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# DUGOUT CHATTER

**NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO — ELECTRONIC EDITION — AUGUST 2016**

## **BILL HILL IS RE-ELECTED TO LEAD GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB IN 2017; SMARTT JOINS SIX INCUMBENT DIRECTORS**

President Bill Hill and five other incumbent members of the Golden Seniors Softball Board of Directors were re-elected and were joined by Bob Smartt as the club's new second vice president at the Aug. 15 general meeting.

The unanimous voice vote endorsed the unopposed slate nominated at the club's July meeting. Smartt has spent the current year working with Chuck Knutson for a seamless takeover of the second VP duties — chiefly making sure there are uniform jerseys, hats and balls for eight leagues.

The board, which will be sworn in at the club's annual picnic Sept. 17 at Howe Park, will then begin working on the budget for the coming season, the club's 37th.

Besides Hill and Smartt, the board consists of 1st VP Rocky Wilkerson, Treasurer Don Wall, Secretary Deanna Sesso, Player Agent Dave Tanner and Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison. (See Page 2)

***INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Sunshine & Health Report: RIP George Langan, Ken Dumont, Russ Menke, Michael Virga; League Standings; Sponsors; League Commissioners; Contacts.***

***NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Saturday, Sept. 17 at Howe Park in conjunction with club picnic & playoffs***



**AUGUST MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE 1**

## August Meeting News:

**Picnic.** Hill said the club is budgeting \$4,500 to \$4,700 for the event that is expected to be attended by 250 members, spouses, significant others and guests. Each member and a spouse or significant other are free; guests are \$15 for the catered meal of tri-tip, chicken, salad, and garlic bread. Soft drinks and water will be provided. The club will not provide beer as it has in the past. Instead, the club will obtain a permit to allow attendees to bring their own beer or wine. Hill said the picnic committee is small at this time and needs more volunteer help. The picnic chair is Trudy Smartt, assisted by Bob Smartt, Paul Rogers, Ralph Catlin and a few others who have expressed interest.

Hill said he is open to discuss alternatives to a picnic to mark the end of the season, such as a dinner-dance, but no one stepped up to lead such a discussion. "I asked for a committee to consider other things and no one volunteered," he said, adding that he likes the idea of a dinner-dance, but the club cannot afford to have both a picnic and a dinner-dance.

**Fighting and Umpire Disrespect.** Hill said there have been instances of fighting among players and disrespect of umpires, resulting in suspensions. Further, he stressed that such actions will not be tolerated by him and the board. Player Agent Dave Tanner said he refuses to accept membership applications or renewals without signatures agreeing to the club's standards for behavior. Hill: "We're not tolerating it. If you are going to fight, you are going to be gone from the league. This is very disappointing to have to say this."

**Defibrillator Disappears.** Hill said one of the club's two defibrillators was taken from the "crash cart" at the Complex after it was left out of the office overnight. The club is using a borrowed AED while shopping for a new one, which could cost \$1,200 or more.

AUGUST MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE 2

**Equipment.** Knutson said he has ordered a dozen large size GSSCS hooded and zippered sweatshirts. Price: \$30. Contact Knutson or Bob Smartt. (Yes, it is too hot now, but these will feel good this winter and next spring.)

**Honored.** Chief Umpire Tom Bussey was congratulated for his recent induction into the Northern California Senior Softball Association Hall of Fame.

**Playoffs.** Club Commissioner Ellison said playoff games will have two umpires. He also noted that, due to injuries, a lot of teams have been scrambling for players with playoffs approaching. There are no waiting lists. He said there needs to be a discussion of possibly increasing the number of substitutes allowed for playoffs in 2017.

**Award of Merit.** George Hodsdon said the committee of former award winners was scheduled to meet Aug. 19 to decide the 2016 recipient or recipients of the club's Award of Merit for above-and-beyond service to the club. The winners will be announced at the picnic.

**Thursday League.** The board did not approve a request from Larry Campbell to give his 75+ league on Thursdays at Carmichael Park official GSSCS status as a ninth club league. Hill said there were concerns that having a number of younger women (grandchildren or children) would be in violation of club Bylaws. Since there are many GSSCS members participating in Campbell's league, the club is running league information in the Dugout Chatter.

