

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) -- JANUARY 2012

WANTED: MORE SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Seniors Softball Club has issued an urgent call for more players, both new members and renewals, for the 2012 season.

Club Player Agent Linda McCollum-Greene was preparing to send letters to 96 non-responders to earlier correspondence to send in renewal applications to play ball with the Golden Seniors in 2012.

Called "drop dead" letters, this correspondence was due to go into the mail the week of Jan. 16. This letter is the final notice before these members from last year are removed from the club's master roster.

The club's board of directors announced at the Jan. 9 general meeting that only 21 players had signed up for L-7, a 10:30 league on Tuesday mornings for players age 67-plus who want more competitive action. These players were to be offered refunds if they do not wish to sign up for another league, such as L-6, for 60 and over players at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, or the 70-plus L-1 on Mondays.

Club President Tom Sansone said that unless signups increase, the board would have to decide before player drafts whether to merge leagues, possibly Wednesday and Thursday nights, or have four-team leagues instead of six teams. "We will know by our next meeting (Feb. 13) which direction we will take," Sansone said.

At least 72 players are needed for six 12-member teams. As of Jan. 15, only League 1 (Monday mornings for those 70 and older) and L-2, Tuesday mornings for 60 and older, had enough signups. L-1, which has operated with as many as nine teams, had 116 signups. L-2 had 72 signups for the 60 and over Tuesday morning league. L-6, at 10:30 on Tuesdays, had 50 signups.

Of the night leagues, L-3 on Tuesdays had 67 signups. L-4 (Wednesday nights) had 47 and L-5 (Thursday nights) had 49.

"We need help. Talk to your friends. Encourage them to sign up," said Sansone, who passed out "business cards" with GSSCS information so members could give them to (See Page 2)

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

**7:30 p.m.
FEB. 13
2012**

**VFW Hall, 2784
Stockton Blvd.**

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Wanted: More Senior Softball Players; News From Jan. 9 Meeting

Sunshine & Health Report: Rest in Peace Cliff Shirk, Bob Stuart, Dick Hellam

Safety: Next Life-saving Training Set for Feb. 11

Eleven New Life Members are Honored

Sponsors Already Signing Up for 2012

Short Hops & Long Bounces -- New League Commissioners ... Silent Auction is Success

Club Contacts

MORE GOLDEN SENIORS ARE NEEDED (FROM PAGE 1)

interested prospective players. These cards will be available at the future general meetings.

Assistant Secretary Henry Low said the total roster of 487 included 81 in non-playing status, and 18 new members. There were 93 players who were signed up for more than one league, filling 206 roster slots.

The board urged league commissioners and managers to contact the 96 players from 2011 who had not renewed.

Player applications for 2012 are on the club Web site at www.gsscs.org.

Other club news:

Safety Coordinator: A replacement was still being sought for Curtis Holcomb as club safety coordinator. Curtis was elected club commissioner for 2012. (See separate article on the February 11 safety training class.)

Chief Umpire and Scorekeeper: Club Commissioner Curtis Holcomb announced that Tom Bussey has agreed to serve as chief umpire, succeeding Freddie Miller, and Sandy Begg, her health improved, will continue as head scorekeeper.

Umpires: Bussey announced that there is a mandatory umpire training session conducted by ASA on February 19, which is a Sunday morning. Umpires must have their ASA cards, he said. Also, Bussey said he wants as many umpires as possible to sign up for the CPR/AED training that the GSSCS is offering for members on Feb. 11. For more umpire information, contact Bussey at 451-6663 or tombussey@att.net.

Rules: Club directors postponed discussion and action on rule recommendations until the February general meeting.

Bats: Also unclear as yet is how the club will react to the Sacramento Softball Complex decision to allow such previously banned bats as the Miken Ultra II to be used this year. Apparently, the club can decide whether the hotter bats will be used in GSSCS games. Stay tuned.

L-1 managers have decided not to play with the Ultra II bats in their games, which are held at Howe Avenue park. The board authorized L-1 to rule on what bats are disallowed in the Monday morning league for players 70 and over. For the other leagues, there was to be further discussion on this issue at the February meeting.

