

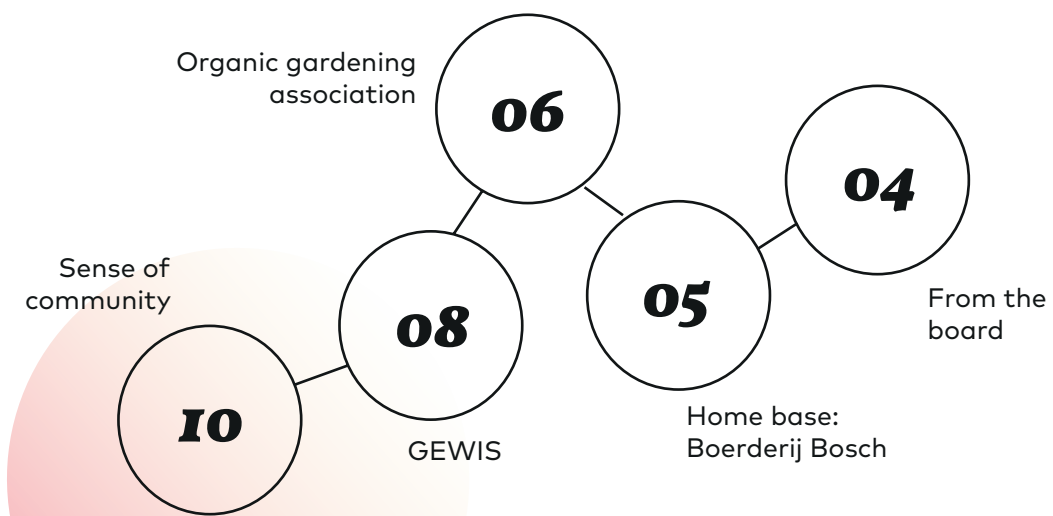
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This special issue is a publication by U-Today

UT-Kring

a sense of community in corona time





Colophon

This magazine is a special edition by U-Today, an independent journalistic medium at the University of Twente. It was made in close collaboration with the UT-Kring, the staff association of the UT.

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PREFACE



A sense of community

Now that we are all forced to work from home for most of the time, we look at our work from a different perspective. We notice how our job also constitutes a substantial part of our daily lives. When life was still 'a little bit more normal', undoubtedly, there were many days when we saw our colleagues more than we did our partners and children.

This connection with our work goes much further than merely wanting to do a good job. We feel connected to the broader mission of the university, and each make a contribution from our own, specific positions. Moreover, we also feel connected with each other. When I go outside and come across a colleague who also wears a facemask with the UT logo, this immediately creates a sense of community, even if we do not even know each other's name.

This sense of community is of utmost importance to the university, especially for a university that aims to connect the various technological and social scientific disciplines with one another. Ever since its foundation, the staff association, the UT-Kring, has made a valuable contribution to this sense of community. This special edition provides a wonderful look into the versatility of the association. Social, cultural, and sports activities present ideal opportunities to get to know colleagues who we might otherwise not normally encounter in our daily work, cutting across all of the different services and faculties. In addition, we also greatly appreciate the way in which the UT-Kring continues to involve the university's former employees. We want to thank the UT-Kring for their commitment to the UT community, and look forward to many more years of involvement.

Mirjam Bult,
Vice Chair of the Executive Board,
the University of Twente



FROM THE BOARD

Club solidarity in the time of corona

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Who doesn't long to go back to 'normal' again and just hang out together with the other members of the UT-Kring? Unfortunately, in this pandemic, normal has become abnormal (and vice versa). Nevertheless, in this magazine, we endeavour to give face to solidarity.

Since its foundation on 18 March 1964, the UT-Kring has stood for solidarity, relaxation, and diversity. Normally, we express this via the communal activities organised by the staff association: the general events organised by the UT-Kring as well as the many activities of its sub-associations. Unfortunately, 2020 was not a good year for people who enjoy being active in associations or those otherwise involved in social activities. Because of corona, the solidarity that so characterises the UT-Kring, gained a different meaning: In these extraordinary times, solidarity meant precisely that we could not get together for a while.

This magazine was borne out of a desire to express that feeling of solidarity and to offer you, as valued members of the UT-Kring, some relaxation. It is a celebration of the versatility of the UT-Kring; an ongoing homage to all the different people who have come together under our umbrella to pursue the activities they so enjoy doing. Whether this be sports, culture, technology, or something completely different - at the UT-Kring, there is something for everyone.

Naturally, we are eagerly looking towards the future, to the moment when all UT-Kring members will once again be able to get together safely again. There are plenty of inspiring ideas for the coming year. We are keen to plan ahead and to be the social and versatile outlet for UT employees that we have always been, just as soon as we are able to again. We hope that in 2021, we will meet again in person. Until that moment, we will cherish the online contact and solidarity at a distance. Because that, too, is a feeling of club solidarity - solidarity in the time of corona.

