



Koningsdag in the Netherlands

EDITORIAL

by Jenny Smits

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Officially Spring has started. In April we will be celebrating Easter as well as Koningsdag. In the past these celebrations were a lot bigger at the Dutch Canadian Club than today.

I remember the Easter Hat Parade and the always popular Orange Balls that were wonderful events with many of our members and guests attending. Things have changed, but we will still do something special for the Easter lunch on the Thursday before Easter. And on Koningsdag, which happens to be on a Thursday, we will do a few special things as well.

With all the talk about downsizing we cannot help but think about those who started the soccer club/sports club it used to be and how it became a Dutch cultural organization that has served the Dutch community so well. The markets, Heritage festival, the dances, amateur nights, bazaars and Sinterklaas were always popular events, but sadly we lost more and more great volunteers so here we are, ready to sell our building. The original building was built entirely by volunteers, and over the years extensive additions and renovations have been done. Now our own club does not need a large facility anymore, nor can we afford it any longer. Many of us know what it means to downsize: we have to give up some things that used to mean a lot to us but we no longer can do. That's what the club is looking at too. But in the meantime, we still have our regular weekly events as you can see on the calendar, so we hope to see you for some of these.

Jenny

Welcome to our new members!

Our membership dues are per calendar year (January-December) at the following rates:

Family: \$70.00, Senior Family \$60.00, Single \$35.00, Senior Single \$30.00, Student \$25.00

Please mail your membership application or renewal with your **name, address, phone number and email address** to:

**Dutch Canadian Club
13312—142 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5L4T3**

Or remit via e-transfer to dccedm@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Stolk	President—780-464-4879— stolkfm@telus.net
Rinske TerHeide	Vice President/President Windmills—780-960-9758— rterheide@shaw.ca
Willie Korendyk	Secretary/Membership coordinator— willie@wilkor.ab.ca
Jenny Smits	Treasurer 780-473-0905— jismits45@gmail.com
Ria Bok	Communications Officer—780 472-2725
Pauline Commandeur	Vice President Windmills—780-458-2024
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1/8 page \$10.00
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From the desk of Frank Stolk

Dear membership:

After I wrote to you about the upcoming AGM and the importance of this meeting, we were pleased to see so many of you, 37 members, in attendance. The main topic was the future of our club and the building. We presented a case that was based on facts: aging, dwindling membership participating in club activities, a decline in revenue base (like weddings) in the big hall that used to be our bread and butter, and the increasingly high costs of maintenance, heating & cooling, insurance, etc.



So the fact is: we only use the main hall for our own function once a year for the Christmas Dinner, so we no longer have a need nor the financial means to continue to keep our beautiful facilities. Currently we are operating at an average financial loss of about \$3,000 a month. We asked the membership to vote on the following motion: That the Board of Directors of the Dutch Canadian Club are given the mandate to explore all avenues and options for a possible sale of the property. This motion was ratified by 100% of the eligible voters at the meeting, as the membership was fully aware that might have to happen sooner or later.

Because we have a written obligation to the Scandinavian groups (ESCA) to inform them about the possible sale of our building, I have contacted them to start the discussion about our intention and as per our contract with them they will receive 33 1/3 % of the sale.

Please understand that we will not stop being a club. We just keep addressing the needs of our own members..

There are several options on the table we have to work out the best solution for our members, You understand that this is a going to be a lot of work and many details have to be ironed out, but you have a solid board working on it We will keep you posted.

The 40th anniversary of the Windmills next year is something to celebrate and look forward to.

Yours Truly

Frank

It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform you of the passing of our dear member Henry Klein who passed away this week. Our condolences to Willy and their children with this loss, he will be missed by so many.

Frank



*Thank
You!*

I regret to inform you that Judy Boekholt has tendered her resignation from the board and all other functions and participation in the DCC. We like to thank her for her years of service and wish her all the best.

Frank

The DCC 2023 Board of Directors:
Rinske, Piet, Jenny, Pauline
Ria, Willie and Frank - missing: Nels





KONINGSDAG - April 27, 2023

We will be celebrating Koningsdag with an orange drink and toast to King Willem Alexander. To celebrate, we will have cake decorated in orange.