It was noted that ASA had not yet published a list of prohibited bats for 2012.

Several L-3 (Tuesday night coed) members expressed concern for the safety of women in the infield, particularly pitchers, if the hotter bats are allowed in 2012.

Sansone commented, "This is not an open-and-shut deal. There are lots of arguments going on. We'll be talking more about this."

Balls: Second Vice President Pete Ward said he planned to order the same Stote Evil leather-covered balls that were used with improved performance in 2011.

Sponsors: First VP Dick Latimer said 21 sponsors have paid up, including StoryHat in L-1 with Frank McNamara on the team and Dick Seward managing. He said Livingston Concrete is back as a participating sponsor. (See Page 3)

Except for L-1, Tryouts May be Unnecessary -- From Page 2

LaserEyes.com, which agreed to sponsor a team during 2011, will have its first team in 2012. Dave Tanner has changed his L-3 team from Re/Max to "Tanner and Associates."

Tryouts: At the time of the Jan. 9 meeting, Player Agent McCollum-Greene said she had only about two new players per league and there probably would not be tryouts. (New members would be interviewed by the league commissioner or others and managers would be given a briefing on the "new talent" available for drafts. If there is an influx of new players, tryouts can be scheduled, she said.

L-1 will conduct its tryouts on Feb. 6. Drafts for the day leagues (L-1, L-2 and L-6) are expected to be held on Feb. 21. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Cliff Shirk, an original charter member and life member, passed away on Jan. 6. He was 91. Cliff was one of three remaining charter members, having joined the club in 1979. Quiet and unassuming, he played tournament and Golden Senior softball until he was 84. Bill Turner, who roomed with him for many years on tournament teams, said he was greatly surprised to read that Cliff had won two bronze stars during World War II. He was a heavy hitter and a great teammate.

Life Member **Robert Stuart** passed away on Jan. 6. He was 87 and joined the club in 1983. He played both tournament and Golden Seniors ball until 2003. Bob, who had cancer and was at home with hospice care when he died, was in good spirits and always thinking of the Golden Seniors. He and his brother, Harry, loved the game and will be missed. Last November, Robert donated bat bags, bats, balls, socks, shoes and a complete umpire kit to the club's silent auction, which was held on Jan. 9.

Former member **Dick Hellam**, 81, passed away on Nov. 17. Dick joined the Golden Seniors in 1995 and played through 2005.

Al Tirapelli had a knee replacement operation in September and was reported to be doing fine. He scheduled surgery on Jan. 13 for his other knee replacement.

Dave Vargo reports that his orthopedic surgeon checked the x-rays of his knees in November and reported that the replacement parts, 2 1/2 years after surgeries, looked good and that he could expect many years of service... Dave said the doc nearly fainted when he told him how he had been running all out on softball fields.

Monta Litle reported to Sunshine chair Trudy Smartt that he had rotator cuff surgery on Nov. 15 and planned to begin therapy in December.

Dan McGrath (L-3 player) suffered a heart attack and underwent bypass surgery in late November. His wife, Gail, reported to his golfing pals in the Friday Bunch (Lincoln Hills) that the "IMan" won't be golfing for awhile, but at least he felt well enough for his first post-surgery walk on Dec. 2. "Needless to say, I'll be back in action soon," Dan wrote to friends about six days after the surgery. "Going to take the next 30 days and become a hermit" before stepping up workouts to "become the lean, mean fighting machine you have all become accustomed to."

Dave Avery had rotator cuff surgery on Nov. 22 to repair what his doctor called an "enormous tear" that will take until March or later to heal, he said. Dave also reported that the Sacramento Blues 65s, including a number of Golden Seniors, won the gold medal at St. George in the World Senior Games. #

SAFETY REPORT: TRAINING WILL BE OFFERED IN FEBRUARY; NEW SAFETY COORDINATOR NEEDED

The club has scheduled First Aid/CPR training for Saturday, Feb. 11, for all interested Golden Seniors Softball Club members. The training is free to club members for those who want to qualify for Red Cross certification or re-certification.

