

MORE THAN ROWING

KENT SCHOOL BOAT CLUB

THE FIRST 100 YEARS • IN TWO VOLUMES

PETER DAVIS MALLORY

TEMPERANTIA · AUDACI · CONSTANTIA

KSBC

1991

Boys First Boat (38-12)

Bow	Thompson Christian Godfrey '91
2	Brooks Bear McFeely '91
3	Kevin Charles Johnson '91
4	Brett Alexander Hansen '92
5	John Charles Cuddeback '91 (Co-Captain)
6	Benjamin Gould Foster '91
7	David William Filippone '91 (Co-Captain)
Stroke	Michael John Kirwan '91
Coxswain	Andrew Campbell Newman '91



Sport Graphics

First Boat Shell: ***Gifford T. Foley '65*** (Vespoli, 1991)
Coach: William Hartwell Perry Jr.
Assistant Coach: Eric Lindsey Houston '80
Assistant Coach: Michael Gifford Hirschfeld
Manager: Kristëan Von der Heiden '93

Kent 0.8 seconds ahead of Radley College
Shiplake College 0.7 seconds ahead of Kent, Phillips Academy Andover 16 seconds further behind
Fifth of 5 in St. Andrew's Invitational (behind St. Joseph's Preparatory School)
Kent 25-plus seconds ahead of Northfield Mount Hermon School
Kent 11 seconds ahead of Tabor Academy
Second of 3 in Connecticut State Championships (behind Salisbury School, ahead of Holy Spirit High School)
Fifth of 27 in Stotesbury Regatta (behind St. Andrew's School)
Third of 14 in New England Interscholastic Regatta (8.9 seconds behind St. Paul's School)

Henley Plate: Thompson Christian Godfrey '91, David William Filippone '91
Bishop's Oar: Michael John Kirwan '91
Perry Tray: Benjamin Gould Foster '91
Perry-MacClarence Bowl: The Second Boat

The ***Gifford T. Foley Jr. '65*** was Kent's first Vespoli D Hull with 3-point adjustable riggers. The crew had trouble all season with rig and set, especially in rough water. At the St. Andrew's Invitational in challenging conditions, Kent led until halfway when they faltered, falling to fifth and last. Weeks later, Kent was comfortably leading the Stotesbury Cup final at 750m when they were hit by a wake. In an echo of the earlier St. Andrew's race and of Stotesbury 1969, they collapsed and finished fifth. At NEIRA, the First Boat was unable to compete with St. Paul's and Salisbury, leaving Kent a length of open water behind.

Early in the 1991 season, Kent had trained with **Radley College** in Florida and **Shiplake College** on the Housatonic.

Former Coach **Tote Walker** was essentially blind by 1991, but Eliza still drove him to all the home races, and at the boathouse the crews learned the lore of Tote. They would often wave to him as they rowed back upstream after races.

First Boat 7-oar and Co-Captain **David William Filippone '91**, at mid-season: "Potentially, we have a well-tuned boat. If we can keep the concentration and morale high, we have the chance to excel.

"At present, consistency is our goal."

David was the younger brother of Michael Anthony Filippone '86 and would go on to row in the Brown varsity, winning the Ladies' Plate at Henley (1993), Eastern Sprints (1993 and 1994), and IRA and National Collegiate Championship (1993, 1994, and 1995). David rowed the 1993 season at Brown with Xeno Müller, future 1995 Kent assistant coach, and 1996 Olympic Singles Champion (see 1995). His coach during 1993 and 1994 was **Steve Gladstone '60**.

In 1991, the six-boat final for the Copley Cup at the San Diego Crew Classic included **Michael Wade Lehman '89** coxing the University of Pennsylvania boat, **Alden Morris Mills '87** stroking the Naval Academy boat, and **Mike Filippone** and **Colin Macrae Sykes '88** in stern pair in the University of Washington boat.



