

# Get involved with Acton's minor sports

There's usually many ways to look at a problem.

Both Acton's soccer league and softball leagues are facing a similar dilemma—they can't find enough bodies to fill their executive.

Last week both leagues held their annual meeting and had similar outcomes. The Acton Soccer Club and a mere 14 parents show up to their meeting Tuesday, October 6, while the ball league had 18 parents turn out for its annual occasion Thursday, Oct. 8.

The two leagues may be facing the same problem, with not enough people to look after the 600 kids involved in the two summer sports, but the league

presidents see the issue quite differently.

Richard VanderWal has just finished his second term as the soccer club's chief officer. Last year, when the league faced a similar lack of people to fill its executive, VanderWal decided to stay in office another term.

As expected, the president is disenchanted with the apathy shown by parents who, he said, just use the club as a baby-sitting service. He feels people are willing to let someone else look after their kids as long as they don't have to do any work themselves.

When it comes to helping run the sport they're all too busy.

## sports editorial

VanderWal feels, and rightly so, he has given away long hours looking after the running of the league while sacrificing the time he has had with his family. He feels it is now someone else's turn to run the show.

The ball league has just elected Elmer Dunn, a relative newcomer to the world of the league's executive. Unlike VanderWal, Dunn doesn't blame apathy for the league's poor turnout at the general meeting. It's

true, only eight of the 13 positions open on the executive were filled, but Dunn doesn't think it's the parents' fault at all.

Dunn realizes people don't get involved with an organization like the soccer or ball leagues without a little push. He began coaching after one of his children's teams didn't have anyone to coach. He became president of the league the same way, no one else was interested, so he threw his hat into the ring.

The ball president feels all people need is a little push, that any of the parents of the 600 kids involved in the two leagues would gladly coach or give

sometime on the executive if they knew they were needed and were given just the tiniest of a push.

He, like his soccer counterpart, plans to hold yet another general meeting in hopes of filling up the executive ranks.

Hopefully the soccer and ball parents will prove Mr. Dunn right. That a little push is all that is needed to bring new blood into the two league's executive.

If not the only one's going to be hurt are the few dedicated people like Dunn and VanderWal—and of course the 600 players who are the reason behind the leagues.

## Free Press

# sports and recreation

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Second Section

## She's a ringer



## in Guelph goal

It isn't a surprise Acton's Susan Wilsen should be a ringette player. The 16-year-old grade 11 Acton high school student plays just about everything else, from baseball, soccer, tennis and swimming.

Her interest in the sport of ringette began just two years ago, but already she is playing on the Guelph Belles All-Star team.

"I saw ringette on Hockey Night in Canada," explains Wilsen. "I saw one of the team's jackets and thought it said Georgetown, but it was Guelph. My mom was shopping in Guelph one day and saw a sign about ringette."

Ringette isn't one of the most popular ladies' winter sports, but it is growing. The sport is a combination of hockey and floor-hockey, designed just for females.

It's played on an ice rink and uses the same positions as men's hockey with two wingers, two defence, a centre and a goalie.

The forwards and defence use straight sticks, like those used in floor

hockey, and attempt to shoot a round pneumatic ring past the opponents' goaltender. Unlike hockey, there's no body contact.

Last year, her first playing ringette, Wilsen impressed her teammates with her strong netminding abilities. Her team won the house-league championship and Wilsen's play earned her a try-out with the all-stars.

Only she and another goaltender tried out for the team so Wilsen found herself on both the house-league and all-star clubs.

While the sport was new to her, the biggest problem Wilsen found was with her equipment.

Ringette players must wear boys' "tube" skates. Wilsen could skate on figure-skates but had to make an adjustment to wearing the boys'

ment skates. "I never wore guys skates before, at first it was difficult, but I got used to it," she said.

Her opponents will vouch for that.



Susan Wilsen

## Lack of exec's

# Soccer and ball woes

by Dave Dorken

The number of players in Acton's soccer and ball leagues may be growing every year, but the same can't be said about the organization's executive committees.

Last year Acton's soccer club couldn't find anyone to take over the helm from president Richard VanderWal. As a result VanderWal had to take on a second term as president.

This year the league still can't get anyone interested in helping run the organization, at their general meeting last Tuesday only 14 parents showed up.

The ball league had a similar problem at its general meeting Thursday night. Only 18 people showed up to elect a new executive, they still held a vote and filled only 8

of the 13 positions. Elmer Dunn, the newly elected president wasn't overly disappointed with the situation however.

"I don't think people realize just what is involved (in running the league). I don't think they're lazy, they just don't realize," he said.

Dunn sympathizes with the uninvolved. Not long ago he too, just sat on the sidelines while others did all the work.

"I was the same way. I got a call because my daughter's team didn't have a coach," said Dunn.

He spent the next four years as a coach and this year, because once again there was a hole nobody was going to fill, Dunn once again volunteered his services.

"Sometimes you just have to ask people—I'm not the volunteer-type, I don't like to be out in the forefront," he added. "Once the problem is known people will volunteer and do what they can."

