
DUGOUT CHATTER

GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ELECTRONIC EDITION — AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017

COMPLEX PICNIC & PLAYOFFS SET FOR SEPT. 16

Returning to the four-field Sacramento Softball Complex, the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento will celebrate the conclusion of the 2017 season with all league championship games and a gala picnic on Saturday, Sept. 16.

For the past several years, the picnic was moved to Howe Park but something was lacking: the championship games for the three night leagues. As a result, the picnic turnout was diminished due to having only the day leagues decide their championships on Picnic/Playoffs Day. There are not enough fields at Howe Park so (See Page 2)

BOARD HIKES FEES; OKAYS NEW LEAGUE

The Board of Directors of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento on Aug. 14 increased 2018 league fees by \$5 and created a Tuesday league at Howe Park for the club's growing number of octogenarians.

The board also decided to allow women as young as 60 to play in the Howe Park day leagues, so there is real potential for daughters to play softball with their 80-and-older dads, or nieces with uncles.

The other day leagues at Howe Park are 75+ League 8 on Tuesdays, and 70+ Leagues 1 and 7 on Mondays. Women now play in these leagues when they are 65 for L1 and L7, and 70 in L8.

The board also approved a lowered age for Wednesday night's L4 at the Sacramento Softball Complex, to 55 for men and 50 for women, instead of the current 60-and-over (55 for women). "We're just not getting the numbers of players we need. The board thinks it can fill the league a little better," said President Bill Hill.

On the hike in league fees, Hill said that the board has not approved an increase in recent years while spending down a surplus that had grown too large to justify for a non-profit organization. Treasurer Don Wall said the \$5 increase is needed to keep a prudent surplus amounting to about \$40,000, or roughly half the size of the club's annual operating budget. (See Meeting News Page 2)

PICNIC, FROM PAGE 1

the night leagues have played their title games on their game nights at the Complex.

Thanks to the efforts of the Board of Directors and especially club Secretary Deanna Sesso, the club negotiated use of the Complex. She also is chairperson of the Picnic Committee. Her committee, as of Aug. 17, consists of Trudy Smartt, Paul Rodgers, Ralph Catlin and Caroline Saenz. More volunteers will be needed. Contact Deanna at 955-8195.

Picnic Details: LaRosa's Sports Cafe, a club sponsor, will provide fountain drinks, BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs, BBQ baked beans, potato and macaroni salads and chips. Cake will be available for dessert. Wristbands will be provided to go through the food line and get fountain drinks. As with last year, the club will not provide beer. Beer may be purchased at a reduced rate from the Complex cafe. Members and spouses or significant other, are free. Additional guests are \$15 each. A reduced price is being worked out for children. #

AUGUST MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE 1

The player applications for 2018 will include the new L9 for men 80 and over and women 60 and over and launch the new league if there are sufficient signups.

Players applying for L7 (playing at 11 a.m. on Mondays at Howe Park) will be joining a league with players allowed to use Senior Softball USA-approved bats, such as Miken Ultra II, Combat and Dudley, that are rated at 1.21. All the other Howe Park day leagues are restricted to ASA bats rated at 1.20.

Hill said the bat issue was difficult for the board and the decision came after he and Club Commissioner Bob Ellison met with L7 players and determined that the use of better bats had the support of most players. Some have said they will not play in L7 next year, while other 70+ players from Tuesday's 60-and-over L2 and L6 would consider joining L7 if they can bring their favorite bats.

There is support to allow the SSUSA-approved 1.21 senior bats in the new L9 and Hill said the decision will be made by that league's commissioner and team managers.

The board will continue to consider safety measures, such as protective screens. The board decided to maintain the 65-foot bases at Howe Park, which conforms with SSUSA rules.

Hill reiterated that the board really does not want to be involved in league decisions and generally leaves it up to league commissioners and team managers.

