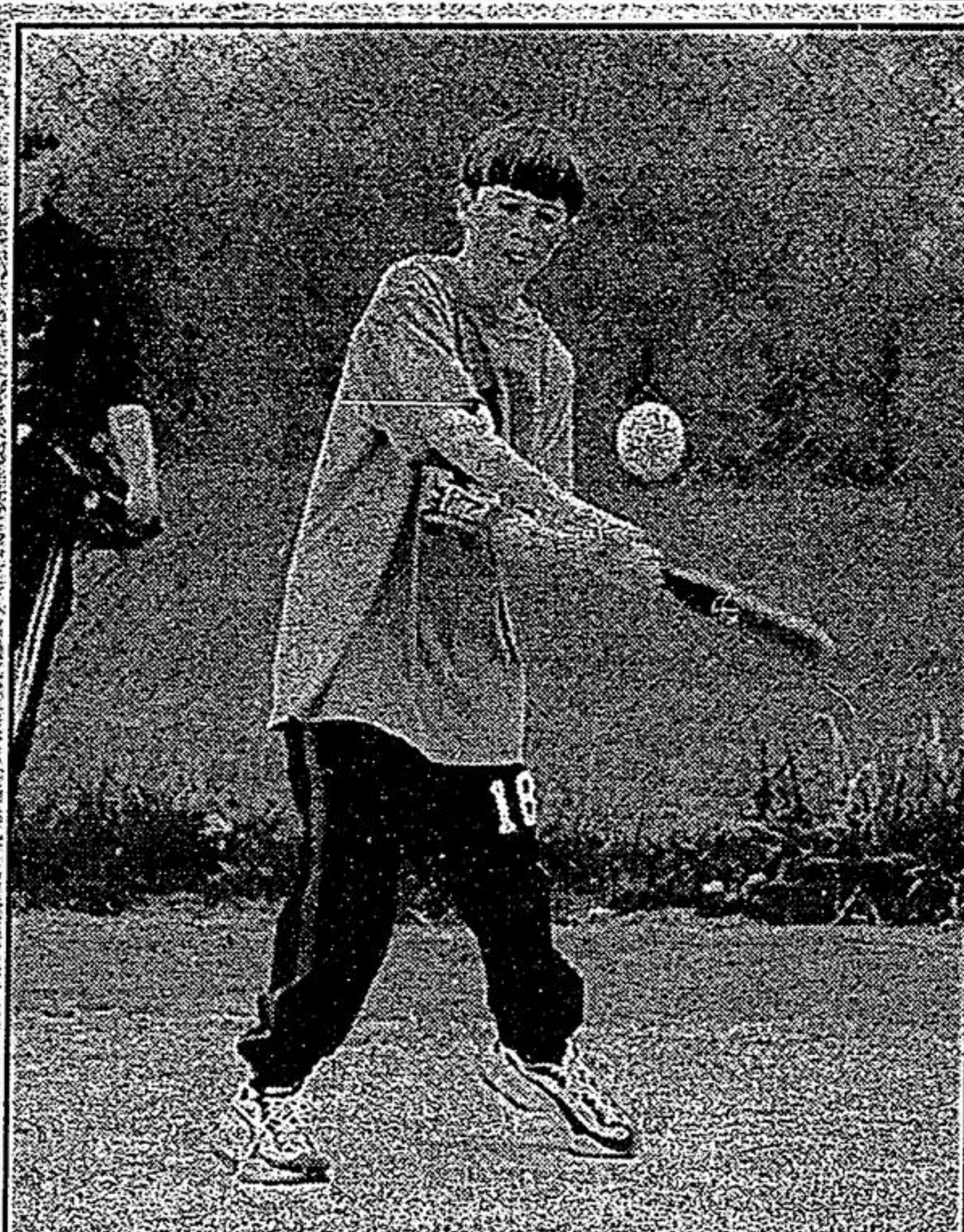
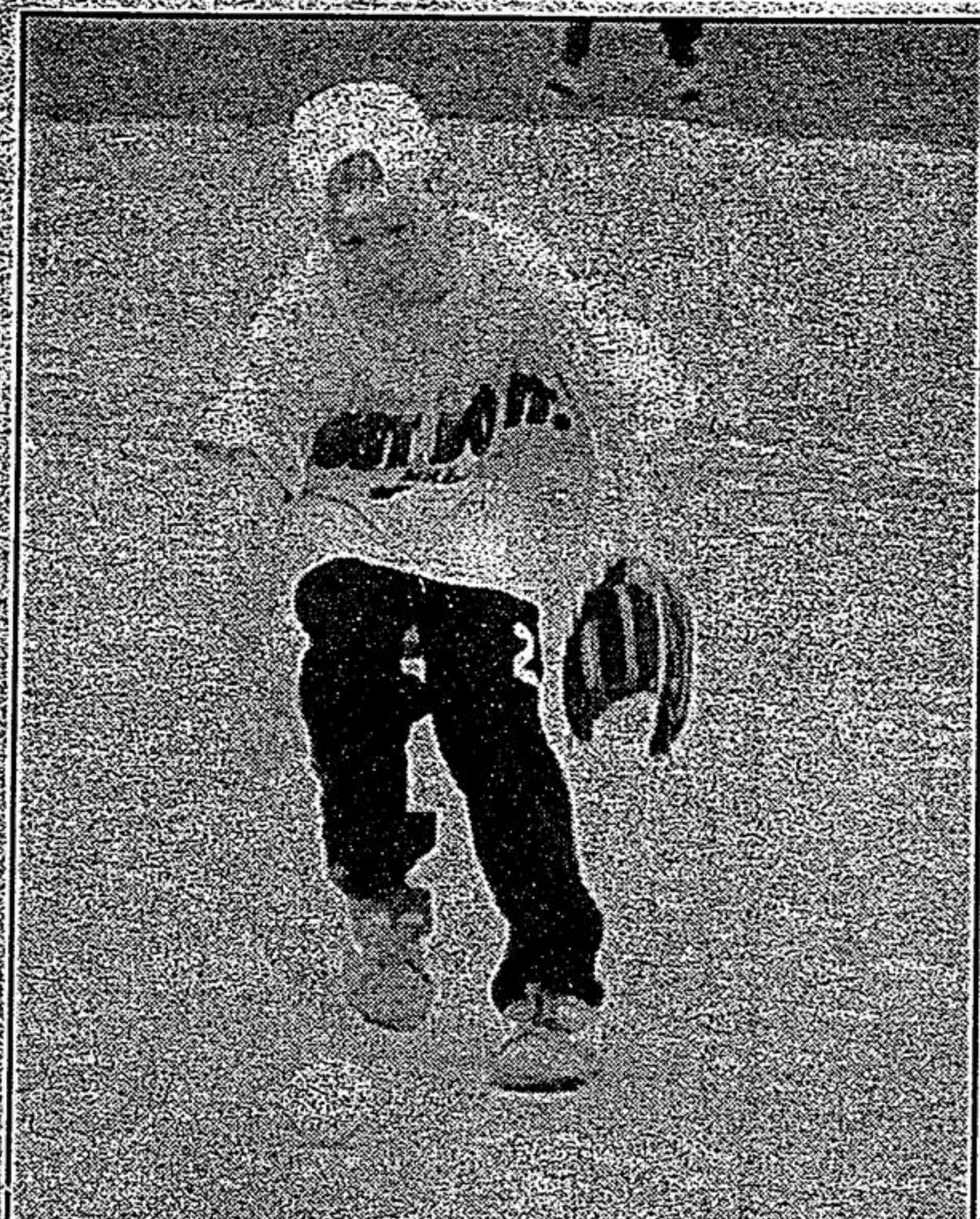