The board of the UT-Kring,

Dirk de Groot, chair
Hannie Rensink, secretary
Anita van Dijk, treasurer
Maarten Fokkinga, GEWIS representative
Trudie Hondelink-Verbeek, manager at Boerderij Bosch

Text: Bert Groenman and Marieke Enter
Photo: UT archive

HOME BASE:

Boerderij Bosch



Next to the Ludica tennis court, Boerderij Bosch is the much-appreciated meeting point of the UT-Kring. The farm is surrounded by several bungalows and De Stal - a venue that can be rented for parties and celebrations and, like the farm, is also part of the staff association. It is managed by Trudie Hondelink.

In the afternoon, from Monday to Thursday, the former living room of the farmhouse, which dates back to 1903, is buzzing with students and staff members who want to purchase a discount ticket for the cinema or sauna ('I sell up to one thousand a month') or make a reservation to rent the location for a party. Perhaps they are just there to share the latest news with Trudie Hondelink, the manager of the former farm on the Campuslaan. Trudie is the embodiment of friendliness, decisive if necessary and, above all, hospitable and social. 'The people who come here know that. I listen to their stories, and I remember what they have told me. Sometimes, if necessary, I give them advice. I know many of them personally, and they know me, so that works out nicely.'

Home base

Around the turn of the century, Boerderij Bosch (vacant at that time) was given its current role as a hospitality venue, giving the UT-Kring its very own home base, managed by Trudie. The UT-Kring, for which she

also organises all kinds of other events, in addition to her catering work, is very lucky to have her. Actually, Trudie feels the same way: Only a fool would let 45 years of experience in hospitality and the UT go to waste. 'I may just be the most constant factor, with the most experience - the soul of the place, so to say. This is the best job in the whole of the UT. I have many contacts, and I know a lot of people. Who gets to experience that? I consider myself as the connecting link between old and new. Between the current generations and those employees who have been working here for decades - often even as far back as the seventies and the eighties.'

Trudie has organised numerous activities for the UT-Kring, such as visits to musicals, a day of winter sports, jeu de boules, the Sint Nicholas celebration, and the Christmas market in Berlin. Flower arranging is also part of the package. In addition, she always joins in with the annual excursions - that is an absolute given: 'Fifty of us in a double-decker bus, that's just great, isn't it?' ●

Juliana medal

Because of her special services to the UT, on October 15, Trudie received the Juliana medal. The award came into being in 2000 and is intended as a tribute to people of extraordinary merit to the University of Twente. Anyone who occasionally joins the UT-Kring activities or visits Boerderij Bosch would agree that Trudie, with her boundless friendliness, is an excellent candidate to receive such a medal of honour.

'Trudie is of unlimited value to the UT-Kring. But actually, this is true for the entire UT', says Dirk de Groot, UT-Kring chairman.

The Juliana medal was named after former queen Juliana, who performed the official opening of the University of Twente. The medal is only awarded infrequently and then only based on the decision of the Executive Board.



*'In the garden
you learn not
everything
everything always
comes your way'*

Green brings people together

.....

Imagine you have been watching your beetroot plants for weeks full of expectation, but when the time comes to harvest them, you discover only stumps remain—the rest having been eaten by mice. Or the snails decide to use precisely your lettuce for their feeding frenzy. 'In the vegetable garden, you learn that not everything always comes your way,' Hellen van de Water laughs. 'But that also has its charm.'

Hellen gardens at the Biologische Tuinvereniging Drienerlo (BTD, the organic gardening association Drienerlo). It has a total of 141 gardens on campus, which are tended by a wide variety of people, from pensioners, to staff and students. Just like the crops they grow, the BTD gardeners come from all over the world - many international members grow vegetables and herbs they know from home, at least as far as the Dutch climate will allow. 'With us, you'll find plants that the average Dutch vegetable gardener has never heard of,' says Hellen. 'That is one of the things that makes gardening at the BTD so much fun. Our members are all ages and come from diverse backgrounds, but we always have something to talk about - with hands and feet if necessary, if there is a language barrier. The garden brings us together.'

Annual load of manure

The congenial atmosphere of the gardens has not gone unnoticed. Almost every season, more people express an interest in joining the BTD than they have gardens

available. A garden mentor introduces new members to vegetable gardening and the guidelines of the BTD. For example, each member has to help out on the annual 'manure day' when, at the start of the new season, a load of garden manure is delivered that has to be distributed. 'Everyone hates this job, but it just has to be done - no growth without manure. That's why we always make an enjoyable day of it. At the end of the day, we all eat pancakes together', says Hellen. In addition, every member is expected to join in on one of the working mornings dedicated to the maintenance of the gardens, for example paths and other communal sections. Due to corona, this has been a little difficult this year. 'As a result, things are a little more untidy than usual.'

