

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

CLUB DIRECTORS PLAN FOR NEW SEASON AND 8TH LEAGUE

Since the 2014 season concluded in September, the club's Board of Directors has been busily preparing for 2015 with three board meetings. Nearly 500 membership renewal applications were mailed to those on rosters at the end of the 2014 season. Plans are proceeding for a new eighth league to accommodate members 75 and older.

Anyone needing an application, for renewal or new membership, can find the forms available at the club web site (www.gsscs.org) or by contacting the club's player agent, Dave Tanner, at 216-1941.

Those applications received by Dec. 1 have guaranteed eligibility for league drafts, so get those applications in as soon as possible to be added to draft lists on a first-come, first-served basis. League draft lists will begin to be formulated after the first of the year. Drafts are scheduled in February.

Significant changes in the 2015 applications, described by Tanner in a cover letter with the forms sent to returning members, include a separation of club dues and a lowering of club dues and all league fees. The board has set the annual club dues at \$20 for all members, with the dues waived for life members.

A non-playing member pays the \$20 dues. Non-playing life members must return their applications to remain on the mailing list and receive the club's newsletter. (See Page 4)

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 7 p.m. MONDAY, JAN. 12, 2015 AT THE VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BOULEVARD.

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SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: LIFE MEMBERS BOB HAVRILLA, LEO CURRY JR.

Life Member **Bob Havrilla** passed away on Oct. 17 at the age of 77. During his 26 years as a member of the Golden Seniors Softball Club, he often volunteered to serve in leadership posts, such as league commissioner and team manager. Bob's service to the club was formally recognized when he was honored as the 2010 recipient of the club's award of merit.

Dozens of Bob's friends and softball buddies gathered on Oct. 29 to celebrate Bob's life. He was described as a giant of a man, both physically and in leadership demeanor. He was an outstanding outfielder and pitcher, a notorious pull hitter with power from both sides of the plate. One third baseman recalled breathing a sigh of relief when Havrilla batted left-handed.

Others noted how he was so attentive to detail when he managed teams. Some commented on how well he knew the rules when he umpired.

Some played with and against him on tournament teams as well as on Golden Seniors teams. George Hodsdon recalled an excellent hitter and pitcher, a good man who lived eight years after he suffered a major heart attack playing ball in Yuba City, revived by use of a defibrillator.

Havrilla was eulogized by good friends and softball buddies including Ernie Shaffer and Ernie Kidwell.

"A great guy. I will miss him," wrote Ron Middlekauff, who added that "there is nobody who was more organized or paid more attention to detail."

Arnold Schuler: "He was truly the 'gentle and considerate giant.' I enjoyed and respected him as a manager and player."

Club President Tom Sansone said Havrilla will be missed, not only as a ball player, but as a recognized leader of the club who served behind the scenes on committees that worked to improve the club.

Life Member **Leo Curry Jr.** was killed in his South Sacramento home in mid-November. The Sacramento Bee reported on Dec. 6 that two men and a woman were arrested in the death. Leo's body was discovered by officers on Nov. 17 after members of Leo's family reported that they had not seen or heard from him for several days. He had befriended the three and invited them in his home. There were signs of physical trauma and robbery, and his car was sold by the suspects. Curry, 77, joined the Golden Seniors in 1995 and pitched well for Benny Benson's L1 teams. A Vietnam veteran, Curry retired as an Army sergeant major. He also retired as a Coldwell Banker realtor. He is survived by three children and two grandchildren.

Barbara Ann Tirapelli, wife of Life Member Al Tirapelli for 58 years, passed away on Oct. 2. She fought cancer for a year and a half.

Jim Wait's mother passed away on Sept. 25 and J.C. Terry's mother passed away on Dec. 1. Gordon Kennedy's wife, Mary Alice, passed away on Nov. 21.

Condolences to the Havrilla, Curry, Tirapelli, Wait, Terry and Kennedy families. #

TURSKY SETS RECORD FOR HIGHEST GSSCS BATTING AVERAGE (.903) TO LEAD LEAGUE 2

Mick Tursky, as a first-year member of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento, set a club record as the first to crack the .900 barrier over the past nine years that such records have been kept.

Tursky, 60, a veteran of South Placer senior ball, decided to join the GSSCS and play Tuesday mornings at the Complex as retirement enabled him to increase his senior softball commitments. He began playing tournament ball. He credits his decision to play more as the major reason for his batting success: a .903 average in L2 and a L6-leading .861.

Mick, who had been a good hitter playing under the lights in Roseville, didn't necessarily put up eye-popping stats because, he noted, younger and faster players in their 50s would chase down many of his hard-hit flies. "I wouldn't be hitting .900 against 50-year-olds," he said, adding that he benefitted from playing in the Sierra Valley doubleheader league for 60+ players and on the Ain't No Saints 60s tourney team.

Edwards, who said he had the good fortune of drafting Mick for his Tuesday morning team, said Tursky is a complete hitter with power to all fields. The right-hand-hitting outfielder is such a tough out because, Edwards said, he "owns the right-field line and he can pull the ball over the fence in left."

Tursky wasn't sure he had hit .900 when contacted by the Dugout Chatter for comment. He said teammates kidded him during the season as he threatened the club batting record held by their manager, Edwards, who in 2012 hit .882 in L6.

