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# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) CLUB HOTLINE: 491-1721

## **MEMBERS ELECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LED BY BILL HILL, FOR THE COMING YEAR**

Bill Hill has stepped up -- again. The newly elected president of the Golden Seniors Softball Club accepted the nomination from the floor after the club's nominating committee in July came up empty-handed in its search for a successor to four-term President Tom Sansone.

Hill, who had outpolled then-Player Agent Sansone for the presidency in August 2010, did not seek a second term as the slumping economy required him to devote more time to his businesses. He continued to volunteer as picnic chairman, team manager and multiple team sponsor. He also is a former president of the South Placer senior league and sponsor of nationally ranked Cal Energy teams.

Sansone, who had served as player agent, was elected president to succeed Hill in 2012. Under his leadership, the club has reduced dues and fees while making great strides in utilizing the Internet to communicate with membership via email.

Hill and the rest of the 2016 season seven-member Board of Directors -- only three of them incumbents -- were elected at the August general meeting and will be sworn in at the Sept. 5 meeting held in conjunction with the annual picnic at Howe Park.

Newcomers to the board are 1st Vice President Rocky Wilkerson, Secretary Deanna Sesso, and Club Commissioner Bob Ellison. The only contested position was club commissioner, after Jerry Nevis decided one term was enough for him. Members at the meeting chose (See Page 2)

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED SATURDAY, SEPT. 5 AT HOWE PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL PICNIC AND CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS.**

### ***IN THIS ISSUE ...***

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***Sunshine & Health. Rest in Peace: Dick Coleman, Mrs. Ray Newman.***

***Rick Cady (Norm's Kid) Hits .891 to Lead Club. Plus Final League Standings.***

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***Short Hops: Batting Practices; Leslie and Anita Harper Alumni Center.***

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**CLUB MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)**

Thursday Night L5 Commissioner Ellison over J.C. Terry, club safety commissioner who also has served as an umpire and manager of multiple teams. Jon Ellison (no relation to Bob) did not seek re-election as 1st VP, and Dave Vargo decided not to run again for club secretary.

Re-elected were 2nd VP Chuck Knutson, Treasurer Don Wall and Player Agent Dave Tanner.

Other news:

**Playoffs.** Nevis reported that “the playoffs are upon us” in most leagues. He said the Saturday Sept. 5 day leagues’ playoff schedule is not yet final except L8, which began play this year on Tuesdays at Howe Park for players over 75, will play at 8:30 a.m. on Field 2. Championship games for L1 and L7 will follow on Field 2, not necessarily in that order because Nevis wants to minimize conflicts that might occur with players also competing for L2 and L6 (60 and over Tuesday day leagues) on Field 1. The format is “modified double elimination,” he said.

**Picnic.** Hill reported that he has retained the same caterer that has earned rave reviews for the quality of BBQ tri tip and chicken at the Howe Park season-ending party. He is planning for the same menu to serve 325 members and guests at Howe Park. The picnic and general meeting follow league championship playoff games for four day leagues. There may also be a night-league “all-star” game as such events proved popular in the past two years involving Tuesday night players.

Besides the swearing in of the new board, the hopefully surprised recipient or recipients of the annual Award of Merit will be introduced.

Some have complained that the club should have avoided the Labor Day weekend for the picnic and playoffs, but the board acted with available dates and the desire to avoid conflicts with major senior softball tournaments. The board will try to nail down a more desirable picnic date for 2016, but must move quickly. Nevis said the club should set its picnic/playoff date and let members decide if they want to play with their GSSCS team, or tournament team.

**Consolidating Playoffs at the Complex.** New Club Commissioner Ellison said one of his goals is to return to the schedule of all GSSCS league championship games for night and day leagues on the same Saturday date at the Complex, along with the picnic. Much depends on finding a good date and a reasonable contract with the Complex for the food and beverages, which became a huge expense before the club moved to Howe Park for a catered picnic. Night leagues also include many tournament players who might be committed to major national or regional tournaments in the September-October time frame. Night leagues in recent years have held their playoffs on their regular nights at the Complex to accommodate many key players who would miss a weekend playoff game. (See Page 3)

## AUGUST MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE 2

**Attracting Younger Players.** Hill and Ellison also want to grow the club and attract more younger players into the 50-and-over night leagues (45 and older for women). Sansone said the club's recent email survey produced mixed results and a committee has been formed, led by Dan Norton, a former club president, to come up with a proposal.

