
DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC EDITION – FALL 2019

SIGN UP NOW FOR 2020 GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL LEAGUES

It will soon be 2020 and plenty of year-end activities demand attention, but don't forget to sign up for the new year to play in the Golden Seniors Softball Club. Applications — for renewals and new members — are available online at the club website. Get them in by Dec. 1 and be guaranteed a spot in the league or leagues for which you are age-eligible.

That is the message from the club's Board of Directors as Player Agent Dave Tanner also included a letter with news of changes. (Website is www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org.) Need help to get an application, call Tanner at 916 216-1941.

Tanner announced a new fee schedule, and why they are increased. Essentially, the club reduced or did not increase fees in recent years when reserves were at a level above what is deemed appropriate for a non-profit organization. This was the judgment of an audit a few years ago.

Thus the club collected fees below operating costs, achieving the audit's recommended goals. As Tanner noted: "We have now accomplished that goal and need to increase league fees by \$5 per league for L8 and L9 and \$10 for the club's other leagues to ensure a sustainable financial posture as we move forward."

President Bill Hill said the league fees are still a bargain for what members receive in the way of organized leagues, uniform shirts, hats, umpires, scorekeepers and good venues for 20-game seasons, plus playoffs.

Team managers begin drafting players in February with league play beginning in March. The season runs until mid- to late-September. Pre-draft rosters must be prepared, usually by the end of January.

Club membership dues remain \$20 per year, while the league fees cover major expenses such as rental of fields at the Sacramento Softball Complex and Howe Park.

Other changes for 2020, which members approved in August, is a reduced age requirement from 50 to 48 for men playing on Thursday nights (League 5). The minimum age for women is now 40. Lowering the age allows the Golden Seniors to compete with (See Page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE: Scorekeepers needed. Rest in Peace Ray Merrill, Joel Jaspin, Lou Velez. Season ends with championship games and picnic. Lyman Rose hits .909 as club's top batter in record home run year; league batting leaders. Updated Top 10 batting averages 2006-2019. Picnic and title team photos. Recruitment committee is active. Club 2019 sponsors. Club contacts.

SIGN UP NOW: FROM PAGE 1)

other senior softball clubs in the region, which Hill has said are open to men in the year they turn 48. Once these players join another league and develop relationships, it is difficult to convince them to move to the Golden Seniors. L5 also draws more tournament-level players in their 50s.

The two other night leagues — L3 on Tuesdays and L4 on Wednesdays — remain 50 and 55 minimum ages, respectively for men. The minimum age for women in the night leagues is 40. The fee to play in a night league at the Complex is \$115 per league, due to the use of lights.

Tuesday morning leagues 2 and 6 remain 60+ for men and 55+ for women. The league fee is \$100.

Monday morning leagues 1 and 7 are 70+ for men and 60+ for women and the fee is \$90 per league.

League fees are \$50 for L8 and L9 Tuesday mornings at Howe Park. These 75+ leagues (60+ for women) do not require scorekeepers or paid umpires.

Tanner noted that before the club added a second 70+ Monday morning league and two now-75+ leagues on Tuesday morning, members had only one league providing the opportunity for 70+ players to play with their own age group. This league had as many as 10 teams. Last year, with the addition of a 78+ League 9, the club had 16 teams, ranging in size from 11 to 14 players, for players over 75. For 2020 L8 and L9 are 75+. There are now a total of eight teams for 70+ players and eight teams for 75+ players — four teams each for L1, L7, L8 and L9.

Women participation in the club has increased significantly in recent years, the majority playing on Tuesday night (L3). As of October, there were 45 women on the club roster, and last year 33 female players filled 38 roster positions. Twenty were in L3 and a combined total of 30 were in the three night leagues. Deanna Sesso has actively recruited age-qualified players from other leagues. Eight were added in 2019 and 12 in 2018. Trudy Smartt, who joined the club in 2004, is the club's longest-tenured woman, and was the winning pitcher in this year's L1 championship game.

