

WK Terugblik van onze voorzitter

Seada van den Herik heeft tijdens het Staatsloterij WK roeien 2026 dagelijks een LinkedIn post gemaakt. Een bestuurlijke inkijk in een mooie WK roeien week, wat gaat over verbinding met de roeigemeenschap, fans, lokale en internationale autoriteiten en natuurlijk de prestaties van TeamNL roeien.

Een WK waarin Nederland niet alleen op het water excelleert, maar ook laat zien wat er achter topsport zit: mensen, samenwerking, innovatie, inclusie, natuur, veiligheid en een internationale roeigemeenschap die samenkomt op de Bosbaan.

De samenvatting van de reeks

De zeven LinkedIn-posts van Seada van den Herik vormen samen een mooi dag-tot-dagverhaal van het **WK Roeien 2026 op de Bosbaan**. De rode draad is breder dan alleen de Nederlandse sportprestaties. De posts laten steeds zien wat er rondom die prestaties nodig is: organisatie, vrijwilligers, innovatie, veiligheid, duurzaamheid, inclusie, coaches, partners en de internationale roeigemeenschap.

24 augustus – The Bosbaan Comes Alive

De opening van het WK. De eerste Nederlandse prestaties worden gecombineerd met het verhaal van de vernieuwde Bosbaan. Renovaties, technische verbeteringen en vooral de inzet van medewerkers en vrijwilligers hebben de baan klaargemaakt voor een WK op topniveau.

25 augustus – Six Dutch boats forward. A whole engine behind them.

Zes Nederlandse boten gaan door. De aandacht verschuift vervolgens bewust naar de mensen achter de sporters: de organisatie van het WK, de samenwerking tussen TIG Sports & Events en de KNRB en de ontwikkeling en kennisdeling binnen het Nederlandse coachnetwerk.

26 augustus – First Boats, Deep Roots, Safe Waters

Topsport wordt verbonden met twee andere thema's: natuur en veiligheid. Naast Nederlandse boten die zich voor volgende rondes en finales plaatsen, gaat de post over het ecologische karakter van de Bosbaan en de KNRB Innovation Award, met innovaties die bijdragen aan veiliger roeien.

27 augustus – Bronze for Femke at World Championships

Femke van de Vliet zorgt in de lichte vrouwenskiff voor de eerste Nederlandse WK-medaille. De wedstrijddag wordt gekoppeld aan inclusie binnen het roeien: pararoeien, diversiteit en studentroeien. De bredere boodschap: roeien moet een sport zijn waarin iedereen een plek kan vinden.

28 augustus – Melvin and Simon, world champions in the golden hour

Een sportief hoogtepunt: goud voor Melvin Twellaar en Simon van Dorp in de mannen dubbel-twee en zilver voor Benthe Boonstra en Roos de Jong in de vrouwen dubbel-twee. Na onweer boven de Bosbaan volgen twee bijzondere avondfinales. Daarnaast gaat de post

over de ambitie om een WK op olympisch niveau neer te zetten, zowel voor atleten als voor publiek, partners en fans.

29 augustus – We Row As One

Voor 10.000 fans wint Nederland goud, zilver en brons. Centraal staat vervolgens de boodschap uit het Nations Dinner: **“We Row As One.”** De 64 deelnemende landen hebben verschillende achtergronden en tradities, maar vormen samen één internationale roeigemeenschap. Ook is er nadrukkelijk waardering voor vrijwilligers, organisatie, partners en iedereen achter de schermen.

30 augustus – Best Rowing Country

De afsluiting en de balans: Nederland eindigt als beste roeiland van het WK met **vier gouden, drie zilveren en drie bronzen medailles**. Daarmee sluit de serie af waar hij begon: niet alleen met prestaties op het water, maar ook met trots op de mensen en organisatie die het WK mogelijk hebben gemaakt.

Lees de originele Engelstalige posts hier:

24 Augusts — The Bosbaan Comes Alive

The Bosbaan Comes Alive

Today was the start of the [Staatsloterij #World #Championships #Rowing](#)
Let the races begin!