In other action, President Hill and the rest of the board, nominated unopposed at the July meeting, were elected to serve another year. This will be Hill's third year at the helm. They will be sworn in at the Sept. 16 picnic. # PAGE 2

***NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
SEPT. 16 AT CLUB PICNIC***

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: STEVE PEGOS, AQUA GORDON'S ISAIAH BRIDGETT

Life Member **Steve Pegos**, 80, passed away in his sleep on Aug. 3, and his life was celebrated by many of his softball buddies who attended an Aug. 17 Carmichael Park Veterans Memorial Hall luncheon hosted by his sons. Pegos, a U.S. Army veteran, worked in different capacities for 68 years and played for more than 30 years in senior softball with the Golden Seniors and in the Thursday 75+ league at Carmichael Park, where he was the league's hard-working treasurer. He also played in the GSSCS on a team sponsored by Wenelli's "Eat Our Crust" Pizza. He loved his late wife, Joanne, his family, senior softball and pizza. Wenelli's has a special "Steve Pegos" pizza on the menu. Larry Campbell, leader of the Carmichael league, said the "special event for Steve" enhanced the Thursday 75+ league's annual picnic that capped the day's league championship games.

Condolences to GSSCS player Aquanetta Gordon and her family for the loss of her son, fatally shot at a North Highlands house party. **Isaiah Bridgett**, 22, was the second son she has buried, reported the Sacramento Bee on Aug. 1. Bridgett was 13 when brother Benjamin Underwood died of cancer that had taken his eyesight. Aquanetta wrote a book describing how Benjamin, with Isaiah's help, learned to make clicking sounds, a skill used by bats and dolphins to identify objects. He was able to ride his bike and play games. The book, published in 2014 is "Echoes of an Angel: The Miraculous True Story of a Boy Who Lost His Eyes But Could Still See." Aqua gives motivational talks and, The Bee reported, will incorporate Bridgett in her talks. "I will use this to help others," she said. "He will not have died in vain."

John Blackwell, unable to play in recent years while battling cancer, has the disease in remission, reports his brother, Norm Blackwell Sr.

Henry Fontes tripped on his shoestring and suffered a broken hip about six months ago, and recently had post-surgery complications, according to Dante Ciardella. Dante, also a hip surgery veteran, explained Henry's absence at the club's Aug. 18 Award of Merit meeting for 2017. Another former Award of Merit recipient, **Ken Wollenberg**, has moved to Louisiana with his wife to live with her sister, Ciardella said. Ken, a former club president, suffers from dementia.

Bob Annecone's L1 season ended in June as the L&S Surveys outfielder and lead-off hitter required surgery to treat a head tumor.

Surgeries slated. Wrist surgery was scheduled soon for **Dave Avery**, an injury that has cost him the 2017 season. And **Jack Tibbetts** planned an operation on his throwing shoulder. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2017 -- President: Bill Hill ... 804-2243

First Vice President: Rocky Wilkerson .. 595-2541 (Responsible for team sponsorships.) Second Vice President: Bob Smartt ... 973-8269 (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: Bob Ellison ... 212-7498 (Responsible for enforcement of league rules, appoints and 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; Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 973-8269; Rules: Bob Smartt 973-8269; 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)

2017 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

Appointed by Club Commissioner Bob Ellison, the following league commissioners are serving for the 2017 season:

L1 — Guy Anderson 916 858-1646; L2 — Bob Smartt 916 973-8269; L3 — Deanna Sesso (acting) 916 955-8195; L4 — Dick Reisinger 916 718-5671; L5 — Bob Ellison 916 212-7498; L6 — Ken Taylor 916 217-3654; L7 — Jim Stinson 916 397-3012; L8 — Cloicec Wade 916 393-5809 #

SHORT HOPS

Hall of Fame: Congratulations to Gus Niklas for his induction into the NorCal Senior Softball Hall of Fame. Gus, a veteran Golden Seniors player, is a mainstay for the San Francisco Seals tournament team. He was honored Aug. 10 at the annual NorCal Hall of Fame tourney in Manteca.

Sibling Rivalry: Trudy Smartt of Overhead Door and brother Patrick Morrison of Jolly Rogers made the final out of a recent League 7 game at Howe Park. Patrick hit a bouncer to his second-base sister, who fielded it flawlessly and threw to Steve Lawrence at first. Game over!!!! #

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**For information on how to become a
sponsor, contact Rocky Wilkerson, first
vice president, at 595-2941.**

*** — New 2017 sponsor.**

PAGE 5

