

Annual secretary's report BXV The Turtles, 2023-2024

By Maximiliaan Cheung

This annual secretary's report reflects on the board year of the eighteenth board of D.S.T. Pegasus, BXV The Turtles. If you ask me to summarise our year, I would say that it has been an eventful board year with a rough start, a rough end and many tough decisions to make. We decided to break some traditions and be more unconventional than previous boards. We focused on gratitude within the association, further professionalised Pegasus, and worked to ensure its continued existence. Allow me to take you on a journey through our board year, which began on Monday, 8th of May 2023.

On this day, I had to be at the market in Delft for the 'meevraagactie'. I quickly saw Ben and wanted to talk to him, but he dashed off with his Go-Go-Gadget legs. He didn't see me. Not long after, I came across Rozalie. Fortunately, she didn't run away with her much shorter legs. After jumping through Prinsenhof, the three of us sat down together. After performing a play where I rode Rozalie, it turned out it was just the three of us for now, as Four had yet to confirm whether they wanted to join the board. The following Wednesday, we were finally complete, with Lisa joining us to strengthen our AKB.

One of our first tasks was to make a KB reveal video. After an afternoon filled with fun, wetness, and injuries (mostly on my part), we created an epic reveal video and got to know each other a bit better.

During the handover weekend, we drove across the Netherlands with Squirtle in the boot. Among other things, we had to do a photo shoot, make a diss track, and go underwater in the Baggelhuizerplas. We mostly caused havoc in the north of the Netherlands, with a few detours along the way.

On Wednesday, 6th of September 2023, at 22:23, I received a call from Rozalie with the news that Lisa had been in an accident: she gave head to the uneven bars and would likely be out for a longer period. So, once again, there were only three of us... After some urgent meetings, we decided to temporarily bring on a fifth board member: Commissioner Dry. He would take over the treasurer's duties for as long as necessary.

There was no time to pause, as the change GMA was soon followed by the introduction weekend. As a board with no 'begröende' members, we were 'briefly' 'begröend' just before the 'begröening'. The Pegalympics also marked the moment when we as board scored our first bingo point, Ben, that is. At this point, it was becoming clear that enthusiasm for activities this year was very low.

After the introduction weekend, there was no time to rest. Because, when Pegasus turns fifteen, a lustrum week must be organised. During the lustrum week, we tried to be as complete as possible at activities. At the opening party, even our founders Denise and Witek were present! Not many people can say they've hung in the chandelier at DSB with Witek. Well, I can. The rest of the week was packed with other fun activities, and thus we celebrated Pegasus' fifteenth birthday in style.

Then the time arrived... the first ever CoBo of D.S.T. Pegasus. It was a busy evening with many guests, far more than we had expected. Apart from a 'gebraste' Ben and Rozalie's bruises, we made it through the evening in good shape. The biggest achievement of the night was perhaps that the guestbook neither broke nor was stolen. With a well-filled guestbook, we can still look back on a successful first-ever CoBo for Pegasus!

Due to circumstances, we had mostly been a business-oriented board until now. As we neared completion, we began seeing each other more outside of business meetings and started to have more fun with each other. This resulted in dad jokes in the botanical gardens, memes, and much more shenanigans.

Now that the storm had calmed and we felt more comfortable in our roles, it was time to think about how we could improve Pegasus. Behind the scenes, we further professionalised Pegasus and came up with an idea for a new type of membership.

Towards the end of the calendar year, we were finally complete and could reflect on the past six months. The end of the year is also a time to remember those no longer with us, such as our beloved mascot, Penus. After being murdered in broad daylight, Penus could no longer continue his duties as the association's mascot. Thus, we also spent time looking for a suitable successor to Penus. It took a while before Poonie descended, but thankfully our temporary mascot Balthazar winged up, allowing us to travel to competitions with flag and mascot once again.

Speaking of competitions, the NSTC2 is another dark chapter in our board year. That evening, Rozalie also gave head, this time to the floor, resulting in a concussion. Once again, down to three. This concussion, however, would last longer than Lisa's, leading to a hectic period. Nonetheless, we made time for some fun, such as our board weekend in Vlieland. During this weekend, we got up to all sorts of shenanigans to try and unwind a bit.

After this followed a rather busy period. We worked out the alumni plan, hosted a lustrum gala, an internal competition and the Fu5ion, a sports day with all the sports associations in Delft that had their lustrum last year.

Being on the board also involves making tough decisions. Due to the lack of interest, we had to cancel the second edition of Expedition Pegasus. Partly due to this trend, we gave serious thought to Pegasus' future. This led us to begin a multi-year plan: a long-term policy with goals we want to achieve as an association.

In the run-up to the summer holidays, there was still a lot to do. With well-divided tasks beforehand, we could all look forward to a relaxing summer holiday. Right?

No, just like at the start of our board year, the universe had other plans. With several situations endangering Pegasus' existence, we had to hold urgent meetings during our holidays and worked hard behind the scenes. I believe we handled things the right way and that our growth as a board became clear. Luckily, we were still able to enjoy Pegasurf and our other holidays a little.

During the OWee, we worked hard with all of you to get as many people as possible enthusiastic about Pegasus. We flipped at the info and activity markets, caused chaos at the market, and, of course, we were once again present at the sports party.

And this was our board year in a nutshell. I would like to thank all the members and trainers for this epic year. Without you, we couldn't have made it such a spectacle! Thanks to your enthusiasm and dedication, Pegasus once again had amazing activities this year! A special shout-out to my committees: the IntrodukCie, PROMOCie, WC, ExpediCie, and WedCie.

I want to thank the following people in particular:

Ben. Luckily, you're better at gymnastics than posing for photos. I have a lot of respect for how hard you worked, especially at the start of the year, to arrange everything with the trainers. Together, we travelled the country to attend CoBos and competitions, and we 'brast' a few things along the way. You taught me that life doesn't always have to be serious and to enjoy it sometimes.

Rozalie. You didn't think you were smurfy enough at the start of the year, so you increased the smurf factor throughout. As the heart of our board, you kept us together during the tough times. Together, we regularly held 'beun' sessions and made dreadful edits. I have enormous admiration for the resilience you've shown over the past year.

Lisa. Thank you for doing some board tasks during your holidays. Despite a turbulent year, we still had a lot of fun and bonded well, like at our sparerib date and Pegasurf. And let's not forget our Gi-Ga-Groene floor routine at the NSTC2! From you, I learned that it's important to take care of yourself and to set boundaries.

Now I've come to my final words as secretary, and competition commissioner, of BXV The Turtles. It's been a year where a lot has happened and where we've had to make difficult decisions. We've done some things well, and some things could have been done better. Throughout the year, we always did what we believed was best for Pegasus, following our hearts and minds. As one team, we overcame all obstacles and were there for each other. Rozalie, Lisa, and Ben: I have enjoyed working with you this past year and learning from you. It has been an honour to form Pegasus' third lustrum board with you. We haven't often taken the time to reflect on this, but we can be proud of what we've achieved this year, both as a board and as individuals.

Lastly, we wish B16 The Dinos lots of fun, wisdom, and greenness in their board year. That you may take Pegasus to even greater heights!

For the last time, I sign this document with winged regards (XVXV) as the secretary of D.S.T. Pegasus.

Maximiliaan Cheung
Secretary of D.S.T. Pegasus
BXV The Turtles (2023-2024)