



DUGOUT CHATTER

On the Internet: www.GSSCS.org ... GSSC Answering Machine: 491-1721

GSSC LEADERS GO TO BAT AGAINST HUGE HIKE IN CITY FEES; AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE PAVES WAY FOR 2008 SEASON AT COMPLEX

JANUARY 2008

The GSSC on Jan. 8 reached an agreement in principle for a modest increase in fees to the City of Sacramento for the 2008 season at the Watt Avenue Complex. League President Dan Norton said, "Negotiations are completed. We don't have a signed contract yet but we have reached agreement in principle."

City officials had stunned the club by declaring that the city had never signed a two-year agreement for 2007 and 2008 and announcing 2008 fees for day leagues that would be up 25%, with an almost 100% increase for night leagues. The proposed increase also came after the GSSC had already established player fees for 2008. The additional costs were deemed an entirely inappropriate drain on the club's reserve funds.

The GSSC will pay \$16.92 for practice games (which were free last year) and pay \$58 per Tuesday night and Wednesday night games, up \$8 per game. Tuesday day league games will be increased from \$40 to \$50 due to the premium pay for Complex employees to prepare the fields. The biggest increase is \$30 per game, to total \$88, for Thursday night games. City officials defended the Thursday night increase, calling it the most popular night for softball leagues.

President Norton, Club Commissioner Freddie Miller, former President Jerry Jodice and newly installed First Vice President Dave Vargo met on Jan. 4 with the Complex director and Park & Recreation District superintendent. Norton said the agreement is within the range of a reasonable increase as authorized at the Jan. 3 general meeting.

Key Dates are Set. With negotiations completed with the city, Club Commissioner Miller could focus on tryout and practice game dates.

Tryouts: Feb. 6, at noon for day leagues; at 6:30 p.m. for night leagues. (If it is rained out, tryouts will be held Feb. 13.)
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GSSC Golf Tourney is Set for May 2 at Lincoln Hills

May 2 has been selected as the date for the GSSC golf tournament, an afternoon shotgun start at Lincoln Hills Golf Club. Bill Knoblauch, golf committee chair, secured the date at the course. Entry forms are available at www.GSSCS.org and inside this issue. The format is scramble foursome and the entry fee, including lunch, cart and green fee, is \$75 per player. Club President Dan Norton said this course is excellent and tournaments there typically charge much more. The idea is to have fun at an affordable cost while still raising funds for the club, he said. (Knoblauch: 408-5501) #

General Meetings Also Slated for North Area

The Feb. 4 General Meeting is scheduled in the "north area," one of three meetings to be held at the North Highlands VFW Hall in Antelope. Meetings of March 3 and July 7 also are scheduled at the 3300 U Street facility, about a 25-minute drive from central Sacramento. They start at 7:30 p.m.

The May 5 and Aug. 4 meetings will be held at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard. No general meetings are scheduled in April or June.

According to Google, here is how to get to the northern facility: I-80 east to the Greenback Lane turnoff toward Elkhorn Boulevard. After 2.9 miles, right on Watt Avenue, for one mile, then left on U for four-tenths of a mile. From south Sacramento, take I-5 to I-80, go left on Raley Boulevard, continue on 16th Street, then right on Elkhorn, left on 32nd Street, then right on U Street. #

2008 Sign-ups Update

Player Agent Tom Sansone reported at the Jan. 3 meeting that 376 returning player applications were received out of 509 that were mailed out. There were 17 new club members.

Of the 133 players from 2007 who had not yet responded, Sansone and others planned to contact as many as possible.

He said Jan. 15 is the "drop-dead date" to get the forms turned in and avoid receiving a letter in the mail with the notification that "you have been dropped" from the club. Sign-up forms are available on-line at

BOARD GOES TO BAT (CONT'D)

Practice Games: Tuesday Day, March 4, 18, 25; Tuesday Night, March 4, 18, 25; Wednesday Night, March 5, 19, 26. Thursday Night, March 6, 20, 27. (An NCAA tournament has the Complex March 10-15.) The regular season begins the first week of April. (Check the telephone hotline, 491-1721, and the club Web site for further updates.)

