

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

GSSC MEMBERS ELECT 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2009-2010 Golden Seniors Board of Directors was elected at the Aug. 3 general meeting, including the unopposed re-elections of President Ray Mendonsa, First Vice President Fred Fischer, Second Vice President Pete Ward, Treasurer Glen Cole and Player Agent Tom Sansone.

Bob Smartt was elected to the post of club commissioner (beating Dick Latimer in the only contested election). George Lamb was uncontested for the job of club secretary. All will be sworn in at the Sept. 19 general meeting held in conjunction with the annual club picnic/league championship playoffs at the Sacramento Softball Complex. (Note: Doug Gedestad had been a nominee for second vice president, but withdrew. Descriptions of board members' responsibilities are on the back page.)

Other news from the Aug. 3 meeting:

ASA vs. SSUSA. Following a presentation and Q&A session with a representative of the Amateur Softball Association (Greater Sacramento Softball Association), Mendonsa said he intends to have the question of GSSC governance decided by a vote of the membership. Ballots would be mailed to all members and the result would be announced at the November general meeting. (See Page 2)

SEPT. 19 PICNIC WILL BE SPICED UP WITH LIVE MUSIC

Dante Ciardella won club approval at the Aug. 3 meeting to "spice up" this year's Sept. 19 picnic with live music. It was felt that the picnic had become "too dry," Dante told the Board of Directors, which put the question to the membership. A 12-9 vote approved the \$580 expenditure.

The band is led by George Bruno, whom Dante said specializes in music of the 1940s and 1950s, so get ready for the first tune, which Dante said he expects to be "In The Mood." Dante said there is even a concrete area where some may want to dance. The band, including a singer, will perform from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or perhaps longer. The picnic, which will include fried chicken as well as quarter-pound burgers and hot dogs -- and beer -- also will feature a table for members (or their wives) to bring a dish to share.

Ciardella also told the club that Benny Benson is actually in charge of the picnic -- if anything goes wrong. Benny did not comment on that, but he requested notice in the Dugout Chatter. They also seek volunteers to help. Call Dante at 453-1921 or Benny at 383-0179 if you can help. There is no charge for members, wives/husbands, or sponsors and their guests. There is a \$6 fee for members' guests and kids over 7. #

CLUB DIRECTORS ARE ELECTED FOR 2010 -- FROM PAGE 1

The ASA's regional chief umpire, Dave Maudsley, defended the no-exceptions requirement to use only ASA-certified bats and 44-core balls. Bat handles could be double-wrapped, but no thicker. Bats that predate the ASA standards of 2000 are allowed at the discretion of the umpire. Bats "dented" or otherwise deemed unsafe are disallowed.

Mendonza said that the club could still opt for Senior Softball USA-provided insurance and play at the Complex, but would not be allowed to use non-ASA-approved bats such as the Miken Freak or Ultra II. Maudsley urged the club to carefully consider the levels of coverage and costs of ASA-provided insurance, including a policy to protect club officers who could be named in lawsuits. The board earlier this year purchased insurance from SSUSA for the current calendar year after discovering that the Complex fees included insurance for the Complex, but not the club officers or its members. (Board members noted that the SSUSA policy covered ambulance costs for an injured player, while the ASA policy would not.)

Maudsley vehemently defended the ASA equipment standard that limits the speed of a batted ball to 98 miles per hour as within the reaction time of the average fielder playing softball. He also said that ASA has had to impose a strict re-testing and re-certification process because companies have made bats that pass initial tests but get hotter as they are broken in. Safety is the primary concern, he said, asking how the GSSC's leaders would feel if they allowed a non-ASA-approved bat that resulted in serious injury or even death to a fellow player.

Advocates of SSUSA governance (that would still not allow use of the better bats at the Complex) say older players lack the swing speed of the machines used in testing, and the combination of weak bats and low-compression balls has diminished enjoyment of the game. They also say the ASA-approval process has driven up the cost of bats that are allowed at the Complex. (See League 7 Commissioner Larry Campbell's arguments for SSUSA governance in the June 2009 issue of Dugout Chatter, as well as an ASA response by Jeff Dubchansky to SSUSA's pitch to the club board and members at a meeting last spring. See the Dugout Chatter of April 2009 for coverage of this presentation. Past issues of Dugout Chatter are archived on the club Web site: www.gsscs.org).