A number of members and former members owe their lives to their teammates, umpires and others who have learned how to administer CPR and AED (use of the defibrillator).

The class is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cottage Center, 3097 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. This training is free for GSSCS members.

Club Commissioner Curtis Holcomb is the contact for members who want to sign up for the course. He can be reached at 600-6065 and his email address is curtishholcomb@yahoo.com. Members need to sign up as soon as possible so there will be enough instructors.

#

CLUB “HOTLINE” SOURCE FOR NEWS, INFORMATION

Operated by Don Shank, the club’s hotline provides recorded information for members, such as the general meeting schedule. It also is where players can call to make sure their games are going to be played as scheduled due to threatening weather or other events that make the fields unplayable, such as water main breaks or thefts of copper wire that prevents use of lights for night games. These things have happened, so even if the weather looks balmy, and you can’t be reached by your manager, you might be advised to give the “hot line” a jingle at 491-1721. #

NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: FEBRUARY 2012. READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE AT 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 U.S. MAIL. THE ONLINE EDITION ALSO MAY CONTAIN MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS. ADVERTISING: CLUB SPONSORS MAY RUN ADS IN THE DUGOUT CHATTER (\$50 FOR QUARTER-PAGE OR LESS, \$75 FOR A HALF-PAGE. NON-SPONSOR RATES ARE HIGHER.) CONTACT LOU COPPOLA, 444-6138. #



NEW LIFE MEMBERS
(From left)
Casper Greif,
Wayne Vickery,
Gus Niklas,
emcee Jim Lortz.

(From left)
Ramiro Luna,
Vic Spahn, Leo
Curry Jr.

Not pictured in
the 11-member
Class of 2012:
Lewis Abrams,
Bryant Dessen,
Bob Havrilla,
Jerry Kanenaga,
and Bob Nevis.

#



NEW LIFE MEMBERS ARE HONORED

Life membership honors were bestowed on 11 Golden Seniors at the club's Jan. 9 general meeting, emceed as usual by the tuxedoed Jim Lortz.

The club has 144 life members who have met the following qualifications: 15 continuous years in the club and age 75 or 10 continuous years in the club and 80 years of age.

The newly inducted life members (note: there is relatively little information on those who did not attend the meeting and did not respond to a request for background information or submit a note that could be read in their absence):

Lewis Abrams, 80, an 11-year member. He did not respond to a request for background information and did not attend the meeting. "But from personal experience," Lortz said, "I always enjoyed playing and being around him. As an ex-president of this club, that can be a blessing."

Leo Curry Jr., 75, a 17-year member, said "thanks a million" to the club for granting him life membership. "I am grateful and honored."

Casper Greif, 75, a 17-year member. "He has been involved helping this club from the time he became a member," said Lortz, who asked each new life member to share an experience that would surprise his softball colleagues. "One thing that I did find out about Casper is that he was a professional motorcycle rider, but turned to the more exciting life of senior softball."

Bryant Dessem, 80, an 18-year member. He played shortstop in L-1.

Bob Havrilla, 75, a 24-year member. He received the club's Award of Merit (formerly Man of the Year) in 2010; served as a manager for 18 of his first 23 years in the club and has been active in various leadership capacities. He said he introduced the concept of a double base at first base in the Golden Seniors after seeing it used while umpiring high school softball games. He said it took the club five years to adopt the concept.

In 1988, Havrilla said he sold so many (175) of "Fred Rainey's recipe books that I was asked to run for a position on the Board of Directors. I proudly told me wife of the honor and she replied: 'You idiot! The BOD does all of the work in the club! I loved it.'

Jerry Kanenaga, 75, a 24-year member. He said he could not attend due to a year-long conflict on Monday nights but wrote that "from the first year, long ago, I have enjoyed managing, announcing, score keeping, umpiring and even preparing the field, too. (I) really had fun being a participant in the whole game. Though things have changed, it is still a great enjoyment to play in this great Golden Senior league."

