

# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2004-05

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### Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the thirty-second season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the ninth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- the presentation to Jacquie Lovell of the ETTA Volunteer of the Year Award;
- becoming Ormesby Cup, the national knock-out competition for men's teams, champions for the first time;
- the other incredible end of season successes on the table with medals for five players at the Home International Championships, the national Cadet Girls' Doubles title for Catherine Hayes and Cadet Boys' and Junior Girls' titles respectively for Gavin Evans and Melanie Farquhar at the English National Masters;
- five Club members representing their countries at the European Youth Championships last summer;
- the five titles for Gavin Evans and others for Myles Evans, Edward Mitchell and Katie Rule at the English National U10/11/12/13 Championships in the summer of 2004;
- the successful defence of the Slough League title by a local team comprised mostly of juniors;
- the successful completion of the servery and lounge extensions;
- the successful range of open tournaments organised by the Club at the Centre especially the massive entry received for the Young Player's Summer Festival;
- the continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for its prestigious events including the National Junior and Cadet Masters and the County Championships Senior and Junior Premier divisions;
- the hosting of all seven days programme of the British League;
- the generous praise shown by visitors to the Centre for the way in which the Centre operates, the welcome that visitors receive and the quality of the activity programme devised by the Club;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events.

### Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1996 as a result of the hard work and enterprise of the Club's Management Committee. It is a joint project with The Westgate School and is used by the School during school hours for a variety of sporting activities. Outside of schools hours, in the evenings, weekends and holidays 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 five Club members and a representative of the School staff.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery, extended within the past year, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design and the recent extension have been very favourably received by visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office, which doubles as a control point for tournaments. There is a disabled wash room and newly built men's and women's changing and toilet facilities which were completed in 2004 as part of a substantial upgrade of facilities undertaken by the School. In the opinion of many the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

The Centre owns 22 Donic Waldner Sinus tables purchased over the past six years and the last two remaining Donic Persson tables purchased in 1996. Nets, posts and scoring machines are routinely replaced to ensure that the Centre maintains a high quality standard of equipment. Ten scoring machines have recently been refurbished with numbers produced on the Club's own laminating machine. This became necessary because of the poor quality experienced from the proprietary equivalents. There is also a robot machine purchased in 2002 to replace an earlier model. In 2003 the Centre purchased 80 new court surrounds in blue with the name of the club imprinted in yellow. This has helped in creating a more striking brand identity at the home venue. There are also about 90 quality spectator chairs.




One of the highlights of the past year has been the successful completion of the works to enlarge the lounge and servery areas. This was done as an addition to the much more extensive works carried out by the School to provide new changing areas and toilets together with facilities for disabled pupils. The basic carcass of the build was done at a cost of £15,000 as part of the School's project although a small part of this sum is currently withheld pending clearing of the snagging list. The Club experienced considerable disruption caused by builders being on site for the end of season 2003-4 and last summer. The Club also suffered by not having direct access to the builders as the works were undertaken as part of a School project and this ultimately led to the decision to fit out the servery ourselves. Alan Farral and Terry Boxall undertook most of the work with some help from Phil Prady and they have collectively done a fantastic job – the results



are there for all to see. The Club is also indebted to Jacquie Lovell who masterminded the project including liaising with the School and to Paul Baker who lent his considerable professional expertise in a most effective way. A complete new suite of white goods compliment the servery area which now has a "dirty" area away from public view. The cost of fitting and equipping the servery was £5,444.

## Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2004 AGM met eleven times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings		Attendance	
Robin Farquhar	Chairman	6		May 30 <sup>th</sup>	7
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	11		July 4 <sup>th</sup>	7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	8		August 8 <sup>th</sup>	5
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	9		September 5 <sup>th</sup>	7
Ken Phillips	Coaching Officer	5		October 17 <sup>th</sup>	8
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	11		November 28 <sup>th</sup>	8
Anne Farquhar	Bookings Officer	0		January 9 <sup>th</sup>	5
Dave Bull	Club Captain	3		January 31 <sup>st</sup>	4
Catherine Hayes	Events Officer	5		February 20 <sup>th</sup>	7
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	10		March 13 <sup>th</sup>	5
				April 24 <sup>th</sup>	5

There was also a meeting in December 6<sup>th</sup> with the sole purpose of discussing the Club's teams in the British leagues.

