

DUGOUT CHATTER

On the Internet: www.gsscs.org ... **GSSC Hotline for Meeting Info:** 491-1721

JULY 6 MEETING: NOMINEES FOR AUG. 3 ELECTION

Membership will elect a new board of directors at the Aug. 3 general meeting based on nominations for the seven posts that were presented at the July 6 meeting. President **Ray Mendonsa**, Treasurer **Glen Cole**, Player Agent **Tom Sansone** and First Vice President **Fred Fischer**, responsible for team sponsors, are unopposed for re-election.

Dick Latimer and **Bob Smartt** were nominated for the office of club commissioner, which has been vacated by Dave Vargo for health reasons, and is temporarily filled by Freddie Miller. Second Vice President **Pete Ward**, responsible for uniforms, is on the ballot for re-election. **Doug Gedestad**, 56, a L5 player and club member since 2008, also was nominated for the position.

George Lamb, 56, a League 5 shortstop and club member since December 2005, is unopposed for club secretary. The current secretary, Mickey Schleicher, moved his primary residence to Nevada and is unable to continue on the board.

Nominations of Smartt and Gedestad were made from the floor before John Mizerak, nominating committee chairman, closed nominations.

Latimer, 66, joined the club on Nov. 30, 2007 and currently is in non-playing membership status as he recovers from back surgery. He is retired as an engineering professor at the University of Louisville, where he was active as an ASA umpire assigner and treasurer of the ASA affiliate in Louisville. He said he has experience as a member of boards of directors of baseball (American Legion) and softball organizations in Kentucky. He served as umpire in chief. He said he hopes to be able to play ball next year and, if elected, dedicate most of his time to being the club's commissioner. "I promise to give 110% to the position," he added.

Smartt, 55, is in his sixth year with the club and has been active as a team manager and, with wife Trudy, as the club's Sunshine and Health Committee chairs. Bob currently plays in all three night leagues and manages a team on Wednesday nights. He is manager of maintenance and repair services for the newly formed Twin Rivers Unified School District. He held a similar position with the Rio Linda School District, for which he worked 27 years.

Club commissioner duties include appointing league commissioners, enforcing club playing rules, and dealing with league playing or personnel issues that require board-level attention.

The Aug. 3 meeting will be held at the VFW Hall at 2784 Stockton Blvd., beginning at 7:30 p.m. The new board will be sworn in at the club's Sept. 19 meeting.

Other news from the July 6 meeting, which was well-attended:

ASA vs. SSUSA. Discussion of whether the club might switch from the Amateur Softball Association to Senior Softball USA for governance was postponed to the August meeting, when a representative from ASA's Greater Sacramento Softball Association is expected to make a presentation. SSUSA has already made a presentation and arguments on both sides have been published in the Dugout Chatter (June issue), which is online at www.gsscs.org. (See Page 2)

JULY 6 MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)

Uniforms. Ward said the new uniforms issued this year are of a cooler and faster-drying polyester material that “appears to be holding up pretty well.” More of these jerseys will be phased in next year. Speaking of league championship awards, Ward said each player on a championship team will get a special t-shirt and hat right after the Sept. 19 games. Championship jackets can be ordered for \$17 more per player, he added.

Insurance. Player Agent Sansone noted that the club now has a \$2 million liability insurance policy good through the rest of this calendar year. The policy was provided free of charge by SSUSA. It was recently discovered that the \$25 per team fee to the Complex pays for the Complex insurance and neither the club nor its players has been insured through ASA, as many had believed. This insurance, valued at more than \$6,000 per year, will be included in the 2009-10 club budget, which could have some impact on club dues. President Mendonsa said the decision to accept the SSUSA insurance offer for 2009 does not bind the club to continue the coverage through SSUSA next year or to choose SSUSA over ASA as a governing body.

Facilities. The club formed a committee of the board to negotiate with the Complex for use of fields in 2010. The board also has been in contact with the contractor in charge of the Freedom Park softball fields at the former McClellan Air Force Base. Mendonsa has reiterated that any decision to move any of the GSSCS leagues from the Complex requires substantial support of the club’s members.

