

UNION BELGE DE MINIGOLF  
BELGISCH VERBOND VOOR MINIGOLF



"Open House Days"  
&  
Youth-Championship

Project coordination:

Michael Mockel – Youth manager UBMG-BVMG  
MGC Kettenis  
Hoeschhof 49 – 4701 Kettenis  
Belgium  
TEL: (0032)473/415.349  
EMAIL: [mgc.kettenis@gmail.com](mailto:mgc.kettenis@gmail.com)



## **Summary**

The original idea is to make minigolf more attractive again for children and young people in Belgium by adapting the competition format. The new format was inspired by the WMF-EUREGIO-project of 2018, which was well received by the participants. The basic principles remain the same, i.e. to organise a competition exclusively for young people, but this time officially, as a national championship. However, in addition to this initial objective, considerations have led to a more global project aimed at renewing contacts with former clubs of the Belgian Minigolf Federation (BMGV) and also to bind other minigolf course owners in the country to the federation by jointly organising an "Open House Day" at national level. The idea would be to organise such a day on as many Belgian courses as possible in order to present minigolf as a sport and to raise funds for a good cause on these days. It goes without saying that such a formula should also attract much more attention from the various media. In connection with the original idea, this day should be organised as close as possible to the Belgian Youth Championship, in order to attract more new participants for this competition. In summary, the project is structured around four main pillars:

- Attracting more young people to minigolf by organising a separate championship.
- (Re)admitting former members and course operators to the federation.
- Arousing the interest of the public and potential sponsors for minigolf.
- Collecting donations for a good cause.

## **Context and current problems**

The average age of players participating in the various competitions is increasing year by year in Belgium. The years before 2018, no children or youth players enter in the final classification of the Belgian championship, let alone in international competitions. In 2018 at least two youngsters took part on the championship and in 2019 there were three. However, the competition, with a lot of seniors-players, remains unattractive for them, also because these older players usually play at a higher level than the young beginners. Coaching the young players also remains difficult, as the people who are supposed to supervise them participate in the competition themselves. In addition to the three young people who were active in 2019, two others who took part in the EUREGIO cross-border project in 2018 are interested in taking part in competitions, but because they are beginners and seen the current coaching conditions, this is practically impossible. We are also noticing that there are fewer and fewer member clubs and partners at the federation level, as well as fewer and fewer players and therefore fewer financial resources.



## **Project ideas & solutions**

At the General Assembly of the federation in early 2020, the proposal to organise a youth championship separately from the rest of the championship was accepted. This competition will be organized by the youth manager, Michael Mockel, also founder of the "MGC Kettenis", association for the promotion of minigolf, which had already coordinated the EUREGIO project in 2018, supported by the WMF. The aim is still that the young people compete in their own competition, which is more attractive for them, but also has the great advantage that they can be coached efficiently, because experienced players can concentrate fully on their coaching-job. The difficulty will be, to bring enough young people together, because a competition with three or four young people is obviously not a very motivating setting. This is where it is also necessary to set up a real project and, if possible, with additional financial support. It will be important to better present the sport of minigolf to the public, especially by organizing an annual "Open House Day", on as many courses as possible, i.e. also courses without a club or former member-clubs of the federation. By placing the Youth Championship close to the date of this "Open House Day", we hope to arouse the interest of a maximum number of young people. Maybe we could even hand out a personalised invitation to the championship to children and young people with promising results on this "Open House days" (although this championship should remain open to everyone anyway). In this way an additional motivation can be created for these young people. In this context, it will be interesting to introduce a more flexible registration system for the Youth Championship, either by accepting individual registrations by the federation or by applying a specific reduced membership fee at club level. The federation also seeks to increase the attractiveness of the actual competition by adding the following elements:

- Only two matchdays are played instead of four or eight.
- Only two instead of three or four scoring rounds per matchday.
- One matchday is to be played on concrete or synthetic grass (MOS), sort of combination of concrete and adventure-golf. This system provide variety and is in principle more attractive than all times the same four miniature golf courses of the current member-clubs.
- Offer a "fun" activity in the afternoon of the first day of play (also see project 2018: laser game, trampoline centre, bowling, etc.).
- Mini-match-play tournament on the second day

By organising an "Open House Day" with former member-clubs and other course-owners, it is hoped to (re)build a longer-term partnership with them. The aim is to create a win-win situation, also financially, with additional income on the side of the course-owners and more membership-fees for the federation. We also want to organise competitions on the other courses in the next years. For this purpose - and in the shorter term - the courses on which the Youth Championship are held, must be recognized by the WMF.



