

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC EDITION

On the Internet: www.gsscs.org GSSC Hotline for Club News: 491-1721

BILL HILL IS ELECTED PRESIDENT FOR COMING YEAR

With the largest turnout of members at a general meeting in recent years, Bill Hill, a sponsor/manager of teams in L-4 and L-5, was elected Golden Seniors president on Aug. 9. About 80 members were in attendance. Hill outpolled Player Agent Tom Sansone. The unopposed slate for the other six board offices was elected by acclamation.

The new board will be sworn in at the Saturday, Sept. 18 general meeting that is held in conjunction with the annual league championship playoffs and picnic at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

Hill, the outgoing president of a senior softball league in south Placer County, is among four new board members. The others are Dick Latimer, 1st vice president; Bruce Gilmore, club commissioner, and Linda McCollum Greene, player agent. (See Page 4)

QUICK ACTION SAVES LIFE OF STRICKEN GOLDEN SENIORS PLAYER

Stricken by a heart attack, Lou Mahinay collapsed in the outfield on Wednesday night, Aug. 11. He almost died, and would have succumbed, according to medical personnel, if it were not for fellow Golden Seniors players and the umpire who came to his aid.

They used the club's defibrillator to shock life back into his heart. It had stopped beating when Umpire Tom Bussey and John Mohamed ran to the aid of the 64-year-old player. Bussey, umpiring behind the plate in the L-4 game, said Mahinay had just chased down a fly ball when he suddenly collapsed. He called for someone to call 9-1-1 as he ran to help the C&C Plumbing player. Mohamed was walking to the plate as the next Cottonwood Estates batter when he said he saw the outfielder go down. (See Page 2)

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PICNIC & PLAYOFFS:

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 18 AT THE
SOFTBALL COMPLEX**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Ray Mendonsa

I would like to take this time to thank all the wonderful members of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento for the opportunity of serving as your president for the past two years. I know that it was challenging for some of you, but it was a wonderful experience and I think more club members should step up and try to make a difference. The club needs more safety personnel (Red Hats). They do save lives. We need league commissioners, managers and umpires, and they should all be club members. Thank you all again.

QUICK ACTIONS SAVE HEART ATTACK VICTIM (FROM PAGE 1)

Mohamed, a diver on the Sacramento County Sheriff's river rescue team, said he noted that Lou had bitten his lip or tongue, and he cleared his mouth of bloody fluid with his finger, held his head back, raising the back of the neck to clear the airway. He and Bussey felt for a pulse, finding none.

Bussey began CPR with chest impressions, massaging Lou's heart. Ken Poole arrived with the club's defibrillator, normally stationed near the scorekeeper table. Tom Osborne held Lou's legs. Monta Litle was on the phone, calling for emergency help and relaying Mohamed's description of the situation to the emergency operator. Mohamed and Bussey pulled up Lou's jersey to help prepare for the defibrillator, which was operated by Poole. According to Mohamed, one shock restored a beat to the heart.

At the hospital, where Mahinay said he became known as "the softball guy," he had two stints inserted and a pacemaker put in his chest, Lou reflected from his Citrus Heights home, where he answered the phone on Aug. 28 with a cheerful, vibrant voice: "It is truly amazing what I've gone through. I am so blessed to come through the other end. I am on the road to recovery."

He said he is grateful to all who helped him on the field, as well as teammates and others who comforted his wife, Kathy, who was in the stands when Lou collapsed.

C&C Plumbing's manager, Jack Kocunik, was high in his praise for Umpire Bussey and players who rushed to Lou's aid.

"We actually lost Lou," Kocunik said in an e-mail. "And, thanks to the above-mentioned people and the defibrillator, we got him back. The paramedics and the cardiologist told Lou and his wife that Lou would definitely not have lived if those people did not act as fast and as effectively as they did. Thank God we have such great people belonging to our organization. And, of course, Lou and his wife both talked to me saying they could not possibly thank everyone enough."

Mahinay recalled that the medics told him, "Those guys saved your life. All we had to do was load you into the ambulance." He added that his chest "hurt for three days" from Bussey's CPR. "But it was a good hurt."

