
DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) CLUB HOTLINE: 491-1721

AUGUST ELECTION SET FOR CLUB PRESIDENT AND SIX OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Four of the seven positions on the club Board of Directors will change hands as a result of nominations approved by the membership at the July 13 general meeting. The election is set for the Aug. 10 general meeting.

Tom Sansone, who is completing his fourth term as president, decided four years are enough and is stepping down. His remarkable service on the board has included work as club player agent and team manager. while greatly improving communications in the club with e-mail notices.

John Mizerak, chairman of the nominating committee, had nominees for all positions except president, but a motion from the floor resulted in the unopposed nomination of Bill Hill, a previous club president who has been in charge of the club picnic in recent years.

The lone contested race is for club commissioner between J.C. Terry and Bob Ellison. They want to succeed Jerry Nevis, who is not seeking re-election. There will be balloting for that office on Aug. 10. Terry, currently the club's safety coordinator., joined the club in 2005. J.C. has managed numerous teams in addition to arranging for the Red Cross training of numerous members. Ellison has served as the Thursday night L5 commissioner, working to recruit managers and players to sustain the club's Thursday night program. He rejoined the club in 2011 after earlier playing as a 50-year-old and has been on nationally ranked tournament teams.

Rodney "Rocky" Wilkerson and Deanna Sesso are nominees for first vice president and club secretary, respectively. (See Page 2)

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 7 P.M. MONDAY, AUG. 10 AT THE VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BOULEVARD.

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News from the July

General Meeting:

Nominations are set for Aug. 10 election of club officers.

Sunshine & Health. Rest in Peace: Mrs. Cook, Dick Fields. Many players are sidelined with surgeries.

News on over-70 teams playing at Howe Park.

League standings and batting leaders. Some Tight Races and a .911 batsman.

Short Hops: Award of Merit nominations are sought.

List of 2015 Sponsors.

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CLUB MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)

Jon Ellison, sidelined due to hip surgery, decided not to run for another year as first vice president, responsible for club sponsorships. Wilkerson's dad is Life Member Arnold Wilkerson. Sesso, a L3 manager who joined the club three years ago, succeeds Dave Vargo, who is stepping down from the board for health reasons (see Sunshine & Health report).

Standing unopposed for re-election are Treasurer Don Wall, 2nd VP Chuck Knutson and Player Agent Dave Tanner. Knutson said he will serve a third year as 2nd VP while looking for an apprentice, so to speak, whom he can train to handle the job that includes negotiating orders for uniform shirts and hats, plus balls and equipment. He said it took him a year to learn the job, thanks to help from Pete Ward. Now Chuck wants to groom his successor.

Other news from the July general meeting:

League championship shirts. 110 shirts, with gold background, have been ordered by 2nd VP Knutson. It was noted that managers of teams in the playoffs need to submit their regular-season rosters as substitute players for playoffs will not be eligible for championship shirts.

Picnic/Playoffs. Picnic Chairman Bill Hill said he is arranging for the same caterer that provided last year's BBQ. The Sept. 5 event at Howe Park has had improved turnouts, especially with the L3 Tuesday night league providing an entertaining "all-star" game. This probably added 25 or more attendees at the picnic. The three night leagues have elected to hold their championship games on their regularly scheduled nights at the complex. Of the two fields used at Howe Park, only L1 has fences far enough for the younger, longball-hitting night league players. If another night league wanted to organize an all-star game, or if the Wednesday and Thursday night league champions would be interested in an additional L4-L5 championship game, the board would consider how it might be added to the Sept. 5 festivities.

Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis said the plan for playoffs Sept. 5 at Howe Park would be to have L8, L1 and L7 play back-to-back-to-back on Field 2, starting at 8:30 a.m. The 60-and-over L2 and L6 games will be on Field 1, as would a Night League All-Star game. Nevis said he will make every effort to try to avoid conflicts involving multi-league players who might be on a Monday team and a Tuesday team scheduled to play at the same time. A number of L2 and L6 players also play in L1 or L7. If there is a conflict, multi-league players are supposed to have designated a primary league in their new or renewal applications. Nevis said once the teams are set for the playoffs, he will check rosters for potential conflict and see what he can do.

A Continuing Dilemma: How to Attract More Night League Players. Sansone said there has been some interest in a lowering of the age limit from 50 to perhaps 45 for men in the three night leagues. Women might be eligible at age 40 instead of the current 45. (See Page 3)

JULY MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE 2

The board apparently will consider conducting a survey to help determine how many 60-plus-year-old players would sign up for a L4 or L5 that would be developed so (See Page 3) that the younger players in their early 50s might have their own league. Some feel that many night league players over 60 don't feel competitive with the younger players and would be enough to populate a Thursday night league, with the Wednesday night league becoming a 45-and-over league.. It would take a by-law change to lower the minimum age to attract more players. It was felt at the meeting that, without more study and discussion, it was premature to put a proposed by-law before the membership for a vote in August.

