
DUGOUT CHATTER

GOLDEN SENIORS CLUB DIRECTORS MOVE AHEAD WITH FACEBOOK PROJECT AND REDESIGNED WEBSITE TO ATTRACT MORE MEMBERS; SET DRAFTS FOR NINE LEAGUES

Looking to the Internet to help boost membership, directors of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento are launching a Facebook project and redesigning the club website this year.

The board, at the Jan. 8 general meeting, continues to prepare for season-opening games the week of March 19, coinciding with Howe Park and the Sacramento Softball Complex's start of their spring leagues.

Club leaders urge returning players to sign up, particularly for the night leagues, and help recruit new players. For some reason, the younger night league players seem to drag their feet, while the club's veteran members are quicker to get their applications filed.

Team drafts were tentatively scheduled on March 5, 6 and 7 for the three night leagues and Feb. 23 or March 2 for the day leagues, Club Commissioner Bob Ellison announced. He also said pre-draft workouts will be scheduled in late February so managers can evaluate new players.

Club President Bill Hill announced that the club is going ahead with the creation of a Facebook Page to help boost club membership. As previously reported, Bob Kunnman is working on the Facebook project that will be focused on a demographic of prospective senior softball players in the region.

The club's website needs to be redesigned and it is hoped the club can keep the (www.gsscs.org) domain. If agreement cannot be reached for control over the current domain, a new website will need (SEE PAGE 2)

**NEXT
GENERAL
MEETING:
MONDAY, FEB.
12, 2018, 7 P.M.
AT VFW HALL
ON STOCKTON
BLVD.**

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE ONE

to be created. A club member or committee will be tasked with keeping information current on the website.

Membership unanimously approved the club's budget (\$79,062) for the fiscal year that runs through September 2018. Club Treasurer Don Wall said the budget reduces the club's reserve — or rainy day fund — to the \$35,000 range. Included are \$2,500 for the Facebook project and a \$2,500 donation to the Softball Complex for dugout shade covering.

Other club news:

Lagging Signups. Player Agent Dave Tanner said L3 (Tuesday night) had only 13 signups, while L4 (Wednesday night) had 27 and L5 (Thursday night) 18. They are envisioned to field six teams each.

Just two leagues (L2 and L6 on Tuesday mornings) have in excess of 60 signups and appear to be set for six-team leagues. The two (70+) Monday morning leagues at Howe Park have enough signups for four teams each. The new L9 (for players 80+) had 39 signups and looks like a four-team circuit. (Note: women can be 10 years younger for the leagues.)

Tanner said he expects an additional 200 players to sign up and about 30 percent will be playing in more than one league.

Need for Sponsorships. Rocky Wilkerson, club 1st vice president, said he plans to send mailers to auto dealerships and others to recruit more team sponsors (\$255 per year or \$450 for two years) and he asks members to call him (595-2541) if they know of prospective sponsors. The club budgets \$8,550 from sponsors, without which members would have to pay \$30-35 per year, Wilkerson said. The revamped website and new Facebook page may provide more opportunities for sponsor advertising.

Equipment. Bob Smartt, club 2nd VP, said the club will save money by limiting new hats to new members or those whose caps are so worn that they need replacing. Many members note they have closets full of GSSCS hats from many years. Members may still request bucket-style hats. Members are not required to wear hats but if they do, they must have a GSSCS logo. (See Page 3)

CLUB NEWS, FROM PAGE 2

Smartt also said the club will be using improved Trump Stote balls that will have the same performance standards but will be better able to withstand cold or wet weather. These are the balls that Senior Softball USA has announced will be used in its 2018 tournaments.

Rules. Ellison said he would hold a meeting in January for league commissioners and interested managers to discuss possible rules changes for 2018. No major changes were anticipated but there could be clarifications.

League Commissioners. Ellison said he has lined up commissioners for all leagues except the new L9 on Tuesday mornings for players 80 and over. Last year's commissioners of the other leagues are returning with one exception: L7 will be led by David Vargo.

Next General Meeting: The Feb. 12 meeting (7 p.m. at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard) will feature the induction of the Life Members Class of 2018. The club will provide pizza, cake and soft drinks.

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SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Rest in Peace: DOOLITTLE, RIENKS, GROSS, SLAVEN, NAVARRO

Five life members have passed away:

Ollie Don Doolittle, 84, who joined the club in 1994, died on Dec. 19. He also was active in the Thursday morning league at Carmichael Park.

Ron Rienks, 75, died suddenly on Dec. 9. He joined the club in 1997. Ron played in a number of leagues and usually had his own rooting section of kids and grandkids. Last year was his 20th year in the club, his first as a life member.

