

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) CLUB HOTLINE: 491-1721

CLUB CAPS 35TH SEASON WITH SEVEN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seven club league championship teams were crowned as the 35th season of Golden Seniors softball came to a close in September, capped by four day league title contests on picnic day at Howe Park.

Nearly 300 BBQ lunches were served at the Sept. 27 picnic at which the club's 2014-15 seven members of the Board of Directors, elected in August, took the oath of office. They are President Tom Sansone, 1st Vice President Jon Ellison, 2nd VP Chuck Knutson, Treasurer Don Wall, Secretary Dave Vargo, Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis and Player Agent Dave Tanner. (See Page 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

This has been an exceptional year for our club. Membership numbers are on the rise, we inducted 13 new Life Members, we started a new League 7 on Monday mornings, we reduced the club dues and we had one of the longest playing seasons in club history. To cap it all off, we had a very successful picnic on Sept. 27 to end the season. It has truly been a good year.

Following the country's economic turmoil of a few years ago, club membership fell off. But the last three years have seen a steady growth in our numbers back to the place we were before the downturn. We are back....and still growing!

The membership is also aging. In turn, the club inducted 13 new Life Members (See Page 4)

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JAN. 12, 2015 AT THE VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BOULEVARD.

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LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES (FROM PAGE 1)

While the club's next general meeting isn't scheduled until January, the board will be meeting during fall and winter months to make sure the 2015 season is ready to go. Sansone said player applications, for returning players, were to be mailed soon. Applications for new players will be available. And there will be information on a new league, the club's eighth, that is planned for older players.

Stay tuned for more information in the November-December Dugout Chatter as well as emails from the club president, who notes that while budgetary details are being finalized, he and the board will consider reducing dues for the second straight year.

Picnic Day Championship Game Results. Arnold Properties, sponsored by the late Tom Arnold, defeated Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal for the L1 championship, ending the two-year reign of the Bob Nielsen-Norm Blackwell team. Tom Watwood, recovering from a heart attack, managed the Jolly Rogers team, sponsored by Bob Rogers, to a 12-9 L7 championship game victory over the second Nielsen-Blackwell squad. It was the first season for the reconstituted L7, formed for 70-plus players in a more competitive set-up.

Two Tuesday day league titles were decided. Capitol Barricade edged Sam's Hof Brau, 19-15, for the L2 championship with the hitting parade led by John Pettigrew, Mike Mayer, Joe Cors and Bill Greene for the winners. Sam's Hof Brau was led by Jay Aguas, Jim Kuchar and Mick Turskey.

The **Tuesday L6** title game was a 21-16 slugfest won by E&G Threads over Jerry Jodice. Top hitters included Jim Kuchar and Bob Smith for the winners, both perfect at 5 for 5, while Jodice was led by Dave Vargo, Ron Rienks and Mark Noel. Two fine running catches by Threads outfielder Dennis Kelly in the top of the seventh sealed the victory. (Note: In the two games, Kuchar was a combined 9 for 10, driving in eight runs and scoring six.)

The night leagues played their championship games on their regular nights as many players were committed to a weekend tournament in Las Vegas.

Tuesday night L3. Managed by Bob Smartt, this Bill Hill-sponsored team captured the Tuesday night crown 7-3 over Dina Sesso's Rapid Solutions.

Wednesday night L4. Ryan R. Wilgus DDS 20, Reinwald Health and Dental Insurance 19. Manager Bud DeSouza, who says he gets his teeth cared for by his sponsor, was all smiles after driving home the winning run with a two-out single over second base. Reinwald had scored eight times in the top half of the open inning and Wilgus needed three to win in the bottom half. Top hitters for Wilgus: Jay Reese, Xavier Solis, Jeff Luna, Tom Nevarez. Reinwald: Keith Arnold, Sam Hernandez and Jack Wabinga.