Soccer president VanderWal wasn't as sympathetic to those sitting on the sidelines.

He said a lot of people just treat the ball and soccer leagues as baby-sitters.

"They'll dump their kids off, but they're not willing to help out. They just want the night off and can't be bothered," said VanderWal.

"It's like the old Chinese proverb, 'Many hands make light work,' you're always straffed for help with not enough people to spread the work around. You end up with a few people doing the majority of work."

VanderWal knows some people do the majority of the work. He's been in that position for the past two years and feels he needs a break.

"Being the president of a soccer or baseball league means you're involved with many people. It entails tremendous responsibilities and frustrations since you're dealing with people," he said.

The soccer chief is disheartened with the apparent apathy shown by the parents in the organization and even coaches who fail to take the added responsibilities of getting involved with the executive, as well as being pleased with the progress of the sport in and around Acton.

"Not everything is dark, the enrolment is up," he said. "I feel we've made good progress with Rockwood, Ermosa and the Peel-Halton league."

Both presidents are going to call another general meeting, hoping they can give those on the sidelines a little push, to get them involved in the running of the leagues.

"We just have too few horses pulling the cart," said a melancholy VanderWal.

## Ups and Downs...

## ...for Sabres

# This 'coaster ride is all down hill

by Dave Dorken

Like a kid at a carnival, Jules Russiani has just stepped on a roller-coaster, but already he wants to get off.

During the first four games of the still young season, Acton's OHA Jr. B Sabres have already sent coach Russiani's emotions through more highs and lows than even the most dreaded roller-coaster.

The ride started suddenly, as Sabres plunged into the depths of the division cellar with a pair of losses. The first, a 13-5 decision against Burlington's Cougars didn't disturb the sophomore mentor. His players had to suffer without any exhibition matches and only had a single practice so their sporadic play was to be expected.

The next night the ride took a turn for the terrible. Sabres were humiliated in their home opener, putting the fans to sleep and Russiani into a frenzy as they lost 8-1 to Oakville Blades.

Last Friday night things started looking up for Russiani and his Sabres. With two games and four practices under their belts the team began to take form, it also took a decisive 4-2 win over Thornhill T-Birds.

Russiani felt he had cause to celebrate. "I'm really happy with the team, they've improved a lot since last weekend," beamed Russiani after the win.

Just 24 hours later Russiani was far from grinning. Sabres sent him screaming back into the land of the emotional low as they dropped a third period lead to the Brampton Warriors 5-3 in Brampton. "It wasn't one of our better games, they were just doing a lot of things wrong. They had a lot of scoring opportunities and they missed them, that hurt. The boys weren't concentrating the way they should have, they had the game but they blew it. They should have had a lot more offence," he said.

As in the first two games of the season, Sabres once again fell prey to the boys in the striped suits. One penalty with just three minutes to go in the game cost Sabres a goal. Instead of the win they had to settle for a tie.

Russiani didn't think the refereeing was as capable as it should have been, but still wasn't hap-

py with the penalties he thought Sabres deserved. Tuesday night was back down hill, as Sabres put in a dismal performance in a 6-2 loss to Streetsville Derbys.

"The problem is they don't want to win, they put some effort in, but not enough for three periods," said Russiani. "I'm not happy with their intensity, they don't play with any enthusiasm, they don't play with any intensity, they don't follow their game plan, they're not disciplined."

On Friday night Russiani's mood, and the play of Sabres was just the opposite. Sabres net-minder Les Williams was flawless on all but two of the 28 shots blasted his way. A hot T-Birds goaltender was able to halt all but four of the 50 shots by Sabres marksmen.

Thornhill was first on the scoreboard, jumping on a 1-0 lead with a power play goal at the 13:06 mark of the opening frame.

Acton outshot their opponents 18-10 but still couldn't find the opening in the first 20 minutes. Mike Monahan took a pass from Roy Spear and Don Gouderault and threaded it past the T-Birds keeper to even things up at 9:53 in the second period.

Just four minutes later Sabres Wade Vickery snared a pass from Dave McGilloway and Mark Duval to put Sabres ahead.

T-Birds again made things even with a goal just eight minutes into the last period. A power play marker by Sabres' Duval, from Monahan and Gouderault again put the home club ahead.

With just 1:58 showing on the clock McGilloway added a power play safety marker to secure Acton's win. Duval and Monahan assisted. McGilloway fired a hat-trick, Ken Relf and Paul Stark had singles in the 5-5 tie to Brampton.

McGilloway and Monahan scored for Sabres in the 6-2 loss to Streetsville. Sabres meet their two cross town rivals this week. Friday the club travels to Milton for an 8 p.m. game against the Flyers. Saturday they're at home to host Georgetown's Gemini, 8:30 p.m. at the Acton Community Centre.



## Sabres have a (T)-Bird

Thornhill T-Birds (top) goaltender looks back as the puck hits the mesh during the game against Acton Sabres Friday night. Sabres played a strong and aggressive game to while they dumped T-Birds 4-2. Below Sabres take their lumps, but still outplayed and outscored "Birds."