The new consul general Vancouver Sebastiaan Messerschmidt will send greetings by video from Vancouver. Festivities start around 2:00 pm. We hope many of you can come out for this special day.

LIBERATION DAY COMMEMMORATION - MAY 4, 2023

On May 4th the Dutch Canadian Club will hold its annual Remembrance and Liberation Day commemoration at our cenotaph, followed by coffee and cake. 2:00 pm



Card Makers

By Ria Bok - 780-472-2725

Hi everyone! It's the April Dutch Touch issue already. We, the card makers want to express our condolences to Willy Klein and family with the loss of her Husband, their Father and Opa Henry Klein. We will miss his smile, he was always so friendly when he came to the club.

Our next card making dates will be April 8 and 22 starting at 10.30. Hope to see you all there.

Ria



Stitch 'N Rip Knitting Club



Here we are again. It is so nice to see the snow going away and the streets are getting better and safer to walk on.

Our group is keeping busy, we always find something to make and donate.

If anyone would like to join us, we meet every Monday from 12 noon till 3 pm.

Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea are on the house.

Edith



Sewing & Craft Circle

By Jenny Smits - 780-975-7426

It was so nice to welcome Vicky back after a long recovery. Glad to see you again. We wish Judy all the best, she has been a member of our group for so long and we have enjoyed her company. We will miss you.

Our thoughts go out to Willy Klein and her family, we are sorry for your loss. Henry will be missed.

Our sewing group meets every Tuesday in the boardroom. There is still room at the table if you are interested in joining us.



Jenny

SATURDAY SOCIALS

By Aris Smits - 780-920-7699 - smitsaris@gmail.com

Our Saturday events start at 1:00 and we will have Dutch snacks available, the coffee is on and the bar will be open.



April 1, 2023 - 1:00 pm - A bit of show and tell about Northern Alberta Native Culture.

From handshake and eye contact to the use of smudging and the custom of gifting blankets; from the meaning of the pipe ceremony, sweat lodges, drum and chanting to the importance of the eagle feather. We will make and eat some Bannock and possibly try to do a round dance. By Aris Smits.

April 15, 2023 - The Clubroom will be used to celebrate Ted Hoekstra's 90th birthday. Please let Pat know if you are attending (*Pat Hoekstra—Phone: 780-469-8343*)

April 29, 2023 - 1:00 pm - A very strong request was made to have another bingo afternoon. Prizes are up for grabs. Make a date with your favorite person and join us for some fun daubing.

Bami lunch on March 18 - Special thanks to master chef Pierre (Piet Putters), Darrell, Keith, Cor, Bert and Felix for cooking, serving and clean-up. And also a very special thanks to the people attending and taking a chance on our cooking.



Aris

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible"!

- Audrey Hepburn



On March 4
**Doris
Wouterse**
celebrated her
80th birthday



On March 13
**Johanna
Kuipers**
celebrated her
**93rd
birthday**



One of the bands rehearsing at the Club

We congratulate everyone who has celebrated a birthday or an anniversary.

If you would like to share these or other special events with our members please email me at:
dutchtouchedmonton@gmail.com
or phone 780-975-7426 and I will include it on our member's page.

Members Page

Our heartfelt
condolences to the
Klein family
with the passing of
Henry Klein
on March 23



On April 15, 2023 - 2:00 pm
Ted Hoekstra
will be celebrating his 90th birthday

We invite all members to come and celebrate with Ted
and his family
in the Clubroom of the
Dutch Canadian Centre

Please RSVP by April 10 to
Pat Hoekstra

The Windmills Thursday lunches in April

- April 6 - (Thursday before Easter)
Croissant with egg salad, fruit,
chocolate cream egg
- April 13 - 'the usual'...(Krokets, fries, spring roll)
- April 20 - Lasagna and salad
- April 27 - King's Day 'the usual', with cake
decorated in orange, Apricot Brandy
for a toast to the King

World Happiness Report 2021

Since 2002, the World Happiness Report has used statistical analysis to determine the world's happiest countries. In its 2021 update, the report concluded that Finland is the happiest country in the world.

To determine the world's happiest country, researchers analyzed comprehensive Gallup polling data from 149 countries for the past three years, specifically monitoring performance in six particular categories: gross domestic product per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make your own life choices, generosity of the general population, and perceptions of internal and external corruption levels.

