

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO – MAY-JUNE 2017

GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB COULD LAUNCH NINTH LEAGUE IN 2018; MOVES TO UPGRADE WEBSITE

A new league for the Golden Seniors Softball Club — devoted to members 80 and over — is in the works for 2018, according to club officers at the May 8 general meeting. Members at the meeting also heard about efforts to upgrade the club website.

News from the general meeting:

New 80-and-Over League. The club is seriously considering adding a ninth league next year for players 80 and older. Applause at the meeting was led by chief advocate Norman Blackwell Sr.

A survey was to be developed to determine if the league could play on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at Howe Park or the Complex. A 75-and-over league now plays on Tuesdays at Howe Park. Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison said there are now 48 club members over 80, which would be enough for four teams. He said the club might want the league to play on Wednesdays, depending on availability of fields. There also could be an influx of players from a Thursday league currently playing at Carmichael Park.

Website. President Bill Hill said steps were being taken to keep the www.gsscs.org website information current. He said he has two volunteers to help webmaster Jamyn Jodice, also a volunteer, upgrade the site with league standings, schedules, batting statistics, etc., and perhaps even video clips of Golden Seniors games. Steve Bonner has agreed to lead the effort.

The goal is to have website improvements in effect this July. (See Page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE: May 8 Meeting News; Gloveman Shaw “retires” and there is a new source for fixing gloves; Long-time sponsor Overhead Door Co. of Sacramento; April Hot Hitters, and more.

**Next General Meeting: 7 p.m.
JULY 10, VFW Hall
on Stockton
Boulevard.**

GENERAL MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)

Rule Books. The new rule books have been printed and handed out to league commissioners, who in turn provided a book to each manager. The book was to be available to the general membership on the club web site. An overview of new rules was published in the March-April Dugout Chatter.

Hot Bats. The board is continuing to consider hot bats for L7 on Mondays at Howe Park. Hill said the board is planning to have 2018 player applications include a provision for applicants to sign up for a league allowing the same caliber of bats used in the club's night leagues and on Tuesdays at the Complex. If hot bats are to be allowed, Hill said the club needs provisions to protect pitchers from line drivers, such as a screen, or allow them to pitch up to 15 feet farther back.

Sponsors. Rocky Wilkerson, 2nd VP in charge of sponsors, said he is still recruiting. As of May 8 there were 36 paid sponsors and the club had lost six from last year, including multi-team sponsors cutting back to one team. He said he hoped to bring in an additional \$1,000 from 2017 sponsors, for a total sponsorship income of \$8,810.

General Meetings and Board Election. The next general meeting is July 10, when nominations are due for the seven positions on the club Board of Directors. The annual board election occurs at the August meeting, and the newly elected board is sworn in at the September meeting.

Howe Park Bases and AED. Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison said he and Hill personally measured the length between bases at Howe Park and found them at or close to 65 feet. Some players had said they seemed to be 70 feet. There also was concern that Field 4 at Howe Park did not have a readily available defibrillator. However, Ellison noted that the AED between Field 1 and Field 2 was about 150 feet away, close enough to get the AED there in less than a minute. After player complaints were taken to Howe Park, Field 4 conditions were improved in recent weeks, though players would much rather be on Field 1 or 2.

Substitute Fields. Due to scheduling conflicts at the Sacramento Softball Complex, the club moved some games to McClellan's Freedom Park. Games moved were May 16-18 and May 23-24, for Leagues 2-3-4-5-6, May 30-June 1 and June 27-29 for night leagues only. #

“GLOVE MAN” SHAW “RETIRES” — INTRODUCING JAY SCHULTE

Howard Shaw, for many years known as the “Glove Man,” can no longer fix ballplayers' gloves, as he suffers from Alzheimer's. Shaw's wife, Ruby, notified the club that Howard, 87, could no longer do this work. Howard, 87, is a 27-year veteran of the club.

Meanwhile, there is another source for ball glove repair, cleaning and conditioning: Jay Schulte of Fair Oaks (916 473-3114). Jim Stinson reports that Schulte fixed his venerable first base mitt in one day and the cost was “very reasonable.” Schulte, whose ball-playing days were curtailed by back surgery, said he lives near Del Campo High School, where his son plays baseball. He said Stinson's mitt needed only a one-lace repair and cleaning, which he did for \$20. Normally, figure a complete re-lace, cleaning and conditioning will run \$40-45 for a middle-infielder glove; \$55 for an outfielder glove, depending on type, and \$60-65 for first base or catcher gloves. The complete service usually takes three to five days. His email address is enj808@gmail.com. #

LOYAL SPONSOR OF GOLDEN SENIOR SOFTBALL FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES: OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO

Editor's Note: GSSCS members are encouraged to support our sponsors. This article is part of an occasional series highlighting longtime GSSCS sponsors. Looking for a garage door or a repair, check out Overhead Door Company of Sacramento, Inc. www.OHDSAC.com 916 421-3747. Location: 6756 Franklin Blvd.

