

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

2015 SEASON CLOSURES WITH PLAYOFFS, PICNIC AND A NEW BOARD WITH URGENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

The Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento wound up the 2015 season on Sept. 5 with five league championship playoffs, a picnic and the swearing in of a new board of directors by outgoing president Tom Sansone, turning over the reins to Bill Hill.

Hill, among seven club directors elected to one-year terms at the August general meeting, takes over as the club will try to attract more players in their fifties for night leagues. Another thorny issue is devising a schedule for 2016 that winds up with a Saturday picnic with all leagues -- day and night -- having league championship games at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

The board was scrambling to work on a 2016 budget and produce player application and renewal forms and get them into the mail. Also on the agenda was whether to allow younger players in at least one night league. A committee was set up to make recommendations.

Sansone completed his fourth year as president and Hill, a former president who has served as picnic chairman and team sponsor, was nominated from the floor in July after no one stepped up to run for president.

The club has three directors returning -- 2nd Vice President Chuck Knutson, Treasurer Don Wall, and Player Agent Dave Tanner. Besides Hill, the new board members are first VP Rocky Wilkerson, Secretary Deanne Sesso, and Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison. (See Page 2)

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND MONDAY IN JANUARY 2016

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NEW BOARD FACES ISSUES (FROM PAGE 1)

The new board will be working with a committee, led by Dan Norton, a former club president, that was exploring strategies to bring in more players in their 50s and 60s to fill out night league rosters.

At the picnic, Sansone was applauded for his four years of service as president. He, in turn, thanked a number of people who helped along the way, a list too numerous to mention here. Among major changes while he was president was growth of the club by providing additional day leagues for players 70 and older. The club also increased opportunity for women by lowering minimum age for women by five years in each league. There was a perennial struggle to recruit enough players for the Wednesday and Thursday night leagues, with club leaders pulling out the stops to keep all night leagues in play.

Sansone also advanced the club's communication capability through use of email "blasts" to members who provided email addresses, so they could be alerted to meeting dates and important developments, including surveys of members on various proposed changes.

Ellison said he will try to hammer out a 2016 schedule for the club's 37th year that minimizes conflict with major senior softball tournaments while consolidating the league championship games at one site, coinciding with a picnic.

The club in recent years moved the picnic to Howe Park where the smaller fields could handle day league championship games. Night leagues have held their playoffs at the Complex on their regularly scheduled nights. However, there is growing desire for the club to consider moving the picnic back to the Complex to have enough fields for eight league title games, including night leagues that require larger fields.

Another factor involves a reasonable agreement at the Complex, including whether the club can use an outside caterer. Further complicating the task is the availability of the Complex on a Saturday in September.

Stay tuned for future developments on these issues, as well as the strategies to bring in more Wednesday and Thursday night leaguers. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE TOM WATWOOD

Tom Watwood, longtime player, team manager and umpire, passed away on Aug. 29 in hospice care after he was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer -- soon after recovering from a heart attack. News of his death stunned and saddened club members and teammates, especially since he had just survived a heart attack.

Tom, 75, joined the Golden Seniors in 2007 and, in his final league draft early this year, selected the Jolly Rogers team that won the L7 championship on Sept. 5.

There were moments of silence in his memory in the Sacramento softball community, including the Thursday Sierra Valley league and at the Howe Park fields where he played in two Monday leagues where he played.

Club members also were told by President Tom Sansone that **Jim Wait**, 73, a member since 2002 who managed and played on Tuesdays, was hospitalized with a stroke suffered within days of the season's end. #

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS ARE DECIDED IN EIGHT LEAGUES
(IN FOLLOWING PAGES ARE REPORTS ON GAMES AND TEAM PHOTOS. THANKS TO SCOREKEEPERS COLETTE BARNES AND DAWN MARIE GERLACH)

LEAGUE ONE: NIELSEN REAL ESTATE 12, WENELLI'S PIZZA 9



Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr., beat Wenelli's Pizza, led by Ernie Shaffer, 12-9, in the Monday morning L1 championship game. Blackwell and Bob McBee were 4x4 and Jim Stinson was 3x3. First six hitters in lineup for Nielsen went 18x20 with 11 runs scored. For Wenelli's, Bob Nevis went 3x3 and seven others had two hits apiece. #

