

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC EDITION – MARCH 2016

ON THE INTERNET: WWW.GSSCS.ORG CLUB NEWS HOTLINE: 491-1721

WET FIELDS DELAY SEASON OPENERS; SEPT. 17 PICNIC IS SET

Rain-soaked fields delayed the start of some Golden Seniors league play in March but did not dampen enthusiasm as the club launches a new year of slow-pitch softball in eight leagues.

At the March 14 general meeting, Club President Bill Hill announced that the Sept. 17 date for the season-ending picnic has been “re-confirmed” for Howe Park in conjunction with day league championship games.

The night leagues will have their championship games at the Sacramento Softball Complex on dates that coincide with their regular night schedules.

It was announced by Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison that leagues 3, 4 and 5 playoffs will involve “IF” games to assure a true double-elimination format. No longer will the league top seed be eliminated with one loss. If that team is defeated, there will be a second game.

The board of directors also is looking to move two weeks of play for the Tuesday day leagues to Elk Grove during May when the Complex is occupied with major tournaments. This has worked well in the past for day leagues but cannot be done for night leagues because the various venues have rec leagues at nights. (See Page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Rest in Peace Jim Wait, Dolores Rose Turner. Club Sponsors. League Commissioners. Geezer League News. Club Contacts.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Monday, May 9, 7 P.M. at VFW Hall on Stockton Blvd.

MARCH MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE 1

Other news:

Safety. Hill announced that Glenn Cummings has stepped up and volunteered to serve as the club's safety commissioner. Glenn will be working with the Red Cross to coordinate CPR-AED (defibrillator) training. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Picnic Committee and Awards Banquet or Dinner-Dance. Hill issued a call for volunteers to serve on a committee to take charge of the club picnic. He also would like to explore the idea of a season-ending awards dinner-dance for all leagues. He emphasized that that picnic will continue at Howe Park in conjunction with day league championship games, but he wants to reduce its cost (\$4,000) by changing the menu and restrict consumption of club-supplied beer to a one or two beers to go with a hot-dog or hamburger. Night league all-star games are a possibility at the picnic, and all leagues are invited. The season-ending banquet would be designed to recognize all league championship teams and other club awards. Stay tuned for further details.

Sponsors. Club 1st VP Rocky Wilkerson said new sponsors include Cool Kettle Corn, Wurm and Frye Wealth Management, Laurie Honshu DDS and La Rosa's Sports Cafe. Jersey colors were still being matched up with teams in some leagues.

Late Signups. The Wednesday night (L4) and Thursday night (L5) signups have continued to come in, albeit late, which complicates league drafts. Club Commissioner Ellison said those who sign up late will be placed on teams for four-week trial periods before permanent placements are made in the interest of parity among teams. L5, for example, just got seven new signups, and is almost at 12 players per team. L4 has 10 per team with more people signing up. The board will explore ways to encourage earlier signups in the future, such as reduced fees for "early birds."

Equipment. 2nd VP Chuck Knutson reported on the work that has been done to make sure balls, jerseys, etc., are ready for the new season. Assisted by Bob Smartt, Knutson has arranged for members to purchase club sweatshirts (\$30). In addition to newly designed caps, the club is providing visors. Knutson said more needs to be done to retrieve balls that are hit over the fence at the Complex. He noted that 120 balls were hit over the fence plus 50 more that went over in foul territory during 2015. Efforts will be made to unlock gates so the balls can be easily recovered.

Knutson said he also is still looking for a volunteer to serve as club archivist to examine materials in storage and decide what needs to be moved to a more appropriate location.

Thursday 75+ League. The GSSCS board has been asked by Larry Campbell to recognize the Thursday morning (75 and older) league at Carmichael Park as a GSSCS "affiliate" without costing the club anything. While the board ponders the request, Hill said the Thursday league's news and announcements can be reported in the Dugout Chatter newsletter and the club website can include a link. Players include many Golden Seniors life members and others who have played in the club. Games are 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Water at Complex. At this time, the city has determined the water at the complex is non-potable and therefore the restaurant cannot open due to county health regulations. **Players are advised to bring their own drinking water to games until further notice.** Note: Bathrooms are useable and hand-washing stations have been set up inside both bathrooms.

#

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: JIM WAIT, DOLORES ROSE TURNER

James Grant Wait, who suffered a severe stroke shortly after the 2015 season concluded, passed away on March 2. Jim was 74 and was a Golden Senior Softball Club player for 13 years, including years when he managed a team. He was a line-drive-hitting, sure-handed infielder who “loved playing softball, and played several times a week with a bunch of the world’s greatest guys,” wrote Jim’s wife, Patty, in an obituary published in the Sacramento Bee with a photo of Jim at bat. He also played with the Sacramento Blues tournament team and in the Sierra Valley League. Jim served in state government, retiring as chief deputy director of the State Fire Marshall Office. He also volunteered to make sure the Dugout Chatter would arrive in members’ mailboxes. Many of Jim’s softball teammates were among the large turnout at his March 13 memorial service.

Dolores Rose Turner, wife of Life Member Bill Turner, passed away on Feb. 11. She was 96. Bill and Dolores were married 74 years. She was a two-time cancer survivor who died after a long illness.

A torn rotator cuff has sidelined **Joe Cors**. He was hurt making a throw from the outfield in St. George, Utah, last October and has undergone surgery. Joe said he might be able to do some soft-toss exercises in July or August and plans to come out and watch some Tuesday morning games. He also is on the Omen 70s roster and will serve as a coach this season.