1989 Princeton Lightweight Varsity, IRA Champion Hirschfeld fourth from right

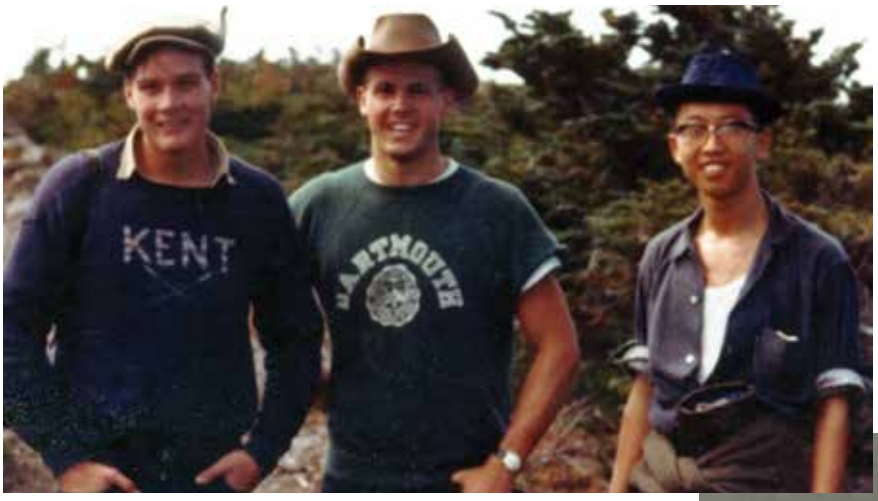
Hart's new assistant, first-year history teacher **Michael Gifford Hirschfeld**, came to Kent with a stellar rowing résumé. He had rowed 7-oar in the 1985 NEIRA-champion St. Paul's First Boat before moving on to the Princeton 150s, going undefeated his freshman and sophomore years, winning the IRA his junior year, and serving as captain his senior year.

Elected Captain for a second year, **John Charles Cuddeback '91** was the fifth member of the Kent Rowing family to be so honored. In the First 100 Years, there would only be seven.

First Boat bow-oar **Thompson Christian Godfrey '91** would go on to rise to captain of the University of Wisconsin crew.

Giff Foley (1946–1990)

In 1991, the Class of '65 donated a shell in honor of their classmate, **Gifford Thomas Foley Jr. '65**, who had died when the vintage World War II P-51 Mustang he was piloting during an air show crashed into the Niagara River.



While at Kent, Giff had been football captain, a two-time Connecticut State Wrestling finalist, and a two-time member of the Kent First Boat. Serving as a Marine Corps small-unit infantry leader in Vietnam, he had earned the Purple Heart, the Navy Commendation Medal for Valor, and the Silver Star (see 1965).

During his entire life, he was known to teammates and friends as the consummate jokester.

Bill Pickard '67:

Giff was a friend and business school classmate of future president George W. Bush—and he has Giff Foley stories. Giff was also a protégé of Jack Kemp. He was like Lyndon Baines Johnson—another big man with a great way with people—and had he lived, I have no doubt that he would have become a very powerful politician, maybe even Kent's first president.

In one infamous story at Harvard Business School, Giff arrived late for a class in a big amphitheater classroom, and as he came in, the professor called him by name and invited him to lay out the case. Classmates offered him their notes—because everyone else at Harvard a) was obsessive about preparing before classes, and b) loved Giff. Giff waved them all off, walked down, stood next to and towered over the professor, and then reached out and hugged the guy—like LBJ used to do in Congress when he needed to change someone's mind.





