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# DUGOUT CHATTER

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## GOLDEN SENIORS LAUNCH 39TH SEASON

The Golden Seniors Softball Club launched its 39th season on March 19 after a flurry of league drafts assigning players to 43 teams among nine leagues.

“I am excited to see the 2018 season get started and to thank all the board members for doing an outstanding job putting the 2018 season together,” observed Bill Hill, club president.

Working with Club Commissioner Bob Ellison, the club secretary, Deanna Sesso, produced league schedules and rosters so they could be handed out by team managers. Ellison and Player Agent Dave Tanner, along with league commissioners, ran the league drafts, making sure managers had the information they needed to select their players.

Rocky Wilkerson, first vice president, recruited more team sponsors and Bob Smartt, second VP, made sure the teams had uniform jerseys.

At the drafts, about 540 player slots were filled, including multiple-league players. The new L9 for players 80+ drafted four teams of 12 or 13 players each, with room for at least six more players, Tanner reported.

Thirty-one women were in the drafts this year, filling 40 roster positions due to multi-league play. There is at least one woman in each league with Tuesday night L3 accounting for 16, including Sesso, who also is the league commissioner and manager of a team, besides serving as club secretary.

Hill noted that the club could not thrive without volunteers such as Sesso. (By the way, she also handles the club’s hotline answering machine — **916 491-1721** — so players can learn whether a game has been canceled due to weather or field conditions.)

League Wait Lists: All leagues have drafted and games have begun, but that doesn’t mean the club has shut down player recruitment. This is a year-round (SEE PAGE 2)

**NEXT  
GENERAL  
MEETING:  
MONDAY, MAY  
14, 2018, 7 P.M.  
AT VFW HALL  
ON STOCKTON  
BLVD.**

## NEW SEASON, FROM PAGE 1

process. The club needs more players. Only L1 and L6 had waiting list players as of March 18.

Wednesday night, L4, drafted four teams of 13 players each, with no wait list. Since they cut from six teams, they play only two games a night, starting at 7 and 8:15. Most popular league: Tuesday morning L6, drafting six teams of 13 players each with a wait list of eight. League most in need: Thursday night (L5) drafted six teams of 10 or 11 players with room to add at least 14 additional players.

Players who join leagues during the season pay pro-rated fees. For applications, go to the club website ([www.gsscs.org](http://www.gsscs.org)) or contact Player Agent Dave Tanner (916 216-1941).

Club leaders and team managers applauded the staff at Howe Park for their hard work that made the fields playable after recent rains. The grass was mowed and mud was at a minimum for L1 practice games and L7 regular season games of March 19. Tuesday morning leagues got their games in, but the night leagues Tuesday-Wednesday and Thursday, canceled their season-openers due to the wet weather. #

## LIFE MEMBERS: CLASS OF 2018

Five members who have demonstrated passion for the game of softball and support of the Golden Seniors were awarded life membership status at the February general meeting.

The Life Membership Class of 2018: David Alois, John Colletto, Jim Hoffman, Joel Jaspin and Jim Lortz. Their life memberships were approved by the Board of Directors for belonging to the club for at least 20 continuous years and attaining the age of 75, or 15 years in the club and 80 years of age. Life members no longer have to pay annual membership dues.

Clad in his trademark tuxedo with tennies, Lortz emceed the Life Members ceremony for a 13th straight year. He also is the club's longest-serving president, five years (1999-2004).

Alois, 75 this year, is a 25-year-member who, besides playing in the Golden Seniors, has been a fixture on the Solano Senior Enforcers for two decades. He played recreational softball in Sacramento for a number of years but teams gradually disbanded, then he saw a newspaper article about the Golden Seniors "and the rest is history."

Jaspin, 75, is in his 26th Golden Seniors year. Pat Jaspin wrote a note on her husband's behalf, noting that he had surgery to remove a brain tumor two years ago. She wrote that Joel loves the "super-supportive atmosphere of the senior softball leagues."

She added, "As we age, some of us have longer and longer lists of prescription medications — long enough that we have to write them down to keep track of it all. Number nine on Joel's list: Senior Softball, dosage — two games per week."

Lortz, has been a Golden Senior 26 years and will be 75 this year. Besides senior softball, including 15 years in the Tournament Players Association, Jim has served as president of the Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League and entered the Sacramento Men's Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015. He played on 21 world or national championship senior or Roy Hobbs baseball teams.

