

UNIVERSITY
OF WARWICK



CONFERENCE
P · A · R · K

Our Ref : ALP/WJT

26th September 1989

Mr Charles Thompson
Chairman
1989 Skill Olympics Co-Ordinating Committee
Skill U.K. Limited
76 Portland Place
London
W1N 4AA

Dear Mr Thompson

SKILL OLYMPICS : 24TH AUGUST - 4TH SEPTEMBER 1989

As I am sure you know, the 450 competitors for the 1989 Skill Olympics were accommodated at Westwood, University of Warwick. I was personally involved not only in the accommodation arrangements but as a Rotarian in stewarding at the Opening Ceremony and as the Senior Courier responsible for taking the competitors to London on Saturday, 2nd September.

I very much regret that overall the administration and organisation was not of the standard that one would have expected of such a prestigious international event. As a University Administrator, and as a volunteer, it was apparent that the administration was under-funded and inadequately resourced. Embarrassment, confusion and frustration was caused by poor pre-planning, communication, decision making and leadership.

Our Catering Department was, on several occasions, asked to change arrangements at the last moment and twice was asked to produce meals for 450 people at 12 hours notice. This was achieved at considerable inconvenience and thanks to the goodwill of staff who were prepared to alter their domestic arrangements. In some cases they had to work 14 hour shifts.

Despite the efforts of our University Security staff and my own management considerable damage was caused on our Westwood site on the nights of Thursday, 31st August and Friday, 1st September. On both evenings, our managers had to remain on duty until the early hours of the morning to support Mr Archie Starkey, the outstanding Leader of the U.K. team, in an effort to contain behaviour of the competitors.

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British Universities
Accommodation Consortium

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Coventry Area Visitor
& Conference Association

Mr C Thompson

(2)

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On Thursday, 31st August following a raucous post-competition evening in the Bar all groups attempted to join a party organised by the U.K. competitors in Gosford Hall. The resulting mayhem prompted serious complaints from student residents and the public living in the vicinity. Groups were eventually dispersed after midnight. However, at approximately 3 a.m., an internal disagreement amongst the Australian contingent at Bericote resulted in a plate glass window being broken and an individual requiring hospital treatment.

On the next night, Friday, 1st September, from midnight until 2.30 a.m. the Australian contingent again caused considerable noise, damage and disturbance to other residents.

We shall, in the next few days, be forwarding our invoice for the accommodation and facilities and will be making an additional charge to cover damage and losses as a result of the above incidents as follows :

Bericote Night Call-Out and Re-Glazing	-	£243.00 incl VAT
Write-Off 4 Bedspreads	-	£ 92.00 incl VAT
Write-Off 2 Bedsheets	-	£ 11.50 incl VAT
Write-Off 3 Pillowslips	-	£ 3.45 incl VAT
Replace Bloodstained Corridor Carpet	-	£1016.00 incl VAT
(This carpet was fitted in January 1989 - 10 x 4 metres including laying)		
Compton - Reimbursement for foodstuffs stolen from the fridge	-	£ 20.00
Dunsmere - Minor damages to fixtures and fittings	-	£ 40.00
Gosford - Carpentry repairs to Common Room Doors	-	£ 20.00
Knightcote - Various carpentry repairs	-	£ 40.00
General - Lost Keys	15 @ 2.50	£ 37.50
TOTAL	-	£1523.45

I am sorry to have to bring these matters to your attention. Although overall we were proud to be associated with Skill Olympics 1989, the memory of the event is qualified by the inadequate executive resources and the unacceptable behaviour of certain competitors during their stay on the campus.

Yours sincerely



Andrew L Paine
Director of Residences, Catering & Conferences

Copy to Mr Peter Whaley, Chief Executive, City & Guilds