



Somsen

Newsletter 19

January 2022

Former Board

Chairman

Oscar Somsen [2040]

Secretariat & Treasurer

Berto Somsen [423]

Support Database

Adrie van Dijk [185]

New Board Members

Chairman:

Johan Somsen [1089]

Secretariat:

Theo Somsen [227]

Treasurer:

Harry Somsen [146]

Bank affairs USA

Stephen D. Somsen [2459]

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Zaan

Translators/Proofreaders

Jeanie Somsen [773], Hedda

Somsen [2848], Bente Somsen

[2847], Yeng Nacion [2042],

Johan Somsen [1089]

- UPDATE FOR THE WORLDWIDE REUNION, IN HOLLAND, MI USA, AUGUST 5 – 7, 2022
- TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MEMORIES
- 25 YEARS SOMSEN FAMILY REUNION VENUE
- QUINTEN AND TYMO SOMSEN: A PASSION FOR DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN-BIKING
- MUSIC WARMS THE HEART
- PLANS CAN CHANGE WHEN BUILDING A HOUSE
- THE NAME 'SOMSEN' IN LITERATURE
- DIRK SOMSEN AND HIS FATHER. FAMILY MESSAGES



Worldwide Reunion Holland, Michigan August 5-7, 2022

WORD FROM THE PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN. Dear Family and Friends. Before you lies another



Oscar Somsen [2040]

Newsletter. Not so long after the previous. This is because we are waiting for the Reunion of 2023. We are very happy that the organizers have been very active in their preparations. Of course, Corona is complicating matters so there is no final plan yet. But we are hopeful that things will improve and that we will be able to meet each other in August. Below you can read about the ideas and plans. Please get in touch with the organizers so they can keep you informed.

The next message may come as a surprise. As you read this, a change has taken place in the board of our foundation. As the dedicated readers may know, the small group of board members has been struggling over the past years. Some of you have helped but unfortunately, we have not found anyone to strengthen the board and in fact there were plans to step back after the Reunion and possibly to dissolve the foundation. However, former board members Theo [227], Johan [1089] and Harry [146] came forward and said they want to continue at least part of work of the foundation. Therefore, we have arranged for them to take over.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped over the past five years. Of course, my fellow board members Berto Somsen [423] and Adrie van Dijk [185]. Berto has been a loyal board member for a long time, taken care of finances and the supporter database for a number of years. Adrie stepped up after the 2017 Reunion and helped to find contributors for our publications and wrote some articles herself. I would also like to thank some close family members that helped with translation and editing and a group of US proofreaders that helped to improve the quality of our English text. Any remaining errors are my responsibility as the final editor. In particular, I would like to thank my wife Yeng Nacion [2042]. While not a board member she has assisted with countless activities. While the past years have been a struggle, we can be proud to have published a number of Newsletter and a Horizon with many contributions. Together we helped the foundation to continue so that another great Reunion is now possible.

In this Newsletter we are happy to share, not only announcements and reports but also some new contributions and family stories. Enjoy reading.

WORD FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN. “A sadder and a wiser man”. So shortly before the end of the



Johan Somsen [1089]

year and the arrival of the New Year a considerable shift is also taking place in our family foundation. When the current board, with Oscar Somsen at the helm together with Berto Somsen and Adrie van Dijk, took over almost five years ago, it was certainly not a rewarding task. After 20 years, the enthusiasm for our family foundation had greatly diminished among many and in addition, in those 20 years of our existence many of the Somsens, who were so enthusiastic when we started our first Worldwide Reunion in 1997, have since passed away.

They certainly deserve praise for the beautiful reunion in 2017 in IJzerlo for which especially Oscar has done a lot of work. There were also countless American and Canadian Somsens that came to the Achterhoek. The reason for a change of board is because the current board received far too little support from the supporters of the Somsen Foundation and therefore had come to the point to pull the plug completely. Which is also very understandable. When we were informed about this, the former board members Harry Somsen, Theo Somsen and the undersigned found this very regrettable and proposed to temporarily keep the ship afloat.

