



EHC NOW!

EHC welcomes Minette van der Ven as its new Vice-President Finance

By Laura Savini, EHC Public Policy Officer

For this week's edition of EHC Now! we bring you an interview with Minette van der Ven, EHC's new Vice-President (VP) Finance who was elected during the last EHC General Assembly held in Brussels ahead of the 2018 EHC Conference.

Many of you probably already know Minette as she has been active not only in the Dutch haemophilia patient organisation (Nederlandse Vereniging van Hemofilie-Patiënten - NVHP), but also in many EHC events. Minette is in her mid-thirties and has been a member of the, EHC's Dutch National Member Organisation (NMO) since being a teenager. From 2010 until 2018 she sat on NVHP's Board and right now she is an active volunteer. Minette also suffers from Glanzmann thrombasthenia, a rare platelet disorder.



The Dutch cycling squad arriving in Stavanger

One of the activities that Minette has been very involved with in the past few years, and that many of you may be familiar with, is the Bloedverwanten (Bloodrelatives) initiative. In 2016, a group of ten Dutch volunteers affected by rare



Bloodrelatives, Minette is first from the left

bleeding disorders, including Minette, set off to cycle from the Netherlands all the way to Stavanger, where the EHC conference was taking place. Two weeks and 1000 kilometres later, the group arrived for the beginning of the Conference. This initiative had two objectives, well three, actually: one was to promote and raise awareness about the practice of safe

physical activities for people with rare bleeding disorders; the second was to fundraise for the NVHP to help patients in countries with lower treatment standards; and the third was simply to take part in a great adventure and create friendships and long-lasting memories. In fact, it took the team a year to train and prepare both physically and mentally for their endeavour. Throughout this whole period the group recorded their progress and shared it via social



Minette (right hand side) and Evelyn Grimberg arriving in Brussels ahead of the 2018 EHC Conference

media. They also got local media (TV and radio) coverage to further raise awareness, not only about the initiative but also about bleeding disorders in general.

However, the adventure didn't stop in Stavanger as Minette and Evelyn Grimberg (another volunteer who took part in the Bloodrelatives initiative) cycled *again* - this time from the Netherlands to Brussels ahead of this year's EHC Conference to continue to promote the safe practice of sport for people affected by rare bleeding disorders. The Bloodrelatives also lives on as the funds raised by the initiative were used to support 'blood-relatives' in Georgia!

Minette has a background in finance and is a chartered accountant. As such, her motivation for running for the position of VP Finance was to put her professional skills and expertise to work to ensure the long-standing financial health of the EHC. Ultimately though, Minette put her candidature forward because by volunteering with the EHC, she hopes that she can help men and women in the community across Europe to have a better quality of life.

The EHC is delighted to welcome Minette as its new VP Finance, and asks everyone to join us in giving her a warm welcome. You can meet Minette in person at various EHC events throughout 2019. We also extend our heart-felt thanks to outgoing VP Finance, Jordan Nedevski, who first joined the EHC SC in 2007 and served as VP Finance for eight years!



The EHC newly elected Steering Committee, Minette is fourth from the left. Former chair of the EHC Medical Advisory Group, Paul Giangrande, is centre right, next to Brian O'Mahony.