

# One week of ice in Holland

9 feb 2021 – 16 feb 2021



Rob Mulders  
Hollands LSK  
April 7, 2021



# Who am I?

## My big passion

Skating on natural ice in Scandinavia, since 1998



## Hollands LSK

Started the website in 2006

One of the three founders in 2010



## Family

I live with Willeke en Gijs (12) in Ankeveen

Gijs loves to skate and can be found at SN too



## Job

Worked at IT-company Furore 1993 - 2018

Currently busy with startup Firely





# One week of ice in Holland



1. Introduction
2. HLSK ≠ Dutch skating
3. Yes! Skating excitement
4. Invitation to LLK stands







- **1/11 size of Sweden (Skåne + Småland)**
- **17.5 million people**
- **11 provinces**
- **23 artificial 400 meter ice ovals**
- **Amsterdam outdoor, other 22 are indoor**
- **50 temporarily ice ovals open in dec + jan**
- **653 local skating clubs**
- **81.000 kids (5-12 yrs) weekly skating lessons**
- **Estimated 250.000 adults skate weekly**
- **Estimated 2 million people skate when there is natural ice**
- **SprintSkating app downloaded 15.884 times**
- **App used in 63.000 oval visits in 2019/2020**
- **3.4 million 400 meters rounds registered**

Source: Royal Dutch Skating Association, [www.knsb.nl](http://www.knsb.nl)



# What does a local skating club do?

## Normal business

- Buying weekly fixed hours at the nearest oval
- Organizing skating lessons for kids and adults at the oval
- Organizing skating games and races for kids at the oval
- Put a field in the village under 20 cm of water, in hope for a cold winter

## Special business

- Some clubs arrange a “temporarily artificial ice oval” in their village during December and January, often sponsored by local companies
- Open the local field with lights, music and “koek en zopie” when ice >6 cm
- Sweep and mark a tour on lakes and canals near the village when there is natural ice >12 cm
- Organize skating travels to plogade banor in Europe (for instance Weissensee, Runn, Luleå, Kuopio, Lipno, ...)





# You may have heard of the Elfstedentocht

But that is not a “local” skating club, it is an (inter)national institute

- The Friesche Elfsteden Vereniging organizes the Elfstedentocht
- The Elfstedentocht is a skating track on lakes and canals, connecting 11 towns in the province of Friesland
- At 6:00 in the morning, a 200 km race for (semi) professional marathon skaters starts (track record 6h47m by Evert van Benthem)
- At 6:30 the same 200 km track is used for a recreational tour for 16.000 of the 32.000 members, starting 1000 people each 15 minutes
- Last time there was enough ice was January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1997
- In 1997 it was on TV in 32 countries, including CNN and Fox News







HLSK = Nordic skating  
but Nordic skating  $\neq$  Dutch skating

Nordic skating is still “new” to The Netherlands  
HLSK (+NTSV) = 200 people, Dutch skating = 2 million people



# Dutch skating is different from Nordic skating

“I don’t plurr, and if I do, there will be other people to save me”



no or almost no safety equipment  
everyone on speed skates  
safety = always lots of people on the ice  
club tour = marked track on prepared ice