At any rate, Mendonza stressed that such decisions must be made by the membership, not the board of directors, and he is looking to have the matter settled at the November general meeting. Mendonza said the GSSC decision on insurance would not allow one or more of the club's leagues to branch off from a decision to use ASA or SSUSA. At the Aug. 3 meeting, Mendonza, who is an ASA-certified umpire, said he believes the "founding fathers" of the GSSC intended the club to be a "recreational" experience. He said those who want to hit over-the-fence home runs on a regular basis are primarily tournament-level players who are able to use hot bats in those venues.

2010 League Fees. Player Agent Tom Sansone reported that he is working on the applications for 2010, including cover letters, but the Sacramento Complex has yet to provide an updated list of field fees. (Complex officials have told the board that 2010 fees would increase very little, if at all, but they apparently don't have the final say.) Sansone said the club cannot "look at other fields until the Complex is ruled out." He also said that the Howe Avenue venue for L1 will not be changed. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

MONDAY MORNING HEALTH REPORT: **Murv Granderson's wife** had a serious operation on July 27. **Del Leavitt** was in a hospital being checked out for chest pains. **Al Cross** was transferred from hospital to nursing home ... still in tough shape.

One of our long-time ballplayers (**Bob Mitchell**) went in for outpatient surgery for a small skin cancer caused by too much sun. The operation was completed in 8 1/2 hours and required 20 stitches. The player was sidelined for six weeks. Use that sunscreen every time!!! -- George Hodsdon.

Father John Healy had surgery on Aug. 3 in connection with a kidney tumor. In an email to his Old Hornets (L3) teammates, he said, "I am recovering. It will take a bit of time. My regards to the lads and Cheryl and Trudy. I am waiting for the biopsy result. They put a stint in one of the kidneys -- John."

Dave Raydon, sidelined since suffering a heart attack while playing softball with the D League championship Muckrakers in the fall of 2008, returned to Golden Seniors action in July. Welcome back, Dave. You were missed.

Don Nakao (L3) is recovering from a broken forearm.

Bill Knoblauch (L3 sponsor/player of the Old Hornets) has been unable to play due to a serious case of plantar fasciitis.
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NIELSEN REAL ESTATE CAPTURES FIRST TWO ROUNDS

League One first-round champion Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal edged Merrill Bookkeeping & Tax by a two-run margin for the second-round title. Both had 7-1 records for the second round, which was completed on July 20, but Nielsen won by two runs in their head-to-head meeting to finish first. Nielsen won the first round with a 5-2 mark.

Teichert Construction, which had lost its first 12 games, has bounced back with a four-game winning streak, including the first game of Round 3, a 9-8 squeaker over I Forgot. (Thanks to Tom Coe for providing the L1 information.)

ROUND TWO STANDINGS

League One (Thru July 20)	W-L	Run Differential	Overall W-L
1. Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal	7-1	+49	12-3
2. Merrill Bookkeeping & Tax	7-1	+49	12-4
3. Mimi's Cafe	6-2	+17	10-5
4. Dumont Pest Control	5-3	+9	10-5
5. Teichert Construction	3-5	-14	3-12
6. Wion's Body Shop	3-5	+1	5-10
7. I Forgot	2-6	-13	6-8
8. L&S Survey	2-6	-28	6-9
9. Daugherty Chevrolet	2-6	-54	6-9

Third Round Standing thru July 28: W-L Run Differential Overall W-L

1. Merrill Bookkeeping & Tax	1-0	+8	13-4
2. Wion's Body Shop	1-0	+7	6-10
3. Dumont Pest Control	1-0	+1	11-5
4. Teichert Construction	1-0	+1	4-12
5. Mimi's Cafe	Bye		10-5
6. Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal	0-1	-1	12-4
7. I Forgot	0-1	-1	6-11
8. Daugherty Chevrolet	0-1	-7	6-10
9. L&S Surveys	0-1	-8	6-10

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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. #

