

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) -- JANUARY 2013

SEASON TO BEGIN WEEK OF MARCH 11; EMAIL SYSTEM TO REACH MEMBERS IS LAUNCHED; BOARD MAKES RECRUITING TOP PRIORITY

The 2013 season for the Golden Seniors will commence in the second week of March and provide for as many as 24 weeks of games, depending upon the availability of fields at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

The club's annual picnic is scheduled for Sept. 14, which will not conflict with major out-of-town tournaments later in the month. Because last year's picnic was held so late in September, many tournament players were unable to attend.

The season-opening date, earlier than the usual first week of April, was announced at the Jan. 14 general meeting by club President Tom Sansone. In response to questions, Sansone also said the club Board of Directors was still considering whether to have leagues play a practice game where managers can hand out uniforms after teams are formed from the February drafts. The complex, which has been refurbishing fields this winter, will allow league play beginning the week of March 11.

The first general meeting of the year was well-attended and included the annual presentation of new life members (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).

Other news:

Communications. The good turnout at the meeting was largely due to the Life Member ceremony as well as a new system that is allowing the club's leadership to communicate more effectively via email to the membership. The club is paying a service \$150 a year for a server to broadcast group email to members. As a nonprofit organization, the club also expects to qualify for a refund. Sansone has used the system to send club email to 335 members who have provided their email addresses, mostly in their renewal applications. This is roughly 70% of the club's membership. Sansone said 60% to 70% of the 335 have actually opened any of the three email broadcasts sent to date and he will work on ways to deal with this problem. (See Page 2)

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
FEB. 11, 2013
7:30 P.M.
VFW HALL
2784 STOCKTON BLVD.**

***IN THIS ISSUE ...
From Jan. 14 meeting: Early start of season; email system to reach members is launched; recruiting is top priority.***

Club honors 12 new life members.

Safety Report: J.C. Terry schedules training for Feb. 9.

Monday Morning News: Draft order is set.

Sunshine & Health Report.

Short hops and long bounces.

List of Sponsors.

Club Contacts.

CLUB NEWS FROM JAN. 14 GENERAL MEETING (FROM PAGE 1)

The system also allows the board to circulate surveys to measure membership attitudes on various issues. The board is still discussing survey content. This cost is \$105 and provides for tabulating as many as 5,000 responses to electronic questionnaires.

Members who have not provided an email address to the club, and wish to do so, should contact Player Agent Myron Dahl at mystdahl@sbcglobal.net. Sansone said that of the 335 members to whom he sent emails, only two requested that they not receive further emails from the club by clicking on “unsubscribe.” If they change their mind and want to be on the email list, the computer will require that they provide different email addresses to be restored.

Members also will be alerted via email when a new edition of the club newsletter, Dugout Chatter, is available online with a link to the website. It is anticipated that only those who lack internet capability will receive a printed newsletter via regular mail. The club will save considerable postage costs, perhaps more than enough to finance the improved electronic communications system.

Sansone: “We all have great expectations that this new tool will enhance the operation of the club and build a well-informed membership. Stay tuned for more email broadcasts about upcoming events.”

Email broadcasts are “tightly controlled” and only President Sansone has authority to provide input to the system operators. The club will not market or otherwise abuse the email addresses of its members.

Overall, the new electronic system will “greatly reduce the costs of keeping members informed,” he said.

Membership Recruitment. The board sought and received membership approval to spend \$1,000 on radio advertising to begin later this month. When some members questioned whether there would be too many new members, Sansone and others on the board responded that they would love to have such a “problem.” The club, which has had membership of more than 500 decline to about 450 in recent years, needs more members, particularly in the 50s and early 60s groups. The contract with 92.1 FM K-Hits, which plays “oldies” music, fits the demographics of the club and will include drive-time sponsorship spots and 30-second commercials from Jan. 21 to Feb. 10.

The board also approved a \$125 expenditure for advertising in four community newspapers, such as the Land Park News, which circulate to about 60,000 readers in the region. The plan, developed by Lou Coppola through his longtime connections with the publication, is expected to include a feature story on the club.