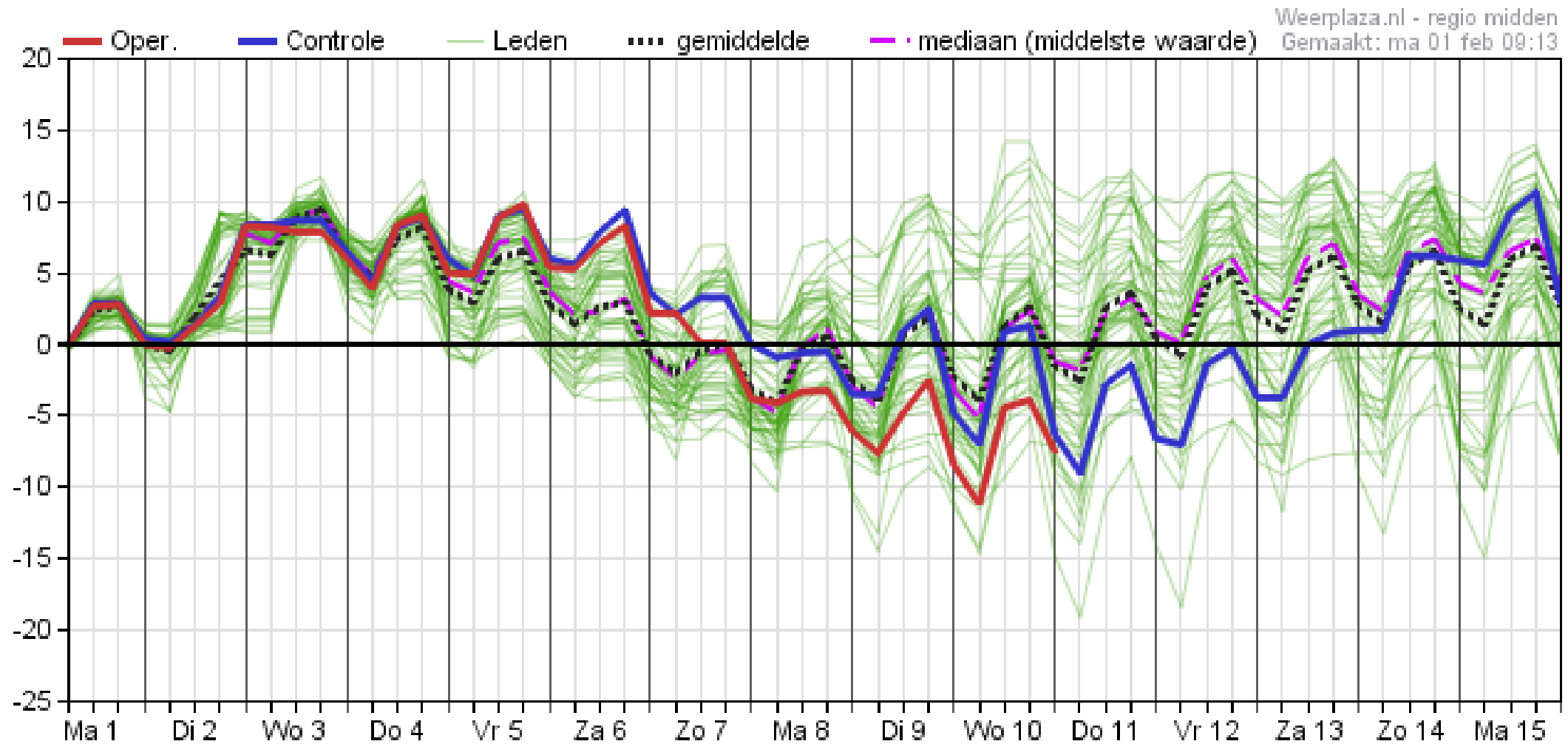
“Someone might plurr, so we are prepared to save him/her”



everyone has safety equipment  
everyone on nordic skates  
organized group with leader(s) and ice knowledge  
no marked tracks on the ice

## Comparable: piste skiing versus tour skiing

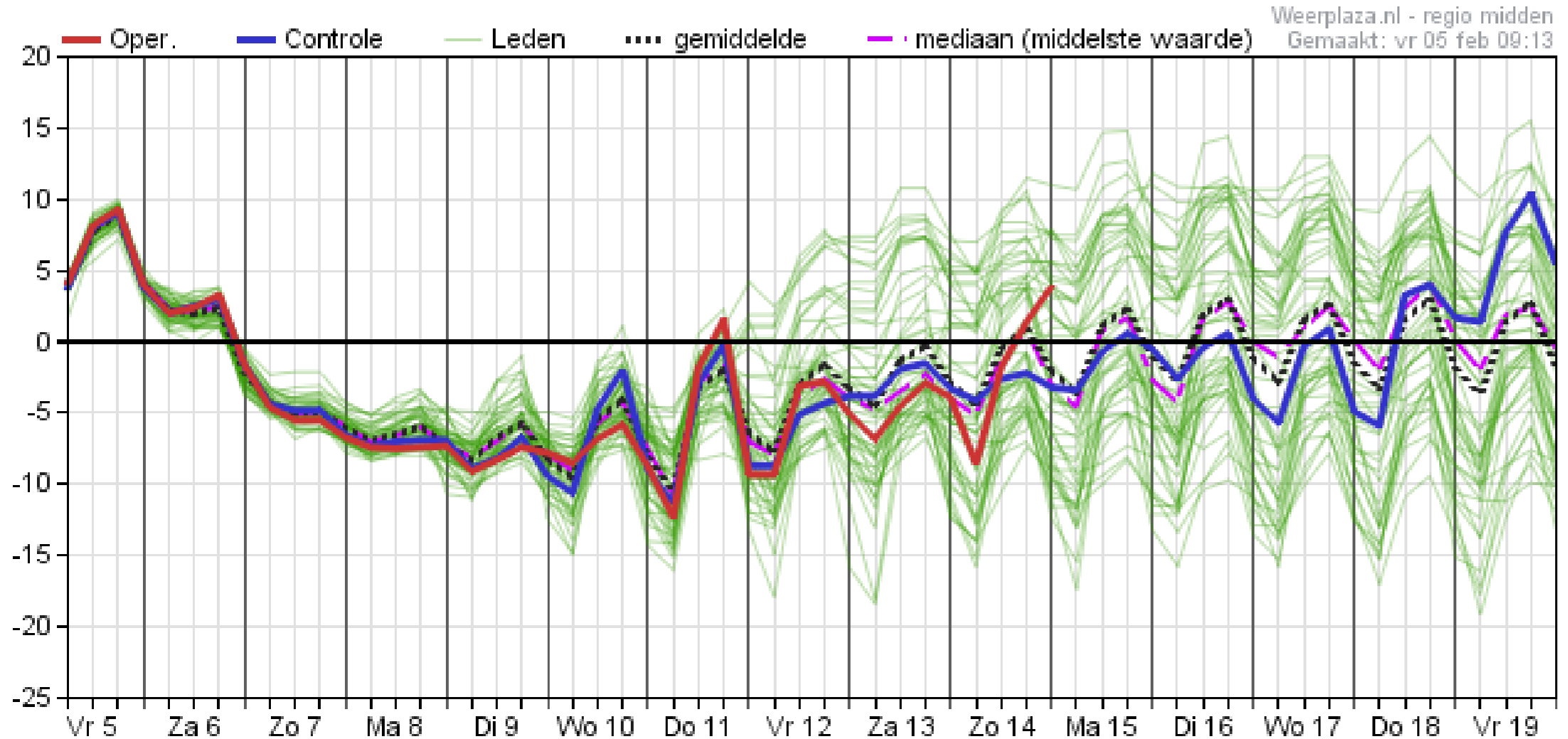
# The excitement in Holland started already on February 1<sup>st</sup>...



