



Sorems attend Charger game in London-visit St. Andrews for golf – visit Nottingham

Alan (Big Al), Brett, Bryce, and Emily spent a week in England and Scotland in the last week of October. The main reason for this vacation was to visit the famous golf course (site of the annual British Open) at St. Andrews, Scotland and then attend the San Diego Chargers NFL game in London. We have received (from Alan) several pictures and accounts of their adventures in this vacation.

Grandpa,

Brett, Emily, Bryce and I just returned from a vacation of nine days in the UK. The main reason for going was to play golf at St. Andrews and also to see the Chargers play the New Orleans Saints. The Chargers lost the game but the golf was awesome. We played 3 days at St. Andrews. The first day was on the Jubilee course and the weather was perfect, just a little windy. The second day we played the New course and this was really an awful golfing day. It rained all day and the winds were around 40-50 miles per hour. On some holes it was hard to stand to hit the ball. When hitting a short iron to the green you had to aim 50 to 75 yards to the left or right just to let the wind take the ball back towards the green. Thankfully the third day the weather cleared on about the 4th hole, it stopped raining, and the sun came out. I was still windy but was a great day. The picture is of the bridge on the 18th hole of the Old Course.

We spent the first day in London looking at the sights. Day two we traveled to Nottingham to see Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest (Bryce's idea). The next three days were spent on the golf course with a little bar hopping in Edinburgh, Scotland. After the days of golf we traveled to Liverpool to see where the Beatles started their careers; then back to London for the Charger game.

Alan

From Emily we have his detailed and very interesting account of the entire vacation.

Hello Family, So here goes the story of the Sorem Boys + 1:

The flight over was good. I got to sit with Brett and Bryce, Big Al being the nice guy he is gave me his seat by the guys. The flight was a little long but flights overseas are great! They served us breakfast and lunch. Everyone's bags arrived (luckily) and we picked up the rental car. Everything was easy up until that



point. The car ended up just a bit too small even though it's a station wagon (ugh, golf clubs) and it was really difficult finding the hostel. We drove around for a good two hours or so trying to find the place but it was a great way to see the city. Unfortunately, London is not on a grid. We passed by Harvey Nichols, Harrods (Emily's version of the Old Course) and lots of monuments; oh and got pulled over by the police (no left turns on green, Brett). Luckily, they were really nice and didn't even give Brett a ticket. They ended up showing us where our hostel was; literally driving us right to Piccadilly Backpackers The hostel was okay, really small with 4 twin beds in a room, good thing we weren't planning on spending a lot of time there. Once we got settled in we went out exploring but by that time it was like 11:45/12 at night and most pubs were closed. So we grabbed a sausage from a street vendor and headed home. The next day we just walked around the entire day. We began in Piccadilly Circus, which is a central area in London comparable to times sq except half the size and with half the people but there were jumbo-trons! We walked toward Buckingham Palace and ended up running into The Horse Guards Parade, where the Guards of Buckingham Palace go to change out their horses. I've got a great pic of that, with a horse who was a little too interested. We continued

on our journey towards Westminster Hall to see Big Ben. It was awesome, really great architecture. After taking dozens of pics (Brett) we crossed the river Thames to South Bank where we did some exploring off the beaten path. It was interesting, just a little bit more artsy and slower. After grabbing some Fish & Chips (basically just a slap of fried fish and fries but its sooo good!) at Hole in the Wall we headed back into central London. We grabbed a cab over to Harrods where I shopped my little heart away but didn't buy a thing there was just so much to look at. It's really an amazing store. There is a central escalator that's Egyptian themed where a woman sings opera. It's basically a super department store with all designer stuff, so you know it was my heaven. After, we went to the London Eye which is a huge Ferris wheel, 135 ft to be exact. You get awesome views of the city this way, you can see for forever. It gets a little nerve-racking at the top, when I say its tall I mean, seriously tall, bigger than Big Ben. Afterwards, the guys tried to catch the Chargers game (undying fans). We actually found a place that was showing it but there were technical difficulties going on at the Bills stadium so we ended up not seeing it but there were quite a few charger fans there that evening, it was fun hanging with them. The next day we got up to go to Nottingham (home of Robin Hood). Before we made it there we stopped for some food at a little trucker stop. The food was great! More importantly though, this is where Bryce and I had our first experience with tea. We are officially converted and will never go back. Tetley forever! Nottingham wasn't too far away actually. It's such a cute town, not too small or anything. I did some shopping once we got there and then went to eat at a local pub. They have something called A Toad in the Hole, which is pancake type stuff wrapped around sausage, they have strange food here but it's all soo good. That night we hung around Nottingham Trent University (Bryce is going to transfer and continue his college career here) and ran into what seemed like every person in the town that was under 30. They were all doing a 7-Legged Pub Crawl, costumes included. People were dressed up like the rainbow, sailors, footballers and their wives (i.e. Posh & Becks), Monty Python, cards, crayons, even Where's Waldo, everything. Brett and Bryce even got involved and joined in with the footballers, sans costumes unfortunately but wouldn't Bryce make a great girl? IT was a crazy night, at the end, kids were running drunk and crazy through the town square but no one really seemed to mind. I do believe NTU is the biggest party school in the world; even the locals know and accept it. One local suggested we stay for a Sat night because we hadn't seen anything close to what happens then. The next day we enjoyed an English breakfast (in case you're wondering: fried eggs, 2 racks of bacon, 2 sausages, fried toast, beans, tomato puree). We went to Nottingham Castle (my first) and the oldest bar in Nottingham; Ye Old Trip to Jerusalem. It was a cool place, built into the rock that Nottingham Castle actually sits atop. Our last stop in Nottingham was Sherwood Forest. I was on a quest to find gnomes but those guys are far too loud and impatient, so my attempt failed. After we said our goodbyes to Nottingham, we headed to Edinburgh, Scotland. On the way, we ran into Newcastle and stopped for a beer in their Chinatown. Strange I know, no Newcastle beer but Chinatown? We made it to Edinburgh quite late and just grabbed a beer at Bank Bar close by to our hostel. The next day, we all got up super early to make the tee time in St. Andrews, which holds the two oldest golf courses in the entire world. It was sooo beautiful out there. Obviously, I'm not so into golf but it was really a lot of fun walking around with the guys as they played. The course they played (Jubilee) had the back 9 holes right on the sea, really spectacular views. We got back into the city around 6, grabbed some food (continued on page 2)

