

THE DOUBLE DUTCH

Flyer April 2020

FROM PIERRE

Dear members,

I sincerely hope that you are all healthy and surviving this challenging time in isolation.

I find it interesting to experience a forced deprivation of activity, movement and social contact. On the one hand I find it annoying not be able to do whatever and go wherever you want on the other hand I find it astonishing how we can come up with ways to deal with it. A nice example of this was when I had a package delivered and the courier asked me to smile while he was making a photograph with the package in the foreground and me in the open doorframe in the background.

He said, this is as good as a signature!

The media are commending the people who serve us during this problematic period of time and rightly so. Without these people we would struggle to get through this and if we did it would be with a lot more casualties.

I would like to pay tribute to a less formal, but equally important, group of people that make a huge contribution to

getting us through these difficult times and that is our members.

In the conversations that I have I, almost always, hear them say that they have spoken to – so and so – and that they are doing well. Modern technology and the resulting gadgets that allow us to “socialise” in more ways than meeting-up are great tools to overcome one of the biggest problems of being in a bubble namely: loneliness.

A five-minute phone call can make someone’s day!

The committee of our club momentarily stays in touch via e-mail and phone calls and this works fine as there is very little to discuss with no upcoming events and closed clubrooms. As for the latter, this will probably remain for some weeks to come. Most of the members I have spoken to are looking forward to the next social meeting in Avalon however, considering the demographics of our membership, it would be unwise to take any risks.

Stay in touch and stay healthy!

Pierre

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joop, Rene, Yvonne, Ellen, Anna, Hanny, Anne-Marie, Peter, Piet, Phemia and Diny

FROM DAWN

Hi fellow detainees - in home detention, I hope you are all finding lots to occupy yourself to fill in the time at home during this Covid-19 lockdown. I have been doing some baking, which is not really my favourite pastime. Apart from scones and pikelets, I have also made cupcakes from a box of mixture that I had in my cupboard for some time.

About seven years ago, before my son and his family shifted from Naenae to Waterloo in Lower Hutt, I raided their (now deceased) grapefruit tree and our own (now deceased) lemon tree, cut the fruit up, put it through my blender and put it in a click-clack container in the freezer. I finally made it into marmalade a week ago and it turned out marvellously.

Our 21-year-old grandson does our supermarket shopping for us once a fortnight, so we have plenty to eat, drink and be merry while we see out this period of safely keeping away from others. Of course, we can keep in regular contact with friends and family, near and far, by telephone, text, e-mail, Face book and Skype. We can be thankful that we have electricity, gas, rubbish collection and water in our taps.

Some members might be worried about the businesses and jobs for themselves, friends, and family. Let us hope that it will not be as dire as the economists predict but it is bad enough for those that have already lost their jobs. An old proverb "every cloud has a silver lining" could be applied to there being less traffic on the roads and therefore less vehicular accidents, and fewer planes in the air so there is less air and noise pollution.

Thanks to those who have paid their membership subscriptions and have completed their forms with their up-to-date information. I can use that time now to fill in membership cards and update the membership list with Carolina. Please do not worry if you have sent cheques and forms to the PO Box. Rene has organised a redirection to my home address because, of course I must not go and clear it.

In conclusion, I wish you all good health and happiness during this rather unsettling time. If anyone feels lonely or sad, please phone me and we can have a chat.

Dawn



KONINGS DAG WONINGS DAG

MONDAY
27 April
6 pm

FACEBOOK LIVE
www.facebook.com/dutchclubwellington

KING'S DAY MONDAY 27 APRIL, 6pm

It doesn't happen often but it also happened in 2001, because of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, in 2013, because of the succession, and again now, in 2020.

Our national day (Koningdag) is cancelled!

Everybody saw it coming of course and it is the only sensible choice there is. Apart from the exposure and risk, it doesn't feel right for a nation to celebrate when so many people are seriously ill or, worse, have lost their life because of the pandemic ravaging our world.

Unfortunately, I will miss wearing Piet and Nelly's orange hat, that they have kindly loaned to me in the past few years, I will be wearing something orange on the 27th of April although I doubt that many people will see it.

We still want to do our traditional 'toast' on the King and we have decided to do this 'live' on Facebook. **You can join me by visiting our Facebook Club page for a collective singing of "het Wilhelmus" on Monday 27th at 6PM. To do so CLICK HERE -> facebook.com/dutchclubwellington.** I encourage you to sing, hum or whistle along, in your own bubble, at the same time. We also encourage you to join us on Facebook sharing your photo of something 'Orange' in your bubble. Check out our page on Monday.

Depending on the situation, I will make a trip out to the clubhouse to hoist our national colours and I think that all committee members will join me in agreeing that we must not let Kings-day 2020 go by with a toast whenever our clubhouse can reopen. You will be hearing from us about this in due course.

Despite the situation, I wish you all a happy "Koningsdag 2020 " and hope to be able to greet you in person soon!

Stay healthy

Pierre

ORANJE BOVEN: ORANJE BINNEN

There will be ongoing online screenings of celebrations in The Netherlands. If you want to participate, you can find more information on <https://koningsdagthuis.nl/>

FROM ANJA

Hello all,

This is a very unusual 'Double Dutch'. It's kinda a mini version, due to COVID-19. This mini version -aka flyer- is going to be emailed to all of you who we have an email address from. Unfortunately that is not every club member. I ask you kindly that IF you know of a club member who does not have an email address or you know we do not have it on file, to please pass on this flyer, either by emailing it via family and/or friends, or maybe even through a print out and drop off in their letter box IF circumstances provide for that.

Going into 'isolation' is not an easy feat, but I have found it helps when I change the language of my inside voice. What am I saying to myself about this time: I'm stuck inside the house, or I am staying home to stay safe? This is really hard for me, or I'm so glad I can do this to help others. What we say matters because it affects how we think, and how we feel. If we can shift to a more positive view of this situation, we WILL have a more positive experience of it. Of course we'll have some hard times, but we can also have some heart times. We can't change that this has happened, but we CAN choose how we respond. And it starts with our language (even internal). Tune in to 'you FM', and see if anything shifts.

WORD OF THE MONTH WOORD VAN DE MAAND

funny Dutch moments when a native English speaker learns Dutch...

But still, I can be all for positive thinking... and then it hits me. We are separated from our wider loved ones – our children and grandchildren, and we may have had to cancel trips and celebrations. My trip to the Netherlands to see Andre Rieu in Maastricht is canceled. And I know it's right, and worth it for our collective safety. But it's HARD. Heart work can also be hard work, but if we keep at the kindness and care, the heart can outshine the hard.

I ask each one of you to keep remembering to reach out beyond your bubble, to keep in touch with your 'outside world'. Call, 'meet', message, comment, whichever way you want to spark up a conversation and speak to 'your people'. Often. I have been told that many of you have been checking in on others. For a cheer up or a listening ear, or to be someone to 'sit with them'. That's the true spirit of kindness that shines in our club.

Keep connecting, keep communicating. The more connected we all feel, the more our hearts will be up for the task. We are in isolation but we do not need to be isolated.

Let's remember this when it's King Willem-Alexander's 53rd birthday. Tune in to Facebook on King's Day and join Pierre in het Wilhelmus.

Kia kaha,
Stay strong,
Anja



APESTAARTJE



AT SIGN