European model 50 scenario's forecast of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021



...and reached its peak on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. There was no ice yet.



European model 50 scenario's forecast of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**SCHAATSKOORTS BEGINT TOE TE SLAAN OP BINNENHOF**

## Skating fever strikes in The Hague

The Dutch Parliament wants prime-minister Mark Rutte to force De Friesche Elfsteden to organize the race, even though De Friesche Elfsteden had already decided in October 2020 that due to corona there would be no race this winter.



150 members of parliament discuss Elfstedentocht versus corona. There was no ice yet.



## Winter starts with snow

Then finally, on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup>, winter comes. But with 15 to 25 cm of snow. It ruins all our early areas, including the canals of the Elfstedentocht. Dränkstöp everywhere on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>.





## First strokes in Holland

Monday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. In the morning we had four hours of clear sky, before new snow came. I am testing one of our early areas, to see if the dränkstöp became hard.... Yes, my first strokes! On 4 cm snöis with 1 cm new snow. Färdrapport 100771



## Members of HLSK can't wait anymore

Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>. Warnings on all Dutch media that the snow ice is not strong enough to skate. Nobody is skating yet, but HLSK can't wait anymore. Anja, Marc and me find blanka landkallar at Oostvaardersplassen. We have to crawl over snow covered 2cm thin ice to reach them. We skate!





Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>. Oostvaardersplassen with one plurning, in 80 cm deep water.


Färdrapport 100839





## Still doing snöis

Wednesday Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. The kärnis on bigger areas is just too thin, maybe tomorrow? Members of HLSK are busy with finding the smoothest snöis, nu med kärna under. We do in total 10 privatturer that day. Nobody else in Holland is skating yet. We attract media-attention.

A man wearing a blue jacket, black beanie, and sunglasses is standing on a frozen body of water. He has a backpack and is holding a pole. The background shows a frozen lake with some buildings and trees in the distance under a clear blue sky.

**Gert-Jan Vroege**  
voorzitter HLSK

rtl**nieuws**

<https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/video/uitzendingen/video/5214172/rtl-nieuws-1930-uur> at 03.25 – 05:00 min



NOS



NOS RADIO 1 JOURNAAL

# SCHAATSEN OP Z'N ZWEEDS

avontuur op het ijs

verslag: Roel Pauw





# OP Z'N ZWEEDS AL HET IJS OP

verslag | Mark Arents



# The HLSK message is the same everywhere

- The Dutch system, waiting for thick ice and approval by local clubs, is a good system and Holland should keep on doing this
- HLSK imported an alternative system, the Swedish way, by skating in small groups with preparation, ice knowledge, equipment and leaders
- A 'waaghals' (våghals) is someone who does neither the Dutch, nor the Swedish way. For instance: someone skating without preparation, equipment, ice knowledge or company

And when we get enough time in the media, we explain our equipment, precautions, leader system and sometimes some ice facts



## **Now it is kärnis!**

Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>. While the first Dutch skaters mostly stick to the snöis parts where HLSK skated the last few days, our members try the first kärnis. With success! Thin, but ok to skate. Veluwemeer in Flevoland is one of the hotspots.