In order to properly compare each country's data, the researchers created a fictional country—christened Dystopia—filled with "the world's least-happy people." They then set Dystopia as the rock bottom value in each of the six categories and measured the scores of the real-world countries against this value. All six variables were then blended to create a single combined score for each country.

Interestingly enough, the top seven happiest countries in the world for 2021 were all Northern European countries. Finland took top honors—for the fourth year in a row—with an overall score of 7.842, followed (in order) by Denmark (7.620), Switzerland (7.571), Iceland (7.554), the Netherlands (7.464), Norway (7.392), Sweden (7.363). Canada ranked 15th on the list.

Source: worldpopulationreview.com

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This and that to the Windmills

By Rinske TerHeide



Thank you to those who came out to our Annual General Meeting held on March 12. It was a meeting with an announcement that the board of the club and everyone involved had been dreading for a while now. Frank Stolk the DCC President, outlined the difficulty we are facing with our declining membership in maintaining our beautiful club building. He came out with a proposal that we start researching and start looking into the possibility of selling our club building over the next 2 years. The members present all seemed to realize as well the futility of continuing with the upkeep of such a large property with just a small number of members remaining. The result of the vote was unanimous with everyone in agreement with the proposal as presented. With this mandate Frank and the board can now actively pursue the options available in trying to sell our building while at the same time looking into an alternate home base for our club. This decision was not made lightly, considering every member has a lot of history and personal memories connected to this building. Efforts to get a younger generation interested in actively participating in the club were unsuccessful and it became clear that the time had come to face reality. The world and lifestyles have changed, with people having instant connection with anyone, anywhere around the world, not needing a social club like ours to connect to their roots. We will have to wait and see where this will take us, there are a lot of things to be taken into consideration, but Frank will keep us informed on further developments.



Meanwhile we continue as usual with our Windmill socials on Thursday. The club room was decorated in green and Pauline brought brownies with green icing to go with our coffee for St Patrick's Day and for dinner we had our annual traditional Dutch Stampot Boerenkool (Mashed potatoes, kale and sausage).

Spring has sprung, the Canada geese have returned and we managed to stay dry after negotiating our way around all the puddles left from the melting snow.

Let me share a few tidbits on how Roel and I managed to get through the winter. Call me crazy but I actually like winter, enjoying the more relaxing times at home, but also going out to enjoy what our Canadian winter, the envy of the world, has to offer. Throughout the winter months you can find us at the club on a Thursday afternoon and Friday evening where Roel likes to play a few games of chess with Hans and Roel also enjoys going curling a couple of times a week. We also get to watch 2 or 3 games of indoor soccer and volleyball games every week, with 8 grandkids doing some kind of indoor



activity, as well as watching skating lessons. I pick up the younger kids from school at least once a week and take the little one to her dance class. When there is a volleyball tournament out of town, we spend a night in a hotel, wherever the tournament is held and in addition have a good time spending time with family. At the end of January we took a vacation to Fairmont B.C. with our son and his wife and their 3 children, ages 8, 6 and 4, enjoying the resort facilities, the kids love to go swimming, often twice a day. The small Fairmont ski hill is just ideal for families and at the end of an afternoon of skiing we get to take a dip at the Fairmont Hot Springs, included with the ski pass. (Heads up if you're planning a trip to the Radium Hot Springs, they have almost doubled the price of admission this year.)



Skating in the Netherlands is great when there is ice on the canals, but it is also very special to go skating, surrounded by mountains, on beautiful Windermere Lake. With 34 km of skating and cross country ski trails, the “Whiteway” is the longest groomed natural ice track in the world.

We had an interesting adventure in February when we drove to Slave Lake to go ice fishing together with our daughter and husband. Their friends had rented an ice hut on the lake for the weekend. Inside the hut it was warm and cozy with bunk beds and a wood stove and with trap doors in the wooden flooring over the fishing holes. They can sit and fish in luxurious comfort. The weather was decent however and we decided to sit outside to fish. With no wind and surrounded by whiteness, in the middle of the lake; it’s so still and so quiet. The pike we caught were catch and release and one Walleye was allowed per person. To everyone’s surprise I caught a Walleye that was a keeper at 45 cm. We left before dinnertime, but the others had it for dinner and we were told it was delicious.



