



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2017-18

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the forty-fifth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the twenty-second since the opening of our purpose-built premises. This has been another successful year, the highlights of which were:

- Three very prestigious awards made to our Chairman, Ken Phillips;
- The success, with near maximum participation, of our open tournament programme;
- Winning the Maidenhead League championship.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1 October 1996 as a result of the hard work and enterprise of the Club's Management Committee. It was a joint project with The Westgate School and is used by the School during school hours for a variety of sporting activities. Outside of school hours it is used exclusively by the Club for table tennis. The Centre is managed by Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited, a company formed by the management of the Club for the sole purpose of managing the facility. The Board of Directors includes three Club members while the School is also entitled to nominate two representatives but there are currently vacant.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design attracts many compliments from visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office that doubles as a control point for tournaments. In the opinion of many, the Centre remains one of the finest table tennis facilities in the country. The Club has access to adjoining changing and shower facilities but this access is used only during weekend events.

The floor of the playing hall was renewed in January 2016 but has proved to be a little troublesome with reports from players of slipperiness. To combat this, in January 2017, £1,500 was invested in a cleaning machine and the use of this has relieved much of the problem but it still remains an occasional problem.

The Centre owns 20 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables, 9 of which were purchased in September 2016 and the remainder about four years previously. A selection of net and posts sets services those tables with the most recently purchased being retained for weekend events. There are also 12 Butterfly scoring machines plus some older ones that remain in service for local league matches. Still giving service are the 80 Butterfly surrounds in blue with "Butterfly" printed on one side and "Cippenham" on the other in light blue that were purchased in 2012. Many of these surrounds are stacked on a specially design wheeled trolley.

There are also about 75 quality spectator chairs which are stored on a purpose-designed trolley. The Club also owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events. These configurations cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and eleven courts for lesser events. The National Junior and Cadet leagues make use of a 12-table configuration although this configuration prevents access to the main amenities block.

Cleaning of the premises has been performed internally for several years, saving the Club a considerable amount of money, and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips who takes on much of this process.

During the year, a great deal of money was spent on refurbishing the flat roof of the social area, a cost shared with the School, while the lounge and office areas were also redecorated and now await new carpets and curtains.

Administration and Management

The 2017 Annual General Meeting was attended by thirteen members and elected the following Management Committee which met eight times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	8	June 8	7
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	8	June 27	6
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	4	August 13	3
Elena Tant	Bookings Officer	6	September 14	7
Naomi Hayes	Events Officer	0*	November 21	7
Keith Hall	General Committee member	8	February 1	6
Elroy Hull	General Committee member	6	March 22	6
Bassam Mocharrafe	General Committee member	3	May 1	7
Dave Tant	General Committee member	6		

* Naomi has been away at university for much of the year.

No nominations were made for the positions of Club Captain, Social Officer and Public Relations Officer.

The Club benefits from having the services of people that have amassed a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973. Sue Hayes joined the Committee in 1999. Ken Phillips re-joined the Committee in 2012 after a few years absence but had been a foremost member for a great many years prior to that, including several as Chairman. Elena Tant joined the Committee in 2014 having previously served more than twenty years as League Secretary for the Maidenhead & District Association while Elroy Hull served many seasons on the Slough & District League committee as Inter-League Secretary.

The Management Committee again drew up an organization chart. This has two purposes: it formalises the structure of responsibility with officers shown the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identifies gaps in the management hierarchy. Some positions remained unfilled.

The following appointments were made:

Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes	Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Ken Phillips
Volunteer Champion:	Ken Phillips	Club Championships Organizer:	Elena Tant
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips	Grand Prix Administrator:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Catering Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Stock Buyer:	Melanie Ashfield
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Facilities Manager:	Ken Phillips
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming	Health & Safety Advisor:	Dave Tant
Calendar Coordinator:	Elena Tant	Anniversary Party Organiser:	Charles Mitchell
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes*	Club Supply Agent:	Sue Hayes
Members' Supply Agent:	Sue Hayes		

*Jim Hayes resigned, after very many years of dedicated service, with effect from 31 December 2017.