Veluwemeer February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Färdrapport 101135 Foto Gert-Jan Vroege



Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 12 – 14, 2021  
**There is the explosion with Dutch skaters**







Kinderdijk Alblas Foto Simone Cremers





Vuntus at Loosdrechtse Plassen





Castle Heeswijk  
Foto Van Assendelft





Maarsseveense Plassen





Amsterdam Bosbaan Foto Tom Nieuwenhuijsen





**40.000 mensen op SEH door  
ijsongelukken, ziekenhuizen door  
voorraad materiaal gebroken  
heupen heen**

40.000 people at emergency care  
after skating, hospitals are out of  
materials to fix broken hips





In the  
meanwhile, it is  
hard for HLSK  
members to find  
skating areas  
without  
thousands of  
people....





... so either we go very early in the morning....



... or we go to  
newly made  
nature areas that  
are not  
discovered yet....

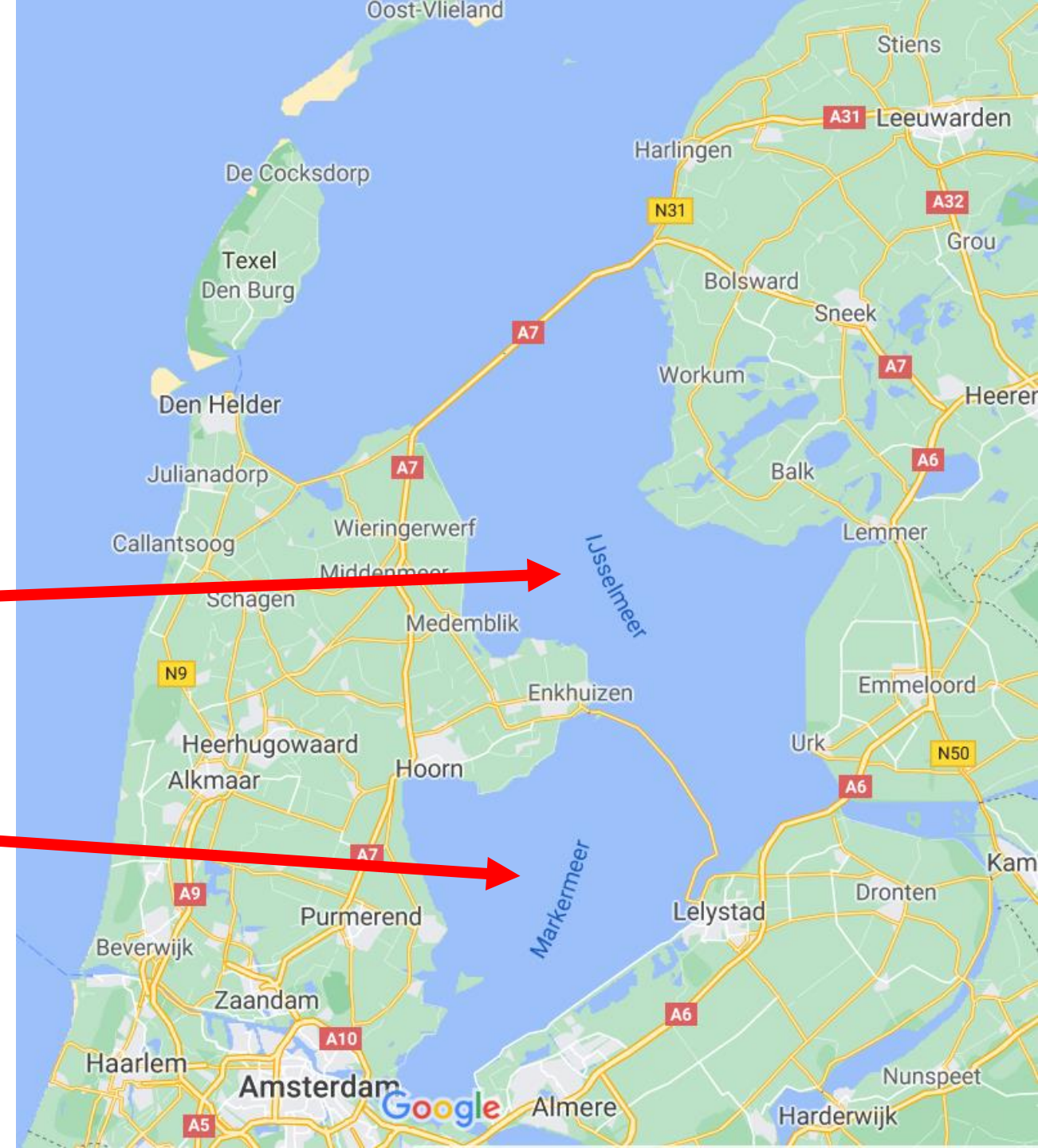


National Park De Stille Kern, Flevoland

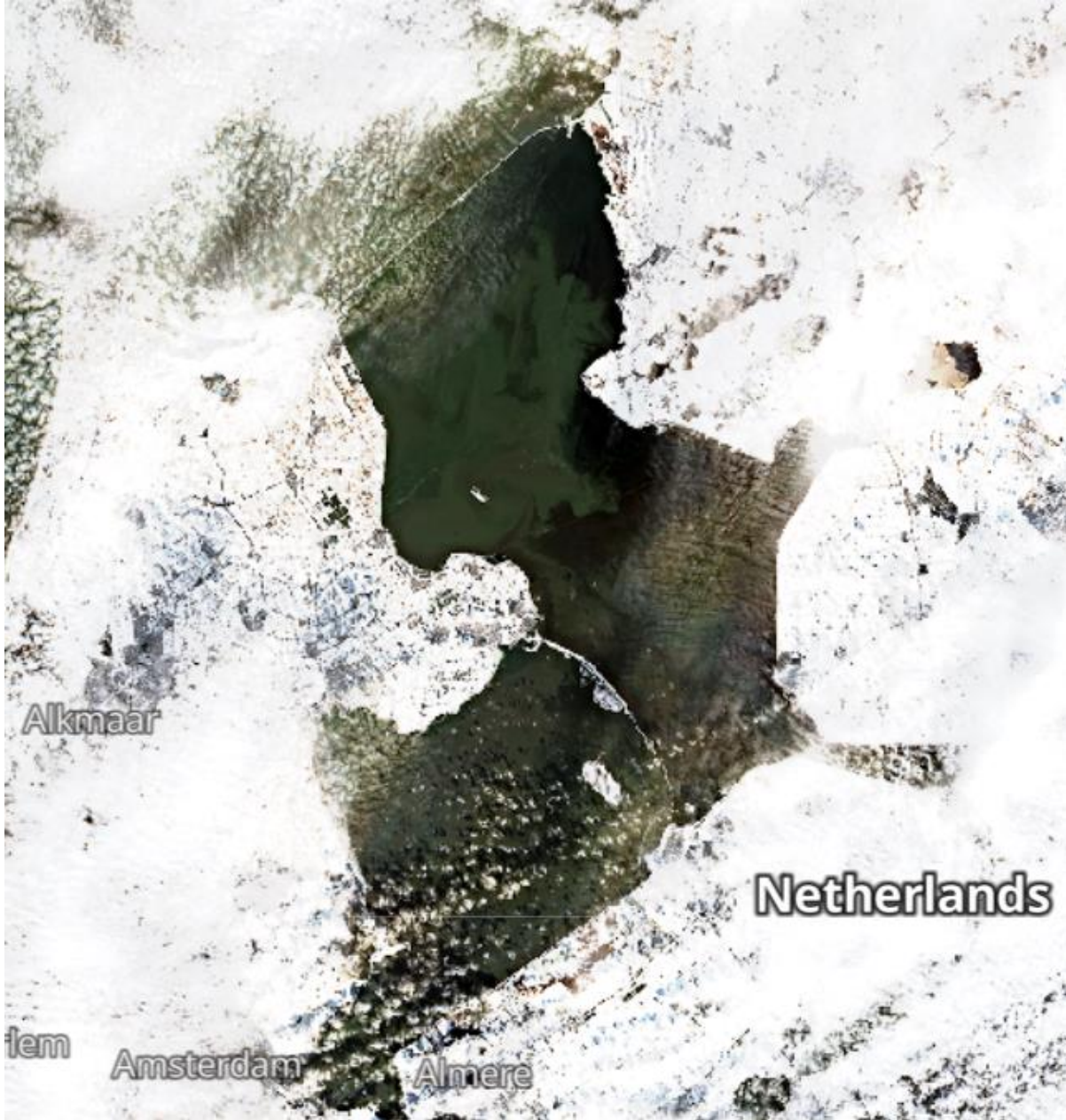


.... or we move to the  
two biggest lakes in  
Holland:

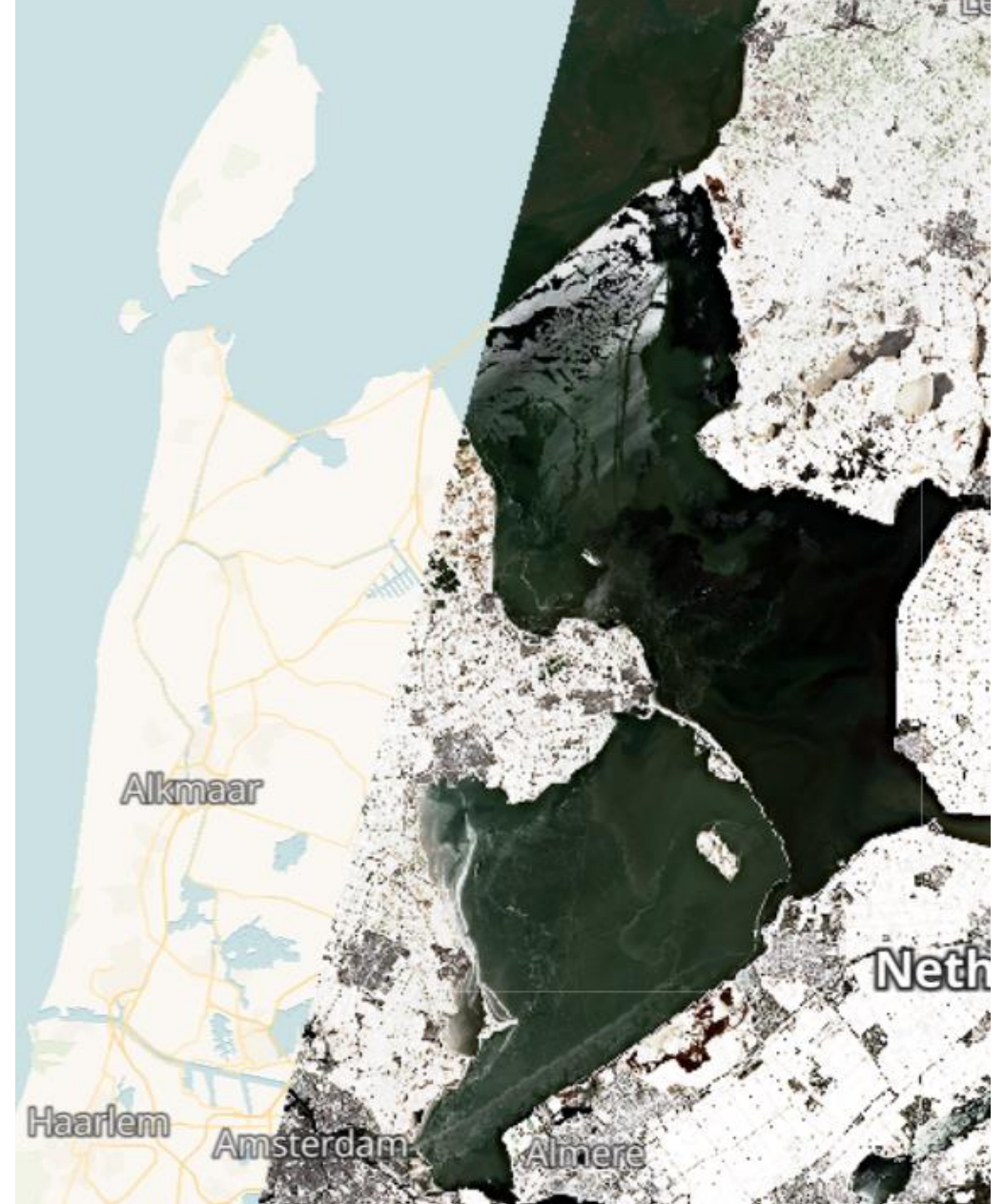
IJsselmeer  
and  
Markermeer







**No ice yet on February 9th**



**But new ice on February 11th**



# Zoom in on Markermeer

Isobs from HLSK members for Hoornse Hop: kärnis with råkar

Looks like vrakisbälte

Isobs from HLSK members for Gouwzee: stable kärnis

← Vind prognos



Water and/or thin ice at the east side, closes latest