Guy Anderson -- Cordova's Hall of Famer -- is Featured in The Bee

Congratulations to League 1 (Dumont Pest Control) player **Guy Anderson**, featured on the front page of the Sacramento Bee on April 21, in the midst of his 40th season as baseball coach at Cordova High School. In July, Anderson was scheduled to be inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame, the top honor for a prep coach, The Bee reported. His teams won 17 league championships and 834 games, making him the winningest coach in the region, any sport. He coached a dozen players who went on to play in the major leagues, including Max Venable. #

News From New L7

Maita Chevrolet is having the most fun! Tied for 1st place, scored the most runs (135), has the most big hitters: John Figlar .784, Jim Stinson, Mgr. .724, Tony Martini .707, Glen Weller .623; has surpassed Denny's with the most walks 26 led by Joe (always take the first strike) Smith 5, Bob Wilson 4, age 81 Earl Prawdzik 4. Ironmen are John Colletto & Jim Stinson, who never missed a game. **Better Softball Bats** is having more fun! It is tied for 1st place; allowed the fewest runs (113); big hitters are Bob Rogers .702, John Blackwell .702, Lou Velez .621; Ray Crews 20 RBIs and a home run; Joe Saiz 19 RBIs; leads with a team batting average of .562. Ironmen are John Blackwell & Ray Molina who never missed a game.

Denny's Grand Slams is having fun riding the bubble in 3rd place! Big hitters are Bobby Jackson .692, Ken Stergion .654, Jules Morganstern, Mgr. .627, Roland Stairwalt .581. Shows us all how it pays to put more runners on base with 11 players having a total of 22 walks. Ironmen are age 79 Les Harper & Bob Scollard who never missed a game. Only L7 team to win a game with L6!

Hooters has the most absent players. Big hitters are Henry Low, Mgr. .750, 29 RBIs, 2 home runs, 2 triples, 5 doubles, slugging avg. 1.038, all while having to find subs for most games, Don Wall .615, Vinni Pisani .596 still has not forced out a runner. Has the fewest team walks 4, and allows the most runs to score 150. Maybe your team should have lunch at Hooters and ask the girls to come cheer for their

team? Ironman is Casper Greif, never missed a game. Al Tirapelli is back in glorious colors! #

SHORT HOPS

The annual **TPA Dinner-Dance** has been set for Nov. 21. Leaders of the Tournament Players Association have extended an invitation to GSSC members to attend the event. Details on tickets and reservations will be finalized in September. Save the date. -- Jerry Johnson. #

Extra Softball Shirts Wanted. From Norm Blackwell Sr. (916-452-1539) on behalf of John Ross, appealing to players and especially managers of former tournament teams to give Blackwell unused shirts so he can pass them on to a "needy" group. Also, if you can donate other usable equipment -- hats, gloves, etc. -- Norm will see to it they are given to those who can put them to good use. #

CAUGHT ON THE FLY

Still Chasing .800 or Better.-- Through July 7, Monte Miller paced GSSC hitters by getting 34 hits in 38 at-bats (an .895 average) in L3.

Also through July 7, Doug Peterson (.861) led L6. Rich Edwards (.848) led L2 thru July 14. L4's top batsman thru July 14: Don Jackson, .844. #

League 2 Standings (thru July 14):

Harper Properties 11-3
Rabbit Inc. 9-4-1
VFW Post 67 9-5
Sports Leisure Vacations 8-4-2
ASAP Signing Services 4-8-2
Arnold Properties 4-8-2
Zorrace Inc. 4-10
Richard H. Will Atty 3-10-1

L3 Standings (thru July 30):

Jolly Rogers 13-1
Re/Max 8-6
Arden Park Villa 6-8
Vino Con Brio 6-8
Livingston Concrete 6-8
Old Hornets 3-11

L4 Standings (thru July 14):

CA Energy Service #1 11-3
Lehr Auto Electric 8-6
Bradshaw Ranch Golf 7-6-1
East Lawn Inc. 5-8-1
Bertolucci's Body & Fender 5-9
C&C Plumbing 5-9

L5 Standings (thru July 30):

Overhead Door 10-5
Avalon Hearing Center 8-7
Espanol Restaurant 8-7
Visions Optometry 7.5-7.5
NorCal Jackets 6.5-8.5
CA Energy Services #2 5-10

L6 Standings (thru July 30):

GSSA 9-2
Compass Strategies 8-3
Jerry Nevis Realtor 3-8
Mark White 2-9

#

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT GAMES

**[Provided (mostly) by scorekeepers
Colette Barnes and Sandy Begg.]**

Cycle Man: Bill McMahon hit for the cycle with five RBI on July 14 in L2.