Player Agent Dave Tanner said the club has 411 paid active members and there were "quite a few" inactive members (who pay a \$20 membership fee). He said there were 98 people who were members in 2014 who have not responded -- life members and inactive regular members who have not paid \$20 for 2015. He said one more attempt to reach them will be made before they are dropped from the roster.

How many of the 98 are in their sixties who might help populate a night league? Assistant Secretary Henry Low said he could easily come up with a list once he has access to the data base. #

2015 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

L1 Henry Low; Asst. Dick Reisinger Sr.

L2 & L6 Myron Dahl and Bob Smartt (co-commissioners)

L3 Mel Tennyson

L4 Russ Barnes

L5 Bob Ellison

L7 Jim Stinson

L8 Cloicic Wade

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

On June 2, **Phyllis Cook**, wife of Life Member Daryl Cook, passed away. She was 85. Condolences to the Cook family.

Life Member **Richard "Dick" Fields**, 85, passed away May 15. Dick joined the Golden Seniors in 1982. He played and managed until 2005 when forced to retire due to Parkinson's disease. Condolences to the Fields family.

Injuries, illnesses and surgeries have sidelined a number of GSSCS players this spring and summer, pretty much depleting league waiting lists:

Jon Ellison, the club's first vice president, had hip replacements. He was working hard on his rehab and was targeting a return to playing before the end of the season. Jon said he had both hips replaced on June 12 and was told it would take 6 to 8 weeks to recover. On June 25 he said his recovery was going pretty well and he told his wife he will play again in September. "She says that sounds crazy and thinks my orthopedic surgeon will agree."

Dave Vargo said at the July general meeting that he could not run for re-election as club secretary and had to slow down due to cardio issues. He said he was awaiting stress tests to determine whether he would need a pacemaker. After returning to action following double knee replacement surgeries, Vargo continued playing as one of the club's leading batters.

Rich Edwards, Tuesday morning manager and player -- and a perennial top batter with averages above .800 -- has taken a few weeks off to recover from hernia surgery.

A severely strained groin muscle forced **Hal Johnson** to the sidelines in July, for at least a few weeks, while his doctor advised him to wait until the pain subsides before he resumes playing. Hal believes he strained the muscle playing his third game of a very hot day and might have avoided the injury or at least minimized it by drinking more water along with a proper warmup between his second game, at mid-day, and his third game in the early evening.

Steve Schuler, another top-tier slugger in his early 60s, had knee surgery.

Dave Avery, plagued by Achilles tendon problems in recent years, is recuperating from knee replacement surgery.

Life Member **Don Lawson** had open heart surgery.

L1 player **John Morris** is home recovering from a blood clot in his lung.

Pitcher **Jack Kocunik**, whose frightening head injuries from a batting practice ball were detailed in the April-May Dugout Chatter, realized his goal of returning to Golden Senior play in early June.

The club's Sunshine & Health chairperson, **Trudy Smartt**, has hurt her back and her 2015 season is finished, according to husband Bob Smartt. Bob pinch-hit for Trudy, delivering her report at the July general meeting. Get well, Trudy!!!

#

NEWS ON OVER-70 TEAMS PLAYING AT HOWE PARK

From Henry Low

League One (L1) – A six team 70+ league is almost three quarters of the way through its season and the Nielsen Real Estate team, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr., is closing in on their third consecutive round of league-leading head-to-head play. Wenelli's Pizza, managed by Ernie Shaffer, finished in second place in the first two rounds and is in second place in round three with one more game to play in that round. At the end of June Bob Scollard of the Harper Properties team and Eugene Malone of the L&S Surveys team are the leading hitters and also have the highest slugging percentages. Jerry Nevis of the Wenelli's Pizza team is leading with 25 RBIs and John Morris of Wenelli's Pizza has the most hits with 37.

League Seven (L7) – A four team 70+ league has Overhead Door managed by Norm Blackwell Sr. leading the way with a 13.5-3.5 won-loss record. There is a real battle for second and third place between 9-8 Avalon Hearing, managed by Al Tirapelli, and Jolly Rogers with an 8.5-8.5 won-loss record, managed by Tom Watwood. At the end of June Everett Richardson of Overhead Door and Jack Tibbetts of Bertolucci are the leading hitters. Drew Asher and Everett Richardson, both of Overhead Door, are the leaders in slugging percentage. Drew Asher also leads in RBIs with 37 and hits with 37.