After seven years at the helm Ken Phillips did not stand for re-election as Chairman at the 2004 AGM and this position was taken by Robin Farquhar. Robin's wife Anne took over as Bookings Officer so allowing Sue Hayes to take Robin's previous position as Deputy Chairman in a bit of a merry-go-round. For the first time the Club was able to appoint an Events Officer, Catherine Hayes, just fourteen years of age.

When Anne Farquhar was elected as Bookings Officer it was known that she would not be able to attend meetings of the Management Committee. Ken Phillips advised prior to the January meeting that he would not be attending meetings for the time being. Dave Bull, although not resigning his position as Club Captain, has not played any part in the management of the Club since September and Sue Hayes and Jacquie Lovell took on parts of his duties.

Other appointments:

Volunteer Champion: Jacquie Lovell (appointed 2002-3);

Auditor: Tim Kiteley.

In addition the following sub-committees operated:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Jacquie Lovell; Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth;

Calendar Working Party: Anne Farquhar; Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming; Sue Hayes; Catherine Hayes.

Necessarily, all the Committee members do far more than might be supposed from their job titles, especially Ken Phillips, Jacquie Lovell, Sue Hayes, Graham Trimming and Terry Boxall. Thanks are due to all who have contributed to the administration of the Club, including all the team captains.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his thirtieth year as Fixtures Secretary while Peter Hillier has completed the sixth year of his third stint as the League's Treasurer. Jeremy Bateman and Clive Perry have both completed four years as General Secretary and Competitions Secretary respectively. Club member Jan Chapman also continued as Chairman on the Maidenhead

Association while Nick Hansell maintained his Treasurer's function for the Bucks County Association. Graham Trimming continued his responsibility for the Table Tennis Collectors' Society and as Auditor of the Maidenhead Association.

Paul Baker and Diccon Gray are full time employees of the ETTA as Facilities Officer and National Development Manager respectively and in an honorary capacity Ken Phillips also contributes greatly as joint Organiser of the National Junior League (Southern Region) and Roy Linz to the Southern Region Training Squad.

Following on from the incorporation of a Child Protection Policy in 2003-4, the Club has been active in other areas of corporate governance, drafting a Development Plan that will be rolled out piece-meal in the future and populating a PremierClub Accreditation (PCA) File. The Development Plan was written by various Officers of the Club with responsibility for departments and co-ordinated by Robin Farquhar while the PCA file completion has been undertaken by Graham Trimming.

## Volunteer Investment

In 2002 Jackie Lovell was appointed the Club's first Volunteer Champion with a remit of taking care of our volunteers, ensuring that they have a voice and feel an integral part of the Club. An important part of this is to build the Club's skill base. Jackie is ideally suited to take on this role having a professional qualification in human resources management.

Jackie's first task, completed in the summer of 2003, was the creation of a Volunteers' Reference Manual. This is a file containing a series of about thirty documents that assist volunteers in understanding the various tasks undertaken at the Club and about the Club's procedures. As well as documents dealing with such subjects as how to run a tournament and how to fix a broken photocopier, it also contains valuable resources such as the membership list, rules and regulations and policy statements on such topics as child protection. Vital information is also available about fire and first aid procedures. This is readily available at the Centre to all volunteers at all times.

The objectives of the Volunteer Investment Programme are geared towards making volunteering an easy, rewarding and worthwhile thing to do. The Club aims to train its volunteers so that all feel that they have the skill sets required to do their particular tasks and any others they might choose. This includes basic duty officer training, including health and safety measures, and other "on the job" training. Mentoring by more experienced members is one of the ways in which this is undertaken. The Club also encourages members into coaching and will pay reasonable expenses for them to attend courses.