## **Aims**

- Participation youth championship: the aim is to play a championship with at least 4 girls and 4 boys on both days in 2020, in the long-term to double that number.
- At the federal level, it is hoped to attract three to five new members in 2020 (currently only 5 in total) and to double this number by the end of 2021, and of course, for a long time in the ideal case. The Belgian Youth Championship is to be hosted on various new partner courses in the next few years and therefore these courses must be recognized by the WMF. The national federation will support the owners and clubs in this endeavour.
- It is also the aim to find a sponsor who will support the project of the "Open House Days" with an amount of money that is at least equal to the amount that could be collected on the different facilities on these days. Ideally, course owners and clubs should contact companies and various associations to ensure a maximum number of participants. Prizes for the best "amateur" players or a tombola could also be arranged.
- A very realistic and careful goal should be a total donation of 500 EUR. In the medium term, however, we would collect significantly higher sums. MGC Kettenis, new member of the federation, has been working for four years with SOS Children's Villages, so this organisation could be a possible partner for our project. However, for this first edition - and given the current context of the "corona"-virus -crisis, one could also imagine that half of the donated funds could benefit the course owners, as direct victims of this crisis.

## **Potential partners**

*(non-exhaustive list)*

Contact and meetings with the following potential partners (2020 and 2021):

- Aalst (minigolf course – minigolf / concrete)
- Antwerpen « Rivierenhof » (minigolf course – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Bütgenbach (minigolf course – miniature golf)
- Chaudfontaine (minigolf course – MOS / mini-concrete)
- Chevetogne (minigolf course – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Durbuy (minigolf course – MOS / mini-concrete)
- Eeklo (minigolf course & club – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Froidchappelle (minigolf course – miniature golf)
- Ham-sur-Heure-Nalinnes, S.C. Bertransart (minigolf course – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Knokke-Duinbergen (minigolf course – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Knokke-Heist (minigolf course – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Koksijde « Petit bois » (minigolf course – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Namur (minigolf course & club – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Schaerbeek (minigolf course & former club – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Spa (minigolf course & former club – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Wilrijk (minigolf course & club – MOS / synthetic grass)
- Woluwé-Saint-Lambert (minigolf course & former club – MOS / synthetic grass)



- « Belgische Lievebbers minigolf » (association of clubs of Beerse-Zigo, Herenthout-Kapelleke and Vorselaar / Turnhout – all MOS / synthetic grass).

→ another idea could be, that the Belgian federation also issue certificates to the visited courses (under certain quality conditions), additionally to the WMF-certificate, necessary for the organization of competitions. After the renovation of the course of the MGC Ro' De L'Ew in Luxembourg, it would also be interesting to propose a participation to the projects of the "Open House Days" or even the Youth Championship to our neighbour.

### **Programme**

Of course, the planned programme is already being severely affected by the corona-virus-crisis. Nevertheless, first contacts have already been made by e-mail with a handful of potential partners. The initial feedback is relatively positive. Nevertheless, it is very questionable whether it will be possible to visit all 20 courses this year, given the current travel ban. The Youth Championship is currently planned for Saturday 12th and Saturday 26th September. The "Open House Day" could be organised on the weekend of 15-16 August or the following weekend on 22th and 23th August. Of course, these days should also be organized on the courses of the current members of the federation. However, in view of the current crisis, the following schedule remains hypothetical. In any case, regardless of the prohibitions on assembly, it is possible to contact the various responsible persons of the courses. It is also to be hoped that at least half of the courses mentioned can be visited, and that on this occasion there will be a direct exchange of information about the projects. Even when the ban on activities like an "Open House Day" or a Youth Championship should remain in place for the whole year of 2020, the preparatory work done would be important for the implementation in the following year.