Actually, I do not want to dwell on the reasons why the viability of our foundation has deteriorated so much. I prefer to focus on the future and express the hope for a new generation to take over the tasks. What is particularly great is that Dirk Somsen [136], the son of Dick Somsen [130], has taken over the genealogical archives of his father and will keep it up to date, for which we are very grateful to him.

Our triumvirate has divided the tasks as follows: Harry is the new treasurer and will undoubtedly do what is necessary to keep our publications up and running, Theo runs the secretariat, and the undersigned takes over the chairmanship.

It remains for me to say that I would like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the old board, and in particular Oscar, for the contribution they have made. As I write this it is still 2021 but when you see this we are in 2022. Nevertheless, I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Or as it is called in the vernacular of The Achterhoek: "Völle heil en zegen". (Much salvation and blessing).

Johan Somsen

UPDATE FOR THE WORLDWIDE REUNION, IN HOLLAND, MI USA, AUGUST 5 – 7, 2022. By Jacqueline Winquist [3893]



The planning for a reunion in the USA in 2022, is still moving forward. If by chance the COVID restrictions cause us to not be able to hold the reunion in person, then we will at least hold a virtual reunion where we can all see each other on-line and get a chance to go around the "room" and talk and update each other on what we are all up to!

In the meantime, as we prepare for the in-person reunion, the dates are

August 5-7. We have decided to hold the reunion in Holland (a city in Michigan, U.S.). We will begin Friday evening with an optional informal gathering. Saturday will be filled with some presentations, demonstrations, and some small local tours. More options for excursions for Sunday, will be possible as well. And of course...there will be lots of time to talk and catch up! The final program details will be announced at a later date, as more events open in the Spring for reservations.

Holland, MI has a lot to offer:

- Holland is located 30 minutes from the Grand Rapids, MI Ford Airport (GRR). Some of the many things to see when you visit are:
- Holland has a Dutch Village, where we can visit how the Americans celebrate their heritage, with Wooden shoe carving, delft ceramic painting, tulip flower farms, and Dutch food.
- Holland is also located near the beach and shores of lake MI for swimming, charter fishing, and boating.
- The soil in Holland is very sandy and is ideal for growing fresh fruit crops. The first week of August is the prime of blueberry season, and in MI, they are juicy and as big as your thumb! Many local blueberry farms will be open to visit that weekend, for fresh blueberries, freshly made blueberry ice cream, and blueberry pies!



In addition, Holland will be within an hour of professional team baseball games, a horse / bull riding rodeo, professional music artist concerts, and Broadway theatre shows.

So as more calendars for 2022 are released and confirmed, we will be sure to pass on information to you!

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MEMORIES

Twenty-five years ago, was the first time Somsens from all over the world could meet. Our book was launched, and the tree was planted at the Japikshuis. Next summer we can meet again and make new memories. Below is a small overview of memories of the past twenty-five years

1997 Aalten



2002 Baldwin, Wisconsin



2007 Aalten



Arrival of equipment



Placing the memorial plaque



Hot buffet



Buffet meal



Motherchurch St. Helena



Jumping IJzerlo



Across the Zomp

2012 New Ulm, Minnesota



2017 IJzerlo

**25 YEARS SOMSEN FAMILY REUNION VENUE.** By Eddie and Alice Sticker

In the past 25 years, riding school 'de Achterhoek' has also played a major role. As a location for the big reunions, but also for the many annual meetings and barbecues. We were always welcome at Alice and Eddie Sticker. Spending the night at the campsite was always an adventure. Over the years we have spoken to each other a lot. Alice and Eddie describe their memories. Also about the accident Eddie suffered last year, but from which he fortunately recovers.