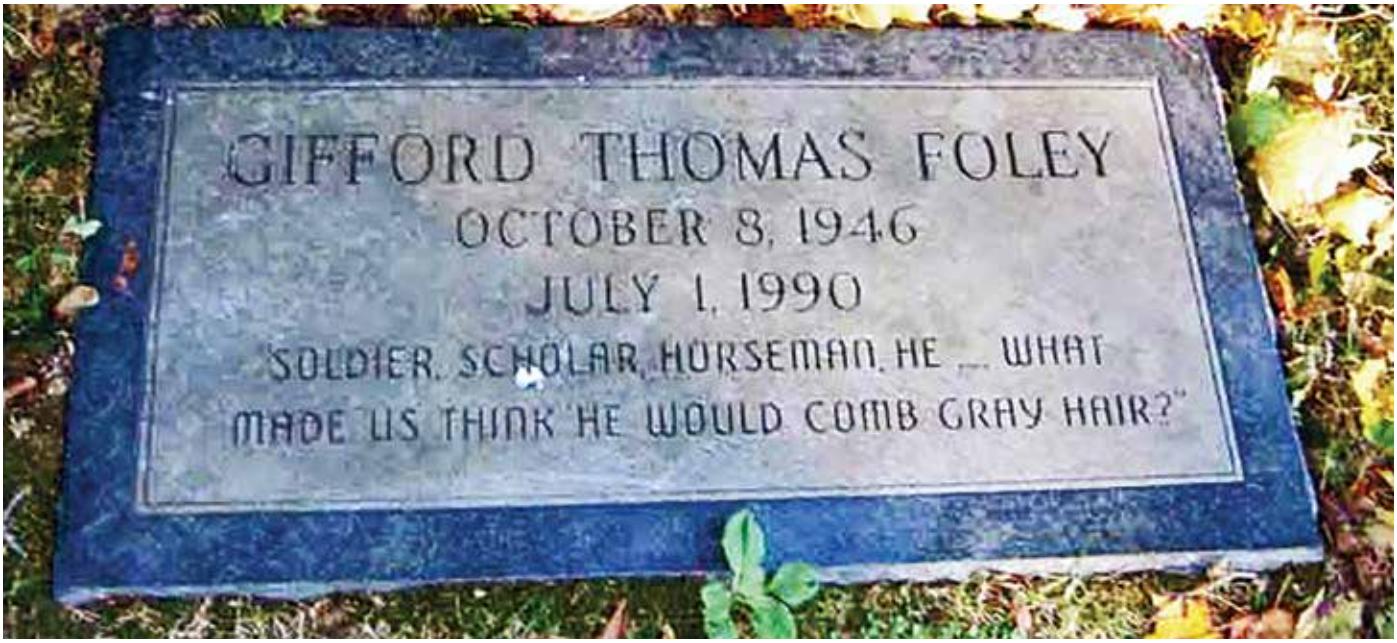


Now one does not hug a Harvard B-school professor—but Giff did, and definitely without having read the case, Giff held forth on it, describing what he considered the most salient points, and offering a "solution"—none of which, of course, had anything to do with the company—but the professor and everyone else loved it.

I could go on forever. Giff was one of a kind, and a Kent oarsman to boot. There is even a documentary film about the stories surrounding Giff Foley.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ft47ffbbqg6h1i3/Giff%20Foley%20Doc%20H264%201080p%20MASTER.mov?dl=0

At the time of his death, Giff Foley was a Kent Trustee and about to assume the position as CFO of the Federal Department of Housing and Development. He was laid to rest on Skiff Mountain. Foley's son, **Gifford Thomas Foley Jr. '98**, would eschew crew for lacrosse at Kent.



1991 Henley Royal Regatta

Filippone: "After the New England finals, the Kent First Boat's disappointment was lessened by Mr. Perry's offer to take the crew to Henley."

In his papers, Hart left no hint as to the rationale for sending the 1991 First Boat to Henley after such discouraging results in their three major spring regattas. Likely it was influenced by the long-standing policy to preserve Kent's institutional memory of Henley trips (see 1930). It had been four years since a crew of undergraduates had made the trip. Only one other time in Hart's thirty-one-year career at Kent would the gap be more than three years.

Filippone: "The First Boat was very enthusiastic at another chance to prove themselves. We had been inconsistent, had some bad luck, and some technical issues. However, at times the boat had begun to move very well. This was the driving force behind going beyond the regular season. We felt that more time on the water would tip our performance toward the good."

Perhaps to address the problems the First Boat had had with the *Foley*, Hart arranged to use a more user-friendly Empacher eight at Henley.

First Boat 6-oar **Brooks Bear McFeely '91** was unavailable for Henley due to Naval Academy Plebe Summer obligations. He was replaced by Second Boater **Seraph Garner Flickinger '91**.

