

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

CLUB NEWS: REPORT FROM FEB. 13 MEETING; 2012 RULES DECISIONS

The Board of Directors, at the Feb. 13 general meeting, decided to open the season for leagues 2-through-6 during the first week of April, allowing one practice game in late March. L-1, with nine teams at Howe Park on Monday mornings, historically sets its season opener earlier, sans practice games.

Players hope there is not a repeat of last year's wet weather that plagued the March-April schedule.

Leagues 4 and 5 were still woefully short of signups and may have to draft as few as 10 players per team to begin the season, with late signups or those added during the season spread among the teams in a competitively equal manner.

As of Feb. 13, L-4 (Wednesday nights) had 62 players signed up, enough for six 10-player teams with two extras, and L-5 (Thursday nights) had 57 signed up. Sixty-three players from 2011 had not responded to renewal letters, including 33 who had played in L-5 last year.

These 2011 season members need to renew as soon as possible so they can be in their leagues' drafts and also avoid \$20 late fees, said Player Agent Linda McCollum-Greene. Their foot-dragging has put a great deal of strain on the board members responsible for preparing draft lists for managers. Timely signups also assist the club in its contract discussions with the Softball Complex.

The club had 26 new members and, with additional signups through the year, probably will match the roughly equal number of new players (50) with drop-offs (50), according to President Tom Sansone.

Hotter Bats. Chief Umpire Tom Bussey, at a special Feb. 20 board meeting on rules, said ASA had not yet published a 2012 list of banned bats. However, the ASA commissioner for this region, Jeff Dubchansky, made it clear in a letter to the GSSCS that ASA has made hotter bats, such as the Miken Ultra II, available for senior play -- but not for the younger leagues. Only the titanium and original Ultra are expected to be disallowed. Bats that are 1:20 and 1:21 are going to be good for senior play.

Sansone said players who are thinking of acquiring a hotter bat should check for the ASA's updated list of banned bats before making a purchase. They also should check with their managers to make sure they will be able to use a hotter bat in a particular GSSCS league. (See Page 2)

**NEXT
GENERAL
MEETING:
7:30 p.m.
MARCH 12,
2012**

**VFW Hall, 2784
Stockton Blvd.**

IN THIS ISSUE ...

**Club News: Feb. 13
Meeting, 2012 Rules
Decisions from special
Feb. 20 board meeting**

**Message from the
President**

**Sunshine & Health
Report**

**Safety: Seven Receive
Life-Saving Training and
Qualify for Red Hat
Squad**

**List of Sponsors Paid
Up for 2012**

**Short Hops & Long
Bounces**

**Tom Bussey's Magical
Year**

Club Contacts

CLUB NEWS AND RULES FOR 2012 (From Page 1)

Each of the club's six league commissioners, based on a survey of managers, can decide whether to allow the better bats.

L-1 Commissioner George Hodsdon announced at the Feb. 13 general meeting that all managers of the Monday morning league have agreed not to allow the hotter bats.

Club 2nd VP Pete Ward: "We're going with the good ball... leather ... the stitching is better." Additional balls will be needed, compared to last year, because the better bats are expected to result in more balls clearing the fences.

Dick Latimer, continuing with his first VP tasks despite having suffered recent strokes that keep him from playing ball, said he has about 30 sponsors that have paid. Fuddruckers did not renew, saying Golden Seniors did not seem to patronize the restaurant. This underscores the importance of supporting the club's sponsors whenever possible.

Club Commissioner Curtis Holcomb said drafts were scheduled for League 1 on Feb. 27 and Leagues 2 and 6 for Feb. 21, all at Howe Avenue Park's rec center. L-4 and L-5 draft dates were not scheduled as of the Feb. 13 meeting. L-3 managers were negotiating proposed rosters to accommodate managers' requests that are granted when other managers concur. This "draft" system has been unique to L-3 for a few years. The goal is to achieve balance of talent for a more competitive season.

Rules. To allow time for printing rule books, Sansone called a special Feb. 20 meeting of the board to complete review and action on recommendations by the Rules Committee. It is chaired by Jerry Nevis and includes Tom Bussey, Dave Vargo, Bill Greene and the club's Board of Directors.

As provided by Sansone, here is a rundown of some of the rules decisions:

Over-the-fence home runs. A team can exceed the other team's over-the-fence homers by one. Exceeding that number will result in the batter getting a single and runners advancing only one base.

Substitute runners. A runner must request a substitute runner. It is wrong for a manager to coerce or force a player to take a pinch runner. As before, a player can be a courtesy runner once in an inning and twice in a game.

Run-through. The club maintained its rule allowing runners to run through second and third bases, rejecting the Rules Committee recommendation requiring the runner to run to the base.

