

# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) -- JANUARY 2011

## GSSCS DIRECTORS APPROVE BETTER BALL FOR 2011

Directors of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento decided Jan. 10 to upgrade to a better-performing ball for the 2011 season. The Stote Trump Evil ball, according to League President Bill Hill, will provide members more “bang for a buck.”

While still within the ASA-approved limit of .44-core, 375-compression, it was described as a top-of-the-line ball with more (and tighter) stitching in the leather cover. The ball costs about \$1 more, adding about \$500 to the equipment budget for 400 balls.

Umpire-in-Chief Freddie Miller led members at the general meeting in a round of applause for Pete Ward, the club’s second vice president who has devoted so much time testing various balls to come up with one that would please the members. There have been complaints about balls provided by the Sacramento Softball Complex that were of such poor quality that many well-struck balls would die in the outfield.

President Hill and others have commented that a number of GSSCS members have threatened to leave the club and play elsewhere because of the “dead” balls supplied by the Complex. Finding a better ball has been a top priority of the president and his 2010-11 Board of Directors.

In other news from the Jan. 10 general meeting, Hill said he has been informed that the Complex has acquired a bat-testing machine to make sure that bats used at the Complex do not exceed ASA limits. He said that even the “grandfathered” Easton Synergy would be disallowed if it fails the test.

**Schedule and Rules:** The board plans a special meeting, on Jan. 17, to discuss proposed rules and the 2011 playing schedule, including the possibility that the date of the September picnic could be earlier in the month and the regular season could begin earlier, in March, to avoid conflict with the annual senior softball tournament in Oregon on the third weekend of September. Much depends on the availability of dates at (MORE)

**NEXT  
GENERAL  
MEETING:  
MONDAY, 7:30  
P.M., FEB. 7 AT  
THE VFW POST  
67 HALL ON  
STOCKTON  
BOULEVARD**

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Better-performing ball is selected for 2011 ... “more bang for a buck” -- President Hill. -- Page 1.

Lobato’s .833 leads top Golden Seniors hitters in 2010. --- Page 3.

Monday managers (L-1) meet to OK nine-team format, 13 or 14 players per team, one bye a week -- Page 4.

**2011 GENERAL  
MEETINGS (7:30 P.M.  
AT THE VFW POST 67  
HALL, 2784  
STOCKTON BLVD.)  
FEBRUARY 7 ...  
MARCH 14 ... MAY  
16 ... JULY 11 ...  
AUGUST 15 ...  
SEPTEMBER (IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH  
ANNUAL PICNIC/  
PLAYOFFS)**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the Complex that might allow the club more flexibility in its scheduling. It is likely that the number of practice games will be reduced to just one.

The board also said it needed to discuss Rules Committee proposals for rules dealing with player substitutions for playoffs and base-running. The run-through rule for all leagues will remain in effect, Hill said, while the board will consider a Rules Committee recommendation, via Club Commissioner Bruce Gilmore, to create 10-foot "V" lines for those running to second and third bases. He said such lines have been used in L-1 and in Lincoln Hills to reduce risk of injury from baserunner-fielder collisions.

Gilmore said a 2011 Rule Book will be published, incorporating rules to be acted upon and announced at the next general meeting (Feb. 7), as well as some rule changes that were adopted in 2010, when a Rule Book update was not published.

Draft dates for the leagues will be announced soon, as well as details for tryouts for new club members or players transferring to a new league.

**2011 General Meeting Schedule:** A meeting schedule for the rest of the year also was announced: Feb. 7, March 14, May 16, July 11, Aug. 15 and at the September picnic/playoffs Saturday. The dates are pending confirmation of availability of the VFW Post 67 hall on Stockton Boulevard.

**No League 7:** Lack of signups was cited as the board decided to discontinue L-7, which has operated the past two years for players 70 and over on Tuesday mornings at the Complex. (L-1 fields nine teams for players 70 and older on Monday mornings.) The board felt that those who have signed up for L-7 could play in the 60+ L-2, which plays at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and/or 60+ L-6, which plays at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, or apply to play in L-1 on Mondays.

**Signup Report:** Player Agent Linda McCollum-Greene said only 35 players had signed up for L-7, compared to 47 for L-6 and 72 for L-2. L-7 Commissioner Larry Campbell was not at the meeting but was said to feel that getting 48 players to field four teams would be too big a problem. While L-2 has just enough players signed up for six 12-player teams, a total of 72,

McCollum-Greene said L-1 on Mondays is filled up for a nine-team league, with 119 signups who include some non-playing managers or coaches. L-3 (Tuesday night) has 76 signups, including 10 women, four more players than needed for six teams, so there will be a waiting list established.

