

User-pay fails to consider value of sports programs

This is a copy of the statement-presentation made on behalf of adult and youth soccer by myself to back up all that was said by youth president, Klaus Zander, at the Council meeting on Monday, March 22.

"Thank you for the opportunity of addressing you this evening on behalf of the adult soccer clubs and teams in the area following that address by Klaus Zander, youth president. As past president and current vice president of youth I have worked closely with Klaus on the matter before you.

I appreciate the arduous tasks before you in the administration of the municipality. I also appreciate the difficult decisions which often have to be made. I also appreciate the difficulties with which the recreation director, Tom Shepard, and his staff are faced.

Klaus has presented a factual comparison against the user pay principle and the method of, and timing of, the implementation of the organization and proposed charges for field use in 1982, arriving long after budgets, fees and programmes have been set and accepted by memberships. I am not going to repeat those facts. I simply make the point that they are as valid for adult as they are for youth soccer participants.

Klaus closed with the presentation of the petition against user pay charges. The petitioners are administrators, coaches, managers, players, referees and supporters of soccer - both at adult and youth levels. They are also the taxpayers.

returned to town in any event, whilst others have continued to receive the grant and special grants. The park attendant was also withdrawn.

Other than the quest for facilities to satisfy a growing recreational sport which contributes to the health and welfare of the members of the community soccer has not approached council for assistance.

You have heard our presentations, you have received our documentation, there have been letters and articles published in the press which show considerable support for our position.

The adult soccer group, like the youth soccer group, is not in favour of the user pay system, this year, or next, or ever. We ask you to consider the presented cases very seriously before making a decision. The prospect of no soccer looms large, the resultant prospect of some 1000-1500 participants being let loose in the community is rather frightening to me. We all appreciate that costs are increasing and have to be met and we strongly suggest that recovery is not made through service and volunteer groups in the community."



A pair of old wooden skates with a thick steel blade dating over sixty years old was recently donated to the Georgetown Hockey Heritage collection by William Eddie of RR2 Georgetown. Al Walker discovered the skates and offered to buy them from Eddie for the Heritage collection, but Eddie instead donated them for the historical collection. Here, Chris Millie of North Halton Sports compares the blades of a Bauer Supreme of 1982 to the skates.

Playoff costs reason for price increase

Playoff hockey costs more money. That's the word from Raider executive members Jack Handy and Dave Kentner. As a result ticket prices for Raider games have been raised since the brilliant playoff series.

The usual adult admission of \$3 was raised to \$4 while a student ticket jumped from \$2 to \$2.50.

The home team only receives 40 per cent of the profits from the gate, while the OHA claims a 60 per cent chunk of the pie or \$1,500 whichever is greater, Kentner said.

The money to the OHA is used for paying for the visit-

ing team expenses such as food, transportation and lodging plus the cost of paying officials. Kentner said the trip by bus to Georgetown from Timmins will cost the North Stars almost \$2,000, Kentner said. With an operating budget

of over \$100,000 a year, Kentner said the Raiders need to set a reasonable value for admission. He said the Raiders could have some profits after the Timmins series, but they could be wiped out after the next round if Georgetown travels to Thunder Bay.

Recreation department ready with spring activities roster

The Halton Hills Recreation Department is ready for Spring with a full slate of activities and programs. Most of the classes begin next week, so register now at the Recreation Offices in Acton and Georgetown from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The Pre-School Playshop returns this Spring in Acton and two special events have already been scheduled. The Annual Easter Party will be held on April 13, and a Spring Walk will take place on a nice day in May.

Jazz for Juniors is scheduled for both Acton and

Limehouse. The ever popular Gymnastics program is back again and this Spring it is expanding to include Kinder Gym, a new class for 3-5 year olds.

In Acton it will be held on Saturday mornings and in Georgetown it takes place on Monday afternoons. The number of participants will be limited so register early to avoid disappointments.

A full complement of Fitness classes is being offered. Acton programs include "Fitness and Swim" on Monday evenings and "Fitness and Dance" on Wednesdays. In Limehouse

and Ballinacra "Fitness for the Fun of It" will be held.

A "New Mom's Morning Out" fitness program for new mothers and mothers-to-be will be held in Georgetown on Wednesday mornings. Babysitting will be available subject to demand.

A short Indoor Tennis Program will be held to give enthusiasts a chance to warm up for the season before the courts are ready. This 6 week program is scheduled for Tuesdays in Georgetown and Wednesdays in Acton.