Putting the 'O' in organic

Of course, everyone primarily works on his or her own garden, and pretty much has carte blanche to grow whatever they want, however they want. That is, as long as it is organic of course, because the BTD takes its organic roots very seriously.

Pesticides and artificial fertiliser are not allowed through the gates. Instead, BTD members allow natural processes to run their course, and their crops flourish as a result. 'There is space for all kinds of cultivation methods. For example, some members do not grow their crops in neatly separated rows, but in permacultures in which everything grows amongst everything else. The idea is that this helps against pests and prevents the soil from drying out. Their harvests are amazing every time, so...'

A nice little ecosystem

According to Hellen, some members really weave magic in their gardens. We ask whether this is also true for her? 'Vegetable gardening is synonymous with learning how to deal with disappointments', she says, laughing. 'For me, garden successes and failures alternate steadily. For example, I have been wanting to grow some nice red cabbages for a long time now, but so far without success. Whilst the other crops are actually doing much better than expected. For example, I am still enjoying the riches of the single gherkin plant I grew last year and this year's carrot harvest has been better than ever.'

For Hellen, this element of unpredictability is precisely what is so enjoyable about gardening at the BTD. 'In the vegetable garden, you learn that not everything always comes your way; it is nature that decides. I love that. Here at the BTD, we garden with respect for nature and for each other. In this way we form a very nice little ecosystem.' ●

'The UT is still our UT'

GEWIS is the sub-association of the UT-Kring for pensioners. Anyone who is quickly reminded of your average game of bingo for the elderly does well to think again, because the UT-roots of its members cannot be denied. 'Infantile activities definitely have no place here.'



GEWIS stands for Goed En Wel In Samenzijn, which translates as 'Being Good and Well in Unity'. The association was founded in 1977 in order to give retired colleagues from the (at the time) fledgeling university the opportunity to stay connected to 'their' UT. That bond with the UT - which is still their UT - and their bond with one another remain very strong amongst the approximately 365 GEWIS members, says chairman Cees van Vilsteren. 'At other universities, such a strong connection can only be felt at the faculty level, whereas at the UT, it stretches across the whole of the university. Disciplinary boundaries, ranks, and positions do not play a role; all members are equal and know each other well. The same is true of their partners, because GEWIS is explicitly also intended for the pensioners' partners.'

Hungry for knowledge

Usually, GEWIS has one of the busiest activity calendars of all of the UT-Kring's sub-associations. Once every two weeks there is a hiking day, and every week, there are opportunities to swim and play sports together on the campus. In addition, once every two to three weeks, GEWIS organises an activity that feeds the hunger for knowledge that is still felt by many of the retired UT employees. Van Vilsteren: 'Our members have a broad interest and are keen to learn new things and gain new experiences.' According to him, there is absolutely no shortage of ideas. 'Sometimes we have a lecture on butterflies, whilst other times, we delve into the subject of robotics.'

Spoiling the fun

Unfortunately, GEWIS members have now been missing out on these activities for a long time. Of course, coronavirus is the culprit. 'Because of their age, our members are amongst the most vulnerable groups

and we do not want to risk anyone getting infected via us,' explains the chairman. When the weather conditions were not so wintery yet, the outside air offered a good alternative: The general assembly of members took place at the open-air theatre. Van Vilsteren: 'And that very same place, the gentlemen who produce the UT beer told us more about their brew and showed us a beautiful beer fountain.' However, sadly, it has now really become too chilly. Therefore, the members of GEWIS also resort to online activities. 'Most of our members are quite digitally savvy. And for those who are not able to figure out Microsoft Teams by themselves, we offer assistance,' says Van Vilsteren.

Looking after each other

Whilst (online) contact is better than having no contact at all, GEWIS will be only too happy when the approximately sixty out of eighty meetings on their annual calendar no longer have to make way for the coronavirus. GEWIS has an important social function. 'If you want it to be, GEWIS can be a club of friends for you', it says on the website - and according to the chairman, this is not a hollow promise. 'All of GEWIS's members have reached a respectable age. Everyone is getting older, more vulnerable, and increasingly encounters illness and loss. Also, in this sense, GEWIS members can mean a lot to each other. This is a very natural process; when we are together, we are able to pick up the signals. We always take the conscious decision to take a nice long break during our meetings at Boerderij Bosch, so that people have ample opportunity to talk to each other. This explains why it are not only the more "substantial" activities that are being missed, such as the Christmas dinner and the bus trip, but precisely also our "ordinary" gatherings. The GEWIS members are simply so important to each other.' ●



Musical Soldaat van Oranje (2017)



Sporty afternoon 2018

Sense of community

..... From a sporty afternoon to musical visits, bag making workshops, flower arranging worksops and visit to the shipyard Meyerwerft, Berentzen Apfelkorn and the annual Saint Nicholas celebration. The UT-Kring organizes something for everyone. All these social, cultural and sports activities contribute to some connection, a sense of community that is of unprecedented importance to a university.