Also, secretaries and captains were appointed for all teams and organizers and referees appointed for all major events. These are noted later in this report.

The following sub-committees were also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund:	Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
Calendar:	Elena Tant; Sue Hayes; Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming

Necessarily, the more active Committee members do far more than might be supposed from their job titles. Thanks are due to all who have contributed to the administration of the Club, including all the team captains and event organisers.

External appointments included:

Ken Phillips:	Coaching Officer and Selector for the Buckinghamshire Association; Organiser and Referee for the Southern Inter-Region Qualification Tournament;
Sue Hayes:	General Secretary for Buckinghamshire Association;
Graham Trimming:	Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
Steve Smith:	Referee at: Senior National Championships; VETTS National Championships; Crawley Grand Prix; Jersey Open Grand Prix; London Grand Prix; Jack Petchey Schools Team Finals; Jack Petchey Schools Individual Finals; Bishop Auckland 2-Star Open; Inter-Service Championships;
Denise Weller:	General Secretary of the Newbury League;
Elena Tant:	Organiser and Entries Secretary for the Maidenhead Closed Championships;
Wendy Porter:	Tournament Organiser, Coaching Officer and Junior/Youth Officer for the Reading League;
Jan Chapman:	Chairman of Maidenhead Association;
Ricky Hardcastle:	Publicity Officer of Maidenhead Association;
Mark Banks:	Divisional Fixtures Secretary for Reading & District League.

Many of those listed above have held their positions for many years and given great service to those organisations.

For more than sixteen years the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For much of the year under review this role has been undertaken by Megan Ashfield on Tuesdays and Dylan Thakker on Thursdays. Both have received great support from their parents who have also deputised when the official appointees have been unavailable. Recently, both Megan and Dylan have resigned and their duties have been shared amongst others on an ad hoc basis while the Club seeks to appoint permanent replacements.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. This work was managed by Jim Hayes, and largely performed by members of the Hayes family for many years until the end of 2017 and has since been organised on an ad hoc basis.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

For their immense service over a great many years, four individuals are honoured with Life Membership of the Club. These are: Peter Hillier; Jacque Lovell; Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming.

The Club has a Privileged Membership scheme. This is awarded to Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year and a few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. There is also a higher tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two, but usually many more, years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for local league matches, coaching and practice. During the past year there have been 8 Gold Privileged Members and 4 ordinary Privileged Members. A practice voucher scheme is in place, but rarely used, whereby volunteers are incentivised to assist the Club and are rewarded with a voucher that they can use to pay practice fees at a Tuesday or Thursday session.

One of the annual highlights is the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went to Sunjay Thakker for his all-round contribution to the Club, especially with juniors. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Junior Player of the Year award perpetuates the names of Alan Farral and Terry Boxall in its title and was presented for the third time to Shae Thakker. The Senior Player of the Year award went to Igor Liiko in recognition of his performances for the successful Cippenham Vikings team in Division Three of the Maidenhead League.



We were really thrilled to hear of three honours bestowed upon our Chairman, Ken Phillips, who has been a guiding light for the Club for more than three decades. In recognition of his outstanding service to table tennis, Ken was elected as a Vice-President of Table Tennis England at its Annual General Meeting last summer. Regional recognition came in the form of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Get Berkshire Active after Active Slough had made the nomination. The award was presented at a glittering event at Hilton Hotel in Reading. The third honour was runner-up for the Inclusivity category in the Table Tennis England "Pride of Table Tennis Awards". Club Secretary Graham Trimming was also honoured by a South Region award for Contribution to Table Tennis.

Training has always been a key part of volunteer investment. This season, the Club hosted Emergency Life Support training and several of our key Club members benefitted from this. Never was the need for this training, and the recent investment in a defibrillator, more in evidence when one of our members, Ike Greenberg, was taken ill during a Maidenhead League match in November. The swift action of several of our members present probably saved Ike's life and we are delighted that he appears to have made a great recovery. Sadly, one of the heroes of that hour, Brian Guilloud, was also taken ill in January and we also wish him the best possible outcome.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 121, 8 more than from the same stage last year but only half the number at its peak about fifteen years ago. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2017 was 114, 1 down on the previous year. Despite membership numbers being less than they have been historically, the premises remain busy during the twice weekly practice sessions and that is the true indication of the healthy state of the Club.