Ramiro Luna, 75, a 24-year member. "Luna" has played on six league championship teams, the first in 1997 and the last in 2011. He's still playing tournament ball, now on Norm Blackwell's California Gold team that has won a world championship ring. He also played many years for Al Morales' Sacramento Rebels. (See Page 6)

NEW LIFE MEMBERS ARE HONORED -- FROM PAGE 5)

Bob Nevis, 75, a 19-year member. Brother Jerry accepted Bob's framed life member certificate, noting that Bob could not attend because "he forgot" and when reminded had already made plans to arise very early to go fishing with brother Bill. Club President Tom Sansone noted that Bob was fun to play with and often would tell jokes. One he could repeat in mixed company: "What do you do with an elephant who has three balls? Walk him and pitch to the giraffe!" (Note: A story in the Dugout Chatter last August told of Bob's disability dating back to a sandlot football injury and his determination to participate in sports at a relatively high level that has served as an inspiration to many.)

August "Gus" Niklas, 75, a 24-year member. Lortz quoted from a letter he wrote to the Senior Softball Hall of Fame Review Board in 2008: "He plays the game as well or better than anyone in softball" and has been a "great teammate, treating less-talented players with utmost respect and support." On the field, Gus "gets the job done" with bat and glove. "He is the full package! The real deal!"

Vic Spahn, 75, a 23-year member. Lortz: "I do know Vic. We have played together and against each other. Vic was not only a great fielder and was drafted for his hitting."

Wayne Vickery, 75, a 22-year member. "I have made many friends through the league. The one thing that comes to mind is the first night I played in this league at Tahoe Park: I made a beautiful hook slide into third base. The umpire called me out. I said, 'He never touched me.' "The umpire said, 'You can't slide!'"

"So much for the first slide I had made in 15 years." And his last slide, too. #

SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

NEW 2012 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

Myron Dahl has taken over as L-6 commissioner, succeeding Rich Edwards. As previously reported, Henry Low has agreed to succeed George Hodsdon as L-1 commissioner, effective after the player draft for 2012 teams. Hodsdon will serve as assistant commissioner. Dave Vargo has stepped up to serve as L-2 commissioner, succeeding Curtis Holcomb, who is the club commissioner.

SILENT AUCTION IS SUCCESS

George Hodsdon reports that \$150 was collected at the Jan. 9 general meeting from the silent auction of softball equipment that club members no longer need, with bats, gloves, shoes and equipment bags finding new homes.

Members were given the option of donating their old stuff to the club or receive half the amounts that was bid, with the rest going to the club's general fund.

Hodsdon said many of the bats were old, single-wall models and well-used, and not attracting bids but can be donated to youth leagues that may want to use them.

He said he would like to repeat the silent auction at the club's annual picnic in September. #

SPONSORS SIGNED UP AND PAID FOR 2012

Dick Latimer, 1st VP for sponsors, lists these club sponsors as already paid for 2012, as of Jan. 18:

Arnold Properties

Avalon Hearing Aid Centers Inc.

Cottonwood Estates

Espanol Italian Restaurant

Executive Limousine

Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA)

Harper Properties

Jerry Jodice

LASEREYES.COM

L & S Surveys

Livingston's Concrete Service

Merrill Bookkeeping Income Tax

Miller's Munchies

R.H. Nielsen Real Estate/Appraisal

NorCal Jackets

Overhead Door Company of Sacramento Inc.

Rabbit Inc.

Reinwald's Health & Dental Insurance Plans Brokerage

Show Biz Productions

Sports Leisure Vacations

STORYHAT

Tanner and Associates

Mark E. White DDS

Anyone who knows of a potential sponsor can help recruitment. The fee is \$300 for the first year, when uniform jerseys are prepared, and \$250 per year thereafter. For more information, contact Latimer at 363-9555.

#

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2011-12

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654

First Vice President **Dick Latimer**

363-9555 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ...

989-4722 (Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308

Secretary **Matt Tedrow** ... 515-0451

Player Agent **Linda McCollum-**

Greene ... 391-5559 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Curtis**

Holcomb ...600-6065 (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: Coordinator
appointment pending

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach,
editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)

Planning: Merritt Davis,
393-7160