

WORCESTER
COLLEGE
RECORD



1990

introduction in Worcester, in co-operation with the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), who will pay the course fees. The College has agreed to share the maintenance fees with the JCR, who are raising the money by a levy system into which (contrary to the expectations of some) almost everyone has opted. The JCR has shown overwhelming support for the scheme. Larry Bush, the JCR officer responsible for the initiative, has already organised other successful fund-raising events. The JCR has, in effect, secured the requisite sum and the scheme looks set to begin next year.

In June the Worcester Buskins hosted a grand production of an adaptation of Voltaire's 'Candide' in the gardens. Once again, the weather did not make things easy for the performers, but the show went on. This Summer the College is due to hold its 3-yearly Commemoration Ball in the grounds. Guy Farmer and Edmund Price were elected as Chairman and Treasurer respectively in the Committee of about 12 strong. The theme is "oriental" (I am told that this extends further than the bounds of sponsorship) and preparations are now well under way. For further details, please contact the Chairman at the College address; tickets can be ordered on a form at the end of this *Record*.

Of all universities, Oxford has one of the highest proportions of Chinese students and we were united in our horror at the events in Peking in early June. This sense of shock was demonstrated at a huge march through the streets of Oxford the same week which many of us, Fellows and students, attended.

The Michaelmas Term saw the introduction by the JCR of a paper recycling scheme as a follow-up to other efforts to make the College more 'environment-friendly'. The term also saw another highly successful concert organised and conducted by the Organ Scholar, Adrian Bawtree. A choir made up almost entirely of Worcester undergraduates sang *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff and received a rapturous response from a capacity audience in St Aloysius Church in November. Towards the end of term (and for the first time in years), a Christmas revue was hosted by the Buskins in the Morley Fletcher Room. This created a marvellous end to 1989. David Drake, Jason Gissing and Lucy Sharman presented an impressive new play which had been highly commended at the 'Cuppers' drama competition. An all-Worcester close harmony group, 'Honour Modulations', who are now well-known throughout Oxford because of their performances at many balls, gave a stunning rendition of many popular tunes. Another group of undergraduates who had won an award at 'Cuppers' drama in 1987 reassembled to perform an original play entitled 'You Bet Your Soul' by Tom Bailey, now a History Finalist. Paul Engleheart entertained everyone with his solo sketch portraying a tutorial between a student and a cassette recorder. Paul, who was compère, had also produced mini-sketches using the JCR's new video camera. These were shown between the other items.

1989 was a good year. As I write, a new system for paying for College meals has been introduced. This utilises a magnetic card which one buys in College and it replaces the centuries-old list system. Whilst it eliminates the paperwork involved previously, I cannot report that it is popular (yet) for multifarious reasons. Change rarely occurs peacefully in Oxford. This problem I leave in the capable hands of the new JCR President, Tom Scampton.

BEN WESTON

THE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

The last year of the 1980s has been an active one for the Middle Common Room. Membership of the graduate society continued to climb: the 107 graduate

students who comprise the M.C.R. now constitute over one quarter of the college student population. Coming from all corners of the world and disciplines of academe, the members of the M.C.R. form a disparate group with little in common other than graduate life at Oxford. Yet we meet — at Formal Hall and Guest Nights, Dessert Evenings in the J.C.R., Discos in the Morley Fletcher Room, Franks Society discussions (covering topics from AIDS research to the political situation in China), the annual Strawberries and Champagne Party in the college gardens, and — of course — in the M.C.R. itself, where a cup of coffee and casual conversation are always available. And through these meetings, we have discovered that our diverse backgrounds and interests coupled with our common core of purpose have provided us with the foundations of a community.

RUTH K. ABBOTT

SPORTS REVIEW 1988/89

Undoubtedly the highlight of College sport over the year occurred right at the end of the summer term, with Worcester winning Cricket Cuppers [see also the following article].

The emphatic 113 run victory over Christ Church in the final was the culmination of an excellent season for the 1st XI. Captained by Luke Swanson, the side possessed an incredible amount of talent: four of its members — Mike Munro, Sanjay Chauhan, Andy Searle and Chris Timm — played for the Blues at some stage in the season, with a further six players, including this year's captain, Joe Vaitilingam, representing the University 2nd XI.

This potential was fully realised, with comfortable victories in all the rounds of Cuppers, capped by the impressive win in the final, which included an excellent innings of 73 by Andy Searle. In fact, the *narrowest* margin of victory in the whole of the competition was 90 runs, which in matches of only 40 overs is quite staggering.

Once again, a very talented 2nd XI was denied a strong likelihood of victory in their Cuppers competition due to its incompleteness. The side, captained by Paul Browne, was as strong as some Colleges' 1st XIs and, indeed, beat Lincoln's 1st XI. Players such as Dave Lewis, who scored two centuries, Curig Prys-Roberts and David Searle were all of 1st XI calibre, demonstrating the sheer strength in depth of the Cricket Club. With most of last year's 1st XI side remaining, the indications must be for another successful season this summer. The Rustics, captained by Rob Street, once again managed to lose all their games with consummate ease, and a breathtaking display of cricketing inability. The season also saw the first match played by a Worcester Ladies' team, and thus the unusual sight of women at the Club Dinner.

Unfortunately, the men's tennis team were unable to reproduce their Cuppers' victory of the year before. Despite the captain, Seb Coxon, and Simon Booth winning all their games, the 1st VI were defeated in the second round of Cuppers by a very strong St Catherine's team. A mediocre league performance provided little compensation for Cuppers' disappointment. The women's progress was also halted in the second round of Cuppers, where they lost narrowly to L.M.H.

After the previous year's disaster in Torpids, the men's 1st VIII, captained by Phil Clamp, were hoping for better things. Indeed, they performed a good deal better, rowing over on two days, being bumped by the blade-winning Wadham