

Englewood Senior Softball crowns new champs

By RUDY DAVIS

SPECIAL TO THE SUN

ENGLEWOOD — The Englewood Men's Senior Softball league concluded the 2018 season last week, a season once again highlighted by close competition in both the Gold division and in the Silver division.

"We thought last year was great, but this year, wow! At one point we had four Gold Division teams tied for first with only two weeks to go in the season," said Rich Entlich, league director. "Like last year, we had a large number of one- and two-run games, and the seventh-inning wins were plentiful. We saw more parity in the leagues this year than ever, a testament to our draft process."

Everything starts with the draft process. The league had to split the draft in to two days this year, due to the turnout. Entlich attributes the excellent play to the new



PHOTOS PROVIDED

The Gold Division Champion Rum Bay Pirates celebrate their successful softball season.

GOLD DIVISION FINAL STANDINGS

Team	Wins	Losses
Rum Bay Pirates	16	5
Ricaltini's	15	6
Norma Jean's	12	9
Beyond the Sea	12	9
Zeke's	11	10
End Zone	8	13
Key Agency	6	15
Howards	4	17

SILVER DIVISION FINAL STANDINGS

Team	Wins	Losses
Riverwood Realty Relics	18	3
Landy's Orange Crush	17	4
Red Raiders	15	6
Old Dawgs	11	10
Yellow Jackets	8	13
Blues Brothers	7	14
Green Hornets	6	15
Purple Panthers	2	19

talent at the draft, those entering the league for the first time, and those players moving from the Gold division to the Silver division.

In the Silver division,

the championship was determined in a final-week showdown between Landy's Orange Crush, last year's champion, and the Riverwood Relics, which Riverwood won by a score of 25 to 17.

The Relics, sponsored by Riverwood Realty and Tropical Breeze Realty, is a recent addition to the Silver division, and had an outstanding 18-3 record, winning their final 14 games of the season.

"We came up one game short last year, but not this year, with it

terms of competition and camaraderie. Glad we won that last showdown. Go Pirates!" stated Dan Kett, manager of the Rum Bay Pirates.

With players and fans headed home following the last games, the competitive juices turned to handshakes, embraces and well wishes for the summer.

Meanwhile, plans were already being made for next year, with the draft to be held in early January 2019, and league play to follow the draft. "We've seen a lot of



The Silver Division Champion Riverview Relics are, from left; (front row) Al Laurey, Jack Johnson, Gary Smockum, Dan McManus (Scorekeeper) and Greg Fabos, (second row) Bob Felt and Gary Thomas (third row) Mike Welling, Rene Nobert, Jimmy Lester and Al Morley (top row) Dave Sexe, John Hagy, Gary Howell and Jimmy Burwell.



but not this year, with it going down to the wire again. Great league, good guys, ton of fun," said John Hagy, the Riverwood Relics manager.

In the Gold division, the battle for first went right down to the last week of play, but with two newcomers at the top of the standings.

Winning their last eight games of the year, The Rum Bay Pirates beat Ricaltini's in their showdown, laying claim to their first regular season championship. The Pirates won the division with an excellent 16-5 record.

"Our team had a terrific year. We won a lot of close games with great defense and late inning comebacks. And the league was great in

we've seen a lot of growth in the number of players wanting to play, and in the number of players wanting to continue to play into their 80s," says Entlich.

As such, the league is proposing some changes in 2019 that will facilitate its mission ... to give as many senior men as possible the opportunity to play recreational softball.

"Chief among the changes is creating a Bronze division for those whose skill level is no longer suitable for the current Gold or Silver divisions," said Bill Rice, a league board member. "This will allow players, especially those in their late 70s and 80s, to continue to play, creating more opportunities in both the Gold and Silver divisions."

The addition of the Bronze division is expected to increase the number of teams to 18. With the movement of some players to the Bronze division, and the natural movement from Gold to Silver, the downstream effect will be more openings in the Gold division for younger talent.

For those of you who will be 60 or over in 2019, or those who are age-eligible already and want to join the fun, open practices are held at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Englewood Sports Complex April through December.

Those new to the league and interested in playing in 2019 can register for next year at www.inglewoodseniorsoftball.weebly.com.