



# The Rambler—February 2007

## Members Feedback from the Nijmegen 2006 event

Whilst the number of feedback forms returned (about 10%) was less than hoped for, some 80% of those were 'Very Satisfied/Satisfied' with the overall BDWF committee event organisation with several very favourable comments made.

Obviously, the cancellation of the event after the first day prompted several adverse comments, mainly disappointment, and focussed on the March Organisation. Both the official "Herman's" report and the Nijmegen Organising Committee's report itself, on the 4 Days web site ([www.4daagse.nl](http://www.4daagse.nl)), identifies the inadequacies of the 2006 event and explains the reasons behind the current inability to reduce the distances for ALL walkers – a reduction for the 30Km walkers being the key issue. However, it also identifies contingency arrangements that will now be put in place should such a problem reoccur. Fortunately, the issuing of a souvenir pin to all participants has answered concerns regarding there being no recognition of this 90<sup>th</sup> Vierdaagse.

Rather than just play a numbers game with the feedback returns, I have grouped together the main issues and they are identified in the following paragraphs.

Safety issues are our highest priority and demand our immediate attention. As a result of the feedback the following actions have already been agreed and will be implemented in addition to our internal Risk Assessment carried out at the Sportshall each year:

1. An ankle injury to one of our members whilst playing football, the walk having already been cancelled for the first time in its history, highlighted a deficiency in our support. From now on both a First Aider and a standby driver will be on site at De Dennen at all times to meet such an eventuality.
2. As a result of the above, internal communication shortcomings have also been identified and actions taken for them to be resolved.

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**British Dutch  
Walking Fellowship**

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## Members Feedback from the Nijmegen 2006 event (continued)

3. No bikes or catering equipment will be allowed either on the coach or in the accommodation area of the Sportshall.
4. There will be no 'stringing' allowed between beds in the sleeping areas.
5. High visibility tape will be placed on the ends of the benches in the sleeping areas.
6. Our existing First Aid room at De Dennen is for BDWF members only and will be identified as such with appropriate signage. The possibility of providing separate First Aid facilities for the campers (chargeable) located near to their campsite is being investigated by your committee.  
No ladders/sidebars are to be moved – last year some beds had 4 ladders whilst others had none. One ladder – one bed. Not only was this totally discourteous to fellow members but contributed to congested walkways between beds causing hazards especially at night.

However, despite the above, we must accept that we are individually and collectively responsible for our own safety and have a similar duty to everyone else. Please take time to read the BDWF Nijmegen 2007 Information booklet available on our web site. Once at De Dennen any safety issues must be reported to the Nijmegen Event Manager (NEM)/Office Support immediately.

By far the two greatest concerns were with the accommodation -- the high temperature in the Sportshall, especially at night, and the 'softness' of the beds. These items will be discussed with our hosts, who organise the facilities for us, at the earliest possible opportunity and hopefully resolved. Any issues with regard to cleanliness of the toilet or washing area facilities must be reported to the NEM/Office Support – even more important than previously as De Dennen has had to allocate dedicated facilities for the campers which we previously had access to. On a similar theme, we now also have to share the bar area with the campers – whilst this may restrict our ability to socialise with other BDWF members as has been suggested, we have the opportunity to widen our acquaintances.

In addition to the couple of comments regarding the colour and quality of our group's T-shirts, we have been looking into changing them. However, we do have to balance the cost of re-providing 4 T-shirts to each of our members against the low level of feedback and with the benefits to be gained. We would welcome any additional feedback/constructive comments regarding this issue to gauge the level of concern.

Hopefully, with the introduction of a scheduled monthly Rambler (comments received are highly favourable) , additional documentation and updates on our web site, e-mail updates from Herman and distribution of information by post to the 10 identified members without electronic access, any concerns regarding not receiving information prior to the Nijmegen event should now be resolved. We are also looking at providing the Rambler in Dutch.

The remaining items highlighted by members were all one-off issues:

We highlight in our handbook the suggestion to take cereal with you if early morning ham and cheese is not to your taste. Additionally, there is the opportunity to have cooked breakfast "on course".

