

DUGOUT CHATTER

On the Internet: www.gsscs.org ... GSSC Hotline for Meeting Info: 491-1721

NEW YEAR BRINGS TALK OF MAJOR CLUB ISSUES

Concerns were voiced at the Jan. 4 Golden Seniors Softball Club general meeting over lagging player signups for most GSSC leagues and the impact on the club's finances for the coming season.

Except for Monday day 70+ (League 1) and Tuesday night's L3 (50+), leagues were 30% to 40% short of players for 2010.

Club leaders urged members to help stimulate more interest in the Wednesday and Thursday night leagues for 50 and over players and the competitive select Tuesday morning leagues for players 60+ and 75+. (See Page 2)

SUPPORT OUR GSSC SPONSORS

From Fred Fischer, first vice president

When I was elected to the office of 1st Vice President last year with the responsibility for club sponsors, I was somewhat concerned as to the effect that a depressed economy would have on our ability to attract and maintain sponsors. In fact, we did very well in 2009. We did lose several sponsors, at least a couple of which were directly related to the impact of the economy. However, these losses were offset by the addition of eight new sponsors.

As sponsorship renewals are coming in for the 2010 season, it is again apparent that we stand to lose a couple more to a depressed economy. However, on the positive side, we have already regained one renewal that had been adversely affected by the economy last year, and have potential leads for a couple of new sponsors. (See Page 2)

Club 2010 General Meeting Schedule

FEB. 1 GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd., also the site for general meetings on March 1, July 12 and Aug. 9. The September general meeting is in conjunction with the annual picnic at the Sacramento Softball Complex. #

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SUPPORT OUR GOLDEN SENIORS SPONSORS

(From Page 1)

Along with membership fees, the support of our sponsors is critical to the operation of our club. Therefore, it is important that we, as members, do all that we can to demonstrate our appreciation for the support that we receive from our sponsors. We can do this not only by utilizing the services of the sponsors, but in doing so letting them know that we are GSSC members and appreciative of their support.

During the time that I have been on the GSSC board, we have held board meetings at Espanol, Mimi's, and Denny's, our restaurant sponsors. Personally, when I had a new garage door installed a few years ago I utilized Overhead Door of Sacramento. C&C plumbing provided me exceptional service when I needed to replace a kitchen sink due to a manufacturer's defect. Although I am not a big wine drinker, when I do shop for wine I now look for the Vino Con Brio label.

Our sponsors provide a full range of services throughout the Sacramento area. Let's communicate to them, by patronizing their businesses, how much their support means to the GSSC. (List of sponsors already paid for 2010 is on Page 4.) #

THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY -- AFTER THE FEB. 1 GENERAL MEETING. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AT 7:30 P.M., AT THE VFW HALL, 2784 STOCKTON BLVD.

RIVERCATS TICKETS

If you are looking for weekend game tickets to the Rivercats, contact Lou Coppola at 444-6138. #

NEWYEARBRINGS DISCUSSION OF BUDGET; LAGGING PLAYER SIGNUPS

(From Page 1)

The club's board of directors -- President Ray Mendonsa, 1st VP Fred Fischer, 2nd VP Pete Ward, Treasurer Glen Cole, Secretary George Lamb, Club Commissioner Bob Smartt and Player Agent Tom Sansone -- scheduled a special board meeting in late January to more thoroughly examine the club's options when closer to final pre-draft player numbers are known.

The board is expected to report and act at the next general membership meeting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 1, at the VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd.

Among potential solutions to nagging problems: Fewer teams in leagues, even fewer leagues, and reduced costs for umpires and scorekeepers. Such steps may be necessary if player signups -- renewals and new players -- fall short of providing income needed to meet projected expenses of operating seven leagues with more than 400 players.

Treasurer Glen Cole reported that the club had \$47,700 in income so far this year, nearly all from dues, and the budget (for the fiscal year October 2009 through September 2010) calls for \$68,500 in income, \$58,200 from dues. Of dues income, \$43,596 had been realized as of Jan. 4. Budget expenses are projected to be \$66,000, with the largest items field rentals (\$25,000), umpires (\$11,500), and the picnic (\$4,000). Team sponsor income is pegged at \$9,000, of which \$6,000 was still to be received.

Meanwhile, Mendonsa reported that he has had difficulty contacting Complex officials to nail down and sign a contract for use of the fields this year. Complex officials have told the board that no significant increase in field fees would occur for 2010. (See Page 3)

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

Donna Woods, 85, wife of Life Member Robert Woods, passed away on Dec. 22 in Elk Grove. Donna and Robert were married for 64 years.