The crew trained for two weeks at the *Watersportbaan Hazewinkel* in Belgium before spending the last two weeks in Henley.

Future KSBC Captain **Gavin Edward Flickinger '94:**

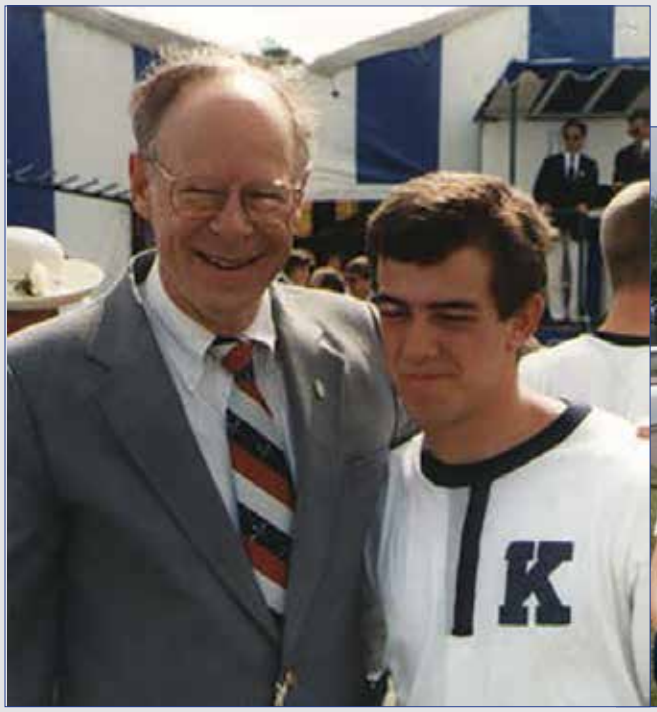


HRR Photo

Watersportbaan Hazewinkel, ***Belgium's national rowing center***

Bob Sanford, Class of '50, Kent's de facto social chairman, had been a lifelong friend of Hart's, and he continued to support KSBC long after his last son had graduated in 1983 (see 1993–1995). He would be a regular at our home and away races during all my years, and he loved being part of the parents' gang.

My dad and I went over to Henley in '91 to cheer on my brother, Gar. I was a Third Former at the time, and that's when I first really got to know him. His laugh with a snort was infectious, and you couldn't help but have a great time whenever he was around. He was a great friend.