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HAVING A BALL: Several youngsters converged at the Town Park diamond on Saturday to audition for a spot on the Stouffville peewee boys' select fastball team. Among those vying for a spot on this year's team were Markus Makinen (left photograph), who was showing his fielding skills in the infield. At right, Riley McDowell attempts to display his batting skills.

Photos by CHERYL JOHNSON

SAHL hands out annual hardware

The Stouffville Amateur Hockey League (SAHL) honoured its best Saturday night at the Cedar Beach Pavilion at Musselman's Lake.

The league held its annual awards banquet recognizing top teams and individuals for the 1997-98 season.

The 40 and over division regular season championship Occasions Catering Blues, as well as the playoff titlist Rand Pools Maple Leafs, were honoured.

The 40 and under loop bestowed similar honours on the season champion Nordiques and the playoff champion Mackenzie Insurance Devils.

The Nords also won the 40 and under consolation title.

The 40 plus MVP award went to Blues goalkeeper Randy Osbourne. Bob Wagg received the Alice Hamm Award as the division's top goalie.

The Alice Hamm Award for top scorer in the 40 plus loop went to Rick Glen of the Blues.

Wayne Jackson of the Leafs was given the Roy Ireland Award for high calibre play and sportsmanship.

The Ambrose Pullen Award for team spirit and attitude went to Randy Gray of the Blues.

In the under 40 division, it was Paul Bergman of the Devils taking the MVP award. Grant Ivens of the Fullerton Flames was named top goalkeeper. Greg Roberts of the Bruins was top scorer.