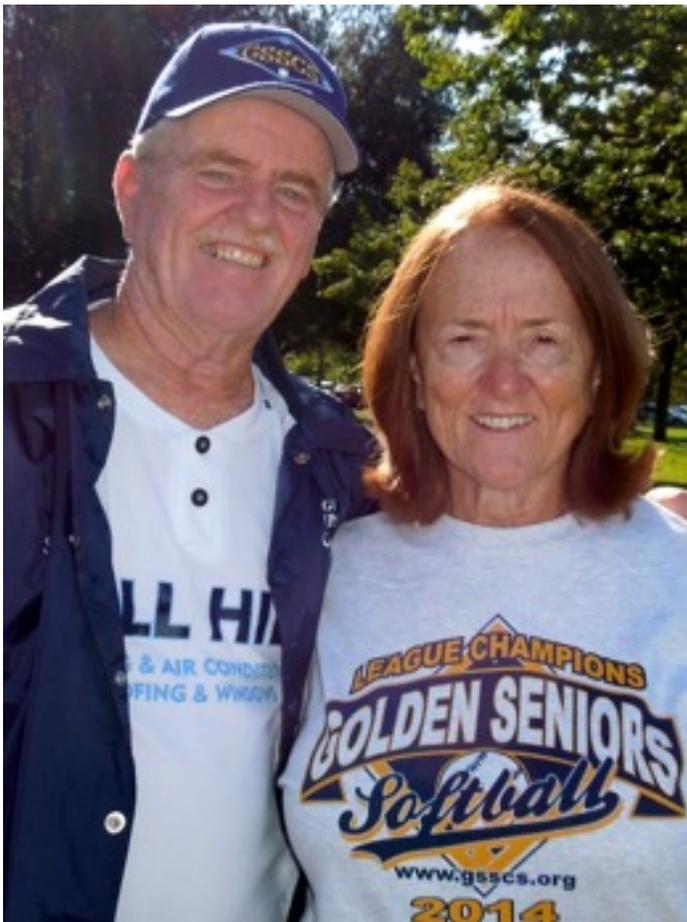
Thursday night L5. A second Reinwald-sponsored team defeated a second Bill Hill-sponsored team, 29-15 for the Thursday night championship. Lyman Rose paced the winners with a fence-clearing clout.

Picnic Kudos. The picnic chairman, Bill Hill, was with his traveling team in Nevada, but he set up a very nice catered lunch as the club hired the same caterer who did such a good job the year before. Among the volunteers who stepped up to help were Don Quinn and Bob Smartt, who made an emergency shopping trip to make sure picnickers had plenty of liquid refreshment. Bill Greene set up the audio for the general meeting.

All-Star Game. Teams representing the six Tuesday night L3 teams staged an All-Star game exhibition for the second year, and the event again was judged to be successful for both encouraging night leaguers to attend the picnic, boosting attendance by an estimated 40 to 50 players and family members. Sandy Begg, who kept score of the L3 exhibition, said Team One, coached by Bob Smartt, made 34 outs and had 15 hits. Team Two, coached by Larry Shelton, had 19 hits and 27 outs. "Considering it was a four-inning game, those numbers are a bit bizarre." There also were 13 strikeouts, caused by each batter being allowed only one strike per at-bat, including foul balls. All players on a side batted in each inning. "All in all, a very puzzling game to watch and a lot of fun," Sandy said. With the likes of Norm Blackwell Jr., Jack Wabinga, Keith Arnold, etc., both teams wowed onlookers with strong defense. #



Sandy Begg, “retiring” after a dozen years as the club’s chief scorekeeper/statistician, was honored at the Sept. 27 picnic with a plaque and gift. DC Editor Ron Roach, who depends on scorekeepers for game highlights, made the presentation. Sandy, a couple weeks shy of her 80th birthday, was surprised by the recognition and grateful for the chance to be a part of the club. The club is a “bunch of wonderful people. I’m sad that I’m going to give it up but it’s time.” She added that she will “still drive down from Auburn” to watch games when the weather is good. (Photo by Everett Richardson)



The Smartts (Trudy and Bob) were huge volunteer helpers at the Sept. 27 picnic. Trudy and Bob played on the Tuesday night championship team sponsored by Bill Hill. Bob managed the team and also coached one of the L3 All-Star teams that played at the picnic. He and Don Quinn helped quench the thirsts of picnic attendees by making a quick run to supply liquid refreshments. Trudy also serves as the club’s Sunshine and Health chairperson. (Photo by Ron Roach)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (FROM PAGE 1)

into that fraternity occupied by the stalwarts of the club. These guys have demonstrated loyalty, longevity and consistency. We all owe thanks to their long-term support of the club because we currently enjoy what they built and maintained. To support these stalwarts of the club, we initiated a new League 7 on Monday mornings for those members who are men over the age of 70 and women over the age of 65. As we age, the club wants to provide additional opportunities to play and stay healthy.

