

Join sports-complex plan, dirt jumpers urged



JASON HALSTEAD/SUN MEDIA

Mymko (right) and Ken 'Reggie' Harrison, V-P of the East Winnipeg Sports Association.

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A proposed off-road cycling track for racing and rough-riding could roll out to Transcona in world-class style.

That's the opinion of East Winnipeg Sports Association planners of the Buhler Recreation Park. They are trying to woo the Winnipeg Dirt Jump Association's planned facility to their sports complex under construction on Murdock Road.

"Let's build it for generations to come," said Steve Mymko, of the EWSA and facility manager with the \$6-million Buhler complex. "This is about two groups that could come together and make something good happen."

"We're a site ready to go," he added, noting many of the site's softball diamonds and soccer fields could be set for play in September.

Mymko will meet today with dirt-jump group presi-

dent George Mason, whose BMX and mountain biking members have hit speed-bumps in their attempts to work with city hall to create a riding park in Elmwood.

While seeking up to \$80,000 from the city to help set the park up at a public green space on Watt Street, the dirt-jumpers were stalled when some councillors such as Russ Wyatt (Transcona) worried recently that the park would become a muddy eyesore.

Remove logjam

Mymko wants to remove the logjam in talks and speed plans to help the group build the dirt course and related facilities — including bleachers for competition spectators — adjacent to Buhler's baseball and softball diamonds, soccer pitches, walking trails, toboggan runs and skating pond.

"We would want a world class course where we could

host a world championship," Mymko stressed. "I bet we could be up and running within a year."

Though insurance and cost issues must be worked out, Mason is optimistic about Buhler park's potential, despite a potential problem in its distance for cyclists from west Winnipeg.

Mymko maintains that families will drive to Transcona for such an off-road track, which Mason says could cost \$150,000 if it were to meet racing standards for BMX bicycles.

"If we're going world class, we're looking at paved corners and everything. As a club, we fully support it," Mason said of possibilities at the Buhler layout.

"Apparently they have funds available for this, and it would quickly make back its money if we hold races there. It would be more of an investment, as opposed to a payout."

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