



dependent on athletic ability, so anyone can participate and be competitive," she says.

Ogle believes the court was installed in the early 1980's, when the water systems were moved from the yard to the road. "The leech field, where the sewer system went, was right there," he says, pointing to the court.

The entire family gets into the action when son Paul, 11 and daughter Luzia, 6, join in. Because the court has lights, evening play is frequent. "Paul here, he'll be a ringer," says HuangLi. "We have to say, 'Let the other guests play,' because he's so competitive. And Luzia, she likes to throw out the little white ball (also called the "jack," "boccino" or "pallina," depending on who you're playing with) to get things started."

Although they've now purchased a good supply of balls, their first balls were found amidst the overhanging oaks on the hills surrounding the court. The trees provide shade and make play more enjoyable, HuangLi says. And provide plenty of opportunities for raking, adds Ogle, with a laugh.

All four family members say having a court has added to their social life. They're planning a recruiting bocce party for a local boy scout troop and Ogle says being on the court reminds him of his beloved Virginia roots. "I've thrown a lot of rocks at a lot of critters in my day, and almost as good."

The response to the Lamorinda Weekly's call for home bocce court stories was overwhelming. Scott Bronsteen left a phone message about his experience, saying, "We've got 4 young kids and it just seems like the kind of thing where both sexes and all ages can participate. It's a good family thing, and entertaining for when you have couples over. Ours is smack under Redwood trees, so it gets more needles on it than I'd like to see on there, but otherwise, we really enjoy it."

Thank you to all who emailed or called. With the sport's booming popularity, we may even have to run a sequel.

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