The 2014 season also brought a reduction in dues. The Board of Directors decided the budget for this year could support a \$5 reduction in membership costs to help that dollar go a little bit further. By the end of the season we sometimes forget about these fee reductions but this, coupled with a longer playing season, exemplified the club's effort to offer a good return on your recreational dollar. The club scheduled 26 weeks of ball this season....practice games, regular season play, playoffs and the picnic day games. If you subtract the very few rainouts and a few bye weeks, we still played a lot of ball.

The picnic was a rousing success this year. All the championship games were very competitive and introduced a lot of drama into the day. The L3 (Tuesday night) All Star game was a fun-filled delight. It was full of laughter and great plays which the crowd enjoyed. The picnic was also a great success. A little over 300 people were served a great BBQ lunch and second helpings were available for some. In our short business meeting just following lunch, we recognized a long-time friend of GSSCS. Sandy Begg, our head scorekeeper, announced her retirement and we bid her adieu with a "Thank You" plaque and a gift certificate to Michael's...a craft store in Auburn where she buys her project material. We also took the opportunity to recognize the contributions of two club members whose efforts have made the club better: Don Shank, the voice of the Golden Seniors telephone hotline, and Pete Ward, responsible for all the uniforms and hats we have worn for the last six years, were honored with the club's Award of Merit.

All in all, it was a good day and the end of a good season. I look forward to doing it again next year. See you on the field. -- Tom Sansone.

NEW FOR 2015: ANOTHER LEAGUE FOR OLDER PLAYERS IN THE WORKS, AND LOWER DUES, TOO

President Tom Sansone reports that the Board of Directors is looking to reduce player dues for a second year in a row, and plans to launch an eighth league, which would be the third GSSCS Tuesday day league. It would be for players at least 74 years old. The other Tuesday day leagues are for players 60 (men) and 55 (women). Information on the new league was being drafted to include in player application forms for 2015 which should be arriving soon in the mail. They also will be available on the club web site. #



AWARD OF MERIT

In recognitions for outstanding service to the club, the 2014 Award of Merit was bestowed on Don Shank, described by President Tom Sansone as the “voice of the Golden Seniors,” and Pete Ward. Past recipients of the award considered nominations from club members and their selections of Shank and Ward were disclosed at the Sept. 27 club picnic. Shank, wearing a red hat that signifies he is trained to use the club’s defibrillator and administer first aid, operates the club’s “hot line” for reports that “games will be played as scheduled” and not postponed by field conditions. He has been a member since 2007.

