

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

12 GOLDEN SENIORS GAIN LIFE MEMBER STATUS

Twelve members were awarded life membership status at the Feb. 2 general meeting in a ceremony presided over by Jim Lortz and George Hodsdon, who noted that the new "lifers" are among "only the lucky and the few" who continue to play softball well into their 70s and 80s.

There are about 125 life members who have qualified with 15 years in the club and having attained the age of 75, or have 10 years in the club and are at least 80.

The newest life members who were present at the meeting:

Peter Anagnoston, who will be 75 this year, joined the club in 1991 and has been an outstanding pitcher in night and day leagues.

Dick Horkey, 75 this year, who has been playing in the GSSC for 22 years and has been "managing" a team forever with longtime buddy Arnold Disney, also a life member. "It's been a wonderful experience and I really enjoy the club," Horkey said.

Dick Nadler, 77 this year, noted that he has had a knee replaced but "I've had lots of fun playing." A CPA, he has been in the club 15 years and has been on three championship teams.

Bob Rogers, 75 this year, has been in the club 16 years and is the sponsor of the Jolly Rogers, a Tuesday night League 3 team. The Peace Corps veteran also sports two national championship softball rings. (See Page 2)

TUESDAY NIGHT LEAGUE ATTRACTS MORE LADIES AND LENGTHY WAITING LIST; MOST GOLDEN SENIOR LEAGUES NEED PLAYERS

Player Agent Tom Sansone reported at the Feb. 2 general meeting that League 3 (Tuesday nights) is the lone league "oversubscribed" with signups. There was a waiting list of 12-13 players, even after at least one player shifted to another night league. In all, 35 new players signed up for the seven leagues, including a "large number" of women. L3, which has had as many as six to eight women participating in recent years, had 11 signed up as of this writing. Three of them are on the waiting list. Many are playing with spouses or boyfriends, and, as mentioned in the January Dugout Chatter, Bob Rogers and Connie Simpson have formed the first-ever GSSC father-daughter combo. While women could sign up for any of the GSSC leagues, they've generally chosen to participate in L3 and L2 (Tuesday day 60 and older). (See Page 3)

**GENERAL
MEETING:
MONDAY,
MARCH 2,
7:30 p.m.
VFW HALL
2764
Stockton
Blvd.**

INSIDE: Sunshine & Health, P. 3; Wanted: More Sponsors, P. 4; Safety Report, P. 4; L1 News: Early Start for Larger Monday League, P.5. Check the Golden Seniors web site for news and information (www.gsscs.org).

12 ARE INDUCTED AS GSSC LIFE MEMBERS -- From Page 1

Bob Schwan, 75 this year and referred to as “Mr. Baseball” by Lortz, has managed a Tuesday or Monday team for 24 of his 25 years in the club. He also served as president of the Tournament Players Association for 17 years. He also has been a GSSC Man of the Year.

Dick Seward, another GSSC Man of the Year, is TPA tournament director. He turns 75 this year, his 24th in the club.

Others whose life membership is being bestowed this year but were unable to attend the general meeting are **Jack Booth**, 80, a member since 1995; **Don Doolittle**, 76, a member since 1994, **Gerald Hall**, 75, a member since 1988, **Ted Hansen**, 80, a member since 1996, **John Hogue**, 75, a member since 1992, and **Don Lawson**, 79, a member since 1993. #



NEW LIFE MEMBERS: *Six of the 12 new life members who were honored at the Feb. 2 general meeting are pictured here with Jim Lortz, who emceed the program. Back row (L-R): Bob Rogers, Lortz, Dick Seward. Front row (L-R): Peter Anagnoston, Bob Schwan, Dick Nadler and Dick Horkey. Six others who were not present are identified in story above. (Lou Coppola photo)*

CLUB LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2009

League 1 -- Jim McNamara (424-1402); League 2 -- Cloicec Wade (393-5809) (assisted by Don Pooler and Jim Wait); League 3 -- Jerry Toenyas (354-4126); League 4 -- Dick Mathews (530-672-2689); League 5 -- Monta Litle (606-4776) (assisted by Don Wall); League 6 -- Victor Torres (784-7910); League 7 -- Larry Campbell (485-4843). #

FEB. 2 MEETING NEWS -- FROM P. 1

L3 will have 12-member teams to start the season. Leagues 4 and 5 were, at this writing, at a point where they could begin the season with 11-player teams. L2 was right at the number for 12-member teams and the select L6 and L7 (for 60-plus and 70-plus ages) were expected to have four teams in each league. (See separate article on Monday L1 news.)

