

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

GSSC DIRECTORS DECIDE FEWER PLAYERS MEAN FEWER TEAMS, NOT FEWER LEAGUES; DRAFTS MIGHT BE DELAYED WHILE MORE SIGNUPS ARE SOUGHT

With player signups still lagging for several leagues, the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento Board of Directors may consider delaying Feb. 16 player drafts to allow for recruiting more players. Some 90 players from 2009 have not responded to renewal letters or calls, and they appear crucial to whether Wednesday and Thursday night leagues could be reduced by two teams each.

The board has decided to maintain all leagues but react to fewer signups by fielding fewer teams.

Player Agent Tom Sansone said at the Feb. 1 general meeting that to conduct the drafts as scheduled there must be a "drop dead date" for league draft rosters of Feb. 10, so managers can prepare for their drafts. However, club directors planned to confer around Feb. 10 and decide whether the drafts should be pushed back a week or two.

"If team managers insist on more time, we can give it to them" by delaying drafts and perhaps even eliminating some practice games in March, Sansone said.

League 1 (Mondays for players 70 and older) was reported in good shape, with 127 signups. Nine teams of 13 players require 117, so there could be a waiting list of 10. League 3 (Tuesday night coed 50 and older) has a waiting list of six players above the 72 needed for six 12-player teams. L3 has already selected teams. L1 will have tryouts on Feb. 8 (Feb. 15 is backup date) and the draft is scheduled Feb. 16.

However, L2, (Tuesday morning for players 60 and older) which fielded eight teams last year, is looking at a six-team league for 2010. There are 83 signups for 72 spots on six teams of 12 players. It is possible these teams will be expanded to 13 players. L6 (a competitive select league for players 60 and older that plays late on Tuesday mornings) had 45 signups, three fewer than needed for four 12-player teams. (SEE PAGE 6)

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10 ARE INDUCTED AS LIFE MEMBERS

Ten longtime Golden Seniors were inducted as life members at the Feb. 1 general meeting. They are turning at least 75 in 2010 and have at least 15 years in the club, or be at least 80 with 10 years.

Tuxedoed emcee Jim Lortz presented the new life members, as approved by club membership, "have paid their dues and deserve this honor." They are among more than 125 life members. With Lortz' comments, based upon personal knowledge and responses to his questionnaire, they are:

Lou Cerutti, 75, a 21-year member, "started at Tahoe Park using a wood bat and hitting the ball into the right-field trees. ... Now he says even with the new double-wall bat he's lucky to get it out of the infield. Lou, I played with you and you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can still hit pretty good!"

George Crowl, 75, 25-year member. "I have known George for many years in the GSSC. I have played not only with and against George in softball, but also with and against his son in baseball ... You played many years with Bob Schwan on both his GSSC teams and on his TPA team, the Silvers."

Dick Gustin, 75, 22-year member. "Dick is always available to help and usually does and nobody knows. Usually nothing official but just as important anyway. In all the years that I have been involved with this club, I would hear about Dick can do this or Dick can do that or he can help out in a pinch. That's how I remember him both in the GSSC and the TPA. Thanks, Dick!"



The 49th Military Police Brigade softball squad
 2nd Place, Thanksgiving Day Softball Tournament
 Camp Liberty, Iraq January 2010
 STANDING: SFC David Northup, LTC Paul Rogers (Manager), CPT Steven Jester, MAJ Earl Russell, SGT Joel Torres and SPC Melvin Brunson. KNEELING: SSG Cedric Daga, SPC David Baynes (Team MVP), 1SG Ben Jandreau, CW3 John Ferrera and LTC Barbara McPhail. MISSING: LTC Peter Cross, SPC Rommel Vazquez and SPC Eddie Siguenza

Golden Senior Paul Rogers, back row, second from left, managed an MP softball team that finished second in a Thanksgiving Day tournament at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Paul, who lives in Elk Grove, was a GSSC League 5 player in 2009. Thanks to Greg Luergans for forwarding this photo.

Jerry Jodice, 80, 13-year member. He served as president of the club in 2005-06, and also has been editor of the Dugout Chatter. He has managed up to three teams per year, winning a championship in 2005, 2007 and 2009. He currently serves as the club's safety chairman. "Prior to joining GSSC, Jerry was the honorary ornery mayor of Citrus Heights 1992-93. I looked up 'ornery' in the dictionary. It states: 'Having an ugly or mean disposition or just obstinate.' Those are great qualifications for becoming president of this club. ... Jerry, we thank you for the time and effort and your continued support of this club." As safety chairman, Jerry has organized CPR/AED training for GSSC members. Arnold Disney believes this training helped him respond to Dick Horkey's life-threatening emergency in 2009.

Jim Lamm, 75, 17-year member. According to George Hodsdon, Jim is the second life (SEE PAGE 4)

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

Suzanne LeEllen Kidwell, daughter of Ernest and Lorita Kidwell, died Jan. 5, according to an obituary in the Jan. 21 Sacramento Bee. She was 42.