We started our business on equestrian sport in 1996, up till that point it belonged to my parents who started in 1964. In that same year, we also met your family. In the meantime, many things have changed in our business and with your family. Many things were torn down and (re)built. People come and go and unfortunately many loved ones have passed.



Picture of the riding school. Campsite on the upper left

While writing this piece, quite some memories come to mind... There was a lot of stress in preparation of the first Somsen reunion in 1997. Everyone had to jump in to prepare the facility for all the guests. Barrowing coffee machines, renting beer glasses and installing power lines on the camp site. With all this help, we were able to create an amazing event!

Since then, a Somsen event was planned every year and every problem was resolved with a smile.

We think about lovely evenings with music from Johan on guitar, wearing clogs. Ada in her mini-caravan and cute dog. Margriet who joined with a small tent and spoke with love about her children, grandchildren and later even great grandchildren. And Dick who could not get to sleep because of the loud roosters.

At the second reunion, we had some lovely conversations with John from the States, who stayed with us. He even gave us a beautiful painting, painted by a Somsen. This and other art pieces from the Somsen family hang in the hall, which turned into an art gallery. In the meantime, Eddie quit his job at BAT to help me in the family business, since it got quite busy



Van links naar rechts: Job, Leila, Alice en Eddie

The Marsaz hall got built and lived up to its expectations. Many people have experienced horseback riding here and this still happens to this day. Last year, during Corona, everything came to a halt. This did allow us to rent a scaffolding and paint the buildings. For weeks, Eddie and our son Job painted everything until it looked like new.

On Thursday we put the scaffolding back in and realized on Friday we had forgotten a small piece. Eddie decided to finish this by ladder, which went terribly wrong. After one and a half hours, we found him unconscious, and a trauma doctor was flown in to accompany him to the hospital in Nijmegen. Here they discovered various embolisms? and fractures in the skull. The next few days were very tense as we spend day and night alongside him. After a week he was transferred to the hospital in Winterswijk, where the suspense continued.

We had very little contact with him, and the doctors told us we would not back get our husband and father. At such a point, nothing else mattered and you realize how beautiful family can be. We received so much support and our clients were there to help us out. After the time spend in Winterswijk, Eddie was sent to the rehabilitation center in Enschede. As the Somsen family probably knows, Eddie is a strong man and a go-getter that never gives up.

Miraculously, slowly but surely, we are up and running again. We even have an appointment with our accountant to discuss the future of our company. Leila and Job will play a bit part in this. So if you, your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren feel like hosting an event with us, they are always welcome here! The Somsens always feel like family to us here at the 't Hoftijzer.

Eddie, Alice, Leida & Job Sticker. Hippisch Centrum de Achterhoek. Mini-camping 't Hoftijzer

Equestrian center the Achterhoek is a modern 5-star company where all facets of the equestrian sports are practiced. We also offer the possibility to stay overnight in our bed and breakfast, but you can also stay at the mini camping. Camping farm 't Hoftijzer is extremely suitable for stays with larger groups. The location is a cozy place for example, a company or family party. Our large riding hall of 1800 m2 is used as event accommodation in addition to the regular lessons.



QUINTEN [5522] AND TYMO [5971] SOMSEN: PASSION FOR DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN-BIKING. By Arnold Somsen [2041]

While Holland is as flat as a pancake, mountain-biking in the lowlands is quite a popular sport. Both my sons (13 and 15 years old) grew up with this sport and are now about to take this next level by entering the European downhill competition. Downhill mountain-biking is a racing sport like downhill skiing: contenders start one at a time, the rider with the fastest time wins.

Both my wife (Thirza Beaumont [4821]) and I are passionate about outdoor sports and travelling. Starting out in the nineties with snowboarding in the Alps, we soon discovered surfing (which can be practiced around the year). 15 years of surfing brought us to the most exotic and beautiful places around the globe, searching for perfect waves while discovering lots of different cultures and enjoying nature.