**Bats.** The board took no action on a proposal by L7 player Bob Cabelera to allow the same 1.21 bats that players use at the Complex in L7 for those older players (70 and older) who play in L7, a 70-and-over league at Howe Park. He said he surveyed L7 players this summer and "70 percent" wanted to use the better bats. Hill said he wanted such questions to be up to players, managers and league commissioners, not the board, but in the meantime there may be issues such as extra insurance that might be needed to use hot bats on fields with 65-foot bases at Howe Park.

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## LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2016

Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison has appointed the following league commissioners for 2016: L1 Henry Low 391-3938, 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. #

## SUNSHINE AND HEALTH

### REST IN PEACE: DUMONT, MENKE, VIRGA, LANGAN

Four veterans of the Golden Seniors Softball Club passed away in recent months — the oldest life member months away from his 100th birthday, club icons and a retired judge.

On July 18, **Russell Henry Menke** passed away at the age of 99, and his family planned a memorial service on Jan. 4, 2017 — his 100th birthday, according to his obituary July 31 in the *Sacramento Bee*. Russ joined the Golden Seniors in 1983 and became a life member, playing until about 1995. He also played on one of the club's traveling tournament teams. "He was a very good ballplayer and really a nice man," recalled Life Member Bill Turner. The Bee obituary featured Menke's military service as a WWII bomber pilot and his teaching career, including 29 years at California Junior High School in Sacramento.

Menke's passing leaves Norm Cady, who'll be 98 next March, as the oldest surviving GSSCS life member, about a year older than Lloyd Wagoner and Turner, according to the club's computerized roster of active players and inactive members.

**Kenneth Durane Dumont** was 94 when he passed away on May 20. He served in the Army in WWII and the Korean Conflict, in a military career that began in 1942 and ended with retirement in 1964. He worked for the state and federal governments, permanently retiring in 1981. "Ken was a brilliant man, a master sergeant in the Army," Bill Turner recalled.

Melissa (Dumont) Wheeler wrote on May 24 to inform the GSSCS of her grandfather's passing. "Before his body told him 'no,' my grandpa loved being a part of the Golden Seniors Softball Club. In addition to being a player, he was also a board member, and a (Dumont Pest Control) sponsor for four teams. In the obituary he wrote for himself, he focused on his time with the Golden Seniors Softball Club. Seeing as he found such great joy in the Golden Seniors Softball Club, my brother and I thought what better recipient of any 'in memory' donations!" Thus the family asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Golden Seniors.

Dumont joined GSSCS in 1983. In 1993, he was recognized as the club's Man of the Year.

**Michael J. Virga**, who died July 9 at the age of 84, spent decades as a judge, presiding over a number of high-profile Superior Court cases (the Puente murder trial, for example). He was an outstanding baseball player, including semi-pro ball. He was a major booster of high school (McClatchy) and youth baseball. He joined the Golden Seniors in 1987 at the age of 55. (See Page 5)

SUNSHINE & HEALTH, FROM PAGE 4

Life Member **George Langan**, 86, passed away on Aug. 16. He has been a non-playing Golden Senior member in recent years, having joined the club in 1990. Claudia Langan Neal, George's daughter, informed Larry Campbell when Larry called to invite George and Claudia to the 75+ senior softball league picnic Aug. 18 at Carmichael Park. George, who played and managed, was a "very good man who gave generous service to senior softball for decades and the founding of our 75+ league," Campbell said. Claudia, now 56, played for a Bobby Sox girls softball team managed and coached by Campbell and his wife. Now Claudia says she looks forward to playing in Campbell's 75-plus coed league (where gals of younger age are welcome). "Coach" Langan's obituary was in the Aug. 21 Sacramento Bee.

*HEALTH NEWS:* **Dave Vargo**, known as a GSSCS iron man who played in many leagues and came back from double knee replacement, says he is "optimistically battling virulent head and neck cancer with drugs, surgery and radiation." Sunshine and Health Chair Trudy Smartt also reports that another multi-league player, **Bill McMahan**, had back surgery to repair a disc that had become a serious issue that he initially thought was merely pain related to his new knee. "What a difference 40 years make," Bill said, noting that when he had back surgery four decades ago, he was hospitalized for three days and was in pain for three weeks. "This time, after five days, I didn't need to use any pain medication. He had surgery at 8:15 a.m. and went home at noon the same day. Now he can lift his left foot, he said, "a really good sign." #

