

WORCESTER
COLLEGE
RECORD



1989

P.G.C.E.

R. S. Duggan
Ewa H. Kuzmierkiewicz
S. W. M. Mount
S. P. Rouse
J. Kay Young
Helen M. Dervan
K. E. Gillese
K. Jaffe
Margaret H. Meriwether
Pauline A. Ridge
P. G. Skelton

B.C.I.

(This list contains the names of those who obtained degrees, or of those whose results were announced, during the academic year 1987-8).

University Prizes, etc.

J. M. Randell won the British Telecom Research and Technology Prize in Computing Science.

F. P. O. Fitzpatrick, N. Levy and J. S. Middleburgh won Joint Council of Legal Education and Inns of Court Studentships to the Inner Temple.

College Prizes

The Henriques Prize, awarded for the best performance in the Final Honour Schools of Lit. Hum., P.P.E., Modern History and Law, was this year awarded to J. S. Middleburgh (Law). Book prizes were awarded to F. P. O. Fitzpatrick (Law) and N. D. Myers (P.P.E.).

Two Worcester College Society prizes for other arts subjects were awarded, to A. C. S. Johnstone (Music) and K. Latham (Oriental Studies). That for Science and Mathematics went to P. A. Harrington (Mathematics).

THE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

Graduate students are curious animals whose individual needs can vary greatly according to personal circumstances: the requirements of an experimental physicist are not those of a medieval historian; those of an undergraduate with senior status are utterly different from those of a research student. Then again, the wide range of ages and experience, combined with such factors as whether a student is married or not, living in College accommodation or digs, and has come from abroad or has a home in Britain, means further diversity.

This diversity can prove greatly stimulating and is a boon to any educational institution. But it also conceals great potential for personal unhappiness: indeed it is unfortunate that one of the foremost catalysts in a graduate community should be stress of one kind or another — be it isolation, loneliness or self-doubt, whether compounded by such things as financial hardship, an unsympathetic spouse, poor supervision or, simply, uncertainty in a world hostile to advanced academic endeavour.

Given this state of affairs, the principal role of the Middle Common Room must be to make the life of a graduate student as easy and pleasurable as possible. This it attempts in a number of ways: by representing, through its committee, graduate interests to the college, for instance with regard to accommodation; by providing all-important computing and affordable photo-copying facilities; by creating opportunities for companionship and social activity, whether informally over coffee and the papers in the common room, whether by means of parties and guest-nights, of which there are several each term, or through being thrashed by the S.C.R. Eleven; by organising cultural or inter-collegiate events; and so forth.

Most rewarding of its activities, to the present author at any rate, is the exchange of views and ideas it allows, again either informally, or by way of the Franks Society, where papers arising from work in progress are read and discussed each fortnight. In this way the very diversity which most characterises the M.C.R. is exploited in a positive way.

T.J. LEARY

WORCESTER COLLEGE SPORTS REPORT 1988

1988 saw some fairly mixed achievements in Worcester sport, ranging from the appalling to the superb. In all Worcester won four different 'coppers' finals.

Perhaps the most disappointing results came from the river, where the college has been doing particularly well in recent years. Unfortunately in Torpids both men's and women's 1st VIIIs lost their positions in the 1st division. The men's 1st VIII, consisting almost exclusively of novice oarsmen and with the coach away injured, went down a staggering twelve places. With a knock-on effect the 2nd VIII went down five places, but a 3rd VIII of finalists won their blades. The only bright spot of the term was Al Smith's half-blue, won with the losing University lightweights' crew. The summer term looked similarly ominous. But a new coach, an almost completely new crew, better river conditions for training and some courageous performances 'on the day' enabled the 1st VIII to retain their first division place at 6th. A light but technically good 2nd VIII won their blades, while the women's 1st VIII performed much better than in Torpids. The