



Joint Communication to the Members of Schomberg Minor Hockey and NobleKing Minor Hockey

January 29, 2017

Dear Minor Hockey Families in King Township;

Several months ago, the Memberships of both organizations provided a strong endorsement to their respective Boards authorizing them to commence negotiations, with the hope of creating a jointly operated Representative Hockey Program that would benefit all minor hockey players in King Township.

We are extremely pleased to report that the negotiating committees of both organizations have worked extremely hard on your behalf, completing in a matter of a few months a comprehensive framework and the necessary agreements to create King Township Minor Hockey.

Our proposal to create King Township Minor Hockey is an innovative minor hockey organizational structure that is unique to the needs, geography and communities of our municipality.

This proposed model will preserve the original Minor Hockey Organizations within King Township, allowing Schomberg Minor Hockey and NobleKing Minor Hockey to continue in celebrating their community identities with local hometown teams at the recreational level – where the Local League teams will be able to continue their rich community histories and traditions, within the framework of a new cooperatively run organization.

For the vast majority of our recreational players at the Local League level, very little will change in terms of the high quality community based hockey experience that they have come to appreciate. Those players will continue to proudly wear their NobleKing Knights and Schomberg Red Wing sweaters, will continue to play close to home in their community rinks, and will continue to play and have fun with their friends as part of the overall Simcoe Region Local League.

For those players wanting a more competitive hockey experience, a new cooperatively run Representative Hockey Program will be created – with all eligible players within King Township's recognized OMHA territory being eligible to tryout and affiliate to King Township Rep Teams.

This new Rep Hockey organization will be operated by a jointly administered Board of Directors, appointed by both Schomberg Minor Hockey and NobleKing Minor Hockey.

Key executive positions will be shared between the two organizations, and the new jointly operated organization will create significant operational and business efficiencies that will help build a better minor hockey program for all players at both the Rep and Local League levels.

This new Representative Program will providing King Township Rep Teams with a deeper pool of talented players to choose from, creating greater opportunities for future success on the ice as well as better player development. There will be Rep Teams iced at both the Minor and Major levels for all age divisions, with the possibility of additional AE category Rep Teams and/or Rostered Select Local League Teams, depending upon the level of player interest and demand, which will provide many options for those players aspiring to be challenged at higher levels.

Initially, we anticipate that King Township will be categorized as an “A” level Rep Hockey Centre for OMHA and Hockey Canada purposes.

Importantly, the new organization will combine the recognized OMHA territories of both Schomberg Minor Hockey and NobleKing Minor Hockey – ensuring that all current players within the traditional boundaries of these organizations will continue to be able to play in King Township. Traditional “AAA” affiliation rights for Schomberg and NobleKing players will also remain unchanged for the 2017-18 hockey season.

We strongly believe that this partnership between Schomberg Minor Hockey and NobleKing Minor Hockey will achieve the best of both worlds in terms of helping to preserve and celebrate our traditional Hometown Hockey identities at the Local League level, while allowing us to build a stronger, more dynamic and competitive Rep Hockey Program that will benefit all players within King Township.

Please join us for our Special Membership Meetings on February 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm, for your opportunity to hear more about the structure of this proposal, and for your opportunity to cast a vote on whether we move forward with the next chapter of minor hockey in King Township.

More information about our Special Membership Meetings, your eligibility to vote in these Meetings at designated locations – and copies of the relevant King Township Minor Hockey proposals can be found on our Association websites.

We look forward to your support as we launch a new chapter in King Township Hockey, together as partners.

Yours truly,

Mike Baldesarra

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