Burning Through It Together

And what a battle it was. Every boat on the Bosbaan fought each other, and the same fair strong headwind today.

Two Dutch double sculls lined up in the heats, both tipped as favourites. [Benthe Boonstra](#) and [Roos de Jong](#) delivered by winning their heat with open water. [Simon van Dorp](#) and [Melvin Twellaar](#) matched them by easily winning their heat. The lightweight scullers came through as well, with [Femke van de Vliet](#) and [Cornelus Palsma](#) both advancing. A great start for TeamNL Rowing.

The headwind wasn't just about delivering more power, also more endurance was required. The burn in every stroke lasted about a minute longer than usual. Today the men got a taste of pushing through that extra minute of discomfort women typically have in every race.

Amsterdam & Rowing traditionally align

On Sunday evening, the Staatsloterij WK Roeien 2026 opened in the quiet elegance of the official mayor's residence. Alderman [Sofyan Mbarki](#) of [Gemeente Amsterdam](#) warmly welcomed everyone present. Tournament director [Ilse Paulis](#) outlined the ambitions of the Organising Committee. [World Rowing](#) president [Rolland Jean-Christophe](#) thanked the city of Amsterdam and the Organising Committee for their splendid work. And indeed, on the first day of racing, everything ran smoothly, start to finish.

Blue Houses, Straight Lines

Today, the KNRB Home welcomed the group of people who spent the past two years turning the Bosbaan into a modern World Championship venue, again.

The buildings along the course got their original colour back: light blue. The platform of the grandstand was reinforced for more than 5,000 spectators. The boathouse and changing rooms were renovated. All the technical infrastructure upgraded, new straight lines pulled, the bottom of the Bosbaan equalized, the banks restored, and all the 'Fonteinkruid' removed.

Among them were staff from the department Sport&Bos of the city of Amsterdam and several 'builders'. Alongside them stood volunteers from the rowing community, who gave two years of their own time to get the course ready: [Liesbeth Driest](#), [Bart Peters OLY](#), [Joost de Bruin](#), [Joost de Geus](#), [Peter Boeken](#). And off course [KNRB Dutch Rowing Federation](#) colleague [Martijn van Rossum](#).

A big shout out to them: THANK YOU!

Without them, there would be no smooth World Championship here today. With them the Bosbaan is ready for the years to come, and thousands of rowers who will enjoy training and races here.

Day one is done, and the Bosbaan is ready for the week ahead.

[#WKroeien2026](#) [#Bosbaan](#) [#TeamNL](#) [#Volunteers](#) [#Staatsloterij](#) [#Rabobank](#) [#TopsportAmsterdam](#)
[#WRCH2026](#) [#WRCHAmsterdam2026](#)



[Bekijk de volledige originele post op LinkedIn →](#)

25 Augusts — Six Dutch boats forward

🚣 Six Dutch boats forward.

A whole engine behind them. ⚙️

A sunny day at the Bosbaan and the Dutch rowing fleet did what it came to do. The commentator's words stuck: today was not about winning, it was about not losing. The six Dutch crews made it look easy anyway, several with real authority, others decided by seconds, all of them showing the quality that got them here.

Two days down, five to go of the [Staatsloterij hashtag#World hashtag#Championship hashtag#Rowing](#) 2026.

🧑🏻 Thank you, Local Organising Committee

This championship flourishes because of a partnership that works. [TIG Sports & Events](#) and the [KNRB Dutch Rowing Federation](#) built the Organising Committee together, and the results of this impressive organising engine are visible on every corner of the Bosbaan.

[Willem Overdiep](#) (managing partner at TIG) leads that committee as Operational Director, bringing fourteen years of experience organising the biggest events in the Netherlands, including this same championship in 2014.

[Irene Eijls](#), Honorary President, oversees all from her longstanding experience in the rowing world on all relevant levels.

[Nico Rienks](#) and [Ilse Paulis](#) are the tournament directors and take their Olympic performance as reference in the external representation.

[Wouter van Groeningen](#) carries responsibility for the championship as vice president of the KNRB. He combines his extensive Dutch event and racing knowledge, with a multiplied complexity of boats and starts, with a relaxed problem solving attitude.