NEED FOR SCOREKEEPERS

Russ Barnes, the club's chief statistician, declared at the August general meeting that the club will need a volunteer in this area within the next year or so. More immediately, more scorekeepers are needed for 2020. Chief Scorekeeper Colette Barnes said at least two new scorekeepers are needed for the coming season. Scorekeepers are paid positions. Contact Russ or Colette at 916 277-4903.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The club's general membership meetings are held at the VFW Post 67 Hall, 2784 Stockton Boulevard. There are at least six general meetings during the year. The first is 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13. Check the club's automated hotline for meeting news and other announcements, and, during the season, field conditions or rain-outs. That number is 916 491-1721.

CLUB SAFETY PROGRAM

Safety remains a high priority with this club and the program is coordinated by Paul Rogers. Rogers schedules safety training classes that are free for members. Interested in getting certified for first aid and CPR, as well as use of the club's defibrillator? Contact Rogers at 916 206-1605. Training classes can be scheduled. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: RAYMOND MERRILL, JOEL JASPIN, LOU VELEZ



Golden Seniors members gathered at home plate with Ray Merrill's softball equipment bag, brought to Howe Park for a League One game by Don Shank to honor the long-time Golden Seniors player and sponsor of multiple teams (RAMBIT and Merrill Bookkeeping and Tax). Ray passed away unexpectedly on July 22. He was 83. A Sacramento Bee obituary noted his love of baseball. He was a Golden Seniors life member, joining the club in 1989. Survivors include son Monte Merrill, who plays in L5.

Louis Velez, a L9 player, passed away during the season at the age of 82. He joined the club in 2018.

Life Member Joel Jaspin, 76, died Oct. 1. The Sacramento Bee obituary noted he loved his senior softball league. Bill Hill said Joel was a longtime Thursday night player, "a great teammate and always supportive of other players. He never missed a game until he had brain surgery a few years ago." #

LEAGUE TITLES AND PICNIC CONCLUDE 2019

The club's 40th season concluded with day leagues' championship games and a picnic Sept. 21 at the Sacramento Softball Complex. Several hundred members and guests played or witnessed the four games.

Rocky Wilkerson, the club's first vice president, emceed the event and the club's hard-working secretary, Deanna Sesso, handled all the details as picnic chairperson. Ralph Catlin ran a smooth raffle, raising funds to provide gratuities for the La Rosa Sports Cafe staff who served the hamburgers and hotdogs, salads, etc.

Before and during the picnic, Dave Terry, Golden Seniors member, singer, songwriter, arranger, musician, and recording artist, performed tunes from his debut album, "It's About Time."

The picnic was deemed a success even though some club leaders and many players and umpires were committed to an out-of-state Senior Softball USA tournament. The conflict caused the night leagues to stage their championship playoffs on their regular nights after the club had to change the picnic date due a scheduling issue with the Complex.

(President Bill Hill said at the August general meeting that "the picnic may be a thing of the past" and "there are too many things going on" in September. The club must look at ways to avoid conflicts, he said, possibly a later end to the season. Instead of a pricey (\$6,000) picnic "we could have a pizza and beer night or a dinner-dance." Playoff games could be on leagues' regularly scheduled days or nights.)

Here are the league champions for 2019, with players winning attractive shirts (white this year) produced under club 2nd VP Bob Smartt's leadership:

LEAGUE 1 (MONDAY MORNING) CHAMPION: AMERICAN MEDIQUIP

Managed by John Hains, American Mediquip defeated Tanner & Associates 12-6, behind the strong pitching of Trudy Smartt. Tanner was managed by Chuck Knutson. Leading hitters: Jerry Horton and Tom Mosher were 3x3 for American Mediquip, while Dave Casten was 3x3 for Tanner.

