

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

JULY MEETING FEATURES HOT TOPICS: ASA OR SENIOR SOFTBALL USA? CLUB OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Mark your calendar for the next Golden Seniors Softball Club general meeting (7:30 p.m., Monday, July 6) as there will be no shortage of meaty issues up for lively discussion. If you care about your club, you'll want to be there.

Besides nominations for club leadership posts for the coming year, continued discussion is expected on whether the club should stay with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) as its governing body or shift to Senior Softball USA (SSUSA).

Also, will high field fees push the club away from the Sacramento Softball Complex, perhaps to Freedom Park (on the former McClellan Air Force Base), where there are four diamonds just three miles north on Watt Avenue?

(See Page 2)

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WANTED: CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Golden Seniors Softball Club is looking for a few good men (or women) to help lead the way in 2010. Nominations for the seven seats on the Board of Directors for the 2009-2010 fiscal year beginning in October will be taken at the July 6 general meeting.

Club Commissioner Dave Vargo (undergoing knee surgery) and Secretary Mickey Schleicher (moving to Las Vegas) announced at the May 4 general meeting that they will not seek re-election to the board. The election is scheduled for the August general meeting and the new board will be sworn in at the Sept. 19 Playoffs/Picnic Day general meeting.

Five other board members said they will stand for re-election: President Ray Mendonsa, First Vice President Fred Fischer (in charge of sponsors), Second Vice President Pete Ward (in charge of uniforms), Treasurer Glen Cole and Player Agent Tom Sansone.

The club commissioner is responsible for league rules and oversees all league commissioners. The secretary records the minutes of board and general meetings.

John Mizerak, chairman of the nominating committee, is gathering names of members interested in serving on the board. Call him at 332-5511. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor at the July meeting. #

JULY MEETING COULD BE CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB

(From Page 1)

A representative from the Greater Sacramento Softball Association and ASA is expected to address the membership at the July meeting (scheduled for the VFW Post 67 facility at 2784 Stockton Blvd. There is no general meeting scheduled in June.)

Officials of SSUSA pitched their program of governance at the GSSC meeting in April, prompting a mini-poll in the April Dugout Chatter. Responses (19, with 15 favoring SSUSA) were too few to be conclusive as many members say they need more information. It is the intent of the board to publish articles by rival proponents in the June edition of the Dugout Chatter.

GSSC President Ray Mendonsa said at the sparsely attended May 4 general meeting that an ASA advocate will provide input at the July meeting. "Then we can lay it all out." He stressed that the GSSC is a "member-run club" and the club's direction will not be dictated by the Board of Directors.

A 30% hike in field fees in recent years prompted an increase in GSSC basic 2009 dues to \$95 for a season of about 20 games. Club Commissioner Dave Vargo said he expects to see the city attempt to charge more for field use in 2010, which he said could translate to the need for GSSC fees to surpass the \$100 plateau for the first time. He predicted that member fees could even be reduced if the club were to move its games to Freedom Park. The Complex requires its leagues to observe ASA rules and insurance, dictating the caliber of equipment such as bats. Vargo said Freedom Park would allow SSUSA governance and the GSSC -- not the city -- would decide what equipment to allow. Staying at the Complex could trigger negotiations over a governing body and insurance coverage. #

2009 General Meetings Schedule: (No June Meeting) -- **July 6** (Nominations for 2009-10 Board of Directors) VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd. -- **August 3** (Election of 2009-10 Board of Directors) VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd. -- **September 19** (in conjunction with the annual Picnic/Playoffs Saturday at the Sacramento Softball Complex) #

PICNIC DAY CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS SCHEDULE

Club Commissioner Dave Vargo, in consultation with league commissioners, announced the following schedule of league championship games on Saturday, Sept. 19:

Field #1 -- 8:30 Tuesday L2. 9:45 Wednesday Night L4. 11:00 Monday L1.

Field #2 -- 8:30 Tuesday Night L3. 9:45 Tuesday Select 60+ L6. 11:00 Thursday Night L5.

Field #3 -- 9:45 Tuesday Select 70+ L7. #

CAUGHT ON THE FLY Doug Peterson of GSSA hit for the cycle in L6-L7 crossover play on April 21, a 15-9 win over Denny's. Larry Davis' Compass Strategies was the only unbeaten L6 team after edging GSSA, 8-7, in a battle of unbeaten teams on April 16. Bob Fenton and Jack Tibbets slugged triples for the winners. L3 recent HR hitters included A.J. Petruzzi, M.R. Evans, Al Raydon (twice in one game) and Rich Walker. In L5, April 16 HRs were hit by Ettore Minor, Darryl Watson, Larry Lagomarsino and De Davis. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

Dinny Watson, the club's oldest playing member, had a mild stroke a few weeks ago. The doctor has cleared him to come back and play. He will go to his original L1 team, Jerry Jodice's Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal. Dinny, a life member who turned 89 on Jan. 26, normally plays outfield and hits in the middle of the lineup.