Visit Berentzen Apfelkorn





Sporty afternoon 2018



Christmas flower arranging 2018



Visits to the shipyard Meyerwerft 2017



Libelle zomerweek 2019



Barbeque workshop 2016



Sporty afternoon 2018



Ibiza workshop 2019





De Botte Hommel beekeepers' association

Busy Bees

..... Do they number in the hundred thousands or between five and ten? That depends on who you are counting: the residents of the beehives on campus, or the people who look after them. Welcome to the De Botte Hommel beekeepers' association.

Text: Marieke Enter Photo: Unsplash

Keeping bees is such good fun', says Nico van Diepen, a retired teacher at the department of computer science and subject teacher at the teachers' education programme. Nico has been involved with the beekeeping department of UT-Kring for years. 'The beautiful thing about bee colonies is that they function as a single organism. A honeybee will never choose itself over others but rather, will always act in the interests of the collective. They can collaborate extremely well, for example, to collect as much nectar as possible. Indeed, they tell each other where the best sources are, whether that be the flower meadows or the trees in blossom.'

Taking good care

The bees turn the nectar into honey, the sticky but exceptionally tasty golden liquid that most beekeepers seek. Nico: 'Just like dairy cows produce more milk than their calves need, honey bees produce more honey than they need to survive the winter. Thanks to this excess, we humans can also eat their honey. Of course, as a beekeeper, you must not take too much honey and in autumn you must supplement your bee colonies, for example with sugar water.'

For the enthusiasts

The bee shed close to the 'new' BTD gardens (see page 6) is currently home to around ten bee colonies and the same number of hives. According to Nico they don't need many more: 'Whilst honey bees are certainly useful for pollination, they do represent competition for wild bees -and those are having a hard time right now. Therefore, we do not want to increase the honey bee-pressure too much on campus.' The beekeepers from UT-Kring do not move their bee colonies around, for example to orchards and rapeseed fields. 'That is more something for large-scale beekeepers. We are definitely keeping bees on the level of enthusiasts,' Nico explains.

The 'mean' queen

Like all good enthusiasts, the members of De Botte Hommel have gained quite a

bit of knowledge about 'their' honey bees. For example, what to do when a colony gets ill, when they swarm, or become too aggressive. (In an answer to that last question: 'This often means the queen is ill-tempered and there is no other solution than to remove the old queen and bring in a new one'). All members of De Botte Hommel have attended a beekeeping course, most of them at the Enschede Bee Association, which is quite a bit bigger than De Botte Hommel. 'We are not large enough ourselves to provide that kind of course. Our association is just a small club of people numbering between five and ten. Most of us are UT colleagues, but we also have some student members who 'swarm off' again after a few years. This means not only fully trained beekeepers can become members of De Botte Hommel. Employees and students who want to explore beekeeping are also welcome in the bee shed. 'We are all nature lovers and we very much like to introduce anyone who is interested to the world of bees.'

Buzzing with activity

The home of the beekeeping association has a special history, albeit one with a rather sad beginning. In the early 2000s, the original bee shed was set on fire and burnt to ashes. Afterwards, De Botte Hommel was given temporary new accommodation at the back of the campus. Not exactly an ideal location, not least because at the time, it was pretty much a building site. However, the group was kept waiting for a new home. 'Right until the point the builders thought they could beat their wellies against the side of the bee shed to clean them - they shouldn't have done that,' Nico remembers, snickering. After that incident, it did not take long before the 'trouble makers' were given a new location. De Botte Hommel is still located there: close to the 'new' BTD garden, behind the Blokhut. At the moment, the bees are deep into their resting winter phase, but this spring, will be buzzing with activity again. You are very welcome to come and have a look. ●

'Get in and don't worry about a thing'

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From Winterberg to Porto, from Kopenhagen to the summer week of the Dutch women's magazine Libelle in Almere - UT-Kring excels at organising surprising little trips, both in the Netherlands and abroad. Join us on an excursion. In juni 2019 we visited we are visiting the Delta Works in the Province of Zeeland and the House of Representatives in The Hague.



The travel group, comprising around thirty people in total, gather together at 6 o'clock in the morning at the Spiegel, where a bus is waiting. Driver Ismail Capartas welcomes everyone via the intercom. He is a well-known figure to UT-Kring, as he has been driving for the staff association for about five years.

