

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

GOLDEN SENIORS CLUB LOWERS AGE REQUIREMENT FOR WOMEN PLAYERS

By a show of hands, a clear majority of about 50 members at the Aug. 12 general meeting amended Golden Seniors softball by-laws to reduce by five years the age requirement for women players.

President Tom Sansone urged support of the by-law change, saying expanded opportunity "is a good thing" for the club, suggesting that the club could even expand from six to eight teams on Tuesday nights at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

The by-law change, proposed at the July general meeting, allows women applicants for membership in the three night leagues, which have been for 50 and over, to qualify when they are turning 45 during the calendar year. For the two Tuesday morning leagues, which have a threshold of 60, women can be 55. For the 70-and-over league on Monday mornings, women can play when they will be 65 during the year starting next January. Exceptions may be requested and require approval by the Board of Directors.

While women can play in any of the leagues, they have generally signed up for the Tuesday night league at the Complex. There are 18 women playing on the six Tuesday night teams.

Ray Mendonsa, former club president, said he has been an "expert witness" in court cases involving discrimination and he warned of exposure to gender and/or age discrimination complaints. Alan Afill, who has a law degree, disagreed. He said he doubts there would be complaints resulting in any real harm to the club.

To those who fear that an influx of younger women could reduce opportunities for men, Sansone said if enough women sign up there would be the possibility of adding more teams or leagues. The club now has six leagues with 40 teams.

In July, when the proposed By-Law was changed from a 10-year reduction to five years, Sansone said this represented a compromise because it would be difficult to get the membership to approve 10 years. He also (See Page 2)

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: SEPT. 7, 2013 AT ANNUAL PICNIC/LEAGUE PLAYOFFS AT HOWE PARK

IN THIS ISSUE ...

New By-Law Allows Younger Women Players.

Board Okays Adding 7th League Option on 2014 Player Applications for Older Players.

Club Officers for Coming Year are Elected.

L1 Playoffs.

Survey Shows Support for L7.

Sunshine & Health.

League Standings and Batting Leaders.

***List of Sponsors.
2013 League Commissioners.
Club Contacts.***

AUG. 12 MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)

said the lower age for women has been advocated by men whose wives have been too young to play.

Seventh League in the Works. Assuming enough signups occur, the club would add a seventh league in 2014 for players 70 and over (65 for women). The Board of Directors approved the preparation of 2014 player renewal and new player applications with the option of the seventh league. (See Henry Low's article elsewhere in this newsletter reporting on a survey of members indicating support for a new league.)

Low, who is commissioner of L1, stressed at the meeting that the new L7 is not a "select" league. It is considered more of a "transition or gateway" to L1. He said he does not want to see L1 weakened by a rival league. Yet he sees L1 with too many players and teams, presenting management problems. Projections are that there will be even more 70+ players signing up in years ahead. The number of players drafted for L7 would be limited to four or five teams and undrafted L7 signups would be in the draft for L1.

A major argument by Low in favor of expansion is that 47% of the 414 players currently assigned to teams are 70 or older and only one of six existing leagues is devoted to those who are 70-plus years old.

In other general meeting news:

Election of Officers. Curtis Holcomb was re-elected to a third one-year term as Club Commissioner, out-polling Jerry Nevis in the only contested race for a seat on the Board of Directors. Jim Wait is the only new member of the board, running unopposed for 2nd Vice President. on a slate prepared by the nominating committee, led by John Mizerak. Wait succeeds Pete Ward, who resigned. The other five board members on the slate: Sansone will serve a third year as club president. Also re-elected are 1st Vice President Dick Latimer, Treasurer Don Wall, Secretary Dave Tanner, and Player Agent Myron Dahl.

Playoffs. The three night leagues launched their playoffs Aug. 13-15 and will have their championship games on the nights they play. The day leagues will have their championship games on Saturday morning, Sept. 7 at Howe Park in conjunction with the club's annual picnic and general meeting. There also will be an All-Star game involving players chosen by Tuesday night, L3 managers.