Club Commissioner **Dave Vargo** was scheduled to undergo knee surgery on May 5, which had to be postponed due to an infection.

Benny Benson had leg surgery on April 2. Get well, Benny.

Former GSSC President and current L1 Manager **Jerry Jodice**, the club's safety chairman, is back on the field following colon surgery. -- Trudy Smartt. #

CAUGHT ON THE FLY

LEAGUE 7 70+ SELECT: MORE FUN!

L7 Commissioner Larry Campbell says the new 70+ select league that plays on Tuesday mornings "is having the most fun!"

Campbell's assessment of April competition: "The good news is all four teams were tied for first place at 2 wins and 2 losses through games of April 28. The bad news is that all four teams are tied for last place. That's perfect team parity, a club and league commissioners' draft goal.

"We had more fun playing games with L6 (60+ select) youngsters. Being gentlemen, we let them win all four games by an average of 3.3 runs per game."

(The L6 teams give the L7 teams a seven-run handicap, which L7 Commish Campbell would like to see expanded to 10 runs. L6 Commish Victor Torres had not agreed to the 10-run handicap as of this writing.)

"Our second round of crossover games will be even more fun on June 2. We hope to see more of you 70+ players in L7 next year to show the L6 kids what more experienced players can do," Campbell said.

Batting Leader: Ray Crews of Better Softball Bats & Equipment drove home 12 runs through games of April 28. #

L1 FEATURES EXTRA-INNING GAMES

Three of the four League 1 games on April 27 went overtime as the Monday Day League features tight contests, including a rare nine-inning game.

The longest game was tied at 3 after seven innings and knotted at 6 after eight frames before Merrill Bookkeeping & Tax Service pulled out the 12-7 triumph over Daugherty Chevrolet. Wion's Body Shop edged Teichert Construction 10-9 after being tied 9-9 after seven innings. Dumont Pest Control registered a 17-12 eight-inning victory against I Forgot after finishing seven innings in an 11-11 tie.

League 1 is nearing the one-third mark in the schedule. Assistant Commissioner George Hodsdon reported that the season started early with nine teams, and one team getting a bye each week. After two weeks of heavy winds, the weather settled down and things were going smoothly until games of May 4 were canceled due to wet grounds.

L1 Standings Thru April 27 (with runs scored and runs allowed):

1. Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal 5-1 (78-43)
2. Mimi's Cafe 4-2 (63-33)
3. Dumont Pest Control 4-2 (59-47)
4. L&S Survey 4-2 (58-52)
5. Merrill Bookkeeping & Tax Service 4-3 (60-64)
6. Daugherty Chevrolet 3-3 (50-60)
7. I Forgot 3-4 (84-73)
8. Wion's Body Shop 1-5 (21-56)
9. Teichert Construction 0-6 (35-70) #

SAFETY REPORT: PREPARE FOR SPRINGTIME HEAT

While it was less than sizzling at this early May writing, the Sacramento temperatures can be expected to hit the 90s, even triple digits, before June. So Safety Chairman Jerry Jodice offers a few reminders.

To protect yourself during hot days, he suggests wearing a Cooling Aid Neckwear Blue Bando. Simply soak it in water before a game, tie around your neck and enjoy the game even in very hot weather. Cost: \$5.95 plus tax. Available at Big 5 Sports Stores throughout Sacramento. You can also wear a wet kerchief or towel around your neck.

HEAT EMERGENCIES: Drink ample portions of water during hot weather games, every inning if necessary, even if you do not feel thirsty. **Heat Cramps:** Painful muscle spasms in legs and abdomen. **Heat Exhaustion:** The body's cooling system becomes overwhelmed. Warning signs include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, faintness, fatigue, feebleness, heavy perspiration. **Heat Stroke:** (*life threatening condition*) The body's cooling systems are now overwhelmed by heat and have ceased functioning. Signals include red, hot, dry skin; vomiting; changes in level of consciousness; collapse.

CARE PROCEDURES: Move to cool area; loosen tight clothing; remove sweat-soaked clothes; apply cool, wet towels; fan the victim. If victim is conscious, give small amounts of cool water.