After Jan. 15, returning applicants lose their seniority status to guarantee that they can play in the leagues of their choice.

Signups for the Wednesday (L-4) and Thursday (L-5) leagues have been slow enough to require the league commissioners to phone players from 2010 rosters who had not signed up. Each league had 59 or 60 applications for 2011. Last year, they had 66 players in each of these leagues, McCollum-Greene said.

Since September, the club has had 25 new members sign up, with the current roster (as of Jan. 10) exceeding 510, compared to 477 as of last Oct. 1.

**Sponsorships:** First Vice President Dick Latimer reported that 24 team sponsors have paid for 2011, which he called "a good start." He said he had verbal commitments from five or six others, so the number is about 30. He reiterated that gathering sponsorships is a "team effort" that involves all club members. Anyone knowing a potential sponsor should pass on the information to Latimer (363-9555). (MORE)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

**Life Members:** Fifteen new life members will be honored at the club's Feb. 7 meeting. Those eligible (15 years of continuous membership and age 75, or 10 years and age 80) for induction: Clint Armstrong, Rick Barsuglia, Sammy Blalock, John Chatfield, Leon Juarros, James C Lucas, Raymond A. Merrill, Ron Middlekauff, Steve Pegos, Floyd L. Ransom Sr., Andres R. Serna, Ernest D. Shaffer, Paul I. Thompson, Donald Toyama and Georege H. Wehmeyer. They were approved for life membership at the Jan. 10 meeting.

**Bats and Gloves:** George Hodsdon said a "silent auction" is planned for the club's March 14 meeting, providing an opportunity for members to unload surplus bats and gloves, to benefit the club. More information on this is expected at the Feb. 7 meeting.  
#

### ***Golden Seniors Batting Leaders***

## **LOBATO BATS .833 TO LEAD CLUB IN 2010**

Five players hit .800 or higher in 2010, led by Emilio Lobato's .833, the highest batting average recorded by a Golden Senior in at least the past five years.

Leading Trudy Smartt's Maita Chevrolet to the L-3 championship, Lobato's average topped the .829 posted by Bill Christian of L-4 in 2008. Lobato also paced L-4 in 2010 with a .779 average. (Note: Christian was hitting around .850 for the regular season but saw his average slip during the playoffs.)

Four others to reach the .800 plateau in 2010 were Dale Stykel (.809) of L-7, Jack Wabinga (.808) of L-3, Rich Edwards (.805) of L-2, and Don Jackson (.800) of L-5. Edwards and Jackson joined Monte Miller (.800 in 2007 and .826 in L-4 in 2008) as the only two-time .800 hitters during these five seasons. Edwards hit .817 in L-2 in 2009, when Jackson hit .812 in L-4.

Doug Peterson, who hit .828 in L-6 in 2009, led L-6 batters in 2010 at .755.

Just 12 players have hit at least .800 in the past five years for a combined total of 15 times. Other .800 hitters since 2006, according to statistics maintained by scorekeepers Sandy Begg and Colette Barnes: John Lack (.818 in L-2 in 2007), Bob Del Chiaro (.817 in L-4 in 2007, Dave Vargo (.800 in L-2, 2008, and Rich Ganas, .800 in L-5, 2009. (Note: L-1 has not maintained individual statistics.)

The club's top home run hitter in 2010 was Gary Holmes, who tallied seven in L-5. In L-4, Dave Raydon's six included one that cleared the fence. Lobato had five HRs in L-4. The club-wide season high for homers is 10, established by A.J. Petruzzi of L-6 in 2007, when Bobby Flink had nine in L-2. Monta Litle and Rich Ganas hold the record for L-5 homers with nine, in 2007 and 2008, respectively, and Litle also holds the L-4 mark, nine, in 2007.

The club's top RBI man in 2010 was Steve Casarez of L-3, with 60, five more than Monte Miller drove home in L4, but four fewer than Miller's club record 64 for L-4 in 2009. L-5's Allen Riker led the club in total hits with 66, tying his club record for hits set in 2009.

