

STAFF PHOTOS/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Monica Cheung makes contact with the new cricket club in Stouffville at Bethesda Park last week. Looking on is wicketkeeper and club founder Dave Somasundaram.



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Swing time: Try cricket with new town club

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA

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It's a good thing Dave Somasundaram took his daughter to play soccer at the Bethesda Park fields one day in early May.

While there, he noticed the facility was vacant of any recreational activity during a specific timeframe on Wednesday evenings.

To fill that void, Somasundaram, who also serves on the Stouffville Multicultural Association, took the initiative to launch the Stouffville Cricket Club.

As a means of attempting to inform people of the new club, which takes to the pitch from 7 to 8:30 p.m., he sent out emails and spread the news by word of mouth.

At the present time, the club has anywhere from eight to 10 players taking part every week.

Some have prior playing experience like Somasundaram while others are completely new to the game.

Among them is one female and some youngsters who accompanied their parents who participate.

"Right now we've gotten some people together to start playing cricket and we're having some fun," he said of the club's beginnings.

With the club in its embryonic stages, Somasundaram hopes to build on it where they can attract more members.

Somasundaram feels with the continued growth in Whitchurch-Stouffville, there's people who currently reside within those boundaries who are familiar with the game but are unfamiliar with the Stouffville Cricket Club.

For those wishing to join the Stouffville club, Somasundaram said equipment is not required as they currently have the necessary tools of the trade.

If the club can attract some additional players, he noted they could then start playing actual games.

Taking an optimistic approach that the club will continue to grow, Somasundaram feels there will be a time when the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville might consider constructing a cricket pitch.

He hopes to express this at an upcoming town council meeting.

"Right now, though, this (cricket) is a good way to make use of the Bethesda fields when it's not being used," he said.

For more information on the club, contact Somasundaram at 416-708-6250 or e-mail him at: dave@galaxytax.com



Bowler Robert Ramjoha plays in the Stouffville Cricket Club last week.

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