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Sliding home

Stouffville District Secondary School is set to defend its softball crown in York Region action. The team was practising for the upcoming season last Thursday. From left, Dan Bell, Glenn

Jackson and Rob Blundon geared up for the year with a slide into home plate. The season starts Thursday.

Photo: BRUCE STAPLEY

Dismal turn-out mars WSMHA annual meeting

By ALAN SHACKLETON

Lack of interest was the highlight of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's (WSMHA) annual general meeting Thursday night at the Recreation Centre.

With the exception of the 10 member executive, there were only three members of the public and one newspaper reporter in attendance.

"This was probably the shortest and least attended meeting in WSMHA history," said house league convenor Wally Crowder as the meeting broke up just over an hour after it started.

Joanne Steel, president of the association, said the meeting was poorly attended for a number of reasons.

"As always we have a really big crowd for this meeting," she joked in her opening address. "I guess a lot of people who might have been here tonight are at Music Mania instead. They can't be two places at once."

Also, an NHL playoff game between the Pittsburgh Penguins and Philadelphia Flyers, featuring Stouffville's own Keith Acton may have kept others from attending.

Unfortunately, Joanne said the lack of interest in meetings translates to a lack of parental volunteers for the association. It's a challenge minor hockey associations across Canada have had to deal with, and she said things aren't getting any better.

"We still have a big problem with parental volunteers," said Joanne. "It's only getting worse."

At the start of the 1988-89 season, the WSMHA also faced a problem with lack of players.

The shortage was particularly acute at the Pee Wee and Bantam levels, where house leagues in both age groups had to be cancelled and players refunded their registration fees so they could be freed to play hockey in neighboring associations such as Uxbridge and Markham.

The WSMHA was forced to refund about \$6,000 worth of registration fees last season because there were no teams for the boys to play on.

Total registration for last season was approximately 357 boys, which was actually a slight increase from the 1987-88 season, she said.

However, she added she's confident next year will be better, and there are reasons to be optimistic.

"Losing the Pee Wees and the Bantams hurt us last year."

That won't happen next season though, as the association intends to ice at least four teams for 13-15 year olds.

Instead of being grouped into either Pee Wee or Bantam teams, these players will join together in a Major division, said Crowder.

"We'll be giving the older boys some hockey next year," he said.

Also, a number of 13-year-olds played house league in the Atom division last season and those players will now move up to the Major level.

Joanne Steel hopes the fact that there will be hockey for older boys will bring some of the players who sat out last year back to the game.

"Some of the Pee Wees who played with the Atoms last season will be moving up to the new division, and they know for sure they'll be playing hockey," she said. "Hopefully, they'll talk to their friends and more of them will come back."

While times are tough in the older ranks, the outlook seems bright in the younger age groups. The Novice division is especially healthy.

Last season there were eight Novice teams in the house league and those numbers could grow next season. Also, there were eight teams in the house league hockey school for four, five and six-year-olds and four teams in the Atom house league which was made up of players from 10 to 13 years-old.

At the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) level, there was one team in the Novice, Bantam and Midget divisions and two teams in Atom and Pee Wee.

The most successful of the squads was the Novice team which won the regional championship.

John Hutchinson, the association's OMHA convenor, said the large number of teams at the Novice and hockey school levels is encouraging.

"With all the new people coming into town we're in a rebuilding stage, and it's the little guys that we have to start with," she said. "We start there and hopefully we can keep those boys interested in playing hockey right up to Midget age."

Hutchinson added that having two OMHA teams at the Atom and Pee Wee level helped generate excitement amongst the players.

"It helped having those second teams," he said. "It brought a number of players up to the OMHA ranks and kept the interest in hockey. I'm hoping those players can come up through the ranks and grow to be some of our better players."

Other items discussed at the meeting, included sponsors and the problem of ice rental costs.

President picked

Ann Pride has been elected president of the Stouffville Figure Skating Club for the 1989-90 season. Joan Hamilton is past president. Linda Kelly vice-president and test chairman; JoAnne Gunther secretary; Pauline Miller treasurer;

Marilyn McLeod takes over registration; Jane Hachey interclub representative; Judy Smith Canfigure, Elizabeth Barbeau, Susan McKinlay and Michelle Barker Canskaté (Michelle Wednesday); Sally Boyd pro liaison; Cathy Selwyn purchasing; Chris Jeffrey publicity/newsletter; Carol Boyd, patch; and Sandra Rozario and Mary Ellen Pegg, music.

Softball team set to defend title

By BRUCE STAPLEY

The Stouffville District Secondary School boys' softball team hits the diamond tomorrow (Thursday, May 4), putting its York Regional title on the line.