Some advocate lowering the age limit to 48 as a solution to the perennial problem of finding enough players for six teams (72 players) in the Thursday night league, while the Wednesday night league might raise the age limit to attract more players in their sixties who now feel overmatched against stronger 50s players. This could result in more Tuesday day league (60 and older) players adding Wednesday nights to their schedules. It also is felt that some 60+ age players who play in the Tuesday late afternoon South Placer Senior Softball Club would want to add the GSSCS Wednesday night league to their schedules..

The committee and club directors need to act quickly as the player application, for new and returning members, needs to be finalized. The new board members will meet with the old board on the 2016 budget. Sansone and Treasurer Wall said that the intent is to continue to spend down the club's reserve and either reduce or avoid increasing dues and league fees. An audit committee several years advised that as a non-profit entity, the club should not maintain a reserve above what is considered prudent.

Sansone said the survey via email reached 425 of the club's 450 members and more than 50% responded. Members over 70 comprised 34% of the responses, which Sansone said was surprising, and some said that the over-70 folks did not feel their responses should carry as much weight as those from the younger night-leaguers.

**Treasurer-in-Waiting.** Dick Reisinger said he will work on the Norton committee. He also said he will work with Treasurer Wall to learn the job and be a candidate for club treasurer for the 2017 season.

Knutson said he is looking for a member to assist him as 2nd VP, responsible for uniforms and equipment, so there would be a smooth transition. He said he learned the job from his predecessor (Pete Ward) in his first year on the job and felt he did well enough this year that he can pass along the knowledge to his successor, whomever he or she may be, for the 2017 season. Chuck displayed the gold league championship shirts that will be awarded to members of eight GSSCS league champions next month. He also stressed that team managers are responsible for collecting jerseys and turning them so they can be cleaned and inventoried for the 2016 season.

**Sponsors.** Jon Ellison, vowing to get back on the field this year with two new hips, reported that the club had 37 paid and four in-kind team sponsors this year and the job for his successor (Wilkerson) will be easier because a number of sponsors took advantage of a new program offering two-year sponsorships with the second year discounted. #



### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

*Elected at the August general meeting, and to be sworn in on Sept. 5, are (L-R) Rocky Wilkerson, first-VP; Bill Hill, president; Deanna Sesso, secretary, and Bob Ellison, club commissioner.*



**CLUB DIRECTORS FOR 2016 SEASON AFTER THE AUGUST ELECTION: (L-R) Treasurer Don Wall, 2nd VP Chuck Knutson, 1st VP Rocky Wilkerson, President Bill Hill, Secretary Deanna Sesso, and Club Commissioner Bob Ellison. (Player Agent Dave Tanner (not pictured), Wall and Knutson were re-elected.)**



**STEPPING DOWN: Four-term President Tom Sansone (center), Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis (left) and 1st VP Jon Ellison. They decided not to seek re-election, Nevis and Ellison after one year on the Board of Directors.. Outgoing Secretary Dave Vargo was not present for the picture.**

## SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

**BATTING PRACTICE:** Tuesday and Friday batting practice at Howe Park Field #3 will resume on Nov. 3 at 12:30 p.m. (winter hours), according to Paul Koze, Ken Dempsey and Dick Wright (known as the “triumvirate”. They decided that players’ bodies need some rest, so there would be NO batting practice on Sept. 29 and no practice the entire month of October. Thus Friday Sept. 25 (9:30 a.m.) would be the final practice before the break. Questions? Call Paul at 503-805-3428.

**HARPER ALUMNI CENTER.** The Sacramento State University Alumni Center has been renamed the Leslie and Anita Harper Alumni Center. According to the Spring 2015 issue of Torchlight, the Alumni Campaign came to a close with the new name for the center. The Harpers made a “significant bequest commitment.” Les Harper, whose Harper Properties is a longtime GSSCS sponsor, is a 1955 graduate of Sac State. He is a GSSCS life member who joined the club in 1986. #

## **CADY LEADS CLUB WITH .891 AVERAGE; FINAL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS FOR FIVE LEAGUES AT THE COMPLEX**

Rick Cady, a second generation Golden Senior, appears to be the club's 2015 batting champion, compiling a torrid .891 in L4 (Wednesday nights). Norm Cady's kid "slumped" in the final two games of the regular season to see his average dip from .911.

He said somebody told him he was hitting over .900 and he replied that it may have put a "hex" on him and cause him to go oh for 12. Then he'd finish around his usual .750 or so. He managed six hits over the last two games, not enough to stay above .900.

Thus Mike "Mick" Tursky, who set the club record of .903 in L2 in 2014, remains the only Golden Senior to hit more than .900, with sufficient qualifying plate appearances, in the 10 years that such records have been kept.

