

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

BOARD ADOPTS RULES; CLUB HAS 55 NEW MEMBERS; GROWTH IN 50 AGE GROUP

From Tom Sansone

The club's Board of Directors, at the March 11 general meeting, presented rule changes for 2013 dealing with substitute and replacement players and enforcing the existing 150-foot rule for placement of outfielders.

Enforcing the 150-foot Rule. An outfielder must be at least 150 feet from home plate when a batter hits the ball. A manager may appeal to the umpire to request a ruling before or after the pitch or play, or the umpire may make the call without an appeal. The first violation prompts a warning; subsequent violations by any player on the team will result in the batter being awarded first base and the runners advanced one base if forced. Before the runners are advanced, the manager of the batting team has the option of refusing the awarding of the base, allowing the batter to continue his or her turn at bat.

Substitutes. The rule is amended to allow members playing their first year with the club, who are on the league waiting list, are exempt from being limited to playing catcher or right field and batting at the bottom of the lineup and being limited to singles with runners advancing just one base. This exemption does not apply to a player who has previously refused to play for a specific team.

Replacement players, temporary or permanent, are required to be requested by a manager as soon as the manager is aware that a player will miss or has missed three consecutive games. If the manager fails to request a replacement, the league commissioner is authorized to assign a replacement without the manager's concurrence. Should the manager fail to request a replacement a second time, he could be suspended for two games and a replacement player is assigned. A third offense may result in the manager being removed for the balance of the season and for the following season.

Bats. The board also reiterated the club policy for bats that was adopted in 2012, after the rule book was published. Only bats approved by ASA may be used in GSSCS games. ASA, in 2012, (SEE PAGE 2)

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
MAY 13, 2013
7:30 P.M.
VFW HALL
2784 STOCKTON BLVD.**

**IN THIS ISSUE ...
From March 11 meeting: New rules; 55 new members; safety report.**

Monday Morning News: Schedule set; new 75-and-older league to be studied for 2014.

Sunshine & Health Report.

List of Sponsors.

League Commissioners for 2014.

Club Contacts.

CLUB NEWS FROM MARCH 11 GENERAL MEETING (FROM PAGE 1)

approved bats with the rating of 1.21 for senior play only. Thus bats with this rating are legal for use in GSSCS games -- except for the gray-colored Miken Ultra. Each of the club's six leagues may choose not to use these so-called hot bats. It is a decision made by the league commissioner based on a majority vote of managers.

The club's rule book is posted online at www.GSSCS.org. The 2012 rulebook also was changed during the season requiring runners to score by touching a scoring plate.

Drafts. All leagues had sufficient players to conduct drafts, with some leagues choosing to have 13 members on a team to use all players on the draft lists and eschew beginning the year with a waiting list. Game schedules were created and passed out during the March practice games, including rosters and phone numbers. The Thursday night league (L-5) had 62 players signed up so two teams started the season with 11 players; four teams with 10. The club hopes that last year's L-5 experience is repeated. All teams had 12-player rosters by the time the season was four weeks old.

Sponsors. Henry Low, assistant club secretary and co-commissioner of L-1, passed out the list of sponsors, including a number of new ones for this year, representing hard work by 1st Vice President Dick Latimer. Some teams began practice games March 12 without new jerseys, which were expected to be ready by the start of regular season play during the week of March 25.

Second Vice President Post is Open. With the resignation of 2nd VP Pete Ward, responsible for club equipment, uniform jerseys and hats, the club seeks a member to volunteer to serve in the interim until the club holds annual elections of board officers in August. Anyone interested in doing the job on an interim basis needs contact the board. (See a list of board members and phone numbers elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Safety. J.C. Terry, club safety coordinator, reported on results of the club's two CPR/AED classes. The club has paid for the training of 13 members this year, some of whom had their certifications renewed. Terry said the club's AED (defibrillator) is charged and ready for the new season. The club maintains red "crash carts" including AEDs at the Complex and also at Howe Park. Four members who completed training on March 9: Steve Bull, John Mizerak, Ron Roach and Ray Soden.

