

Kempen Trophy Synchro – History and information

Figure skating club **Nieuw Olympia Turnhout** is the founder of Kempen Trophy Synchro. After many years of building up experience through organizing a big international figure skating competition for single skaters called: **Kempen Trophy**. First held in 1993!

The figure skating club and the coaches from the synchronized skating teams thought it was time to start organizing a second big international competition. This one special for synchronized skating teams.

In 2013 the Kempen Trophy Synchro was born!

With the help of many volunteers and some small sponsors the first competition turned out to be a big success!

Within 3 years, the synchro competition had grown into one of the biggest synchronized skating competitions in Europe.

Also, by starting this new competition, Nieuw Olympia Turnhout, made sure the synchronized skating teams in Belgium are ensured of two international synchronized skating competitions each season.

In the beginning of each season the Belgian teams have their National Championships combined with the international Winter Cup competition.

And at the end of each season the team from Flanders have their Flemish Championships combined with the international Kempen Trophy Synchro.

Nieuw Olympia Turnhout also encouraged some other figure skating clubs from abroad to organize a synchronized skating competition. By showing that you don't have to have the "perfect" ice rink to held a bigger competition.

Nieuw Olympia Turnhout is very proud of their two big international competitions. In 2017 the Kempen Trophy Synchro celebrated it's 5th anniversary.

And in 2018 the Kempen Trophy will celebrate it's 25th anniversary.

Some statistics about Kempen Trophy Synchro:

- In the past 5 years we welcomed almost 100 different synchronized skating teams!

Which means over 1000 skaters! Aged from: 7 years old, until 50+.

- The teams were representing the following 12 different countries:

- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Russia

- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The Netherlands
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

- In 2013 we had 30 teams from 6 different countries in our competition.
 - In 2014 we had 31 teams from 8 different countries in our competition.
 - In 2015 we had 48 teams from 10 different countries in our competition.
 - In 2016 we had 42 teams from 9 different countries in our competition.
 - In 2017 we had 25 teams from 7 different countries in our competition.
 - Several teams who participated in our competition also participated in big ISU competitions, Junior World Challenge Cup, World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships & World Synchronized Skating Championships.
 - In 2016 we worked together with Jorik Hendrickx, NEXXICE, Kristen Loritz, Team Surprise, Natalie Blom, Team Unique, Anna Heliö & ISU Figure skating to put a video together. These teams wished our competitors good luck via this great video!
- The video already got over 40.000 views from all around the world :D
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35IYHBPdyu4>
- Every year we have around 60 volunteers who help us to make this event amazing! <3

The 6th Kempen Trophy Synchro will be held on March 31st and April 1st.

Like last year, the competition will take place at the IJssportcentrum Turnhout.

Which is our (temporary) home base, since Schaatsbaan Turnhout got closed in May 2016 due to economic reasons.

Nieuw Olympia Turnhout is really proud to be a part of IJssportcentrum Turnhout, since this project and ice rink is fully turned by volunteers.

Together with the support of the city Turnhout and the four clubs (Turnhout Tiger – Ice Hockey, Turnhoutse Nieuwe Tornado's – Shorttrack, Campina Curling – Curling Club and Nieuw Olympia Turnhout – Figure Skating), we managed to build this location for the upcoming seasons.

IJssportcentrum Turnhout will be our home for two more years. In the summer of 2019 we will have a new ice rink with all the necessary facilities to organize large events such as the Kempen Trophy Synchro.