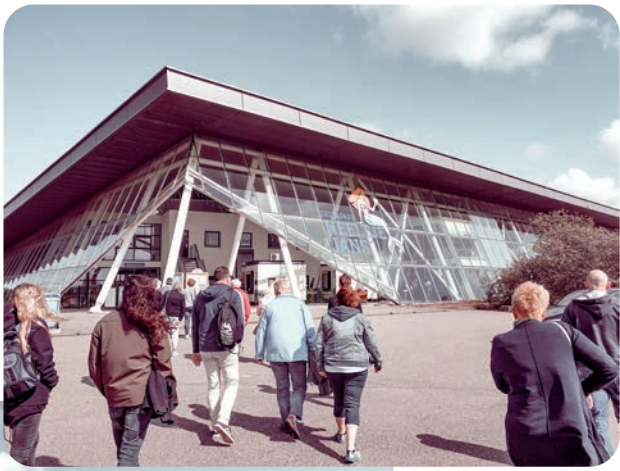
Capartas' alarm clock went off early: 'I had to arrange the packed breakfasts that are placed on everyone's seat. You could call me both driver and travel guide. A two-day trip like this involves quite a lot. It requires creativity, but I like a challenge. The higher the pressure, the better I perform. For example, one time the UT-Kring went to visit London. I had to manoeuvre the bus onto the channel tunnel train. It was a matter of centimetres. I love journeys like that.'

After a journey with very few obstacles, we park at the visitors' centre of the Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier, which forms part

of the Dutch Delta Works. This piece of engineering is a source of great pride for the Dutch, as is demonstrated in the film that the group is shown by means of introduction. One of the travellers, Adrie Neutink-Bosch (previously working in catering, now retired), is impressed. 'Now you know why it was built. I have always wanted to visit the Delta Works, especially because my father helped build them. I don't know what he did exactly. I think it had something to do with steel construction. It was a long time ago. I only know he was away from home for the whole week.'

Cold shivers

Everyone agrees with Adrie that the Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier is a very imposing construction indeed. The group ascend the concrete giant via narrow, iron stairs. The water rushes into the Eastern Scheldt river via the sluices at high speed. The cold wind from the ocean and the shadow of the concrete pillars give the travellers cold shivers.



Text: **Jelle Posthuma and Rense Kuipers**
 Photo: **U-Today**



University lecturer Jamy Li, who is only wearing shorts and a t-shirt, is especially cold. The ladies from the UT-Kring cannot bear to watch him suffer. They quickly supply the young Canadian researcher with a scarf, who then also decides to put on a pair of rain trousers - an unusual sight, but at least he isn't cold anymore.

Retirement

Jamy Li is in his thirties and is the exception to the rule as most of the group are well passed their fifties. Seniors' club GEWIS is well represented. During the boat trip along the Eastern Scheldt, a married couple, the Hukkers, from GEWIS are clearly enjoying the beautiful weather. 'I retired in January,' Kees Hukker explains. 'I didn't think it was actually necessary. I would have quite liked to work on. Both physically and mentally, everything is still in good working order. I worked at the UT as a salary administer. I worked at the same department for thirty-three years. Indeed, thirty-three years under the same boss. I am very much enjoying this trip.

When I was still working, I never came along with the UT-Kring. I found working more important. Now there is time to do so.'

'I hereby declare the States General open'

After spending the night at Oostkapelle, the journey continues in the direction of the court capital, followed by a guided tour past the *Binnenhof* and *Ridderzaal*. How do all those thousands of people fit into the hall on *Prinsjesdag*, the annual budget day, the group wonders? It seems a lot smaller than on TV. 'I suppose it will get quite warm in here as well,' someone in the group remarks. The guide nods. 'That is also why you sometimes see the politicians doze off during the King's speech.

The next destination is the *Eerste Kamer*, which the majority of the group access via the stairs. However, a few take the elevator and do not end up on the public tribune, instead finding themselves amidst 75 green seats. Trudie Hondelink takes advantage of the opportuni-



ty and chants to the group: 'I hereby declare the States General open!'

After the **Eerste Kamer**, it's onwards to the **Tweede Kamer**. 'Did you know that minister Ank Bijleveld studied at the University of Twente?', Trudie Hondelink says to the guide. 'We actually asked our former president of the board, Anne Flierman, to show us around, but unfortunately he couldn't make it today.'

Nothing to worry about

After a few hours of free time in The Hague, the journey back east takes a little more patience than the outbound trip. Sometimes this means driving almost at walking speed on the overburdened Dutch road network. Again, everybody takes good care of one another. Remco Veenstra, Business Controller at the UT, walks up and down offering coffee and tea. He took along his sixteen-

year-old son Mart. 'Mart came along, because next week I am taking my other son to a soccer game in Sweden. He just took his exams, so he is already free from school.'