Safety & Respect. Acting Club Commissioner Freddie Miller, who also supervises umpires, said there appears to be “a lot of confusion” as players in Leagues 3, 4 and 5 “don’t want to read the rule book.” He said there continues to be a problem of players “not running wide” to avoid contact with the middle infielder making a play at the base. Players risk ejection, he said. Also, he said there have been instances of “disrespectful” behavior toward umpires. Warnings have been issued, he said. On the issue of bats and balls, he said that “we’re researching” what is available to give Golden Seniors “the best bang for the buck next year.” #

PICNIC DAY CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS SCHEDULE

The following schedule has been adopted for league championship games on Saturday, Sept. 19:

Field #1 -- 8:30 Tuesday L2. 9:45 Wednesday Night L4. 11:00 Monday L1.

Field #2 -- 8:30 Tuesday Night L3. 9:45 Tuesday Select 60+ L6. 11:00 Thursday Night L5.

Field #3 -- 9:45 Tuesday Select 70+ L7. #

CLUB LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2009

League 1 -- Jim McNamara (424-1402), Asst. George Hodsdon (481-9304); League 2 -- Cloicec Wade (393-5809), Asst. Jim Wait (455-4440); League 3 -- Jerry Toenyas (354-4126), Asst. Bill Knoblauch (408-5501); League 4 -- Dick Mathews (530-672-2689); League 5 -- Monta Litle (606-4776); League 6 -- Victor Torres (784-7910); League 7 -- Larry Campbell (485-4843). #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

Life Member **Robert "Bobby" Tastad** passed away on May 18. He was 88. Bobby joined the Golden Seniors in 1985 and played through 2002. In 2003, he was the club "quartermaster," handling orders for new jerseys, etc.

Dave Vargo, who has taken leave from the club commissioner post, reported his five hours of surgery (both knee replacements) went well. "Not a stitch of pain -- yet," he said, although he was still at the hospital. Days later, on June 15, he reported he was to be released from the hospital that afternoon, adding, "I'm not quite ready to come back (and play) but I'm making progress." Despite considerable discomfort, Vargo attended the July 6 general meeting. When Dynamo Dave regains even a fraction of his terrifying base-running prowess, hopefully next year, he will be back as an offensive force sooner rather than later.

Dan Severson is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Jerry Jodice, hospitalized June 26 for colon surgery, said on July 8 that he expected to be released in a couple days and hoped to be back soon to manage the first-place Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal team in League 1.

Lou Ve'Lez of L1 suffered a broken finger and is out for the season. #

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ZORRACE INC.

(NOTE: DUMONT PEST CONTROL, MIKE DAUGHERTY CHEVROLET, EAST LAWN INC. AND BRADSHAW RANCH GOLF WERE NOT INCLUDED IN EARLIER LISTING OF RETURNING PAID SPONSORS. WE ARE MUCH APPRECIATIVE OF THEIR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL.)

#

League One (Thru June 29)	W-L	Run Differential	Overall W-L
1. Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal	6-0	+36	11-2
2. Merrill Bookkeeping & Tax	5-1	+37	9-4
3. Mimi's Cafe	4-1	+8	8-4
4. Dumont Pest Control	3-2	+1	8-4
5. Wion's Body Shop	2-3	+1	4-8
6. Daugherty Chevrolet	2-3	-30	6-6
7. I Forgot	2-4	-13	6-8
8. L&S Survey	1-4	-15	5-7
9. Teichert Construction	0-5	-21	0-12

Nielsen won the L1 First Round with a 5-2 mark. There were three weeks to go in the Second Round. -- Tom Coe.

NEW LEAGUE 7 NEWS

New League 7 is still having more fun with all but one team tied for second place. Batting leaders through games of June 30: Big John Figlar .757, John (It's Gotta Be in the Genes) Blackwell .732, Henry Low .703, Jim Stinson .700, Tony Martini .690.

If you like batters who never force out another runner, then you would like Earl Prawdzik, Ted Hansen, Russ Ellstrom and Vinny Pisani. "Hit behind the runner!"