Critical to the success of this scheme is reward. The volunteer has to feel that he or she has made a worthwhile contribution and gain satisfaction from having assisted the Club. Ever since 1997 the Club has made an Outstanding Contribution Award at its annual Anniversary Party. The 2004 award was made to Paul Baker in recognition of his invaluable assistance and professional expertise with the recent building works and also the original building project back in 1996. Opportunity is also taken at the party to recognise in a smaller way many other members for their continued loyal support to the Club. Since 2003 the Club has also made awards to players and in 2004 the Senior Player of the Year award went to Robert Hansell and the counterpart Junior Player of the Year award jointly to David Hayes and Melanie Farquhar.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Gemma Chapman fulfilled this position until she left for university at the end of September and since then former player Tom Mitchell has taken over.

The Club would like to place on record its grateful thanks to the many people that assist in a great variety of ways. The Management Committee members all work very hard but are assisted by a great many more in such tasks as catering, captaining of teams, coaching, chauffeuring youngsters, general maintenance, etc. Not all of our valuable volunteers are even members of the Club, some are parents. Particular thanks are also due to Mick Strode who acts as referee for many of the events held at Cippenham.

## Accreditation

The first act in writing the Club's development plan was to decide upon a mission statement. The chosen words were "To be the pre-eminent table tennis club in England". The word "pre-eminent" suggests a reputation with others and therefore, as part of this process and as a measurement of pre-eminence, accreditation has become important to the Club. For some years now the Club has been seeking accreditation by entering itself and its players and volunteers for awards and has been very successful in gaining recognition in this way on a number of occasions.

In September 2004 the ultimate award of ETTA Volunteer of the Year was bestowed upon Jacquie Lovell. Jacquie has been Social Officer of the Club ever since the opening of the Centre in 1996 and has also played her part in many other areas of the Club's management. However, it is as the smiling face behind the servery at weekend events that Jacquie is best known. Her stamina sometimes appears unlimited as she spends all weekend, both days, cooking, serving and clearing. There is also a whole load of preparation done at home prior to the event, shopping and cooking. Jacquie was presented with this most special of awards by ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch at the annual national conference dinner.



Pre-eminence also suggests an important "presence" in national table tennis activities. An unofficial ranking of clubs in the British leagues, based on a statistical analysis carried out by the Club, places Cippenham third overall out of about 150, and a whisker away from second place that would have been attained but for the withdrawal of our girls' second team.

The ETTA itself is seeking accreditation for clubs through its *PremierClub* scheme and has issued all *PremierClubs* with a record of achievement file that will be populated with documentation and used to gain Sport England Clubmark accreditation. Graham Trimming has undertaken the task of collating the required contents and the file will soon be ready for initial presentation to the ETTA.

At the annual Mayor of Slough Sports Awards, often such a rich source of accreditation, the Club failed this year to pick up any awards, despite being nominated for six.

## Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 193, three down on the same stage of last year. The final figure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004 was 199, 15 down on the previous year. To put this into context, the total membership in 1996 prior to the move into our purpose-built centre was 60. Some of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless this must make the Club one of the largest in the country. Despite the size of the membership, the Club has been concerned for some time about the lack of adult members both from the perspective of potential members of our Slough League teams and suitable people to take on management responsibilities in the future. This has been the subject of some development in the last year, through two open evenings, and will continue to be a prime focus for development during the forthcoming year.

Members are only permitted to use the Centre when it is officially open. The only exceptions to this are key-holding Privileged Members. These are Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year plus Gareth Herbert, who has been granted special rights to practice facilities, and four others – Rhys Evans, Jane Dickens, Alan Farral and Jan Chapman who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. In 1999 the Club introduced another 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 matches, coaching and practice.

Over the past twelve months a total of 81 players have represented the club in match play, 6 less than in the previous year. 18 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to 16 the previous year. 22 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, one less than in the previous season. Nine teams were entered into British leagues, seven in the National Junior League and six in the Slough League. It appears that even a club with the size of membership and success rate of Cippenham is finding it difficult to enthuse players of the virtues of local league table tennis, which for more than seventy years has been the core competitive product offered by the sport.

