



Worcester
College
Record

winning a number of individual matches, the second team were unable to secure any overall victories and finished eighth in the league. Worcester's First Team meanwhile lost only to Pembroke, who pipped us to the top spot. Revenge was sweet in Cuppers, though, when we beat them 2-1 in the final to bring some silverware home to the bar.

Congratulations to everyone involved for a great season. Particular mention must go to Bryony Theaker, Worcester's number one, who earned a blue and has been named Ladies' University First Team Captain for the next year.

Lucy Witter, Ladies' Captain

Ladies' tennis

After the success of last year's teams, this has been a disappointing season for ladies' tennis. Both teams lost in the first round of the Cuppers Tournament after an unlucky draw saw our strong first team pitted against an even stronger LMH comprising three university players in a team of four. Although even at 2-2 in sets, LMH went through on the basis of games won. Both teams put in valiant performances in the league but poor organisation in other colleges meant that most of our victories were by default, with the opposition frustratingly often unable to field teams. It has been an enjoyable season nevertheless — well done to all those in the squads for their enthusiasm and commitment. We can only hope to be more fortunate next year.

Lucy Witter, Ladies' Captain

Other sport

Worcester has seen participation in many different sports this year, in a bid to try to get as many people involved. This has included Water Polo, in which the team reached the cuppers semi-final, Biathlon in which we won, Volleyball, Canoe Water Polo in which Worcester was represented in the final, and the bar sports of Darts and Pool have also seen involvement and success. The number of sports we have been involved in has fulfilled my aim of getting as many people as possible involved, and it is pleasing that we have had success in many places. I truly believe this is a sign of just how much people at Worcester enjoy being involved in sport, it has always been my opinion that you are successful in what you enjoy.

My special thanks must be extended to Phil, Andy and Karl who, between them, make Worcester's pitches the nicest in Oxford. Everyone who has been involved in sport at Worcester this year is truly indebted to their experience and skill in producing first-class grounds.

Philip Kent
JCR Sports Rep

MCR Report

This year, as ever, has been a successful one for the MCR — socially, academically and in our sporting achievements. My tenure as President started in Trinity Term 2004, which of course meant many graduates rushing about and studying frantically for their exams. However, we managed to provide many healthy distractions for them, including the usual exchange dinners with other MCRs, movie nights, and of course the ever popular MCR Garden Party in the Provost's lovely grounds. One addition to these longstanding events was the offer of a leisurely glass of port (or four) in the MCR after our weekly Graduate Dining Club, which unsurprisingly proved to be very popular.

The summer is usually a very uneventful time. This year, however, we managed to initiate an 'exchange weekend' with our sister college (St. Catharine's) in Cambridge. They sent a group from their MCR over to us in July and we entertained them with pubs and BBQs. We were then invited to Cambridge just after Michaelmas Term in December and given the opportunity to enjoy their black-tie Christmas dinner. I hope that this exchange will continue and perhaps become one of our traditions.

Michaelmas Term began with a time-honoured Worcester MCR Freshers' Week, which included tours of Oxford, a very large MCR dinner at Du Liban Lebanese Restaurant (I seem to recall something about a belly dancer), and a pub crawl — to list a few. As we soon learned, we had quite a rowdy and social group of freshers who made the week, and the entire year, fun and exciting. We kept all the staple MCR events on the term card and added the wine and cheese evening, the success of which was due, I am sure, as much to the pleasant company as the fact that it was free. At guest dinners, the MCR had to put up with my poems about punts and my call to arms against St John's College's Wines of Mass Drunkenness (WMDs). The bops were sometimes packed with people and other times under-attended, but always entertaining — especially thanks to the addition of a second tap of beer in the MCR bar.

The Franks Society talks, organized again this year by the indomitable and ever present Keith Owen, continued to showcase the excellence and diversity of research undertaken by our members. Charlotte Sims, Drew Macgregor, Carsten Nielsen, and Chris Stearn spoke to audiences that were drawn not only by the free food and drink but also by the quality of the subject matter. I sincerely hope we find a successor for Keith so that we may continue to learn from each other's studies.

All of these events would not have been possible without the MCR committee. Despite multiple vacancies at the start of the year (thank you to Deborah Hornby and Mayank Kanga for helping out in Trinity Term as Secretary and Social Secretary, respectively), the committee attained its full and working status soon after Freshers' week due to the enthusiasm of the newcomers. These include Gitanjali Pinto, who took on the role of Secretary; and Lindsey Fitzharris and Felicity Pryor, who joined Keith Owen as Social Secretaries. Ursula Haskins served as Green Rep, Rob Evans as Bar Manager and Dave Robinson as Sports Rep. My thanks to them all and especially to

Daniel Goodman (Computer Rep) and Leonid Peisakhin (Treasurer) for putting themselves forward in time for Hustings. I hope that in future elections more members will follow this example, ensuring a full committee for Trinity and enabling outgoing officers to coordinate effectively with their replacements.

