

RIEL BOWL
XXXIII



January - 2024

Issue No: 396



Riel Bowl Lives!



By Listy Gillingham

The Riel family tradition continued with a Christmas gathering at the Gillingham's house on Lemon Avenue, on the Saturday before New Year's Day. Though the forecast was dismal with threats of rain, we lucked out and had a cool day that allowed for some play outside for the kids. Everyone met up at noon bringing several dishes to share that would complement the Prime Rib that Robert and Karla brought over for us to feast on. Tables were set up in the dining room, kitchen, and out by the pool to welcome representatives from every family who could make it.





After lunch, we offered our first-ever White Elephant Toy Exchange with the caveat that grand kids had to be old enough to understand that they might get something they already have or that they may not want as that's the spirit of a white elephant exchange. There was some reluctance by the adults to allow stealing, but after a lively chant from the grands asking for the rules to include steals, they gave in and stated there would be one steal allowed for each toy.

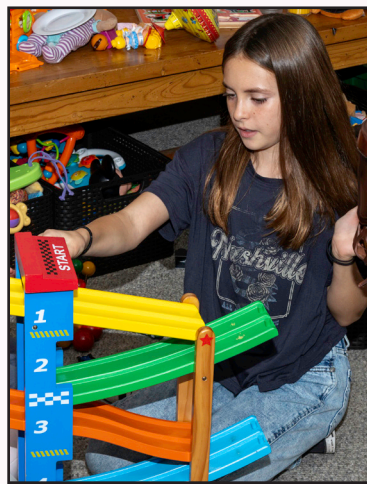


Everyone was a good sport, enjoying the nature of the game and we had no tears which made it a success on at least one level. The adults followed with their exchange, and some might say they got sweet revenge returning a toilet or chia pet to the mix for someone else to enjoy at their houses.



The best part of the gathering was that we got to be together as a family. We love seeing the grands enjoy our family traditions and share in having fun with their cousins from all over. Jessica and Miguel got the prize for the furthest travel, although Megan gets kudos for traveling from Washington too. We didn't have everyone, but we had a good mix which made the event a true success. We also got to celebrate Emily's 10th birthday with a special cake brought by Yaya Margaret. Thanks to everyone who came and made our Riel Bowl celebration unforgettable!







By Brett Sorem

2nd Annual Riel Family Golf Tournament

2023 was a difficult year to say the least. Many people around the globe have suffered tremendously. Extreme poverty, asylum seekers, and living in an all-out warzone are just a few of the atrocities that people struggled with this year. But there is one group of individuals who have endured hardship unlike the rest... the Eight Riel cousins that have had a whole year of anguish and defeat on their hands. Yes, our loss to the "Boomer Birdies", as they have coined themselves, hit us hard. *(If it's not completely obvious this is satire, this sentence is for you. I am by no means comparing our lives to those stuck in the middle of a warzone.)*

The only solace we had was the opportunity to avenge our righteous position on top of the Riel Golf Hierarchy. All year we practiced, week in and week out. And by practice, I mean most of us didn't touch a golf club. No, our practice was much deeper than that of the physical realm. Our rigorous mental gymnastic routines prepared us to do the unthinkable, beat the Boomers.





Our mediocre handicaps individually didn't matter, as a team, together, we just had to believe we could become champions. Leaps and bounds ahead of ourselves last year, I even thought for some reason it would be a good idea to allow the Boomers to add 2 Gillinghams to the opponents team. Some said this was inevitable suicide, and others...also came to that conclusion.

The battle grounds were familiar: Sycuan Oak Course. The players were mostly the same. Mike Riel's decision to schedule his daughter being born on our future Riel Golf Tournament Day proves a lack of foresight necessary to defeat the Boomers, so he had to be replaced. We sentenced him to a year on the driving range for this decision, and hope he's learned his lesson, and how to temper his slice. We added Miguel who was in town for the holidays and picked up Jason's friend Matt who slotted in for Michael nicely, both very high on vibe and handicap scale, yet both able to contribute when needed.



The teams were set. 10 vs 10. One group slightly old. The other, let's say much wiser. The tournament was best ball with a few rules that were explained clearly before the round. Uncle Bob may have other opinions on the matter, but at the end of the day, all were aware of the new additions. Boomers have always had trouble following rules. We added closest to the pin, which gave the winner of each hole an extra birdy.