[Peter Boeken](#) oversees all rowing aspects on the course, which he has done for multiple international tournaments in The Netherlands already.

[Joost de Geus](#), long familiar with the Bosbaan and international tournaments, represents World Rowing's Events Committee for the entire setup.

Different backgrounds, different roles. Watching the mutual respect, ambition, and drive in this team, reinforcing each others qualities, is a joy.

Great shout out. THANK YOU!!

And please keep up the good works...

🎓 Investing in the Dutch rowing network

Forty five practice supervisors signed up for today's intervision in the [hashtag#KNRB hashtag#home](#). The role and training 'praktijkbegeleider' was built together by five sportsfederations: skating, handball, climbing, tour cycling, and rowing.

Alongside it, [Diederik de Boorder](#) ran a session for profcoaches nationwide. The purpose was to share knowledge from [TeamNL](#) and the KNRB talent team to support and grow student and competitive rowing even further.

A stronger rowing network is fun for everyone and generates future successful elite rowers. Medals get the attention. Days like this build the engine underneath them.

♥ My personal guests today

Today I also enjoyed hosting my own guests: family, friends, colleagues and business partners. Some had never seen a rowing race before and were struck by the excitement of the races and the atmosphere around them.

You are also welcome!

[hashtag#RowingIsForEveryone](#)
[World Rowing](#)



[Bekijk de volledige originele post op LinkedIn →](#)

26 Augusts — First Boats, Deep Roots, Safe Waters

 First Boats,  Deep Roots,  Safe Waters

A beautiful day on the ecologic Bosbaan, with strong TeamNL rowing results, a gathering of the inner circle of the Dutch rowing community, and innovation safety awards.

  Double the Boats,
Double the Joy 🌟🌟

Two Dutch doubles and a lightweight skiff secured their spot in Friday's final. Keep up this good spirit Benthe, Roos, Simon, Melvin, and Femke.

[Karolien Florijn](#) won her heat in the women's single sculls with ease. She advances to Friday's quarter-final where stronger opponents are expected.

[Cornelus Palsma](#) raced the semi-final of the lightweight men's single sculls. He races the B-final later this championship.

 Rowers naturally care for their water and surroundings

The Bosbaan lies between three water levels: The Nieuwe Meer at -3.90m, the Bosbaan at -4.90m and the surrounding forest at -5.50m under sea level. All is kept in balance through controlled water management.

Some examples how de [Gemeente Amsterdam](#), [World Rowing](#), and the [KNRB Dutch Rowing Federation](#) care about nature.

The fully renovated Witte Brug now carries nest boxes - only in the non moving parts - for barn swallows. A bird that migrates to Africa every winter and is on the Dutch red list.

Wild bees are re-invited to the area. They need water, flowers and specific open patches of yellow sand to nest in. Protecting these solitary pollinators strongly protects the wider ecosystem around them.

The soft banks of the Bosbaan are restored. Rowers love those soft banks because they flatten the waves. A lot of Dutch rowing clubs negotiate, together with environmental ngo's, to keep their rowing banks soft, so they are accessible for toppled rowers, flatten waves, and support nature and biodiversity.

 KNRB Innovation Award for Safety

Over 200 volunteers and club board members visited the KNRB home. We enjoyed amongst others the strategic vision of [World Rowing](#) President [Rolland Jean-Christophe](#), and insights to the [Staatsloterij](#) WC Rowing 2026 by Tournament Director [Nico Rienks](#).

A palet of 35 differentiating entries marked the first KNRB Innovation Award. Awards were won by some great and practical ideas:

- Willem-Jan van der Hoeven for a safety awareness campaign.
- Dick Scholtus whose tracker detects capsizing and alerts help automatically.
- Alvin Mangel of [Sportvolgen.nl](https://www.sportvolgen.nl) for his gps tracking system.