### **Agenda:**

- May to July 2020 (or the first 3 months after end of the travel ban):
- Contact all the potential partners.
  - Meetings and visits of a first set of courses, set-up photo archive.
  - Write a report on the meetings and the state of the courses.
  - Homologation of a first course with the aim of organising the Belgian Youth Championship on this pitch (potential priority candidates: Aalst, Bertransart or Woluwé-Saint-Lambert).
  - Work on the federal website in order to make it more accessible to the general public and/or create a new website containing all the information on all potential partners.
- End of August 2020 (or September at the latest / otherwise 2021):
- Organisation of a first "Open House Day" on several sites simultaneously.

- September 2020 (or early October at the latest / otherwise 2021):
  - Organisation of a youth championship with 2 days of competition.
- October to December 2020:
  - Contact and meetings with as many as possible of the remaining potential partners who have not yet been contacted.
  - Homologation of other facilities, especially with a view to the Youth Championship in the coming years.
- Early 2021:
  - New partners join the Belgian Minigolf Federation (BMGF).
  - Meetings and visits to the remaining courses and/or other courses.
- Summer and autumn 2021:
  - New "Open House Days" & Belgian Youth Championship.

### **Open house day:**

- In the days and weeks before the event, publicity must be ensured.
- Ideally, information on minigolfsport should be presented on each participating course.
- Invitation (no obligation) to visitors/participants who wish to play minigolf to be accompanied by a competition player and to play with competition material.
- Exhibition of result lists.
- Possibility for the visitors to donate money to a humanitarian organisation (e.g. "SOS Children's Village") via a donation box.
- The association MGC Kettenis undertakes to find a sponsor who will contribute at least 50 EUR per participating course, ideally even the same amount (if more) than the total amount of the donations collected.
- Prizes (through sponsors, the organisers or the local authority for example). Either for the best "amateur" result or/and by a tombola among all participants.
- Media publications: Newspapers, websites, television, etc.

### **Youth championship:**

- Two rounds: one on a synthetic grass/carpet or concrete course and one on a miniature golf course (Eternit).
- Two rounds per matchday
- "Fun" activity on the first day and "Match-Play" competition on the second day.
- More "open" conditions of participation (if this formula is successful and acceptable to all, it is conceivable to extend it to other competitions and other categories in Belgium).

## **Financial budget**

*(Details in annexes – with maximum EUR 1.000 grant WMF)*

- Travel expenses (per km):

Meetings and course visits, but also for people from the federation and clubs who prepare and accompany the "Open House Days" and the Youth Championship:

+/- 3.500 km x 0,35 EUR (+/- official reimbursement-rate Belgium) x 50% (2020)

= 1.220 EUR x 50% = 610 EUR (idem 2021) -25% because of combined visits of several courses.

- "Fun" activity Youth Championship (50% refunded): 10 young people x 15 EUR = 75 EUR

- Courses recognition WMF:

The amount of 250 EUR is probably a (too) high amount for a course-manager who would only organise one official competition every 3-5 years. A minimum 50%-help at this level would therefore be welcome.

*(See also the letter of the VoG "MGC Kettenis" to the WMF beginning 2018)*

- Former recognised courses (« prolongations » fees):

o Ham-sur-Heure-Nalinnes (31.12.2017) : 1 x 20 EUR = 20 EUR (→ 2020)

o Froidchappelle (31.12.2014): 2 x 20 EUR = 40 EUR (→ 2020)

o Namur (31.12.2012): 3 x 20 EUR = 60 EUR (→ 2021)

o Herenthout, Schaerbeek, Turnhout and Zigo (31.12.2009):

4 x 4 x 20 EUR = 320 EUR (→ 2021)

→ Total: EUR 440

- New recognitions:

o At least two new recognitions in 2020: 2x 250 EUR = 500 EUR

= TOTAL 940 EUR x 50% = 470 EUR

- Other costs: prizes for the "Open House Days", medals and cups for the Youth Championship, mini-golf equipment, work on the website(s), telephone, postage (letter to the municipalities), "flyer" for the "Open House Days" advertising: to borne by at the federation, sponsors, clubs and/or association "MGC Kettenis".

In total, these costs should amount to about 250 EUR for +/- ten partners.

