fashioned and mainly interesting for older members.

- **Activities**

Unsurprisingly, most members do not attend the meetings/assembly nor the reunion, mainly because of lack of time or because of other commitments. In addition, for our international members, the distance and/or language are the main barriers. However, the activities are highly appreciated.

A lot is unclear about the lustrum rewards-half of the respondents are not aware they can request these (free) rewards. Those who are aware of this opportunity are all highly enthusiastic about it. However, members do not realize that our association does not know which lustrum a member would be eligible for; after all, being a member for 10 years does not necessarily mean that he/she has walked for the 20th time-there are many reasons why one would (have to) skip a year.

83% of those who took the survey really appreciate getting a Happy Birthday card from us (provided we have your birthday in our files).

88% thinks that the Meeting Points are a great initiative; a good spot to meet friends. This year, the Meeting Points will be even more visible because of our new banners. In addition, each meeting point will have two Port-a-Potties.

- **Communication**

When asked what activities are lacking/missing, quite a few mentioned 'our own walks/hikes'. Although we can't give you any details yet, we are working on it! Also, a lot of the respondents would like to see more attention for our younger and international members. 10% indicate a willingness to be actively involved in our association.

Although the newsletter is considered a good way to keep in touch with the members, it could use facelift. We are currently working on a newsletter make-over, which you will see in December.

When it comes to social/digital media, the majority are familiar with our website, but not with our Facebook page. Those who are on our FB page, frequently use it, whether it's to ask other members for advice, or to talk about training walks. Hardly anyone is interested in a Twitter account for the GKV, nor a web shop to buy GKV products.

- **The Future**

As mentioned before, the respondents feel that more attention should be paid to younger and international members. Also, one feels that we should present ourselves in a special way during the 100th edition of the Four Days Marches (we will give you more details about this later).

With regard to the KNBLO-NL membership, people clearly see the advantages to a combined membership between KNBLO-NL and us. They enjoy the discounts on participation fees and highly appreciate the magazine. The majority of the respondents do not favor a discounted GKV membership over the KNBLO membership card.

- **So what's next?**

The Board has met twice to start a 2013-2016 mission/strategic plan, using the results of the survey. In this plan, we intend to clarify our vision and priorities. We will look at our goals with regard to membership, whether we want to keep or change our image, how we can sustain/expand our activities so that each and every member sees the value of his/her membership to the GKV. Also, we want to determine the best way to communicate with all our members.

If you took the survey and indicated your willingness to give your input on these matters, we will contact you soon. If you have any further questions about the survey, please feel free to contact us.

And the winners are...

Five money prizes were given away in a lottery among the respondents. The winners are: Mr. Teugert (Bremen, Germany), Jessica Segers (Groessen), Elly Hermesen-Noordover (Zoetermeer), Patrick Veenhuis (Emmeloord) and Co Hessing (Arnhem). Congratulations!

Consultation Stichting DE 4DAAGSE

On March 25 the annual consultation between the Board of the Stichting DE 4DAAGSE and the Board of the Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse took place. The entire boards met in Bennekom, where we were catching up on the latest developments regarding the Four Day Marches in an informal atmosphere. We also shared the results of the members survey, held in January. We experience the annual meeting as very pleasant because the Stichting takes us, as an important stakeholder, seriously and always has a sympathetic ear when it comes to questions and comments from our members with respect to the organization of the Four Day Marches.



New banners

During the Four Day Marches you will no doubt be able to find our meeting points even better than in previous years. The 4-metre high beach banners of our Association will be introduced at these points this year.

These banners are a gift of Stichting DE 4DAAGSE for our 60th anniversary.

It has given some difficulties to achieve a proper design and to decide upon the appropriate banner and supplier, but we are very pleased with the end result (see photo). You hopefully too.



Lustrum rewards & Tickets for entry

Lustrum rewards

When this year is a lustrum, our association would like to emphasize that performance with issuing a lustrum reward. The presentation of these awards will take place at the next reunion, this year on September 21 in Veenhuizen and your name will appear in the next circular letter published in December. If you are unable to attend the reunion, the reward can – only on request – be sent to you.

Note:

You are only entitled to a reward if you return the enclosed coupon before the date mentioned, you are a member of our association for at least 2 years AND of course completed the 2013 4DAAGSE successfully. If this is not the case, then, unfortunately, we cannot give you a reward nor will your name be mentioned in the circular letter of December

Tickets entry stand

These tickets are available for a select group of our members. It concerns members who finished at least 35 times the 4 Days Marches in 2013 according regulations and who are at least for 2 years a member of our association.