Leona Waggoner, wife of Lloyd Waggoner, longtime senior softball player and manager, passed away on Dec. 17. They were married for 66 years.

Janet Arnold, wife of Tom Arnold, passed away on Nov. 21.

Dick Horkey, who had a pacemaker installed after a heart attack, also has had carotid artery surgery. Other recent surgeries included **Linda Greene's** rotator cuff, **Jim Mays'** right knee replacement, and **Bob Havrilla's** knee. #

DUGOUT CHATTER SCHEDULE

AS WE HAVE DONE IN RECENT YEARS, THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ISSUES WILL BE MAILED TO MEMBERS UNLESS THEY HAVE REQUESTED TO SAVE THE CLUB POSTAGE AND READ THEM ONLINE. MARCH-THRU-AUGUST ISSUES WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT PLAYING FIELDS FOR THOSE WHO LACK INTERNET ACCESS. THE DUGOUT CHATTER IS ONLINE AT WWW.GSSCS.ORG
-- RON ROACH, EDITOR . [Those who prefer to read the DC online and not have it mailed to them should contact Henry Low (391-3938) to be removed from the DC mailing list.] #

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

THE WINTER PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR CARMICHAEL PARK: 9 A.M. TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. ARRIVE EARLIER FOR SIGNUPS. FOR PLAYERS 70 AND OVER, THE TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR HOWE AVENUE PARK (FIELD #3) IS 1 P.M., TAKING ADVANTAGE OF WARM AFTERNOONS WITH THE END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME. #

Jan. 4 General Meeting Report: From Page 2)

Player Signups Report. Player Agent Sansone reported 130 members from 2009 had not mailed in their renewals. Was the increase in dues an issue? Sansone said this does not seem to be the case based on telephone contacts with these players. He said most of them say they had "put applications aside and forgot, or they said, 'I thought my wife took care of that.'"

Sansone said L1, which fielded nine teams in 2009, had 123 signups for the Monday morning league for those 70 and older. That league is nearly fully subscribed, and the same could be said for L3 (50+ coed) on Tuesday nights.

A six-team league needs 78 signups and a four-team league needs 52. As of Jan. 4, six-team L3 had 73 signups. L2 on Tuesday mornings for age 60+ players, had 74 signups, but that would not be close to filling the 96 player slots for an eight-team league.

League 4 (Wednesday nights) and L5 (Thursday nights) have 47 and 50 signups, respectively. L6 and L7, which are select competitive leagues for players 60+ and 70+ on Tuesday mornings, both have 38 signups as of this writing, and each needs 14 more for a full four-team league. Through December, 443 roster slots were filled, including 181 by 79 multi-league players. In 2009, 110 multi-league players accounted for 250 roster spots, according to Henry Low, who maintains the club's player data base. Low observed that a reduction in multi-year player signups might be a result of higher dues and the economy. Members pay \$115 for one league and \$90 for each additional league. That is up from \$95 and \$70 in 2009. Life members' dues are somewhat less. (See Page 4)

Jan 4 General Meeting Report: New Year Brings Talk of Budget, Signup Issues (From Page 3

Experimental League News. Larry Campbell, the driving force behind the creation of L7 in 2009, is organizing a new league for players 75 and over. He reported that he has enough for two teams and is still recruiting players to hopefully have a four-team league for Thursday morning games at Carmichael Park. This league will be evaluated to determine if it will become a league within the Golden Seniors club. (See the November-December Dugout Chatter for more information, or contact Campbell at llcampbell@netzero.com or 916-485-4843. Campbell said the “good news” is that “several players who had dropped out are coming back for this older league.”

New Members. Sansone said there were 18 new members so far. The club had more than 50 new members in 2009, mostly signing up during the season. Player applications are available at the club web site, www.gsscs.org.

New Player Tryouts. Workout dates for new players, or for players switching leagues, will be scheduled in early February, Smartt said. Expect an announcement by the Feb. 1 general meeting, he said, as he discusses availability of a field with the Complex.

Sponsors. First VP Fischer reported that 15 sponsors had paid for 2010 and three sponsors had dropped out. He said he had three potential sponsors at the time of the Jan. 4 meeting. (See Fischer’s column elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Safety Coordinators. Jerry Jodice, the club’s safety chairman, said it is imperative that each league’s commissioner designate a safety coordinator. He also lamented the lack of signups for safety training, forcing him to cancel Jan. 9 and Jan. 11 safety classes. (See Jodice’s safety column elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Uniforms. Second VP Ward said he could upgrade caps for \$1 more apiece, and the board endorsed his proposal.