The Club is now 32 years old and during that time a total of 614 players have played in our teams. Graham Trimming is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club while another old stager, Peter Hillier, is on his own in second place. David Hayes became the twelfth player to achieve 300 appearances for the Club while Paul Baker and Gemma Chapman both made 250. Mike Rhodes, who has been a great servant to the Club, moved up into fourth place ahead of Ken Phillips. Mike has now, sadly, moved to the Southampton area, so his future appearances for the Club are likely to be restricted to the British leagues. Two more players reached the century: Ashley Shaw and Andrew Linz, bringing the total in this club to 87. The all time leading appearance list now reads:



Graham Trimming	1370	Rodney Potts	316	Roland Clapton	257
Peter Hillier	788	David Hayes	312	Armando Borges	255
Frank Earis	669	Alec Watson	301	Gemma Chapman	250
Mike Rhodes	547	Georgia Veneer	286	Jane Dickens	235
Ken Phillips	536	Jacquie Lovell	282	Robert Hansell	231
Jackie Wood	403	Wendy Barlow	279	James Milton	205
Gareth Lovell	381	Steve Joel	278	Anna Watton	204
Neil Bird	374	Dave Pountney	276	Andrew Dickens	203
George Appleby	372	Paul Baker	272	Steve Dorrell	202
Frank Cowley	363	Steve Crow	268		

The busiest players during the year were Paul Baker (44 appearances), Oliver Shaw (43), Ashley Shaw (33), Graham Trimming (32) and David Hayes (31).

One of the nicest developments at the Club over the past eight years has been the involvement of whole families with the youngsters playing while parents assist in the administration, coaching or general well-being of the Club. Of special note in this context are the Chapman, Cheong, Farquhar, Hansell, Harper, Hayes, Linz, Mitchell and Tucker families.

## Finance

After seven years of unparalleled financial surpluses that saw the Club build up an accumulated surplus of nearly £60,000, the last two years have seen a decline in the Club's financial affairs with deficits being incurred. The key factors in this are the appointment of a paid duty officer for Tuesday and Thursday evenings and the increasing costs of running more teams in the British leagues.

The Club remains wealthy by the standards of most table tennis club but is draining resources at a rate that would spell trouble in the long term rather than short term. However, it is necessary that the Club takes steps to arrest the trend and move towards a budget model that breaks even at the operating income level. Some measures have recently been agreed and take the form of cost reductions and income generation. The membership will be asked to approve modest fee increases at the Annual General Meeting and income from non-members will be leveraged by increasing entry fees for tournaments. Some such increases were already passed on last year and there was also a 20% increase in charges to hirers of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre.

Graham Trimming prepared a financial review of the Club during the season and this has pointed the way to where changes are necessary and was adopted as the financial section of the Development Plan.

Due to personal difficulties the Treasurer has been unable to prepare final accounts for the year in time for presentation to the Annual General Meeting but there is likely to be an operating deficit approaching £4,000.

Annual membership fees remained as they were in 2003-4: an annual fee of £12 plus Slough League fees of £10. Match fees were increased to £3.00 while coaching fees were increased to £4 and practice fees to £3.00. All these are halved for juniors and OAPs. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £21.00 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. For the first time, players in the National Junior League paid a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses.

A structured approach to reimbursing expenses for teams in the British leagues continued this season. This is available for all teams playing away from Cippenham. We continued with the support from Jarvis Sports that enables our British league teams to be clothed less expensively and provides a discount to members on all equipment and kit requirements.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of our friend who passed away at too early an age in 2000. The Fund was started 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 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 will be separately disclosed in the accounts.