Complex Smoking Ban. GSSC President Ray Mendonsa asked that the Dugout Chatter reiterate the announced intent of the Complex to enforce the no-smoking regulation. Those who smoke (except in the parking lot) will risk being cited by park officials.

Commissioner's Report. Club Commissioner Dave Vargo reported that Version No. 6 of the 2009 rulebook required only five very minor tweaks and should be printed in time to be handed out to team managers at their February draft meetings.

On the issue of bats, he said ASA has not issued any updates on non-approved bats since last year and has given no indication of when the next list will come out. The Golden Seniors rulebook will read that ASA non-approved bats may not be used and the facility (Complex or Howe Avenue Park) may apply additional restrictions. The Complex has directed GSSC to use only bats with 2004 ASA approval stickers and to get Complex approval (during the pre-season) for any other bats that lack the ASA stamp of approval.

Umpire Rates. Jeff Dubchansky of Sacramento ASA, commissioner for the Greater Sacramento Softball Association and a GSSC team sponsor, noting the report on the GSSC umpire pay in the January Dugout Chatter, commented that he feels it "important to make one correction ... The 2009 umpire rates for GSSA have remained unchanged from the 2008 rates. We did this due to the current challenging economic conditions." He said that "while I

believe your new rate of \$22 per umpire is fair, it is important to note that the average rate for league games is \$20-\$23 per game throughout the region depending on the one- or two-umpire system" for 60-minute games. GSSA also charges an assignment fee, usually 10% of invoice, to compensate the GSSA assignor.#

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Rest in Peace: **David Pike**, who joined the GSSC in July 1985 and played on Tuesday nights through 2004, passed away on Jan. 28. He was 76. David was an assistant team manager with Doug Brewer.

Jerry Jodice's brother passed away recently in New Jersey. Our thoughts are with Jerry and his son, Jamyn, and their family. #

2009 General Meetings Schedule

Unless noted below, meetings are on Monday nights, beginning at 7:30 p.m., at the VFW Hall, 2764 Stockton Blvd.

March 2

April 6 (North Highlands/Antelope VFW Hall)

May 4

(No June Meeting)

July 6 (Nominations for 2009-10 Board of Directors)

August 3 (Election of 2009-10 Board of Directors)

September 19 (in conjunction with the annual Picnic/Playoffs Saturday at the Sacramento Softball Complex)

#

WANTED: MORE SPONSORS - By Fred Fischer, First Vice President

Evidence of the weakened United States economy can be readily seen in Sacramento in the rising number of home mortgage foreclosures, bankruptcies and business closures. The Golden Seniors Softball Club is not immune to the effects of this problem.

As we look forward to another season of GSSC softball with a greater number of teams than ever before (42 in 2009, up from 38 last year), we face the challenges of increased costs and the need to offset those costs through increased revenue. By raising the cost to players, as we have already done, we have taken a first step in dealing with this problem. The logical next step is to seek an increase in the GSSC sponsor base at a time when some existing sponsors are themselves facing tough economic times.

There are a few things we can do in an attempt to grow our sponsor support:

Encourage GSSC members to reach out to contacts that they may have in the Sacramento area business community regarding a potential sponsorship, and/or to pass on to the GSSC board the names of such businesses that might be disposed to provide support to our club.

Look within our own membership ranks of players and former players who may be in a position to assist in team sponsorship. We currently have a few GSSC players who serve as sponsors either through a business endeavor or as an individual sponsor.

Perhaps most importantly we need to recognize the importance to the GSSC of our sponsorship partners, and to show our appreciation for their support by frequenting their business establishments and acknowledging their support, thus enhancing the value of club sponsorship.

Anyone with suggestions for potential GSSC sponsors is encouraged to contact me at 685-5044. #

SAFETY REPORT: THE ESSENCE OF SAFETY

By Jerry Jodice, Chairman

The privilege of GSSCS membership entails a spirit of duty to assist and serve, as well as to play and work with, fellow members of the club. Every Golden Senior is a vital part of our safety process. Each of us should be ready to help our Emergency Trained Personnel (ETPs/RED HATS). All CPR/AED-trained participants who have been instructed recently are aware of the necessity of club members functioning together as a team during every emergency.