LEAGUE 2 (TUESDAY MORNING) CHAMPION: YANCEY COMPANY

With an offense led by Bill Christian (4x4), Jack Wabinga and Bruce Gilmore (both 3x4), Yancey defeated VFW Post 67, 16-13. Manager Ernie Boston's winners played heads-up ball on offense and defense. VFW, managed by Tom Sansone, was led by Russ Manlapig, 4x4 including a home run and five RBI. Hal Johnson and Jules Caldeira combined for five RBI.

LEAGUE 3 (TUESDAY NIGHT) CHAMPION: RAPID SOLUTIONS

Nalia Cluney's single drove in the winning run for Rapid Solutions, which needed five runs in the home half of the seventh for a thrilling 18-17 championship victory over La Rosa Sports Cafe. Ed Fernandez clubbed a double to drive home the tying run and then scored the winner on Nalia's safety. Mel Tennyson managed the winners against the La Rosa squad led by Deanna Sesso. Billy Bushey had three doubles and was walked twice, once intentionally, for La Rosa, which had been blanked for three straight innings before exploding for seven in the top of the seventh.

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LEAGUE 4 (WEDNESDAY NIGHT) CHAMPION: RDR FINANCIAL

In what scorekeeper Colette Barnes called “the most exciting championship game ever played,” RDR Financial edged LaRosa Sports Cafe 14-13 in the bottom of the seventh inning. With one out, Wayne Myers singled, asked for a courtesy runner — the fleet-footed Dick Reisinger Jr., who raced home on Doug Austin’s drive that found a gap. The game-winner beat a strong throw home from Walt Strickland. RDR Manager Rick Cady drove home four runs with three hits, while Reisinger was 4x4 and Carlos Rodriguez had a triple among three hits. Leading hitters for Manager Rocky Wilkerson’s LaRosa Sports Cafe: Strickland and Jay Reese, both 3x5 with a triple, and Robert Hanson 4x5.

LEAGUE 5 (THURSDAY NIGHT) CHAMPION: BILL HILL

Bill Hill, managed by Lyman Rose, defeated Automated Electric, 19-11 for the L5 championship, following Automated Electric’s 19-14 victory that forced a second game in the double-elimination format.

In the title game, home runs by Bobby Ellison and Rose accounted for five of Hill’s 14 runs and a seven-run lead after three innings. That proved too big a hurdle for the Andrew Ybarra-managed Automated Electric, despite Jeff Braskamp’s triple and home run, and Omar Randle’s 4x4.

In the first game, Automated Electric had 4x4 efforts from David Hennig and Todd Gillespie, plus Braskamp’s three-run homer. Hill’s top hitters were Tommy Carrasco, who had a three-run homer, and Pete Aguon, who had a pair of doubles among three hits. Donny Umeda went 6x8 in the two games.

LEAGUE 6 (TUESDAY MORNING) CHAMPION: CLUB RAVEN

Managed by Ray Mendonsa, Club Raven defeated GSSA, managed by Dave Bristol, 16-5, on the strength of outstanding defense by rover Mike Viduya and good days at the plate by Dennis Kelly, Charlie Stebbins and Viduya, all 3x4. GSSA (Greater Sacramento Softball Association) was led by Bristol and Mick Tursky, both 3x4.

LEAGUE 7 (MONDAY MORNING) CHAMPION: OVERHEAD DOOR

Manager Russ Barnes’ squad grabbed an early lead and held on for a 20-16 victory over Jolly Rogers, managed by Ron Roach. Overhead was led by Dave Taylor and Bret Wangan, both 4x4. Jolly Rogers was paced by Jerry Horton’s 4x4.