Twenty-eight years ago, Neil Rogers turned 55 and decided it was time to become a senior — Golden Senior ballplayer, that is. He had been a fast-pitch player for years, until he was 42, then decided to join a slow-pitch team for four or five years.

Doug Hatley, his kids' school teacher, recruited Neil to play in the Golden Seniors. Come out and watch, Hatley urged, and Neil did just that. He played third base. He said he was sort of a "banjo" hitter, not much power. But he could pepper the "5-6 hole" with singles between the third baseman and shortstop.

Rogers recalls playing with Harold Dunbar and Lloyd Wagoner, a couple of legendary senior softballers, among others.

Once Neil joined the Golden Seniors, he offered to sponsor a team, jumping at the chance to fill a vacancy.

That's how Overhead Door Company of Sacramento Inc. became a Golden Seniors Softball Club sponsor. Neil said he played on the team he sponsored, winning a couple of championships. The first was a memorable finish: "Runner on third, one out. I was told I needed to hit a long fly. I said I never hit long flies. But I hit a single to win the game."

Now in his 83rd year, Neil played 14 years with the Golden Seniors, until he was 69. He continues to stay active by playing golf and enjoys chatting about his senior softball years.

Forty-four years after joining the business — 17 as a salesperson and 27 as the owner — Neil retired, and his son-in-law, David Leesha, in 2004, took over the business after working there since 1978. David said his father-in-law believes in sponsorships and he continues the company tradition of community involvement.

David was a good ballplayer, Neil recalls, but sore legs kept him from continuing as a senior player. David played, managed and sponsored for years in the Elk Grove softball league, but knee surgery cut short his playing days.

Overhead Door Company of Sacramento, Inc., has OVERHEAD DOOR printed on a recognizable red ribbon logo. The company's website notes that this is "The Genuine. The Original" Overhead Door Company of Sacramento, Inc. This is an important distinction since a rival outfit (GDS) uses Sacramento Overhead Door on the Internet, "flipping our name around," said Melonie San Filippo, Neil's grand-daughter.

"Look for the red ribbon" logo, say Neil, David and Melonie because, for 95 years, this is the legitimate Overhead Door Company of Sacramento, Inc.

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UPDATE: SAVING KEN KUBISCH

Chuck Knutson, just weeks after taking a Golden Seniors-sponsored class in CPR-AED, helped save the life of NorCal Red Hawks 70s player Ken Kubisch.

As reported in the March-April Golden Seniors Dugout Chatter, Ken suffered a massive heart attack and ruptured aorta during a Tournament Players Association game April 1 in Folsom against the Sacramento Islanders 70s, including Knutson. Ken was unconscious and not breathing. Breathing was revived by several sets of chest compressions and three shocks from the AED, or defibrillator, but he remained unconscious as he was transported to a hospital.

Ken hopes to get back on the softball field again but does not know when that will happen. (Ken messaged on May 9 that he has one more procedure to do in a few weeks to clear out a 70% blockage in another artery.)

On May 6, Knutson called Ken, who lives in Redding, and here is much of what Chuck conveyed at the May 8 Golden Seniors general meeting:

“Ken said his voice is a bit raspy from being on a breathing machine for so long, but he didn’t seem to have a problem talking with me. In fact, he talked my ear off! He gave me a full history of his past work as a Caltrans civil engineer and his military service with the Navy Sea Bees in Vietnam. He had been very active in both playing and coaching sports teams for many years.

“Since he had stopped breathing, and doctors had to induce a coma to cool his brain, allowing it to rest and recover, there was concern that he might have suffered brain damage. After he regained consciousness, he began speaking with his family and passed many mind tests at Mercy Hospital with flying colors. Although one artery was nearly 100% clogged and the other one was over 70% clogged, he was able to avoid open heart surgery with the stent and expert help of a Mercy Hospital doctor.

“Before this heart attack, Ken had no prior episodes or symptoms. His blood pressure had been normal, but his pulse has always been on the low side, in the 50s beats per minute. He is one of the fastest runners on the Red Hawks and is slender in build. He appeared to be in good physical shape. He has been very active his whole life. The former Caltrans engineer and Navy Sea Bee in Vietnam has played and coached in numerous sports.”

Knutson said his conclusion is that “something like this could happen to anyone. Ken’s life was saved because of the presence of a defibrillator and trained CPR/AED personnel on site, including umpire Tom Bussey and Dan Cortez, a physician who was coaching his son’s baseball team on a nearby field.