League Eight (L8) – A five-team 75+ league, has Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr. (There's that name again, Norm manages in all three of the Howe Park leagues and his team is in first place in all three leagues.) in first place with a 10-4 record. In second place is the 8-4 Arnold Properties team managed by Paul Thompson, followed by 7-5 American MedEquip managed by Jack Warren. In spite of the overall records the American MedEquip team has beaten Nielsen Real Estate three of the four times they have played each other. With five teams, one team has a bye each week and there was a rainout early in the season, so the standings look out of sync. #

LEAGUE STANDINGS AND BATTING LEADERS

NIGHT LEAGUES LIKE THE LONG BALL; TIGHT RACES IN THREE LEAGUES

They are younger and stronger and they seem to love the long ball. These are players in the 50-and-over night leagues of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Leading the over-the-fence homer brigade: Chris Agular. He led Thursday night (L5) with nine homers through 16 games July 8 and his seven fence-clearing clouts topped Wednesday night (L4) through 18 games July 7. Agular had four more than Gerome Gibson in L5 and four more than Chris Oliver in L4. Top over-the-fence homer hitter in L3 (Tuesday night): Nick Martin with five through 14 games.

At least 14 players were hitting above .800 in the three night leagues, with one -- Rick Cady -- lighting up L4 with a .911 average with his 51 hits atop the L4 list. Agular and Mark Holgerson each had 51 hits to pace L5. Larry Elsberry (.854 with 21 doubles) led Tuesday night (L3), followed by Jack Wabinga (.828).

The Tuesday morning leading hitters through 13 games July 7 were Gus Niklas (.846) and Mick Tursky (.830) in L2 and Hal Johnson (.833) in L6. The only over-the-fence homers in these leagues, where the guys are at least 60, were achieved by Steve McTonnell and Bruce Gilmore, one each. Tursky, who hit for the cycle on May 19, and Johnson had five inside-the-park homers, three each in L2 and two each in L6.

Tursky was the club's leading batter last year when he became the first Golden Senior to hit more than .900 (.903 in L2) in the nine years that records have been kept.

STANDINGS: With playoffs looming and seedings based on standings, Tuesday night (L3) had two teams tied for first place. The Tuesday morning leagues featured very close battles for first place. Top dog status has been settled in L4 and L5, while lower seeds were still in play..

Standings:

L2 (Tuesdays 9 a.m.)

1. Yancey Co. 8-4-2 201 runs for, 189 against.
2. Sports Leisure Travel 7-4-3 219-196.
3. VFW Post 67 8-5-1 203-188.
4. Sam's Hofbrau 7-6-1 189-178.
5. Avalon Hearing 4-9-1 196-234.
6. Photo Finish 3-9-2 168-191.

L6 (Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.)

1. E&G Threads 9-4-1 226-198.
2. GSSA 9-5 225-179.
3. Mark E White DDS 6-7-1 204-211.
4. C&C Plumbing 6-8 193-221.
4. Jerry Jodice 6-8 166-175.
6. Livingston Concrete 5-9 203-223.

L3 (Tuesday Night)

1. Rapid Solutions 10-4 224-169
Espanol Italian Restaurant 10-4 208-176.
3. Silver Cats 6-8 166-179.
4. Bill Hill 5-8-1 177-189.
5. Tanner & Associates 5-8-1 161-198.
6. Geremia Pools 5-9 156-181.

L4 (Wednesday Night)

1. RDR Financial 14-4 300-222.
2. Elk Grove Lock&Safe 11-7 249-222.
3. Reinwald Health Insurance 9-9 268-248.
4. Fire Fighters 6-12 251-282.
5. Ryan Wilgus DDS 5-13 204-298.

L5 (Thursday Night)

1. John Brendle 14-2 311-219.
2. Reinwald Health Insurance 8-8 243-232.
3. Tri-C Machine 7-9 276-265.
Espanol Italian Restaurant 7-9 236-270.
5. RAMBIT Inc. 6-10 203-228.
Bill Hill 6-10 187-242.

(Standings and statistics provided by head scorekeeper Colette Barnes and scorekeeper Dawn Marie Gerlach.)

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2014-2015

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654

1st Vice President **Jon Ellison** ...

880-0202 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...

524-9763 (Responsible for uniforms and equipment.)

Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308

Secretary **Dave Vargo** ... 689-7061

Player Agent **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941

(Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Jerry Nevis** ...

683-3232 (Responsible for enforcement of playing rules, oversees league commissioners.)

TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Club Answering Machine

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

Phone or Address Changes:

Dave Tanner 216-1941

Player Applications: Dave Tanner 216-1941

Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:

456-1500

Safety Coordinator: J.C.

