

Youth Club News

The Dinner

This was the Dinner to beat all dinners! Forget le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, this is the Wychwood Youth Club. Emma Earl and Mary Cochrane had trained and supervised the cooks well. It



could have been a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth but despite there being a lot of people in the kitchen they managed to prove the saying was wrong and that many hands make light work was right. (And there was never even a suggestion of Gordon Ramsay type language!)

The Moment of Truth

The front of house became frenetic as everyone was reminded of their training, courtesy of The Shaven Crown, be it laying tables, pouring wine or welcoming guests. All 12 waiters practiced walking into the main hall in a long line and then each standing to the left of a guest, waiting for a nod from the lead waiter. They then all laid a plate of delicious food before the guest at precisely the same moment. During the dinner, waiters would check with each table to ensure everything was alright.

At the end of an excitable and exhausting evening for all concerned, the moment of truth came when the stage curtains drew back to reveal all the members of the Youth Club. They looked so smart

dressed in white tops and dark skirts or trousers with some even wearing bow ties. They had worked so hard to prepare and serve a candlelit dinner of such elegance to thank over 30 guests. These were very special guests

because they had looked after and fed the hosts for so many years! The menu was smoked mackerel paté, chicken casserole, blackberry and apple crumble with home-made ice cream and coffee. They had done everything from picking the blackberries months earlier to serving the coffee two minutes before the moment of truth. Were all their efforts going to be greeted with a slow hand clap, muted boos or cheers of congratulation and expressions of amazement?

Standing Ovation

Within a moment of the curtains opening a parent stood and congratulated them all and before he could go any further the applause drowned him out and the faces of the cooks, doorkeepers, table layers, waiters, wine waiters and even washer uppers, broke into smiles and they knew all the hard grind had been worth while.

The Guests might have been biased, but Emma, Mary, Anita Hollingdale and I are not and we were amazed at how well everyone performed on the night.

Malcolm Cochrane