The board also applauded efforts, led by Don Shank and including members Ron Smith, J.C. Terry and Joe Cors, to recruit with an information table outside a Wal-Mart. About 25 member applications were handed out on Jan. 12 to interested prospective players, Shank said.

Player Signups Lag. As has been the case in recent years, the club began the new year needing to rally signups, particularly for the Wednesday and Thursday night leagues. So far, 17 signups are of new members. The club had not heard from 116 members who were on the master roster last year, including those in non-playing status at the end of the season. (See Page 3)

GENERAL MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 2)

Drafts. League drafts, following new player tryouts, are scheduled for February.

League Commissioners Approved. The board approved Club Commissioner Curtis Holcomb's 2013 slate of league commissioners: George Hodsdon and Henry Low, co-commissioners for L-1; Dave Vargo for L-2; Mel Tennyson for L-3; Bud DeSouza for L-4; Allen Riker for L-5, and Bill Greene for L-6.

Sponsors and Uniforms. First VP Dick Latimer said about five more sponsorships for 2013 are needed to attain the goal of 40. Second VP Pete Ward displayed new uniform shirts, a tri-color mesh-type material, that will be making their debuts in 2013 as a number of old team shirts are "retired." Ward also said the club will be using the same type of ball that was in play in 2012. There is no change in the club's standards for bats or the Complex's allowance for better bats in the hands of senior players.

Hearing Loss to be Discussed at February Meeting. A common problem in senior softball play is the difficulty of hearing a teammate call for a ball or hearing a team manager call for a fielder to move back for a heavy hitter or to guard the line on a pull hitter. Dick Latimer, 1st VP, has arranged for a representative of Avalon Hearing Aid Centers, which is sponsoring two teams, to make a presentation at the Feb. 11 general meeting. Betty Vosters-Kemp has been in the hearing healthcare field for 31 years. She is an author, trainer, presenter and columnist for 21 years with Senior Magazine, a co-owner of Avalon Hearing Aid Centers and committed to changing the way people feel about hearing loss.

Web Site Management. The club continues to seek help for Webmaster Jamyn Jodice in the maintenance of the web site, www.gsscs.org, including design and support to keep the site updated with current information and photos. Jamyn has been managing the website since its inception when his dad, Jerry, was president of the club. He has asked for help. Anyone interested in giving Jamyn a hand should contact Ron Roach at coachrwr@comcast.net and he will pass on the contact to Jamyn.

Rules. The board is considering three playing rule recommendations, presented by Dave Vargo at the Jan. 14 board meeting. One proposal would tighten the rule regarding violation of the 150-foot limit for outfielders who may tend to play a bit closer on weaker hitters or start running in before the ball is put in play. Vargo made a verbal presentation and the board asked him to draft language that could be considered before the season begins. Tentatively, the draft rule would have the umpire issue a warning for the first offense in a game, then award the batter first base for any future offense in the game, with base-runners advancing one base.

Vargo also asked the board to consider a rule giving "dues-paying, first-year waiting list players" an exemption from the substitute rule that substitutes bat at the bottom of the order, be limited to singles and play either right field or catcher. A third rule proposal would authorize a league commissioner to assign the player at the top of the waiting list to a team as soon as the commissioner learns that a player will miss at least three consecutive games.

A standing rule change would allow a league commissioner to assign a substitute based on chronological standing on the waiting list, not on equal ability.

This would prevent managers from "gaming" the system and playing short one player rather than add a player of unknown skill or perceived to have lesser skills. The current process penalizes a team that fails to request a replacement player after losing a player for three or more consecutive games by not allowing that team to reach full complement by adding substitute(s) the rest of the year. The board is concerned that players who sign up after the teams have been drafted will sometimes languish on the waiting list when there is opportunity to play on a team, even if for only three or more games until the injured or vacationing player returns. #

TWELVE NEW LIFE MEMBERS ARE INTRODUCED

The club's group of life members grew by 12 at the Jan. 14 general meeting with plenty of nostalgia, coffee, cake and a tuxedoed emcee.