There was an opening for one All-Star game in addition to the championship games for the three day leagues on the two Howe Park fields. Commissioners for the Wednesday and Thursday night leagues did not express interest, Club Commissioner Holcomb said.

Sept. 7 Schedule. Leagues 2 and 6 will play on Howe Park Field #1 at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The League 3 All-Star game is set for 9 a.m. on Field #2, followed by the L1 championship game.

Picnic. Bill Hill, chairman of the Picnic Committee, said the limit for meals has been increased from 200 at last year's picnic to 250. GSSCS members and their spouse or significant other are free; additional guests will be charged, probably \$5. Hill said the same caterer who did such a great job last year will serve tri-tip, chicken, baked beans and potato salad. Bob and Trudy Smartt handled the set-up chores and Jim Wait led the cleanup crew last year and appeared to be willing to step up again. Lou Coppola suggested that the club have a raffle with great prizes. (See Page 3)

AUGUST MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 2)

Budget. Treasurer Wall presented a budget which reduces 2014 club dues by \$5. There also will be no separate lighting fee for night leagues. The cost for playing in a night league will be reduced to \$125 from \$130. Wall said the board is still working on the amount to charge for a player's additional leagues. The budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 was approved, including \$2,000 for recruitment efforts. The club had more than \$100,000 in the bank but most of that is already committed to pay field fees. The \$5 dues reduction will amount to about \$2,500. The picnic budget is \$4,500.

Player Applications. Player Agent Dahl said he is redesigning the forms to make them "more simple for you and for me." Renewal forms will be mailed to all members and new player applications may be requested. They also will be available on the club's web site, www.gsscs.org.

Sponsors. Latimer said he has a goal of 50 sponsorships for 2014. Latimer challenges each member to recruit a sponsor based on a business relationship. For example, he noted that he has signed up a mortuary (Klumpp's Chapel of Flowers) that has buried half his family over the years.

Safety. J.C. Terry, club safety coordinator, said players need to be careful when throwing or tossing bats so they do not endanger umpires (or catchers). #

MONDAY MORNING LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

From L1 Commissioner Henry Low

The League One (L1) season is drawing to a close with our final regular season games on Monday, Aug. 19 at Howe Park. The winner of the season's first half was Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell and Bob Nielsen, with an 8-0 record. Second place went to the Arnold Properties, managed by Ernie Shaffer and Bob Annecone, with a 7-1 record. Both teams have qualified for our playoffs on Monday morning, Aug. 26.

After games of Aug. 12, the second half of our season is shaping up much differently. With one game to go, three teams still have a shot at the two remaining playoff spots. Tied for first place with 7-1 records are L & S Surveys, managed by "Benny" Benson and Eugene Malone, and Jolly Rogers, managed by Don Mockler and Ted Hansen. Presently in third place with a chance for a playoff spot, because of the possibility of tie breakers, is the Becks team, last year's league champs, managed by John Chatfield and Ernie Kidwell, with a 6-2 record. These teams are followed in the second half standings by the Nielsen and Arnold Properties teams with 4-4 records. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH

Dave Alois, player in L-1, L-2 and L-6, will miss the balance of the 2013 season due to heart bypass surgery in August, reported John Colletto.

Linda Simms, daughter of Ted and Janet Slauson, passed away. She was 57 and died of cancer.

Marcus Bartholomew's mother, **Elsie**, has passed away. She was 106.

Barbara Tirapelli, wife of Al Tirapelli, is ill with pancreatic cancer.

John Chatfield was reported to be having heart problems.