Mahinay moved to Citrus Heights last February to be near his wife's family. He had retired from the business affairs department of the Warner Bros. studios in Burbank. Since leaving the hospital, Mahinay said he has called friends with whom he played in Southern California to urge that they emulate the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento and acquire a defibrillator, keeping it handy at their games.

Meantime, he is on injured reserve for the rest of the season, undergoing therapy with the intent of someday playing ball again. He said he and his wife plan to attend the club's picnic on Sept. 18 and personally thank everyone who is responsible for him being there.

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SUNSHINE & HEALTH

JIM HOFFMAN has received a pacemaker for his heart.

TED HANSEN (L-1) had an operation to clean out his coronatid artery.

JOLENE TODD, wife of Tom Todd, had a heart operation and was recuperating at home.

L-1 player **SAM RISPOLI** had major heart surgery in May for valve repair and stints. A week-long hospital stay turned into 36 days, until the later part of July. Larry Campbell reports that Sam lost about 40 pounds and hoped to drive a car so
#

LEAGUES 3-5-6 HIGHLIGHTS

From Sandy Begg, scorekeeper:

Trudy Smartt's Maita, with a 10-7 record, finished with four straight victories to take the top seed into the L-3 playoffs, earning a first-round bye on Aug. 31. Re/Max was 9-7 with one tie, also gaining a bye, while the Old Hornets went 9-8 and Livingston Concrete finished 8-7 with a tie. Geremia Pools went 7-9 and the Silver Cats were 5-10-1.

In the first round of the playoffs on Aug. 31, Geremia beat the Old Hornets 8-7; Livingston defeated the Silver Cats, 13-4, and the Old Hornets then eliminated the Silver Cats, 13-2. In the Sept. 7 second round, Re/Max plays Livingston and Maita plays Geremia, and, in the 9 p.m. elimination game, the Old Hornets play the loser of an earlier game.

The top L-3 batsman for the regular season was Emilio Lobato of Maita. He hit an astonishing .866 with 18 extra base hits. Jack Wabinga of Livingston hit an even .800.

In L-5 (Thursday night), through games of Aug. 26, California Energy Services #2 led with a record of 15-4-1, well ahead of second-place Visions Eyecare (12-8). NorCal Jackets was next at 10-9-1, followed by Espanol Restaurant, 9-9-2; Miller's Munchies, 8-12, and Overhead Door, 4-16.

Leading L-5 hitter: Don Jackson of California Energy (.813).

In L-6 (Tuesday 60 Select), Compass Strategies was 8-6 through games of Aug. 31. Mark White DDS and GSSA were 7-7 and Uptown Cafe, 6-8, with one more regular season game before the playoffs.

The top L-6 hitter, through games of Aug. 24: Doug Peterson of Mark White (.759). #

Safety Report CLUB'S DEFIBRILLATOR GETS FRESH BATTERY

League 6 and League 7 games were halted on Tuesday, Aug. 17 when it was discovered that the club's defibrillator was not functioning. The device's battery had run down from use on the prior Wednesday night to save a member's life (see story on Page 1).

Club Safety Coordinator Curtis Holcomb found during the games that the AED device was not able to function and informed Chief Umpire Freddie Miller, who directed that all games be suspended immediately. He brought the club's other defibrillator, used for L1 games at the Howe Avenue fields, over to the Sacramento Softball Complex so it could be available for night leagues. Holcomb, who was recently appointed club safety coordinator to succeed the late Jerry Jodice, thanked Trudy Smartt for her help in the ordering of a fresh battery.

Stay tuned for more information from Holcomb regarding CPR/AED training for club members and other safety messages. #

MONDAY MORNING NEWS

From Tom Coe and George Hodsdon:

Henry Low AKA the Cycle Man. With homers in each of his final at-bats, Henry Low registered cycles in back-to-back weeks in L-1. The feat of a single, double, triple and home run in one game is rare enough, but in consecutive weeks might be unprecedented, at least in the memory of some old-timers. Low has 10 inside-the-park homers this season.

Meanwhile, L-1 playoffs are set to get under way on Sept. 13, when I Forgot, the team with the best record that didn't win one of the league's three rounds, faces Dumont Pest Control. Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal, winner of the third round based on a coin flip with I Forgot, takes on American Medequip. Winners collide Sept. 18 on picnic day, with the game scheduled for 11 a.m. on Field #1 at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

I Forgot and Nielsen both went 4-1 in the third round. Overall, I Forgot finished 14-6 for the season; Nielsen, 14-5.