- 36x to 39x 1 ticket free and 1 ticket for € 9.50.
- 40x to 49x 2 tickets free (maximum).
- 50x or more 2 tickets free for the headstand (maximum) if available.

The tickets can be collected between 1 and 1:50 pm in the Kolpinghuis on Monday July 15. This is BEFORE our meeting.

In case you participate this year for the 50th, 55th, 60th, or 65th time, then you the foundation 4DAAGSE will provide tickets and they will contact you.

Please send this request sheet before June 30 2013 to:

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

Requests can also be made through our website.

Planting vines for environment-friendly Marches



Although a more environment-friendly activity than walking is hard to imagine, the 4DAAGSE foundation has for quite some time been finding measures to improve the ecological standard of its world top event, the Four Days' Marches.

In cooperation with vineyard the Colonjes in Groesbeek, the foundation has bought a large number of vines that have been planted at a location bordering on the track of the Marches. The Colonjes will use these vines to produce macrobiotic wine and market it under a Four Days' Marches label. This one and only Four Days' Marches wine will be available from 2016, the year of the 100th Marches.

Prior to our annual meeting, a delegation of our association rolled up their sleeves to help planting these vines. Armed with a shovel and boots, we planted some 1,800 vines in a field adjoining the track of the fourth day of the Marches – in Grafwegen, just before Breedeweg, Groesbeek.



Invitation General Meeting July 15th 2013

You are hereby invited to the General Assembly on Monday, July 15, 2013. 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 13, 2013 minutes (published in this circular letter)
5. The 97th Four Days Marches
6. Reunion 2013 in Veenhuizen
7. Proposed date and place of 2014 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 13, 2013

Like the minutes of the meeting in July printed in the December circular, the minutes of the annual meeting of last April will be published in summary. The full version of the minutes will be available a week before the meeting on '4 days monday' through our website (www.goudenkruisdragers.nl) as a downloadable item.

Annual meeting 2013

On saturdaymorning 13 april 2013 a few gold-cross-bearers visited Breedeweg where they planted wine ranks together with the board of the foundation 'DE 4DAAGSE' on the occasion of the 100th four days marches. Later that morning 37 members gathered, including the complete board, in the Kolpinghuis in Nijmegen for the annual meeting. Amongst them were the members of honour Bert van der Lans and Henny Sackers as well as the member of merit Gien Langen-van Kolck.

Chairman Leonie Vink shared some news about the 4days marching routes with those present. A moment of silence in remembrance of those that passed away the last year. Mr. Bert van der Lans will stop his contributions to the committee nominations. During the presentation of the annual financial report the annual birthday cards proved to be much appreciated by the members.

The annual reports of 2012 are approved and the board is discharged for the tasks performed in 2012. Next the budget including the raise of the contribution (fee 20 Euro) are determined. Then the chairman presents a resume of the results of the members survey. The board has already organised a meeting (memembr of the board only) to discuss the results of the survey and will have again a meeting later this day to transfer those results into policies for the years to come.

At the end of the meeting (remaining questions) there were several questions and remarks about the already resolved crisis in the board of the KNBLO Walking Association Netherlands answered by the chairman. An explanation on the reunion in Veenhuizen in Drente turns into a short discussion about the future of the reunions. The majority of the members present dislike a limit on the number of participants. Of course the board will take this opinion in account when formulating a policy for the years to come.

After the meeting a simple lunch is served and the board had still a job to do. Till late in the afternoon initiatives to improve our association were discussed. The full minutes will be published through the website of the association.

In memoriam

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

Mr.	C. van den Heuvel	1958	Schiedam
Mr.	J.H. Hofhuis	1943	Albergen
Mr.	A.W. van Kooten	1927	Zoetermeer
Mr.	A.J.M.T. Leijgraaf	1938	Veldhoven
Mr.	A.Mourik	1946	Rotterdam
Mrs.	J. Odenkirchen-Leissner	1924	Deventer
Mr.	A.C. Peters	1926	Beuningen
Mrs.	H.M. Rijcken-van de Graaf	1945	Nijmegen
Mr.	A.R. Segasby BEM ISM	1933	Corby-Northants
Mrs.	G.L. Schuijt	1922	Hilversum
Mrs.	H.T. Vroom-deBoer	1942	Ter Apel
Mr.	P.L.M. Wensing	1927	Capelle a/d IJssel

Our condolences go out to the relatives.

Reunion 2013 Up to the prison in Veenhuizen



What an idea to go to a prison,

While you only go for a reunion, may be an uncomfortable feeling ?

No, on the contrary, it is just right to....

