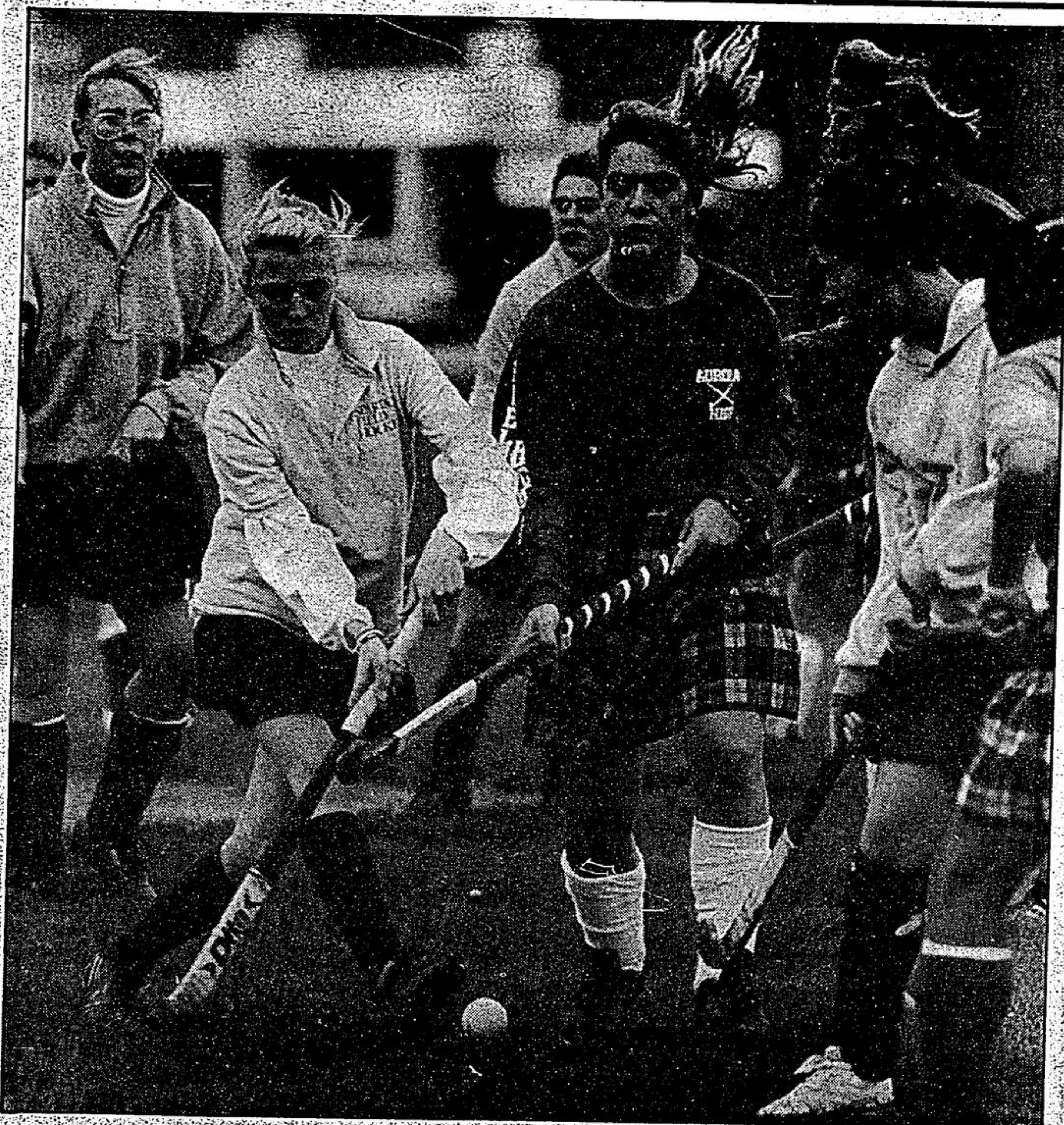


# Stouffville Sports

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## Battle for the ball

Brenda Hachey, white sweater, prepares to hit the ball during a recent high school field hockey game between the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) Spartans and G.W. Williams of

Aurora. The two teams battled to a pair of scoreless ties in the games played during some very chilly weather at SDSS last week.

## Turnout at meeting disappoints softball league president

Stouffville softball president Mike Davies can take consolation in the knowledge that some volunteers are better than none.

However, he still would have liked to see more people at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association's (WSSA) annual General Meeting and Executive Elections Thursday night at the Recreation Centre.

"I'm always happy when we have people showing up at the meeting," he said. "But we've got 1,100 kids in the Association and we had about 40 people at most here."

"We hear complaints from parents all season, but then they're not here to help."

Along with seeking more parents to volunteer for organizational jobs, the meeting also elected a new WSSA executive for the 1990 season.