The mother of **Russ Barnes**, L2 and L4 manager, has passed away. The father of **Bill Lew** (L4) has died. #

DUGOUT CHATTER DELIVERY PROCESS STRESSES ONLINE READERSHIP, LESS SNAIL MAIL

We resume our limited snail-mail distribution of the Dugout Chatter with the March issue. Look for it online before the 15th of the month.

Every effort will be made to notify members that it is online through email message. Here is how it is designed to work: The board is notified that a new issue has been posted online. The alert is sent to league commissioners, who in turn relay the notice to team managers, who then send the notice to their players. If a manager lacks electronic mail capability, the job needs to be delegated to a player who is equipped to handle the responsibility. A limited number of printed copies will be available at the scorekeeper's table during practice and league games. Only non-playing members who have no email access can expect to continue receiving the DC via the U.S. Postal Service. #

LIFE-SAVING CLASSES ARE OFFERED IN FEBRUARY

Safety Chairman Jerry Jodice announces that life-saving classes in CPR/AED are scheduled in February at the Howe Avenue Park clubhouse. At least six signups are needed to have a class. The first class is set for Feb. 23. A second class would be on Feb. 25 if there are enough sign-ups. Classes run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

These classes are free for members of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento, including those who need to be recertified. Contact Jodice at 349-8949 for details and to sign up. #

**GSSCS SAFETY PROCLAMATION:
ALL UMPIRES AND MANAGERS MUST ENFORCE THE GSSCS SAFETY RULE THAT NO GAME MAY START WITHOUT THE SAFETY CART IN PLACE BY THE FIELD BEFORE EACH SOFTBALL GAME IS PLAYED! NOTE: THE CLUB MAY BE LIABLE IF THIS SAFETY RULE IS NOT IMPLEMENTED. -- JERRY JODICE, SAFETY CHAIRMAN. #**

**GO ONLINE TO
SEE MORE NEWS AND
PHOTOS; CURRENT AND
PAST DUGOUT
CHATTERS:**

WWW.GSSCS.ORG

LIFE MEMBERS -- FROM PAGE 2

member to follow in a relative's footsteps in the club. His father-in-law, Morris Bidow, preceded him in the club. (Life Member Albert Morales at various times played with his father, as well as multiple uncles and cousins.) Jim also has served as the club's player agent. Lortz asked each member to think of something that not many folks know. Lamm said he set eight national rifle marksmanship records, for individual and team, and is the only draftee in the Advanced Marksmanship Shooters Hall of Fame. He was the 1960 service rifle champion, competing on the All-Army team against 2,700 shooters from all branches of the military. In three days of shooting, he shot 644 out of a possible 650 points, including shots of 600 yards. He said he looked up six of his records, and they still stand. Two others, in Europe, probably still stand also, he added.

Dick Reisinger Sr., 75, 24-year member. Now playing in L1 and L7, Dick was on a championship team in his first season in the club. He also played for the Rookies II travel team with Dick Seward, which became the Silvers. Dick played for the Silvers for 21 years, including one year as coach. He coached two years on Tuesday nights. He has won bronze and silver medals at the Huntsman Senior Games in Utah.

Bob Silvis, 75, 24-year member. Bob is a former high school coach who played baseball in the military and as a semi-pro. He has played on many championship softball teams and a few years ago, while playing shortstop, made an unassisted double play at first base, catching a wind-blown popup.

Joe Smith, 75, 24-year member. Joe has umpired for many years and has played a lot of softball, not only in the GSSC but many years in the TPA and other traveling teams.

Al Tirapelli, 75, 19-year member. Al played baseball and fast-pitch softball in high school, American Legion and the Army. After moving from Michigan to Sacramento, Al met GSSC member Tom Arnold to discuss business and wound up being introduced to the GSSC. Al not only played GSSC ball, he managed the Tirapelli Falcons, a tournament team that seemed to play almost every weekend, requiring a huge roster. Lortz said he played his first GSSC game in August 1993 on a Thursday night and found himself driving to Lake Tahoe the next morning to play for the Falcons. "I think 80-90 percent of our club played for Al and he got you early." Al now plays for Norm Blackwell Sr.'s California Gold tournament team. Another highlight: About five years ago, Al and two other GSSC members played in a Folsom league with three of their sons. "Finally, Al is such a supporter of this club that he canceled a colonoscopy in lieu of this presentation. Thank you very much, Al, and don't forget to reschedule."

Arnold Wilkerson, 75, 21-year member. Lortz quoted from information supplied by Arnold's wife, Nancy. "Wow! Arnold can't believe it's been this long since he first signed up to be a Golden Senior member. It's true that he's getting of that age because he has two sons playing in this league. His hope is that they'll enjoy playing as long and as much as Arnold has." They are Rocky and Rory. #

GOLDEN SENIORS LIFE MEMBERS -- CLASS OF 2010



INDUCTED FEB. 1 AS LIFE MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB WERE (BACK ROW, L-R) DICK GUSTIN, LOU CERUTTI, (EMCEE JIM LORTZ), ARNOLD WILKERSON, BOB SILVIS (FRONT ROW) JIM LAMM, AL TIRAPELLI, DICK REISINGER SR., GEORGE CROWL, JERRY JODICE. JOE SMITH WAS NOT PRESENT. (LOU COPPOLA PHOTO)



TRUDY SMARTT AND TOM SANSONE HAVE SOME CAKE TO HELP CELEBRATE THE LIFE MEMBER EVENT. THAT'S JIM LAMM (FAR RIGHT) AND SPOUSES OR GUESTS OF THE HONOREES. (LOU COPPOLA PHOTO)

MEETING NEWS -- FROM PAGE 1

L7, which is for players 70 and older on Tuesdays, had only 43 signups as of Feb. 1, and needed 52 for four teams of 13 players. It is possible that the league may accept some players younger than 70 to have four teams.

