

Sale of club explained

By DOUG BULWER
 "All differences have been straightened out and at the present time there are two proposals to buy the Vernon Essos Junior "A" hockey club from the Vernon Minor Hockey Association.

This was the crux of a statement given to the Vernon News Wednesday by minor hockey president Stewart Mitchell following the associations directors meeting Tuesday night.

"We have named a committee of six directors to look into the matter and bring back recommendations next week at another directors meeting called for the purpose," said the hockey president.

What can be termed an unusual turn of events on the public announcement from as yet a verified source, about the sale of the B.C. champion Vernon Essos, caused a mild uproar amongst local hockey buffs, hence the special meeting Tuesday.

Last week, both radio and TV reports came out with stories claiming minor hockey president Stewart Mitchell had issued a statement that the Essos would be put up for sale.

The news, however, was not really surprising because many rumors over the past several months on the subject had been voiced about such a situation. But the big factor in the release was that Mitchell later claimed he had not publicly given forth with the news of the Essos being put up for sale.

With the press invited, the Tuesday night meeting obviously was called to clear up any previous statements and at the same time lay on the line the intentions of the Minor Association, which by the way, had apparently voted at an earlier meeting to put the Junior "A" up for sale.

Also, the meetings intent was to give those interested in operating the Essos club a chance to make at least preliminary proposals to take over the operation.

Following a short meeting of general business matters, the directors then delved into the sale propositions.

Of the two interested parties, only one group attended as a delegation while the other made application in writing.

Oddity of the subsequent remainder of the meeting was that the press was allowed to hear those propositions as voiced by the delegation but

was asked to leave while the directors discussed in committee the application which had been sent by mail.

The two man delegation headed by Essos club president, Dave MacKay, with team manager Vern Dye in attendance were introduced by Mr. Mitchell who asked Mr. MacKay to speak on behalf of the junior committee who have been in charge of the Essos operation.

Prior to referring to a written report, Mr. MacKay gave a brief pre-ambles on the club over the past few years leading up to the present time then quickly read through the presentation.

Essence of what Mr. MacKay had to say boiled down to the fact he and his group did not want the Essos team to be sold, but to remain under the ownership of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association with the team operation being placed under the management company where those in charge could operate the club within the boundaries and rules of the present B.C. Junior "A" League, at the present time consisting of seven teams, Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster on the Coast and Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon and Kamloops in the Interior.

His feelings on this and obviously those of the remainder of the junior committee, was to keep the club under the ownership of the community at large via the hockey association and not let private enterprise grab up the franchise with the possibility of said franchise being moved to another centre at any time.

Stressing this point, Mr. MacKay said for the good of hockey in Vernon, this would be the only way to operate, giving the local fans good entertainment and a chance for local hockey players to play in their own environment.

Another point raised by Mr. MacKay dealt with possible deficits in the club operation during years when support or team and league quality was low to the point where debts might be incurred and then the onus would then fall on the shoulders of a few not directly responsible for the over-all operation.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. MacKay said there would be some changes possibly needed in the report as submitted by his group but he felt the Minor Hockey people could review the submission, make any changes they felt necessary and then go over the final arrangements for the operation of the junior club with the present committee.

As to the letter apparently asking to purchase the club, one can only assume it came from a Vernon group, just one of many that are apparently interested in taking over the operation.

Text of the written request is of course not known outside the membership of the minor hockey directorate, but it can be assumed and as many rumors have it, came from a group headed by a city lawyer who had enclosed a cheque of an unknown sum as part of a preliminary payment said to be \$5,000 they were willing to pay for the ownership.

Probably the best explanation of what has taken place over the past several weeks and one that so far gives the clearest picture of the much rumored sale of the Essos, came from minor hockey director Nick Schuck.

Mr. Schuck told The Vernon News that at an earlier directors meeting this year,

preliminary discussions took place as to the disposition of the junior club and it was decided at that time a committee be formed to investigate all aspects of placing the operation into other hands.

Apparently the main idea was to work with the present junior committee and have these people determine whether they could take over more responsibility and the complete running of the club without the minor group being involved.

"We did not at anytime publicly advertise the Essos being up for sale, but merely were looking into the early stages of having the operation placed on firmer ground so as to give the minor hockey association no liabilities against it.

"Also, with the growth of the B.C. junior hockey league and higher operating costs, it was felt that the juniors should be operated under their own identity.

"It is too bad that the junior committee did not give us this

present report sooner as we wanted them to do and then all this conjecture would not be going around and we would have been able to tell the public that the club was not up for sale to private enterprise," concluded Mr. Schuck.