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

BATTING PRACTICES: Tuesday and Friday batting practice at Howe Park Field #3 will resume on Nov. 3 at 12:30 (winter hours), according to Paul Koze, Ken Dempsey and Dick Wright (known as the "triumvirate"). They decided that players' bodies need some rest, so there would be NO batting practice on Sept. 29 and no practice the entire month of October. Thus Friday, Sept. 25 (9:30) would be the final practice before the break. Questions? Call Paul at 503-805-3428.
MAGAZINE ARTICLE: The September issue of *Joyful Living* (Page 28) has an article on senior softball co-authored by Larry Campbell. #

LEAGUE SEVEN: JOLLY ROGERS 13, OVERHEAD DOOR 12



Jolly Rogers (sponsored by Bob Rogers) -- playing with heavy hearts due to the Aug. 29 passing of Manager Tom Watwood -- came from behind to edge top-seeded Overhead Door for the L7 (Monday morning) championship. With Asst. Mgr. Freddie Miller in charge, Jolly Rogers prevailed 13-12 when Bob Nevis lined out with tying and winning runs on base. For Overhead Door, Wil Nishina went 4x4, while Bob Mehler and Norm Blackwell were 3x3. Pat Morrison and Miller led Jolly Rogers with 4x4 games, with Freddie hitting a bases-loaded double in a five-run fourth inning. Jack Warren went 3x3 and scored three times.

Overhead Door Manager Blackwell nearly made a sweep of the 70-plus leagues, which would have been an unprecedented three championships in one day. #

LEAGUE EIGHT: NIELSEN REAL ESTATE 11, AMERICAN MEDEQUIP 1



Norm Blackwell Sr. also managed the L8 championship team, also sponsored by Bob Nielsen, which beat Jack Warren's American MedEquip, 11-1. This was the first season for the 75-and-over Tuesday league.

Paul Dennan, Wil Nishina and Bud Lefforge all went 3x3 for Nielsen, with the first five hitters in the lineup going 12x15 and scoring nine runs. American MedEquip had only 10 hits, two each for Bob Dillon, Bob Scollard, Vic Callen and Henry Low. #

LEAGUE 2: VFW 20, SPORTS LEISURE 6



VFW Post 67, managed by Curtis Holcomb, routed John Colletto's Sports Leisure, 20-6, in the L2 (Tuesday mornings) championship game. Shortstop Keith Arnold was 4x4, even though he hurt a quad muscle, but either he or courtesy runners scored four times. VFW held Sports Leisure scoreless until the fourth inning. Besides Arnold, big bats for the winners included Bill Greene and Rick Bingham, both 3x4. Jay Aguas was 3x3 and Gus Niklas 2x3 for Sports Leisure. (From Scorekeeper Colette Barnes.)

LEAGUE 6: GSSA 23, LIVINGSTON CONCRETE 17



GSSA, the top-seed in L6 (Tuesday mornings), defeated Livingston Concrete, 23-17. GSSA shortstop Bob Smartt robbed Keith Arnold of a bases-loaded hit, sprinting into the outfield to make the catch for the game's final out. GSSA had scored 11 runs in the bottom of the fifth and sixth to break open a tight game. For Arnold, it was the only out he made in two games. Greater Sacramento Softball Association was managed by Greg Leurgans; Livingston, the last seed, was led by Don Steiner. The game featured an around-the-horn triple play -- GSSA's Steve McTunnel to Ben Valenzuela to Rick Bingham. Top batters for GSSA: McTunnel, John Shintaku and Toby Tyler, all 4x5. Mick Turskey and Bingham had three hits each. For Livingston, Arnold was 4x5 while Pete Ward and Bill Greene were 3x4. (From Scorekeeper Colette Barnes.) #

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 Cloicec Wade**

LEAGUE 3: RAPID SOLUTION 27, SILVER CATS 13



Rapid Solution, managed by Deanna Sesso, captured the Tuesday night (L3) championship by defeating the Silver Cats, 27-13. Chris Oliver belted a three-run homer. The game also featured 5x5 batting performances by Augie Johnson and Mark Holgerson. (From Scorekeeper Dawn Gerlach).



League Championship shirts, gold in color for 2015, were handed out by club 2nd VP Chuck Knutson after the Sept. 1 L3 title game. Rapid Solution Mgr. Deanna Sesso, newly elected club secretary, shows off her shirt.