Basis for translation: [www.deepl.com](http://www.deepl.com)

ANNEXE 1: FINANCIAL BUDGET OF THE PROJECT

Travel costs:						Average Visites	Minimum Open days		
COURSES / MEMBERS	Ekeren	Esneux	Eupen	Kettenis	Malonne				
Aalst	59	149	166	169	117	132	59		
Antwerpen - Deurne	14	142	146	149	119	114	14		
Antwerpen - Wilrijk	16	143	152	155	113	116	16		
Bütgenbach	194	67	32	35	147	95	32		
Chaufontaine	144	16	37	40	84	64	16		
Chevetogne	152	60	139	142	55	110	55		
Durbuy	168	30	70	73	69	82	30		
Eeklo	73	192	215	218	157	171	73		
Ham-sur-Heure-Nalinnes	133	114	137	140	41	113	41		
Herenthout	40	120	125	128	146	112	40		
Knokke-Duinbergen	101	231	246	249	199	205	101		
Knokke-Heist	102	234	243	246	201	205	102		
Koksijde	156	250	244	247	217	223	156		
Namur	104	79	102	105	9	80	9		
Schaerbeek	62	112	128	131	82	103	62		
Spa	166	31	26	29	120	74	26		
Turnhout	51	127	132	135	157	120	51		
Vorselaar	40	123	131	134	146	115	40		
Woluwé-Saint-Lambert	61	109	126	129	74	100	61		
Zigo	47	137	142	145	153	125	47		
<b>Total:</b>						<b>3490 km</b>	<b>2459 km</b>	<b>1031 km</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>x</b>	<b>0,35 €</b>	<b>861 €</b>	<b>361 €</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>610 €</b>	←	<b>50%</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>430 €</b>	<b>430 €</b>	<b>180 €</b>		
<b>2021</b>	<b>610 €</b>	←	<b>50%</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>430 €</b>	<b>430 €</b>	<b>180 €</b>		
MEMBERS									
Antwerpen - Rozemaai	-	153	158	161	129	0	129		
Esneux	152	-	51	54	89	0	51		
Eupen	158	55	-	3	111	0	3		
Malonne	127	89	112	115	-	0	89		
Kettenis	161	58	3	-	114	84	3		
<b>BUDGET Project UBMG 2020:</b>									
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>							
Km - visites & "open days":	-610 €	155 €	→				+/- 25% km less (combinated visites)		
"Fun" -activities & youth-championship:	-150 €	75 €	→				50% to pay by the participants		
Administrattion costs & others costs:	-250 €	250 €	→				clubs & partners		
Recognition courses (prolongations):	-440 €	220 €	→				50% projectpartners		
Recognition new courses:	-500 €	250 €	→				50% projectpartners		
	<b>-1.950 €</b>	<b>950 €</b>							
Results:		<b>-1.000 €</b>							
WMF:		<b>1.000 €</b>							
RESULTS:		<b>0 €</b>							



ANNEXE 2 : PHOTOS OF THE COURSES

**AALST – DENDERGALM**



**BÜTGENBACH**



**DEURNE – RIVIERENHOF**



**CHAUDFONTAINE – 36.6**



**DOMAINE DE CHEVETOGNE**



**DURBUY**



**EKLO**



**FROIDCHAPELLE- LAC DE L'EAU D'HEURE**



**HAM-SUR-HEURE-NALINNES – CENTRE SPORTIF DE BERTRANSART**



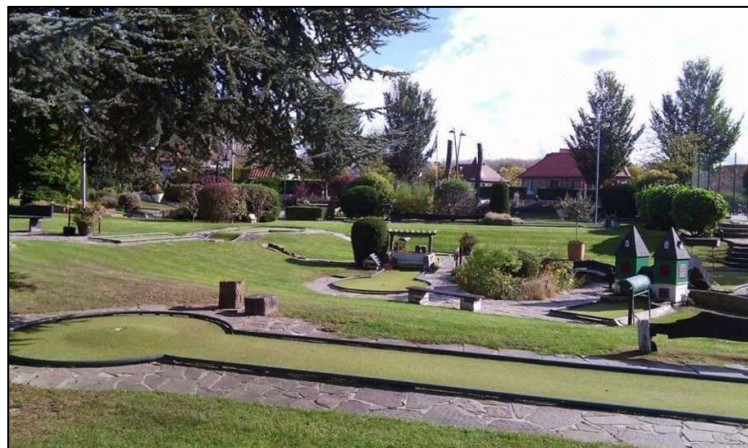
**KNOKKE DUINBERGEN**



**KNOKKE-ZOUTE**



**KOKSIJDE – PETIT BOIS**



**NAMUR**



**SCHAERBEEK – JOSAPHAT**



**SPA**



**ANTWERPEN – WILRIJK**



**WOLUWE-SAINT-LAMBERT**



**HERENTHOUT – 'T KAPELLEKE**



**TURNHOUT**



**VORSELAAR**



## **BEERSE – ZIGO**



ANNEXE 3: Donation-link « MGC Kettenis » & « SOS children's villages »  
<https://www.sos-villages-enfants.be/action/mgc-kettenis>