The experienced jury consisted of [Harry Van Dorenmalen](#) ([Sportinnovator](#)), [Petra Lugtenburg](#) (Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement), [Sabyne Pol-van Mourik MBA RSE](#) ([Kiwa Nederland](#)), [Ymkje Clevering](#) (TeamNL rower) and myself. [Pieter Paul van Oerle](#) ([nlmtd](#)) and [Lotte Burgers](#) (Knrb) supported the award and jury.

[Eric Mink](#), KNRB board member for clubs, infrastructure and safety, proudly posed afterwards with the golden buoy that comes with the award.

Sustainable waters & Safety stays a top priority on and off the water, today and every day that follows.

What a great day, again!



[Bekijk de volledige originele post op LinkedIn →](#)

27 Augusts — Bronze for Femke

🏅 Bronze for **Femke** at World Championships!

And picture this: one of our biggest rowing fans is Vion ...

🚣 Eight Dutch boats in the race

Day four brought eight TeamNL boats to the start, from the first para heat at 13:05 to the last A final at 17:00. Great day of racing!

Eva Mol opened the day in the PR1 Women's Skiff heat. The Women's Four, Men's Four, Women's Quad and Men's Quad fought their semifinals. Exciting racing, the competition is rising. All the boats managed to secure a spot in the A finals though, with a first or second place.

The lightweight Men's Skiff raced nicely in the B-final (overall tenth place).

Two crews raced straight for medals.

The Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, @Frederik Ploeg and **Erik van Eijck van Heslinga**, finished fifth in the A final. Great performance of this crew!

Then **Femke van de Vliet** delivered. Bronze in the Lightweight Women's Skiff, Fantastic. The first Dutch medal of these **Staatsloterij #World #Championships 2026**.

🐾 Biggest Fan of Eva

In rowing we combine rowing and para-rowing races in one World Championship. **Corné de Koning** - the most successful Dutch para rower - explained to me today that the Paralympic Games for rowing are actually much smaller than the World Championships Rowing.

Diversity and inclusion run through many parts of rowing. We have 64 nations participating; with Oezebekistan and Mexico winning world championships titles today. The number of women's events matches the number of men's events. And slowly, the number of female judges, coaches and board members is rising too.

One small pin of the **KNRB Dutch Rowing Federation** says it best: rowing is for everyone.

A very good guide dog agrees. Meet Vion, official biggest fan of Eva Mol, complete with his own accreditation!

🎓 Rowing is for everyone.

Today was also Student Day at the Bosbaan.

Students make up 18,000 of the Dutch rowing population, roughly 40 percent. They form the breeding ground for TeamNL's future.

Student rowing is smart and it is fun. You make new friends fast, in a brand new city and setting. Sport and fun come first. There is rowing at many different levels, and the erg and strength facilities keep improving.

Every year, around 200 new student board members take charge of the 25 student rowing clubs. What they learn in a single year never stops surprising me. A strong support network stands behind them, built by alumni, [Nederlandse Studenten Roeifederatie](#), [KNSRB](#) and [KNRB - Koninklijke Nederlandse Roeibond](#).

Diversity and inclusion matter at the clubs too. Every student and general club has its own character. KNRB strives for a rowing community where everyone can find a club where they feel at home, regardless of colour, disability, education, lgbtq+preference, faith or gender.

Rowing is for everyone.

[#WKRoeien2026](#)

Note: I write this daily personal LinkedIn blog on three topics:

TeamNL rowing performance,

worldclass World Championships,

inclusion of Dutch rowing community and partners.



[Bekijk de volledige originele post op LinkedIn →](#)

27 Augusts — World champions in the golden hour

Melvin and Simon, world champions in the golden hour 🌞

⚡ From thunder to medals

Melvin Twellaar and **Simon van Dorp** are **#world #champions** in the men's double sculls at the **Staatsloterij** World Championship Rowing 2026. They crossed the line in 6:04.42, ahead of Serbia and Belgium. It is their first world title together.

Minutes later, **Benthe Boonstra** and **Roos de Jong** took silver in the women's double sculls. They were the defending world champions and lost narrowly to Ireland, with Switzerland taking bronze.

A thunderstorm rolled over the Bosbaan earlier in the day. The crowd waited it out under the stands, still in good spirits. The reward came in the golden hour of the evening, with two fantastic finals for men and women in the double sculls.

