



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2013-14

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the forty-first season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the eighteenth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. The highlights included:

- The 40th anniversary celebrations and the plaudits in the local press;
- The continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for prestigious events including the County Championships Senior and Veterans' Premier divisions and British League including the play-offs;
- The success of our girls in the Southern Region Qualification event;
- The more positive results from our teams in the Senior British League;
- The Veterans' National League team's promotion back to the Veterans' British League;
- The healthy, yet managed, financial result;
- The appointment of new caterers and the positive endorsement of them.

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 four Club members and two representatives of the School.

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 front-line equipment comprises equipment purchased in 2012. There are 10 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables, 12 Butterfly Europa net and posts sets, 12 Butterfly scoring machines and 80 Butterfly surrounds in blue with "Butterfly" printed on one side and "Cippenham" on the other in light blue. In addition there is a further table of the same description, purchased in September 2013 and a wheeled frame that holds some of the surrounds.

In addition the Centre owns eight serviceable Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables purchased in 2007. There are also about 70 quality spectator chairs. 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 main criteria for selection of these configurations were implications for health and safety.

Cleaning of the premises has been performed internally for several years, saving the Club a considerable amount of money. This is a paid service and has been performed by Malcolm Makarian.

Administration and Management

The 2013 Annual General Meeting was well attended and elected the following Management Committee. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	8	June 6 8
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	8	July 3 6
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	8	September 7 4
Rebecca Hayes	Bookings Officer	0	October 9 7
Malcolm Makarian	Events Officer	7	December 11 7
Naomi Hayes	General Committee member	7	February 12 6
Bassam Mocharrafie	General Committee member	6	March 26 7
Steve Smith	General Committee member	1	May 16 6
Simon Wilde	General Committee member	6	

Note: Rebecca Hayes has been away at university and carrying out her duties remotely.

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

On 9 October, Malcolm Makarian resigned as Events Officer and this role was taken by Simon Wilde.

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 rejoined 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.

For the ninth year the Management Committee 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 gaps remained unfilled.

The following appointments were made:

Welfare Officer:	Malcolm Makarian	Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Steve Smith
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Ken Phillips	Club Championships Organizer:	Simon Wilde
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips	Grand Prix Administrator:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Catering Liaison:	Bassam Mocharrafie
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Stock Buyer:	Ken Phillips
PremierClub Contact:	Graham Trimming	Anniversary Party Organiser:	Charles Mitchell
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Facilities Manager:	Ken Phillips
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming	Health and Safety Advisor:	Malcolm Makarian
Calendar Coordinator:	Rebecca Hayes	Supply Club Agent:	Steve Smith
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes	Auditor:	David Hayes

Bassam Mocharrafie spent much of the first half of the season out of the country and his duties in respect of Catering Liaison have actually been carried out by Sue Hayes.

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-committee was also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth

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 Bucks Association and Referee for the Maidenhead Closed Championships; Organiser of Regional Qualification Tournament;
Graham Trimming:	Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
Steve Smith:	Referee at National U11-U14 Championships; Referee and Deputy Referee for several ETTA Grand Prix events and other tournaments;
Jan Chapman:	Chair of the Maidenhead Association;
Denise Weller:	General Secretary of the Newbury League;
Elena Cockrell:	League Secretary for the Maidenhead Association.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This role was fulfilled by Eddie Mitchell until he left for university in the autumn and his place was then taken by Naomi Hayes. Naomi is the fourth, and last (!), of the Hayes siblings to be granted this responsibility.

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 has been managed by Jim Hayes for many years now and is largely undertaken by members of the Hayes family.

Accreditation

For many years the Club held the status of an ETTA *PremierClub* at Excellence level, the only club in the Southern Region to have this distinction. With this comes Sport England *ClubMark* status. The ETTA has now redefined its *PremierClub* programme and the Club has submitted its self assessment form. The Club has been provisionally given a 1-Star (the lowest) rating and in consequence appealed against this in November 2013 while at the same time providing enough evidence to be classified at Level 5 (the highest). No response has been received from the ETTA.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

Volunteer investment used to be a high priority for the Club some years ago but since Jacquie Lovell left the post nobody has come forward to take on the role of Volunteer Champion. Because of this, volunteers are not as well supported as the Club would like them to be and training has been virtually non-existent for a few years.

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 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, for the second time, to Malcolm Makarian for his all-round contribution to the Club. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Junior Player of the Year award now perpetuates the name of Terry Boxall as well as Alan Farral in its title and was presented to Shristi Ghosh, one of our latest international players, while the Senior Player of the Year award went to Simon Wilde in recognition of his performances in the Maidenhead League.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 115, 18 less than the same stage last year and about half the number at the peak a decade or so ago. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2013 was 140, 14 down on the previous year. Members are only permitted to use the Centre when it is officially open. The only exceptions to this are key-holding Privileged Members.