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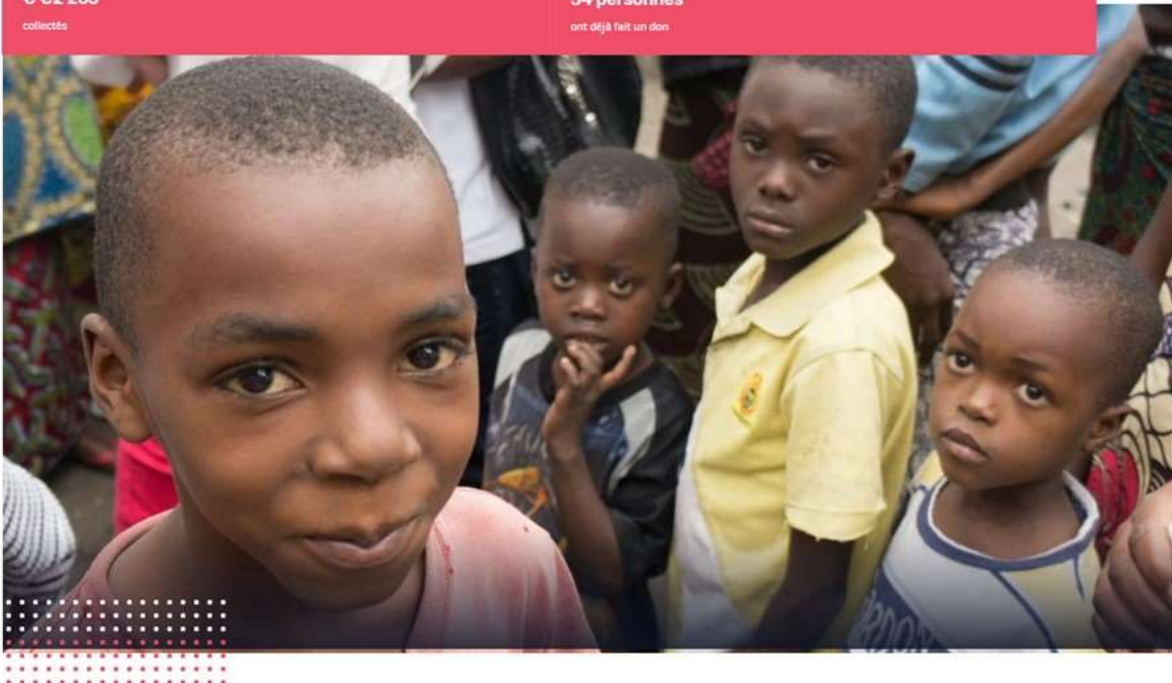
## MGC Kettenis

Objectif : Aider SOS Villages d'Enfants et particulièrement le projet "Kinshasa"  
MGC Kettenis : Initiatives de promotion du minigolf comme sport.

[Soutenez des enfants au Kinshasa](#)

€ €2 265  
collectés

34 personnes  
ont déjà fait un don



ANNEXE 4 : map of the minigolf project-courses



- 1) Aalst
- 2) Bertrantsart
- 3) Bütgenbach
- 4) Chaudfontaine
- 5) Chevetogne
- 6) Deurne
- 7) Durbuy
- 8) Eeklo
- 9) Esneux**
- 10) Eupen**
- 11) Herenthout
- 12) Kettens**
- 13) Knokke-Heist
- 14) Knokke-Zoute
- 15) Koksijde
- 16) Malonne**
- 17) Namur
- 18) Rozemaai**
- 19) Schaerbeek
- 20) Spa
- 21) Turnhout
- 22) Vorselaar
- 23) Wilrijk
- 24) Woluwé
- 25) Zigo
- L) Luxembourg