Over the past twelve months a total of 59 players have represented the club in match play, the same number as in the previous year. 10 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, just half the number of the previous year. 18 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, the same as in the previous season. 8 teams were operated in British leagues, 6 in National leagues and 4 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 45 years old and during that time a total of 822 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder,

Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club and made his 1,600th appearance during the season. During the season Martin Adams marked his 300th appearance for the Club while Ashley Shaw passed 200. The all-time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1610	George Appleby	372	Steve Joel	278
Peter Hillier	858	Frank Cowley	363	Dave Pountney	276
Mike Rhodes	676	David Hayes	350	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	Georgia Veneer	336	Roland Clapton	257
Paul Baker	583	Robert Hansell	333	Jane Dickens	235
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Denise Weller	232
Sue Hayes	487	Martin Adams	310	Ashley Shaw	211
Neil Bird	435	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Armando Borges	419	Gemma Chapman	282	Anna Watton	204
Jackie Wood	403	Jacquie Lovell	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Gareth Lovell	381	Wendy Barlow	279	Steve Dorrell	202
				Catherine Hayes	200

The busiest players during the year were Ashley Saw, Jaiden Caldeira and Douglas Claridge-Hansen with 30 appearances each followed by Holly Long and Harry Coles, both with 29.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are an operating deficit of £10,651 and a net deficit, after having added in investment income, of £10,233. This may appear to be a frightening result but it was caused by one factor only, the refurbishment of the flat roof above the amenities area at a cost to us, shared 50/50 with the School, of £12,151. Thus, without this one-off expense, the result would have been a net surplus of £1,918. The Club continues to benefit from good financial management and the current financial model has provided financial stability for many years.

Revenues decreased when compared to the previous year by about £3,500. This can largely be attributed to the running of a second Junior 4-Star Open tournament in 2016-17 and a reduction in the number of hires from the Buckinghamshire County Association. Revenue streams from members, while showing individual increases or decreases, totalled largely the same as the previous year.

Apart from the repairs to the roof, and the re-decoration of the lounge and office areas, which cost £1,350, direct expenditure was generally lower than the previous year. The cost of clothing for our teams in the British leagues was expectedly reduced, being the second year of the new contract with Tees Sport, and so the only cost was to clothe new players.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that as at 30 April 2018 stood at £73,233, although this is down by about £10,000 on the previous year because of the cost of the roof refurbishment. £52,240 is invested at Cater Allen on a term deposit paying interest at 0.7% p.a. Another £16,094 is currently in a deposit account with Barclays paying negligible interest, while the remainder is in a current account with NatWest. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £93,449.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. Annual membership fees are £18, practice and local league match fees £4 and coaching fees £6. All these are halved for juniors and over-60s. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £30 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Attendees at the Monday evening advanced coaching and Wednesday evening elite coaching pay a fee of £35 each term. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses although this has been covered by the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund this season. In the British leagues a £5 match fee (50% in the Junior British League) is payable with players also contributing their individual registration fees.

The Club maintains the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund which was started many years ago with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees of all junior and younger age open tournaments run by the Club. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for children's activities and that includes support for children who may, for one reason or another, need help with expenses incurred in the pursuit of table tennis. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts.

Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, and much of it for a great many years by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers: Slough Express, Slough Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 18 reports have been submitted during the year and all of them found their way into at least one of the local newspapers. The Slough Express and Maidenhead Advertiser each printed all but one of the reports with the Slough Observer printing about two-thirds. A total of over 900 column inches was achieved across the three publications, 7% more than the previous season when there were three fewer reports. The last four years have seen action photographs submitted along with many of the reports and this has led to increased publicity during that period of

time. A record 60 photographs appeared in the local newspapers compared to 50 in the previous season. Most of the photographs were taken by Graham Trimming and a few were by Mike Rhodes. Reports of open tournaments also appeared on the Table Tennis England website.

