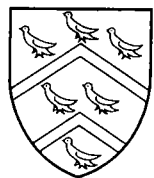


WORCESTER
COLLEGE
RECORD



1994

MCR REPORT

The last year has proved to be an important one for the members of the Middle Common Room, which continues to constitute one quarter of the college's student body. Graduates have once again contributed to college life on both academic and social fronts, and have witnessed a number of much needed improvements to the facilities offered them in college.

One instance of change has been the provision of four new computers and a laserprinter following a survey of the MCR's computing needs last Easter; another has been the installation of a security gate at the graduate building after a survey found limited security there had allowed a number of disturbing incidents to occur. These were relatively small improvements, yet ones which have had a great impact on graduates' quality of life at Worcester.

The year has also seen more adventurous plans for the improvement of college life for graduates. During the summer vacation the MCR acted to enable the college's Business Expansion Scheme to commence without some of the problems that had beset other Oxford colleges attempting the same plan. This necessitated graduates in residence moving out of their rooms, with belongings, and moving back in again 24 hours later - a process which went smoothly due to the contributions of graduates and college staff alike.

The money the scheme generated, thought to have been earmarked for the much-needed new graduate building, became needed for the development of undergraduate housing by the canal, in order to take advantage of an immediate investment opportunity. However, the college has agreed to extend to the MCR the option of taking up to twenty of the new canal site rooms in the interim between its completion and the eventual construction of the new graduate building, thereby boosting provision for graduate accommodation in line with that offered to the JCR.

Another welcome move has been the discussion concerning the possible relocation of the middle common room to more suitable premises so that the needs of the now 120 graduates can be more easily met. It is hoped that the new MCR will be able to accommodate all of the MCR's computers on one site, which would be yet another major improvement upon existing facilities.

The last year has seen graduates become ever more involved in social life in the college. This has been due both to the enthusiasm of MCR members and to the tireless activities of Sue McMurry and Shawn McBrady, the MCR's two social secretaries. The MCR community also continues to thrive on the sporting front, at the level of college sport, and also through the MCR's own sports activities. The last included an early season 11-1 football victory over the JCR 2nd XI, since when opposition has proved increasingly difficult to find.

Perhaps most important, however, is the continued contribution of graduates to the standing of the college through their academic endeavours. It is hoped that the college may use this resource to advantage in offering teaching opportunities to graduates during the coming year. If so, it will secure the impression that graduate concerns matter at Worcester.

At the end of December Paul Craig stepped down from his position as Dean of Graduates. I think it is appropriate to end this report of the MCR's activities

in 1993 in thanking him for all the help he gave to the MCR generally, and for the help he gave to individual graduate students who came to him with their problems; his assistance and sympathetic approach were greatly appreciated. The new Dean of Graduates is Arthur Dexter.

STEVE PETHICK
MCR President

WORCESTER COLLEGE SPORTS REPORT 1992-93

If last year was the season of the major sports for Worcester, with success in cricket, rugby and hockey, the 1992-93 sporting year saw us excel elsewhere, showing just how diversely the sporting talents of the College are spread. The proximity of the pitches ensured that sport continued to play a central role in College life, and the Pink 'n Black Supporters Army generally gave us an early points advantage. Our one stumbling block throughout the year proved to be Keble, who beat us in Cuppers in each of the major sports. Their admissions policy meant we faced the majority of the Blues team whenever we met them, certainly a good learning experience, but inevitably a frustrating result. Fortunately there are moves to limit the number of Blues able to play in Cuppers teams, and this should work to level things up in the next seasons.

ATHLETICS

Having lost last year's Cuppers final by the narrowest of margins, this year's squad were determined to make the most of their talents. Having beaten their nearest opponents, Pembroke, in the heats by over 100 points, they entered the final in a confident, if not arrogant, manner, kitted out in the traditional Worcester Pink and Black. After a slow start, despite the display by Paul Goldsmith of previously unknown pole-vaulting talents, Worcester began accumulating points.

It soon became apparent that the stars of Keble, Pembroke, Brasenose, Jesus and Linacre were to be denied the chance of shining as the Worcester squad took control in front of their ever vocal-support. Gareth Davies and Simon Hall, both poached with much diplomacy from Nuffield, produced notable performances over the shorter distances, ably supporting the "home grown" talent of David Kirk and Graham Crosthwaite, who was able to put last year's disappointing injury behind him. The tireless Adam Forrest finished well in all the long distance events, with Dave Denison and last year's captain Elliot Hill pushing themselves to the limits behind him. The throwing duo of Jason Merrick and Malcolm Croad, the latter a British junior international and Blue, "hammered" home their superior throwing technique, dominating the events with their first throws. Meanwhile the resourceful Jamie McKenzie recovered from his efforts on the hurdling track to demonstrate his high jumping talents, with the versatile Gareth Davies showing more of his class by out-leaping his opponents in all the jumping events.

By the final events the result was all but decided, only for a show of total dominance when in the relays Hugh Wilkinson and Richard Jenkins provided fresh legs to run away from our dispirited opposition to secure Worcester's