The Al Parker Award for high calibre play and sportsmanship went to Mike Sear of the Kings.

The Jim Wagg Award for team spirit and attitude was given to Cam Wallis of the Devils.

Lloyd Hamm, coach of the Senators of the over 40 division, was the winner of the Jim Wagg Memorial Cup awarded for the first time to the league's top coach for leadership and attitude.

Outgoing league president Don Moore gave an emotional tribute to Jim Wagg, the long-time SAHL executive member who died in February of this year.

Wagg's wife Jeannette was on hand to present the Jim Wagg Memorial Cup.

Tribute was also paid Glen Pennanen, the long-time SAHL coach who died recently.

Softball association anxiously awaits the start of a new year

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association (WSSA) is putting the final pieces in place as it prepares to take to the diamonds later this month with four girls teams, five boys rep squads and 80 houseleague teams.

Coaches are to be given their annual briefing at the coaches meeting May 12, with the houseleague season set to get under way the week of May 18.

Association president June Doner said the new season promises to be filled with non-stop action at all levels, with 12 tournaments either confirmed or applied for.

"We're looking forward to a good

year," said Doner.

"Our numbers may be down a little right now, but so many people always register after our registration is complete. Hopefully, we'll have over 1,000 players."

At the provincial level, the association has applied for a Provincial Women's Softball Association (PWSA) novice girls Tier II playoff qualifier for the weekend of July 24-26.

An application is also outstanding that would see the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) midget championships played in Stouffville the weekend of Aug. 22-23.

PEEWEE TOURNEY MAY 30

A peewee boys' rep tournament is scheduled for May 30 at the Town

Park.

Six select tournaments have been confirmed for Stouffville as well. They include a squirt girls' competition June 13, squirt boys June 20, peewee boys June 21, mite girls July 11, mite boys July 12, novice girls July 18.

There will be a squirt girls' select tourney July 19, if the WSSA ends up fielding a squirt squad.

Once again the houseleague will be made up of a mix of teams from Stouffville, Vancor, Ballantrae, Claremont, Goodwood, Oak Ridges and Richmond Hill.

The houseleague begins at the T-ball level and goes as far as bantam, with separate boys and girls divisions from mites on up.

Meadowbrook is up and running

It's business as usual, with a few temporary inconveniences, at a Stouffville area golf course ravaged by fire last fall.

The Meadowbrook Golf and Country Club opened its championship 18-hole course and par three nine hole facility April 15, two weeks ahead of normal due to the early spring.

Work continues on the clubhouse as well as the main building, both of which were affected by the blaze. The club's signature rose bushes weren't damaged by the fire.

While the rebuilt clubhouse isn't expected to be completed until early June, members of the private club are just happy to be on the links again.

"Conditions on the course are a full month ahead," said assistant pro Dan Clark. "It's like midsummer out there."

Clark said members have been most co-operative as they have had to do without the facilities normally available in the clubhouse.

Temporarily, there are no facilities, said Clark. "They

have to change their shoes in their cars. Snack facilities are available at our halfway house, and we're using portable washrooms."

Clark said that while the club is suffering the inconvenience of lost revenues brought about by the temporary lack of a main building, members will be ahead in the long run.

"With a brand new clubhouse, and no increase in assessment, that's going to be a plus for members."

Clark said the Meadowbrook office staff have been working out of the pro shop, located outside the main building, since Christmas. The main building is expected to be completed by mid-June. He said he's hopeful the job action currently being taken by dry wallers on new home construction sites won't cause delays.

The fire hasn't had a negative effect on membership, Clark said. "At the end of last year we had 100 people on our waiting list. Now we have 150. So in that way it hasn't affected things at all."

Gibbons is ready to defend racing title

Peter Gibbons is preparing to defend his 1997 CASCAR Super Series Eastern Championship.

The 34-year-old Goodwood area stock car racer will take to the track at London, Ontario's Delaware Speedway May 17 for the first of 12 races on the Canada-wide 1998 CASCAR circuit.

Gibbons will once again be racing under the Canadian Tire Motorsports umbrella.

The Chev Monte Carlo that he rode to victory on the '97 CASCAR circuit will be part of a Canadian Tire Travelling Road Show which will make over 100 appearances at Canadian Tire stores across Canada this spring and summer.

Gibbons, who competed in one NASCAR race in Fontana, California last season, plans to compete in five NASCAR events at the conclusion of the CASCAR season.

The Gibbons Motorsports Race Shop in Goodwood is to be the site of a special press open house later this week to introduce his stable of cars to be used on the 1998 CASCAR circuit.

The event is to mark the official launch of the 1998 season for Gibbons.

The Gibbons team has been building and testing new cars and motors during the off season in preparation for the coming season.