

Another season of horseshoes starts in King

By Jeff Doner

If you haven't already heard, there's a horseshoe league in King City.

For the past eight years, teams of four have gathered at the King City arena for some friendly competition, social experience and to just try out something different.

"It started out that we were literally just trying to find different ways of generating some revenue back to the arena and also getting a different group of people involved in sports," said organizer Rick Hampton. "What we were trying to do is basically get the age group of 19 all the way up 85."

Over the years, that's exactly what they've had. Hampton said there are teams for all age levels, and it's also co-ed.

Right now the league is looking to fill some last spots in registration. You can submit a team of four and include a couple spares. Fees are \$115 a person, which works out about \$7 a night.

The league runs every Thursday night from May 16 to Aug. 15 inside the King City arena and has two time slots - the first 7 to 9 p.m. and then second starts right after.

The games run for 20 minutes or the first to 21 points, with 20 pits set up to keep things moving along.

The event is licensed, therefore it's for ages 19 and up, and every Thursday there is a food spread.

For those interested, but who would like to see it first, Hampton said people can just stop in and try it out.

"It's just a fun, social night and it's something completely different," he said. "There's no one else doing anything like this."

Hampton's brother Paul also helps organize the event and he said it's a great sport that anyone can play.

"Like Rick said, it's just something different. We both grew up playing competitive hockey and we still play, but horseshoes is a different animal. It's a relaxed atmosphere and we've got the tunes going. It's great."

Alex Pozdrowski, 26, played last year and also had some great things to say about the league.

"It's a fun night of friendly competition and a great way to meet new people in the community," he said.

The weekly event has even made its way on to Mayor Steve Pellegrini's calendar, who has participated in the league for the past few years.

For more information or to register, contact Paul Hampton at 416-985-0155.