## Public Relations

The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well in the three local newspapers: Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 35 reports have been submitted during the year, all but one by Graham Trimming and these reports have covered 50 stories. The Club has also monitored its success in gaining space this year and has achieved over 1,200 column inches together with 28 photographs. Included in these latter figures is an article arising out of an interview given by David Hayes to the Slough Observer. Reports of the Club's open tournaments have also appeared on the ETTA web site and in "Table Tennis News". Graham has also produced eleven editions of the Club Newsletter during the past year. These have been well received by members and visitors and provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. These and the well-maintained notice boards at the Centre are an important source of information for everyone. A Membership Pack was introduced four years ago and this, updated when

necessary by Jacquie Lovell, has proved to be a useful document to give to potential members on the occasion of their first visit.

The Club also has its own web site ([www.cippenhamttc.co.uk](http://www.cippenhamttc.co.uk)). This has been designed, written and is maintained up to date also by Graham. A full range of information is available and the site 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 monthly Newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated table tennis web site in the country.

Many Club members have taken advantage of the special terms arranged with Jarvis Sports for the supply of Club kit. Kit has also been supplied at the Club's expense to members of the nine teams in the British leagues and to some of the coaching staff. These kits carry the Club's professionally designed logo on the back of the shirt and tracksuit and are therefore an important part in the establishment of the Club's corporate identity. The Club is thankful to Roy Linz who has managed the service to members over the past year.

Two open evenings were held in February and March with the aim of expanding the Club's membership. David Hayes co-ordinated the events and they were very successful with around fifty new players. About ten of these have subsequently joined the Club so this is likely to be repeated regularly in the future.

The Club also attended the Burnham Health Promotion Fair at Burnham Secondary School where many youngsters were provided with the opportunity to try the sport.

## 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 over 100 competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the extension was finished at the end of the summer 2004. The success of the Club's catering is due totally to the skill and hard work of the Club's Social Officer Jacquie Lovell and her staff, especially Jan Chapman, Gill Tucker, Frankie Butterworth, Susana Hansell, Fen Fen Oetiker, Muriel Hooker, Terry Boxall, Alan Farral, Catherine Hayes, Stephanie Mitchell and Anne Farquhar. Many others, including several other parents, have also given assistance.

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. A pay telephone is available and the television and VCR are also popular attractions. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche.



In November 2004 the decision was taken not to renew the licensing of the bar. This was after a great deal of deliberation but the decision was really made easy by changes in the licensing laws that would have made it difficult, prohibitively costly and onerous to continue. Alcohol was only previously served in small quantities, mostly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The eighth annual party 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. The Christmas party was also popular but, because of the upheaval happening with the building works last summer, the usual annual barbeque did not occur.

## 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. The weekday format at present is:

Monday	5.30 to 7.30 pm	Advanced coaching group
	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Excellence coaching group
Tuesday	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 9.30 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Squad coaching
Thursday	5.15 to 7.15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 9.30 pm	General practice

General practice was officially up to 11:00pm until the end of April but it was very rare for players to continue practising after 9:30. With the Club's financial situation in mind it was decided that practice should finish at 9:30pm and therefore the Duty Officer's hours could be reduced when there were no winter league matches.

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 the security of the Centre. Before each weekend event the venue needs to be set-up, often on a Friday evening. The Club is indebted to Ken Phillips, Peter Hillier, Graham Trimming, Terry Boxall and Sue Hayes who are the mainstays of this activity.

## Outside Events

The Club has been very successful in marketing the Centre for outside events. Extensive use has been made by the ETTA, ETTA Southern Region, Buckinghamshire County Association, Royal County of Berkshire Association and the Slough, Maidenhead and Reading Leagues.

The ETTA events included the National Junior and Cadet Masters for the ninth time and the Premier Division of the Junior County Championships for the fifth time. In addition the Senior County Championship were hosted for the third time after a period of absence. For the Masters and the Junior Premier the venue is given free of charge to the national association, i.e. six days in total, but we only granted use for the Senior Premier on the basis that it was paid at the normal rate. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips, Jacquie Lovell and their teams for their involvement in this.