It is mandatory that the Safety Cart is on or near the softball field BEFORE each game begins.

Knowing where the cart is on the field and fetching it immediately,

(whenever an emergency occurs, is essential.

Most leagues did an exceptional job in this (See Page 5)

GSSC Players Triumph in Florida.

Five GSSC members returned home early in January with a National Championship under their belts. They competed with the Sacramento Islanders, a 55-and-over tournament team, in the National Tournament of Champions held in Winterhaven, FL. They were undefeated. Hap Duffney, A.J. Petruzzi, Jack Wabinga, Jules Caldeira and Bruce Gilmore were on the squad that won the 25-23 championship finale over New York Motion. Petruzzi went 4 for 4 with a homer in the final game. Wabinga hit a towering, decisive home run in the Islanders' final at-bat. He then made two spectacular defensive plays in the final inning to preserve the victory. Duffney was voted all-tourney. #

SAFETY -- from p. 4

important endeavor last year, but we can do better.

ETPs are necessary to sustain life-preserving circulation and make crucial life-saving decisions, but they will need your assistance during each emergency.

Team members can contribute by doing the following:

Fetch the Safety Cart from the park office.

Check that the AED (defibrillator) is operational.

Bring the Safety Cart to a location between the playing fields BEFORE games begin.

After the final game of the day or night, RETURN the Safety Cart to the park office. (Note: for clarification of the above, ask your manager or an ETP.)

While the ETP is checking the victim for signs of life and injury, she or he will request that you or any member call 9-1-1 and give vital information (i.e. how many are injured, conscious or unconscious, bleeding severely, in shock, stroke or heart attack, etc.). Be observant and listen to the ETP's comments or instructions. Calling 9-1-1 for advanced medical aid may be the most important action taken when someone is seriously ill on the field. Don't hang up until the operator tells you to do so. Give

correct phone number and location. Report back to the ETP and let him/her know that help is on its way. Your cooperation and involvement are vital in critical situations; it will save lives. Don't hesitate to act!

Safety News: Eight members were trained to be ETPs on Feb. 12 and 13 more on Feb. 26. Other training dates on Saturdays had to be canceled because there were not enough sign-ups and the Complex restaurant did not have capacity for showing Red Cross instructional videos. It was not known whether additional training classes will be held this year. #

Golf Tourney -- Mark Your

Calendar: The 2009 GSSC golf tournament is set for Friday, May 1 at Lincoln Hills. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start with a scramble foursome format, similar to last May's successful event at the same site. Bill Knoblauch is again heading up the organizing committee. Also involved are Jerry Toenyas and Ron Roach. They hope others will lend a hand. More details will be forthcoming. Knoblauch can be reached at 408-5501. #

RiverCats Tickets: Lou Coppola, entertainment director, has two RiverCats tickets (\$15 each. Sec. 110 behind home plate) for 10 Saturday and 10 Sunday games. Want some or all? Call him at 444-6138. #

**MONDAY DAY NEWS:
EARLY START FOR NINE-
TEAM LEAGUE**

With a ninth team added this year, League 1 is scheduled to begin regular season play on March 16 with the season running through Sept. 7, followed by playoffs Sept. 14 and Sept 19. All teams will play either a 21- or 22-game schedule, according to George Hodsdon, L1 assistant commissioner.

As of Feb. 3, L1 had 128 members, including six non-playing managers or coaches. It is estimated that the L1 membership has 1,300 years of active Golden Seniors experience. Players in L1 have to be at least 70 years old and this season they range up to 89 (Dinny Watson). Seven are over 85. Thirty-four are over 80.

With nine teams, there will be four games each Monday with one team having a bye. Teams that are short-handed can use players from the bye team who are lower in the draft order than the player that will be absent.

The L1 draft was scheduled for Feb. 17, with first practice games on March 2, provided the Howe Avenue fields are in sufficient condition, as determined by the fields' management. Another practice game date of March 9 precedes the season-opener. #

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.)
Club Commissioner David Vargo ... 689-7061
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league
commissioners.)

***NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: MONDAY,
MARCH 2, 7:30 P.M. SITE: VFW HALL, 2764
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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Ray Mendonsa, President
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