Of the three leagues worked by scorekeeper Barnes, Dave Raydon, making a comeback from a severe heart attack several years ago, registered the highest OPS, which Colette says she and her husband, Russ Barnes, devised as a measurement of offensive success. Raydon's OPS of 1.061 in L-4 is based on at-bats in games played by taking slugging and on-base averages and dividing by 2. (MORE)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

League-by-league leaders 2006-2010 (club leaders in bold face):

L-2 -- Batting Average: .818 John Lack, 2007; .817 Rich Edwards, 2009; .805 Edwards, 2010; .800 Dave Vargo, 2008. Base Hits: 60 Merv Mill, 2007; 56 Vic Torres, 2008. HR: 9 Bob Flink, 2007; 5 Bill Nevis, 2009. Dave Vargo, Vidal Franco, Ron Peck, all 2007. RBI: 47 Joe Saiz, 2007; 40 Flink and Torres, 2007.

L-3 -- Batting Average: **.833 Emilio Lobato, 2010**; .808 Jack Wabinga, 2010; .795 Norm Blackwell Jr., 2009. Base Hits: 58 Blackwell, 2009; 57 Wayne Yamamura, 2006. HR: 8 Barry Mortimeyer, 2007; 5 Rich Del Chiaro, 2006; A.J. Petruzzi, 2007; Dave Vargo, 2006; Emilio Lobato, 2009; Jack Wabinga, 2009. RBI: 60 Steve Casarez, 2010; 55 M.R. Evans, 2006; 51 Mortimeyer, 2007.

L-4 -- Batting Average: .829 Bill Christian, 2008; .826 Monte Miller, 2008; .817 Bob Del Chiaro, 2007; .812 Don Jackson, 2009, Base Hits: **66 Allen Riker, 2009**; 63 Christian, 2008; 60 Emilio Lobato and Bill Greene, 2010. HR: 9 Monta Litle, 2007; 8 Lobato, 2007; 6 David Raydon, 2010; 5 Lobato, 2010. **RBI: 64 Monte Miller, 2009**; 59 Miller, 2008.

L-5 -- Batting Average: .800 Don Jackson, 2010; .800 Rich Ganas, 2009; .779 Bob Del Chiaro, 2008. Base Hits: **66 Allen Riker, 2010**; 64 Larry Lagomarsino, 2010; 59 George Lamb, 2006, Riker, 2006, Dave Vargo, 2006. HR: 9 Monta Litle 2007; 9 Rich Ganas, 2008; 7 Gary Holmes, 2010. RBI: 60 Monta Litle, 2006; 55 Rich Ganas, 2007.

L-6 -- Batting Average: .828 Doug Peterson, 2009; .784 Bob Cummings, 2007; .755 Peterson, 2010. Base Hits: 58 Dave Vargo, 2008; 55 Peterson, 2008; 55 Bob Fenton, 2009. **HR: 10 A.J. Petruzzi, 2007**; 5 Bob Cummings, 2007. RBI: 53 Peterson and Vargo, 2008. (Note: L-6 began in 2007 for players 60 and older.)

L-7 -- Batting Average: .809 Doug Stykel, 2010; .749 Jim Stinson, 2009; .742 Henry Low, 2009; Base Hits: 56 Stinson, 2009; 49 Don Wall, 2009. HR: 2 Low, 2009. RBI: 33 Low, 2009; 30 John Figlar, 2009. (Note: L-7 began in 2009 for players 70 or older.)  
#

## **L-1 NEWS: MONDAY LEAGUE MANAGERS MEET TO PLAN 2011 SEASON**

A Jan.10 preseason meeting of all L-1 Monday managers, presided over by League Commissioner Bob Havrilla, assisted by Assistant Commissioner George Hodsdon, decided that the league will have nine teams with 13 or 14 players per team. The schedule will be the same as last year, with one team getting a bye each week.

Havrilla said at the Howe Avenue Park meeting that L-1, as a recreational league, is run by the managers. They also determined that playoffs will be the same as last year, when the winner of Round 1 played the team with the most wins without winning a round. The winner of Round 2 plays the winner of Round 3. The two winners face off at the picnic.

Tryouts for new players, players returning from injured reserve or transferring in from another league will be at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Feb. 7 at Carmichael Park Field #3.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

The draft will be 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at Howe Avenue Park. Depending on field conditions and field availability, practice games would begin shortly after the draft.

Havrilla said he will serve as chairman of the L-1 Rules Committee, comprised of team managers.

Teams, sponsors, managers and assistant managers:

- #1 Nielson Real Estate: Norm Blackwell Sr., Bob Nielson (also sponsor).
- #2 L&S Survey: Benny Benson, Dave Sturdivant (also sponsor).
- #3 Unassigned: John Chatfield, Ernie Kidwell.
- #4 Dumont Pest Control: George Langan.
- #5 Merrill Bookkeeping: George Hodsdon.
- #6 Unassigned: Ben Schwan, Dick Reisinger.
- #7 Show-Biz Productions: Joe Kline. (Team sponsor is Kline's daughter's company.)
- #8 Jerry Jodice: Joe Sugimoto, Jerry Moody. (Team is sponsored by Jamyn Jodice, in memory of his father.)
- #9 Wion's Body Shop: Ray Ward, Jim Powell Sr.

