

# Stuart Crew Cookout Celebration

By **Bob Finley** Special to Barcroft News

Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Stuart Crew's undefeated 1968 season, which closed with a breath-taking win of the Princess Elizabeth Cup at the Royal Henley Regatta. You are invited to an Alumni and Friends Cookout at Beach 5 on **Saturday, June 30, 3 - 6 p.m.** The freshly restored championship boat "Miss Fairfax" will be featured. Food, refreshments, music, erg races and Crew Spirit Wear will be available. All Lake Barcroft residents, former rowers and supporters are invited.

Since the late 1940s the "Princess Elizabeth Cup" has been considered high school rowing's world championship, though back then they used the moniker "Schoolboy." Among the boys in this boat were three Lake Barcrofters, Reed Augliere of Crosswoods Circle, Dave Foulis of Stoneybrae Drive and Tom Lang of Blair Road.

The Stuart Crew started only three years earlier with a lot of support from Washington and Lee Crew Coach Charlie Butt, and borrowing some of their boats. The Stuart Crew had no support from the school, in fact they were thought to be a bunch of hooligans by Principal Leon Mason. Early in the season the rowers didn't think they were anything special, but they were winning every race. Stuart rowers continued their streak by winning the State Championships, then Stotesbury, historically the largest high school regatta, and on May 25, they won the U.S. championships in Philadelphia.

In order to compete in England, the Crew and their Boosters had to raise a lot of money, over \$11,500. School Board member Mary Ann Lecos, formerly of Beachway

Drive, was instrumental in convincing the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to contribute \$3,000 toward a brand new Pocock Eight. This boat was named the "Miss Fairfax" in appreciation of the Board's support.

Crew dad, Vincent Mangano, was in construction and had connections with the longshoremen's union and was able to get the Miss Fairfax on the Queen Elizabeth. It was stowed in the ship's crew's lounge and escorted by alternate rowers Phil Mangano and Mike deBlois. The rest of the Crew, coaches and alternates flew.

At Henley, between July 10 - 13, the Stuart Eight won four preliminaries in as many days. On the same afternoon that they won their last heat, they faced Eton in the final event. Eton had several hundred rowers on their team, whereas Stuart had about 40. Eton had a very long history (1440), Stuart High School opened in 1959. Eton had a history of rowing and the Stuart Crew was in its third season. Eton's boats were built by the Pocock family in Teddington, England. Stuart's "Miss Fairfax" was built by George Pocock, an expat son, who in 1911 moved to the Pacific Northwest for the choice wood to build racing shells. He built the University of Washington's famous 1936 Olympic winning boat of "The Boys in the Boat" fame.

Several days of heavy rains had swollen the Thames several feet above normal, flooding the docks used for launching the boats, and Stuart Crew lost the toss for the better lane. Crew dad Bill Foulis described the race, "there was never more than half a boat length between Eton and Stuart." The crowds were so loud the rowers could not hear their cox'n. So, Hafner communicated by banging on the outside of the hull with

wooden blocks on the steering lines. At the finish, there was a strong cross current that pushed the fast-moving shell from the left side of the lane to the right in a short distance. Hafner's skill as a cox'n got the bow ball across the finish line before the oars connected with pilings. Stuart had won by a "canvas," the decks were covered with fabric then. The Miss Fairfax nearly capsized when it got hung up among the pilings. This finish was so remarkable that the Eton Crew honored Stuart's by lifting the Miss Fairfax out of the water and putting it on the rack.

"The Washington Post" said that there were 500 fans greeting the Crew at Dulles Airport upon their return. On July 26, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson congratulated the rowers at a White House ceremony with Astronaut James Lovell and Senator Harry Byrd in attendance.

The boys in the boat, the alternates and the coaches:

Head Coach Mike Gasch  
Assistant Coach Walt Barber

Bow Corbin Wilson  
2 Reed Augliere  
3 Mike Hacskaylo  
4 Dave Foulis  
5 Steve Hancotte  
6 Eric Rudrud  
7 Tom Lang

Stoke Steve Wilson, team captain

Cox'n Dave Hafner

Alternates

Stan Boyd  
Tom Buchanan  
Phil Mangano  
Mike deBois.

## Stuart Crew Alumni & Friends — Barcroft Cookout

Bring your Union Jacks and Stars and Stripes | Put on your Straw Boat-  
er or Fascinator

Stuart Crew Boosters is Hosting a Rowing Celebration at **Beach 5**,

The cookout will feature:

- Food and drink available
- Erg competitions, prizes for fastest by decade man/woman
- Stuart Crew Spirit Wear (order in advance)
- Beautifully restored "Miss Fairfax" 1968 Henley winning boat
- A send-off for our 1968 Boys 8+ Team as they return to Henley

For former Stuart rowers, we offer an Alumni Row  
at Sandy Run Boathouse starting at 10 a.m.

To row or to order Stuart Crew Spirit Wear, please R.S.V.P at [www.jebstuartcrew.org](http://www.jebstuartcrew.org)

