

Markham bowlers win tourney

Toronto's 22nd annual City Handicap Bowling Tournament proved to be anything but a handicap for a four-member Markham Senior team.

Markham District High School students Scott Stewart, Vanessa Meissner, Steve Smythe and Tammy Laidlaw, all 16, combined their talents to win their division.

The winning tandem in the 14-team competition was decided to working out bowlers' average scores, then picking the team that bowls the most above those scores.

The two boys were an average of 17 points above their scores, while Laidlaw went 10 over and Meissner a whopping plus-21.

But the competition wasn't quite what the locals were expecting. "I thought it was easier," said Stewart, a five-year alley veteran. "I saw some people bowling 200 in other tournaments, but in that tourney they didn't do that well."

Laidlaw, who's been bowling for only two years, proved her performance was no fluke by winning the Senior Singles section.

And that area, she boosted her 137 average to 171 — best amongst 20 bowlers. Jessica Bradley upped her average by 32 to place third in the Bantam age group.

Laidlaw didn't figure on winning, "but I didn't think I was going to do badly. I thought I'd come in amongst the top 10."

All four Senior bowlers, who work on their game at the Markham Bowling Centre, are going to a provincial tournament in Ottawa next month — only as singles, rather than a team.



Markham bowlers (left to right) Scott Stewart, Vanessa Meissner, Steve Smythe and Tammy Laidlaw came home from a Toronto tournament with top prize in the Senior team division. Laidlaw, 16, also won the Senior girls singles competition. All four practice their craft at the Markham Bowling Centre.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

MARKHAM MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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Unionville gears up to battle for ice increase

By FRANK KING
Sports Editor

The Unionville Minor Hockey Association (UMHA) is planning to form a parents action committee to pressure the Town of Markham for more ice time.

Both parents and association executives complained loud and long about a lack of rink accommodation, during the UMHA's annual general meeting Wednesday night.

"This ice issue has me upset," said President Jim Turner, who told the audience of about 50 that relations between the association and Unionville/Milliken Recreation Manager Barb Arbuckle aren't very good.

She has a hand in allocating the amount and time of ice allocation

in Unionville/Milliken but Turner said "I'm not talking to Barb. I do not believe her."

In fact, he said the UMHA went to the Town's ice allocation committee last year after becoming dissatisfied with negotiating with Ms. Arbuckle.

"Until we get the politicians involved, they (town staff involved with ice allocation) aren't going to do anything."

Turner's argument is with the Town's policy. It states that ice be allocated on a formula of 3.1 minutes per week, for each house-league player, and 7.8 minutes weekly per representative player.

Under that formula, Parks and Recreation Director Brian Wigglesworth told the Weekender

that the 700 UMHA players should get 51 hours weekly. They currently receive 57.

Turner wants five minutes weekly for each house-league boy, but Wigglesworth noted "the major question is where do we get that ice time? That's an additional 16 hours for Unionville alone."

The audience was informed Markham's new rink won't help much in solving the shortage of practice time for Unionville.

Ontario Minor Hockey Association Director May Davies said the soon-to-be built facility on 16th Ave. will free up only three hours of ice time per week in Unionville/Milliken.

Wigglesworth said he didn't know what fallout the new rink would have on present allocations. Consultations have only recently begun with local groups to decide how the new ice pad will be used.

Meanwhile, the UMHA parents committee working on this will make written specific requests before going to the Town with its concerns.

Also discussed at the meeting was the long-anticipated merger of Markham and Unionville's representative systems to form a three-level set-up.

The first official amalgamation meeting took place last month, and a merger appeared likely. But executive officials put a damper on that Wednesday night.

"At first examination it made some sense," Assistant OMHA Director Earle Baker told the audience. "The negatives weren't apparent at the time."

"But it wouldn't really benefit Unionville," he continued. "We're building to the triple-A level now. However, it makes a lot of sense at the upper-ages, since we both have a lot of fallout (players leaving hockey)."

After the meeting Baker said a merger at such levels at Bantam and Midget is possible. But an overall amalgamation is a membership decision, not an executive one. A special meeting would have to be called to finally settle the matter.

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