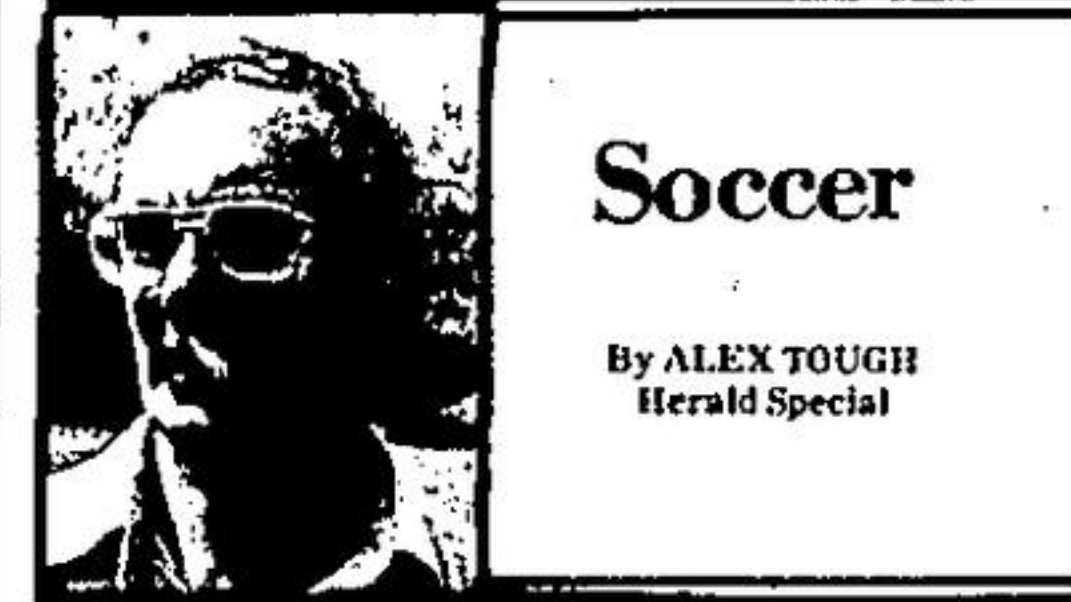
The commencement of two popular programs will be

delayed until the weather is just a little better. Tennis lessons in Acton and Georgetown begin during the week of May 10th. Separate classes are scheduled for adults and children and registration is already being accepted.

Roller skating lessons will begin during the week of May 17 at the Acton Arena and the Georgetown Memorial Arena. For more information about any of these programs, consult your Spring '82 Recreation brochure or call the Department - Acton at 853-1540 or Georgetown at 877-5185 ext. 60.

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Soccer

By ALEX TOUGH
Herald Special

The user pay principle is very attractive at first sight. Why should users not pay? I sympathize with those who think this way. I sometimes believe this also. Why pay school taxes? I have no one at school. Why pay for the fire service? I have not used it. Why pay for social services? I have not used them. Why should I pay for anything which I do not use? Why should anyone?

User pay is logical to the proponents of the principle. The logical extension eludes them. It is simply: use and pay; do not use and receive.

We do not subscribe to the extension of the principle any more than we subscribe to the original principle, which we submit, is a half principle, and a narrow concept in the first place.

We are also against the timing of the intimation of the proposed charges - coming after programmes have been set for this season.

We object to the 'facts' presented at the meeting of February 25. Fields are listed which are non-existent and the costs as presented were based on this information. Therefore, the costs are also probably inaccurate.

Reference was made to improved scheduling as part of the reason for user pay. It was admitted that there were no problems with soccer scheduling.

Reference was made to improper use of facilities. It was admitted that this was not a problem with soccer.

The recreation director informed the meeting that it was council who pressed for the introduction of user pay. Councillors have informed us that it was the recreation director who pressed for user pay.

At the very least, there is no uniformity amongst the authorities as to whether there should be user fees, and which method should be employed to set a base rate. Rates are different for the groups, services provided are different for the groups. There is no valid and realistic base for the groups to consider. And there has been no consultation prior to the event, nor do we believe there is a mandate from the taxpayer for the introduction.

One group was informed that the proposed recovery rate of approximately 19-20 per cent was coincidental, another group was informed that the recovery rate was demanded by council. How much is it going to cost to recover the collectible amounts from the groups?

There appears to be no consideration of the value to the community of providing an outlet for the youth and adults to better their health, to improve the character of themselves and the community, and to provide a measure of security from crime and vandalism together with the resultant protection of property by belonging to a non-profit making, volunteer organized group.

A learned judge is on record as stating that there is much less likelihood of an individual, who is a member of a community group, becoming a criminal or vandal.

What value is placed upon the hours of volunteer work? How much will it cost the town to provide the service which we provide?

Whether facilities are used or not maintenance has to be carried out. Members of the public may use the facilities without paying a fee, yet we are to be penalized for providing a regular, organized, scheduled service which enables equal use and removes chaos.

The majority of those who signed the petition made the point that the provision and maintenance of fields and parks is included in our taxation and that service groups should not be used as tax collectors.

We have seen a reduction of the services provided and the introduction of charges. Field lining labour and material have been withdrawn, and the youth group ceased receiving the community grant (1976 being the last year) which was

'Brush up' swim technique with town's poolside courses

It won't be long now before the ice is gone from local lakes and rivers and people will start opening up backyard swimming pools. To ensure a safe and fun summer why not brush up on your swimming, lifesaving and first aid skills now?

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department offers the Red Cross Learn to Swim Program for people aged 5 to 95. Lifesaving classes sponsored by the Royal Life Saving Society will also be held, as will Parent and Tot classes where parents learn how to teach their own children basic aquatic skills.

The Red Cross Standard First Aid course covering procedures that could save lives, will take place again this Spring.

Springboard diving lessons are being offered at the Acton Swimming Pool on Wednesdays for adults and on Thursdays for younger divers.

Synchronized swimming lessons take place at both the Acton and Georgetown swimming pools. The Georgetown Pool classes are

restricted to youths but Acton offers a ladies class in addition to the youth classes.

Masters Swimming, a recreational, competitive program for adults will be held twice a week at the Georgetown Pool.

Special events coming up this Spring include a Backyard Pool Owners Workshop in April, a National Lifeguard Course in May, a Red Cross Small Craft Safety

Course in June and an Adapted Aquatics Instructor Course also in June.

Registration takes place only at the Swimming Pools Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 Noon - 4:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the pool during the above hours: Acton Pool 853-3140, Georgetown Pool 877-7721.

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