

## SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Getting his international kicks

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' Craig McDowell (left) manages to get off this kick before being tackled by George Ward School of Bath, England, player Glen Scratchley in an exhibition rugby contest played at Stouffville last week. The host Spartans won 7-3. Bjorn McSorley scored the game's lone try and McDowell booted the convert.

## Club hopes to kick up storm to get indoor facility in town

Registration numbers continued to grow for Stouffville soccer.

BY JIM THOMAS  
Correspondent

A multi-use indoor sports facility remains a hope and dream of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club.

Klaas Westera, the club's indoor soccer director, told the Oct. 21 annual general meeting limited space in local gymnasiums is hindering soccer growth in town, particularly among children aged four to eight.

"Without adequate indoor facilities, we continue to see a movement of the more competitively-minded players and coaches to other jurisdictions during non-summer months," he said.

Worsening the problem, Westera said, is the fact other areas, including Markham and Thornhill, are wanting to restrict non-resident use of their indoor facilities.

The soccer club's interest in a multi-use indoor structure hit a snag, Westera said, when a study copy prepared by the organization was misconstrued when presented to town council by the town's department of leisure services, leaving the town with the opinion the club was proposing the

construction of such a facility. The document was submitted without the club's knowledge or approval, Westera said, nor was anyone from the club in attendance when the submission was discussed.

The concept was subsequently rejected by council, Westera stated.

"We've since been able to recover somewhat," he said, "by formally retracting the proposal, even though we were not involved in its submission."

## SURVEY MIGHT GIVE ANSWERS

More recently, a committee including soccer club president Mark Kozak-Holland and past-presidents Martin Johannessen and Alfons Rubbens, agreed to conduct a survey to discover the degree of interest in such a venture.

The survey, Westera said, would include not only soccer but other sports such as tennis, lawn bowling, softball and touch football.

Rob Raycroft, manager of parks and facilities for the town, informed the meeting the town would welcome proposals from all sports organizations including soccer.

"Right now, it's just a vision," Raycroft explained later.

He said work on a master plan for a future park on 50 acres the town recently pur-

chased, on Bethesda Road east of the Ninth Line, would begin in January, 2005.

"A use balance is needed," he stated.

President Kozak-Holland, returned to the position for another year, said the soccer club wished to work closely with the town in preparing a feasibility study for an indoor soccer centre.

Other priorities listed included more soccer fields at the Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, floodlights for the Ballantrae Park and an alternative to the soccer fields at Novopharm.

Raycroft informed the meeting nothing had been resolved with respect to property adjacent to Stouffville District Secondary School. A new high school is scheduled for completion in 2007.

"We're hoping the board of education will retain the land," he said, "but purchasing the site is always an option."

Kozak-Holland pointed to need for additional information on how future residential growth could be accommodated.

"As the town continues to expand, so will the club," the president said, "we need to move forward with a vision."

Soccer registration in 2004 climbed to a record 1,022, with the largest increase in the senior division to 173 from 140 players.

## Hord has golden time with hometown figure skating club

Stouffville native becomes first member to earn quadruple gold

BY JIM THOMAS  
Correspondent

In its nearly 50 years of operation, the Stouffville Figure Skating Club has never had a quadruple gold medal skater.

That is, until now.

Seventeen-year-old Kimberley Hord recently accomplished this feat, adding interpretive to golds in skills, dance and free-skate.

Interpretive and free-skate gold all came in 2004.

"It's a wonderful accomplishment," said Anne Scott, Stouffville club president. "It's never been done here before."

"Excelling in all four categories, demonstrates a broad range of skills," Scott said, "a huge variation."

Hord began skating at age five, training under the watchful eye of Julia Wilson. More recently she was coached by the husband-wife team of Hans and Judy Ahlgren.

## LIKES SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Two years ago, she was attracted to synchronized skating where she started first with the Markham Elite Edge team and presently with Whitby Ice Fyre.

The Whitby team placed third in international competition at Lake Placid, N.Y., 10th in Canadian championships at Montreal and second in the French Cup held at Rouen, France.

"I knew I could do it," Hord said, "the interpretive test wasn't as difficult as the free-skate."

She's already signed up for another season at Stouffville and Whitby.

With the Ice Fyre, she hopes to compete in Europe, Lake Placid and Michigan before entering university next fall where she'll endeavour to catch a spot with the varsity figure skating squad.



KIMBERLEY HORD: Had an opportunity to audition for Disney-on-Ice, but opted to concentrate on school first.

Hord admits she was encouraged to try out with Disney-on-Ice but decided against it.

"Right now, education must come first," she said, "after university, there will still be time."

If synchronized skating's accepted as an Olympic sport in 2010, Hord hopes to compete in Vancouver.

"The Olympics are everyone's dream," she says, "but as one grows older, you become more realistic."

Hord credits her accomplishments to five people: her parents and her three coaches.

"My mother and dad paid for lessons and drove me everywhere," she said, "my coaches gave me the instruction and encouragement required."

## HIGHLIGHT IN EUROPE

A career highlight?

"Skating in the French Cup at Rouen, France," Hord said without hesitation, "the people there love Canadians and Canada, it was wonderful."

She said competing against countries from around the world was an experience she'll never forget.

Nor will the Stouffville Figure Skating Club ever forget her.

## Spirit gets back to business tonight against Pickering

The vacation ends today. After a week off, the Stouffville Spirit hosts the Pickering Panthers tonight. Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

The week away from games, the second this season in the strangest schedule in the team's 10-year history, has the Spirit (8-7-1-1) in fourth place in the North

Conference of the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League.

The Spirit's last game, its fifth in seven nights, was an overtime loss to the same Panthers in Pickering Oct. 27.

Third-year forward Ty Raine leads the Spirit in scoring for the second straight year with 21 points in his first 14 games.