Cady, a pitcher, said about 40 of his 57 hits were singles, so he depends on hitting the ball sharply where defenders aren't stationed. He said he can hit just far enough to keep the outfielders honest.

He plays with Dick Reisinger in the South Placer league and also plays for the Old Dawgs 60s major-plus tournament team, which recently won the Western Nationals and usually plays against younger teams.

Thanks to Cady's monster year, the 63-year-old's second in the club, Dick Reisinger's RDR Financial Services team placed first in L4 and, as a team, batted .676. That edged L3's Rapid Solutions (.675) for the team batting title among the night leagues.

Cady should be a familiar name in senior softball around Sacramento. And not just because Rick has been pitching about 40 years. His father, Norm, is a senior softball pioneer and a Golden Seniors life member. He joined the club on April 30, 1981 and played into his eighties. Norm turned 96 on March 30 and is believed to be the second-oldest living club member. (Russ Menke is 98.) Rick's mom will be 95 this year, so clearly there is longevity in his genes.

### **REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS**

Final regular season standings for the five leagues that play at the Complex (thanks to Head Scorekeeper Colette Barnes and Scorekeeper Dawn Marie Gerlach):

While John Brendle and RDR Financial coasted to the top-seed positions in their leagues, the other night league (Tuesday night L3) was a 11-4 tie between Rapid Solutions and Espanol.

In the Tuesday morning leagues at the Complex, Yancey Company edged VFW Post 67 for the top seed in L2 by virtue of having two ties and only four losses. Both teams won nine games. Every team in the league had at least one tie and Sports Leisure three.

L6, playing at 10:30 on Tuesdays, was also a nail-biter with E&G Threads finishing 10-4-1 and GSSA coming in at 10-5.

L2 (Tuesday 9:30)

1. Yancey Company 9-4-2
2. VFW Post 67 9-5-1
3. Sports Leisure 7-5-3
4. Sam's Hofbrau 8-6-1
5. Avalon Hearing 4-10-1
6. Photo Finish 3-10-2

L6 (Tuesday 10:30)

1. E&G Threads 10-4-1
2. GSSA 10-5
3. Jerry Jodice 7-8
4. Mark E. White DDS 6-8-1
5. C&C Plumbing 6-9
6. Livingston Concrete 5-10

L3 (Tuesday Night)

1. Rapid Solution 11-4
1. Espanol Italian Restaurant 11-4
3. Silver Cats 7-8
4. Bill Hill 5-9-1
4. Tanner & Associates 5-9-1
6. Geremia Pools 5-10

L4 (Wednesday Night)

1. RDR Financial 15-5
2. Elk Grove Lock & Safe 12-8
3. Reinwald Health Insurance 10-10
4. Firefighters 7-13
5. Ryan Wilgus DDS 6-14

L5 (Thursday Night)

1. John Brendle 15-2
2. Espanol Italian Restaurant 8-9
2. Reinwald Health Insurance 8-9
4. Tri-C Machine 7-10
4. Bill Hill 7-10
6. RAMBIT Inc. 6-11

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## **2015 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS**

**L1 Henry Low; Asst. Dick Reisinger Sr.**

**L2 & L6 Myron Dahl and Bob Smartt (co-commissioners)**

**L3 Mel Tennyson**

**L4 Russ Barnes**

**L5 Bob Ellison**

**L7 Jim Stinson**

**L8 Cloicic Wade**

# SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

## REST IN PEACE: JERLEAN NEWMAN, DICK COLEMAN

**Jerlean Newman**, wife of L7 player Ray Newman Jr., passed away in July 24. The Newmans were married 62 years, raised four children with 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Jerlean's sister, Peaches, is married to Norm Blackwell Sr. who introduced Ray to Jerlean. Their weddings were about five months apart 62 years ago. Condolences to the Newman and Blackwell families.

**Dick Coleman**, 70, who joined the club last November and played on Monday mornings, passed way on Aug. 6. He played second base, rover and pitcher in L1 and L7.

Updates: Sunshine & Health Chairperson **Trudy Smartt**'s back surgery went well, she said, thanking husband Bob for his post-surgery nursing efforts. Club 1st VP **Jon Ellison** reports he is recovering from surgery for hip transplants and is anxious to rotate the new parts into his familiar power swing. He wants to get back into the swing of things this year. #

## NEWS ON OVER-70 TEAMS PLAYING AT HOWE PARK

By Henry Low

As of Aug. 13, Monday morning League One (L1) had two games remaining in the fourth round of head-to-head competition to end their regular season. At this point in the fourth round Harper Properties, managed by Ron Thomas, was 3-0 followed by Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell, at 2-1. The remaining teams are all 1-2 in that round. On Aug. 17 the Harper and Nielsen teams were scheduled to play with the winner likely to nail down first place in Round 4. Nielsen already won the first three rounds of head-to-head play. At this time it looks like Nielsen, Wenelli's Pizza, managed by Ernie Shafer, Harper and L&S Surveys, managed by Benny Benson, will be in the four-team L1 playoff on August 31.