A closing diner buffet, held at Negentien23, a restaurant in Hengelo, awaits. Looking back, Jolinde Gosseling (Culture & Events) concludes: 'I could get used to this! You get on a bus and you don't have to worry about anything anymore. Indeed, this is true of all the excursions organised by UT-Kring. I thought this trip would be quite nice, and I had never visited either the Delta Works or the Inner Court before, so the choice to take two days off was easy to make. What could be improved? Perhaps to enable the younger employees to find their way to the activities into this association as well, because the attraction is certainly broad enough.'

This story has been published previously by U-Today. •



The master within

Text: **Marieke Enter**
Photo: **Shutterstock**

Stand and turn your face towards the sun. Take a deep breath and feel how your lungs fill with air. Make a calm gesture with your arms, as if scooping up the sunlight, drawing it towards yourself. Breathe out. Bring your arms to the side, as if they are floating on water, imagine your fingertips exploring the space around you. Continue to breathe calmly. Now, slowly, bring your arms in front of your body. Cross your arms, turn the palms of your hands towards the earth. Imagine a thread connects the top of your head to the sky, allowing your head to balance, almost weightless, in the cradle of your uppermost vertebrae - the atlas. Breathe deeply in once more and open your senses. Do you feel how the skin on the palms of your hands gently tingles?

It feels good, doesn't it - to move calmly and full of attention? It is hugely beneficial, both to your body, and to your mind. The Taiji & QiGong group of UT-Kring teaches you the intricacies of this Eastern relaxation technique and the group still has space for new members! Jan Freerk Popma knows more, so be sure to send him a message later. But not right now. Right now, you are focussing on your breathing. Allow your thoughts to wonder. Feel whatever it is you are feeling. Right now, you don't have to do anything. ●



TENNIS CLUB

‘Juggling to get everyone its turn’

.....

The core activities of the UT-Kring tennis club are to give tennis lessons and to organise tournaments. Occasionally, they also hold a clinic. Very recently, one such clinic was organised in celebration of the club’s thirtieth anniversary, with the explicit aim to recruit new members.

Text: U-Today
Photo: UT archive

Currently, the club has just twenty-six members, so some new members are definitely welcome. ‘The number has slowly declined in recent years, and there has been little influx of new members. Some of our members have to stop because the sport becomes to physically challenging for them or because they have other activities that are impossible to combine’, says Michel ten Bulte, chair of the UT-Kring tennis club.

Training

Every Monday evening, the tennis club trains in two groups from six until eight o’clock. The Sports Centre provides the tennis lessons, given by sports teacher Frank Eulderink.

The level varies, from beginners to the more advanced. According to club secretary Herman Koppelman, some members can certainly “hit a nice ball.”

In addition, the club organises three annual tournaments. In spring and autumn, and an indoor tournament. ‘Those are always very sociable’, enthuses Koppelman.

However, this year the corona virus prevented the tournaments from happening. ‘Since March, there have been restrictions on classes and initially, the students were given priority. However, after careful deliberation, there turned out to be a little more possibilities and we started offering lessons again.’

The secretary notes that the attendance during the lessons is higher than usual. ‘Because of the coronary measures, not everyone can be on the course at the same time. Therefore, sometimes some juggling is needed to allow everybody to get their turn.’

The lessons are outdoors. Even when it is cold, attendance is high. ‘Everyone is happy to be able to play again. During the lockdown you are inside a lot, and then it’s nice to be able to hit a ball outside. People also hang around for a bit longer afterwards. They are looking for a chat - a social aspect that is definitely an important part of it.’ ●



PLAYING FOOTBALL AT UT-KRING

Text: Jelle Posthuma

'The highlight of the week'

The UT staff association has had its own football club since 1967. After more than fifty years, the ball is still rolling. 'During a game of football, you really get to know people.'

Around five o'clock every Monday afternoon, the heart of many UT staff starts to beat a little faster. They are allowed to go again. In the changing room of the Sports Centre, eyes are fitted with contact lenses and ankles are taped. Muscles are startled by a quick warm-up. Sliding shoes squeak across the hard floors of the sports hall. Who is teamed with whom? From a battered bag, a few, slightly smelly vests appear that are intended to keep the two opposing forces apart. One last high-five, and the game is on.