A few years after our oldest son Quinten was born, surfing faded to the background, being time-consuming and at times frustrating with the poor surfing conditions in Holland. Thirza and I rediscovered our old love for mountain-biking, which we had been practicing since we met more than 20 years ago (even a couple of our first dates involved mountain-biking 😊). This fresh start allowed our kids to grow into this sport gradually, picking up the skills from an early age and developing fast as kids usually do.

In 2013 we made our first mountain-biking trip to the Alpes in a summer holiday to France, Switzerland and Italy. The kids were not able to bike in the difficult terrain, but for Thirza and me this trip changed the way we looked at mountain-biking. Especially the long descents in demanding terrain with stunning landscapes, changing from alpine to lush forests to picturesque villages, gave a complete new and exciting dimension for us.

In the next couple of years Quinten and Tymo, made their first efforts on their bikes abroad. The first attempts in the bike-parks (this is like a ski area but for biking) of France and Austria weren't easy, riding on their small bikes in big terrain. Real progress was made in 2016 on our summer holiday in Leogang, Austria. Quinten managed to master the biggest jumps in the training area (even before I did!). Then it became clear to me that this was not child's play anymore but was evolving into something much bigger and serious.

Because ascending in the mountains is pretty hard for our kids and because they developed a specific taste for speed and jumping, we went on a crusade to find the best bike-parks and trails in Europe. Just like Thirza and I did years ago with our surfboards chasing perfect waves. Equipment got better and bigger as did the skills of the boys. Green and blue trails were exchanged for red and black (experts only).



In 2017 we visited the World Championship BMX-racing in Papendal, NL. Immediately Quinten en Tymo knew their next step in biking. A couple of months later we joined a local BMX-racing club called De Bosscrossers at Heiloo. Training and riding competition on the small BMX-bikes is not only fun but provides the kids with a lot of technique for cornering, jumping, etcetera. This also proved to be a solid foundation for further developing their mountain-biking racing skills.



In the meantime, we joined the Dutch downhill competition, appropriately called the Mini Downhill Cup. Thirza and the kids got some high rankings in this competition. Quinten was nr 1 in 2018 and Tymo nr 2 in 2019. Just as we were about to join the international downhill competition arena Corona kicked in.

Luckily, we were able to go on biking holidays around the Corona-lockdowns in the last two years. But it was not until this autumn that the kids got the chance to compete with the best European riders in the *Specialized Rock Shox Rookies Cup* in Oberhof, Germany. Both did pretty well for a first attempt finishing halfway in the ranking of this tough contest.



So, what about the future? The sky is the limit might be an appropriate phrase. Both our boys are stoked about riding bikes downhill and want to get serious with entering the German and European downhill competition. BMX-racing at home keeps them fit, sharp and technically skilled. If Corona does not get in the way, we want to enter the full Rookies Cup racing competition next year and maybe also the Super Gravity Cup in Germany.

Riding competition on downhill bikes is a demanding sport, for both rider and equipment. Bikes and protection wear out fast and must be maintained well to keep things safe. Unnecessary to say that riding competition abroad does not come cheap. To enter the European competition, we are thus looking for **sponsors** who are willing to support us in one way or another. Every help is welcome!

Author: Arnold Somsen [2041]

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Video: <https://youtu.be/WOIQ5gZSRjg>

<https://youtu.be/hOVImL9aQZ0>



MUSIC WARMS THE HEART. By Jacqueline Winquist [3893]

Music warms the heart! Especially Christmas music! Marilyn Olson – Lear [3850], still enjoys playing the saxophone at the age of 86. When Marilyn moved from Baldwin, WI, to a retirement community in Grand Rapids, MI to be nearer to her son Brad Olson [3892], and daughter Jacqueline Winquist [3893], she was happy to hear that her new living community had a band that would gather to practice regularly and to put on concerts! So, one of the first purchases she made after she moved, was to get a tenor saxophone!