Lortz concluded his remarks: "Thank you all for allowing me to play in your league, for letting me serve on your board, for voting me as our president and especially for you allowing me the joy of being your emcee for this special occasion." (See Page 3)

(From Page 2) Colletto, now 80, who joined the club in 2003, and Hoffman, 75 this year, who joined the club 25 years ago, were unable to attend the meeting. #



*Club President Bill Hill (left) welcomes new life members at the February general meeting: David Alois, Joel Jaspin and Jim Lortz, who also served as master of ceremonies. (Not pictured: Jim Hoffman and John Colletto.)*

## **GEORGE GROSS: PROUD GOLDEN SENIOR**

Being a member of the Golden Seniors Softball Club can mean many things, and a letter from Mary Gross said it well.

She wrote that her husband, a 26-year member of the club, died Sept. 15, 2017. He was 85 and became a Life Member in 2007. He was a veteran of four Monday morning league championship teams.

Mary wanted to say more. "George was very proud of the GSSCS and would tell everyone he talked to about the club and its amazing senior members. Grocery clerks and doctors alike knew he was a ballplayer with the Golden Seniors. The members of the last team (Jolly Rogers) he played with in 2013 might remember him as the 81-year-old who wanted to catch and bat last! As he wished, he was buried in the Veterans Cemetery at Dixon."

Mary asked that her letter be published in the Dugout Chatter as "he loved playing and was looking forward to being a player in the new L9 (for players 80 and older)," wrote Trudy Smartt, the club's Sunshine and Health chairperson. George won't play in L9 but a team of his would-be teammates will be wearing George Gross jerseys.

Mary sent in a check for \$300 to sponsor a team for two years. This follows in the footsteps of the Billy and Shirley Beck family, whose family sponsors a team in the name of Billy and Shirley. Also, the family of the late GSSCS president, Jerry Jodice, sponsors a team.

George Gross was a catcher on the team sponsored by the Becks in 2012, winning a league championship. He also played on the league champion Aladdin Travel (1999), Wion's Body Shop (2007) and R.H. Nielsen Real Estate (2010). #

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## SUNSHINE & HEALTH

### ***REST IN PEACE: GENE FIELDS, DON KARVONEN***

Pastor **Gene Fields**, 89, passed away Feb. 5. He joined the Golden Seniors in 1989 and played through 2002.

Gene “was such a big hitter and he was walked so much that the league put in a rule that if a batter was walked twice in a game, he was awarded second base and all runners were awarded two bases,” recalled George Hodsdon.

Pastor Fields was buried in the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery. Celebration of his life was March 2 at Trinity of Life Center. A Sacramento Bee obituary noted that after serving in the Navy during World War II, Gene attended bible college and ministered in his native Michigan as well as Gustine, Petaluma, North Highlands, Fresno and Sacramento, and Lewiston, Idaho. Survivors include Bette, his wife of 66 years.

**Don Karvonen**, 78, from Galt, passed away recently. He joined the Golden Seniors in 2010 and played in League 8 and Carmichael Park through 2015, when ill health forced him to resign. His wife, Nancy, reported his passing to Ernie Kidwell. #

## **SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES**

**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: May 14, July 9, Aug. 13. 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.

**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. #

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GEORGE GROSS\*  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JERRY JODICE  
JOLLY ROGERS  
L&S SURVEYS (2 TEAMS)  
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VACATIONS  
TANNER & ASSOCIATES  
TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF  
AUBURN, INC.(2 TEAMS)  
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WENELLI'S PIZZA  
YANCEY COMPANY**

**\*New sponsor in 2018**

**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.**

**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. #

## **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 — Jerry Nevis 916- 201-2939.

## **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](http://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. #

**IMPORTANT HEALTH BULLETIN: Good Ol' Charlie Brown Out for Season**

**(Fake) News Item: Charlie “Chuck” Brown could not take the mound for his Peanuts Cartoon baseball team’s second game of the season. The erstwhile ace hurler was unable to climb the “hill” after straining a leg muscle in the first game of the season.**

**Sound familiar? It would not be the first time that a Golden Senior player is sidelined or hampered, sometimes for months, by pulled or strained leg muscles. The older we get, the tougher it is to recover. Guard against injuries with a proper warm-up routine. Stretch those groin, quad, hamstring, Achilles, back and shoulder muscles.**

**Watch and ask what your teammates do. Ask your manager. Go online and Google exercises for ballplayers. Particularly in the early season, when it is still cool outside, players are reminded by their managers — if they are doing their job — to be sure and allow time to stretch those muscles before the game. Arrive early enough to do more than just lob a ball back and forth and jog onto the field.**

**And watch your nutrition. Drink plenty of water, even when temperatures are cool in the spring. And especially when it warms up. #**

