

OUTSIDE EDGE **Cheltenham Operatic & Dramatic Society** **Playhouse, Cheltenham**
Director: Janice Keen Report: Lin Willerton

What a washout this summer has been but somehow 'cricket' always survives. In Richard Harris's 'Outside Edge', CODS latest offering, the sun really shone until the many tangled relationships were finally dampened when rain stopped play in this very funny production.

Roger, an enthusiastic captain is frantically trying to make a full team but player relationship problems keep getting in the way. Loyal wife Miriam, champion tea maker, is the real organiser but rebels against Roger's authority after discovering his 'playing away' in Dorking. Bob has trouble with wife and ex-wife, Maggie and Kevin, absolute opposites in size and character but love each other to bits. Dennis, everyone's friend! so why does his wife sets fire to his car?. And finally, pompous Alex who drives his shy, hysterical girlfriend to take sanctuary in the loo!!

The realistic set consisted of a tired looking pavilion with small bar, out of tune piano and kitchen offstage and fronted by a viewing platform and score board. Good use was made of stage right auditorium exit as the cricket field/pitch, all allowing the actors space to keep the action moving and with fine tuned performers who were always busy, some in the background, others when centre stage, the director achieved a very humorous and thoroughly convincing piece of theatre.

Without exception, the cast were all first class, from the twittering Miriam to the bombastic Roger. The big and beautiful Maggie to the lovingly abusive Kevin. Flirtatious, wheeler-dealer Dennis, sun loving Ginny and guilt ridden husband Bob. Pompous Alex and shy girlfriend Sharon completed this fine cast, everyone portraying their character with conviction.

Regards
Lin

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

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