Vargo is Elected. After stepping down from the board as he has been spending the off-season recovering from surgeries, former Club Commissioner Vargo agreed to serve in 2008 as first vice president, which mainly involves lining up team sponsors. The post was vacated after last fall's election.

Vargo retired in 2002 after working 30 years for the federal government, the last 13 with the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Members unanimously elected Vargo during the Jan. 3 meeting.

Select/Competitive League. Miller reported that League 6, the Tuesday 10:30 a.m. circuit, will have four teams — down one from last year's initial season for a day league in which managers are able to pre-select some players and fill out rosters with a draft. This year there will be four "select" players per team.

Life Members. Fifteen GSSC veterans are eligible for induction as Life Members. They will be named at the Feb. 4 meeting and inducted at the March meeting. To qualify, a member had to join the club by May 1, 1993 and be turning 75 or older in 2008, or have a May 1, 1998 entry date and turn 80 or older in 2008, according to Henry Low, assistant club secretary.

No Dinner-Dance. Entertainment Chair Lou Coppola reported that there will not be a dinner-dance this year. #

STRATEGIES ARE IN PLACE FOR MORE TIMELY AND EFFICIENT COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS VIA DUGOUT CHATTER, WEB SITE, HOTLINE

The club's strategies for delivering the Dugout Chatter and other information to members involve greater reliance on the Internet by members who have computer access.

There is additional cost up front for sending the newsletter with first-class postage, but this cost will be more than offset as more and more members find the advantages of reading the newsletter online. This will occur relatively soon with support from club members who will prefer to read their "news" when it is "news" by going online.

If they don't, and the first-class postage plan is deemed too much of a drain on club funds, the club could always revert back to the use of bulk mail, when it took three weeks or so to get the DC to mail boxes.

With first-class postage, it takes one or two days — and the mail is forwarded to those who have changed addresses.

The DC, in either case, goes on-line on the Web site about one week before it is printed and one to two weeks before it is mailed.

Of course, members who want to continue to receive their DC via mail may do so. This is particularly the case for non-playing members who would be unable to take advantage of the Internet or be at games where they could pick up a hard copy.

The plan will involve providing some copies at games where managers or players could pick them up, probably at the scorer's table.

However, the vast majority of GSSC players are expected to go on-line for their DC. This, of course, will greatly reduce mailing — and printing — expenses.

Members will NOT open their e-mail and find their DC in their electronic mailbox. This would require sophisticated and expensive computer servers. Instead, members should expect to receive a message from their team managers that a new edition of the DC is available on-line at the Web site. At their leisure, they can go to the site and read all or part of it, or print out all or part of it.

Managers can do their part by collecting the e-mail addresses of their players at the draft (the 2008 registration forms asked for e-mail addresses) or getting this information when they call their newly drafted players. Then, when league commissioners pass the word electronically that there is a new issue online, managers merely pass the info along. Again, for those who lack Internet access, they can pick up their DC at games, or continue to get it via "snail mail."

It is that simple. Eventually, over time, the DC is likely to be entirely electronic. And the Web site will also be a source of updates between DC issues, as well as access to photo galleries of past and present Golden Seniors games and activities.

We are excited about bringing GSSC communications into the 21st Century, but we cannot get it done without the support and cooperation of the membership. — Ron Roach, DC editor, chair, Information Technology Committee. #

GOLDEN SENIORS GOLF TOURNEY ENTRY FORM

When: Friday, May 2, 2008 ... 1 P.M. Shotgun Start

Where: Lincoln Hills Golf Club (Hills Course)

Format: Scramble Foursomes

Entry Fee: \$75 (includes sack lunch, green fee, cart)

Registration Deadline: March 25. Limited to first 144 paid entries. Preference will be given until March 15 to members of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento and their non-member guests within their foursomes.