Introduced by Jim Lortz as a bunch of lucky survivors to have played ball for so long -- 75 years of age with at least 15 years of club membership or 80 years of age and 10 playing years -- the new life members are: Merritt Davis, Murvin Granderson, James Keenan, Gordon Kennedy, Fred Lauszus, Henry Low, Frank McNamara, Don Mockler, Jerry Nevis, Gerald Rohlfs, Bob Scollard and Cloicec Wade.

Davis, 75, is an 18-year member who called himself "one lucky guy" to be on the "right teams with the right teammates" to nail down four league championships.

Granderson, 80, joined the club 15 years ago, and recalled playing that many years with Norm Blackwell Sr., with whom he plays tournament ball. Lortz described Murvin as "not only a great fielder ... he was drafted for his hitting."

Keenan, 79, and a member for 15 years. was unable to attend the meeting due to recent surgery. He said James told him he had played for three great managers and "was very happy to have the honor of being a life member."

Kennedy, 80, a 10-year member, was not present. He was said to have moved to Stockton and no longer belongs to the club for which he managed several teams and won a couple of championships.

Lauszus, 75, a 15-year member, was unable to attend but told Lortz he has signed up to play in L-1 this year after sitting out five years because of hip and back surgeries.

Low, 75, a 24-year member, stayed away from the meeting due to illness. Lortz noted that the club assistant secretary (and former secretary) is a very dedicated member who maintains the club's computerized data base. Henry has been a homer-hitting machine in recent years and made news recently by participating in two triple plays (not in the same game and he hit into only one of them). He is co-commissioner of L-1.

McNamara, 80, is a 14-year member, has shown great overall skills as a ballplayer. Once there were three McNamara brothers -- Frank, John and Jim. Now there are two, as Jim passed away in 2012. John was a major league manager for 19 years.

Mockler, 80, accumulated more than 21 years with the club. He was named a manager of a L-1 team for the 2013 season. "To me the most enjoyable part of Golden Senior membership is to be associated with men and women who have consideration, cooperation, are clean-cut and would be a privilege to have as friends."

Nevis, 75, is a 19-year Golden Senior and one of the three Nevis brothers who have played senior ball. Younger brother Billy is an outstanding shortstop in high-level tournament ball; older brother Bob (who became a life member last year) plays a solid first base and is a good hitter. Jerry sponsored and managed teams that won four league championships and, in 1997, became the first Tuesday night team to prevail over the Wednesday and Thursday night champions to win the club title. "I have been known to be a thorn in the side ... to the Board of Directors but always for the good of the club!"

Rohlfs, 80, joined the club 11 years ago. He said the hardest part has been to learn (See Page 5)

Life Members (From Page 4)

the rules of senior softball (no sliding, etc.). He joined the club after his son noticed seniors playing ball at Howe Park. He had retired from state service and was working for the RiverCats.

Scollard, 75, is a 15-year member who “just played.” He played third base for Dick Reisinger Sr.

Wade, 75, is a 21-year member who manages teams, pitches shutouts and umpires. He is blessed with running speed. He recalled scoring from second base on a sacrifice fly in his first world championship tournament as a Sacramento Maverick. Wade is more than a good teammate and ballplayer, he is a humanitarian. He has donated blood or electrolytes -- about 12 gallons worth over some 20 years. Cloicec’s brother, John, also is a life member. #



NEW LIFE MEMBERS. The club’s Life Members list grew by 12 this year. Eight are pictured here: (L-R front) Jerry Nevis, Don Mockler, Bob Scollard, Cloicec Wade. (L-R rear) Frank McNamara, Merritt Davis, emcee Jim Lortz, Gerald Rohlfes, Murvin Granderson. Not pictured: Henry Low, James Keenan, Gordon Kennedy and Fred Lauszus. (Lou Coppola photo)

SAFETY REPORT

FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING SET FOR FEB. 9

Club Safety Coordinator J.C. Terry has scheduled a Golden Seniors safety training class on Saturday, Feb. 9, for GSSCS members who want to learn how to save lives. The Red Cross training in first aid, CPR and AED (defibrillator) runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The club is providing this training at no charge to members.

The session is at the Howe Park offices, 2201 Cottage Way. The deadline for signing up is Feb. 4, when Terry must report the number of signups for the class.

Register for the class by calling Terry at 505-2570 or contact him by email at terry_173@sbcglobal.net.