## CARMICHAEL 75+ LEAGUE

Larry Campbell's Thursday 75+ league at Carmichael Park celebrated the ongoing season with eight fast-paced games and a picnic on Sept. 18. Campbell's report: A big THANK YOU to so many players who helped make our two-pitch tournament and best-attended picnic work so well. Ron Smith had all four fields in top condition. Ernie Kidwell organized a crew of Al Valentine, Gus Hagen and Ron Smith to help him provide the equipment for two extra fields. Bill Werry and Ose Osborne came early to help line the fields and put out bases. Bob and Lois Nielsen went the extra mile on picnic work; Doug Hatley and Ernie Shaffer were in perpetual motion on the grill with help from Bob and Lois. Jacinto Jack had lots of beans ready. Steve Pegos added steamed dogs and buns. John and Anita Lack added a keg of popular brew. Jack Friesell provided the music from our youth. Ed Caluza could be heard over the happy crowd to conduct Bingo and its prizes. Linda McCollum Greene did a lot of work to display her game photos so we could choose copies. So many more of you added the tasty side dishes that provided a feast for all. Thank you for all your contributions to our best tournament and picnic day so far. We learned more on how to do it better next year so Doug Hatley can finally have a hamburger as the last to eat. More games to go." #

## NEWS FROM HOWE PARK DAY LEAGUES

From Henry Low

**League One (70+):** Regular-season play ends on Monday, Aug. 29, just before the Labor Day Holiday, and our four-team playoff will be on Monday, Sept. 12. The Nielsen Real Estate team has won our first three rounds of head-to-head play and will be the top seed. The Wenelli's Pizza and Billy Beck teams have qualified for the playoffs based on total wins for the season, but there is still a battle for the fourth playoff spot from among the L&S Surveys, Harper Properties and Showbiz Production teams. Final seedings will be determined after games of Aug. 29.

**League Seven (70+):** The regular season ended on Aug. 15 and the four-team double-elimination playoffs were set to start on Aug. 22 and be completed after the Labor Day Holiday on Sept. 12. The Bertolucci's team had a dominating 17-2 record at the end of the regular season, followed in seeding order by the Jolly Roger, Tanner and Overhead Door teams.

**League Eight (75+):** The regular season ended Tuesday, Aug. 16, and the five-team double-elimination playoffs will begin on Aug. 23. They will be completed after the Labor Day Holiday on Sept. 13. The Nielsen Real Estate team had a dominating regular season with a 16-1 record, followed in seeding order by the L&S Surveys, Merrill Bookkeeping, American MedEquip and Dibos teams. #

## NIGHT LEAGUES STANDINGS UPDATE

### Tuesday Night L-3 (thru Aug. 16)

Tri-C 16-1

Avalon 12-5

Wurm & Frye 9-8

La Rosa Sports Cafe 7-10

Bill Hill 6-11

Geremia Pools 1-16

### Wednesday Night L-4 Standings (thru Aug. 17)

Tri-C Machine 16-1

RDR Financials 11-6

Reinwald Insurance 8-9

Elk Grove Lock & Safe 6-10

Laurie Hanshu DDS 5-11

Firefighters Local 522 4-11

### Thursday Night L-5 Standings (thru Aug. 18)

Bill Hill 10-6

Rapid Solutions 9-6

John Brendle 8-7-1

Rabbit Inc. 7-7-1

Espanol Italian Restaurant 7-8-1

Cool Kettle Corn 4-11-1

Notes: On June 23, both L-4 and L-5 played only two games due to mosquito spraying in the area. All 9 p.m. games were canceled at the Complex. Playoffs are scheduled to begin Aug. 23 (L-3), Aug. 24 (L-4) and 25 (L-5). # (Editor's Note: Standings for L-2 and L-6 (Tuesday day leagues) were unavailable to the Dugout Chatter.)

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SCOREKEEPERS DAWN MARIE GERLACH AND VENUS GERLACH, AND THE  
SPECIAL ASSIST BY RUSS BARNES WHO PUT THE COMPUTERIZED  
SCOREKEEPING PROGRAM TOGETHER.*

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## *DUGOUT CHATTER GSSCS – AUGUST 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 Deanna Sesso) 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](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)

**Sunshine & Health:** Trudy Smartt 973-8269

**Rules:** Bobby Ellison 212-7498

**GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:** 456-1500

**Entertainment:** Lou Coppola 444-6138

**Safety:** Glenn Cummings 276-9530

**Dugout Chatter:** Ron Roach, editor 422-2500  
([coachrwr@comcast.net](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net))

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