## **LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2011**

Nominated by Club Commissioner Bruce Gilmore and approved by the Board of Directors, the club's League Commissioners for 2011:

League 1 Monday Day, 70 and older: Bob Havrilla -- 285-5413 (George Hodsdon, assistant)

L-2 Tuesday Day 9 a.m., 60 and older: Curtis Holcomb -- 600-6065 (Jim Wait, assistant)

L-3 Tuesday Night, 50 and older: Jerry Toenyas -- 354-4126 (Brent Korff, assistant)

L-4 Wednesday Night, 50 and older: Bill Greene -- 391-5559

L-5 Thursday Night, 50 and older: Allen Riker -- 485-9567

L-6 Tuesday Day 10:30 a.m. Select, 60 and older: Rich Edwards -- 483-1293

#

## **CLUB RULES COMMITTEE FOR 2011**

Club Commissioner Bruce Gilmore has named members of the Rules Committee to consider changes for 2011: Night Leagues -- Bill McMahon, Ed Frantz and Bill Greene. Day Leagues -- Rich Edwards, Bob Havrilla, Curtis Holcomb, Larry Campbell and McMahon. Chief Umpire Freddie Miller provides technical advice. #

**NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: FEBRUARY 2011.** READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE AT [WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG) WHERE NEWS UPDATES AND PHOTOS ARE PUBLISHED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, YOU CAN REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE DUGOUT CHATTER MAILING LIST AND READ THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE, SAVING THE CLUB POSTAGE, PAPER AND INK. TO GET OFF THE SNAIL-MAIL LIST, CALL HENRY LOW AT 391-3938. APRIL-THRU-AUGUST ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE GENERALLY AVAILABLE ONLINE WITH SOME PRINTED COPIES AVAILABLE AT FIELDS (SEE SCOREKEEPERS). THE ONLINE EDITION IS USUALLY ACCESSIBLE DAYS OR EVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE PRINTED EDITION ARRIVES VIA SNAIL MAIL. THE ONLINE EDITION ALSO MAY CONTAIN LONGER STORIES, MORE INFORMATION.

#

ADVERTISING: CLUB SPONSORS MAY RUN ADS IN THE DUGOUT CHATTER (\$50 FOR HALF-A-PAGE OR LESS, \$75 FOR A FULL PAGE. NON-SPONSOR RATES ARE HIGHER.) CONTACT LOU COPPOLA, 444-6138. #

# SAFETY NEWS

FOR INFORMATION ON STATUS OF THE CLUB SAFETY PROGRAM, CONTACT CLUB SAFETY CHAIRMAN CURTIS HOLCOMB AT 600-6065. HE HAS ISSUED A CALL FOR ALL MEMBERS WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER CPR/AED AID THROUGH THEIR EMPLOYERS TO CONTACT HIM. RED CROSS TRAINING CLASSES ARE ANTICIPATED FOR GOLDEN SENIORS MEMBERS THIS WINTER. CONTACT HOLCOMB TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN SIGNING UP FOR A CLASS TO BE CERTIFIED AND QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLUB'S "RED HAT" CREW. YOU JUST MIGHT SAVE A TEAMMATE'S LIFE.

# SUNSHINE & HEALTH

Condolences to Frank and Jim McNamara, whose sister, Anne McCollom, passed away on Jan. 2.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2010-2011

President **Bill Hill** ... 804-2243  
First Vice President ... **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 **Linda McCollum-  
Greene** ... 391-5559 (Responsible for  
player applications, player substitutes,  
waiting lists.)  
Club Commissioner **Bruce Gilmore** ...  
424-0920 (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:**  
Henry Low 391-3938  
**Player Applications:** Linda  
McCollum-Greene 391-5559  
**Sunshine & Health:** Trudy  
Smartt 973-8269  
**GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:**  
456-1500  
**Safety:** Curtis Holcomb  
600-6065  
**Entertainment:** Lou Coppola  
444-6138  
**Dugout Chatter:** Ron Roach,  
editor 422-2500  
([coachrwr@comcast.net](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net))  
**Planning:** Dave Vargo, contact,  
[dvargo@frontiernet.net](mailto:dvargo@frontiernet.net)  
689-7061