🎯 Olympic level, Dutch style

Today we welcomed Minister of Sport **Mirjam Sterk** and alderman **Sofyan Mbarki** of Amsterdam on our tournament. Their reactions were positive. As The Netherlands, we want to deliver the best and most innovative World Championships Rowing ever organised. Some countries have told us this event feels at Olympic level.

A few examples.

- * A beautiful athletes' area with top sport meals for every athlete.
- * Fantastic footage from high and low drones, along cameras and sound inside the boat.
- * A parc fermé where medal winners can share their emotions with family and friends right after the race.
- * Stands for more than five thousand people, plus a fan zone and picnic zone for another five thousand, all with big screens to follow every race.

Now we just hope the weather stays on our side.

💛 Partners and fans, also side by side

Today we also welcomed most of our honorary members of the **KNRB - Koninklijke Nederlandse Roeibond**: Chris Ysbrandy, Helma Nepperus, **Irene Eijs**, **Jan Klerks**, Josy Verdonkschot, **Lex van Drooge** and **Nico Rienks**.

Alongside them came many partners. A small selection: **Marc van den Tweel**, **John Bierling** and **André Cats**, Jeroen Otter from **NOC*NSF**, **Frank Thewessem** from **Topsport Amsterdam**, **Staatsloterij**, **Rabobank**, **Kiwa Nederland**, **Odido Nederland**, **Maurten**, and **Crown Sport Nutrition**.

And potential partners for our **Dutch Rowing Business Club**.

Most important of all were the **#FANS**! Enthusiastic rowers and sportfans who travelled from every corner of the Netherlands to be here.

Looking forward to heroic races on Saturday!



[Bekijk de volledige originele post op LinkedIn →](#)

28 Augusts — We Row As One

We Row As One 🥇🥈🥉

Ten thousand fans watched the Netherlands winning gold, silver, and bronze at the World Rowing Championships Amsterdam 2026. Fantastic rowing and cheering!

At the Nations Diner president of **World Rowing** Rowing **Rolland Jean-Christophe** and I (president of the **KNRB Dutch Rowing Federation**) both gave a short speech. Let me share my spoken word poem speech, a little innovation, with you.

We row as one

*When the golden hour shines over the Bosbaan,
sixty-four flags catch the same Amsterdam wind.*

Different anthems. Different colours.

One water beneath every blade.

We did not arrive here by accident.

*We arrived here by centuries of pulling,
by grandmothers who rowed before dawn,
by boys and girls who fell in love
with the sound of a boat finding its rhythm,
that quiet catch before the drive,
that moment when eight strangers
become one heartbeat.*

Rowing does not ask where you are from.

It only asks if are you ready to pull.

*And this week, on this water,
we raced each other, boat against boat,
each final asking the same honest question:
who is the fastest crew in the world, today.*

*That ambition brought sixty-four nations
to give their very best as athletes and teams.*

*And even in racing, lane by lane,
we were still, in the end, rowing as one world championship.*

So tonight, let us say it plainly.

*We row as one,
in sixty-four strokes.
sixty-four nations,*

*sixty-four histories,
sixty-four ways of saying the same word: together.
We also call this together: World Rowing.*

*We are the ones who know that a boat
does not move by one person's strength
It moves by interaction with the clean water
It moves because someone in the bow
trusts someone in the stroke seat,*

*That is not just our sport.
That is how we shape our rowing community*

*This week, the world watches a Championship with fans
carried further than the Bosbaan itself,
into homes and screens on every continent,
rowing seen like never before.*

*None of this happened by itself.
It took hands we rarely see on the podium,
the organising committee, the volunteers, the crews behind the crews,
our partners, like TIG, who turned a plan into a Championship,
and everyone who gave their evenings and their weekends
so that sixty-four nations feel at home
on the Bosbaan.
Tonight, we thank you.*

*And when we go home,
to sixty-four different countries,
sixty-four different clubs,
sixty-four different mornings on
sixty-four different rivers,
let us take this with us.*

*That growth is not a threat to tradition.
It is tradition, rowing towards new shores, with new adventures*

*That every new rower who picks up an oar this year,
in any country, on any water,
is already one of us.*

We row as one, in more than sixty-four countries

*Different lakes and rivers, one current forward
Together we are World Rowing*



[Bekijk de volledige originele post op LinkedIn →](#)

29 Augusts — Best Rowing Country

Best Rowing Country 🏆🏆🏆🏆🥈🥈🥈🥉🥉🥉

The Netherlands finishes the [Staatsloterij](#) World Rowing Championship Rowing 2026 (WRC) as the world's best rowing country. Again.