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and found a local pub where we meet some real Scottish guys. We watch the Liverpool football game with them, talked politics (and drank beer) for the rest of the night. The next day, the guys got up to play golf at St. Andrews again but on a different course, the New Course. The stories they have about this day are crazy funny. The weather was sooo terrible, as the guys say: angry skies!!! I decided to stay in the city to see what it was all about. So, that day I just explored most of the city. I walked up the Royal Mile, which has lots of really cool old architecture, up to Edinburgh Castle. A tour through the castle would've cost me 20 bucks so I decided to pass but I got some great pics with Big Al's camera. Then I crossed the main bridge of the city to do some shopping at Harvey Nichols, an extremely expensive department store designer only, needless to say. I strictly looked and did no buying. After that great adventure, I just spent the rest of the day walking around peeping into different shops that looked interesting. On Fri, we all went back out to St. Andrews where the guys played the Old Course, which is the first golf course ever (6 centuries old) and the one that the British open is played on. It was actually pretty interesting; the grounds are just amazingly beautiful. It was really cool to see the sand traps and architecture of the course oh and the infamous bridge! We hung out and enjoyed what St. Andrews had to offer. It's quite small but cute. We got some food at a little pub; I finally got my meat pie steak and gummies. I mean if you'r going to eat a meat pie it might as well have beer in it, right? It was delicious. Once we finished, we began our drive to Liverpool. The guys had been driving the entire time and were tired because of the early tee time so Big Al drove . . . for all of 10 min. Sorry Big Al, I have to include this. I thought I was going to die. Its difficult driving on the left side of the road and I can imagine it's quite difficult but the perception was a little off. Yes Big AL, we really are far too close to that huge semi (to make things even better, we were on a small country road). We got to Liverpool pretty late so we left the exploring for the next day except for Bryce who was always exploring late at night for food. In Liverpool we went to see Matthew Street where the Beatles began. The big sight to see was The Cavern Club. This is the grungy club down in a cavern where the Beatles played like 200 times or something. The original is now closed but they reopened one just like it down the street that still actually has live bands perform. It was a neat place. A lot of famous band had played there, The Who, Oasis, bands like that. After our little Beatle adventure we started off to London. This was the beginning of a really great day (sentence dripping with sarcasm). It was a long drive to London but once we finally got there we made one more tourist stop at Tower Bridge. It's beautiful, actually has towers on the bridge. Similar to Cinderella towers. Pictures were taken, sights and beer enjoyed and we were back on our way to the hostel. It was very far east and a little south of central London. I should say, don't go to south eastern London . . . ever. I have experienced Harlem and all of its little joys but I was very nervous once we got to our hostel; rightfully so because they had lost our reservation, so it's now 11/11:30 and we have nowhere to stay. The next day holds 2 huge games: Liverpool v. Chelsea U and the Charger game, so our chances of finding something are slim to none. Oh but 'mean lady behind the desk that lost our reservation' thought of a place close by (further east) that may have rooms open. We have to find something so we go check it out. I'm more nervous now because we have to travel even further east. We're almost there when we turn a corner a see our hostel, right next to the most seedy, nasty bar I've ever seen in my life. Bryce and Big Al got to check it out. Five min later, they both come (hurried) back to the car. Brett, optimistic (okay a little exaggeration there) thinks maybe they have a room. Bryce jumps in the car and says: Hurry, hurry get in and lock the doors. We have to leave now! This place is terrible. After hours you have to check in at the bar and the woman behind the bar was definitely on something. She looked 3 ft to the left of me, put her hand in the air, and spoke in drunken-cracked out English and I don't speak that. Needless to say we drove away from there very quickly and didn't look back. After stopping at a couple different places to see if we could get a room we finally ran into a cutest boutique hotel I had ever seen. Amazingly, they had 2 rooms open for us. It was so worth the search and after 8 days of staying in somewhat dirty hostels this was a breath of fresh air (thanks Big Al). We had a great breakfast the next morning and headed off to Wimbley Stadium. Once we got there we found an awesome bar that was doing all the pre-festivities. They had people from the English American Football club there, an awesome dance team,