LEAGUE 4: RDR FINANCIAL SERVICES 20, FIRE FIGHTERS 13



Top-seeded RDR Financial claimed the Wednesday night (L4) title with a 20-13 victory over the Fire Fighters, the league's fourth seed. Marcus Kirkland hammered a grand-slam homer in the first inning. Managed by Dick Reisinger Jr., the winners also got a homer and two singles from Chris Aguiar, plating four teammates. Jarvis Quenga had three doubles and a home run for the Fire Fighters, with teammate Jack Wabinga adding a homer and a double.

It was the third game of the night for the Doug Austin-managed Fire Fighters, who were led by Quenga's incredible night of hitting. In the three games, "Q" went 13 for 14 with four home runs and 10 RBI.

The Fire Fighters opened with a 16-12 win over second-seeded Elk Grove Lock and Safe, managed by Rocky Wilkerson. Quenga was 5x5 with two home runs, a double and two singles. Emilio Lobato went 4x4 for Elk Grove. In the second game, the Fire Fighters edged RDR 17-15 with Quenga hitting a homer and two doubles. Brian McKim had five singles, while Dan Norton had a triple and three singles for the winners. Aguiar and Doug Gedstad paced the RDR attack with three hits each. (From Colette Barnes)

LEAGUE 5: JOHN BRENDLE 20, REINWALD HEALTH INSURANCE 12



John Brendle, managed by Bill Hill, was the club's Thursday night champion, beating Reinwald Health Insurance, 20-12, in the finale of a night that began with four teams at 2-1 in the playoffs.

In the 6:30 game, Brendle beat RAMBIT, managed by Gary Schaaf, 21-3, putting Brendle in the 9 p.m. championship game against the winner of the 7:45 game, a slugfest between Reinwald and Espanol Italian Family Restaurant, managed by Mark Cordell. With Reinwald leading 24-22, two outs and the bases loaded, catcher Paul Rogers snared a foul popup.

In the night's first game, Dick Reinwald's club got an early lead on a grand slam by De Davis. Brendle's Bobby Ellison (4x4) countered with a three-run homer, his first of the season.

In the finale, Ellison was 5x5 with two homers (one over the fence), a triple and two singles, driving in eight runs. Jarvis Quenga, the L4 title game batting star, led Reinwald with a homer and double in the final game. De Davis hit a monster two-run homer in the seventh inning for Reinwald. Scorekeeper Colette Barnes, while noting excellent fielding by Espanol shortstop George Lamb, called the night's 7:45 game a true "battle of the bats." #



Cloicec Wade (above) and Freddie Miller, shown with presenter Dave Vargo, are the 2015 recipients of the club's Award of Merit. The award recognizes club members who have worked, often volunteering behind the scenes, to make the club better for everyone.



GOLDEN SENIORS' AWARD OF MERIT FOR WADE AND MILLER

The club honored two members for above-and-beyond service that included calling a lot of balls and strikes while managing teams and leading leagues. The 2015 recipients of the Award of Merit: Freddie Miller and Cloicec Wade.

The awards were presented at the club's annual picnic Sept. 5 at Howe Park where L8, led by commissioner Wade, concluded its first season for players 75 and older. Miller had just finished leading the Overhead Door team to victory in the L7 championship game.

Miller and Wade have been fixtures of the club for many years. Both have served as umpires -- Miller as umpire-in-chief -- and both have been team managers over the years.

Wade, 77, joined the club in 1992. He was introduced by Ron Roach, who recalled Wade was his first Golden Seniors team manager 19 years ago, and also a great tournament teammate with the Sacramento Blues.

Miller, who turns 76 this year, was introduced by Dave Vargo, who noted Freddie's reputation as an outstanding player, hitting coach (he once played professionally and also is a pro golfer). Miller joined the club in 2010 and has served in a number of capacities, a willing counselor of "newbies" on the right way to play the game. #



**J.C. TERRY TAKES
A BIG RIP IN A
TUESDAY
MORNING
PLAYOFF GAME.
(MARY GRAY
PHOTO)**

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or take advantage of two-
year sponsorship terms,
contact Rocky Wilkerson,
first vice president, at
595-2941

***THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL
BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY
DECEMBER, FEATURING AN UPDATE
OF CLUB BATTING RECORDS***



BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2015-16

President **Bill Hill** ... 804-2243

1st Vice President **Rocky Wilkerson** ...
595-2941 (Responsible for team
sponsorships.)

2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...
524-9763 (Responsible for uniforms and
equipment.)

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

Secretary **Deanna Sesso** ... 955-8195

Player Agent **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941
(Responsible for player applications,
player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Bobby Ellison** ...
212-7498 (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:
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