

WORCESTER
COLLEGE
RECORD



2000

JCR REPORT

This is an exciting time for Worcester undergraduates, with this year a case of moving forward, utilising the good work begun by the former Presidents and their Committees. For most of 1999 the JCR was under the leadership of Jamie Corner. Jamie brought great enthusiasm and spirit to the job and should be applauded for the way he fought for Worcester's best interests on a University wide level. He pressed for the introduction of a peer counselling service and a College Nurse, two schemes that are going from strength to strength and are a welcome addition to the College welfare provision.

On the Sports Field teams have again shown Worcester in a successful and competitive light. In Tennis, there were outstanding performances in both men's and women's competitions. The women won a league and cuppers double, with the men winning the league but losing out in the cuppers final. Congratulations to our men's Cricket side which won the league with some style and to the women's Football side which won the league but missed out in the cuppers final. At this point I would like to thank Philip Oliver and all his groundstaff on behalf of all College Sports Players. Also, a big thank you from the JCR Committee for their help during Freshers' Week.

Our Entz team have continued to build on Worcester's reputation as a socially active College. After the success of Freshers' Week in 1999 which saw a Casino Night, a bus tour of Oxford and numerous events in the bar, the Entz team have organised a band night, a comedy night, a kareoke night, a garden party and many social events in the bar. These events, along with weekly outings to such fine establishments as Park End, Fifth Avenue and Maxwell's have meant that there is never a dull moment for Worcester JCR!

There have also been many opportunities for Worcester students to get involved with charitable events both in and out of College. Over thirty JCR members have got involved with the homeless shelter, here in Oxford, helping out for a couple of hours a week. Nick Havers and Greg Thomas must be congratulated for their bungee jump for charity whilst on ground level there have been a number of charity socials including a 'Bondathon' cocktail and video night and a 'Gangstathon' video marathon. Proceeds from JCR subs continue to go to a number of charitable causes including Cancer Research, a charity particularly close to JCR hearts after the tragic loss of one of our undergraduate members to the disease.*

My job is made so much easier by the assistance of such an enthusiastic and hard working committee. Together, we are actively improving the computer resources, the welfare provision, the number of College functions and events, and the quality of facilities and resources available. Finally I should like to

* Luke Westall - a much loved modern linguist whose death was recorded in last year's Record. (ed.)

thank the JCR Secretary, Susan Chitty and the JCR Treasurer, David Willbe, whose support and inspiration have been a real bonus throughout my term of office.

RICHARD JONES
President JCR



MCR REPORT

As the new MCR committee prepared to take the reins last summer, living up to the legacy created by the performance of our predecessors and preserving the reputation the Worcester MCR has justly earned throughout the university, seemed daunting tasks. Nevertheless, with just a few short weeks left before the end of our tenure, I am pleased to report on what was without a doubt another extraordinary year in the MCR. As experience has once again proved, when a group of people as talented and diverse as the current members of the Worcester MCR are placed together in such an ideal setting, it is difficult to go wrong. Once again, the accomplishments of MCR members, academically, athletically, and socially, are truly incredible.

First and foremost, attention much be given to the contributions of the MCR Committee. Treasurer Michele Gemelos devoted enormous amounts of time and effort into overseeing all financial aspects of the MCR's operation, an arduous and largely thankless job. Without her hard work it is difficult to see how the MCR would have remained solvent, particularly given the packed social calendar assembled each term under the direction of social secretary David Wacey. During Michaelmas term, while Dave was 'conducting research' in Australia, fresher Christine Whelan took over the reins socially, and the two have continued to work together since. Secretary Benjamin Rock kept everything organized and consistently volunteered to perform the chores that nobody else wanted to do.

Upon arriving in October, fresher Graham Innocent immediately volunteered to fill the long vacant post of Computing Rep, a decision he surely regretted when he learned the amount of time and frustration involved. Anne Andermann, as Women's and Welfare Rep, took the initiative to arrange a number of interesting events throughout the year. Finally, as Bar Rep, Guy Ardrey continued the steady improvement of the MCR bar facilities, overseeing the installation of a Stella Artois tap which will provide rewards for years to come.