(Information from Trudy Smartt)

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

RIVERCATS TICKETS

Want a terrific discount on good seats at RiverCats games? Contact GSSCS Entertainment Chair Lou Coppola at 444-6138. As a season ticket holder, Lou also can pass along savings for strips of September playoff game tickets. Give him a call for details on how to get 35% off tickets for remaining regular season games. Playoff games tickets are only \$5 for each game when a strip of six games is purchased. #

HIGH SCHOOL COACH NEEDED

Rio Americano HS needs a coach for their girls junior varsity fast-pitch softball team. It involves two hours every weekday from 3:30 to 5:30 during the softball season -- January through May for high schools. The pay is about \$1,800, so the main benefit is community service in being able to use your experience to teach young girls how to get in condition to improve their fielding, hitting, bunting, base-running, and sliding skills. If anyone is willing to teach softball to young high school girls, or has a daughter in softball at Rio Americano, please call Larry Campbell at 485-4843. There also is an opening for assistant baseball coach for the boys varsity team. #

AWARD OF MERIT

To be disclosed at the Sept. 7 picnic, the 2013 Award of Merit will be bestowed on a member or members who has/have demonstrated extraordinary service to the club in non-elected volunteer capacities. George Hodsdon is the honcho and he and his committee will consider nominations from members. The deadline for nominations was Aug. 15. #

CLUB BOARD SETS STAGE FOR NEW 70+ LEAGUE

From L1 Commissioner Henry Low

The GSSCS Board of Directors, meeting Aug. 12, considered surveys of all playing club members age 70+ and agreed to add a new league for 70+ players to the player applications for the 2014 season.

Approximately 140 surveys were distributed to League One (L1) players and 109 surveys were returned. Also, 50 surveys were mailed to players age 70+ in other leagues, who are not presently playing in L1 and 23 of those surveys were returned. A total of 132 surveys (69%) were returned and there appears to be a lot of interest in adding a new L7 for 70+ players. Some of the survey results follow:

1. Preferred League?

Preferred L1: 54. Preferred Both L1 and L7: 38 Total = 92

Preferred New L7: 25. Preferred Both: 38 Total = 63

2. Should L1 and L7 Play the Same Day?

Same Day = 47 (56%)

Different Days = 37 (44%)

3. If L1 Plays Monday and L7 a Different Day?

Tuesday = 52 and (Wed – Fri) = 46 (53% prefer Tuesday over the combined Wed. – Friday)

4. Preferred Park, if L1 and L7 Play on the Same Day?

Howe Park = (54%) Sacramento Softball Complex = (46%)

Why is this new league needed?

1. Of the 414 players assigned to teams this year, 196 or (47%) are age 70 or older and 218 or (53%) are younger than age 70. This means that as players age into their seventies (presently 47% of all players), there is only one league for them to choose as their skills diminish and they can no longer compete with players 10 and 20 years younger in leagues 2 through 6.
2. Some of the rule changes in recent years (hot bats and 70-foot base paths) make it more difficult for older players to compete in the leagues for younger players.
3. The new L7 would serve as a transitional league for players age 70+ to move from the younger leagues to begin playing with their 70+aged peers. This is confirmed by the total number of players (63) from all current leagues, who expressed interest in the new L7.
4. Finally, this new L7, along with our present L1, will give all players age 70+ choices between L1 and L7 or both, depending on their preferences.

Look for coverage of L7 developments in future club newsletters and club website postings. #

LEAGUE STANDINGS AND BATTING LEADERS

BERTOLUCCI'S IS L-4 TOP SEED ENTERING PLAYOFFS

With a 15-3 regular-season record, Bertolucci's began the L-4 Wednesday night playoffs as the top seed. Cottonwood Estates finished 12-6, followed by Executive Limousine (10-8), Bill Hill #1 (9-9), C&C Plumbing (6-12), and Ryan R. Wilgus (3-15). L-4 playoffs were scheduled to begin on Aug. 14. Leading hitters: Jarvis Quenga (.823), Don Jackson (.804), and Emilio Lobato (.797). Marcus Kirkland led the league with 51 RBI and was the top home run hitter with six, four of them clearing the fences. Terry Urban also had four fence-clearing clouts. Vernon Nickell had 11 triples while Lobato and Quenga each produced 16 doubles.