Growing up in New Jersey, Mick said he played all sports in high school and played his first slow-pitch softball when he was 19. He moved to Stockton in 1980 and worked 36 years as a grocery store union representative. Excellence in softball runs in the family. His daughter, now 35, was a standout pitcher earning Division III All-America honors at Humboldt State. He has two softball-playing granddaughters.

Tursky's L6 mark of .861 ranks as the fifth-highest in the club during the 2006-2014 period when statistics have been maintained. He also joined Edwards and Monte Miller (each four times), Don Jackson and Emilio Lobato (each three times), and Jarvis Quenga and Dave Vargo (each twice) to hit at least .800 more than once.

Other .800 hitters in 2014: L3 Emilio Lobato .829; L6 Hal Johnson .823; L1 Bob Scollard .817; L2 Mark Holgerson .814, and Gus Niklas .812.

Hal Johnson, in his day league GSSCS debut, set a club record with 11 home runs in L2, one more than Lyman Rose (L5 in 2012) and A.J. Petruzzi (2007 in L6).

(For an expanded report on club batting leaders since 2006, updated to include 2014 season leaders, go to the club web site at www.gsscs.org.) #

PLANS ARE MADE FOR 2015 SEASON (FROM PAGE 1)

League fees differ based on the cost to the club for a league, with night leagues at the Complex costing more than day leagues at Howe Park. The fees are noted in the application. Players choosing to play in more than one league will pay the full fee for each league.

Other changes in the application include a clear policy for refunds, simplified to avoid confusion. Pro-rated refunds are allowed prior to May 15, after which there will be no refunds.

There also is room on the forms to declare interest in serving as a leader of the club, either as an elected officer or on a committee appointed by the board.

Other news:

L8 is Up and Running. A new league, the club's eighth and dedicated to members over the age of 75, will begin play in the spring of 2015 on Tuesday mornings at Howe Park..

Applications for this new league are rolling in and club President Tom Sansone reported in his email to members in October that there will be enough players for five teams. Call Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis (683-3232) if you are interested in being a team manager or a league commissioner.

Dec. 1 Signup Report. Player Agent Dave Tanner reported that 241 applications were received by Dec. 1, including 61 for L1, 55 for L2, 26 for L3, 12 for L4, 27 for L5, 50 for L6, 44 for L7 and 47 for L8.

New Life Members. The board has unanimously approved eight members for life member status, to be recognized at the Jan. 12 general meeting. They are Jim Borden, Doug Brewer, Bob Dillon, John Lack, Bud Lefforge, Carl Maryland, Chuck Short and Tom Todd.

New Chief Scorekeeper. The board unanimously approved a new chief scorekeeper/statistician, Colette Barnes. She succeeds Sandy Begg, who has retired after many years of great service to the club.

Bussey and Greene Lead Umpires. Tom Bussey continues as the club's chief umpire. He has named Bill Greene as the Monday day leagues chief umpire.

2015 Club Meeting Schedule. The board decided to continue the general meeting schedule of recent years: the second Monday night of January, February, March, May, July and August, plus a meeting in September in conjunction with the annual post-season event. Dick Latimer, former GSSCS board member and chaplain of the VFW Post 67, has booked the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard for the general meetings through August. The Jan. 12 meeting begins at 7 p.m., featuring the honoring of new life members. The other meetings at the VFW Hall begin at 7:30.

Safety. Club Safety Chairman J.C. Terry reports that he is checking on dates that will be available for club-sponsored AED-CPR training classes, both for those who need recertification and those who want to join the "red hat" group for the first time. There will be updates in the January newsletter.

Rule Revisions. The club Rules Committee, led by Bob Smartt, is hard at work constructing revisions to the club playing rules. The board also expects to submit By-Law revisions at the Jan. 12 general meeting, with membership action on the proposals at the February meeting. Proposed revisions will be emailed to all members on the email list and a hard copy will be available at the January meeting. The board had yet to finalize proposals at this writing. #

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* -- New Sponsor for 2014

2015 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

L1 Henry Low; Asst. Dick
Reisinger Sr.
L2 & L6 Myron Dahl and Bob
Smartt (co-commissioners)
L3 Mel Tennyson
L4 Russ Barnes
L5 (pending)
L7 Jim Stinson
L8 (pending) #

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

UNIFORM SHIRTS: GOT ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE TURNED IN?

Chuck Knutson, the club's 2nd VP in charge of uniforms and equipment, asks that players or managers who haven't yet turned in their washed jersey or jerseys to please call him at 524-9763 or email him at knutson1@surewest.net to arrange for pickup. Managers who also are team sponsors do not have to turn in their team's jerseys.

Also, Chuck asks if anyone knows the whereabouts of the Cottonwood Estates jerseys. Call him at the above number.

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 9 a.m. practices at Carmichael Park. The practices commenced Sept. 30 and Oct. 2. For more information, contact Greg Leurgans (gleurgan@yahoo.com).

Turnouts have been good for day league players practicing on Tuesdays and Fridays (12:30 p.m.) at Howe Park, usually on Diamond 3. Contact: Paul Koze at 503-807-8112.

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

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.)

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 THE JAN. 12
GENERAL MEETING.**

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