

WORCESTER  
COLLEGE  
RECORD



1993

## JCR REPORT

1992 has provided the usual range of attractions within College and a few less usual ones; lycra-constrained rowers emerging from the mists for early morning runs; herds of camera-toting tourists roaming less than majestically across the grounds; and a film unit from Channel 4 recording a life in the day of racial minorities at Oxford.

Meanwhile the thrice-termly JCR meetings have seen topics of various degrees of seriousness debated with a heady mixture of incisive argument and debilitating wit. Relations with the Senior Common Room have continued on a cordial and constructive footing, a quality much envied in other, less happy Colleges. As last year's *Record* did not include a President's report it falls to me to welcome the election of Dick Smethurst to the Provostship. Having benefited greatly, both personally and as the representative of the JCR, from the Provost's advice and encouragement my welcome is even more heartily felt now.

Within the JCR itself the future of the NUS and Worcester's continued membership of that body were once again discussed with guest speakers from OUSU and Manchester University SU making valuable contributions to the debate. After several years of considering this motion the necessary majorities were reached at successive meetings and Worcester has joined several other Oxford Colleges in disaffiliating from the national organisation. Since then the government has announced its intention to reform the system of student representation and its final proposals are awaited with much interest (and not a little trepidation).

On a less controversial issue the JCR has invested in a satellite dish and decoder in time for the cricket World Cup. With live Premier League football now being shown on Sky Sport only, thanks to our famous *alumnus*, this means that Worcester is one of the few colleges in the University that will have the joy of watching Chelsea win the double (so I'm told).

The JCR also showed its unanimous support for the tradition of holding a triennial Ball rather than adopting a yearly "Event" as increasingly favoured by other Colleges. By various means and methods the Chairman and Treasurer of the Ball Committee, Amelia Richards and Jonathan Osborne respectively, have endeavoured to keep the price as low as possible. They have also sought to make tickets available first and foremost to current and old members of Worcester so that the atmosphere of a College Ball is retained.

Other social events have flourished during the year with Buskins taking the lead. The Garden Show in the summer was one of the few productions in Oxford this year to have been anything other than a flop, let alone the roaring success that it was. That it should have done so well reflects the effort and genius of the joint writers and directors, Ben Mole and Richard Lee. Their version of King Arthur made full use of the College's beautiful grounds even to the extent of having a Lady of the Lake rise from the waters sword in hand. A witty and well constructed script was brilliantly set off by equally original songs and music written and performed by Richard Mollet in the midst of his Finals.

Looking at past Presidents' reports in the *Record* it seems that the financial hardships faced by undergraduates are a recurrent theme and I find myself in the unfortunate position of maintaining this tradition. Although students are now to be spared the expense of paying the Community Charge the level of debt incurred whilst at Oxford is continually on the rise. As students come to depend increasingly on Student Loans and overdrafts from friendly bank managers the effect on College life can only be detrimental.

This year should have seen the arrival of Worcester's first Overseas Scholar as part of the Overseas Student Scholarship scheme but for reasons beyond our control this fell through. The money donated by JCR members is building up and when a suitable candidate is found the financial position at least will be secure.

The Catering Key system introduced in 1990 is still experiencing the occasional difficulty but problems are generally being ironed out. The possibility of using the system as a security key for entry to the College and rooms with restricted access is being explored and could add to the level of safety within College. It is very difficult to sum up a year's events in such a short passage without forgetting something or somebody. But if there is one thing which has characterized the events of the past year it is the good humour and collective enthusiasm with which members of the JCR have achieved so much for themselves and innumerable charities. As my successor, Alan Blake, will find out, there is no problem so difficult that it cannot be overcome by the help and support of the people we are so lucky to have at Worcester.

MARTIN BUCKLE  
JCR PRESIDENT

## MCR REPORT

The MCR continues to grow and evolve: its members now number 120 and make up one quarter of the College, yet the wide range of activities of the membership belies this fraction. Five of last year's 1st Eight, which finished fifth in the first division of Torpids, were graduates while this year five of the college's first football team are also graduates. Sport involving graduates goes from strength to strength: the MCR football team is earning even more impressive victories and hoping for glory in the MCR Cuppers which we have helped to initiate. Off the sports field, too, our members are spreading their tentacles, increasing influence in University clubs, whether as President of the Korfbal Club or directors of plays. The MCR is matching this level of enthusiasm socially, with members regularly filling Hall on our popular Guest Nights.

Academically, too, the graduates are striving for success. The committee continues to work with the SCR to maintain and improve the provision of essential facilities such as computers and accommodation to help graduates achieve these ends. I have no doubt the MCR will continue to flourish and look forward to another successful year.

PAUL GOLDSMITH  
MCR PRESIDENT