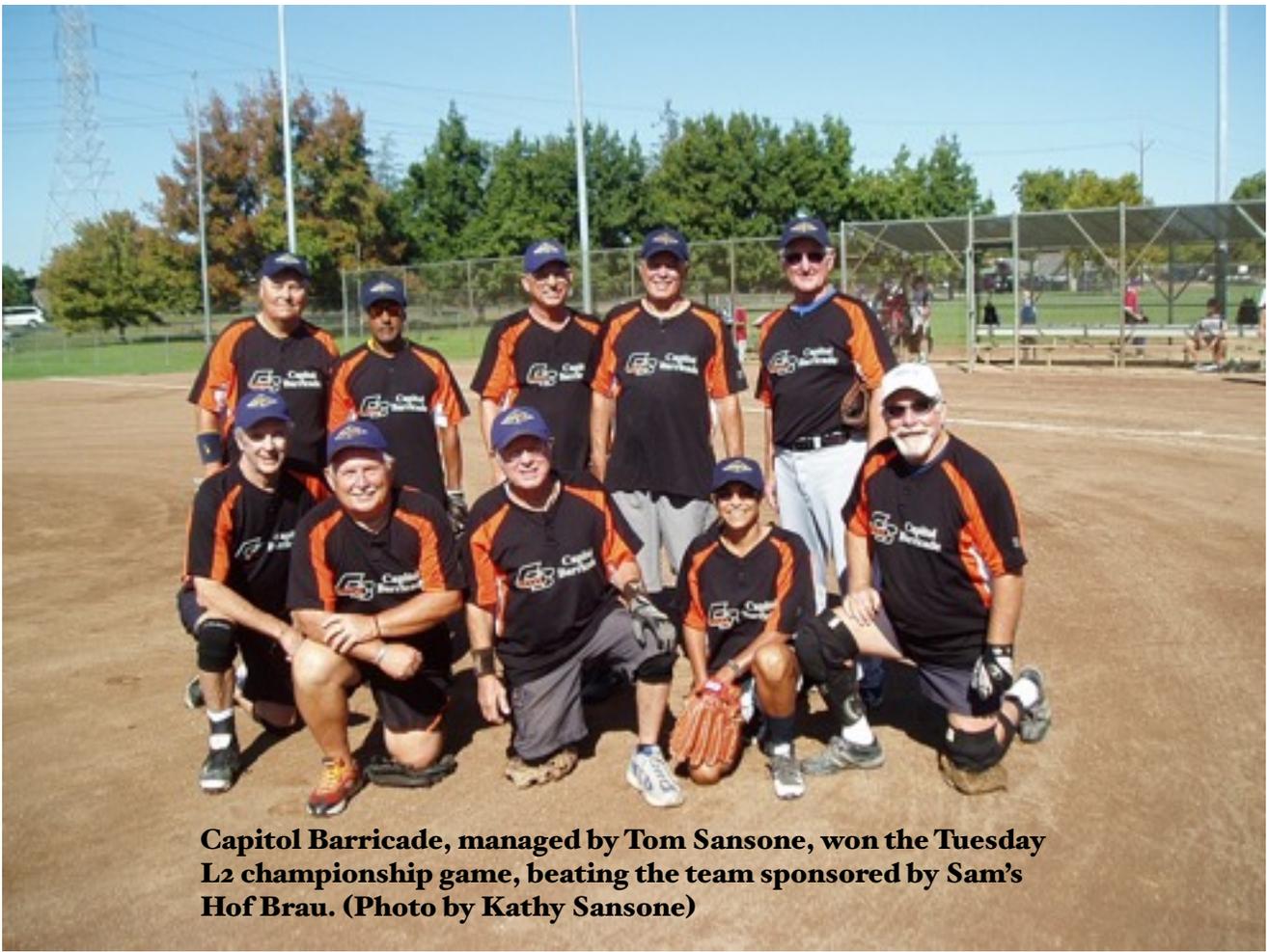
Ward, left in bottom photo, was introduced by Dave Vargo. Ward, who joined the club in 2000, was a prime mover to modernize team jerseys and hats, as well as improve the quality of balls. His business experience in athletic apparel has been a tremendous club asset as he served and served as 2nd VP for many years. (Photos by Everett Richardson and Ron Roach.)



SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Life Member **Bob Havrilla** has serious health problems. As George Hodsdon reported Sept. 29, Bob is home from the hospital and in the care of his son.

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Capitol Barricade, managed by Tom Sansone, won the Tuesday L2 championship game, beating the team sponsored by Sam's Hof Brau. (Photo by Kathy Sansone)



The Tuesday night (L3) coed championship team, sponsored by Bill Hill, was managed by Bob Smartt. (Tom Sansone photo)



(Above) Managed by Bud DeSouza, the team sponsored by Ryan R. Wilgus DDS triumphed in the Wednesday night (L4) competition.

(Below) On Thursday night, Reinwald Health and Dental Insurance, managed by Bob Reinwald, won the L5 championship. (Photos by Sansone)



SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

PRACTICES DURING FALL AND WINTER MONTHS

With the end of the 2014 GSSCS season on Sept. 27, opportunities to keep in shape during the fall and winter include practices games Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Carmichael Park. The practices commenced Sept. 30 and Oct. 2.

They begin at 9 a.m. with a format that features two games with teams made up from signup sheets set as players arrive. The winner of the first game plays the second game against players who include those who signed up too late to get into the first game. The routine is they can go to another field for some additional batting practice while the first game is played.