In Round 3, L&S Surveys was 3-2, and 9-11 for the season. Mimi's Cafe, 3-3 in Round 3, was 10-10 overall. Also 3-3 in the final round, Merrill's Bookkeeping Service was 11-9 for the year. Wion's Body Shop, 2-3, was 4-16 for the year. Dumont (2-3) was 10-9. Second-round winner American Medequip, 2-4 in the third round, was 14-7, while Avalon Hearing, 1-4, finished 3-16. #

**PICNIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
DANTE CIARDELLA, PICNIC CO-
CHAIR, HAS ISSUED AN URGENT
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS. CALL
HIM AT 453-1921. LAST YEAR'S
VOLUNTEERS GOT NEAT
SHIRTS.... THIS YEAR????**

HILL IS NEXT GSSC PRESIDENT (FROM PAGE 1)

Continuing their service on the board are 2nd Vice President Pete Ward, Treasurer Glen Cole and Secretary George Lamb.

Hill succeeds Ray Mendonsa, who chose not to seek a third term as president. Latimer takes over from Fred Fischer, who did not run for another term as 1st vice president. Gilmore succeeds Bob Smartt, who served this year as club commissioner and endorsed Gilmore's late decision to seek the office. Linda McCollum Greene fills the player agent slot vacated by Sansone.

Members expressed their appreciation to Mendonsa, Sansone, Fischer and Smartt for their hard work and dedication to the club.

Other Aug. 9 meeting news:

Championship Games Schedule. Club Commissioner Smartt remarked that duties of the office are a huge undertaking. He announced the schedule for the league championship games on Sept. 18: Field #1 -- 8:30 a.m., L-2; 9:45 a.m. L-6; 11 a.m., L-1. Field #2 -- 9:45 a.m., L-7; Field #3 -- 8:30 a.m., L-5; 9:45 a.m., L-3; 11 a.m., L-4.

2011 Dues Structure. Player Agent Sansone highlighted changes on the player application forms for 2011, including a \$10 reduction from 2010 in the base player dues, to \$105. (See Page 5)

However, there will be a \$15 surcharge for each night league. Multi-league players will be charged \$95 for each additional league beyond the chosen primary league. Playing life member dues will be \$80 and non-playing member dues will remain \$30. (See Page 5)

Late Fee. There will be a \$20 late fee for registrations made after Dec. 15. Decisions on viability of leagues (See Page 5)

ELECTIONS (FROM PAGE 4)

and final determination of number of teams will be made Jan. 15, 2011. This is to allow time for adjustments before league team drafts, which will likely be deferred until March.

Ball Tests. 2nd VP Pete Ward announced he has procured and distributed to umpires about five dozen balls to be tested in an effort to improve the performance quality of balls used in GSSCS games at the complex. There has been widespread dissatisfaction with the performance of balls provided by the complex this year. The complex will allow the club to directly procure and distribute balls next year. Hopefully, field rental fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Wide-brimmed Caps. Because of prevalent skin cancer concerns, a suggestion was made for the club to allow players to wear wide-brimmed caps or hats that would be designed with the club logo.

Picnic News. Picnic Committee Co-chair Benny Benson reported that per-person costs have been reduced to \$11 with elimination of dessert and one side dish (beans or potato salad). Complimentary beverages will be served starting after the first game is over, about 9:45, and remain open until all players are served at mealtime. (Committee co-chair Dante Ciardella was busy signing up volunteers to help with the picnic, saying on Aug. 31 that it is crucial that more members step up and help. Interested? Call Dante at 453-1921.)

Budget is Approved. Treasurer Cole announced that the club had \$46,305 cash on hand, but the majority of this amount will be consumed by second-half field rental payments, umpire/scorekeeper payments, and picnic costs. Copies of the proposed club budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1

were distributed and membership approved unanimously. The budget line item for safety equipment and CPR/AED training is called the Jerry Jodice Safety Fund to honor the memory of the former club president and, more recently, club safety coordinator, who passed away this year.

