



The Rambler - May 2009

Registration for Tranche 2: Lottery Results

On Thursday 9 April the second registration period for the 93rd Four Days Marches closed. For only the second time in the history of the 4 Days Marches the limit, this year set at 45,000 registrations, was exceeded in this period. As mentioned in the April edition of The Rambler, the remaining starting tickets for the 93rd Four Days Marches were allocated by the drawing of lots.

Every first time participant registered individually in this second period for reward 1 was in the draw.

The draw, using a specially designed software programme, took place on Thursday 16 April supervised by a civil law notary in order to allocate the available starting tickets for the 93rd Four Days Marches.

I can inform all members that of the 10,118 potential walkers we had 15 people in the draw and 14 were successful. They are as follows:

Darren Gray	Edward Stevenette
Verity Dams	George Paul
Sarah Turrell	Dan Westlake
James Ireland	Sandra Thompson
Dave Ruddle	Alex Moss
Oliver Thorne	Gareth Thomas
Rose Smith	Adam Clarke

Our commiserations go to Alf Short who did not gain a place. However, when the draw previously took place in 2005, the unsuccessful applicants were rewarded with a guaranteed entry the following year i.e. 2006. We trust that a similar offer will once again be made by the organizer's in December when the new rules for the 2010 event will be placed on the 4 Days web site. Hope to see you take part next time Alf.

As of 09:00hrs Thursday 30th April, 2009 — only 80 days and 19 hours to go !!

**British Dutch
Walking Fellowship**

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Registration Background

Walking Convenience

To ease congestion and maintain safety on the route, Stichting DE 4DAAGSE strives to achieve a total number of 41,000 to 42,000 walkers on the route. To approach this number as accurately as possible 45,000 people are allowed to register. Based on experience and research they have learnt that with this system of registration about 5,000 participants decide after the registration closes that they do not want to appear at the start due to personal circumstances.

History

For the 89th Four Days Marches in 2005, a draw also took place according to the current system for the first time. In that year, 17,831 starting tickets were allocated by means of draw out of 23,162 potentials from the second registration period. In 2005, 53,336 walkers registered and the registration limit was 47,500. This number, 53,336 in 2005, is also the record number of registrations, whereas the record number of starters comes from 2003, when 44,812 people appeared at the start of the Four Days Marches.

Numbers

Year	Limit	Registrations	Starters	Draw
2005	47,500	53,336	43,206	Yes
2006	49,000	48,630	43,141	No
2007	49,000	42,270	37,505	No
2008	45,000	43,450	38,432	No
2009	45,000	48,317	???	Yes

Weblog—Johan Willemstein

Wednesday, 15 April 2009

There are 48317 walkers registered for the 93rd edition of the Four Days Marches in Nijmegen. It makes me happy to know that interest in the Marches has not waned. This is probably due to a number of reasons: presentation remains crucial; atmosphere and involvement of Nijmegen and its inhabitants; music, spectators, companionship (one for all and all for one); the hospitality of Nijmegen and its surroundings; the support and involvement of defence. And the list goes on. Elements we should treasure and maintain their continuation.

The huge interest unfortunately also means that not everyone that is registered is allowed to participate, as the registration limit had been set on 45,000. Therefore, we are forced to organise a draw and that means we have to disappoint 3317 walkers. Even though the website already explains the whys and the wherefores of the draw, I would like to emphasise certain matters, as questions continue to be asked. From 2003 to 2006 (when the registration limit was 49,000) about 43,000 to 45,000 participants appeared at the start on Tuesday. In these years the crowds on the route were basically unbearable. In fact, there were simply too many people on the roads. On the Wedren it was a similar story, as well as at public areas in the city (parking spaces etc.), accommodation etcetera.

After the Four Days Marches was cancelled in 2006, interest did decrease a bit, resulting in a 'mere' 38,000 participants starting in 2007. Many experienced this as a positive effect, concerning the crowds on the route so that the board decided in 2008 to reduce the registration limit to 45,000 - due to safety regulations as well as for the walkers' enjoyment. In the last couple of years it has shown that about 5,000 registered walkers do not come to the Wedren and that about 40,000 participants actually start. In the opinion of the board, this number guarantees matters to run smoothly. It will still be crowded, but when you give some and lose some, and show some patience it should be more agreeable. Besides, the number 40,000 is set in the books of the City of Nijmegen when granting permits.

I hope I have made our reasons clear with regard to the registration limit and consequently the draw. Basically, it has to do with being in control of the event and maintaining a pleasant atmosphere.

We have set an appointment with the notary to hold the draw on 16 April. The draw will include all civilian participants registered in the second registration period for reward 1. This is annually (rule of thumb) about a third of the entire number. Loyal 'customers' are being protected against failing to participate because of the draw, whereas there are enough slots to fill for debutants. Furthermore, failure to draw a place for first timers is partially compensated by the Via Vierdaagse project, to which 1,500 debutants have been handed a starting ticket.

Information taken from the 4 Days web site: www.4daagse.nl

Personal Insurance

In looking at all aspects of insurance for the BDWF Group we also checked to see if a 'bulk' group insurance could be made available to members much cheaper than taking out personal insurance. Quotes received from companies dealing with club insurances have been shown to be even more expensive than taking out personal insurance – especially for short-term events.

As such, the most cost-effective method will be for members to continue (we trust) with their own personal insurance. Many of us now take out annual multi-trip and often worldwide insurance which in turn provides even greater savings.