In the week ending July 30, L5 home run hitters: Ettore Minor and Lyman Rose (Avalon), Bob Milano (CA Energy Services), Jeff Massingale (Overhead), and Demontro Davis twice (Visions). Monta Litle had a pair of triples for Visions.

In L3 (week ending July 10), Emilio Lobato homered twice for the Old Hornets. Alan Raydon circled the bases for Vino Con Brio. In L5, Steve Ayala homered for CA Energy Services.

In L6, on Aug. 4, Compass Strategies pulled out a 20-19 victory over GSSA. Tom Sansone, who had more than one key hit, recorded the complete-game pitching victory. Doug Peterson and Noel Maldonado were hitting stars for GSSA. The win pulled Compass (9-3) into a first-place tie with GSSA. #

**CHECK OUT THE GOLDEN
SENIORS WEB SITE FOR
MORE NEWS AND PHOTOS:**

WWW.GSSCS.ORG

AWARD OF MERIT (AKA MAN OF YEAR): WHO WILL BE HONORED?

The GSSC has honored 42 members for extraordinary service to the club since 1982, and the next honoree or honorees "for outstanding achievement" will be announced at the Sept. 19 picnic/playoffs/general meeting at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

Previous honorees: 1982 -- Ted Larson*, Charlie Lee*, Deni Treaster*; 1983 -- Jim Knoble*; 1984 -- Bill Clark*; 1985 -- Frank Bzik*; 1986 -- Al Bianchi*; 1987 -- Leroy Leonard*; 1988 -- Fred Rainey*; 1989 -- Hi Witt; 1990 -- Wreston Leslie*; 1991 -- Bill Turner; 1992 -- Bud White*; 1993 -- Ken Dumont, Jack Presley; 1994 -- Ralph Congdon, Daryl Cook; 1995 -- Dante Ciardella, Bill Sullivan; 1996 -- Babe Thomas*, C.B. Brady*; 1997 -- Benny Benson; 1998 -- George Hodsdon, Lou Coppola; 1999 -- Jim Mulholland*, Earl Strom*; 2000 -- "Rocky" Rockhill*, Ernie Kidwell; 2001 -- Joe Mucciaccio, Gil Mashburn*; 2002 -- Ken Wollenberg, Clyde Kennedy*; 2003 -- Jim Lortz; 2004 -- Foster Maxwell, Bob Schwan; 2005 -- Ed Campini, Doug McCreary; 2006 -- Henry Fontes; 2007 -- Susan Tucker, James E. Powell; 2008 -- Richard Seward.

Nineteen honorees are deceased. Their names above are followed by an asterisk. One of the 42 is a woman, hence the change in the name of the award from Man of the Year to Award of Merit for Outstanding Achievement.

Past winners of the award comprise the committee that selects the recipient. (See story in the July Dugout Chatter.) This list was submitted by George Hodsdon. #

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 Toenyes (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). #

DUGOUT CHATTER PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

AS WE HAVE DONE IN RECENT YEARS, TWO MORE ISSUES ARE PLANNED DURING THE REST OF 2009. SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, FEATURING COVERAGE OF THE ANNUAL PICNIC/GENERAL MEETING AND LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES, WILL BE PRINTED NEAR THE END OF SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER. THESE ISSUES WILL BE MAILED TO MEMBERS AS WE CANNOT HAVE ON-FIELD DISTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. THEY ALSO WILL BE POSTED ONLINE.. -- RON ROACH, EDITOR . [Those who prefer to read the DC online and not have it mailed to them can save the club the postage cost. Contact Henry Low (391-3938) to have your name removed from the DC mailing list.]

2009 General Meeting Schedule: September 19 (in conjunction with the annual Picnic/Leagues Championship Playoff Games at the Sacramento Softball Complex). The final general meeting of the year is expected to be held in November. #

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: SATURDAY,
SEPT. 19, SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL COMPLEX
IN CONJUNCTION WITH LEAGUE CHAMP
PLAYOFFS AND PICNIC.***

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)

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