LEAGUES 8 AND 9 (TUESDAY MORNING) CHAMPIONS: MERRILL BOOKKEEPING AND NIELSEN REAL ESTATE

Ray A. Merrill Bookkeeping and Tax, managed by John Colletto, beat Billy Beck, managed by Ron Thomas, in the L8 championship game. In L9, Norm Blackwell Sr. managed Nielsen Real Estate to the championship over Show Biz Productions, managed by Ernie Shaffer. Cloicec Wade, L8 and L9 commissioner, said it was a successful year for both leagues. However, he said rosters were thinned due to injuries and illnesses. Wade said the roster depth issue will be addressed in 2020 by permitting substitutes as young as 73 in L8 and 75 in L9. *(Thanks to head scorekeeper Colette Barnes and assistants Dawn and Venus Gerlach for details of the championship playoff games as well as their efforts all season.) #*

ROSE LEADS CLUB HITTERS IN 2019, A RECORD YEAR FOR CLUB HOME RUNS AND .800 HITTERS

The club's leading hitter in 2019 — with an eye-popping .909 — was Lyman Rose of Tuesday morning, 60-and-over League 6, where he won the Triple Crown (batting average along with 15 homers — 6 over fence — and 64 runs batted in).

Rose's effort nearly matched the club record .910 set by Jarvis Quenga (L4 in 2018), who had bettered Mick Tursky's .903 a year earlier in L6. Mick was the first to hit over .900 in the 13 years since the club maintained records.

In 2019, there were 17 members who hit over .800, compared to eight the year before.

A full season of playing with improved balls — the same used for Senior Softball USA tournaments — with more durable synthetic covers that keep the ball lively when nights are colder and days are hotter.

And GSSC board members also note that more younger players are attracted to the club when it has better balls, and many of them are likely to continue playing in club leagues as they grow older, helping maintain overall membership.

The club as a whole had 118 regular season homers — compared to 2018 when homers had spiked to 58 — over the fences in five leagues that play at the Sacramento Softball Complex (300-foot fences). There were no fence-clearing hits this year at the Howe Park diamonds used by leagues with older players.

Thursday night L5 players, including more tournament-quality performers, hit 62 over the fence in 2019, compared to 38 in 2018.

L4 (Wednesday night) players hammered 17 over the fence this year, as did the Tuesday morning L6 players. Tuesday morning L2 and Tuesday night L3) had 11 each.

Rose, who played in three leagues, had 16 homers, three more than Quenga's two-league total. The L5 over-the-fence homer leader was Gerome Gibson (8), three shy of Jeff Moranville's fence-busting mark in 2018.

League-leading 2019 batters:

MONDAY MORNINGS HOWE PARK: **L1:** John Meyer .797. HR Lou Mahinay 5. RBI Tom Mosher 46. **L7:** Mike Basich .828. HR Bob Montalvo 5. RBI Don Shank 43.

TUESDAY MORNING: **L2:** Darryl Watson .880. HR Lyman Rose 6. RBI Lyman Rose 54. **L6:** Lyman Rose .909. HR Rose 15. RBI Rose 64.

TUESDAY NIGHT **L3:** Don Abemathy .897. HR Bill Bushey 5. RBI Edward Fernandez 43.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT **L4:** Chris Aguiar .855 (the batting title went down to the wire, as Jarvis Quenga hit .853 and Augie Johnson .849). HR Quenga and Dusty Shaw 7. RBI Aguiar 70.

THURSDAY NIGHT **L5:** Jay Zetz .814. HR Gerome Gibson 8. RBI Zetz 45. #

WEBSITE VOLUNTEER NEEDED: President Bill Hill, at the August general meeting, said the club still needs a volunteer webmaster to keep the site current. This task involves the postings of club news and photos — including videos! Ideally, the webmaster would enlist an assistant to share the load. #