We, the cousins, had thought we were defeated going into the 18th hole. Lyle Hall was passing on false information via text message the entire round that I had taken to be true. Touche Lyle, I will remember this next





year. I was under the impression that the Hall foursome finished -9. Brett/Kendahl/Lyle Allen/Kevin foursome finished at -6 as we watched David/Nate/Chris/Miguel finish out their round on the 18th. They were -5 on approach and I had just assumed if Lyle was at -9 that the Gillinghams must have been -18 or some ridiculously unimaginable score.

With imminent defeat on our minds the last foursome of the cousins secured a bogey to bring the last foursome to -4 netting the cousins at -5. Little did we know the Boomers netted -4.5. Victory felt sweet for a second, until I remembered the closest to the pin scores, which didn't look good for us at my glance.





The closest to the pins on the par 3's on the front nine were tied. One for the Boomers at 9 feet. One for the cousins, struck by yours truly, at 5'11, narrowly stealing a point back from the Boomers. There was only one par 3 on the back, and I had assumed that it was the Boomers who had struck gold at 22 feet. None of our foursome got close to the green, and nor did our group behind us.

That would give them an extra birdy that would take their score to a -5.5 beating us out by half a point. But ultimately that was not the case. Bob said none of them hit the green. In a twist of fate, Matt from our mixed foursome ahead of us, was the man closest to the pin. This meant that the cousins ended up at -6 net beating the Boomer Birdys by 1.5 strokes.

We did it!!! Revenge tasted crisp, and we all washed it down with beers and great food afterwards. It was a tremendous tournament, hard fought by both sides, but ultimately the underdogs ended up taking home the trophy. And when I say trophy, I mean an actual trophy made by the winners of the first annual tournament. They outdid themselves.

Having won the first year gave the Boomers two things. It gave them the responsibility for making the trophy, and also gave them the opportunity to name the teams. Passing the trophy over to the "Baby Bogies", as they coined us, couldn't have been easy. We will accept our given name and embrace where we came from as a reminder that one day the Baby's will ultimately pass the torch to the next generation of Riels as the Boomers had to this year. As I'm sure the Boomers can attest to, the kids grow up way, way, too fast.

So, for now, it's time for us to bask in the sun of victory. Like I have told many of you, this is one of my favorite days of the year, I hope we can continue this for many years to come.

Looking forward to 2024's tournament. The competition, as we all keep getting older, remains growing stronger! Boomer Birdys 1 - Baby Bogies 1

The Rivalry Lives.



Coral is 4! We've been so busy celebrating that I'm a few days late. She's our forever free spirit, sassy and spunky. She loves fiercely, snuggles strongly, and refuses to wear pants. Sparkles, dresses, unicorns, and rainbows all day every day. Life wouldn't be the beautiful chaos it is without you, my little lover. - Mom





SISTER BIRTHDAY

Born two years and one day apart, but only a few days from Christmas, it's easy to lose birthday celebrations. However, that was not the case with Evie and McKenzie this year. They had a special dual birthday party with their cousins, parents, and grandparents! Evie is now 4 years old while McKenzie is entering her terrific twos! Happy Birthday to both of you!!







FAMILY



Covid interrupts another 40th family birthday party. Bud picked up the dreaded “C” Virus somewhere and shared it with me, making our house a terrible place for a party. Megan wisely left the house and managed to not share this family gift. And fortunately, Megan had more than one party planned. She will be celebrating with her North County friends on the eve of her birthday and then driving to San Francisco to celebrate with friends there. So happy birthday Megan!!!

Emily’s soccer team “the Misklevitz’s” won the 12th annual Carlsbad Premier Cup on Sunday the 14th of January. It was a very close battle for the final which turned out to be a defensive battle finishing as a tie with no goals scored. Emily’s team finally prevailed in the end as the tie was broken with penalty kicks. Congratulations to Emily and her team!

SHORTS



Introducing Alexandre Augustinas Legrain
Born 30th Oct 2023 at Santa Cruz, CA

Grandson of Gérard and Katrin, Great Grandson of Mairin Lee and Marie Helene/ Xanthippi Merica (the sister of Edith/Lilica Riel). As this is the first Grandchild for Gérard and Katrin we understand that they are both over the moon with this exciting arrival. Congratulations to all!!!