Over the past twelve months a total of 45 players have represented the club in match play, 12 less than the previous year. 10 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, half the number of the previous year. 12 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, three down from the previous season and one of these failed to finish its fixtures and was withdrawn. 4 teams were entered into British leagues, 5 in National leagues and 3 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 41 years old and during that time a total of 764 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club with more than 1,500 appearances. Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 850. The only milestone reached during the season was when Ricky Hardcastle played his 100th match for the Club. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1534	Armando Borges	366	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	858	Frank Cowley	363	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	David Hayes	350	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	645	Georgia Veneer	336	Jane Dickens	235
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Martin Adams	230
Paul Baker	496	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	435	Robert Hansell	298	Anna Walton	204
Jackie Wood	403	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Gareth Lovell	381	Jacquie Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
Sue Hayes	378	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200
George Appleby	372	Steve Joel	278		

The busiest players during the year were Denise Weller (31 appearances) and Sue Hayes (28), just as they have been in the two previous seasons, although not always in the same order.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £2,731 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £3,415. Both of these amounts are slightly higher than the previous year and reflect good financial management of the Club and a strong and balanced financial model. Last year a provision was made in the accounts for £1,499 cash and cheques that had "gone missing" in the custody of the then Treasurer. Attempts, stopping short at present of legal action, have been made to recover this amount but no response of any kind has been received from the previous Treasurer.

No rate increases were made last year. Letting fee income remained strong and, but for an adjustment made in this year's accounts to eliminate an incorrect invoice from the previous year, would have shown a slight increase. This is despite the fact that the ETTA High Performance Wednesday evening training sessions finished in July and their successor event, run by the Southern Region, went the same way following the ETTA's restructuring of its regions in January. Income from Bucks more than doubled, due in some part to Bucks hiring our venue on behalf of other counties for their own County Championships sessions.

Most other income streams showed diminished results from the previous season. There were less members, paying less membership, match, practice and coaching fees. The one income stream that did show positively was entry fees from open tournaments. This was due to a better return from the Young Players' Summer Festival and the loss of the Junior Open was balanced by the inclusion of a Veterans' Open, cancelled because of snow in 2013.

Direct expenditure was reduced by £1,750 and much of this (£1,350) was due to the reduction in the number of Senior British League teams from three to two and the fact that the two remaining teams played all of their matches at Cippenham and so avoided any travelling expense.

Most other income streams and expenditure tracked reasonably closely with the previous year. One additional expense incurred during the year was the provision of a water dispensing machine at a cost of £280. Wifi has recently been installed and this will cost about £625 in the first year.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that as at 30 April 2014 stood at £75,386. £50,000 was reinvested in July at Cater Allen on a term deposit paying interest at 1.4% p.a. Another £16,600 is currently in a deposit account with Barclays paying 0.9% and the rest is in a current account with NatWest.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. A 20% discount is available to hirers that meet a certain threshold. Annual membership fees are £18, practice and 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 pay a fee of £35 each term. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League continued to pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses. In the British leagues and Veterans' National League a £5 match fee was introduced in 2011 with players also contributing their individual registration fees.

The Club maintained 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. No payments have been made out of the Fund in the last year.

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 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. Most submitted reports find space in these newspapers. 17 reports have been submitted during the year and a total of 373 column inches achieved, 5% less than in the previous season with the same number of submissions. The Club featured as "Club of the Week" in the Slough Observer in August and the Slough Express and Maidenhead Advertiser both carried self-penned plaudits about the Club's 40th anniversary. The Advertiser also congratulated the Club, along with SportsAble, for the success of the Southern Disability Grand Prix under the heading "Dream team host successful event". Five of the Club's reports also appeared on the ETTA web site. 20 photographs appeared in the local newspapers and 11 on the ETTA website.

The Club has its own web site (www.cippenhamttc.co.uk) hosted by Easily.co.uk, who are also used to maintain the Club's domain name. The Club has had a website since 1999 but the current manifestation was introduced in 2008. The website was designed and is maintained by Graham and 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 table tennis web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from June 2013 to May 2014 have been: 743 unique visitors; 1,870 visits; 3,438 pages; 28,708 hits. The first three of these numbers show substantial increases from the previous year. February 2014 had a record number of 871 unique visitors while the daily record was smashed on 21 April when the number of unique visitors reached 168 in a single day. This was the day that the results and report of the Super 6 Veterans' Open were loaded. 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. Most reports have been linked and many events have been advertised on Facebook. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 142 followers on Facebook and 173 on Twitter. Both of these show significant increase on the previous year, especially Twitter.