TOP TEN CLUB BATTING AVERAGES 2006-2019

1. JARVIS QUENGA LEAGUE 4 (2018) .910
 2. LYMAN ROSE L6 (2019) .909
 3. MICK TURSKY L2 (2018) .903
 4. DON ABEMATHY L3 (2019) .897
 5. RICK CADY L4 (2015) .891
 6. RICH EDWARDS L6 (2012) .882
 7. DARRYL WATSON L2 (2019) .880
 8. RICH EDWARDS L2 (2013) .875
 9. RAY LUCAS L2 (2016) .870
 10. STEVE SCHULER L3 (2012) .865
- (Dropping out of the Top Ten: Tursky .861 2014 L6; Jeff Miller .860 L4 2012; Tim Kenner .860 L6 2017; Richard Reisinger .859 L4 2017). #

PHOTOS FROM CLUB PICNIC



Umpire George Lamb (yellow hat) and Bruce Gilmore during the Sept. 21 picnic. The jovial Gilmore had an extra reason for smiling as he had bounced back from serious injuries to finish the season strong.



**Club Secretary
Deanna Sesso also
served as chair of
the Picnic
Committee.**

**Ralph Catlin was in
charge of the Picnic
raffle.**





***LEAGUE 1 champion
AMERICAN MEDIQUIP,
managed by John Hains.***

***Below: LEAGUE 6
champion CLUB RAVEN,
managed by Ray
Mendonsa.***





Above: L3 champion RAPID SOLUTIONS, managed by Mel Tennyson.



Left: L5 champion BILL HILL, managed by Lyman Rose.



***LEAGUE 4 champion RDR
FINANCIAL, managed by Rick
Cady.***

***(Note: other team photos were
unavailable. Apologies for the
quality of some team photos as
images were too small.)***

RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE IS ACTIVE

Chaired by Chuck Knutson, the club formed a committee last summer to work on ways to increase club membership. Recruitment materials have been prepared. Chuck and others are already pitching the club at area senior softball tournaments as well as at health clubs. Other efforts are being considered. Meanwhile, the club's best recruiters are existing members who spread the word among friends. (Below: Knutson and others were at an October Tournament Players Association tournament at the Sacramento Softball Complex, promoting the club and handing out information.)



SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!

Paid sponsors for 2019. From Rocky Wilkerson, club first vice president:

AUTOMATED ELECTRIC

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CLUB RAVEN

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GEORGE GROSS

GSSA (GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSN.)

HARPER PROPERTIES

BILL HILL (2)

HILLTOP TAVERN BAR

JERRY JODICE

JOLLY ROGERS (BOB ROGERS)

LARRY'S PLUMBING

LA ROSA'S SPORTS CAFE (2)

LIVINGSTON CONCRETE

MERRILL BOOKKEEPING

NIELSEN PROPERTIES & APPRAISAL (2)

OLD SOUL CO. @ 40 ACRES IN OAK PARK

OVERHEAD DOOR OF SACRAMENTO, INC

PHOTO FINISH

RAMBIT (RAY A. MERRILL BOOKKEEPING AND TAX)

RDR FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

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SAM'S HOFBRAU

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TANNER & ASSOCIATES

VFW POST 67

YANCEY CO.

ABOUT THE DUGOUT CHATTER. The club newsletter is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The online edition on the club's website generally contains photos and more articles than the print edition, which has limited space and is mailed to those who lack Internet access. Members who get the DC via regular mail and prefer the online version need to contact Dave Tanner (916-216-1941). #

CLUB CONTACTS: 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS President: Bill Hill 916-804-2243. First Vice President: Rocky Wilkerson 916-595-2941. Second Vice President: Bob Smartt 916-973-8269. Treasurer: Don Wall 916-434-8308 Secretary: Deanna Sesso 916-955-8195. Player Agent: Dave Tanner 916-216-1941. Club Commissioner: Bob Ellison 916-212-7498. Club Safety Coordinator: Paul Rogers 916-206-1605.

TELEPHONE HOTLINE Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso): 916-491-1721 for news and field conditions. For phone or address changes, and player applications, contact Player Agent Dave Tanner at 916-216-1941. Player applications are online at the club web site. Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 916-973-8269; Rules: Bob Ellison 916-212-7498; GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 916-456-1500; Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 916-422-2500. #