Life Members. Ten members will be inducted as life members at the Feb. 1 meeting. The list of those meeting requirements for age and membership tenure was unanimously approved. They are Louis Cerutti, George Crowl, Dick Gustin, Jerry Jodice, Jim Lamm, Dick Reisinger Sr., Bob Silvis, Joe Smith, Al Tirapelli and Arnold Wilkerson. Cake and coffee will be served in honor of these folks, who will be introduced by the tuxedoed emcee, Jim Lortz.

2010 Club Picnic. The board stressed that steps will be taken to rein in costs of the annual picnic, including consideration of contracting for catered meals from a GSSCS-sponsoring restaurant. Club directors have been unhappy over the cost of the 2009 picnic that amounted to about \$30 per person. #

PAID SPONSORS FOR 2010

ARNOLD PROPERTIES

AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS

BERTOLUCCI’S BODY & FENDER

CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #1

CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #2

EAST LAWN INC.

HARPER PROPERTIES

L&S SURVEYS

MERRILL BOOKKEEPING & TAX

NIELSEN REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL

OVERHEAD DOOR Co. of Sacramento

RAMBIT (RAY MERRILL)

TEICHERT CONSTRUCTION

RICHARD WILL, ATTORNEY

MARK WHITE, DDS

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TEAM SAFETY COORDINATORS ARE NECESSARY FOR EACH LEAGUE

From Jerry Jodice, safety chairman

Safety procedures are NOT being enforced during all league games. During the first few hours of 2009 GSSCS championship games, the safety cart was unavailable and not in its proper place for any emergency service. Our players need to have this simple procedure adhered to during all league games. **Only League 1 (Monday) umpires refused to start a game without the safety cart available this past 2009 season.** All league commissioners should establish that their umpires are expected to follow this same requirement for every game. **The club may be liable if the safety cart is not available for any emergency.**

Each league needs a Safety Coordinator to guarantee that all safety procedures are faithfully supported during every softball season. The league coordinator should meet with the club safety chairman and the other league Safety Coordinators at least twice during the season to review safety procedures and supplies and make improvements as necessary. My recommendation is that the Safety Coordinators meet with the safety chairman in February, before the season begins, to assure that each league is fully prepared to play. Safety procedures are NOT EFFECTIVE without team coordination.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THE 2010 SEASON

1. League Safety Coordinators should meet with the club safety chairman to assure that the club addresses every issue that may occur throughout the season.
2. League Safety Coordinators may wish to reorganize or improve safety procedures each year.
3. League Safety Coordinators should contact team managers within their league to see that each team has one or more safety crew members to work with during the season.
4. Safety Crew members meet with their league safety coordinator to **review procedures** and assure that **all necessary supplies are within the safety cart before season begins.**
5. League Safety Coordinators should recommend to the club president the person they may best work with (in the following year) to improve safety procedures and supplies.

SAFETY PROCEDURES BEFORE EVERY GAME

Safety Crew members must be designated by team managers to coordinate the safety procedures before each game.

Safety Crew members are to make certain the safety cart is checked and in place before each game.

The AED (defibrillator) must be checked for OK status before games begin!

Safety Crew members are to make certain the safety art is returned to the park office after the last game. #

GSSCS SAFETY PROCLAMATION: ALL UMPIRES AND MANAGERS MUST ENFORCE THE GSSCS SAFETY RULE THAT NO GAME MAY START WITHOUT THE SAFETY CART IN PLACE BY THE FIELD BEFORE EACH SOFTBALL GAME IS PLAYED! NOTE: THE CLUB MAY BE LIABLE IF THIS SAFETY RULE IS NOT IMPLEMENTED. -- JERRY JODICE, SAFETY CHAIRMAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2009-2010

President **Ray Mendonsa** ... 686-3894

First Vice President **Fred Fischer** ... 685-5044
(Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ... 989-4722
(Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer **Glen Cole** ... 966-4561

Secretary **George Lamb** ... (530) 681-8070

Player Agent **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654
(Responsible for player applications, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Bob Smartt** ... 973-8269
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league commissioners.)

NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: FEB. 1, 7:30 P.M. AT VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BLVD.

TELEPHONE HOTLINES

Club Answering Machine

(managed by Don Shank):
491-1721 for meeting news
and field conditions.

Phone or Address Changes:

Henry Low 391-3938

Player Applications: Tom
Sansone 686-1654

Sunshine & Health: Trudy
Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:

456-1500

Safety: Jerry Jodice
349-8949

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

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

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