For more information, contact Greg Leurgans (gleurgan@yahoo.com). For newbies, hot bats, such as the Miken Ultra II, are not allowed.

Practices are weather-permitting, of course.

SACRAMENTO GOLD FEATURED IN RECENT ARTICLE. The Sacramento Gold 80-and-over tournament team, led by Norm Blackwell Sr. and a number of Golden Seniors past and present, is featured in an article by Steve Martarano in the Sacramento Press online. Steve said he was pleasantly surprised to see Guy Anderson, who plays for the Gold. Martarano covered prep sports for the *Sacramento Union* decades ago when he first met the then-and-present Cordova H.S. baseball coach. Here is a link to the article and photos: <http://sacramento.press.com/2014/09/01/sacramento-gold-players-still-going-strong-in-their-80s/>

RIVERCATS. Entertainment Chairman Lou Coppola plans to have some tickets available for Rivercats tickets in 2015. He just might have tickets for good seats at season-ticket pricing. For more info, contact Lou at 444-6138.

GOLDEN SENIORS JACKETS AVAILABLE. Contact George Hodsdon for information about when and how you can buy a Golden Seniors Softball Club jacket. Hodsdon distributed order forms to the league championship team players so they could purchase jackets, which range in price from \$33 to \$50. Any GSSCS member may purchase a jacket with a GSSCS logo. The championship team members get jackets with a championship logo. George can be reached at 481-9304. Minimum order is 12 jackets.

GOLDEN SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON SET FOR DEC. 1.

The annual Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 1 at China Buffet, 5623 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights. Handicap parking is in back, with a ramp. The lunch starts at 11:30 and runs to about 1:30. Cost is \$12, including tax and tip, payable at the luncheon. RSVP is requested to George or Rosemarie Hodsdon (481-9304). #



Sam's Hof Brau shortstop Pete Ward fires to first for a double play in a Sept. 23 L2 playoff win. Videl Franco stays clear of the play.

Below: On Sept. 23, Ken Taylor, third baseman for Mark White DDS, leaps for throw, but runner is safe. (Photos by Mary Gray)





(Above) GSSA's Bob Smartt barely hangs onto a force-play throw in L2 playoff game. (Below) Jerry Jodice outfielder Dave Vargo makes a nice catch in a L6 playoff game. (Photos by Mary Gray)





Scorekeeper Colette Barnes works the L2 championship game at the Picnic. (Photo by Ron Roach)



Lineup Time. John Mertens, manager of Jerry Jodice, works on his lineup for the L6 championship game at the Picnic. The lineup competed but fell short as EG Threads prevailed. (Ron Roach photo)

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**AS ALWAYS, THANKS TO
THE SCOREKEEPERS
(SANDY AND COLETTE)
FOR SCORES AND
HIGHLIGHTS THAT
HELP MAKE THIS
NEWSLETTER AT LEAST
SOMEWHAT
INTERESTING. -- ROACH.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2014-2015

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654
1st Vice President **Jon Ellison** ...
880-0202 (Responsible for team
sponsorships.)
2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...
441-4144 (Responsible for team uniforms
and equipment.)
Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308
Secretary **Dave Vargo** ... 689-7061
Player Agent **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941
(Responsible for player applications,
player substitutes, waiting lists.)
Club Commissioner **Jerry Nevis** ...
683-3232 (Responsible for enforcement of
playing rules, oversees league
commissioners.)

2014 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

L-1 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst.
Dick Reisinger Sr.
L-2 Dave Vargo 689-7061
L-3 Mel Tennyson 838-6811
L-4 Russ Barnes 332-2832
L-5 Allen Riker 873-3779
L-6 Dave Vargo 689-7061
L-7 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst.
Bob Annecone

#

TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Club Answering Machine
(managed by Don Shank)
491-1721 for meeting news
and field conditions.
Phone or Address Changes:
Dave Tanner 216-1941
Player Applications: Dave
Tanner 216-1941
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

***THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER
WILL BE PUBLISHED AFTER
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TO
COVER MONTHS OF NOVEMBER
AND DECEMBER.***

***ALSO, WATCH FOR CLUB
PRESIDENT TOM SANSONE'S
EMAIL "BLASTS" FOR
IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND
ALERTS.***