🚣 On the water

The first goal of this tournament had focus on our sport: let TeamNL row its best race, and let luminous results follow.

🏆 The Holland Eight wins with a world record of 5:17.75: [Ralf Rienks](#), [Finn Florijn](#), [Wibout Rustenburg](#), [Jorn Salverda](#), [Sander de Graaf](#), [Pieter van Veen](#), [Jan van der Bij](#), [OLY](#), [Mick Makker](#), [Jonna de Vries](#) (cox).

🏆 [Simon van Dorp](#) and [Melvin Twellaar](#) grab the gold in the Men's Double Sculls.

🏆 [Marieke Keijser](#), [Lisa Bruijninx](#), [Margot Leeuwenburgh](#) and [Tessa Dullemans](#) win the Women's Quadruple Sculls.

🏆 [Simon van Dorp](#) claims a second title, with [Roos de Jong](#), Mixed Double Sculls.

🥈 [Roos de Jong](#) medalled with [Benthe Boonstra](#) as well in the Women's Double Sculls.

🥈 [Lennart van Lierop](#), [Gert-Jan van Doorn](#), [Eli Brouwer](#), and [Rik Rienks](#) take the silver, Men's Four.

🥈 The Mixed Eight, both four crews combined and steered by [Richelle Rietdijk](#), takes silver too.

🥉 [Ymkje Clevering](#), [Nika Vos](#), [Linn van Aanholt](#) and [Tinka Offereins](#) claim the bronze, Women's Four.

🥉 [Femke van de Vliet](#) first championship brings bronze in the Lightweight Women's Single Sculls.

🥉 [Karolien Florijn](#) returns to the top and wins bronze, Women's Single Sculls.

Three boats finish fourth: the Women's Eight, the Men's Quadruple Sculls and Eva Mol, Para Women's Single Sculls. Erik van Eijck van Heslinga and Fedrik Ploeg finish fifth, Cornelus Palsma finishes eleventh.

Thanks go to head coach [Titus Weijschedé](#), high performance director [Marieke Faber](#) and their extended, fantastic staff!

🏆 The best WRC

The second goal was to organize the best WRC ever.

Over 10,000 visitors cheer the finals every day. They sing, clap, hug, laugh, and build a wave of sound for every rower in the last 500m. The fans celebrate in the fanzone long after the rowing has passed, and student clubs chant for their winning heroes.

Thanks go to the jury, motorboat drivers, World Rowing staff, and 600+ volunteers. Great to do this with our partners: Staatsloterij, Rabobank, Kiwa Nederland, 'ministry of VWS', Provincie Noord-Holland, Gemeente Amsterdam and Topsport Amsterdam.

World Rowing honours three honorary medals: [Joost de Geus](#) (KNRB), [Willem Overdiep](#) (TIG Sports) and [Wouter van Groenigen](#) (KNRB vice president).

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 One Rowing Family

The third goal was to be inclusive for the whole Dutch rowing community.

The KNRB Home welcomes rowers, families and guests all week: the people who rebuilt the Bosbaan, partners like Kiwa, TxMiller, Legacy | Roeien and Crown Nutrition, coaches, honorary members, club board

members, knrb volunteers, former top rowers, schoolkids, and the extended rowing family.

Special thanks to **AnneMarie Vos** and the entire KNRB team, who worked behind the scenes to make this possible.

A week to remember, forever.

So proud. So thankful.

🏆 **Benedict Tufnell**



[Bekijk de volledige originele post op LinkedIn →](#)