Look to our joint-ownership.

So we invite you to come over September 21st 2013,

And certainly you are clean at that time, aren't you ?

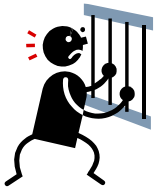
There is capacity for 200 guests that day, the third Saturday in September !

A nice program have been composed, even a small drive in a patrol wagon, there is no doubt about.

Also the prison museum is visited, a specific building still existing due to the original character.

Shortly, a recommendation for just a different scenery.

You may enter just like that, without any violation.



Francie de Leeuw.

De bijdrage voor de reünie bedraagt € 35,00. Indien u zich inschrijft en toch niet meekunt, dan kunt u t/m 20 augustus uw inschrijving kosteloos annuleren. Na deze datum bent u het volledige inschrijfgeld verschuldigd.



4 DAYS MASS 2013

The board of the foundation "Vierdaagsemiss" has the pleasure to invite you for the festive celebration of the 52nd 4 Days Mass on Sunday July 14, 2013 in the St. Stevenskerk in Nijmegen

The theme of the mass is: "TOGETHER WE ARE ONE".

Ministers are father Geert Scholten and reverent Huub Smeets.
Music is provided by Maas en Waals Mannenkoor (choir) led by Ton de Waal
The organ is played by Cor van Wageningen.

The mass start at 10.00 uur. The church will be open at 09.00 a.m.
We ask you to come in time.

The board of the foundation,

Marcel M. Claassen, chairman
Gien B.J. Langen- Van Kolck secretary/treasurer
Jan A.M. Maassen, board member

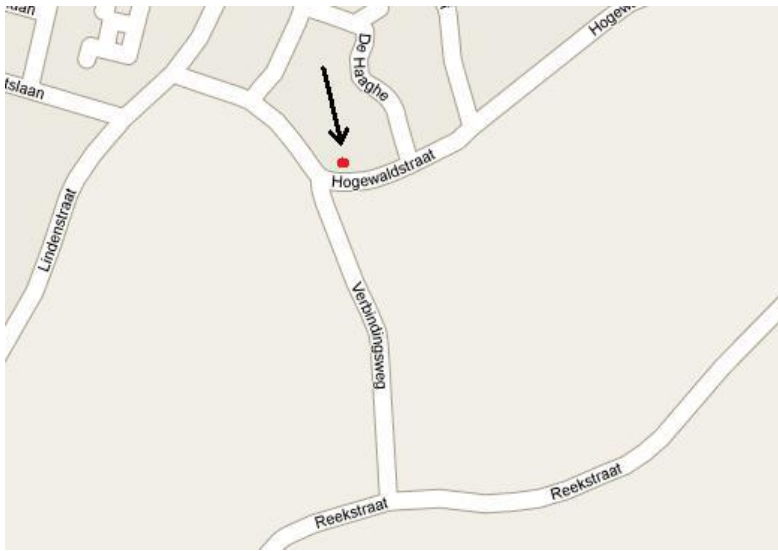
Meeting Points

Just like last year, our association will have meeting points (MP) along the routes. As with previous years you can meet fellow members and enjoy a refreshment. The meeting points are not intended to be a full blown rest area. It has to be a place where people can (schedule to) meet or where you can introduce people to our association.

Meeting Point Dag 1.

The 1st day the MP will be in Oosterhout, just before turning left on the Waaldijk (dyke), on the left hand side of the Dorpsstraat. The photos below give you a first impression.





Meeting Point Dag 2.

The MP on the 2nd day can be found in Beuningen on the Hogewaldstraat, number 16, close to the crossing with the Verbindingsweg.



Meeting Point Dag 3.

On the 3rd day, you can find the MP at the Oude Kleefsebaan 123a, which is at the right hand side, just before leaving Berg en Dal; The square in front of the church (Parochie De Verrijzenis) gives us a nice location close to the road.





We hope we will see many members at the Meeting Points!



Four Days Marches Anthem

Natuur gaf ons een motor mee
van 't allerbeste merk
Gaf ons een hart en longenpaar,
Gezond, gaaf, goed en sterk.
En een paar flinke benen,
een groot geluk op aard'
Wie die niet leert gebruiken
is niet zo'n motor waard.
Wie die niet leert gebruiken
is niet zo'n motor waard.

Wij lopen de Vierdaagse mee
vol levenslust en moed.
Als goede lopers blijven wij,
altijd op goede voet.
Want wij zijn één voor allen
en allen zijn wij één.
Zo willen wij door Neêrland
en door het leven heen.
Zo willen wij door Neêrland
en door het leven heen.