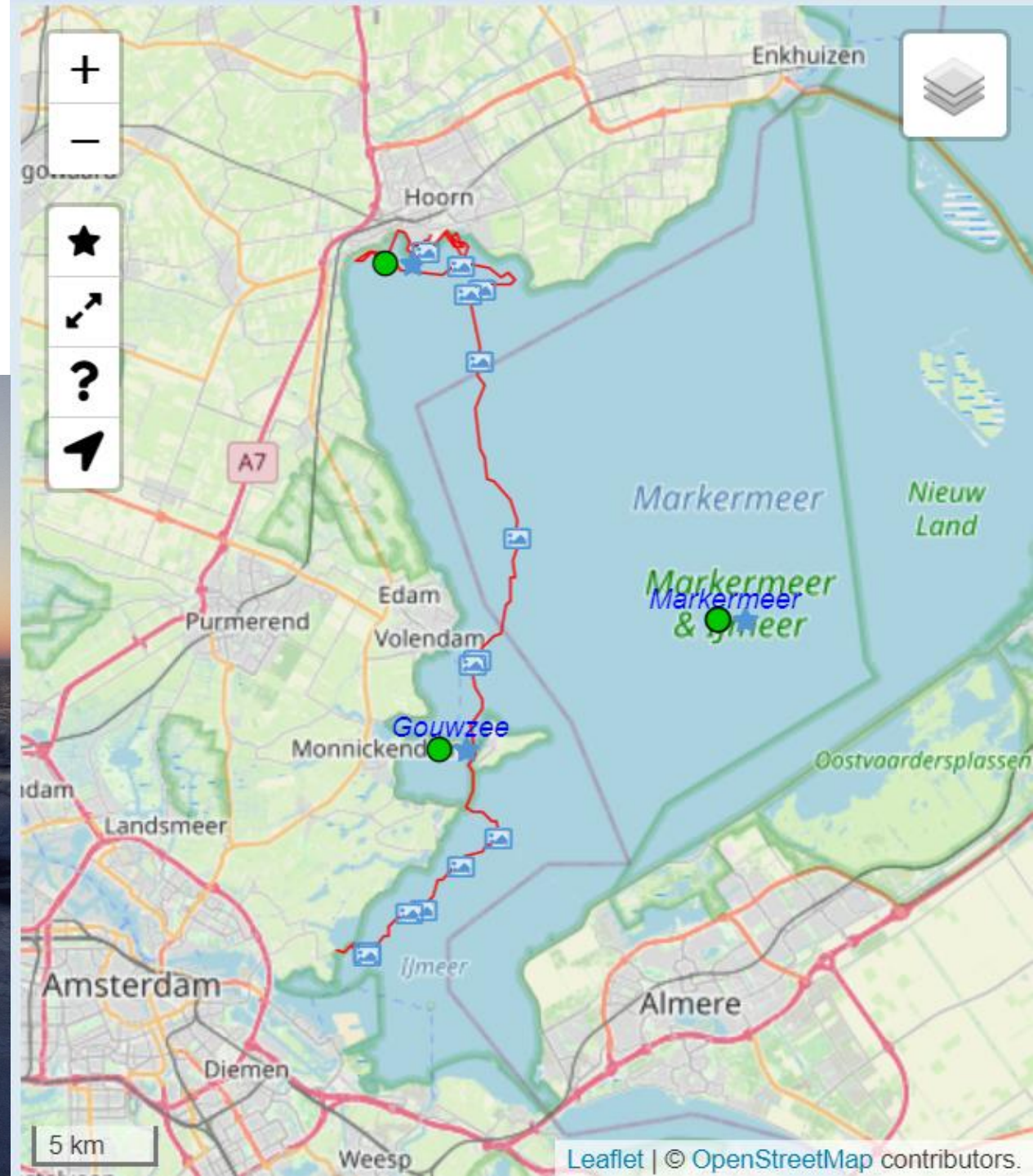
Open edge along Flevoland  
Have seen it move here more often (1985, 1986, 2012)

**Plan: to do west side from south to north on February 13th**



# And yes it worked!

First time for me to plan with help of Sentinel2 in Holland. We had all types of ice: vrakis, skravelis, tallriksis, snöis, kärnis.













