



# The Rambler-April 2009

## Registration for Tranche 2—Lottery

Registration for the first tranche closed at 27,997. This includes our members who participated last year whether they completed the walk or not.

The number of available places for Tranche 2 was 17,003. When the second registration period opened, it was so extremely busy that it caused pressure on the KNBLO website. The website was almost inaccessible on Monday 9th March. Since then there has been a steady stream of registrations which has in turn exceeded this 17,003 maximum well before the closing date of 9th April 2009. As at 09:00hrs on Thursday 2nd April, the number of walkers registered during the second period was 19,262 some 2,259 places over the maximum.

### What does this mean?

All individual (civilian) participants (does not affect teams who have priority over individuals) that have registered in the second registration period and that have never successfully completed the Four Days Marches before according to the rules and regulations and that are now registered for reward 1 will be entered into the drawing of lots. The exact time of registration does not matter — it's the fact that it's during this second registration period that counts.

### Drawing of lots

The draw will take place on Thursday 16 April and will be executed under the supervision of a civil law notary. If you are successful in the draw, you will have a starting place. The result of the draw will be posted on [www.4daagse.nl](http://www.4daagse.nl). Furthermore, all of our participants will receive notice by e-mail (via me) or via a letter.

On a positive note, we shall have 2 teams walking under the BDWF banner. Our thanks go to the respective team leaders — the 50K team led by Lenny Goldsmith and the 40K team led by Richard Courtney.

As of 09:00hrs Thursday 2nd April, 2009 — only 109 days and 16 hours to go !!!

## British Dutch Walking Fellowship

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# Auditors report on 2007 accounts

The accounts for 2007 were audited before Nijmegen 2008 and a report provided by the auditor. Whilst that report does not identify any material inaccuracies or serious control issues, a few areas for possible improvement was highlighted which the committee have considered

## Dutch Bank Accounts

The BDWF Accounts are never going to show a complete and accurate position of the finances of the organisation, whilst the old Dutch Bank Account is not under the control of the Treasurer. This has been acted upon and a BDWF Dutch bank account was opened in Nijmegen in 2007 and our Dutch colleagues bank transfer their payments direct.

## Petty Cash

Improvements to the control of petty cash in Nijmegen was put in place in Nijmegen 2008 and supported by petty cash book and a strict rule enforced that no cash is refunded without a receipt.

## Insurance

During the audit, the auditor did not come across any payment of insurance premium. This matter the committee is addressing. Several companies have been approached and we shall be able to report back to the members very soon.

## Website

I note that the cost of website hosting amounted to £59 in 2007. myself and the rest of the committee feel that we get good value for money based on the size of our website.

## Membership Database

The membership records with all the various charges to members, is an excellent and very accurate database. As a, very minor, enhancement I would suggest that an extra column is added to show "lost deposits/refunds" (members who pull out etc). This will reduce the number of balances in the end column "amount due". This has been done.

## Year End Date

The financial year currently runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Given the Vierdaagse is so close to the end of the financial year, it is inevitable that there will be transactions after the end of the financial year. This was certainly the case for 2007. It may be easier for the Treasurer, if the financial year ended later, in say November. The committee agreed the membership year runs from 1st January until 31st December.

## Auditors report on 2007 accounts (Cont'd)

### Stocks

Whilst I agree that is not important to include the value of Polo shirts etc in the financial figures, I do think in future years it would be useful to add a note to the accounts showing the number of items remaining at the year-end date and also their value at cost. This process is in hand not just for Polo's and T shirts but for all stock we hold including stationery.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Nick Wakelam for the thorough work he has done in auditing the accounts and accept his report. Myself and the committee have taken the points on board and have made steps to putting in place corrective actions.

### Committee members—5

I am pleased to announce that Marcus Steward (Webmaster) has been co-opted onto the committee with full voting rights etc. As such, we have now re-established 5 members on the committee — an odd ( mathematical term) number of committee members such that the Chairman's secondary casting vote is not required under normal circumstances.

The committee comprises of:

Chairperson	Roy Hayward
Group Secretary	Katie Elliman
Treasurer	Herman Boston
First Aid Coordinator	Gina Coltman
Webmaster	Marcus Steward

# Weblog — Johan Willemstein

19th March 2009

The preparations are going well. The permits have been submitted to the local and Provincial authorities, which implies that all locations that provide service along the route (resting areas, control posts, sanitary facilities, information screens etc.) have been arranged.