Home plate "out zone." The Rules Committee wanted to disallow the run but not charge a team with an out when a player runs within a triangle that goes from the commit line to a spot eight feet wide of home plate. The board decided to keep the rule that the runner is out, and also have the line clearly marked from the commit line, not third base itself.

Rules of Governance. The Senior Softball USA rule book will be followed unless superceded by a specific GSSCS rule. The club is purchasing 50 SSUSA rule books to managers, league officials, board members and umpires. Chief Umpire Tom Bussey said he will hold a meeting of umpires to focus on "minor variations" from SSUSA rules.

Number of Leagues. The board eliminated L-7 on Tuesday mornings for players 68 and older. There has not been enough interest in maintaining such a league in addition to the two 60 and over leagues -- 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. -- that play on Tuesday mornings at the Complex. The board also removed the description "select" for L-6.

#

ORGANIZING THE 2012 SEASON IS HARD WORK

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

How the Club Organizes Each Season and Why It Isn't Easy

At the beginning of each new year, the Club negotiates with the city Recreation Department (operator of the Softball Complex) for the number of games and the costs for each of those games for the coming season. These talks begin in January but aren't usually settled until sometime in February each year. The Complex reviews their previous year's expenses to determine what fees they will charge in the new year. The Club comes equipped with the number of teams and the corresponding number of games which will be scheduled.

Once the number of games is settled for each league, the City's attorneys draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is signed by both the city and the Club. This MOU commits the Club financially to the agreed-upon schedule of games and the costs per game.

During these early discussions with the Complex, Don Barney, called for a Club commitment on the number of leagues and games. If the Club decides not to reserve a full complement of games to fill the field schedule at the Complex, Don makes plans to fill those empty slots with teams from other softball clubs. There is a long line of waiting clubs that want to play on Thursday nights.

Determining the 2012 schedule of games at the Complex has been a challenge this year because the numbers of players signing up have been slow to develop. By mid-February, Leagues 1, 2, 3 and 6 have reached their full complements. Consequently, the Club will reserve the full complement of games on Monday mornings, Tuesday mornings and Tuesday nights. At this time, the leagues on Wednesday and Thursday nights remain short of a full complement ... there are only enough players to warrant five teams in each of these leagues. While the Club Board of Directors has worked to achieve full six-team leagues, this means L4 and L5 may play with five teams.

This creates a schedule where four teams play each week and one team will have a "bye."

The Club needs to financially commit to a game schedule very soon but the Club cannot afford to commit to a three-game schedule for L4 and L5 if the numbers don't support a full complement of six teams. Without a full six-team roster, the Club will be forced to reserve two games each night instead of three. If we give up the slot for the third game, that slot will be taken by another club and it may be difficult to get it back in subsequent years. This is why the Club has been working to contact L4 and L5 players to encourage them to submit their membership renewals. If you know of a L4 or L5 player who has not signed up, please encourage them to do so immediately. This is the only way the Club can financially commit to three games to those leagues each week.

Let me know if you have any questions or if I need to make adjustments.

Thanks, Tom Sansone (trsansone@comcast.net)

SAFETY REPORT: SEVEN ARE CERTIFIED TO ADMINISTER CPR/AED TO HELP SAVE LIVES

Seven Golden Seniors club members received Red Cross training on Feb. 11 to qualify to provide CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) and use of AED (defibrillator), skills that have saved lives of more than one club member over the years.

The seven, who join the club's group of safety-trained members who are recognizable at the fields with their red hats, are Dave Tanner, Tom Bussey, John Hains, Cloicec Wade, Paul Rogers, Greg Leurgans and Dick Latimer. (They include recertified members.)

GSSCS provides periodic training free for members who want the training. The next training session has not yet been scheduled. Chief Umpire Bussey has encouraged all umpires to be certified.

Meanwhile, Bussey and GSSCS Member John Mohamed, an emergency medical technician as a member of the Sheriff's dive team (DART) that participates in river rescue missions, were among those honored on Feb. 13 at a Mercy San Juan Medical Center luncheon. They were invited to attend a Sudden Cardiac Arrest Reunion for making Louis Mahinay a heart attack survivor. Mahinay was stricken during a L-4 (Wednesday night) league game in August 2010.

Bussey, who was umpiring behind home plate, sprinted to Mahinay's aide while ordering others to call 911 and bring the club's defibrillator onto the field. He administered chest compressions while Mohamed, who was the on-deck batter, cleared Mahinay's mouth and throat and provided mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Another player, Ken Poole, operated the defibrillator. He was revived by one shock before the ambulance attendants arrived. Medical officials said Mahinay would not have survived without the swift and effective response of Bussey, Mohamed and Poole. Mahinay received two stents and an implantable cardioverter defibrillator. According to a media briefing paper from the hospital, Mahinay is back playing softball two or three times a week.