The quality of the 'meatball' received its annual singular complaint. As always, the committee will review the menu with our hosts and we will provide a menu of the week's fare in a future issue of the Rambler.

## Members Feedback from the Nijmegen 2006 event (continued)

A suggestion of providing saline drinks was raised. The First Aid teams provide Dioralyte sachets both 'on the road' and in the Sportshall – they contain saline as well as sugar and lots of other ingredients that the body loses through sweating. We also highly recommend eating the soup that is provided en route and at dinner time.

Unfortunately, one of the items that really didn't work was a member's electric toothbrush!!

As you would expect, as a committee we tend to focus on the things that didn't work and try and get them resolved. However, it's more than pleasing to also receive compliments from our members for the things that did work. Areas highlighted were: "The Whole" (organisation); updates prior to the event; Check-in procedures; Office Staff; the organised tours; First Aid (several times); cold packs and finally shopping.

The committee would like to thank those people that returned their feedback forms for taking the time to do so. Feedback is not just for and in the Nijmegen week but is welcome throughout the year as are your comments/items/photos for inclusion in the Rambler or on our web site. We look forward to receiving them.

If required, detail of the feedback is available from our Group Secretary, Doug Davidson.

Keep walking.

Roy Hayward  
Chairperson.

## Birthdays

### British

3rd Brian Green  
4th Peter Gardner  
9th Tom Ashdown  
10th Nigel Goodman  
11th George Buxton & Richard Courtney  
12th Tina Blanpain and twin sister Teresa  
14th Daniel Foxwell  
15th Bill Howell  
20th Charles Shaw  
23rd Genevieve Williams  
26th George Beecham  
28th David Barber

### Dutch

6th Wim Magnin  
7th Ineke Mulder Parmentier  
9th Ria van Nunen-Mejis  
16th Robert Vlietstra  
17th 'Niek Rouschop  
20th Jan Eggink & Jan Elfink  
21st Henk Mounoury  
26th Corby van Noord

## Your Letters

No letters received this month

## Souvenir 4 Day Marches 2006

The souvenir pins awarded to participants in Nijmegen 2006 were posted three weeks ago to BDWF members who attended.

## Club Finances

All finances pertaining to last years Nijmegen is up to date apart from Tranche 1 certificate refunds. The books will be audited on return of the money.

## Nijmegen Event Manager (NEM) and Office Support Manager (OSM)

For Nijmegen 2007, Doug Davidson will be the NEM and Herman Boston as Office Support. Both have been elected unanimously by the committee.

All the Support and First Aider members from 2006 will once again be tending your needs in Nijmegen .

## Overnight Accommodation

In the January edition of the Rambler, I mentioned that, exceptionally, anyone wishing to stay overnight in the Sportshall from Saturday 14th July must register their names with Doug Davidson in the first instance.

The allocation of spaces has now been reached and further requests cannot be accepted.

## British Dutch Walking Fellowship

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Any news items to be included in the next newsletter should be with Herman by Wednesday 21st February please.

I hope that you enjoy reading this ' **new style** ' edition of The Rambler and that it helps you keep up-to-date with events surrounding the BDWF and Nijmegen

**Herman Boston**  
**BDWF Treasurer and Youth Secretary**



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## Airborne Marches

Derwent Travel are doing the Airborne Marches at Arnhem/Nijmegen this year. The details are 31st August to 2nd September with 2 nights dinner B&B (at the Mercure Hotel in Nijmegen by the main station). Travel is via the Tunnel on a luxury coach and costs £169pp (£30 single supplement).

Jacqui Wakelam and her family completed it with a friend last year and really enjoyed it and would recommend it. Derwent Travel have a website now (not sure if it is fully operational yet) at [www.derwenttravel.co.uk](http://www.derwenttravel.co.uk).

If members are interested in this trip, please contact Herman Boston (details above) by the end of February. I will require at least 40 people expressing an interest before I approach local coach companies.