
DUGOUT CHATTER

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

LAGGING SIGNUPS THREATEN VIABILITY OF TWO NIGHT LEAGUES

GSSCS leaders have set an end-of-February deadline for gaining enough signups to maintain Wednesday and/or Thursday night leagues at the Sacramento Softball Complex. The Board of Directors is pushing hard to get enough players.

All members are urged to encourage friends and former teammates to sign up for the two leagues that are seriously shorthanded.

Meanwhile, the five day leagues and Tuesday night's league have enough support for managers to conduct customary player drafts in February. Practice games will be scheduled for mid-March, although league commissioners and managers may decide to begin the regular season earlier than the week of March 30-April 2.

At the Feb. 9 general meeting, Player Agent Dave Tanner said lack of players signed up for L4 on Wednesday nights and L5 on Thursday nights are of "great concern." A six-team league with 12 players per squad needs 72 players and, as of Feb. 9, there were 43 for L4 and 52 for L5.

President Tom Sansone said he could not recall a year when the player shortage has been so severe. The board has been considering strategies to maintain both leagues but might be forced to consolidate L4 and L5 signups into one league. There are currently about 12 players who have signed up to play on both nights. Hopefully, more can be encouraged to play in both leagues, he said. (See Page 3)

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

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Wanted: More L4 and L5 players ASAP ... Other GSSCS leagues deemed ready to go for 2015 ... Protective masks mandatory for pitchers... Date for season-ending picnic still to be determined.

Club offers to pay costs of CPR and AED training for members. Learn how to save lives. Join the Golden Seniors "red hat" group.

Sunshine & Health Report.

List of Sponsors for 2015.

Short Hops: Winter practices. Check with Lou for RiverCats Tickets.

Club Contacts.

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Life Member **Bob South** has undergone back surgery and will be sidelined for the 2015 season. #

CLUB SPONSORS SAFETY TRAINING CLASSES FOR MEMBERS

Message from President Tom Sansone, originally sent to members via email on Feb. 11:

Have you ever wanted to be trained in First Aid/CPR? Now is your chance!

Club Safety Chairman J.C. Terry has arranged for members to receive training in First Aid, CPR and AED (defibrillator) at **no cost** to the club member. The American Red Cross will provide training for members through the Fulton-El Camino Park District and the club will pay the fees for members who sign up for the training.

If you have ever thought it might be important to be trained in CPR or First Aid, now is the time to do it. You can develop this skill to help your family, friends or other club members. The club feels this is an important skill for all its members to have. It is so important, the club has committed to paying the \$75 fee for any member to take the training course.

Training courses are scheduled for the following dates:

February 16th (Monday)

February 27th (Friday)

March 6th (Friday)

March 10th (Tuesday)

If you have any interest in saving a life, please contact JC Terry and sign up for one of these training classes. He can be reached at (916) 457-3393 or via email at terry_173@sbcglobal.net.

We have a number of Golden Seniors who have received this Red Cross certification. Because of this, a few Club members have received the benefit of their training. You only need to hear one of these stories to be convinced this is a "good thing." Please contact J.C. and register for the class.

Don't wait to sign up. Terry said at the Feb. 9 general meeting that he needs commitments as soon as possible for enough participants for the Red Cross to provide a trainer. Terry also points out that those who were certified two years ago may have expired Red Cross certifications and need to sign up for one of the above-listed classes to be recertified. #

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 Cloicic Wade

CLUB MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)

“We are still accepting applications,” Tanner said, noting that the player application can be found on the club website (www.gsscs.org). He also can be reached at 216-1941.

If the Board finds that one league (L4 or L5) is not viable, which which would you suspend for the 2015 season? Sansone noted the Thursday night league is the most expensive as the Complex charges more for the most popular night, yet GSSCS signups are fewer for L4 than L5. The minimum age for men in the night leagues is 50 (45 for women who can join any of the leagues five years younger than the minimum for men.).

Leagues have operated with fewer than 72 players in the past, by drafting 10- or 11-player teams to begin the season and filling out rosters with players signing up late, and counting on substitutes on nights when they have fewer than 10. Reducing a night league to four teams presents problems because the Complex is geared to charge for three games per night.

As for the other leagues, “we’re ready to go with the season,” Tanner said. The new L8 on Tuesdays, for players 75 and older, had 69 signups, with the probability of having five teams that means one will have a bye.

L7, for players 70 and older on Mondays, had 55 players signed up, enough for four teams of 13 players. L1 on Mondays (also 70+) had 78 signups, enough for six 13-player teams.

The two Tuesday morning leagues for players 60 and older were in good shape. L6 had 72 players for six 12-player teams. L2 had 81, with a waiting list of nine players. The club may expand rosters so that all those signed up begin the season assigned to a team.

In L4, commissioner Russ Barnes and Manager Bud DeSouza said they have made 80 phone calls between them to players who did not renew their memberships. L5 Commissioner Bob Ellison said he also has made many calls.

“No decision will be made until Feb. 28 -- that is the cut-off date,” said Sansone. “The other leagues will have had their team drafts by then.”

There were various suggestions for increasing club membership but, ultimately, the most effective is recruiting by existing members, Sansone said.