Graham was also able to use an opportunity to advertise the Club when being interviewed during a live broadcast on Radio Berkshire from the Ping-Pong Parlour in Nicholson's Walk, Maidenhead in August. Posters and flyers were also displayed at the parlour and a few players were attracted to the Club's sessions as a result of this.

Graham Trimming recently, in late May, revised the Club's website and the current (third) incarnation uses the Wix software and platform. It is now a much more modern type of website, optimised also for viewing on smart phones. Previously it was hosted by Easily.co.uk. The website is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from May 2017 to April 2018 have been: 1,716 unique visitors; 3,791 visits; 6,324 pages; 38,601 hits. Three of these numbers show increases from the previous year. September 2017, which included the Junior 4-Star Open, had a new record number of 2,473 unique users. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

The Club's Facebook page has also been used to drive readers to the website. All reports have been linked and many events have been advertised on Facebook. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 681 followers on Facebook, up substantially from 580 a year ago, and 493 on Twitter, up from 389. Facebook postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account which has 51 followers. A further 13 albums of photographs have been uploaded this year, all by Graham Trimming. Together, they represent 3,900 photos and the albums have attracted well over 6,000 views, an incredible statistic. The September 2017 Cippenham Junior 4-Star Open album by itself has been viewed by over 1,600 people. These statistics show that this service is appreciated by members and visitors. The photographic backdrop purchased in November 2015 is used for most of the presentation photographs.

An edition of the Club newsletter has also been published seven times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. The articles are enhanced by many photographs and the publication is reproduced in colour on the Club's own photocopier.

Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge and refreshment area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area and the servery cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed as many as 70 competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004.

Until 2010 catering at weekend events was carried out by volunteers but has since been sub-contracted on a commercial basis. Club member Bhanu Muralitharan has been providing this valuable service, much appreciated by patrons, since September 2014.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television is also a popular attraction. Broadband wifi was installed four years ago and this has provided a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto Table Tennis England's website.

The twenty-first annual party, once again organised and hosted by Charles Mitchell, was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. In the week before Christmas, a Festive Grand Prix was held during which mulled wine and mince pies were an additional attraction to the table tennis. This is now a popular annual event.

Venue Utilisation

Since the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre two principles of utilisation have been established: weekdays should be for regular events, and weekends should be filled on an ad hoc basis with no regular weekly events impeding this. This year the weekday format has been:

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Elite coaching
Thursday	5:15 to 7:15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice

One team from Old Gordonians TTC also played their home matches in the Maidenhead League at Cippenham on Tuesday evenings.

Privileged Members are allowed to play when the Centre is not in use for other activities. Many weekend dates have been sold to outside events, detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club.

On each occasion that the Centre is open a Duty Officer is nominated. The responsibilities of the Duty Officer include the collection of fees, health and safety, the proper use and storage of the Club's equipment together with security.

External Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by Table Tennis England and Buckinghamshire County Association while the Maidenhead and Reading leagues continue to hold their annual championships at Cippenham. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips who has acted as Duty Officer for a great number of bookings. Thanks are also due to Dave and Elena Tant who have assisted in this area.



The Club was delighted that the County Championships Senior Premier Division stayed at Cippenham. We also hosted all four weekends of the Senior British League playing host to National Divisions C-4 and C-5. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. We also hosted all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson.

A full list of external events (June 2017-May 2018), totalling 29 weekend days, six less than in the previous year, was as follows.

Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	Senior British League (7)
	National Junior League (4)
	National Cadet League (4)
Southern Region:	Inter-Region Qualification Tournament
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (5)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading & DTTA:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Paul Drinkhall:	Training days (2)

Paul Drinkall and Gavin Evans also hired the venue for three weekdays in August for a training camp.

Club Events

Open Tournaments

The open tournament programme remained the same as in the previous year with one exception, there being only one, rather than two, stagings of the Cippenham Junior 4-Star Open. In total, six open tournaments, covering eight days of play, have been staged by the Club at the Centre since the last report.