The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League – Division 2 South and Midlands on all four occasions, Division 1 South three times and Division 4 South and Midlands once. These were organized by Graham Trimming while Ken Phillips and Peter Hillier acted as Referees and assistance was provided by Sue Hayes who acted in Graham's absence when he was called upon to play.

A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	National Junior Masters (2 days) National Cadet Masters (2) County Championships Senior Premier Division (2) County Championships Junior Premier Division (2) National Junior League (4) British League (7)
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior/Cadet Trials (2) Junior Training/Assessment (9)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions/matches (5) Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town
Slough League:	Slough League play-off matches (midweek) Carter Cup group matches
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Gareth Herbert:	Weekend coaching sessions (6)

## Club Events

### *Open Tournaments*

Seven open tournaments were staged by the Club at the Centre:

Jun 04	Young Players' Summer Festival	Jan 05	Under-14/16 1-Star
Jul 04	Veterans' Summer 2-Star	Feb 05	Veterans' 2-Star
Oct 04	Cadet 2-Star	Mar 05	Junior 2-Star
Dec 04	Senior 2-Star		

No date within the main season could be found for the usual eighth tournament, the Banded 2-Star Open, so that has been scheduled for June 2005.

Two age group events (YPSF and U14/16) were organised by Ken Phillips while Graham Trimming was Organiser for the two veterans' events, Terry Boxall for the Senior and Junior Opens and Robin Farquhar for the Cadet. All attracted good entries especially the YPSF weekend that attracted a massive entry keeping 16 tables busy over an entire weekend. The Club is indebted to Mick Strode, Ken Phillips and Graham Trimming who acted as referees for the events.

The Centre lends itself very well to tournaments of this kind - singles only in groups of at least four with the top two (or three in some cases when larger groups can be accommodated) in each group going forward into the championship, while the remainder go into a consolation event.

Melanie Farquhar won both U16 girls' events played while Catherine Hayes maintained the Club's stranglehold on the Girls' Singles title at the Junior Open that stretches back to 1998. Sarah Hall, who plays for the Club in the Junior British League, won the Women's Singles title at the Senior Open.

### ***Members' Tournaments***

Because of the lack of interest in previous seasons it was decided to dispense with the Club Championships.

## **Team Competitions**

The Club has had another very successful season in league competitions. Congratulations are due to all the players and organizers who have contributed to this success that continues to secure Cippenham's position as one of the major forces in English table tennis.

### ***British League Competitions***

Nine teams were run in the British league competitions, augmented from the previous season by a third team in the main British League.

All our three teams acquitted themselves well in the British League. The first and second teams had a very stable line-up with the same eight players participating in every match except for one day when Mike Rhodes deputised for David Hayes who was away playing a tournament in Ireland. These two teams maintained their fourth positions from the previous season in Divisions 1 South and 2 South and Midlands respectively. Martin Adams was named as captain of the first team with Mark Butler, Robert Hansell, promoted from the seconds by virtue of his enhanced national ranking, and Lee Dredge as the other players. Lee finished with the best record playing from the number four position. The second team was captained by Mark Jackson and the other usual players were David Hayes, Rob Lemon and Paul Baker. All won over half of their matches in a fine team performance. The third team, which finished third in Division 4 South & Midlands, was used to blood some of the Club's better juniors. James Milton only played in the first weekend before giving up the sport, at least temporarily, while Chris Hansell and Oliver Shaw were introduced as regular players along with the more seasoned Nick Hansell and Phil Clarkson. Melanie Farquhar, Ashley Shaw and Graham Trimming also stepped in when needed. It is pleasing to note that the Club's three teams contained eight players who have graduated through the Club's own coaching scheme. Sue Hayes ran the third team while Graham Trimming acted as Secretary for all three.