We still like downhill skiing and we managed to go a few times, staying overnight in Jasper or Hinton and ski Marmot Basin. On another day we met family from Rocky Mountain House and Calgary and went skiing at the Canyon ski resort in Red Deer. We still hope to do some spring skiing but I am off to the Netherlands (by myself) for 2 weeks until April 4th and we have to see what the conditions are in the mountains after I get back. In the Netherlands I look forward to meeting 10 new great nieces and nephews for the first time, the youngest one just 2 weeks old. Coincidentally at the same time our 17 year old twin grand daughters will be going on a trip with their soccer team to England. Flying to Amsterdam together with their parents, they are combining this with a few days in the Netherlands staying with family living close by where I will be. Then they’re off to Hoek van Holland to take the night ferry to England to meet up with the rest of the soccer team for what looks like a very hectic schedule. I am staying with my sister and husband in Hasselt by Zwolle. We usually do quite a bit of biking around the area plus they have a boat and will take me around everywhere, including Giethoorn of course. It will definitely be spring over there, lots of budding green with the Daffodils and early Tulips in bloom. Who knows, I might share some pictures when I get back.

Meanwhile, take care, everyone.

Rinske

(President of the Windmills)



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BAMI LUNCH - MARCH 18

The kitchen was buzzing on March 18 with Chef Pierre (Piet) and his all-male staff preparing a delicious Indonesian Bami lunch for about 40 people. Not only did the men do all the prep work and the cooking, they also did the serving and the clean-up. Thank you very much guys, it was delicious.



Darrell making the satay



Chef Pierre cooking the bami



Aris, Piet, Keith and Darrell serving up the bami and satay



Servers: Bert, Cor and Felix



Keith, cleaning up



The lunch crowd waiting for the meal to be served



It turned out to be a nice Saturday afternoon and it was great to see so many people come out and participate.

Kasteel De Haar - Landgoed Haarzuilens

By Jenny Smits



Few castles in The Netherlands can equal De Haar for its ideal image of a medieval fortress with towers and ramparts, moats, gates and drawbridges. Like a real fairy tale castle, it rises majestically from the parkland with impressive trees, old gardens and ponds. The Castle is situated in the center of The Netherlands, near Utrecht, De Haar Castle, commonly known as Kasteel de Haar in Dutch, is not just the largest castle in the Netherlands but also among the largest and most historically significant castles in the entire world. It is one of the most renowned places in the Netherlands and among the most sought-after attractions. Each season in the park surrounding the castle has its charm



The oldest historical record of construction at the location of the existing castle dates to 1391. In that year, the De Haar family received the castle and the surrounding lands as a fiefdom from Hendrik van Woerden. The castle remained in the ownership of the De Haar family until 1440, when the last male successor died childlessly. After that, the castle was owned by the Van Zuylen family. It continued to be passed down through the family's descendants generation after generation until it was eventually given to the government while retaining certain rights for the family.

In the year 1482, the castle was completely destroyed by fire, including the walls, with the exception of the sections of the walls that did not serve a military purpose. When the castle was reconstructed at the beginning of the 16th century, these components most likely became a part of the structure.

The park is home to a number of waterworks as well as an elaborate garden that is modeled after the Versailles gardens in France. During the Second World War, many gardens were destroyed because the soil and wood were needed to grow food for the war effort, and the wood was used to light fires. The majority of them have been brought back to their former form today. The park and gardens surrounding De Haar Castle – covering over 135 acres of land – are worth paying a visit. The Rose Garden, the Roman Garden, the ponds and canals, as well as the many bridges, romantic vistas, and impressive avenues invite visitors to go on long walks or have a picnic.

The family of Van Zuylen van Nyevelt donated the castle as well as the 45 hectares of land surrounding it to the foundation known as Kasteel de Haar in the year 2000. However, the family retained the right to spend one month per year in the castle. In the same year, the Dutch organization Natuurmonumenten bought the adjacent area of 400 ha. A significant repair program of the castle and the gardens began in 2001 and was finished in 2011. Upon the passing of the last male heir, Thierry van Zuylen, in 2011, his daughters sold the castle’s art collection as well as its furnishings to the new owners of the property.