Month	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun '17	Young Players' Summer Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	130
Sep '17	Junior 4-Star	Mike Atkinson	Steve Smith	188
Nov '17	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	48
Jan '18	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	24 pairs
Feb '18	Super 6 Veterans' 1-Star	Graham Trimming	Wendy Porter	49
Feb '18	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	82



The Junior 4-star takes a great deal of organising and an army of umpires are assembled for each day. The Organiser and Entries Secretary was Mike Atkinson while Steve Smith used his National Referee qualification and Ken Phillips acted as Assistant Organiser and was responsible for much of the organisation. Graham Trimming produced the programme, looked after the publicity and took the photographs. Other members assisted in various ways, including booking in of players. The tournament ran over two days with cadet events on the Saturday and junior events on the Sunday.

The format of all tournaments remained the same as season 2016-17. Two of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 1-Star or 2-Star Opens and catered for open and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. Another tournament was branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Open and featured two age groups in the same day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 players. The Young Players' Summer Festival is effectively two Five by Two's on consecutive days. Entry levels were generally very good with participation at or near maximum levels except for the Summer Festival.

The Clubs places on record its thanks for the organisers and referees, listed above, who give their time to help the Club.

No member of the Cub won apart from consolation events in which Pranav Gudipati earned three winners' trophies and Paul Baker one.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past ten seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. One again, there was also a Junior Singles, played during a Monday evening coaching session. The level of interest was generally much improved on previous seasons. The five events were all won by different players, the full list of which can be found in the Appendix.



Festive Grand Prix

For the seventh year a Festive Grand Prix was organised in the week before the Christmas shutdown. This was organised using the standard Grand Prix format with the added encouragement of mulled wine and mince pies. The winner was Joe Underwood.

Team Competitions

The Club ran eighteen teams in various leagues this season, the same as in the previous season.

The following managerial positions were appointed and are acknowledged with thanks for their time and energy:

Senior British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
	Team Captains:	Martin Adams; Paul Baker
Women's British League	Captains and Secretaries:	Denise Weller; Ken Phillips
Veterans' British League	Captains and Secretaries:	Paul Baker; Denise Weller
Junior British League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
National Cadet League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
Maidenhead League	Captain and Secretary:	Elena Tant
	Team Captains:	Ashley Shaw; Tim Kiteley; Elena Tant; Walter Aldridge
	Selection Sub-Committee:	Elena Tant; Keith Hall; Dave Tant; Graham Trimming

British League Competitions

The Club ran eight teams in the British leagues, the same number as in the previous season. Results wise, this was an extremely poor season as the only team that did not finish in the bottom two of their division was the ladies' team in the Veterans' British League.

The first team in the Senior British League, despite finishing with eight points after a fairly successful final weekend, still managed to fill the second relegation position in National Division A-2. This is the second relegation in successive seasons after finishing as runners-up in Division 1 South, their best ever finish, in 2015-16. The second team, playing in National Division C-4 finished bottom and are spared relegation only by the fact that they are already in the lowest division! Generally, both teams found it difficult, at times, to field a regular team, despite four players fulfilling every fixture, and the second team was never at full strength at all.

Our two teams in the Women's British League were both placed in Division 4 and finished in the bottom two positions. The B team won no points at all while the A team won points only against the B team! Both face relegation to Division 5. Despite this lack of success on the table, the A team were chosen as the Team of the Weekend at the second weekend.

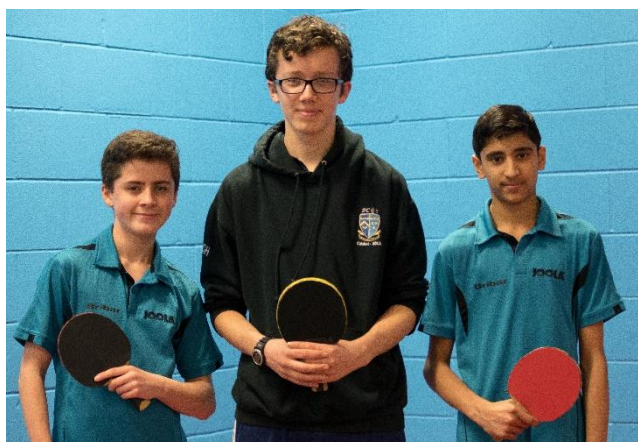
Both men's veterans' teams can feel hard done by having accumulated eight and nine points respectively yet still finished second to bottom of their divisions, 1A and 3B. In fact, the A team were only one point away from runners-up and a single set in any match could have saved both teams from relegation.



