
DUGOUT CHATTER

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

CLUB HONORS EIGHT NEW LIFE MEMBERS AT JAN. 12 MEETING

The well-attended January 12 Golden Seniors general meeting featured the annual ceremony honoring eight longtime softballers who this year achieved life member status combined continuous membership of more than 160 years. The board also briefed members on plans for the new year -- the club's 36th -- with an update on rules and a plea for more players to sign up for the night leagues.

Team drafts are planned for the third week of February and first games are expected to be scheduled for late March or early April.

(See article on new life members elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The board has held a number of meetings since the September conclusion of the 2014 season. Here are highlights of board actions, some of which are pending member approval at the Feb. 9 general meeting:

Player Signups. Dave Tanner, player agent, reported that the Wednesday and Thursday night leagues (L4 and L5) were seriously short on signups as of Jan. 12. This has been an annual problem for the club, causing extra work for league commissioners and managers. Thus the board continues to weigh the viability of the Thursday night league. Last year, there were not enough signups to have 12 players per team at the start of the season, with teams using substitutes from other teams. (See Page 3)

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 7 P.M. MONDAY, FEB. 9, 2015 AT THE VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BOULEVARD.

IN THIS ISSUE ... 8 New Life Members; Survey Shows Club Favors Picnic; Strong Signups for Day Leagues; Night Leagues Need More Players, and More News.

***Sunshine and Health.
Rest in Peace: Jim Powell Sr., James Jackson, Scorekeeper Betty Johnson, Helen Schuler.***

Meet the Golden Seniors Life Members, Class of 2015.

List of Sponsors.

***Short Hops: Fall and winter pactices.
RiverCats Tickets. TPA Dinner-Dance Scheduled for Feb. 21.***

Club Contacts.

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE:

Life Member **Jim Powell Sr.** passed away on Dec. 19. He was 85 and joined the Golden Seniors in 1991. Jim, an excellent outfielder, served as a manager and league commissioner. His service to the club was recognized in 2007 when he was given the club Award of Merit. Jim Powell Jr. said his dad was hospitalized with pneumonia two months before he died. "He loved the game and would come out and watch me and his grandsons whenever he could."

Life Member **James R. Jackson**, retired from the U.S. Air Force, passed away on Nov. 13. He was 84.

Helen Rose Schuler, wife of GSSCS Member Arnold Schuler, passed away on Dec. 8.

Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Johnson, widow of GSSCS member James E. Johnson, died Dec. 13. She and James were married 52 years when he passed away in 1997. According to her obit in The Bee, she attended hundreds of Golden Seniors games, and was known as the club's stingiest scorekeeper as she ruled errors instead of hits when she felt the plays should have been made "regardless of a player's age, condition of the field, or their infirmity."

Condolences to the Powell, Jackson, Schuler and Johnson families.

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Carl Maryland (blue shirt) is joined by family and friends at the Jan. 12 meeting where Carl was among eight introduced in the Golden Seniors Softball Club Life Member Class of 2015.

PLANS ARE MADE FOR 2015 SEASON (FROM PAGE 1)

A six-team league with 12-player teams requires 72 signups. As of Jan. 12, L4 had 26 and L5 had 39, some of them signing up to play in both leagues. L3 had 50 signups but has been popular in the past, especially with its coed competition as an attraction for a number of talented women who are eligible to play at 45 years of age. Men need to be at least 50. The new L8 for players 75 and older on Tuesday mornings had 68 signups, exceeding the minimum of 56 for under a plan for four teams of 14 players.

New Rules. Annoyed, shocked or amazed -- even confused and angered -- when a runner is ruled out at home plate when his batted ball is still rolling around deep in the outfield, with no actual play at the plate? A phantom interference call? Well, the Rules Committee is proposing that umpires be allowed to use judgment on whether interference actually occurred. There has been considerable grumbling in the past when a runner is called out for running outside a marked zone between third and home, even when there is no chance for a throw to the plate. This is one of the amended rules the board is expected to consider among proposals from the club Rules Committee. proposals from the Rules Committee before the Feb. 9 general meeting. Also under consideration is adoption of a Senior Softball USA pitching safety regulation requiring pitchers to wear protective head gear.