Like last year, we are busy setting up a walker tracking system, meant to monitor the crowds on the route. This was done last year using the shoe-lace chip, but this year we are going to use mobile phones. Participants entering the project can be tracked online from start to finish using their mobiles. More state of the art technology and less logistic difficulties (mats and reading equipment that needed to be moved every day). The preparations are in an advanced phase. When possible we will inform our participants on the matter.

At the checkpoints the walkers were and are being 'hole-punched' in the old-fashioned manner. By means of experiment we will scan instead of punch at at least one checkpoint this year. So, like at the start and finish, the barcode card will be scanned instead of the checkpoint card punched.

Last year we offered the possibility to report at the registration desks on Sunday as well as on Monday. Over 13,000 walkers have used this opportunity. The result was that the first hour on Monday was more quiet than usual. Therefore, we have decided to open an hour later on Monday. You will be welcome on Sunday from 1pm to 5pm and on Monday from 10am to 5pm.

The 2008 satisfactory survey provided enough feedback on the matter of the prices of the caterers on the Wedren. As a response we set out a comparative study to state how the prices on the Wedren relate to the prices at other major events. This study has been completed. Twelve other events have been examined, with a total of six different caterers. We have come to the conclusion that the prices on the Wedren are no different than the prices at these other events. Clients do not pay more at the Wedren and for some products they pay even less. We do not see any reason to act upon the matter. We will, however, continue to follow price developments as we have always done and tune to the caterer if necessary.

Part of weblog ( remaining information covered and updated on the front page of this newsletter)

See [www.4daagse.nl](http://www.4daagse.nl) for full briefing.

# BDWF Nijmegen Handbook 2009

The 2009 Issue 1 edition of the BDWF Nijmegen Handbook is now available on our website at [www.nijmegengroup.org](http://www.nijmegengroup.org).

This booklet is a useful guide for everyone participating in Nijmegen and more importantly for newcomers.

For those members without internet access, copies may be requested via Herman Boston — contact details as always on the last page of this newsletter.

## Forthcoming events 2009:

### April

25th & 26th 2 day walk at RAF Cosford.

### May

23rd—26th 2 day walk at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire. Contact Herman for details

# Birthdays

## British

- 1 Lee Anderson, Natalie Williams
- 2 Luke Sharratt
- 4 John Prowse
- 5 Sylvie Boston, Dave Holyday,  
Mathew Willis
- 6 Emily Souch
- 7 John Phillips, Kimberley Walters
- 8 Richard Ballard, Barry Clarke,  
David Passmore
- 10 Emma Gunn
- 11 Diane Walker
- 12 Sarah Ann Cubit
- 13 Liam Henry
- 15 Thomas Hartnell
- 16 Howard Johnson, Andrew Jones
- 17 Laura Green
- 18 Rhianwen Slipper, Elaine Whittaker
- 19 Brian Campbell, Lorraine Lavender
- 20 Anna Millard, Anneke Day,  
Richard Browne
- 19 Craig Gould, Thomas Adams
- 23 Bob Mason, Kate Pitt
- 24 Alexander Thompson
- 26 Stephen Davies
- 27 Maxwell Cook, Stan Fowler
- 30 Tina Angell, Cassandra Dunn

## Nederlanders

- 1 Rombout Grondman
- 2 Eric Evers
- 3 Andre Klinkenberg
- 7 J Mounoury
- 8 Florian Hupkes
- 9 Cees van den Bos
- 11 Chiel Vogels
- 12 Moniek Abberkerk
- 15 Anneke Vogels
- 18 John Tiggelaar
- 20 Bep van der Krabben
- 22 Anita Ludema
- 24 Janny A de Reus de Boer
- 25 Fia Moller
- 27 Rijk Jacobs

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The British Dutch Walking Fellowship (BDWF) was founded out of the BT Nijmegen group in 2003. The club has no political or sectarian interests, and is non –profit seeking. Membership is open to anyone 12 years and over.

As a member, we want to make sure that you get the best from your relationship with us and that means keeping you informed.

Any news items to be included in the next newsletter should be with Herman by **Monday 20th April 2009**.

Contributions are always welcome. Remember, every member has a voice and this is the ideal medium to have your say

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