

Cobden Cougars and Ross Royals will play in Forest Hockey League

Sept 24/86

The Forest Hockey League gets set to operate this season with a new president at the helm and a new team on the ice.

Phil Conway of Barry's Bay was selected as president at a league meeting last Monday evening at the Eganville Arena.

"I would volunteer to serve on the executive," Mr. Conway said at the meeting. "It doesn't have to be in the capacity of president."

He stated that he believed a person from Eganville, if possible, should head up the league and, in fact, Dennis Schruder was formally approached to do so but he politely declined citing other commitments.

It was moved by Doug Bishop of Searson's Blazers and seconded by Gary Johnston of the Ross Royals that Mr. Conway be president. A vote was taken and it, the Bay businessman joked, was "regretfully carried!"

Compromising the remainder of the executive is past president Gerry Fulcher, vice-president Ray McGrath, and secretary-treasurer Terry Hamilton.

Mr. Conway said he was looking for the co-operation of team representatives in dealing with issues that arise during the upcoming season which begins with a doubleheader in Eganville on Friday, October 17.

"I think it's a good league and it was run very well last year," said Mr. Conway.

New Team

The EFHL will operate with the same number of teams (eight) as last year, but there will be a change with the Pembroke 76's dropping out and a franchise sponsored by Four Seasons Sports of Eganville coming in.

Norm Zadow represented the

as-yet unnamed team at the meeting and was welcomed aboard by the existing members. Running the squad will be Dan Letters and Lawrence Malcolm and a preliminary players' list shows that many of them are presently playing softball for the Eganville Midget team.

The Four Seasons Sports team will play its home games at the Eganville Arena along with the Blazers, Heideman's Loggers and Team Stafford.

Local fans will, of course, get to see the defending champions Golden Lake Thunderbirds, but the T-Birds plan to play more home games this season out of the Sherwood-Bay Arena in Barry's Bay. (The rationale being most of the players are from the Killaloe area and it's closer, plus the Thunderbirds always draw well up in the Bay.)

Joining the Thunderbirds at Sherwood-Bay is, naturally, the Barry's Bay Merchants while both the Cobden Cougars and Ross Royals play at the Cobden Astrolabe.

The regular season schedule has been cut from 28 to 21 games with each team playing the other on three occasions.

(Dave Woito, Team Stafford's representative, arrived late at the meeting, so there was some question up until his arrival whether or not the team was going to be part of the league. Therefore, an 18-game schedule was approved based on seven teams and it will probably revert to this in the event one team does not make it for the starting bell).

Game nights will remain the same as last year with Eganville hosting games on Wednesday and Friday, Cobden on Monday and Friday and the Bay Wednesday and Friday with

the occasional Sunday afternoon tilt thrown in.

What will change is doubleheader games, which will, for the most part, be eliminated on weekdays. Players found the second contest started and finished too late and created a strain on those who had to travel.

"We will not schedule doubleheaders in Cobden this year," said Mr. Conway, "unless we run into a jam and have to schedule the odd one."

As it stands now, six teams will advance to the playoffs with the first and second place clubs earning a first round bye. The remaining four teams will play a best-of-five quarter-final.

Semi-final rounds are to consist of a best-of-seven set as is the championship series. Playoffs have always been the league's biggest draw.

Team Lists

The next league meeting is this coming Monday evening at the Eganville Arena at which time a 20-player list must be submitted by each team. Changes can be made in the list, but it must be finalized by the third game of the season.

There is a rule alteration of note. To discourage stalling by players as the clock runs down at the end of a period, stop time will now be in effect for the final minute.

In past years, with the first and second frames running as straight time, a team, say with a face-off deep in its own zone, would have little trouble killing off the last 30 seconds or so.

Ten games must be played for a player to be eligible for the playoffs and suspensions handed out in other leagues or tournaments will be honoured by the EFHL. The popular shootout has been retained.



Janet Weller received the degree Master of Science in Crop Science and Plant Ecology at the fall Convocation of the University of Saskatchewan. She is employed as a Research Assistant, Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan.

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Births

ECKFORD—Barry and Laura are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their first child, Nicholas Barry born on November 5, 1986 weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. Proud grandparents are Clarence and Greta Eckford, Ray and Dorothy Snider and great grandmother Mrs. Cassie Sharpe.

Births

McLAUGHLIN: Kent and Bonnie (Nee Tabbert) are pleased to announce the birth of their son Joseph Jay on October 23, 1986, weighing 7 lbs. 4 ozs. Proud grandparents are Ken and Phyllis McLaughlin and Henry and Eleanor Tabbert.