The Junior British League girls' team finished bottom of Division 3 with only a single point to their name in a very disappointing season in which their best players were not always available.

National League Competitions

Six teams were entered in total this season, three in both the National Junior League and National Cadet League.



In the National Junior League, the A team of Pranav Gudipati, Douglas Claridge-Hansen and William Fricker did well to finish in second place overall in the top division. They started the season finishing second in the first round and followed this up with third-placed finishes in the other two rounds. Both the other teams were relatively successful with the B team finishing up third in Division 3 and the C team bottom of the same division having won Division 4 in the previous round of matches.

A similar pattern existed in the National Cadet League. The A team finished all three rounds in third position in Division 1 while the B team, having been relegated from Division 2 in the second round, promptly won Division 3 afterwards. The C team ultimately found a mid-table place in Division 4 having commenced the season in Division 3.

Local Leagues

The Club ran four teams in the Maidenhead League this season, the same as the previous season and remains the joint biggest club in the League.

After a gap of five years, Cippenham Saxons won the title. This was Cippenham's eighth title altogether, the previous six having all come in the 1980s. Congratulations to the team of Ashley Shaw, Ricky Hardcastle, Graham Trimming and Albert Cheung. Ashley also won the Wilkinson Sword for the player with the highest average in Division 1 having played the required number of matches to qualify. Ricky was very close behind in second place.

Trojans finished bottom of Division 1 while Spartans and Titans filled the bottom two places in Division 2.



The Maidenhead Knock-Out Handicap competition proved a triumph for our two Division 2 sides who met each other in the final. The Titans team of Walter Aldridge, Jan Chapman and Lucie Bouron were the winners. Incredibly, Spartans only reached the final after having had to replay their tied semi-final match.

Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club for three decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally.

There are three weekly coaching groups. On Mondays, it is the advanced class for invited players. Wednesday sees a smaller squad of hand-picked players in the elite group and on Thursdays there is the beginners' class to which everyone is welcome and is where young players are first introduced to the Club.

Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for about thirty years now and he is still the mainstay of the operation, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising. The Thursday session has been run by Sue Hayes and Ken with assistance from Tony Jackson.

An informal cluster exists with the other coaching classes run by Ken Phillips comprising: Farnham Common Middle School; St. Anthony's School, Slough; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; Cox Green School, Maidenhead (run by Jan Chapman).

Tournament Successes for Individuals

Shae Thakker, Lucie Bouron and Lochlann O'Higgins have all won events on the para open circuit this season. Lucie surpassed this with victory on the Class 13 Women's Singles at the Belgian Open.

Ricky Hardcastle won three titles at the Maidenhead Closed Championships: the Tweenies' Singles and both doubles events.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Shae Thakker and Lucie Bouron have both been selected for GB representation at international para events abroad.

William Fricker, Pranav Gudipati, Anna Piercey and Rachael Iles all represented the South Region at the recent Inter-Regional Tournament.

Seven Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with Robert Hansell, Steve Munson and Sue Hayes being honoured by the first team, while Megan Ashfield, Holly Long, Pranav Gudipati and Shae Thakker all turned out for the junior team.

Seventeen Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories. Many players appeared in more than one list. Only two made it into the top twenty and these were Martin Adams, 17 in Veteran Men, and Shae Thakker, 18 in Cadet Boys.

The Club has two para players ranked in the World: Lucie Bouron (Class 3) is ranked 29 at senior level and 3 in the juniors (under-23) while Shae Thakker (Class 10) is 18 in the juniors. In the British rankings Lucie and Shae are joined by Jaiden Caldeira and Lochlann O'Higgins. In their respective classes, Lucie is ranked second overall while Shae and Lochlann (Class 4) are fourth. In the junior ranks, which separate only wheelchair and standing categories, Shae and Lochlann are both top of their lists while Jaiden is fifth.

Please see the attached Appendix for a complete statistical review of the playing season.

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2018