At the time that the season was being planned the previous first team captain Clive Payne engaged in a disagreement with Club officials as to how selection should be handled. This resulted in Clive leaving the Club but in a mood of retribution against those he deemed involved. The second weekend of matches played by the first team, at Okehampton in December, was disrupted by intimidating behaviour by Clive against the Cippenham players and serious criminal damage to the vehicles driven by them. The two matches scheduled for Sunday were not played. Such was the seriousness of the situation and the obvious innocence of the Cippenham players' involvement that the ETTA British League Committee took the unprecedented step of allowing the matches to be re-scheduled. The Club was very thankful to the BL Committee for their support. As a result of the incidents at Okehampton, the Club took the decision to ban Clive Payne from the Club's premises.

The Women's British League team eventually finished third in the Premier Division but only after a terrific second half performance that saw only one point dropped and the defeat of champions DML Woolwell. In the end, only one point separated Cippenham from the title itself. Gemma Chapman and Lesley Keast were retained from the previous season while, following the demise of the Grove club, Cippenham signed up Welsh international Naomi Owen. She and Lesley both finished with 70% while Gemma made 55%. Jan Chapman and Jacquie Lovell acted as Secretaries of the team and Ken Phillips the captain.



Initially, five teams, two boys' and three girls', were entered into the Junior British League but the girls' second team were forced to withdraw before the competition started as a result of Katie Rule and Sylvana Bielec dropping out. Also the boys' first team was weakened with the departure of James Milton and the second team by Sebastian Bielec dropping out. The boys' first team eventual line-up of Marc Armstrong, Oliver Shaw and Ashley Shaw finished third in Division 1, a great result that showed just how much the Shaw brothers had improved and justifying their elevation from the National Junior League. They also had the honour of being named Team of the Weekend in the October series of matches. An inexperienced second team of Andrew Linz, Matthew Tucker and William Mitchell finished fifth in Division 3A. The girls' first team of Sarah Hall, Melanie Farquhar, Emily Tucker and Caroline Linz, the latter promoted from the defunct second team, did well to finish



ahead of the pack chasing second place in the Premier Division but a full nine points behind the runaway leaders. The "third" team, despite Catherine Hayes putting in a very strong performance over the first weekend, only managed fourth place in Division 3. Caroline Linz played twice in this team before her promotion, while Lindsey Armstrong, Rachel Farquhar and Jenny Hansell completed the squad.

The resignations of Clive Payne and Terry Haley from the previous Veterans' British League squad led to a place becoming available for ETTA National Development Manager Diccon Gray. Diccon is a close work colleague of Paul Baker so it was natural that they and Mike Rhodes should make a close-knit team. Realistically the aim was to retain our place in Division 1, and with a win in the final set to secure fourth place, that was indeed the final outcome.

### ***Other National Competitions***

Three times a winner! Last summer marked the Club's third successive win in the Gainsford Cup, the national knock-out competition for women's club teams. Even more remarkable, the same three players, Gemma Chapman, Jane Dickens and Sue Hayes have comprised the team on each occasion. The current campaign has not been so successful as Jane did not qualify and the first stage of the competition brought elimination.

Exactly the opposite situation prevailed in the Ormesby Cup, the counterpart men's competition. Our team of David Hayes, Paul Baker and Ollie Shaw sneaked through the first stage when one set of opponents failed to arrive and then with Mike Rhodes in place of Paul in Stage 2 managed the two wins necessary to qualify for the national finals. Neither Ollie nor Mike were available for the finals at Derby in May so Mark Banks, eligible by virtue of his appearances in the Slough League in season 2003-4, returned and did so with great success. With David Hayes leading the way with seven wins from his eight matches, Mark weighing in with five and three from Paul Baker, including the final set of the last match, Cippenham won the title for the very first time. The cadet girls' team were also at Derby having been given a bye through to the final stage. The team of Catherine Hayes, Lindsey Armstrong and Stephanie Mitchell only won one of their three matches but nevertheless picked up the silver medals.



Seven boys' teams were entered into the National Junior League, played at Cippenham and Chesham High School. The top (C) team finished third in Division 1 with Joe Cheong and Edward Mitchell the leading players while the E team came top of Division 3 in the final session. Many of the players in the lower teams were completely new to competitive table tennis and unfortunately not all managed to turn up for each occasion thus leaving their teams short.