These days the castle is the backdrop for the annual Country Christmas Fair, held at the end of November and it is also a sought after place for weddings and special events.

A unique nature area as part of the Haarzuilens’ Estate is the Duck Decoy (Eendenkooi). Ducks have been caught there since the 17th century for food for the castle owners. With decoy ducks the “kooiker” (decoy man) would lure wild ducks in a small pond and with the help of his dog (“kooikerhondje”) guide them into a pipe from where there was no return. This working dog breed is lively, agile, self-confident, good-natured and alert. It is faithful, easy-going and friendly in the home. Outdoors it is a true sporting dog being keen, swift, tough, attentive and energetic. With sufficient perseverance and stamina, it enjoys working in silence so the ducks will be guided into the pipe without being scared off..

When I was young, my uncle Kees van der Kleij was the “kooiker”, the decoy man, and we visited him and my aunt many times. He was the last one to do this work at Haarzuilens and in later years he just caught the ducks to sell to the poulterer in town. With the help of volunteers the decoy has been restored to its former working condition and can be visited, so a few years ago with a group of my cousins we visited the restored duck decoy, and we all remembered the sometimes hilarious events from the visits in our youth. It was like stepping back in time.



Decoy pond

Jenny



Oom Kees and his dogs



Kooikerhondje



pipe

OT EN SIEN

“Ot en Sien” is a Dutch children's book series, written by Hindericus Scheepstra, a teacher in Drenthe, the Netherlands. It centers around two little children, a boy named Ot and a girl named Sien. It was the start of a new method of writing children's books and had profound influence on Dutch elementary education in the first half of the twentieth century.

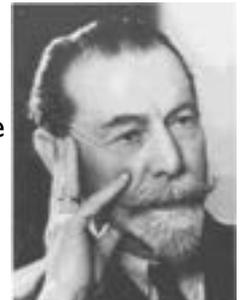
The first series titled “Dicht bij Huis” ('Close to home'), appeared in 1902. The second series “Nog bij Moeder” ('Still with mother'), followed in 1904. The author of the stories was Hindericus Scheepstra.

However, he acted on the inspiration of Jan Ligthart, who had the intention to expose young people to what he considered a healthy daily family life. Both Ligthart and Scheepstra were teachers and educators. The illustrations were made by Cornelis Jetses, who also made the illustrations for the next books in the series: “Pim en Mien” (1908), “Het Prentenboek van Ot en Sien” (Ot and Sien's picture book)(1909), “Buurkinderen” (Neighbour kids) (1912) and “Blond en Bruin” (Blond and Brown) (1912). Jetses illustrations were a big part of the popularity of the books. Although they are now very old-fashioned, the books are still popular in Holland. They were written in rhyme and were illustrated with colourful pictures. After the second world war the stories of Ot and Sien gradually went out of fashion and they were often ridiculed for the unrealistic picture they gave of life in the province. A century after their appearance there is a revival in the interest for the publications and in 2004 an exposition was held, focusing mostly on the artwork by Jetses.

Ot and Sien are two little children who live next door to each other. The stories are set in Drenthe, which is in the north-eastern part of the Netherlands. Drenthe was a very poor part of the country, but Ot and Sien live in a nice house and are quite well-off. They are often seen playing in the garden with their toys which include a wooden horse on wheels and a doll in a dolly's pushchair. The cat is often in the picture. They are also seen at school.