As always, the Committee could not have functioned without the especial assistance of Kate Tunstall, Tutor for Graduates, and the Provost. My thanks go to them and others within the College (Nighat Malik, Steve Dyer, Marion McKenna, Stuart MacAllister) for helping make the year run so smoothly and enjoyably. Also, extra thanks go to Keith Owen, who as the Social Secretary from Trinity '04 worked extremely hard with me in organising the Michaelmas term card and piecing together Freshers' Week for our incoming graduates. I am indebted to him for this and for bestowing upon me all of the timely and sage advice borne from his own successful term as President.

With such a full social schedule, who would have thought there would be time for such things as sport and academics? As it turns out, many of the MCR members were out accomplishing a great many things:

Davey Close got his 3rd Hockey Full Blue for playing in this year's varsity match; John Tuckett was awarded Full Blue for cycling; Lisa Mol was on the blues fencing team; Dan Goodman flew in the varsity gliding match.

Michael Canty received golf Blues this year — Oxford beat Cambridge 8-7 in the Varsity match at Ganton, North Yorkshire. Claire Forryan was a reserve on the same team.

Ian Howlett was in the team of four from Oxford who beat Cambridge (and some other universities such as Warwick and Durham) to win a gold medal at varsity Karting in Milton Keynes.

Vincent Vitale played Blues Football (earning his Blue) this year and was recently voted Vice-Captain for the forthcoming year. Blues Football beat Cambridge 1-0.

As the goalkeeper of the Oxford University Handball Club, Sebastian Engelstaedter became British Student Champion 2005 at the university handball championships in Leeds. They won the title by just one goal in a hard-fought final against Glasgow.

The men's first eight, containing Simon Brown (Men's captain), Tom Mitchell (former MCR member) and coached by Craig Leaper, had a very successful year, going up a place in the first division of Torpids and up 3 places in Summer Eights. They also put on a very impressive performance at the Head of the River with their new boat, coming in only 8 seconds behind Oriel over the 4 mile course. The second boat, containing Sebastian Martens, Kjell Konis and coached again by Craig, also did fantastically, storming to Blades in Torpids and going up 2 places in Summer Eights.

The largest all-MCR team, and the most successful for the year, was the football team who managed their first ever victory in Graduate Football Cuppers, laying to rest the ghosts of four previous finals in a campaign memorable for its tenacity and some sparkling football. Captained by the exemplary Will Maimaris, Worcester lost the opening qualifying match against Corpus/Linacre with key players absent, but subsequently defeated OxILP 3-1.

Lincoln 7-0, Wolfson 2-0 to meet long-standing rivals Keble in the semi-final. In a tight game goalkeeper Chris Kyriacou pulled off save after save, and the game was only clinched late by a typically forceful Adrian Paterson header. In the final Worcester again faced their early tormentors Corpus/Linacre. Not surprisingly, the game was a tense affair, initially marred by a strong wind, and it took until the sixtieth minute for Rob Williams to score the opener with a canny back header. A rare defensive lapse less than ten minutes from time allowed Corpus to equalize, but two goals in extra time from Robbie Martin and Rob Williams secured the victory.

It was a long-awaited and richly deserved prize, a tribute to an expansive playing style and the spirit of the whole squad. Worcester and their dedicated band of supporters were finally top of the MCR tree.

MCR members are not just good at sport. There are quite a few other achievements that I think should be acknowledged:

Sebastian Engelstaedter and Chris Churchman were awarded the Martin Senior Scholarship from Worcester; also, Chris Churchman has been a Stipendiary Lecturer in Engineering at Trinity College and President of TravelAid (a charity that sends volunteers to the developing world).

Lindsey Fitzharris was awarded a Clarendon Scholarship from Oxford and an overseas Research Fellowship. Also, she was awarded a Phi Kappa Phi national scholarship in the USA to study at Oxford and a Phi Theta Alpha scholarship as well.

Romina Gaudion and Harj Shoan were both placed on the Dean's List for the Oxford MBA. Harj also won the Morgan Stanley Private Equity Award.

Gabe Miller received a Clarendon Fund Bursary.

Daryl Achilles was awarded the Young Researchers Poster Presentation Prize in Glasgow at the Seventh International Conference on Quantum Communication, Measurement and Computing. He was also awarded an Incubic/Milton Chang Student Travel Grant so that he could attend the Quantum Electronics and Laser Science Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Centre for Islamic Studies has decided to extend and upgrade Afifi al-Akiti's fellowship as the KFAS Junior Research Fellow in Islamic Philosophy and Theology. Also, the Department for Continuing Education has made him the Tutor for their introductory course on Islam, titled 'Understanding Islam and the Muslims'.