Coach Doug McCammon, who helped guide the SDSS club last season, says his roster will be trimmed down to 14 for the opener against Toronto Waldorf at the Bathurst-Hwy. 7 school.

"It is essentially the same lineup as the town's Midget team, except for a few players."

Scott Evans will head up the pitching staff again, with Chris Burkholder taking over when Evans takes time off to try out for the

Canadian national Midget team. He is already a member of the Ontario team that will compete for the Canadian championship in Saskatchewan this summer.

Newcomers to the SDSS squad could include Chris English, Jonathan Hall, Joel Butcher, Glenn Jackson, Kirk Smythe and Basil Luciano, with final cuts being made prior to tomorrow's game.

The team will play a six-game schedule, followed by league playoffs, then the regional finals.

Al Piette will coach the school's girls' softball team, which will play slo-pitch this spring.

With much fanfare

St. Andrew's golf club opens

By BRUCE STAPLEY

With the Glen Sutherland Pipe Band waiting in the wings, Mayor Fran Sainsbury cut the ribbon to officially open St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club Saturday.

The 18-hole course, set on the 127-acre site that had been the property of ex-Ward 2 Councillor Jim Rae, is located on the northwest corner of the Bloomington Road and Seventh Concession.

Rae and his wife Evelyn, who owned the property from 1946-1987, were among the throng that looked on as the \$13-million facility became Whitchurch-Stouffville's newest luxury golf operation.

Bill MacWilliam, the club's director of golf, called upon club members and Toronto radio personality Wally Crowder to run the greenside proceedings. Both the Raes and 20-year-old Otto Barkey, who owned the property from 1936-1946, were acknowledged.

Crowder, referring to the still late April breeze that chilled bystanders, noted that the course had an elevation of 1,300 feet (the same as the dining room at the CN Tower in Toronto).

With 250 full members and 100

week-day memberships to date, St. Andrew's is a fully-appointed golf facility, sporting a state-of-the-art practice range, a well-stocked pro shop and an elegant lounge area.

Members, who buy into the club with a \$35,000 initial investment, pay \$2,100 in annual dues.

MacWilliam originally undertook a partnership in the operation with David Paterson. With the opening up of the club to owner-members, MacWilliam became club director for golf.

A Toronto resident, he has an impressive golf background, starting with his founding of the Dynamic Golf Centre in Toronto. He was head of professional at the Westley Golf Club and head pro and owner of the Dunlop Golf

and Country Club in Kitchener, Ont.

MacWilliam claims St. Andrew's will be for the use of members only and that it will not boast an unwieldy membership list.

There will be no tournaments here, so our members will be able to golf every weekend. It's a small, quiet operation.

The course has been under construction for two years and features elevated tees and a somewhat rolling terrain.

Saturday's onlookers were treated to the bagpipe playing of the Markham-based Sutherland band, as well as refreshments after the official proceedings.

The first official day of golf on the course was Monday.

Opening round

Golf pro Gary Price prepares to start the 1989 season. The St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club opened last weekend, after two years was spent on its construction. The private club, which already has members signed on, was officially opened by Mayor Fran Sainsbury amid the scree of bagpipes.



Photo: BRUCE STAPLEY

Pride first

Michael Pride registered a first-place in Preliminary Men Skating in both the Flight and the Final at a skating competition in Scarborough April 28-30. Michael is a Grade 6 student at St. Mark's Public School.

Nicole Jeffrey came 7th in Flight in the Junior Bronze Ladies A competition.

Janine Jeffrey came 3rd in Flight in the Senior Bronze Ladies B section. She was 13th on Final.

And Elizabeth Davia came 7th in Flight in the Junior Silver Ladies B section.

Two Stouffville players to compete on York team

By BRUCE STAPLEY

Two Stouffville residents have been selected to play for the York Region Summer Hockey team in the Midget 'AAA' division.

Chris Winn and Jamie Showers, both students at Stouffville District Secondary School, will skate for the squad.

Winn, a forward, played for the J.C. Uxbridge Bruins this past

season, helping them make the playoffs: the last game of the season.

He played with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Midget Rep team the previous season.

Showers played defence for the Markham Travelways Junior 'B' entry last winter.

He was also a member of the town's Midget Rep club in

1987-88, after coming to Stouffville from Collingwood.

The two are seeking sponsors to offset costs incurred by their participation.

Each has been asked to find two businesses to contribute \$300, in return for which they will have their company name on the boys' team shirts.

The sponsor will also be noted in all team programs.

MICHAEL PRIDE
gold medal