**Trying to estimate how wide the vrakisbälte is**





**We had to  
cross it  
anyway**

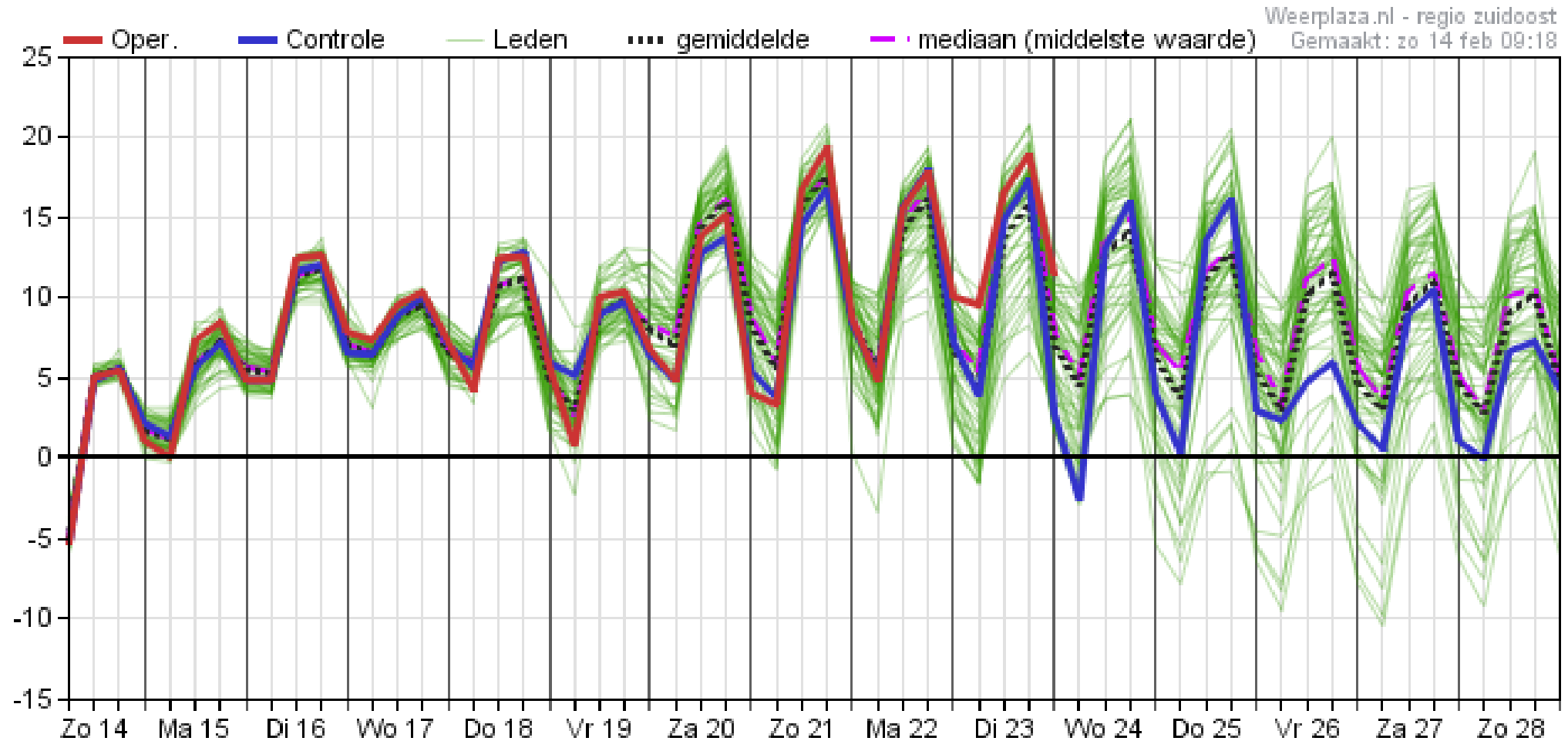


**And we made  
it to Hoorn in  
the north!**





# And then the forecast turned bad, worse, worst



European model 50 scenario's forecast of February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## When it starts thawing in The Netherlands:

- the bad news is that ice degenerates fast. Much faster than in Sweden, due to more rain, more wind, higher temperatures and (on average) thinner ice when it starts thawing;
- the good news is that all Dutch skaters leave the ice immediately when it is +1. It is what everyone learns when you are young. It gives HLSK space to skate some more days without thousands of people on the ice;
- the frost seldom returns for a second period. At least, that has not been the case in 'skating' winters this century: 2003, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2017, 2021.
- Only in 2010 we had two periods of frost, one in January and one in February.



Veluwemeer on wet ice, Monday February 15<sup>th</sup>





**The last tour done by  
Marc and Rob at  
Wednesday,  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Goodbye ice! How  
long will we have to  
wait?**

The invitation to LLK still stands!



**In winter 2008/2009,  
a delegation of LLK  
visited Holland to  
skate on lakes and  
canals.**

**It is one of the ways  
HLSK used to thank  
LLK for all the help  
and support to go  
skating in Sweden.**

**LLK and HLSK are  
official systerklubbar  
since then.**



# 🚩 Skating weekend in Holland for LLK-members, permanent invitation

Klubbtur

Torsdag 2022-03-31 08:00

**Samlingsplats:** To be defined (most likely Schiphol airport)

Utlyst av [Gert-Jan Vroege](#)

**The invitation  
still stands!**

Dear members of the LLK,

**We congratulate you with the 35th anniversary of the LLK.** You are almost 4 times older than we are...

Without the help of the LLK the HLSK would probably never have existed.

As anniversary gift we would like to offer you an invitation to come to Holland for a skating weekend organised by the HLSK. There is only one small problem: we do not have any idea when a skating weekend will be possible. The climate change is not helping....

But we are sure there will be an opportunity the coming winters to show you how wonderful skating in the Netherlands is, and how different the skating culture is.

We hope the possibility to skate in the Netherlands will come soon. We are (quite) confident it will happen before the 40th anniversary of the LLK, but...

Thanks for all your help over the past 9 years!

HLSK board



**HLSK is ready for it**

If corona is over and there is ice  
next winter, we will take LLK  
again on Dutch ice!

Thanks everyone for your attention!

Mats Persson enjoys a Dutch fika