George Gross, 86, a 26-year club member, died Sept. 15. His wife notified the club of his passing.

Jack Slaven, 91, who joined the club in 1995, died in late 2017.

Fernando Navarro, who was 96 and lived in Fairfield, died early in 2017. Fernando was the fourth-oldest member when he passed. (The club's oldest member, Norm Cady, will be 99 on March 30. He's about a year older than Lloyd Wagoner, dob 3/18/20, and Bill Turner, 4/23/20.) #

BOARD SCHEDULES 2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

The Board of Directors scheduled these general meetings for 2018, all on Monday nights, starting at 7 p.m, at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard: February 12, March 12, May 14, July 9, Aug. 13. The February meeting will feature the induction of new Life Members. Nominations for the 2019 Board of Directors are due July 9 and the election is set for Aug. 13. The new board will be sworn in at the season-ending picnic and league championship games Sept. 15 at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

GRATEFUL. At the Jan. 8 general meeting, Norman Blackwell Sr. expressed his gratitude for so many of his fellow Golden Seniors who attended the Nov. 10 funeral services for his beloved “Peaches.” By the way, the recent SSUSA newsletter notes that Norm will be inducted into the Hall of Fame for SSUSA tournament managers. Norm is going to be honored at the Rock ’n Reno tourney in May.

SUPER SENIOR PLAYERS. Upon hearing of Jack Jacinto’s stature as the oldest active player in the club (See December Dugout Chatter), George Hodsdon noted there have been others in their nineties who have played in the Golden Seniors: Dinny Watson played in 2011 at the age of 91 — a good outfielder. And the late Fernando Navarro, a pitcher, drove to Sacramento every Monday to play in 2011 at the age of 90, In 2012, Bill Riehl was still playing at the age of 90.

LOSE A JACKET? Cloicec Wade (393-5809) reports that he has a “nice black jacket, size medium, Club Room brand, two zip pockets.” He said it was left in the 3B dugout, Field 1 at Howe Park late last League 7 season. Cloicec would have advertised this lost-but-found jacket earlier but has been busy getting used to his new pacemaker.

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME. Along with player applications on the web site is a list of boxes to check off for those who want to be considered to serve in the club. Besides the seven board officer spots (president, first vice president, second vice president, treasurer, club commissioner, player agent and secretary), options include: leading or serving on the picnic, rules and safety committees; service as a team manager, league commissioner, umpire, scorekeeper, photographer, publicity/communications and website management.

CODE OF ETHICS: Each member on player applications must sign a Code of Ethics in order to be accepted into the club. There are six points in the code:

1. Abide by club rules and by-laws as well as decisions of club officials.
2. Accept decisions of umpires and my team manager.
3. Avoid bodily contact that may injure myself or others.
4. Refrain from publicly degrading fellow club members and umpires.
5. Never direct abusive or profane language at an official or fellow club member.
6. Control the use of alcoholic beverages so as not to affect anyone or to cause adverse criticism. #

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***New sponsor in 2017**

**For information on how to become a
sponsor for 2017 or take advantage of
two-year sponsorship terms, contact
Rocky Wilkerson, first vice president, at
916-595-2941.**

2018 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

Appointed by Club Commissioner Bob Ellison, the following league commissioners have been approved for 2018: L1 — Guy Anderson 916-858-1646; L2 — Bob Smartt 916-973-8269; L3 — Deanna Sesso 916-955-8195; L4 — Dick Reisinger; L5 — Bob Ellison 916-212-7498; L6 — Ken Taylor 916-217-3654; L7 — Dave Vargo 916-205-1982 ; L8 Cloicec Wade 916-393-5809; L9 (to be determined).

CLUB CONTACTS:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2018 -- President: Bill Hill ... 916-804-2243

First Vice President: Rocky Wilkerson .. 916-595-2941 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President: Bob Smartt ... 916-973-8269 (Responsible for team uniforms, balls.)

Treasurer: Don Wall ... 916-434-8308 Secretary: Deanna Sesso ... 916-955-8195 Player

Agent: Dave Tanner ... 916-216-1941 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.) Club Commissioner: Bob Ellison ... 916-212-7498 (Responsible for enforcement of league rules, appoints and oversees league commissioners.)

TELEPHONE HOTLINE Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso):

916-491-1721 for meeting news and field conditions. For phone or address changes, and renewal applications, contact Player Agent Dave Tanner at 916-216-1941. Applications are online at WWW.GSSCS.ORG. Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 916-973-8269; Rules: 916-Bob Ellison; GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 456-1500; Safety: Glenn Cummings 916-276-9530; Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 916-422-2500. #