Terry 457-3393 Cell:
505-2570

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach,
editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Sponsors Committed for
2015 as of March 9:

AMERICAN MEDIQUIP, LLC
AVALON HEARING AID
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 1)
AVALON HEARING AID
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 2)
BECKS, IN MEMORY OF
BILL AND SHIRLEY BECK
BERTOLUCCI BODY &
FENDER SHOP, INC.
BILL HILL REPLACEMENT
WINDOWS
BILL HILL ROOFING &
VINYL SIDING
C&C PLUMBING AND
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
EG THREADS
ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)
ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)
GEREMIA POOLS
GSSA (GREATER
SACRAMENTO
SOFTBALL ASSN.)
HARPER PROPERTIES
JERRY JODICE, IN
MEMORY OF
JOLLY ROGERS
L&S SURVEYS
L&S SURVEYS #2
MARK E. WHITE, DDS
MERRILL BOOKKEEPING
AND INCOME TAX (Ray
Merrill)
*PHOTO FINISH
R.H. NIELSEN REAL
ESTATE/APPRaisal
R.H. NIELSEN REAL
ESTATE/APPRaisal
(TEAM 2)

OVERHEAD DOOR
COMPANY OF
SACRAMENTO, INC.
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)
*RDR FINANCIAL
SERVICES --
TAX PREPARATION
REINWALD'S HEALTH AND
DENTAL INSURANCE
*SACRAMENTO AREA
FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 522
SAM'S HOF BRAU
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS
SPORTS LEISURE
VACATIONS
TANNER AND ASSOCIATES
TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF
AUBURN, INC.
VFW POST 67
*WENELLI'S PIZZA
RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS
YANCEY COMPANY
* = New sponsor in 2015

For information on how to
become a sponsor for 2016
or take advantage of two-
year sponsorship terms,
contact Jon Ellison, first
vice president, at 880-0202.

***THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL
BE PUBLISHED AFTER THE AUGUST
10 GENERAL MEETING.***

***WATCH FOR CLUB PRESIDENT TOM
SANSONE'S EMAIL "BLASTS" FOR
IMPORTANT INFORMATION.***

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

AWARD OF MERIT. George Hodsdon and Dave Vargo handed out nomination forms at the July 13 general meeting for 2015 Award of Merit consideration. Each year, at the club's September picnic/general meeting, the recipient (or recipients) is surprised to be honored with a plaque for service that goes beyond the requirements of simple membership to bring recognition to the club and its members.

Nominations are confidential and screened by a committee of former award recipients -- Hodsdon, Vargo, Foster Maxwell, Dante Ciardella, Hank Fontes, Ken Wollenberg, Lou Coppola, Jim Lortz and Benny Benson. They review new nominations, as well as those left over from 2014 and 2013, and three or four will be selected to be placed before a luncheon meeting of all former award recipients able to attend to vote on the nominees.

Once known as "Man of the Year," the honor became known as the Award of Merit when two women were so honored -- Susan Tucker in 2007, Trudy Smartt in 2012. Last year's awards went to Pete Ward, longtime club second vice president who greatly improved the quality of uniform shirts, hats and softballs, and Don Shank, the "voice of the Golden Seniors" as the operator of the club's telephone hotline.

Nomination forms are available from Hodsdon at 481-9304 or Vargo at 689-7061. They can be turned in at the Aug. 10 general meeting. The deadline is Aug. 17.

Note to Award of Merit members: the annual luncheon is 12:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at Espanol Italian Restaurant, 5723 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento.

FACE MASKS MISSING. For a time, all three GSSCS face masks for pitchers who forgot to bring their own mandatory protection were missing at the Complex, it was reported at the July 13 general meeting. Second VP Chuck Knutson, vacationing in China, provided a report read by Dave Vargo. Guess what? There were two masks, one of which had the GSSCS label, in the box where the club's crash cart is rolled out. One looked very new. It was not immediately known how the masks got there. Still missing one mask, however.

SAFETY CART IS FOUND. Club President Tom Sansone told how the club nearly lost a crash cart (complete with an expensive AED). After playing games in Elk Grove, the cart wasn't returned to the Complex. Games at the complex would have been canceled as the club policy is not to allow games to begin without the safety equipment in place. Sansone drove to Elk Grove, contacted a staff member at the Elk Grove facility, and, lo and behold, found that the GSSCS cart had been safely stored in a shed. Whew!

2016 BUDGET. After the Aug. 10 board elections, the board-elect and the existing board will meet to deal with club budget issues for the coming year. President Tom Sansone said the Aug. 24 meeting including the new board to be sworn in Sept. 5, will set the level of dues for 2016 so player applications can be prepared. Treasurer Don Wall has reported that the club's current year budget has an anticipated \$13,800 deficit as the club policy is to spend down reserves to keep member dues as low as possible.

BASEBALL HISTORIAN. Bill McPoil (452-9056) is seeking information to put into a history of amateur and professional baseball in the Sacramento area, including memorabilia, photos, etc. He attended the July 13 general meeting and said some old-time ballplayers probably have gone on to play senior softball and may have something to contribute to the history. #