Serious player shortages were experienced for the Wednesday and Thursday night leagues (50 and older). Unless there is a dramatic increase in signups, the board intends to reduce the number of teams in each of these leagues from six to four. Wednesday night L4 had 60 signups, not enough for the usual six teams, but more than the 48 needed for four teams. Thursday night L5 had just 45 signups, three below the number needed for four teams of 12 players. The Board held a special Jan. 28 meeting to discuss options and decided against reducing the number of leagues, choosing instead to have fewer teams if necessary.

Sansone said there had been a recent spike in applications coming in but there are fewer players signing up for two or more leagues, which could be a result of the economy and increased player fees, including those for players choosing to play in more than one league. There are 18 Thursday night players who also have signed up for Wednesday night. Thus there are only 30 players signed up to play only on Thursday night.

As of Feb. 1, night league tryouts for about 15 new players were scheduled for Feb. 10, 7 p.m., at the Complex.

In other club news:

Planning. President Ray Mendonsa said Dave Vargo has been designated as the point of contact for those who have ideas or proposals for club operations. He will make presentations to the Planning Committee that was appointed late last year. Mendonsa said that any proposal that needs funding will require a "funding engine with the recommendation." (SEE PAGE 7)

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

PAID SPONSORS FOR 2010

- ARNOLD PROPERTIES**
- AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS**
- BERTOLUCCI'S BODY & FENDER**
- CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #1**
- CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #2**
- COMPASS STRATEGIES**
- EAST LAWN INC.**
- ESPANOL RESTAURANT**
- GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**
- HARPER PROPERTIES**
- JOLLY ROGERS**
- L&S SURVEYS**
- MERRILL BOOKKEEPING & TAX**
- NIELSEN'S REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL**
- OLD HORNETS**
- OVERHEAD DOOR Co. of Sacramento**
- RAMBIT (RAY MERRILL)**
- SILVER CATS**
- SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS**
- TEICHERT CONSTRUCTION**
- RICHARD WILL, ATTORNEY**
- VFW POST 67**
- MARK WHITE, DDS**
- WION'S BODY SHOP**

GSSC GENERAL MEETINGS

**MARCH 1-- 7:30 P.M. VFW HALL,
2784 STOCKTON BLVD.**

**OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS ARE
JULY 12 AND AUG. 9. THE
SEPTEMBER MEETING IS HELD IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL
PICNIC & PLAYOFFS SATURDAY.**

MEETING NEWS -- FROM PAGE 6



PLAYER AGENT TOM SANSONE EXPLAINS BOARD STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH LAGGING PLAYER SIGNUPS FOR 2010. (LOU COPPOLA PHOTO)

RIVERCATS TICKETS

Lou Coppola, entertainment chairman, has Rivercats tickets for Monday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons. Two for \$32 or \$16 apiece. Section 110, Row 15. Call him at 444-6138, #

Contacts points for Vargo:
dvargo@frontier.net or 916 689-7061, fax: 612-465-3681. Mail: 9749 Everbloom Way, Sacramento, CA 95829.

Sponsorships. First Vice President Fred Fischer reports 24 paid sponsors for 2010. He was still looking to hear from a dozen others. First-year sponsorships are \$300; renewals are \$250. If you know of a potential sponsor, call Fred at 685-5044. A list of the sponsors for 2010 who have paid as of this writing is on Page 5.

Hats. Second VP Pete Ward displayed new hats (costing \$1 more each) that are Navy blue with GSSCS in a diamond figure of gold and white.

L1 Sign-Ups: 38 players 80 and Above. George Hodsdon reported that Dinny Watson (90) is the club's oldest active member. Preliminary age group numbers for L1 players: 56 players between the ages of 75 and 79; 32 between the ages of 80 and 84; five between 85 and 89, and one at 90. Those "super seniors" still playing, besides Watson, are Jack Navarro (89), Bill Reihl (88), Don Wilson (87), Ken Fulmer (86), and Leon Williams (85). #

Emcee Jim Lortz presents Life Member Jim Lamm during well-attended Feb. 1 general meeting at the VFW Post 67 Hall. (Lou Coppola photo)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2009-2010

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 **George Lamb** ... (530) 681-8070

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

Club Commissioner **Bob Smartt** ... 973-8269
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league commissioners.)

***NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: 7:30 P.M.
MARCH 1 AT VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BLVD.***

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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