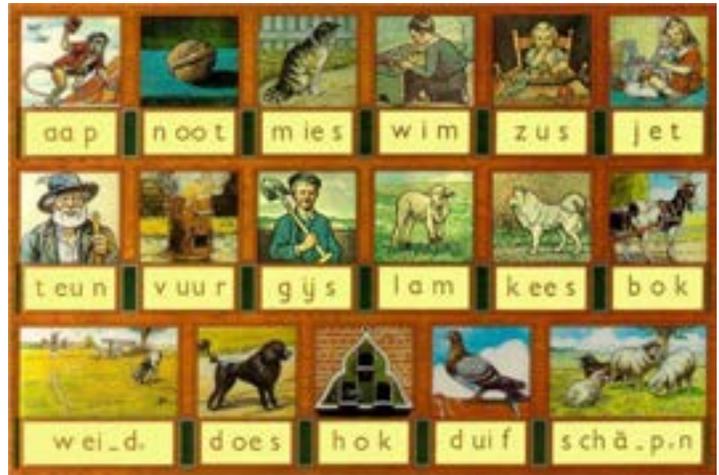
The authors wrote the stories to show a happy family life. Everyone is very friendly in the book, and strangers help them when they get lost in the street. The family have a servant who helps in the house. The stories were widely read by children in schools in the Netherlands until after the Second World War. By then they had become very old-fashioned. The daily life of Ot and Sien seemed to belong to a time long ago in history. Hardly any Dutch children now live in a family with a servant. No Dutch child nowadays goes for a walk dressed in sailor's costume with a father who wears a cloak and hat. The books are no longer read in schools, but they continue to be popular with Dutch people at home. In 2004, one hundred years after the first book was written, a special exhibition about Ot and Sien was held. There is a statue of Ot and Sien in The Hague, placed in 1930.



Het Leesplankje

The “Leesplankje” (reading board) was designed to show all commonly used consonants (except q, x and y), vowels and diphthongs of the Dutch language. It used the main characters and objects of children’s stories by Hindericus Scheepstra and Jan Ligthart (who wrote the famous children stories 'Ot en Sien').

Wolters Nordhoff produced the reading boards from about the 1900's and they were widely used all over the Netherlands. The method provided a significant improvement for learning how to read, is part of Dutch heritage and could be considered one of the first learning standards.



2023 Dutch provincial elections

Provincial elections were held in the Netherlands on March 15, 2023, on the same day as the water board elections, as well as island council elections in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The elections resulted in a major victory for the Farmer–Citizen Movement (Boeren Burgers Beweging) which had been formed three years prior; the BBB won the most seats in all 12 provinces.

The Farmer–Citizen Movement (BBB) is a centre-right party that advocates for the interests of citizens working in the agrarian sector or living in rural areas. The party has profiled itself as a "more nuanced alternative" to lobby group Farmers Defence Force amidst farmer protests. The party's leader and only member of parliament is Caroline van der Plas. Carolina Ann Maria van der Plas is a Dutch journalist and politician who has served as a member of the House of Representatives since 2021. A former member of the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), which she left in 2019, she is the founder and current party leader of the Farmer–Citizen Movement.



These elections also indirectly determine the composition of the Senate, since the members of the twelve provincial states, alongside electoral colleges elected on the same day, will elect the Senate's 75 members in the Senate election on May 30, two months after the provincial elections.

Elections for the provincial councils of the twelve provinces of the Netherlands are held every four years in March. Voters also have the option to cast a preferential vote. The seats won by a list are first allocated to the candidates who, in preferential votes, have received at least 25% of the number of votes needed for one seat, regardless of their placement on the electoral list. If multiple candidates from a list pass this threshold, their ordering is determined based on the number of votes received. Any remaining seats are allocated to candidates according to their placement on the electoral list. The size of the provincial councils ranges from 39 members for a province with fewer than 400,000 inhabitants to 55 members for a province with more than 2,000,000 inhabitants. As of 2023 there are a total of 572 seats in the provincial councils.

As of December 21, 2022, 49 parties have been registered with the Electoral Council for participation in general elections, which carries over to provincial elections. Parties can also participate in a province by registering their party name in that province instead of nationally. Which parties participate differs per province, with most large parties represented in the House of Representatives participating in all provinces, with some local and smaller national parties also participating.

Source: allecijfers.nl

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Indigenous
2	3	4 Sewing Klaverjas	5	6 Windmills	7 Good Friday	8 Card making
9 Easter 	10 Stitch 'N Rip	11 Sewing Klaverjas	12	13 Windmills	14 Pub Night	15 Ted Hoekstra's birthday
16	17 Stitch 'N Rip	18 Sewing Klaverjas	19	20 Windmills	21 Pub Night	22 Card making
23	24 Stitch 'N Rip	25 Sewing Klaverjas	26		28 Pub Night	29 
30						



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