EMERGENCY: If victim refuses water, vomits or starts to lose consciousness, call 911 immediately! Place victim on his/her side. Continue to cool him/her (use ice packs on wrists, neck, armpits, groin and ankles). Check for signs of life (breathing, circulation, pulse). #

TRAINING UPDATE: The April Dugout Chatter reported that another training class was in the works. It still is. John and Anita Lack (685-6235) are looking for a place where we can conduct CPR/AED classes in Sacramento or Rocklin in June or July. They should be returning from their vacation trip and will contact me, Ramon Soden or Bob or Trudy Smartt when they are back. -- Jerry Jodice.

ATTENTION SOFTBALL COACHES!!!

Our club needs several community service volunteers to teach softball at local parks to groups of seniors who sign up in a City Recreation program to stay active by playing softball. In addition to helping seniors, these volunteers could increase club membership by encouraging good players at their softball classes to join GSSCS. Interested volunteers for the hours 10 A.M. to noon during some weekdays at local parks, to be determined by enrollment, please contact Larry Campbell, 485-4843. #

GSSC TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AT 499 AS OF MAY 4

Henry Low, our supreme number cruncher, reports that total club membership was 499, including 114 multi-league players who filled 248 team slots. The club had 124 life members, 72 of whom were players. Of the 70 non-playing members, 52 were life members and 18 were regular members. #

CAUGHT ON THE FLY:

L2 Highlights

Rabbit and Harper Properties were tied for the L2 lead with 4-1 records through games of April 28. Sports Leisure Vacations was 3-1-1, followed by three teams at 2-3 (Zorrace Inc., Richard H. Will - Attorney, and VFW Post 67). Arnold Properties was seventh at 1-3-1 and ASAP Signing Services was 1-4.

Arnold Properties won for the first time on April 28 as Bill McMahon and Larry Davis each delivered a three-run homer to support winning pitcher Trudy Smartt. League leaders: Davis, with 2 homers and 15 RBI, and McMahon with 10 RBI.

L4 Highlights

Three teams were at 3-1 through April 29 games -- Lehr Auto Electric, CA Energy Services #1 and Bradshaw Ranch Golf. Three teams at 1-3: C&C Plumbing, Bertolucci's Body & Fender Shop and East Lawn Inc. (Congrats to Bertolucci's for being voted the Best Body Shop in Sacramento for the second consecutive year in the 2009 KCRA A-List Contest.)

On April 15, CA Energy Services #1 Rick Maloney hit a grand slam in the first inning. That wasn't enough to beat Lehr Auto Electric. CA Energy Services #1 had the league's leading HR hitter (Don Jackson with two). Jackson led L4 in RBI with 16.

(Thanks to Collette Barnes for reporting highlights from L2, L4 and L7. Sandy Begg provides highlights from L3, L5 and L6. George Hodsdon and Tom Coe have kept the DC abreast of L1 action. Larry Campbell also reports on L7.) #

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THEIR PRODUCTS. SEE
SPONSOR LIST ONLINE AT
WWW.GSSCS.ORG**

GSSC GOLF IS SOGGY SUCCESS

Sixty-four players entered and 64 players showed up to make the Golden Seniors Softball Club's golf tournament on May 1 a success despite very wet conditions at the beautiful Lincoln Hills Golf Course.

Bill "Knobby" Knoblauch, tournament chairman, said the 100% turnout was absolutely amazing as the forecast for rain, steady at times, proved true.

The fundraiser (about \$900) for the club was helped by donated raffle prizes. Special thanks to the El Macero Country Club for donating golf for a foursome; the Lincoln Hills course for providing four rounds of golf, and Bradshaw Ranch (two rounds). Vino Con Brio in Lodi, where L3 Manager A.J. Petruzzi manages the tasting room, donated four bottles of quality wine. Dan Norton secured a \$30 gift certificate and two golf shirts from Haggin Oaks. Karl Bik chipped in a Blue Tooth. Ron Roach donated a Hogan golf bag.

The tourney's success also was due to volunteer work from Sandy Begg and Henry Low, who checked in golfers, sold raffle tickets and mulligans and took snapshots of foursomes and cute goslings out on the course, while braving wet conditions.

The winning group, finishing eight under par: Wayne Emery, Duane Stewart, Ralph Burgess and Chuck MacWilliam. They were one stroke better than the team of Dan Norton, Alex Ybarra, Andy Ybarra and Steve Lewis. Bernie Church, Chuck Schramm, John Mueller and Ted Way finished third, four under par.

Ann Ellsworth won the women's long drive contest while Alex Ybarra took the honor for the men, exceeding nice drives by Mike Jordan and Dan McGrath. The closest-to-the-hole (six feet, eight inches) winner was John Mueller. #

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,
JULY 6, 7:30 P.M. SITE: VFW HALL, 2784
STOCKTON BLVD., SACRAMENTO***

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)

Golden Seniors Softball Club
Ray Mendonsa, President
2324 Migration Court
Elk Grove, CA 95757

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