Marilyn used to play the saxophone in her school age years, and she really missed it. Since joining the band in 2013, there have been several band directors and members, all with different skills, so Marilyn has sometimes had to transpose her music when there was none written for saxophone, and she has also had to write some of the harmony melodies!

The band performs a Christmas concert every year for free, and the seating is filled!



Marilyn Olson [3850] at Christmas Band Concert

PLANS CAN CHANGE WHEN BUILDING A HOUSE

My husband Tom [5724] and I, (Jacqueline Winquist [3893] is the daughter of Marilyn Olson-Lear), live in Cedar Springs, MI, just a few minutes north of Grand Rapids, MI. We bought a wooded lot in 2015 to build a home on, started cutting trees down in 2018, and moved in to live in our home, on the day that MI went into their COVID lockdown in March 2020. The house was not finished yet, so we did not have any doors on bedrooms, or shelving installed in the kitchen, or furniture. So, we slept on camping mattresses for the initial months, and sat on folding chairs and played cards on the living room carpet. But we were safe, healthy, and blessed to be in our home!

We are not professional builders or designers, and we contracted out what work we could not do ourselves. But we also did as much as possible ourselves. Initially, we thought we would build a deck that would wrap around the house (you can see the wooden ledger placed horizontally on the side of the house for our future deck). We had the foresight to think that since we lived in the woods, that we might need to screen in our outdoor deck to keep mosquitos out, so we asked our builder to keep that in mind when he was building the roof pitch – make it possible to extend it someday if we need to. Well, as you can see, instead of building on a covered deck, we decided that we needed a dining room for having friends and family over, so our deck area, is now a dining room in process! We need to finish the inside yet, but we are already enjoying the space for eating and sharing with friends even in its unfinished state! We are thankful that our inexperience led to a wonderful option!



THE NAME 'SOMSEN' IN LITERATURE

From various quarters, we were told that a person by the name of Somsen plays an important role in the book 'Op weg naar de Hartz' (Towards the Hartz) by author Wessel te Gussinklo. This naturally aroused our interest. In the book, we indeed meet a Somsen who takes the main character, Ewout Meyster, under his wing and indoctrinates him. It is strange to come across your own surname so often in a book. It takes a while to get used to it. It does, of course, raise the question of how the author came by this name. Via the publisher he was kind enough to tell us himself:



Wessel te Gussinklo

The background of the naming is somewhat complex. There were two impulses. An uncle of mine, Guus te Gussinklo from the Achterhoek, a brave resistance fighter during WWII (see reports of this on the Internet), has been in hiding with Joop den Uyl and his wife with a Somsen family. The second background is the best friend of my wife's daughter, Olivia Somsen. For the figure of Somsen in De Hartz I was looking for a somewhat unusual and in the rest of the Netherlands somewhat unknown name, which sounded enigmatic enough. So, no Gerritsen, Jansen or Van Vliet - too common. (We did not discuss it with the girlfriend Olivia, by the way).

I thought it was a beautiful and somewhat enigmatic name, and thought it gave the quality con man the necessary allure. In De Achterhoek the name Te Gussinklo must not be entirely unfamiliar to you either, although we are an almost extinct family. Near Aalten there is another area called Het Gussinklo with farms like Groot, Klein and Nieuw Gussinklo and a havezate Het Gussinklo.

I am surprised and delighted to hear about such a sideways glance at my book.

With kind regards,

Wessel te Gussinklo

This explains a lot. The author himself also has roots in the Achterhoek. That explains why the name Somsen is familiar to him. Precisely because it is not a well-known name in the rest of the Netherlands, he found it a suitable name for this character. To us, of course, it seems a bit different but all the more fun to read the book. A word of warning: It is not a light read and with 417 pages quite a pill. A struggle of the soul of the young protagonist. If that doesn't put you off, it is heartily recommended.