'This is the highlight of the week', says Michel Ehrenhard, captain of the Futsal Group. He says it with a smile, but as he says himself, he is dead serious. The formula for this weekly highlight is quite simple. For at least one hour, two teams, each with five footballers and their substitutes, play against each other. The rules of indoor football apply, but there is no need for a referee. According to the captain, there are never any problems. 'I especially like the way you really get to know people. One is absolutely fanatical, whilst the other might be more laid back. On the

football field, that becomes apparent way more quickly than in a work environment.' What about the level? That is 'very high', Ehrenhard says, smiling. 'In all seriousness: There is a basic level, but it is very diverse.' In his opinion, it is precisely that element of diversity that characterises the team. 'We have a bit of everything: Dutch, German, Italian, Indian, Iranian, Columbian - I'm sure I'm forgetting a few countries. There are PhD candidates amongst our members, but also professors. We also have a nice mix of members from different faculties. This mix has already resulted in a few excellent collaborations beyond the football field. And, equally important: In our team, men and women play together. Overall, the ladies are better than the men', he adds.

This season is not one to remember. Most football get-togethers were cancelled due to the corona crisis. According to the captain, this really left a big gap. 'There are no real alternatives. Therefore, we hope we will soon be able to play again. For most of us, playing football every Monday evening is a welcome healthy outlet ! ●

Ús Abe

Perhaps he was even more well-known than Johan Crujff and to this day, the football stadium in Heerenveen continues to bear his name. Of course, we are talking about Abe Lenstra, ús Abe ('our Abe') for the Frisians. Few people know that he used to train the football team of the staff association. Towards the end of the 1960s, Abe Lenstra came to the campus as a coach. There is one anecdote about Abe's unique character that we cannot leave out here. There were some training sessions that lasted only five minutes. When the former international considered the level to be insufficient, he refused to continue the training. The board therefore decided to give the coach a stopwatch. The question comes to mind: Would the current team make it past Abe's five minutes? We will never know.

‘Every water has its own unique fish stock’

..... The members of CarperDiem have been casting their fishing lines from the banks of the campus ponds for fifty years. There are always plenty of jealous faces from ‘outsiders’, as only members of CarperDiem are allowed to fish on campus. It never gets boring, says chairman Harro Mengers. ‘This place always has a surprise in store for you.’



With approximately fifty members, CarperDiem is a small and close-knit sub-association of the UT-Kring. Chairman Harro Mengers wholeheartedly sings its praises: 'I am a carp angler myself and I know that things can actually get quite competitive. The great thing about CarperDiem is that the atmosphere is totally different here. We often have a chat along the water's edge and more than anything, we wish each other a good catch.'

Surprises on the campus

The dozens of ponds on the campus are the main source of many a great catch for the members. Those lucky enough to fish there feel like children in a sweet shop. 'Every water has its own unique fish stock', Mengers explains. 'The beauty of the ponds on the campus is that there are always a few surprises. That can be a special spot amongst the blossoming rhododendrons that you hadn't discovered before, or a special species of fish that you wouldn't expect to find in that pond. A while ago I spotted a white koi carp whilst taking a stroll, in a pond near the Cubicus. I had never seen one there before. Yes, then you do immediately start itching to cast your fishing line.' Mengers rediscovered his love for angling whilst attending the UT to study chemistry. 'When I was young, I used to fish all the time. I was a finalist of the Shell Bachelor Master Award and received some prize money, which I used to go fishing for marlin for a week. Unfortunately, I didn't catch a fish on my hook for the entire week, so in the end I didn't get to battle a two hundred kilo fish.' Despite the lack of marlin, this did reignite his love for fishing. Once he had started his PhD studies, he soon became a member of CarperDiem. 'Being a PhD student is quite stressful and I was looking for a hobby. So, I ended up at the fishing club, with just a float and a piece of corn. Now I have a complete set of equipment, including a bait boat. As every angler knows: It is very easy to lose yourself in this hobby - in a good way, of course.'

A fisherman's tale...

There is no shortage of activities at the angling club. Members are free to organise their own activities and are supported in their efforts by the board. Every year, the board itself organises four activities, varying from night fishing on the campus and trout fishing at a nursery, to the general assembly of members, including a drink and the necessary fisherman's tales.

Mengers knows only too well that they also have to be careful with those fisherman's tales. The fact that the campus ponds

are the private property of the UT and only the members of CarperDiem are allowed to cast their rods there, is a source of jealousy and envy to the outside world. 'Especially amongst carp anglers, there are some stories circulating about the supposedly mythical fish that are swimming here, but that is absolute nonsense. Whilst we definitely have a good fish stock, it most certainly does not take on any mythical proportions. Yet I still regularly get angry e-mails from people who insist on wanting to fish here. However, with us the rule remains that only people who can become members of the UT-Kring are allowed to fish on the campus. Once you are a member, you stay a member.'

Relaxation and excitement

Mengers is especially happy with the co-operation at the UT. 'We enjoy very close contact with the UT-Kring - both for communication and member recruitment. Together with the on-site contract manager, André de Brouwer, we maintain the ponds and the fish stocks. The security department helps us to send away people that come to fish here illegally. I actually don't know whether that is even part of their job description, but they do it anyway.'