SILVER CATS FINISH FIRST IN L-3

Losing only three of 18 games, with two ties, the Silver Cats captured the top seed for the L-3 Tuesday night playoffs, beginning Aug. 13. George L. Klumpp (11-6-1) finished second, followed by Livingston Concrete (8-9-2), Geremia Pools (8-11) Rapid Solutions (7-11-1) and Tanner & Associates (6-13). Tanner's Emilio Lobato led the league in hitting for the regular season at .790. He also led the league in homers (7) and, with Larry Elsberry of Geremia, in RBI with 47.

JOHN BRENDLE CONSULTANTS EDGE ESPANOL #2 IN L-5

John Brendle Consultants (12-4-1) squeaked ahead of Espanol Italian Restaurant (12-5) for the top seed in the L-5 Thursday night playoffs. Anthony Maze paced the Brendle club with a league-leading nine homers. Reinwald Health/Dental Insurance finished third at 8-9, followed by Tri-C Machine Company (7-8-2), Bill Hill Heating & Air Conditioning (7-10), and Overhead Door, 3-13-1. The league's leading hitter was Mike Swanson of Tri-C (.795), followed by teammate Lyman Rose (.788 with eight home runs). Mike Viduya, a .771 hitter, led the league in RBI with 48.

SPORTS LEISURE ROMPS

After 15 league games on Tuesday morning (L-2), Sports Leisure walked away with first place by winning 13 games through Aug. 6. Avalon Hearing (9-5-1) was in second place while Rambit Inc., and Espanol #1 were at 8-7 in the battle for playoff seeding. VFW Post 67 was 5-9-1, followed by Jerry Jodice, 1-14. Rich Edwards (.837) was leading L-2 in hitting, followed by Gus Niklas (.821), and Jim Hoffman (.806). Niklas had a league-leading 48 RBI, while J.C. Terry was the leader in homers with four (inside the park). Glen Cole and Jerry McKaughan had one over-the-fence homer.

CLOSE RACE FOR TOP SEED IN L-6

In L-6 Tuesday mornings, Avalon Hearing and Sam's Hauf Brau were tied for the lead at 10-5 through games of Aug. 6. Mark E. White DDS was one game back at 9-6, followed by E&G Threads (8-6-1), Capitol Barricade (7-7-1), and GSSA (0-15). Leading hitters: Jerry Nevis (.791), Jon Ellison (.786) and Myron Dahl (.784). Mike Mayer led the league with three inside-the-park homers. Ellison and Jay Aguas had one homer clear the fences.

Information provided by Scorekeepers Sandy Begg (Leagues 3 & 5) and Colette Barnes (Leagues 2, 4 & 6).

#

GOLDEN SENIORS SPONSORS FOR 2013

First VP Dick Latimer lists these club sponsors for 2013 and urges club members to reward their support by giving them their business (* = new sponsor for 2013):

AMERICAN MEDEQUIP
ARNOLD PROPERTIES
AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 1)
AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 2)
BECKS, IN MEMORY OF
BERTOLUCCI BODY & FENDER SHOP, INC.
***JOHN BRENDLE CONSULTING**
C&C PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
***CAPITOL BARRICADE**
COTTONWOOD ESTATES
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.
***EG THREADS**
ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)
ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)
EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE
GEREMIA POOLS
GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
HARPER PROPERTIES
***BILL HILL ROOFING & VINYL SIDING**
***BILL HILL WINDOWS, HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING**
JERRY JODICE, MEMORY OF
JOLLY ROGERS
***KLUMPP'S FUNERAL HOME**
LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE
L&S SURVEYS
MARK E. WHITE, DDS
MERRILL'S BOOKKEEPING AND TAX (Ray Merrill)
R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.
***RAPID SOLUTIONS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS**
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)
REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS BROKERAGE
***SAM'S HOF BRAU**
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS
SILVER CATS
SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS
TANNER AND ASSOCIATES
***TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF AUBURN, INC.**
VFW POST 67
***RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS**
WION'S BODY SHOP

LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2013

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 -- 2013-14

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

1st Vice President **Dick Latimer**
363-9555 (Responsible for team
sponsorships.)

2nd Vice President **Jim Wait** 455-4440
(Responsible for team uniforms and
equipment.)

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)