Members certified for completing this training qualify for special red GSSCS hats so they are readily recognizable as qualified to come to the aid of a teammate on the ball field. More than one Golden Senior member owes his life to quick and effective CPR/AED care provided by a teammate who took advantage of this training opportunity. #

MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Managers of League 1 (Monday mornings) met on Jan. 14, determined the draft order and decided at this time to organize nine teams of 14 players. Tryouts for new players are scheduled for 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 4 at Carmichael Park's Field 3.

The L-1 draft is scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Howe Park.

L-1 plans to start the regular season on March 18 and go into late September, fitting in the club picnic later.

Draft order: 1. Norm Blackwell Sr. 2. Ray Ward. 3. John Chatfield. 4. Dick Reisinger. 5. Benny Benson. 6. Don Mockler. 7. Joe Kline. 8. Ernie Shaffer. 9. Bob Havrilla.

The L-1 season as comprised of three rounds. For playoffs, the winner of Round One plays the team that won the most games without winning a round. The winner of Round Two plays the winner of Round Three.

-- George Hodsdon, L-1 acting co-commissioner.

#

SUNSHINE & HEALTH -- REST IN PEACE: ART DERR, BRIAN NAKAO, EMMA FONTES, CHRISTINA WABINGA

Life Member **Arthur Derr**, who suffered a stroke on Dec. 26, passed away a week later. He was 81.

Condolences: To Don Nakao, whose son, **Brian Dean Nakao**, passed away peacefully at his home on Dec. 22. He was 47.

To Hank Fontes, whose mother, **Emma Pina Fontes**, passed away Dec. 13. She was 98.

To Jack Wabinga, whose wife, **Christina Wabinga**, passed away during the holidays.

Back surgery during the holidays has sidelined **Al Hegelein**.

CORRECTION: The Dugout Chatter, in the November-December issue, mistakenly reported that Dr. Mark White's wife, Patricia, had passed away. Dr. White noted that his wife, Barbara, is alive and well. He noted that he has a sister named Patricia, and she also is alive. Apologies to Dr. White and his family. Those who work on the newsletter regret making this mistake. -- Editor.

NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: FEBRUARY The next issue of the Dugout Chatter is due in mid-February. Check the club website for news updates and photos (www.gsscs.org). Unless you have opted not to receive the print edition via snail mail, you should be getting it in your mailbox during the months when the club does not have games. If you want to save the club postage and printing expense, call Henry Low at 391-3938.

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 or RON ROACH, 422-2500. #

SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

TPA DINNER-DANCE. The Tournament Players Association invites GSSCS members to attend the annual Dinner-Dance on Saturday night, March 2, at the Lakeview Village Clubhouse in Citrus Heights. TPA members are free; wives are \$12 and guests are \$15. Call TPA President Bob Lowery: 275-0953. #

To: All Softball Players. From: Greg Leurgans Weather permitting, practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 8:30, at Carmichael Park. This is an excellent way to stay in shape through the fall and winter. These practices are not GSSCS events. #

SPONSORS FOR 2013

First VP Dick Latimer lists these club sponsors as paid up for 2013, as of Jan. 14, and urges club members to reward their support by giving them business:

ARNOLD PROPERTIES
AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 1)
AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 2)
BETTER SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT
C&C PLUMBING
COTTONWOOD ESTATES
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.
ESPANOL RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)
ESPANOL RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)
EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE
GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
HARPER PROPERTIES
LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE
L&S SURVEYS
R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE
9TH AND X STORAGE
NORCAL JACKETS
REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS BROKERAGE
***SAM'S HOF BRAU**
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS
***TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF AUBURN, INC.**
MARK E. WHITE, DDS
WION'S BODY SHOP

* -- New Sponsor for 2013

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 Dick Latimer at 363-9555. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2012-13

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 **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941

Player Agent **Myron Dahl** ... 451-2450
(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:

Asst. Secretary Henry Low
391-3938

Player Applications: Myron
Dahl 451-2450

Sunshine & Health: Trudy
Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:
456-1500

Safety Coordinator: J.C. Terry
457-3393 Cell: 505-2570

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach,
editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)