Good news from **Terry Hennessy**. The CEO of Senior Softball-USA announced March 10 that his surgery was successful and doctors have determined that what they originally thought was cancer on his hip was a stress fracture. He is resuming his duties as leader of SSUSA and plans to play ball this year. He urged support of the CAN-Sirs organization and the needs to for early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, especially prostate cancer. #

LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2016

Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison has appointed the following league commissioners for 2016: L1 Henry Low 391-3939, L2 Bob Smartt 973-8269, L3 Mel Tennyson, L4 Brian Pearson 947-4384, L5 Bobby Ellison (acting) 212-7498, L6 Ray Lucas 718-3348, L7 Jim Stinson 397-3012, L8 Cloicec Wade 393-5809. #

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

League schedules for 2016 will be available through a link on the club website, it was announced at the March 14 general meeting.

SUPPORT YOUR SPONSORS!!!

AMERICAN MEDEQUIP, LLC
AVALON HEARING AID
CENTER, INC. (2 TEAMS)
BERTOLUCCI BODY &
FENDER SHOP, INC.
*JOEL JASPIN
JOHN BRENDLE
CONSULTING
*COOL KETTLE CORN
EG THREADS
ELK GROVE LOCK & SAFE
ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (2 TEAMS)
GEREMIA POOLS
GREATER SACRAMENTO
SOFTBALL ASSN.
*LAURIE HANSCHU, DDS
*LA ROSA'S SPORTS CAFE
HARPER PROPERTIES
BILL HILL (2 TEAMS)
JERRY JODICE, IN
MEMORY OF
JOLLY ROGER
L&S SURVEYS (2 TEAMS)
LIVINGSTON CONCRETE
SERVICE
MARK E. WHITE, DDS
MERRILL BOOKKEEPING
R.H. NIELSEN REAL
ESTATE/APPRaisal (2
TEAMS)

OVERHEAD DOOR
COMPANY OF
SACRAMENTO, INC.
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)
REINWALD HEALTH &
DENTAL
RDR FINANCIAL
SERVICES --
TAX PREPARATION
SACRAMENTO AREA
FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL
522
SAM'S HOF BRAU
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS
SPORTS LEISURE
VACATIONS
TANNER & ASSOCIATES
TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF
AUBURN, INC.(2 TEAMS)
VFW POST 67
*WURM AND FRYE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
WENELLI'S PIZZA
YANCEY COMPANY

*New sponsor in 2016
For information on how to
become a sponsor for 2016
or take advantage of two-
year sponsorship terms,
contact Rocky Wilkerson,
first vice president, at
595-2941.

**Help the club grow by inviting
friends to join in the fun. You can refer them to the
club website for player applications or have them
call Player Agent Dave Tanner 216-1941.
Watch for "Email blasts" for information updates.**

75 and Older “Geezer” League Plays at Carmichael Park

From Larry Campbell

The 75+ Geezer League began on March 3 with nine teams. The Geezer League accepts young women players in recognition and appreciation of the young womens' league that enabled our first Golden Senior team in 1977 to play in a league at their competitive level. Today, when our Club has grown to eight leagues during the week, and young women have little or no women's leagues in the mornings, they can now join the Geezer league.

This makes it possible for family members to play together on the same team as husband and wife (John & Anita Lack) , fathers and daughters (Bob Nielsen & Erica), mothers and daughters (Linda McCollum-Greene, Tara and Andrea), grandfathers and granddaughters (Larry Campbell, Jessica and Sydney), uncles and nieces (Jerry Moore & LaVona Miller), etc. All of these combinations are currently playing on Thursday at Carmichael Park at 9:30 AM or 10:45 AM.

Our first games included the rarest double play in memory. The batter hit a high pop fly that was “heading” for the pitcher's area; it hit the pitcher on the top of his head; bounced 8 feet straight up in the air; and was caught by an infielder before touching the ground; then doubled off the runner who went to second when he saw the ball was not caught on its first “landing.” For more details, ask hard-headed Bob Wilson, alert Ed Ozuna and fast Jack Warren. It all happened so fast that the batter and infielder will have to identify themselves.

Senior Softball USA confirms that there are no other weekly leagues of four 75+ teams in Florida or St. George, or anywhere in the world. Which seems to make our GSSCS 14 teams in two leagues, and Sacramento, the Senior Softball Capital of the World. Call Larry Campbell at 485-4843 to get on the waiting list as geezers do tend to need replacements often. #

GOLDEN SENIORS GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

MAY 9, JULY 11, AUG 15, SEPTEMBER (TO BE DETERMINED)

MEETINGS ARE AT THE VFW POST 67 HALL ON STOCKTON BLVD., IN SACRAMENTO. USUAL MEETING TIME IS 7 P.M.

DUGOUT CHATTER GSSCS — MARCH 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2015-16 -- President: **Bill Hill** ... 804-2243

First Vice President: **Rocky Wilkerson** .. 595-2541 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President: **Chuck Knutson** ... 524-9763 (Responsible for team uniforms,

balls.) Treasurer: **Don Wall** ... 434-8308 Secretary: **Deanna Sesso** ... 955-8195 Player

Agent: **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes,

waiting lists.) Club Commissioner: **Bobby Ellison** ... 212-7498 (Responsible for

enforcement of league 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

ONLINE AT WWW.GSSCS.ORG

Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 973-8269

Rules: Bobby Ellison

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 456-1500

Entertainment: Lou Coppola 444-6138

Safety: Glenn Cummings 791-9165

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)

Still getting your Dugout Chatter via the U.S. Mail? Most Golden Seniors have opted to see their Dugout Chatter online (www.gsscs.org), which saves the club hundreds of dollars in postage alone. You can help by calling Dave Tanner 216-1941 and asking to take your name off the Dugout Chatter mailing list. Plus the online edition often contains more news and features, and pictures. Check it out!!!