even a mechanical bull. We really had a great time there; the bar was the unofficial Charger watering hole. We met lots of fun Charger fans, made some friends and ended up walking over to the stadium with them. At the stadium, we hung out in front for a while with a few of our new friends. Brett and I went to look for Ari (Bretts good friend) that we never could find. While we were away, Big Al and Bryce played outside with the Charger friends. I do believe that a beer bong was involved but I can't say for sure . . . I wasn't there. ☺ The game was awesome even though the Chargers weren't at their prime; it was a lot of fun. It was the best way to end a great holiday.

It was really an amazing trip/experience/adventure, one that I do not regret participating in. I made it though an all-male Sorem vacation and I survived . . . that needs to be put on a shirt! Check out the vuvox link for pics of all the craziness, be warned, it is a work in progress though so check back often.

Em

Thanks, Em, for this great report. It almost seems like we were there with you. We have a few more pictures, but they will have to be delayed to he next issue.

Margaret and Bud Attend Guanojuato Cervantino Festival

Margaret & Bud visited long time friends, Randy and Stephanie Souviney and Jane and David Mares in Guanojuato



Mexico in October to experience the Cervantino Festival.

Guanojuato is a pre-Colonial city that was famous for its silver mines in the 17th and 18th Century.

This gorgeous, Spanish-style city is now famous for its Cervantino Festival. The Festival started a number of years ago as a celebration of Cervantes' plays (Don Quixote being the most famous; Riel family members will remember Tim's epic

performance in this play).

The festival has grown now, to the point that every day during the month of October, a wide range



of dance, theatre, music of all types, puppet shows and street theater is offered. Margaret and Bud stayed in a gorgeous hacienda style house for the weekend. Their pictures show the city and one of the many delicious meals all friends enjoyed.

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Late news flash!!

Carol to emergency room with severe leg pains –You may recall that Carol had right knee surgery recently. Last Saturday Nov. 8th she experienced severe pain in the right calf. At the hospital emergency room it was determined that she had three blood clots, which required immediate medical attention. She was allowed to go home, but is on special medication to dissolve the clots. She is feeling better now, and we met with her for lunch on Wednesday. We will have a more complete story in the next RFNL.

Scooter Trailer hits the Road – Finally

Maiden Voyage to the Zoo last Saturday was a wild success.

It seemed so easy, build a trailer so Grandpa and Grandma could travel on there own, with their scooters, to far-flung places. And all was easy, until we got to the ramp. We needed one that would be long enough to allow the scooters to motor up on it own power, but light enough to be handled and stored. With both, a computer generated scale model and old fashion trial and error we mastered the task.

Here are some pictures of both the trailer assembling and the trip to the zoo.



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Francie and Lyle train to Seattle for vacation

Francie sent us the following report on their recent vacation.

As I write this letter I am riding on a train through the beautiful state of Oregon. Lyle and I boarded a train in San Diego, destination Seattle. The trip is about 38 hours long but you know what they say, it's about the journey not the destination. We have a very cool sleeper car in first class and the changing leaves of fall make a spectacular movie screen out of our window. Last night we rolled through Sacramento and had a couple of hours to check out the capital of our state. Just a week ago we were at the nation's capital and you could feel the same energy so many miles away. We will get into Seattle about 10 pm tonight, stay two days and then fly home. This is the trip to follow to take your mind and body to a place of no worries no hurries and no stress.



RFNL REORGANIZATION

The first issue of the Riel Family Newsletter was published in mid-April of 1991. Since that time 211 issues have been distributed to family and selected friends. All were written and edited by Frank Riel, but with much help from all the family in the form of reports and pictures about various events. However, the Editor assumed responsibility for each issue. For the past few years this task has become increasingly more difficult, especially because the grandchildren have grown up, left home, and established their own lives. Fortunately, we have had two volunteers willing to take on a regular role in producing each issue. Margaret has agreed to become the circulation manager, since almost all of the issues now are sent out over the internet. She has the ability to cope with large MP pages, difficult to transmit without compression and, sometimes, reorganization. We welcome her help. Also, Ed has volunteered to assume the role of Associate Editor. In this position he will be assuming increasing responsibility in the preparation and organization of various articles. We welcome Ed and Margaret as regular members of the RFNL staff, and hope you will support us in the future with reports on the doings of the far-flung family.

Late news flash – Curtis left San Diego on the 10th, bound for Iraq via Germany and Kuwait. We wish him well in this new assignment!