“I would like to see more Golden Senior members sign up and take the Red Cross CPR/AED class ASAP. We need more trained people on hand to respond to these types of emergencies. So let Glenn Cummings or me know if you want to take the next available class.”

GSSCS Safety Coordinator Glenn Cummings said at the general meeting that 11 club members were trained earlier this year in courses for which the club pays the Red Cross \$75 fee for each member. These Red Cross classes are held in the spring and also in the fall. He said he would try to set up an earlier class through another organization if there is enough interest. Contact Cummings at 276-9530. Knutson can be reached at 524-9763. #

LEAGUE LEADERS AND HOT HITTERS IN APRIL

While the sample size of games was small, there were several players batting above .900 and numerous others hitting in the .800 range during April.

Eight players were batting .818 or higher in L3, including Sharyn Ruff at .889. Mark Kirkland was slugging 1.667 with three in-the-park homers. Tri-C Machine was in first place with a record of 4-0 with one tie.

In L4, six players were at .818 or higher, led by Mark Holgerson's .864. Steve Bull was listed at .900 but was not among the top eight in hits for the Wednesday night league, so it is doubtful that he had a lot of at-bats. Tri-C Machine was in first with a 4-1 mark.

In L5, Scott Bonner was hitting .917 through four games, followed by Anthony Maze at .909. Bonner was among the league's hit leaders while Maze had eight extra-base hits. Jarvis Quenga drove in 16 runs in the four April games as he slugged two over the fence and added four doubles among his 11 hits. Tied for first at 3-1 were Rapid Solutions and Cool Kettle Corn.

Tuesday day L2 had five players at .800 or above, with Hal Kastner batting .923 with two triples and 13 RBI. Steve Gellerman and Mick Tursky were at .867, followed by Rich Edwards (.833) and Jerry Horton (.800). Hal Johnson had three inside-the-park homers to join Kesner and Jim Hoffman as league leaders with 13 RBI. Sports Leisure Vacations was alone in first place with a 4-1 record.

Tuesday day L6's top hitter through five games: Rich Edwards at .941, followed by Jim Powell's .933. Ernie Boston, Bill McMahon and Steve Lengyel were above .800. Rick Slama hit for the cycle on March 28. Mark White and EG Threads were in first place at 4-1.

Monday morning L7, through four games, was led by Dan Tajbl at .875, followed by Patrick Morrison's .824. Bill Nevis had two homers, one over the fence. Jolly Rogers and Overhead Door Company of Sacramento led with 3-1 records.

The hottest start was logged by Dave Vargo of L1 Monday morning, 13 for 13 over three games. Glenn McKeever had three inside-the-park homers in the the first two games, batting .857. Steve Gellerman was at .875. Tied for first at 2-0 were Nielson and Showbiz.

L8 on Tuesdays does not use scorekeepers.

Leaders of the Hit Parade: Two players led the club with 19 hits over the first month of the season — Steve Lengyel in L6 and Mark Holgerson in L4. Larry Lagomarsino had 18 in L4 as did Chris Oliver in L3.

(Thanks to Scorekeepers Colette Barnes and Dawn Gerlach.)



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SCOREKEEPERS DAWN MARIE GERLACH AND VENUS GERLACH, AND THE SPECIAL
ASSIST BY RUSS BARNES WHO PUT THE COMPUTERIZED SCOREKEEPING
PROGRAM TOGETHER. PLEASE NOTE THAT DURING THE SEASON YOUR MANAGER
WILL HAVE YOUR TEAM'S BATTING STATISTICS. #*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2016-17 -- President: **Bill Hill** 916 804-2243. 1st VP: **Rocky Wilkerson** 916 595-2541. 2nd VP: **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: **Bobby Ellison** 916 212-7498.

TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso) 491-1721 for meeting news and field conditions. Phone or Address Changes: Dave Tanner 216-1941

Player Applications: Dave Tanner 216-1941

ONLINE AT WWW.GSSCS.ORG

Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 973-8269

Rules: Bobby Ellison 212-7498

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 456-1500

Safety: Glenn Cummings 276-9530
Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 422-2500 (coachrwr@comcast.net)

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

A GOLDEN SENIOR NEEDS YOUR HELP

Phil "Reggie" Rogers, L5 manager, is scheduled for a heart transplant and needs blood donations. Club President Bill Hill, in an email blast to the membership on May 15, urged members to call BloodSource (916) 456-1500 and learn how to donate blood in the name of Rogers. "The blood you donate will replace the blood he does receive. You don't need to be the same blood type," Hill said.

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