Monday morning League Seven (L7) completed their regular season games on August 10 and were to begin their four-team playoffs on August 17. The final standings were Overhead Door, managed by Norm Blackwell, 16.5-4.5, Jolly Rogers, managed by Tom Watwood, 10.5-10.5, Avalon Hearing, managed by Al Tirapelli, 9-12 and Bertolucci Body and Fender, managed by Cloicec Wade, 6-15. The first playoff games on Aug. 17 pitted top seed Overhead Door playing against fourth seed Bertolucci and second seed Jolly Rogers playing third seed Avalon.

Tuesday morning League Eight (L8) completed their regular season on Aug. 4. The final standings were Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell, 12-4, American MedEquip, managed by Jack Warren, 10-5, Arnold Properties, managed by Paul Thompson, 8-7, Merrill Bookkeeping, managed by Gordon Kennedy, 6-9 and L&S Surveys, managed by Dick Reisinger, 2-13. The first playoff games in the five-team league on Aug. 11 had second seed American MedEquip beating third seed Arnold, 11-2, and fifth seed L&S beating fourth seed Merrill, 14-8. #

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## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Sponsors Committed for  
2015 as of March 9:

AMERICAN MEDIQUIP, LLC  
AVALON HEARING AID  
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 1)  
AVALON HEARING AID  
CENTER, INC. (TEAM 2)  
BECKS, IN MEMORY OF  
BILL AND SHIRLEY BECK  
BERTOLUCCI BODY &  
FENDER SHOP, INC.  
BILL HILL REPLACEMENT  
WINDOWS  
BILL HILL ROOFING &  
VINYL SIDING  
C&C PLUMBING AND  
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES  
EG THREADS  
ESPANOL ITALIAN  
RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)  
ESPANOL ITALIAN  
RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)  
GEREMIA POOLS  
GSSA (GREATER  
SACRAMENTO  
SOFTBALL ASSN.)  
HARPER PROPERTIES  
JERRY JODICE, IN  
MEMORY OF  
JOLLY ROGERS  
L&S SURVEYS  
L&S SURVEYS #2  
MARK E. WHITE, DDS  
MERRILL BOOKKEEPING  
AND INCOME TAX (Ray  
Merrill)  
\*PHOTO FINISH  
R.H. NIELSEN REAL  
ESTATE/APPRAISAL  
R.H. NIELSEN REAL  
ESTATE/APPRAISAL  
(TEAM 2)

OVERHEAD DOOR  
COMPANY OF  
SACRAMENTO, INC.  
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)  
\*RDR FINANCIAL  
SERVICES --  
TAX PREPARATION  
REINWALD'S HEALTH AND  
DENTAL INSURANCE  
\*SACRAMENTO AREA  
FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 522  
SAM'S HOF BRAU  
SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS  
SPORTS LEISURE  
VACATIONS  
TANNER AND ASSOCIATES  
TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF  
AUBURN, INC.  
VFW POST 67  
\*WENELLI'S PIZZA  
RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS  
YANCEY COMPANY  
\* = New sponsor in 2015

For information on how to  
become a sponsor for 2016  
or take advantage of two-  
year sponsorship terms,  
contact Jon Ellison, first  
vice president, at 880-0202.

***THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL  
BE PUBLISHED AFTER THE SEPT. 5  
PICNIC/PLAYOFFS AND GENERAL  
MEETING.***





## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2015**

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654

1st Vice President **Jon Ellison** ...

880-0202 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...

524-9763 (Responsible for uniforms and equipment.)

Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308

Secretary **Dave Vargo** ... 689-7061

Player Agent **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941

(Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Jerry Nevis** ...

683-3232 (Responsible for enforcement of playing rules, oversees league commissioners.)

### ***TELEPHONE HOTLINE***

#### **Club Answering Machine**

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

#### **Phone or Address Changes:**

Dave Tanner 216-1941

**Player Applications:** Dave Tanner 216-1941

**Sunshine & Health:** Trudy Smartt 973-8269

**GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:**  
456-1500

**Safety Coordinator:** J.C. Terry 457-3393 Cell:  
505-2570

**Entertainment:** Lou Coppola  
444-6138

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