Questions: Contact Bill Knoblauch at 408-5501 or knobby@rocketmail.com; Ron Roach at 422-2500 or coachrwr@comcast.net; Jerry Toenyes at 354-4126, or Dan Norton at 689-4505.

Do you wish to sponsor a hole for \$100? _____. Can you provide prizes? _____.

Return this entry form with check for \$75 per player, payable to the Golden Seniors Softball Club or GSSC, to Bill Knoblauch, 2044 Stonecrest Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

Player 1 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Player 2 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Player 3 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Player 4 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

E-Mail addresses are to be used to confirm entries and provide additional information as necessary. They will not be used for any other purpose.

You do not have to enter as a foursome. You will be placed in a group needing an additional player or players, or indicate your partners who may be entering on another form. Lincoln Hills is a soft-spike facility and players must wear collared shirts; no denims.

Committee Chairs for 2007-08

It has been suggested that the DC include phone numbers of the committee chairpersons who were announced by President Dan Norton and reported in the December issue. Here they are (based on the 2007 league roster):

Picnic — Dante Ciardella 453-1921 and Benny Benson 383-0179.
Audit — Don Wall 334-1545, with

Foster Maxwell 969-5115.
Information Technology — Ron Roach, 422-2500 and coachrwr@comcast.net.
Safety — Jerry Jodice 349-8949.
Sunshine & Health — Trudy and Bob Smartt 973-8269.
Golf — Bill Knoblauch 408-5501.
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**READ THE
DUGOUT CHATTER
ONLINE AT:
www.GSSCS.ORG**

Lost & Found. Dante Ciardello said a red "Metro Sacramento Golden Senior Invitational" jacket found its way into his truck at the picnic last September. If it is yours, call him at 453-1921. #

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Golden Seniors Softball Club
 Daniel Norton, President
 1111 Cottonridge Circle
 Sacramento, CA 95828

BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2007-08		
President	Daniel Norton	689-4505
1st Vice President	Dave Vargo	689-7061
2nd Vice President	Pete Ward	989-4722
Treasurer	Glen Cole	966-4561
Secretary	Mickey Schleicher	239-9230
Player Agent	Tom Sansone	686-1654
Commissioner	Freddie Miller	372-6864

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: Joseph Gomez, Rick Barsuglia, Steve Casarez, Ron Middlekauff, Jerry Enfield, Sandy Harrison, Russ Menke, Jim Tetreault, Robin Thomas, Bill Matusevitz, Barry Mortimeyer, Al Tirapelli, John Lack, David Avery, John Mertens, Ramon Soden, Lee Elam, William Venable, James Keenan, Allen Richard Auwae, Lacy Smith, Conn Lockett, Larry Wing, Leslie Harper, Wendell Hunter, Howard Shaw, Bob Smartt, George Langan, Bill Holbrook, Michael Jordan, Trudy Smartt, Perry O’Laughlin, Peter Ward, Dinny Watson, Joel Jaspin, Doug Blue, Mervin Mill, Juan Martinez.

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH: Trudy Smartt, Sunshine and Health chairperson, said she had no calls to report at the Jan. 3 general meeting — and no news is often good news, meaning December passed without the apparent loss of a current or former Golden Senior to the great diamond in the sky. There are updates on the wounded, however, to wit: **Dave Vargo** came out of October surgery on his shoulder with every expectation of getting back into action at some point this year. **Dave Raydon**, who experienced a major heart attack while helping the Rec League Muckrakers to their Fall League championship at the Complex, is planning to play in 2008. **Bob Jones**, a League 3 manager, said he expects to miss much of the season due to impending rotator cuff surgery. #

TELEPHONE “HOTLINES”

Sunshine & Health
973-8269

Phone/Address Changes
391-3938

New Player Applications
686-1654

GSSC #3912

Blood Bank
456-1500

Dugout Chatter
Ron Roach, editor

422-2500

Club Answering Machine, managed by Don Shank, for Field Conditions and Meeting News:
491-1721