Whilst we definitely have a good fish stock, it most certainly does not take on mythical proportions

The name of the association is a nod to the well-known expression *carpe diem*, 'seize the day'. According to the chairman, this motto suits the members well. 'They definitely live life to the fullest. That is also the beauty of this hobby. You do not rush past anything. Rather, you sit quietly in the same spot whilst enjoying your surroundings. At the same time, you constantly keep an eye on your float or bite alarm. It is the ultimate form of relaxation, whilst at the same time, you constantly feel that sense of excitement. At any moment, that heavenly peace can turn into action, once you have a fish. Having the campus as a backdrop makes this hobby all the more special.' ●

A close-knit group of friends

Text: Rik Visschedijk

The members of the jeu de boules club Drienerlo number fourteen in total and almost all are in their eighties. The club consists of close friends who share both the good and the bad. 'We practically don't have room for any new members,' says chairman, Cor Roordink. 'And actually, we like it that way, because we are such a close-knit group.'

Gerrit Kornegoor is one of the club's founders, which first came into being in 1993. 'At that time, on average, we were all in our fifties', he says. 'We were born out of the football club, but were looking for a calmer sport, suitable both for members of age and their partners. So that became jeu de boules. Actually, none of us are, or indeed were very competitive. We are in it for the fun and good company.'

'Tackling things together'

The association is all a bit make-do. In 1993, it started off with four courts. When the tennis club got new gravel, the members levelled the courts and collected the old gravel. 'That really captures well our enthusiasm and motivation,' says Roordink. 'We like tackling things together. You see this reflected in the turnout, because on Tuesday afternoons, there are always enough people to play.'

The same is true of the clubhouse. The jeu de boules club started off in one of the gardeners' spare greenhouses. 'We could pick the grapes just like that,' says Kornegoor. 'In that greenhouse we could take shelter from the rain. But we couldn't do so comfortably in a circle; we were basically sitting on top of each other.' After a few wanderings, the club finally set up base in one of the log

cabins. 'But it's actually a bit too small', the two of them agree. 'We would quite like to find something else.'

Social contact and conviviality

Whilst the association is all about social contact and conviviality, it also has a competitive element. Every year, the club championships are held. 'Everyone here takes losing very well,' says Roordink. 'But in the end, everyone is in it to win it.' The unavoidable physical impairments that come with the age do not manage to hold the players back. 'Many of our members have a rope with a magnet. This allows you to pick up the metal ball without bending over. Absolutely ideal.'

The fact that they have so few members does not really bother the members of the jeu de boules club. 'We just have little space and only four courts. If you want to have a nice game, four people per court is the absolute maximum,' says Kornegoor. 'Our youngest player is in his 70s, the oldest is 94 - so, you could say the club is slowly dying out. That's ok too. We've known each other through thick and thin, and we have shared beautiful moments as well as sad ones. It is a good thing to keep this club together for as long as possible.' ●



Organisation of activities on new footing

.....

Would you like to organise a fun activity for, and on behalf of, the UT-Kring, but are less keen on joining a 'traditional' activity committee? Then read on, because the UT-Kring activity organisation is to put in place a new, flexible set-up.

Due to corona, the activities of the UT-Kring are currently at a low level. However, one day, when the virus situation allows, the staff association hopes to return to organising some 'good old' fun activities for its members again and you can help make it happen!

The board of the UT-Kring feels inclined to abandon the idea of a 'fixed' activities committee. 'All associations notice that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers. For us, the situation is no different. Whilst many colleagues are certainly willing to put in effort for the UT-Kring, their lives are too busy to sit on a 'traditional' activity committee all year round. That got us thinking. For the UT-Kring, it is not strictly necessary that the activities committee consists of a 'permanent team'. It could also work perfectly well to have a pool of people who each organise one or more activities. We are now looking into whether there is enthusiasm for this idea,' chairman Dirk de Groot explains.

From skydiving to flower arranging

So, if, for example, you would like to go indoor skydiving, or would like to hold a karting competition with other petrol heads from the UT-Kring, then you are very welcome to help organise these activities - without also having to help organise the flower arranging or the Saint Nicholas celebration. Or the other way around: Would you like to assist with the flower arranging or the Saint Nicholas celebration, but are you not too keen on karting competitions and skydive sessions? No problem, because as part of the 'new style' activities committee, you only engage with what you enjoy doing. And because you don't have to commit yourself to every activity, the pressure this will put on your time remains manageable. 'With this new flexible set-up, we hope more people will feel motivated to help organise UT-Kring activities', says De Groot. He would love to tell you more about the possibilities, so please don't hesitate to contact him (activiteiten-utkring@utwente.nl).



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