Replacement players. Dave Vargo, reporting for vacationing Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis, said the assignments of replacement players will be regulated to promote fairness and competitive parity. All replacement assignments will be considered temporary until confirmed by a majority of managers in a league. To further promote better use of waiting lists, a player missing two or more consecutive games can be replaced with a player from the waiting list on the aforementioned temporary assignment basis. The replacement assignment rule in the past involved players missing at least three games in a row. The board's emphasis is to avoid having players, often newcomers to the club, languish on waiting lists or having to play with the limitations that apply to single-game substitutes.

Team Roster Sizes. Some leagues last season drafted 13 players per team instead of 12 to avoid having players languish on waiting lists. This will be done if circumstances warrant in 2015. Last year, L5 began the season with 11 players and used substitutes when needed, while also adding new players to grow rosters to 12 after the season began.

By-Laws. The board also has proposed By-Law amendments that generally clean up or tighten existing language. Some By-Laws are proposed to be shifted to the club's standing rules. See the club web site for details. Copies of revision proposals were circulated at the meeting and are to be voted upon at the Feb. 9 meeting.

Safety. Club Safety Coordinator J.C. Terry reported that he was working with the Park and Recreation staff to set up a training session for club members in CPR and AED (defibrillator). Terry said there must be at least four members committed to a class and he needs to know as soon as possible who is planning to participate. For a Saturday, Feb. 27 class, contact Terry at 916 505-2570. Note that the club picks up the cost of the Red Cross (See P. 4)

CLUB MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 3)

training for members, who are then issued red hats. This Red Cross training also includes providing CPR for children for all you grandparents out there.

Picnic. Club President Tom Sansone announced that a recent survey of members found “most people prefer a picnic to end the season” so “it looks like” the club will end the 2015 season with a picnic. In recent years, the club has shifted the Saturday picnic from the Complex to Howe Park, coinciding with day leagues’ championship games. Night leagues, due to conflicts with out-of-town weekend tournaments, have in recent years played title games on regularly scheduled nights. L3 has participated at the picnic by arranging an “All-Star” game. Last September, at Howe Park, some 300 members and guests attended the catered BBQ picnic with four day-league playoffs and a modified L3 All-Star game that was fun for participants and observers. An even bigger turnout is anticipated in 2015, with the board budgeting \$5,000, up from \$4,500 last year. (Survey bottom line: Those in favor of an evening dinner-dance, 93, those not in favor, 118.)

Sponsors. Jon Ellison, the club’s first vice president, reported on the number of team sponsors. Twenty-seven sponsors are known to be returning for 2015, another dozen are probable and at least three new sponsors are coming aboard. The sponsor list is elsewhere in this newsletter. Anyone interested in sponsoring a team should contact Ellison at 880-0202.

Uniforms and Equipment. Club 2nd VP Chuck Knutson has procured Trump Stote synthetic cover balls for 2015 and has saved about \$400 over last year with ball purchases. A number of leather-cover balls left over from last year will be used. Thirty-six dozen balls have been purchased, as well as bucket hats, including smaller size.

Budget. The membership approved the board’s 2014-2015 fiscal year budget calling for spending of \$75,800. Treasurer Don Wall reported that the club expects to collect \$61,990 in revenue (\$52,140 in total dues and league fees, \$9,550 from sponsors) and costs are expected to exceed that amount by \$13,800. This will draw down the club’s reserve to a reasonable cushion. Member dues have been lowered in recent years.

The board has set aside \$1,000 for recruitment, down from \$2,000 last year when radio advertising was used for the first time. Sansone said did not prove effective. The budget allows for some advertising in local community newspapers in coordination with feature articles about the club.

Meeting Time. The board decided that all general meetings held at the VFW Hall begin at 7 p.m. The meetings cannot last beyond 9 p.m. In the past, general meetings usually began at 7:30.

League Commissioners. With board approval of Bob Ellison (L5) and Cloicec Wade (L8), all league commissioners have been named for 2015. The complete list is elsewhere in this newsletter. The board also approved the continued service of Henry Low as assistant club secretary.

Work on Web Site. Marti Ikehara, a L2 player, has volunteered to assist website manager Jamyn Jodice. She will help improve and update the site in design and content.

Schedules. Sansone said the board is working on schedules for the club’s eight leagues that will work around dates when the Complex is unavailable and, as much as possible, avoid conflicts with major senior softball tournaments. Stay tuned for scheduling news, including the date for the picnic. #

CLUB HONORS EIGHT NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Eight veteran softballers were honored as Golden Seniors life members, class of 2015, at the Jan. 12 general meeting. Jim Lortz, former club president, formally attired in his tuxedo and tennis shoes, presided over the introductions for what he said was his 15th year in being honored to participate in the club's recognition of "the few and lucky" to have participated so long in the sport they all love. The eight combine for more than 160 years of GSSCS membership.