Kelly Nottage, who recently took my place as MCR President, performed at Wadham College as the lead in Shakespeare's *Othello*. His talents were further acknowledged when he was dubbed the 'sexiest voice in Oxford' in recognition of his Oxide Radio jazz programme, which aired on Friday evenings.

Alicia Grant, as a composer, has had three major premieres in the last six months:

1) 'ANZAC Anthem' for choir and organ was commissioned by the Tait Memorial Trust to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings in 1915. It was premiered in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in Westminster Abbey, London, on ANZAC Day (25 April) 2005 by The Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by James O'Donnell. The

anthem is a musical setting of a text by the famous New Zealand writer, Vincent O'Sullivan, who was also present at the service. The commissioner was keen that the new anthem not only mark the 90th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings, but also in future be regularly performed at ANZAC Day services, representing a contemporary collaboration between Australia and New Zealand.

2) 'Fire' for choir and piano was premiered in March 2005 by the New Cambridge Singers, Selwyn College, Cambridge. The work is a setting of a poem by the Australian writer, Dorothea Mackellar (1885-1968).

3) 'Interweaves' for orchestra was premiered in December 2004 by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Kenneth Young, in the Federation Concert Hall, Hobart. This concert will be broadcast on ABC Classic FM across Australia later this year.

If you have been wondering where Juliet Bedford has disappeared to, she has been in Malaysia conducting fieldwork for her D.Phil with the Orang Asli, the indigenous minority of the Peninsula. Based at Hospital Gombak, the only government run hospital specifically for the Orang Asli, she has been following the flying doctor team and mobile health clinics into the interior of the country and is working closely with patients suffering from TB and leprosy. She leaves her jungle existence to return to Oxford in September.

All in all, it has been a very eventful year. I am extremely proud to have served as President of such an intelligent and talented group of people. I wish all the best to my successor, Kelly Nottage, and his committee in this next year; also, I hope that all the members of the MCR continue to excel in all of their endeavours.

Daryl Achilles
MCR President

Worcester College's Visiting Student Programme: 1998-2005 and Beyond...

In Michaelmas Term of this year, two visiting students wrote an article for *The Woosta Source*, the JCR's newsletter, explaining what it meant to be a 'JYAer'. This refers to the states-side acronym for 'Junior Year Abroad', that is, the third year of a four-year American university degree. Worcester has hosted its visiting student programme since 1998, when it admitted a small number of visiting students on a pilot project. This was such a success that the college then decided to expand its numbers to fifteen. Over the past seven years, almost one hundred American visiting students have studied at Worcester, on an enormously successful programme — many of the JYAers have commented on its excellence, noting that they feel their experience to have been absolutely first-class.

The JYAers come from many different American institutions. Worcester has a long-standing relationship with Princeton University, and so many fine Princetonians have spent a year here at Worcester. But we also admit students from institutions all over the United States, from the University of California at San Diego to Harvard University, from Yale to the University of Texas at Austin. From the start, Worcester has placed a great deal of importance upon the academic integrity of the visiting student programme. The admissions process is competitive, and only the very best students are admitted. Worcester has visiting historians, English students, economists — basically, we accept JYAers in any subject for which the college accepts undergraduates. We accept students from state universities and private universities, and take many from small liberal arts colleges.

Whatever the institution from which the student arrives, they find the new system of tutorial teaching that they encounter to be invigorating and challenging. Each visiting student takes one 'primary' course of weekly tutorials, and one 'secondary' course of fortnightly tutorials. Although the new system of teaching can seem daunting at first, the students soon settle in and come to appreciate its benefits. As one JYAer put it: 'It was wonderful to be able to treat a subject in such depth, and the individual attention that I received from my tutor kept me challenged and focused. It was nothing like attending a lecture of two hundred, or even a class of twenty-five!' Many of the visiting students are taught by college fellows and lecturers, but where this is not possible, the director finds them suitable tuition outside the college. All JYAers are official Oxford University visiting students, paying fees to the university, and so are entitled to attend lectures, and have unfettered access to the Bodleian library and to most faculty libraries. This ease of access to university facilities makes a massive difference to the quality of the work that they produce, and that work is excellent. It is extremely rare for a visiting student to achieve below a 2.1 standard, and many tutors claim that their visiting students, if studying for an Oxford degree, would obtain a First. This success is demonstrated in other ways — for instance, former JYAers are beginning to return to Oxford for graduate work — at present Worcester has three former visiting students as MCR members, and several attend