According to Mercy San Juan, nine out of 10 people die who suffer sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting.

The position of club safety coordinator was created by the late Jerry Jodice. No game can commence without the club's "crash cart," including the AED device, being placed near the field. The home team manager for the first game of the day or night is responsible for rolling out the cart from the field office, and the home team manager of the final game is to put it away. The defibrillator must register OK for its electrical charge or the games cannot begin.

George Hodsdon, L-1 commissioner, said a half-dozen or more players in L-1 also have defibrillators in their car trunks in addition to the club-provided AED at Howe Avenue Park.

The club is still seeking a volunteer for the club safety coordinator position. Jodice's successor in the post, Curtis Holcomb, is now the club commissioner. Anyone interested in serving as club safety coordinator, or to help by being a league safety coordinator, should contact Holcomb 600-6065, or any member of the Board of Directors. #



Lou Mahinay (center) is among sudden cardiac arrest survivors at the Feb. 13 event sponsored by the Mercy Heart & Vascular Institute and American Heart Association. GSSCS' John Mohamed (second from right) and Tom Bussey (right) were honored, along with two EMTs. (Photo provided by Mercy San Juan)

“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: MARCH 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. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

Keith Arnold, L-4 shortstop, is out for the year after dislocating his non-throwing shoulder, tearing two tendons. Witnesses said he dove for a grounder during a winter practice.

Lou Coppola, life member and extraordinary club volunteer, underwent successful eye surgery in February and no longer has double vision in his right eye. The lens had detached and was floating. In a two-hour operation, the detached lens was found and removed and a new lens installed. Lou said he still has issues with balance and medication, so he can no longer play ball. He had to sit out 2011. However, he said he will continue to “be around to take pictures and cheer the guys along.” Besides taking team pictures, he assists in the production of the Dugout Chatter and serves as the club’s entertainment chair.

#

SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

RIVER CATS TICKETS FOR 2012

Entertainment Chairman Lou Coppola reports that his RiverCats tickets for Saturdays and Sundays are available for anyone who wants to buy them (saving \$4 per ticket) during the course of the season. He said they are “very exchangeable” for any date or game of the year. He suggests Section 109, Rows 15-30. Call Lou (444-6138) for details.

TPA DINNER-DANCE MARCH 3

Golden Seniors are invited to the annual Tournament Players Association Dinner-Dance on March 3 at the Lake View Village Clubhouse in Citrus Heights. TPA President Bob Lowery said he or any TPA team manager can provide tickets, which also will be available at the door. He needs to know if you and yours are coming by Feb. 28. Admission is free to TPA members, \$10 for significant others, and \$15 for non-TPA members. Contact Lowery at 275-0953.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BILL AND DELORES

Life Member Bill Turner joined the Golden Seniors in 1981 but he married Delores on Feb. 7, 1942 -- SEVENTY YEARS AGO. Congratulations and your fellow Golden Seniors hope you had a grand and glorious anniversary!

NOTE FROM MARGE STUART & FAMILY: “We wish to thank all of you at the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento for remembering Bob Stuart at his passing.” #

SPONSORS SIGNED UP AND PAID FOR 2012

Dick Latimer, 1st VP for sponsors, lists these club sponsors as paid up for 2012, as of Feb. 20, and urges club members to patronize those that are businesses:

Arnold Properties
Avalon Hearing Aid Centers Inc.
Bertolucci's Body & Fender Shop
Better Softball Equipment
Cottonwood Estates
Espanol Italian Restaurant
Executive Limousine
Geremia Pools
Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA)
Harper Properties
Jerry Jodice
Jolly Rogers
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
Silver Cats
Sports Leisure Vacations
STORYHAT
Tanner and Associates
Mark E. White DDS
Wion's Body Shop

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.

#

UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF TOM BUSSEY RECALLS MAGICAL YEAR

The club's new chief umpire, Tom Bussey, expresses his thanks to the Board of Directors for selecting him to succeed Freddie Miller. "Hopefully, I'll be able to fill in for Freddie Miller and meet his standard of excellence," he said in an email. Miller had recommended Bussey for the position. Bussey also was recently honored, among others, for his efforts in 2010 that helped save the life of a Golden Senior player, Louis Mahinay. (See article elsewhere in this issue and the Dugout Chatter of August 2010.)

Tom said 2011 was a "magical year" as an umpire and a tournament player. He said he was very fortunate to have been selected SSUSA umpire of the year and now is Umpire in Chief for NorCal Senior Softball. In 2011 he won three ring tourneys (CalCup, SPA, LVSSA) and a Gold Medal in Senior Olympics, plus a watch for NCSSA with the California Starrz which now have disbanded. "Thanks again to GSSCS for everything." #

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