We are learning from Jules Morganstern's crafty Denny's Grand Slam veterans. They lead the league with 17 walks as nearly every batter has one or more "free passes." Since the managers learned of this Denny's record, Jim Stinson's Maita Chevrolet team shot up from 5 to 13 walks in two weeks. What did you say to your team, Jim? "Take the first strike; make 'em pitch to you!" Team batting averages are all in a close range from .509 to .557. We are having more fun ... except when L6 crushes us once a month. -- Larry Campbell, L7 commissioner. #

Sunshine & Health Chair Needs to Know

Trudy Smartt, who is the clearing house for information on members who have to suspend play due to injuries or illnesses, and sends sympathy cards to the survivors of members who pass away, asks that she be informed by team managers when a player is seriously hurt or ailing. Her phone number is 916 973-8269. #

Picnic Leaders Need Volunteers -- Get Involved!!!

The club's tireless and dedicated co-chairs of the annual picnic -- Benny Benson and Dante Ciardella -- said at the July 6 general meeting that the Sept. 19 club picnic is going to be better than ever. They really need volunteers. Call Dante at 453-1921 or Benny at 383-0179. #

SHORT HOPS

SUNDAY DH LEAGUE. Dave Avery reports that his Sunday Double Header League at Fair Oaks Park will commence Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. and run through Nov. 1, with playoffs that day at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., followed by a picnic. He needs signups. Call him at 203-6702. #

EXTRA TEAM PHOTOS. League Photog Lou Coppola reports that, due to a processing snafu, he has additional team photos for eight teams available for \$1 each. Call him at 444-6138 or check with your manager as a member of any of these teams: L&S Survey, Teichert Construction, Harper's, VFW Post 67, Mark White, Sports Leisure, Denny's or Espanol restaurants.

By the way, the June issue of *Senior Magazine* has a nice feature on Lou, complete with 1952 photo of Lou interviewing actress Betty Hutton. #

CAUGHT ON THE FLY

As the season neared the midway point, Monte Miller batted a blistering .914 to lead League 3 (and all of the GSSC), collecting 32 hits in 35 at-bats through games of June 30. He had played in 10 games. No one has posted a batting average of .900 or better over a full season in recent years.

In League 5 (Thursday night), Scorekeeper Sandy Begg reported three batters above .800 through games of June 25: Bob Del Chiaro (21x25 for .840), Demontro Davis (26x31 for .839), and Rich Ganas (20x24 for .833). In the third league for which Begg maintains stats, League 6, Doug Peterson was hitting .861 through nine games, and his 31 hits included 7 doubles, 6 triples and 4 home runs. He had driven in 32 runs, almost

four per game that he played. Wow!!!

Scorekeeper Collette Barnes reported Rich Edwards as the leading League 2 hitter at .886 as of June 30. Rambit Inc. and Harper Properties were tied for the L2 lead with 8-3 records.

In L4, as of July 1, Don Jackson was batting .816, and CA Energy Services #1 (8-3) had a one-game lead over Lehr Auto Electric.

Also in L5, Begg reported that Rich Ganas' grand slam on June 18 was the first over-the-fence blast she'd seen this season. It paced Espanol to a 23-15 victory over CA Energy Systems #2. Jeff Massingale of first-place Overhead Door homered that night, an inside-the-parker, in a 13-8 triumph over Avalon Hearing Center. De Davis homered, tripled and doubled for Visions Optometry on June 11. Davis also tripled twice on June 18.

In June 9 League 6 play, Bill Nevis homered for Jerry Nevis Realtor (formerly Sammy's Family Restaurant). Tom Best had a pair of triples as GSSA dealt Compass Strategies their first defeat, 17-5. On June 23, John Moran of Compass Strategies homered in an 11-10 loss to Jerry Nevis, dropping Compass out of a first-place tie with GSSA, 20-13 winner over Mark White DDS. On June 2, GSSA collected five homers, one from Best, two from Noel Maldonado and two from Doug Peterson, and seven doubles in a 29-24 slugfest over Mark White DDS.