An edition of the Club newsletter has also been published eight times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. Since 2009 the Club has leased a colour photocopier and so members and visitors to the Club are able to enjoy a full-colour copy of the latest newsletter while they relax in the lounge.

The Club makes extensive use of photographs to add visual appeal to its press reports, website and newsletter articles and all winners and runners-up of open tournaments and the Club Championships have been photographed this season, as have all other important presentations.

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 on a voluntary basis but as the Club was then unable to find a volunteer to carry on this work, the catering was sub-contracted to Sharon Catering on a commercial basis. Around Christmas 2013 Sharon moved her family to Blackpool and for a while catering provision was less than satisfactory. In fact, on two occasions the caterers failed to turn up at all and members of the Club had to hurriedly purchase components of sandwiches which were duly made up and given away for free. In March, Dee's catering, run by Denise Sullivan, mother of former member Andrew Sullivan, took over the catering and this has proved to be very successful.

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. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue. Wifi has recently been installed at the Centre and this will provide a valuable service to members and visitors and also help considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto the ETTA's website.

The seventeenth annual party, 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.

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



Last summer Wednesday evenings were hired out to ETTA for their high performance training and this was superseded in September by something similar run by ETTA Southern Region. However, the re-designation of ETTA regional areas from January meant that this ceased. Since then, the Club has been running weekly elite coaching sessions for six specially invited members.

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 the ETTA, Bucks County Association and the Maidenhead League.

The ETTA events included the Premier Divisions of the Senior and Veterans' County Championships. Many of these Premier Division sessions have now been staged at Cippenham for many years. 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.

The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League Divisions 1 South and 3 South. These were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. We also hosted the British League Premier Division promotion play-offs and all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson.

The Club was also especially pleased to host the Southern Disability Grand Prix, organised by that wonderful institution SportsAble from Maidenhead. A repeat has already been booked for next season.

A full list of external events (June 2013-May 2014), totalling 44 weekend days, 10 more than the previous year, was as follows. Also, there were further holiday dates and many Wednesday evenings as described above.

Weekend dates:

ETTA:

Senior British League (9)
County Championships Veterans' Premier Division (2)
County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
U11-14 National Championships Regional Qualification (2)
National Junior League (4)
National Cadet League (4)
Coach education courses (4)

ETTA Southern Region:

Development camp
Regional training session

Bucks County TTA:

County Championships sessions (9)
Buckinghamshire Closed Championships

Maidenhead & DTTA:

Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)

Chalfonts League:

Junior training session

SportsAble:

Southern Disability Grand Prix (2)

Holiday dates:

Berkshire Schools:

Berkshire School Games



Club Events

Open Tournaments

Five open tournaments, covering six days of play, have been staged by the Club at the Centre since the last report. A sixth event, the two-day Young Players' Autumn Festival, was scheduled for September but cancelled due to lack of entries.

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 13	Young Players' Summer Festival	Catherine Hayes	Steve Smith	125
Nov 13	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Ken Phillips	61
Jan 14	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	26 pairs
Feb 14	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Steve Smith	51
Apr 14	Super 6 Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Ken Phillips	31

The format of open tournaments remained the same as season 2012-13. Two of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 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. Entry levels were up on all completed tournaments during the year although the Super 6 Veterans' Open, mistakenly scheduled for Easter Saturday, attracted a poorer entry than had been received for the snow-cancelled event the previous year.

The Team 2-Star Open and Young Players' Summer Festival have remained in the same format for several years. Entries for the Summer Festival in 2013 were better while the Team Open, with its unique progressive knock-out format, continues to be popular and achieved another maximum entry.

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

The Club used to supply a good number of winners of our own tournaments. This is not so anymore. The only "home" successes came in the Young Players' Summer Festival when Sam Wilson and Shristi Ghosh made it an under-12 double for the Club.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past seven seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. For the second year, there was also a Junior Singles played during a Thursday evening coaching session. The entry for all events was moderate. For the second year in succession there was a different winner in every event with Ricky Hardcastle retaining his title in the Open Singles, Graham Trimming and Simon Wilde winning the Open Doubles, Simon Vine the Veterans' Singles and William Fricker the Junior Singles.

40th Anniversary Party

The annual Anniversary Party was special this year, it being forty years since the founding of the Club in 1973. The occasion was marked by hard bat events. The singles competition was won by Steve Smith while the doubles title went to Southern Region coach Aled Howell and Shristi Ghosh.