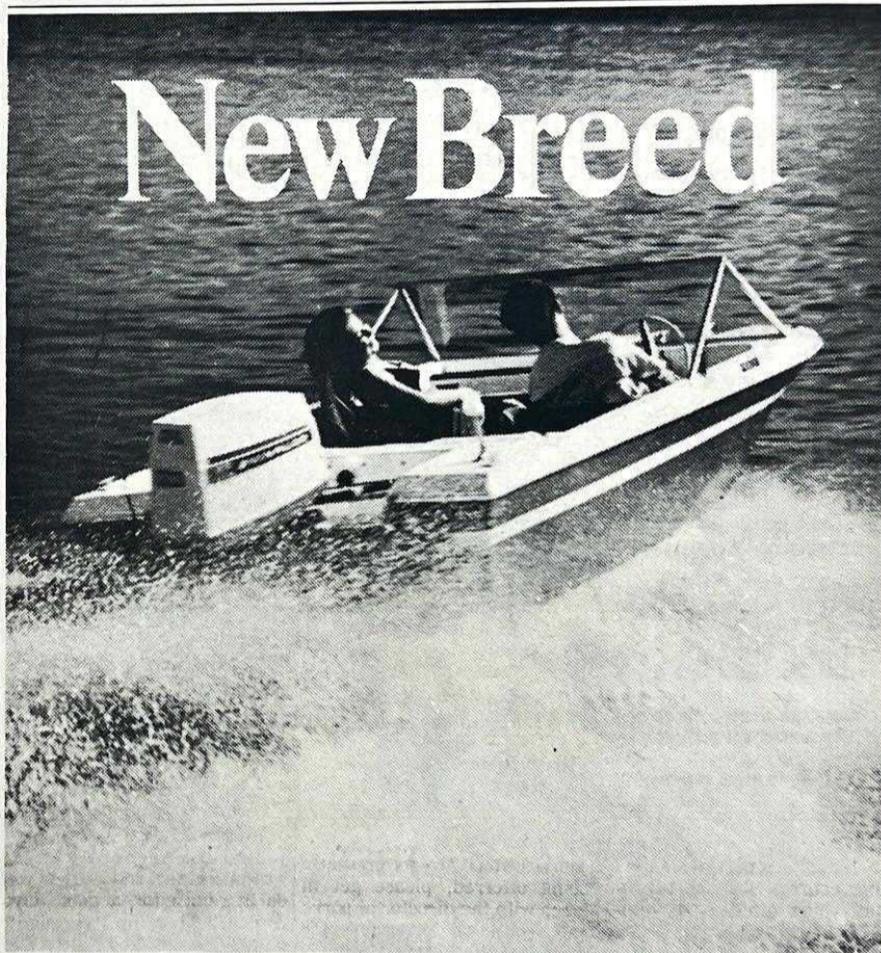


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Vernon, B.C.

ers named

Wayne Dye also of the Essos was selected to the same group as the left winger.

Vernon players, Lawrence Quechuk and Don Manson made the second all-star group with Vancouver Centennial Ron Mathews named as coach.

Hockey League

Y-OFFS
 off Games
 STATISTICS

G	A	Pts	Pen.
13	11	24	37
10	11	21	2
4	16	20	2
9	10	19	18
7	12	19	41
9	9	18	6
7	11	18	45
5	10	15	18
5	8	13	4
8	4	12	6
5	7	12	26

NALITIES
 dividual

54 min.

Lowe top coach

Five Vernon players named

At long last information on the final standings in the B.C. Junior "A" league have

arrived.

Named as the most valuable player in the league was Vernon's own Bob Mayer who also made the first all-star team as a defenceman.

Odie Lowe was picked the first all-star coach, while

Wayne Dye also of the Essos was selected to the same group as the left winger.

Vernon players, Lawrence Quechuk and Don Manson made the second all-star group with Vancouver Centennial Ron Mathews named as coach.

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B.C. Junior "A" Hockey League

PLAY-OFFS

All Play-off Games

SCORING STATISTICS

	G	A	Pts	Pen.
Wayne Dye, Ver.	13	11	24	37
Jack Marsh, Ver.	10	11	21	2
John Price, Ver.	4	16	20	2
Alex Shibicky, Vic.	9	10	19	18
Gordon Osinchuck, Ver.	7	12	19	41
L. Quechuck, Ver.	9	9	18	6
Bob Craig, Ver.	7	11	18	45
Ted Plowe, Vic.	5	10	15	18
Pat Askew, Vic.	5	8	13	4
John Kwasney, Vic.	8	4	12	6
Bruce Cowick, Vic.	5	7	12	26

PENALTIES

Individual

Bill Owens, Ver.	54 min.
Bob Craig, Ver.	45 min.

Team

Vernon	335 Min.
Vancouver	174 Min.
Victoria	171 Min.
Kamloops	135 Min.

GOAL AVERAGES

	G	GA	GAv.
Vernon	13	46	3.54
Victoria	13	49	3.77
Vancouver	7	30	4.29
Kamloops	7	36	5.14

Standings

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Vernon	13	8	5	57	46	16
Victoria	13	6	7	58	49	12
Vancouver	7	3	4	24	30	6
Kamloops	7	3	4	22	36	6

ALL-STAR TEAMS

First Team

Goal: Lionel Trudell (Van)
 Right Defense: Dwayne Pentland (Pen)
 Left Defense: Bob Mayer (Ver)
 Centre: Marv Ferg. (Kam)
 Right Wing: John Senkpiel (Kam)
 Left Wing: Wayne Dye (Ver)
 Coach: Odie Lowe (Ver)

Second Team

Ed Forslund (Vic)
 Bob Salo (Van)
 Gerry Bond (Vic)
 Don Manson (Ver)
 Lawrence Quechuck (Ver)
 Bruce Cowick (Vic)
 Coach: Ron Matthews (Van)
 Rookie of the Year: John Senkpiel (Kam)
 Most Valuable Player: Bob Mayer (Ver)

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