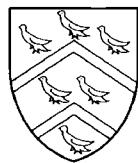


WORCESTER
COLLEGE
RECORD



1997

Onwards and upwards!! The MCR community continues to expand with two large intakes in 1995 and now also in 1996. The MCR now numbers nearly one hundred and fifty following the arrival of the freshers this year. Being large alone is no particular virtue and it is not simply size that makes this Middle Common Room stand out from many of its contemporaries. It is through the hard work and co-operation of graduates in conjunction with College staff and governing representatives that the MCR has achieved its position today, now envied by many on the Oxford graduate scene, and it is through the continued efforts of the above that Worcester MCR will continue to flourish.

Clearly with an expanding population it is important not to simply sit back and rest on the laurels of previous years and I believe in the last year there has been no slacking in this respect. An example of particular importance is that of the MCR computing facilities. I and my contemporaries find ourselves in the fortunate position of inheriting a very good computing system which is placed in the excellent surroundings of the MCR building next to the Sainsbury building. However, to stand still in an expanding community is to go backwards and both this committee and the last have taken the task of the continued improvement of the computing facilities very seriously, both with the direct aid of College and through the allocation of MCR funds over which the College gives us autonomy. It will be important in future years to continue the trend as the demand for this facility increases in the 'information age'.

With the Canal Building set to become exclusively undergraduate (for reasons far too complicated to enter into here, but involving the College's strong and forward thinking ties with Georgia Tech University in the US), graduates are looking forward eagerly to further progress on the question of the development of a new accommodation block on Worcester Place. This will address the imbalance caused by the change in the Canal Building and also answer some of the housing difficulties of our growing membership. The College have been most helpful in all discussions regarding the new building and we look forward to continued good communication in this area.

On the sports field the MCR continues to succeed, reaching the semi-final of the Graduate Football Cuppers competition, having an excellent Cricket season, as well as providing representation in the Blues Boat trial crews, the guts of the College 1st Eight, University Basketball players, University American Football players, University Volleyball players and also University Korfbal players. Whether it is simply the size of the MCR or more down to the enthusiasm of individuals is not clear but the MCR has been seeing unprecedented social activity under the supervision of our dedicated social secretaries.

Importantly graduates continue to contribute to the standing of College through their academic endeavours. This manifests itself not only through the work of individuals involved in their personal research, but also through the

work of members in teaching undergraduates. It is pleasing to see the College making good use of this valuable resource.

At the end of December Arthur Dexter stepped down from his position as Dean of Graduates. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his work performed for the MCR. I know that I echo the sentiments of past presidents in saying that working with Arthur has been a pleasure and that we have been fortunate to have had his representation in College matters. The new Dean of Graduates is Dan Lunn.

ROBIN WISEMAN
MCR President



SPORTS REPORT 1995-6

Continuing the traditional duality of Worcester College sport, the past twelve months have been characterised, on the one hand, by some outstanding team and individual performances, whilst on the other hand, sides have often underachieved or, worse still, been plagued by the age old apathy which, sadly, still affects sports at college level. Particularly disappointing this year were the performances of the college rowing crews, who despite their effort and enthusiasm, lacked the experience and strength to compete well in Torpids and Eights, as is reflected in their final positions on the river. On a more cheerful note, the football, tennis and cricket clubs had tremendous success, thereby ensuring that throughout the year, winning teams could be found competing in both the league and Cuppers tournaments.

As usual, Worcester again produced a core of talented sports men and women who represented their respective university clubs in a wide variety of disciplines, and yet at grass roots level, the frequent failure of teams, especially women's ones, to even muster the requisite number of players to face the opposition remains a disappointing and, indeed, worrying trend which needs addressing.

ROWING.

Christ Church Novice Regatta is the rowing highlight of the Michaelmas term, not least for the entertaining sights it produces on the river, but even more so because it does much to promote interest for the sport within college, thereby recruiting new enthusiasts. This year proved particularly successful with two of the four men's crews reaching the semi-finals, but, sadly, such a pleasing start to the year did not last long, and the senior crews were unable to follow the precedents established by the novice rowers.

The Men's 1st Torpid, coached by Ian Harding and Mark Payton, both ex-Worcester oarsmen, worked hard to build a fast crew out of an inexperienced