Festive Grand Prix

For the third year a Festive Grand Prix was organised in the week before the Christmas shutdown. The format was the standard Grand Prix format used for several years on regular evenings with the added encouragement of mulled wine and mince pies. Tee-total (!) Simon Wilde won the event during an evening when many seasonal pleasantries were exchanged.

Team Competitions

The Club ran twelve teams in various leagues this season, the lowest number for decades and one of these even failed to make it through the season.

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

British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
	Team Captains:	Martin Adams; Paul Baker
Women's British League	Captain and Secretary:	Denise Weller
Veterans' British League	Captain and Secretary:	Denise Weller
Veterans' National League	Captain and Secretary:	Paul Baker
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
National Cadet League:	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
Maidenhead League	Captain and Secretary:	Simon Wilde
	Team Captains	Simon Wilde; Sue Hayes; Elena Tant
	Selection Sub-Committee	Simon Wilde; Malcolm Makarian; Graham Trimming

British League Competitions

The Club ran four teams in the British leagues, one less than in the previous season following the withdrawal of the third team in the Senior British League. Our first team finished fourth in Division 1 South thus regaining a position in the top half of the table that used to be a regular occurrence. Owe Karlsson, Mark Scutts and Martin Gray all finished with more than 50%. The second team were fifth in Division 3 South following the previous season's relegation and for the first time in several seasons our teams comfortably held their own in their designated divisions.

The same four ladies made up the Club's teams in the Women's British League and the Veterans' British League. In the open competition they did well to finish third in Division 3, following an unexpected promotion, while in the veterans' events they retained their third position in Division 1.

National League Competitions



Christos Hannides lost only two matches as he led our team to second place in National Veterans' League Division 1B. Paul Baker also had very good results and the result is a promotion back to the Veterans' British League after an absence of two years.

We entered two boys' and one girls' teams in the National Junior League this season. The boys' first team were withdrawn after the first day's matches while the second boys' team were placed as a "guest" in the girls' division to fill up the numbers. That second boys' team played well and actually finished with more points than the girls' team who, nevertheless, performed well and were officially placed second. Megan Ashfield, Jemma Walker, newcomer Shae Thakker and Reeshabh Hamal all achieved good percentages.

In the National Cadet League our team finished fourth in Division 1. The undoubted star, and the only regular player in the team, was Ben Naylor-Smith who finished with a creditable 84%.

Local Leagues

The Club ran three teams in the Maidenhead League this season. Saxons finished runners-up in Division 1, as they did one year previously although this time the gap between first and second was substantial. After a lassp gasp effort, and the help of a 10-0 walkover, Trojans managed to climb out of the relegation zone and finish in seventh place in the same division. The same could not be said of Spartans who were marooned at the foot of Division 2.

The best performing player, once again, was Simon Wilde with 76% while Ricky Hardcastle managed 70% and Albert Chueng 62%.



Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over two decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. Attendances have declined once again this year but, nevertheless, there are a few promising individuals that promise a bright future. Following the demise of the Southern Region High Performance training, Club coach Ken Phillips has introduced a Wednesday evening session for six specially invited juniors in a bid to give them the additional focussed training so necessary for their talent to be fulfilled.

There have been two other weekly coaching sessions once again this year. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes that are run by Malcolm Makarian. On Monday there are classes for more advanced performers run by Ken Phillips with help from a number of other coaches and feeders especially Jan Chapman and Malcolm Makarian.

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

Tournament Successes for Individuals

It was a clean sweep for Cippenham girls in the under-15 event at the Southern Region Qualification Tournament. Shristi Ghosh, Jemma Walker and Megan Ashfield filled the top three places in the event. For good measure Shristi also finished in third place in the Under-18 event.

On the national scene, Mark Scutts picked up a couple of titles at Grand Prix events and Megan Ashfield did well to win the U18 Girls' Singles at the Horsham Spinners Junior 2-Star Open.



More locally, Ricky Hardcastle was the star at the Maidenhead Closed Championships, winning four events including the Men's Singles, Division 1 Singles and Tweenies' Singles. He also teamed up with Elena Tant to win the Mixed Doubles while Simon Wilde was successful in the Veteran Men's Singles for the third year running.



Wendy Porter won the Ladies' Doubles at the Berkshire Closed but there were no local winners at the Bucks Closed.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Nine Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with Gemma Chapman and Shristi Ghosh enjoying the honour of playing for the county first team. Simon Wilde also gained Maidenhead representative honours in the Berkshire Inter-Town competition.

Only three members gained national rankings high enough to be published in the main lists on the ETTA website with the highest positions being Shristi Ghosh and Jemma Walker numbers six and eight respectively in the under-13 girls. Denise Weller, in the veteran women's category, was the other to feature.

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

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2014