



A WONDROUS CITY

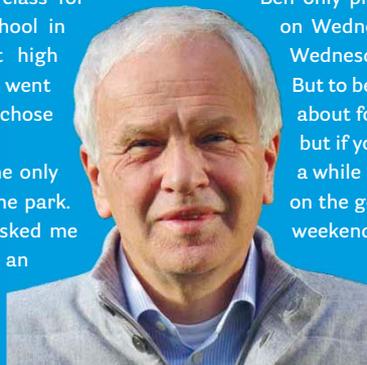
Groningen. The University, but also countless streets, houses, bridges and city squares that harbour memories. Well-known former UG students talk about their special place.

✍ ELLIS ELLENBROEK 📷 ELMER SPAARGAREN
📷 PORTRAIT LENNY OOSTERWIJK

‘I think the level got too high for Ben’

My cousin Ben and I were in the same class for twelve years – six years at primary school in Barger-Compascuum and six years at high school in Emmen. Then in 1969 we both went to Groningen to study. He opted for chemistry, while I chose maths.

I was a serious student and in those days sport was the only outlet. In summer we played football with a group in the park. Later I played for Forward and I said ‘yes’ when Ben asked me to play futsal. The ACLO sports organization launched an internal competition in the early seventies. Ben put forward a team of chemistry students – I was the only non-chemist. There were about seven of us. The teams had the craziest names: Archibald Flopping Doodles, the Yellow Lions. We kept the name ‘Team Feringa’, which Ben had used when he signed us up.



Herman Feringa (66); cousin of Ben Feringa; retired teacher of mathematics at Lyceum De Grundel in Hengelo; studied mathematics from 1969 to 1977 in Groningen (graduating with distinction); special place: the sports centre where he played in the ‘Team Feringa’ futsal team.

Ben only played a few matches. After six months we had to play on Wednesday afternoons instead of Friday evenings. For Ben, Wednesday afternoon was for studies – that was his clear priority. But to be honest, I think the level got too high for him. I’m talking about football, you realize. I don’t want to push myself forward, but if you ask me, I was the better player. I continued to play for a while in two futsal teams. Ben was pretty enthusiastic, always on the go. In Barger-Compas, where he would usually go on the weekend, he also played in a lower league.

Although Ben stopped playing football in Groningen, Team Feringa continued for years. We were promoted to the first division. The players were always changing. People forgot who named the team, but I think the team mates who read this will remember. I’m delighted to see Ben excel in an entirely different ‘first division’ – namely science.