The 1998-99 academic year brought a number of MCR members into the

college and university spotlights athletically. Samantha Routledge led the Worcester women's football team to a strong second-place finish in cuppers, while also anchoring the University side's defence in the victory over Cambridge. Lisa Harrod won the Student National Dancesport Championships as well as a blue, while Toby Ayer won an impressive rowing blue. Guy Ardrey won a blue leading the University lacrosse team to a win over Cambridge, and was elected MVP on account of his six goal performance. Meanwhile, the MCR men's football team, captained by James Gibbons, made it to the finals of the MCR cuppers before falling at Iffley Road to a talented squad from Wolfson. Despite this array of athletic talent, the year closed on a down note athletically with a hard-fought loss to the SCR in the annual MCR-SCR cricket match, a result many still attribute to strategic scheduling—who knew there was a tenth week?—and the SCR side's highly questionable use of several players rarely seen around college previously.

The MCR collectively recovered from this devastating defeat over the long vac, however, and returned to find the newly-constructed Franks Building ready to be occupied. Aside from a temporary lack of phone lines, residents of the beautiful new facility had little to complain about. Furthermore, by significantly increasing the number of graduates in the college and by bringing such a large group of them together on Worcester Place, the new building immediately contributed to the social life of the college. The newly established Graduate Dining Club, Guest Night dinners, and the now legendary Worcester MCR bops will undoubtedly be sources of many fond memories for years to come.

Athletically, Worcester MCR members continued to shine. Phillip Graham, won a rugby blue in the Varsity Match victory over Cambridge, while Jude Craft and Kirstie Anderson both won cross country blues. Shortly after the beginning of the year, an MCR boat was assembled for the purpose of the Christ Church Regatta, consisting of 5 MCR rowers (Dirk Stockhausen, Alexander Slater, Matthew Crawford, Eyal Doron, and Sune Westrup) and coxed by Margarida Limarego. After an opening round loss to Regent Park, they rallied to hammer the University College boat and the Department of Medicine before losing to Sommerville by a quarter of a length after a heroic fight. They all represented the boat at the black tie Regatta Dinner in Hall, and even travelled to Dublin for a regatta just before Christmas.

It is difficult to summarize the academic accomplishments of MCR members during the past year—after all, that's what we're here for. A few things do warrant special mention. Laura Roman had an article based on her research on Thomas de Quincey (our famous college opium-eater) in a top German newspaper. Ravindra Gupta spent a year at Harvard on a Fulbright before travelling to the Thai-Burmese border to conduct malaria research on a Wellcome Trust Award. Sadie Creese presented her computation research at

conferences in China, Washington DC, and Las Vegas (tough life), and Toby Ayer won a Richard Blackwell Scholarship.

Needless to say, it has been a great time to be at Worcester College and to be associated with such an amazing group of people.

M WEST
President MCR



REPORT – SPORTING ACTIVITIES 1999

Worcester's students in 1999 must surely go down on record as among the most talented in College history. As such, one can only be disappointed that there weren't even more Champions Dinners than actually took place. This year also saw the continued success of so-called 'minority' sports at college. I have written some brief summaries below.

RUGBY

In Hilary 99 the Men's XV achieved a second consecutive promotion, to the First Division. They also reached the semi-final of Cuppers, only to lose to Teddy Hall. In Michaelmas term the team had an extremely promising start to the season, beating the eventual champions Teddy Hall 10-0. Unfortunately, the squad was stung by a series of long-term injuries to a number of key players, and they struggled to field a consistent line-up, and for the whole of the second half of the season were forced to request uncontested scrums, which carries a four-point penalty. On more than one occasion this would cost them dear, and they were relegated. I have no doubt that if they had retained an intact squad for the whole season they would have launched a serious title challenge.

I am delighted to announce the creation of a Women's side in College. They are still to compete competitively, since Coach Paul Nankerville is understandably unwilling to risk an entire team of novices in a full-contact match as yet.

FOOTBALL

In Hilary term the Men's 1sts were looking to capitalise on their position as favourites for the League, but an inability to put away much weaker opposition prevented them from doing so and the season was consequently a bitter disappointment. The 2nd XI was in if anything a stronger position to win their League, but two defeats in this highly competitive league scuppered their chances. They also reached the semis of the 2nd XI Cuppers competition, but