The January and February general meetings have been well-attended compared to recent years, and Sansone noted that he has been sending out email blasts with meeting notices and other news to 450 members for whom he has email addresses. He said that while last year only about 25% were actually opening the emails, his emails this year are being opened by 75% to 80% of the recipients.

In other general meeting news: (See Page 4)

CLUB MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 3)

BY-LAWS. The membership unanimously adopted amendments to the club by-laws, mainly clarifications and clean-up language.

PROTECTIVE MASKS FOR PITCHERS. Sansone reiterated that the board has decided to conform to Senior Softball USA rules that require pitchers to wear protective masks. Many pitchers already wear masks, as do a number of infielders. Sansone said the club will have a mask available if a pitcher forgets his mask or if a fielder is pressed into action on the mound. The club expects that all pitchers will want to provide their own masks, to make sure they have a good fit and for their own hygiene.

Pitchers also are wise to wear shin guards and other protective gear, but they will absolutely not be allowed to pitch without a mask.

SCHEDULES. Sansone said the board is still dealing with schedules and wording on rules so “stay tuned.” By the March 9 general meeting “we’ll have all this resolved.”

PICNIC DATE. Sansone said the board had been thinking of setting Saturday, Sept. 5 for the annual season-ending picnic, with championship games for the day leagues at Howe Park. However, he said there is some discussion about extending the season a couple more weeks.

PRACTICE GAMES. The Complex becomes available for games on March 16, so there could be two weeks of practice games. But individual leagues may decide they want an earlier start to the regular season.

SPONSORS. First VP Jon Ellison reported that he had 25 paid team sponsorships, including Bill Hill who took advantage of the club’s new two-year sponsorship deal by which the first year is \$300 and the second year \$250. He said he had three teams sponsored by in-kind donations, such as the team in memory of Jerry Jodice, whose son Jamyn works on the club’s website; EG Threads, which provides lettering on team uniforms, and VFW Post 67, where the club has general meetings.

There also are five other sponsors that have committed, which brings the total to 33. Depending on what happens in L4 and L5, the club could have as many as 45 teams in the eight leagues.

NEW MEMBERS. The club has 29 new members for 2015. Normally, the club gains about 50 new members, including those who join during the season. As of January, the club had not heard back from 178 of the 400+ Golden Seniors who were mailed renewal applications.

EMAILS. Tanner said that this year there has been a 10% increase in the number of members receiving club communications via email, saving thousands of dollars in the club postage budget.

COMPLEX MAINTAINS RATES. Sansone said the Complex is charging the same rates for fields as it has for the past four years.

TPA DINNER DANCE. Bill Hill reminded the membership that the Tournament Players Association’s annual dinner-dance is Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Lakeview Village clubhouse in Citrus Heights. The event is free for TPA members and spouses; \$15 for others, including GSSCS members who are not TPA players. For more information, contact TPA President Bob Lowery at 275-0953. # .

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Sponsors Committed for
2015 as of Feb. 9:

AMERICAN MEDIQUIP, LLC
AVALON HEARING AID
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 1)
AVALON HEARING AID
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 2)
BECKS, IN MEMORY OF
BILL AND SHIRLEY BECK
BERTOLUCCI BODY &
FENDER SHOP, INC.
BILL HILL REPLACEMENT
WINDOWS
BILL HILL ROOFING &
VINYL SIDING
C&C PLUMBING AND
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
EG THREADS
ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)
ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)
GEREMIA POOLS
GSSA (GREATER
SACRAMENTO
SOFTBALL ASSN.)
HARPER PROPERTIES
JERRY JODICE, IN
MEMORY OF
JOLLY ROGERS
L&S SURVEYS
MARK E. WHITE, DDS
MERRILL BOOKKEEPING
AND INCOME TAX (Ray
Merrill)
R.H. NIELSEN REAL
ESTATE/APPRaisal
R.H. NIELSEN REAL
ESTATE/APPRaisal
(TEAM 2)
OVERHEAD DOOR
COMPANY OF
SACRAMENTO, INC.
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)

*RDR FINANCIAL
SERVICES --
TAX PREPARATION
REINWALD'S HEALTH AND
DENTAL INSURANCE
*SACRAMENTO AREA
FIRE FIGHTERS
LOCAL 522
SAM'S HOF BRAU
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS
SPORTS LEISURE
VACATIONS
TANNER AND ASSOCIATES
TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF
AUBURN, INC.

VFW POST 67
RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS
YANCEY COMPANY
* = New sponsor in 2015
Also verbally committed to
sponsor in 2015 are
members Mick Tursky and
Steve Pegos.
Note: Jon Ellison, 1st VP in
charge of sponsorships,
reported Feb. 9 that he is
pursuing leads for
additional sponsors,
including a half-dozen 2014
sponsors not yet committed
for 2015. Former 1st VP
Dick Latimer is assisting
(Thank you, Dick). For
information on how to be a
sponsor, contact Ellison at
880-0202.

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

***WATCH FOR CLUB PRESIDENT TOM
SANSONE'S EMAIL "BLASTS" FOR
IMPORTANT INFORMATION.***

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, especially 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.

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
(coachrwr@comcast.net)