The new life members -- age 75 with 15 continuous years in the club or 80 with 10 -- in alphabetical order:

Jim Borden, turning 80 this year, is a 10-year member. He was unable to attend. He was traveling in Cuba but noted in a letter that George Hodsdon convinced him to come out and play after many years playing fast-pitch in Phoenix and San Diego. He retired from CalTrans as State Traffic Engineer in 1998. A fast-pitch pitcher, Jim also coached his children in the sport for more than 18 years.

Doug Brewer, 75 in 2015, is a 24-year member, non-playing the past five years. He taught school in the Rio Linda district for 38 years, retiring in 2001. He also coached high school basketball. He was on the GSSCS board as club commissioner and managed teams on Tuesday night for a number of years. "A super teammate and a great opponent," Lortz said.

Bob Dillon, 75 this year, is a 25-year Golden Senior who plays Mondays and Tuesdays, and continues working part-time as a commercial real estate attorney. He said he stays in shape for softball by running half-marathons. Bob noted humorously how his senior softball career has involved going from left field, to left-center, to right-center, to right field as he aged. Now he is looking forward to moving back to being a left-fielder in the new older player league. "... looking forward to another 25 years of senior softball."

John Lack, 75 this year, is a 25-year member. He was traveling in Mexico but Lortz noted that he played with John and recalled "he is someone you always wanted on your team... a great teammate." Excellent at bat and in the field.

James (Bud) Lefforge, 75, a 23-year member did not attend the meeting but told Lortz that "just to be alive is a blessing and to play softball is a gift from God."

Carl Maryland, 75, a 25-year member, played baseball and was recruited by Norm Blackwell Sr., winning a championship in the first season. In the second year, he was on another powerful team but too many guys didn't show up for games. Finished last. "If you sign up to play, show up!" he advised. Carl also continues to play at a high level on a tournament team. Lortz said Carl was always a super teammate and great opponent.

Chuck Short, 75, a 15-year member, recalled being recruited by Ernie Kidwell. Prior to 1994, he said he had not played softball. He said he thought as a life member he did not have to pay but was advised he had to pay up (although not as much) so he risked having the "shortest life membership ever bestowed."

Tom Todd, 80 this year, is a 14-year member. He sent his regrets, unable to attend due to health reasons. He is recovering from heart surgery. #



Trudy and Bob Smartt served cake to members and guests at the Jan. 12 general meeting where new life members were introduced by emcee Jim Lortz (center in tuxedo). From left: Chuck Short, Carl Maryland, Bob Dillon and Doug Brewer. (Not pictured: Jim Borden, John Lack, Bud Lefforge and Tom Todd.)

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 Bob Ellison

L7 Jim Stinson

L8 Cloric Wade

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CENTER, INC. (TEAM 1)

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ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)

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DENTAL INSURANCE

REINWALD'S HEALTH AND
DENTAL INSURANCE

(TEAM 2)

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VFW POST 67

RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS

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***THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL
BE PUBLISHED AFTER THE FEB. 9
GENERAL MEETING.***

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

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

PRACTICES DURING WINTER MONTHS

Opportunities to keep in softball shape over the winter include 9 a.m. practices Tuesdays and Thursdays at Carmichael Park (weather permitting, of course). 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 expects to have some tickets from his season ticket package available for Rivercats games in 2015. He expects to have tickets available for Saturday night and Sunday afternoon games, and perhaps other days of the week. The new affiliation with the Giants has heightened interest in the Pacific Coast League team. Contact Lou at 444-6138.

TPA DINNER-DANCE. The annual Tournament Players Association (TPA) Dinner-Dance is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21 and the event is open to non-TPA players who are members of the Golden Seniors. TPA President Bob Lowery said the event at the Lakeview Village clubhouse in Citrus Heights is free for TPA members. Check with Lowery at 275-0953 for tickets and pricing, which he said will be priced the same as last year for non-TPA members: \$15. He said the TPA board was to consider not charging TPA players for one guest. He also said he needs a head count as soon as possible (mid-January), so give him a call if you plan to attend. #

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** ...
524-9763 (Responsible for 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