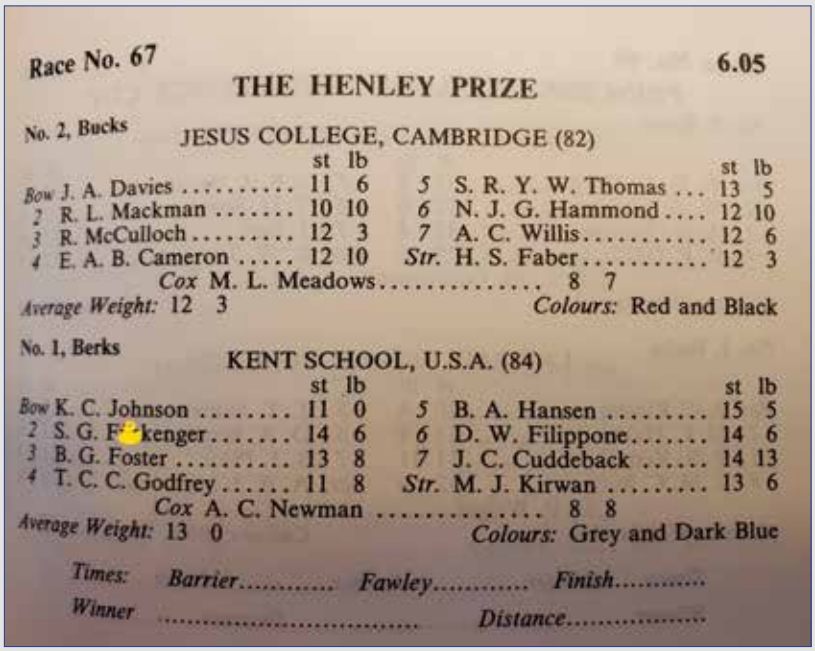
Bob Sanford and Gavin in 1994



Gavin, Gar, and Ed Flickinger

The Henley Prize

Bow	Kevin Charles Johnson '91	11st 0
2	Seraph Garner Flickinger '91	14st 6
3	Benjamin Gould Foster '91	13st 8
4	Thompson Christian Godfrey '91	11st 8
5	Brett Alexander Hansen '92	15st 5
6	David William Filippone '91 (Co-Captain)	14st 6
7	John Charles Cuddeback '91 (Co-Captain)	14st 13
Stroke	Michael John Kirwan '91	13st 6
Coxswain	Andrew Campbell Newman'91	8st 8
Average		13st 0 = 182 lbs.



Race No. 67 — 6.05

THE HENLEY PRIZE

No. 2, Bucks — JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE (82)

	st	lb		st	lb
Bow J. A. Davies	11	6	5 S. R. Y. W. Thomas	13	5
2 R. L. Mackman	10	10	6 N. J. G. Hammond	12	10
3 R. McCulloch	12	3	7 A. C. Willis	12	6
4 E. A. B. Cameron	12	10	Str. H. S. Faber	12	3
Cox M. L. Meadows				8	7

Average Weight: 12 3 — Colours: Red and Black

No. 1, Berks — KENT SCHOOL, U.S.A. (84)

	st	lb		st	lb
Bow K. C. Johnson	11	0	5 B. A. Hansen	15	5
2 S. G. F[illegible]kenger	14	6	6 D. W. Filippone	14	6
3 B. G. Foster	13	8	7 J. C. Cuddeback	14	13
4 T. C. C. Godfrey	11	8	Str. M. J. Kirwan	13	6
Cox A. C. Newman				8	8

Average Weight: 13 0 — Colours: Grey and Dark Blue

Times: Barrier..... Fawley..... Finish.....

Winner ..... Distance.....

Introduced in 1990, the Henley Prize for eights of individual college or smaller university boat clubs and of schools unable to enter the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup by reason of age, would be renamed the Temple Challenge Cup in 1992.

In 1991, the Henley Prize attracted forty-four entries, which were reduced to thirty-two through time trials among seventeen domestic crews. Four crews were selected, Kent not among them, and all four reached the semi-finals. There were six foreign crews, three from the United States. Kent was the only schoolboy entry, and the field turned out to be daunting.

Gavin Flickinger:

In the HRR programs published each day, they list everyone by seat with first and middle initials, last name, and weight in stones.

One of the things with our last name is that if you spell it out in capital letters and the "L" and the "I" get too close together, they start to look like a "U". . .

When the team reached the boat tents for their first race against Jesus College, Cambridge, they quickly discovered that day's program was using the "alternate" spelling.

Hart Perry was aghast! He instantly hustled over, had a very loud conversation with the editors, and made sure the spelling would be corrected in the following day's updated program. All Kent had to do was win their race on Wednesday so they would be included in the Thursday program with Gar's last name spelled correctly.

Mr. Perry went over to my father to apologize, and as the boys sat in their boat at the dock before the race against Jesus, he went down the line to wish each boy well before he pushed them off. When he got to my brother, he shook his hand and bellowed in that deep voice of his, "Nobody in this boat has more incentive to win this race than you do, Mr. Flickinger."

Of course, we all had gotten a huge laugh out of the whole thing, and it would become one of those stories that would live on in our family lore and be told and retold.

As for the race, Kent's first opponent was **Jesus College, Cambridge**, which had advanced through the time trial.

Filippone: "We had six seats by the end of the island and an extended lead from there. The margin at the finish was two and one-quarter lengths."

Kent's Thursday opponent was **Downing College and Corpus Christi College composite, Cambridge**, one of the four selected crews. Despite the corrected spelling in the day's program, Downing and Corpus rowed away from Kent after the Barrier and won by three lengths.