In League 3 on June 9, Jack Wabinga had two triples and a double for ReMax in a 20-15 loss to then-unbeaten Jolly Rogers, who had three doubles from Rich Walker. On June 30, Jolly Rogers dropped its first game of the season, 16-12 to Cimino Care: Arden Park Villa & Citrus Heights Terrace. #

FIVE DOUBLE PLAYS HIGHLIGHT L1 VICTORY. Exceptional defense, with five rally-killing double plays, paced Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal to a 10-2 victory over L&S Survey in a League 1 game June 2. Nielsen Manager Jerry Jodice said a sixth DP was almost pulled off when a line drive was caught and the runner at first base was nearly doubled up.

Bob Rogers, Norm Blackwell Sr., etc. of the Sacramento Gold 75s won the Rock N Reno championship for their bracket. The Sacramento Blues 65s finished second to a tough Vancouver, BC team in their division. The tough Sharks of Sacramento wound up in third place. #

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK SALES HELP CLUB RAISE \$\$\$

Entertainment Chairman Lou Coppola reported at the July 6 general meeting that he is taking orders for \$40 Entertainment Books for 2010 which he said will be available in late August for use earlier than usual. Lou said sales totaled about \$800 last year. The books feature two-for-one deals at local restaurants, specials at hotels, car rentals, airlines and retailers. They are good September 2009 through November 2010, or 14 months. Call 444-6138 to place an early order to get your book by Sept. 1.

LEAGUE 3 ACTION: A.J. Petruzzi, manager of Vino Con Brio, prepares to stride into a pitch against Re/Max in recent L3 game. (Lou Coppola Photo)



NOMINATIONS ARE SOUGHT FOR CLUB'S AWARD OF MERIT

The nomination committee for the club's "Award of Merit" (formally "Man of the Year) for 2009 had a preliminary meeting and realized the club has grown so large that we could easily be overlooking a member who has given much time and energy to the club and should be given serious consideration for this award.

As such, the nominating committee, comprised of former winners of the Man of the Year award, is looking for any member of our club to recommend any person, in writing, who has gone far beyond normal duties in the club, and who meet the following criteria: "To recognize those individuals who through their actions for the benefit of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento have given over and beyond the requirement of simple membership in bringing recognition to the club and its members." **Submission information is confidential and the nomination will be kept on file for future consideration if he or she is not selected this year.**

The deadline for submittals is July 30, 2009. #

Clip Here =====

NOMINATION FORM FOR 2009 AWARD OF MERIT

Purpose of this form is to nominate an individual who meets the following criteria: This individual, who through his actions for the benefit of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento, has given over and beyond the requirement of simple membership to bring recognition to the club and its members. DEADLINE: JULY 30.

Nominee: _____.

What has this member done to fit the above criteria? _____

_(Attach separate sheet if needed).

Submitted by: _____ Phone: _____

Give or return to Henry Fontes, 7056 Carthy Way, Sacramento, CA 95828 (916-381-2455) or George Hodsdon, 4523 Ulysses Drive, Sacramento, CA 96864 (916-481-9304).

2009 General Meetings Schedule: August 3 (Election of 2009-10 Board of Directors) VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd. -- **September 19** (in conjunction with the annual Picnic/Leagues Championship Playoff Games at the Sacramento Softball Complex) #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2008-2009

President **Ray Mendonsa** ... 686-3894

First Vice President **Fred Fischer** ... 685-5044
(Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ... 989-4722
(Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer **Glen Cole** ... 966-4561

Secretary **Mickey Schleicher** ... 239-9230

Player Agent **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654 (Responsible
for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Acting Club Commissioner **Freddie Miller** ... 372-6864
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league
commissioners.)

***NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: MONDAY,
AUG. 3, 7:30 P.M. SITE: VFW HALL, 2784
STOCKTON BLVD., SACRAMENTO***

TELEPHONE HOTLINES

Club Answering Machine

(managed by Don Shank):
491-1721 for meeting news
and field conditions.

Phone or Address Changes:

Henry Low 391-3938

Player Applications: Tom
Sansone 686-1654

Sunshine & Health: Trudy
Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:
456-1500

Safety: Jerry Jodice
349-8949

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron
Roach, editor 422-2500
(coachrwr@comcast.net)

Golden Seniors Softball Club
Ray Mendonsa, President
2324 Migration Court
Elk Grove, CA 95757

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