Davies was returned as president after the only other nominee declined to stand against him. Last season's vice-president Jack VanKoughnet declined to stand for the job after being nominated, and Frank VanVeen was elected to the post.

Mary Myers and Cathy Bennett were returned unopposed as secretary and treasurer respectively.

Davies was hoping the meeting would also result in a large number of volunteers to help handle the many jobs involved in running the Town's softball league.

People did volunteer for a variety of positions, but Davies

said he had hoped the numbers would be larger.

However, he said the Association had more volunteers after the meeting than they did at the same point last season.

A number of other items were also discussed during what was a sometimes stormy three-hour meeting.

Some of the problems which younger umpires faced from coaches and parents was of particular concern to those at the meeting.

"Being an umpire is the most thankless job in the world and we should be thankful we even have someone to do it," said former WSSA president Eldon Wagg.

After the recent season-ending tournament in Stouffville, one umpire actually had his tires slashed.

The WSSA voted at Thursday's meeting to offer the umpire an apology and reimburse him for the cost of replacing the tires.

"Nobody should have to take that kind of abuse," said VanKoughnet. "Without umpires, we won't be playing."

Other items discussed included creating more Rep teams from the house league ranks, various forms of fund raising, and whether a dress code should be enforced on the field.

In an effort to avoid having young players walking the streets selling chocolate bars or other items to raise money, the WSSA has decided to increase registration fees \$5 across the board for next season.

## Adults bickering over Rep leagues harmful to youngsters who just want to enjoy sports

Stouffville's Minor Hockey system does it.

Uxbridge's doesn't, but many officials wish they did.

And while Stouffville's Minor Softball program does it as well, I was warned there would be heated debate about it at last Thursday's annual general meeting.

"It" was meshing of a town's house league sports program with its all-star or "Rep" system. The executives combine, and teams representing the town at the Rep level are made up of players registering at the basic sign-up, just like the house leaguers.

Ideally, the cream of the crop of all signees are placed on the elite squads, and the rest fight it out among themselves on a regular basis in house league.

Those kids yearning for the advanced competition of all-star ball or hockey are given an avenue for their talents to develop, while the average kids, those who just want to get out on the field, or on the rink, for a little fun, are looked after as well.

However, in practice, the arrangement is always beset with



sports notes

bruce stapley

problems and even bitterness.

Especially when you consider there are never enough ball diamonds or arenas to provide enough playing time to keep everybody happy.

So what you end up with is the old argument that centres around whether the talented few should be given priority over the far more numerous casual athletes.

You often hear of how the Rep teams are financed by the dollars paid to register the house leaguers. The Stouffville minor hockey people charge around \$120-160 as a basic fee, with Rep kids paying an additional \$75-100.

"Not enough" cry those who feel Rep gets all the breaks along with a lot more ice time.

"No way" reply the Rep people, saying how the parents of the

Rep players must pay admission to see their children play.

Then there are the cries from the Stouffville softball officials that just when they get their house league teams arranged, the Rep folks come along and grab a bunch of players, forcing them to scramble to fill the holes.

And while it always seems to be the adults who make all the fuss, the kids just want to play.

The truth of the matter is that there must be both an accessible house league program, along with a well-developed Rep system, in any town worth its salt.

We all want to see our youngsters out there in the game with their peers, playing a fun hockey or baseball match.

But we also feel a sense of pride

in our own when the Stouffville Squirts and Mites Rep softball teams capture provincial titles.

As for playing time, it does present a difficult quandary for the hockey folks, due to the limitations of having only one arena in Towns like Stouffville or Uxbridge.

But I have no sympathy for the ball people who claim they need more diamonds, yet refuse to schedule games on weekends, when the majority of people would find it easier to get out to the diamond.

Instead, we have only the odd tournament, on weekends which gives diamond time to players who live, for the most part, outside the town's boundaries.

And there's even room for more imagination in the hockey system. How many people realize that local school gymnasiums, which are readily available after school hours, make great practice areas for minor hockey teams?

Maybe we would all be a lot farther ahead if the energy that went into bickering was used to come up with imaginative efforts towards peaceful co-existence.

## Acton traded

Keith Acton's journey through the National Hockey League has found him back in Canada.

The Stouffville resident, who played for the 1988 Stanley Cup winning Edmonton Oilers, was traded to the Winnipeg Jets by the Philadelphia Flyers last Thursday.

The 31-year-old centre may be in for yet another move, however, according to his father, Gerry Acton.

The elder Acton told the Tribune Sunday that Keith had been told to stay put for the while by the Jets, and not to join their training camp.

"It's hard to say right now just what's happening," said Mr. Acton Sr. "We don't really know anything at this time."

Acton started his career with the Montreal Canadiens, then was traded to the Minnesota North Stars before joining Edmonton.

He finished last season with the Flyers.