Recruitment. As of March 11, the club had 55 new members. In the past, it has taken all season to sign up as many as 50 new members. At this point we can only speculate how many of the 55 are due to the club's advertising efforts and aggressive recruitment work by some members.

New Member Age Breakdown. Twenty-four of the new members are between the ages of 50 and 57, and 19 are between the ages of 60 and 68. Almost 20 percent are women and the Tuesday night league, L-3, has two teams just one player short of being true coed teams. The attraction of women to the club may indicate here are few venues for senior women to play softball. There has been discussion of recruiting more women, including the possibility of lowering the minimum age for women to join the club. Any adjustment of the age requirement would require a member-approved change in the club's bylaws.

Club E-Mails. The club's e-mail broadcast project is now sending news and notices to 365 people. The rate of those who open the e-mail is still (SEE PAGE 3)

CLUB NEWS, From Page 2

hovering around 70%. When a link to an article or the Dugout Chatter is included in the broadcast, the click rate is 50%, indicating that 130 club members are seeing the newsletter on line through the broadcast.

Next General Meeting: May 13. There will be no general meeting in April. #

MONDAY MORNING NEWS

L-1 SET TO BEGIN REGULAR SEASON; WILL THERE BE A NEW LEAGUE FOR 75+ AGE PLAYERS NEXT YEAR?

From Henry Low

Thanks to the efforts of George Hodsdon, assistant L-1 commissioner, our playing schedule was finalized. Because of our 10-team league, limited playing fields and weather considerations (hot summer afternoons), this year's schedule was especially challenging.

Practice games were played March 11 and 18, with our regular season to begin on Monday, March 25.

The Tuesday and Friday batting practices, previously held at Howe Park on those days, will be held at 10 a.m. at Howe Park's Field 3.

As mentioned at the club's March 11 general meeting, a study will be undertaken to look into the possible formation of a league for players 75 and older. With the significant growth of L-1 in the past two years, from eight teams to 10, and the projected growth in the league, it seems prudent to conduct this study in preparation for next season. It's going to take a lot of time to survey the current L-1 players over 74 years old and develop options for the club's board to consider. More information will become available as the study progresses. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

William J. "Bill" Enos, 44-year-old son of Bill and Sally Enos, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 22. Mr. Enos was a standout baseball player in high school and college and was active in Carmichael Girls Softball, coaching his three daughters.

Norma S. Jodice, 82, passed away on Feb. 15. Survivors include a son, Jamyn, who manages the GSSCS web site and whose late father, Jerry, served as president of the club. The Jodice family sponsors a GSSCS team in memory of Jerry.

Life Member **Benny Benson**, manager of L&S Surveys in L-1, had a four-way bypass on Feb. 25. His wife, Joyce, reported (Feb. 27) that he is doing fine.

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SPONSORS FOR 2013

First VP Dick Latimer lists these paid club sponsors for 2013 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)
BERTOLUCCI BODY & FENDER SHOP, INC.
BETTER SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT
C&C PLUMBING
***CAPITOL BARRICADE**
COTTONWOOD ESTATES
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.
ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)
ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)
EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE
GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
HARPER PROPERTIES
JERRY JODICE, MEMORY OF
JOLLY ROGERS
LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE
L&S SURVEYS
MARK E. WHITE, DDS
MERRILL'S BOOKKEEPING AND TAX (Ray Merrill)
R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE
9TH AND X STORAGE
NORCAL JACKETS
***RAPID SOLUTIONS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS**
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)
REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS BROKERAGE
***SAM'S HOF BRAU**
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS
SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS
TANNER AND ASSOCIATES
***TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF AUBURN, INC.**
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. #

LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2014

L-1 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst. George Hodsdon 481-9304

L-2 Dave Vargo 689-7061

L-3 Mel Tennyson 838-6811

L-4 Bud DeSouza 424-6115

L-5 Allen Riker 873-3779

L-6 Bill Greene 391-5559

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2012-13

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

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

Second Vice President (Vacant)
(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)