DIRK SOMSEN AND HIS FATHER. FAMILY MESSAGES

For many years Dick Somsen [130] as a genealogist kept track of the development of our family tree and regularly reported it to us. We have also been able to find the information via the stroke at the beginning of last year. His son Dirk [136] has taken over the management of the genealogy for the time being and tells us how his father is doing.

The last weekend of May 2021 was meant to be an active one for my father Dick Somsen [130] and myself (Dirk [136]), with the annual work of getting the sailboat back in the water. However, on Saturday morning during coffee and work meetings, Dick was struck by a cerebral infarction. Within 15 minutes of calling 911, the ambulance was on the scene, and he was taken to the hospital. When my mother Dikky Somsen - Lenselink [133] and I were also at the hospital half an hour later we saw him for a while before he went into the operating room. During the operation a clot was removed. All in all, we were there quickly, but it was soon clear that something serious had happened to him.



Dirk Somsen [136]

SOMSEN NEWLETTER 19

We are now over half a year on and Dick is living in a nursing home, as he is unilaterally paralyzed and therefore needs a lot of help. During the summer, my sisters Marianne [134] and Tineke [135], with their caravans at our parents' summer residence, were able to take good care of my mother and arrange for daily visits. Since October, my mother has been living in the flat in Zwolle again and is dependent on cab transport and home care.

There are concrete plans for my mother to move and live within walking distance of my father. All in all, a huge change in living conditions. Dick's post and visiting address is: Nijenhuislaan 175, Afdeling Meppelstraat 7, 8043 WB Zwolle, The Netherlands.

About 4 years ago, my father explained to me how the program works in which the genealogy of the Somsen family is kept. In this way, there will be continuity in case he could no longer keep track of it himself. I think it must have been about 30 years ago that he showed me a little green book of his father or grandfather, in which a handwritten genealogy of his family. It was the time that the Personal Computer could handle more and more, and together we started looking for software to maintain the family tree. The choice fell on GensData and I remember entering the first 200 names from the green book myself, to be able to explain to my father how the program worked. The rest is history..., one thing led to another, and Dick and Dikky often went out together to rummage through archives and track down more and more information about the family. At some point it became clear that someone else was working on it too. Theo Somsen [227] and Dick got together and were able to combine their data. It became a Project, resulting in the publication of the book 'Somsen Omnes Generationes' and the 1st Worldwide Reunion in 1997. Although I must acknowledge that genealogy is not my favorite hobby, I have been associated with it from the beginning.

In order to keep the database up to date, you can continue to send your happy or sad family announcements (preferably with a photo) to: somsgenealogie@kpnplanet.nl. The post adres is also changed to: D.J. Somsen, Verduinbos 10, 4661 NW Halsteren, The Netherlands

BORN/MARRIED: NO INFORMATION RECEIVED

DECEASED:

- **26-5-2021: DERK JAN (DICK) SOMSEN [144], 87 YEARS OLD, DOETINCHEM**
- **12-6-2021: GEZINUS (GUS) SOMSEN [97], 88 YEARS OLD, HOOGEVEEN**
- **30-8-2021: HARRY EVERT SOMSEN [1193], 64 YEARS OLD, LA PALMA**
- **8-9-2021: META CATHARINA ESKES [1206], 94 YEARS OLD, AALTEN**
- **15-11-2021: MARINUS (MAS) SOMSEN [72], 76 YEARS OLD, APELDOORN**
- **20-12-2021: JANNA WILLEMINA (WILLEMEN) TE BOKKEL [1009], 89 YEARS OLD, AALTEN**



Top: Dick [130] and his wife Dikky [133]. Bottom left: Dick and Johan [1089] reveal the memorial plaque at the Somsenhuis during the 2007 reunion. Bottom right: Reunion 2017.



Meta Eskes [1206], Harry Somsen [1193], Dick Somsen [144], Gus Somsen [97], Mas Somsen [72]