As in our documentation, such as the Nijmegen Handbook, the minimum cover that we insist upon is the free EHIC (European Health Insurance Card). The EHIC can be used for any necessary medical treatment due to either an accident or illness within the European Economic Area (EEA). The EHIC entitles the holder to state-provided medical treatment within the country that they are visiting. This may not cover all of the services you would expect within the UK and you may have to make a contribution towards the care that you receive.

Please see www.ehic.org.uk for full details. Alternatively telephone the EHIC Applications line on 0845 6062030 or pick up an application pack from your local Post Office branch. Please remember to allow sufficient time for the EHIC card to be issued – via the Post Office takes the longest (21 days).

To emphasise the key point, please note that the EHIC card does not cover persons for all medical costs incurred e.g. to allow for repatriation in case of serious injury – a service that has been needed in recent years - our reason for strongly advising personal insurance cover.

The Organising Team will **NOT** be liable for any personal arrangements you may have made e.g. your own travel arrangements or accommodation or for any equipment you may have purchased as a result of your pending participation in the 4 Days March.

It is important for you to consider suitable forms of insurance that might cover such eventualities.

Use of Photos

It has been brought to our attention that, whilst members have readily posted their event photos onto our Group's web site or forwarded photos for inclusion in the Rambler, other than Parental Consent formally being given for our under-18 members, we have never asked for your permission for these photos to be displayed or for their use in benefiting the BDWF as a whole. Neither have we 'hidden' away rules governing waiving of your rights in this area – who readily reads the small print? Authority may be inherent in the forwarding of the photos but we need to be sure that is the case.

Did you know that the organisers of the 4 Days March have covered this issue on their web site?

See www.4daagse.nl/index.php/en/participation/regulations :

Item 17: By registering the participant also agrees to the possible use by Stichting DE 4DAAGSE of his/her personal details and/or image in print, on photograph, film or video etc, for promotional or informative purposes in the interest of the Four Days Marches, without being entitled to demand payment.

We in turn need to incorporate similar wording into both our Constitution & Rules document and our web site:

“By registering as a BDWF member for the 4 Days March or other BDWF-associated walks the participant agrees to the possible use by the BDWF of his/her image in print, on photograph, film or video for promotional or informative purposes in the interest of the BDWF without being entitled to demand payment”.

We will **NOT** divulge any personal details as is always stated on all of our BDWF forms. However, we will go one step further and will undertake to monitor and remove personal images if formally requested in writing to do so.

Hopefully this has just been a necessary paper exercise and we will continue to see your smiling faces and wearing your BDWF T-shirts and Polo shirts 'all around the world'.

Your Letters

New Zealand



Tee Shirts on Parade - once again in New Zealand. This time we were in the exalted company not just of the Mayor of Rotorua at a civic reception but also of Hans & Derry who most of you will recognise from the walking circuit. The walk itself was very picturesque – day 1 takes you through the Redwood Forest on good tracks and through Native Wood the lunch stop takes place in a wood yard, there are no coffee bars on route but there are a few hills to climb. Day 2 is a total contrast; it is totally flat, going through the thermal areas, around the lake and through the town where there are plenty of coffee shops for a lunch stop.

Dave and Ann

Forthcoming Events 2009:

May

- 3 Avebury to Stonehenge walk 26 miles for walkers and runners which takes you across Salisbury plain.
- 9—10 Waendel Weekend walk—Wellingborough
Friday 8—Sunday 10th May
Contact Peter Boulden 01933 231723
- 24 Cadet March / Spitfire walk
St Martins Plain, Army camp, Cheriton, Folkestone
Contact Adrian Mundy 07831 651320
- 23rd—26th 2 day walk at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire. Contact Herman for details

June

- 13-14 Longport International festival of walking
Contact Hans Rennie 01935 864523

Birthdays

British

- 1 Andy Lock
- 2 Debra Griffiths
- 4 Dave Sutton
- 5 Josh Battaglia
- 6 James Pirrie, John Turner
- 7 John Foden, Ron Williams
- 9 Cliff Evans
- 10 Robert Thickett
- 11 Luke Paynter, Andrew Prowse,
Dominic Bray
- 12 Daffyd Jones
- 13 Julia Gaffney, Stephen Cherry,
Kenna Leigh
- 14 Peter Richmond
- 15 John Howell, Amanda Bryer
Josey Thornton
- 16 Dave Saunders, George Thornton
- 17 Sandra Thompson
- 18 Matthew Keates, Vivienne Sherry
- 19 Tracy Sharland
- 21 Doug Pearce, Tom Wakelam
- 22 Brian Kiel, Jacqui Wakelam,
Siobhan Smith
- 23 Marilyn Hurley, Daniel Lewis
- 24 Matthew Hayward, Samantha Holland
Frankie Mabbott
- 25 Andrew Tiley
- 26 Lucy Johns, Sheila Hanson
- 28 Andrew Smith, Samantha Bowstead
- 30 David Sinclair, Vicky Couper,
Roly Greer, John Warnier
- 31 Ashleigh Roome

Nederlanders

- 1 Rienk Cloo
- 2 Arie de Knijf, Jochem Huffmeijer, Edwin
Vreeling
- 4 Renger Rakhorst
- 5 Francien Kastanja, W Seders
- 10 Mischa van Den Bos
- 11 Anton Aelberts
- 13 Toon Vogels
- 14 Lydia Verstraate, Hennie Stoel
- 16 W van de Wijderen, Frans Vogels
- 24 Marian van Essen-Westerhoff
- 26 Jantinus Timmerman
- 29 Bep van der Krabben-Enner, P.E. Boomsma,
Louis van der Krabben, Gijs van Reenen
- 31 Dianne Schijvenaars

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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 18 May 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