Members Can Help. 1st VP Fischer thanked members for help in soliciting sponsors and exhorted members to follow his lead in giving back through service to the club for all the enjoyment they derive from the club. There also was a lively discussion with ideas and offers to help with publicity and recruitment of new members.

Membership Report. Player Agent Sansone announced that the club added 56 new members this year, largely due to intensive recruiting by managers, but he noted the club lost almost 100 members. Surveys showed the primary reasons were dissatisfaction, the difficult economy, and the effects of aging.

(Editor's Note: This report was compiled by Dave Vargo, the club's ultimate volunteer.) #

75+ AGE PLAYERS STAY ACTIVE

MORE SOFTBALL -- Players age 75+ who would like to stay active in softball after the season-ending picnic can join the games at Carmichael Park, Field 4, on Thursdays at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. These games will continue during the good Fall weather until mid-November. Contacts: Paul Thompson, George Langan, Peter Anagnoston and Larry Campbell.

For 70+ players, batting practice will continue year-round at Howe Park, Field 3, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m., until wet grass requires the time to change to 1 p.m. Contacts: Ken Dempsey, Tom Coe, Dean Price. #

LEAGUE 2-4-7 HIGHLIGHTS

From Colette Barnes, scorekeeper:

Through Aug. 31, with 15 games played, 11-4 Jolly Rogers had a one-game lead over VFW Post #67, 10-5. Harper Properties and Rambit Inc. were tied for third at 7-8. Richard C. Will, Attorney, was at 6-9. Sports Leisure Vacations was 4-11.

The league's top batters: Rich Edwards at .811, followed by Michael Jordan, .757 and Dave Avery, .750. Avery led in slugging average and RBI. Avery and Bill McMahon each bashed an over-the-fence home run.

Through Aug. 24, with 19 games played, California Energy Services #1 sported a 14-3-1 record. Bertolucci's Body and Fender was second at 13-6. Teichert Construction, 11-7-1. East Lawn Inc. 7-12. Cottonwood Estates, 5-12-2, and C&C Plumbing, 4-14-1. Emilio Lobato paced batters at .779, while Dave Raydon had the top slugging average at 1.348. Clearing the fences, one each: Raydon, Lobato and Ric Maloney.

Through Aug. 31 (14 games played) for L-7, Tuesday 70 select, Auburn Oaks Senior Living was well ahead with an 11-3 mark. Denny's Grand Slams and Arnold Properties were 6-8, and Better Softball Bats and Equipment, 5-9. Dale Stykel (.775) was the leading hitter, followed by Bob Taylor (.761). #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2010-11

President-elect **Bill Hill** ... 739-1189

First Vice President-elect **Dick Latimer** ... 363-9555 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ... 989-4722 (Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer **Glen Cole** ... 966-4561

Secretary **George Lamb** ... (530) 681-8070

Player Agent-elect **Linda McCollum Greene** ... 391-5559 before 9 p.m.

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

Club Commissioner-elect **Bruce Gilmore** ... 424-0920 (Responsible for league rules, oversees all league commissioners.)

**NEXT GSSCS GENERAL MEETING:
SATURDAY, SEPT. 18 AT THE
SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL
COMPLEX**

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DUGOUT CHATTER IS PUBLISHED 10 TIMES A YEAR, MONTHLY JANUARY THROUGH AUGUST WITH ISSUE #9 COVERING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER AND ISSUE #10 COVERING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. CURRENT AND PAST ISSUES, CONTAINING MORE STORIES AND OFTEN WITH PICTURES, ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE (WWW.GGSCS.ORG). THE PRINT EDITION, WITH SOME STORIES CONDENSED, IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO LACK INTERNET ACCESS. AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN THEIR NAMES OFF THE MAILING LIST FOR THE NEWSLETTER. DURING THE PLAYING SEASON, PLAYING MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE OR PICK UP THEIR COPIES AT THEIR GAMES, THUS SAVING POSTAGE AND PAPER. AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, AS FEWER AND FEWER MEMBERS LACK INTERNET ACCESS, THIS PUBLICATION IS EXPECTED TO EVOLVE INTO AN ENTIRELY ELECTRONIC. PRODUCT.