### ***Slough League***



For a record twelfth year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This was the Club's twenty-first title, also a record. In an age when veteran players dominate local leagues and players travel miles to compete it is very gratifying that the three main players, David Hayes and the Shaw brothers Oliver and Ashley, are juniors. With David's mother Sue playing a support role all four players live within a mile or nearer of the Club's premises. Winning the title was not the cakewalk it was the previous season for a Rogues team almost completely different in personnel. For a long time it looked as if the Club would relinquish its long held grip on the title. However, a magnificent and pivotal 8-2 win over nearest challengers Chalfont Argonauts towards the end of the season and a 5-5 draw in the final match against the same opponents confirmed Rogues as champions.

Outlaws finished third in Division One with Buccaneers experiencing, as others have done before, what a difference there is between Division Two and Division One. Villains, who survived the relegation play-offs, and Vagabonds occupied the bottom two places in Division Two and Scoundrels were off the pace in third place in Division Three.

Rogues also won the end of season Division One 2-a side competition while Scoundrels beat Burnham Lions in the final of the Dilger Cup handicap competition.

### ***Slough Summer League***

Six teams were entered in the Summer League, a decrease of three, with Blue in the form of Graham Trimming and Dave Bull being runners-up in Division One.

# Coaching

Coaching of young players is probably the most important work that is undertaken by the Club. The coaching scheme has been established for many years and has been very successful for a long time. It continues to be one of the most successful coaching set-ups in the country ably managed by Ken Phillips and the other coaches. The Club is fortunate to have such dedicated and highly qualified staff with Ken and Sue Hayes having both received ETTA Coach of the Year awards in the last few seasons.

Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken and an informal cluster exists comprising: Farnham Common Middle School; Burford School, Marlow Bottom; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; Arbour Vale School, Slough; and the Westgate and Cippenham Junior Schools Cluster. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away who want to take advantage of the high standard of coaching and development management available at the Club. Arbour Vale School is a school for pupils with special needs and provides a source of great inspiration for Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman who enjoy the weekly challenge of teaching these youngsters.

There are currently four weekly coaching sessions for youngsters. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral. The Monday evening sessions for the Advanced and Excellence performers, who are there by invitation, have been established for many years, having been introduced by Ken under the banner of the Slough and Maidenhead Advanced Coaching Centre (SMACC). Ken is still running these sessions with help from a number of other coaches and feeders. The other regular weekly session takes place on Wednesday evenings when the squad of invited players are coached by Ken and Jan Chapman.

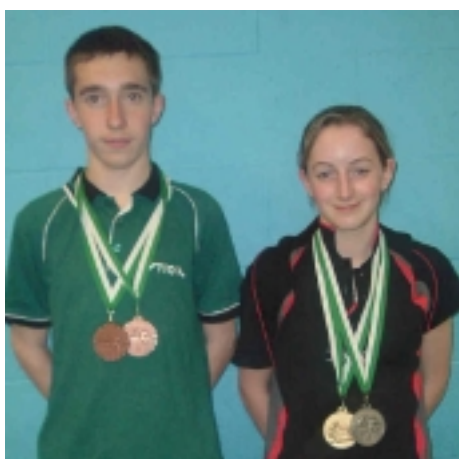
The Club's coaches also travel with the juniors many weekends to open and national tournaments up and down the country. The children benefit greatly from these experiences and gain from them the ranking points that are the main object of desire for many of them.

In August a squad of six players from the Club jetted off to Calella on the Costa Brava in Spain for a six-day table tennis camp. The event was organized by Roy and Geraldine Linz and Sue Hayes.

The Leo Thompson Trophy, presented by the Slough League to the most improved junior, was awarded to Oliver Shaw.

The coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall (Level 3); Jan Chapman (Level 2); Paul Cheong (Level 2); Alan Farral (Level 3); Sue Hayes (Level 4); Muriel Hooker; Tim Kiteley (student coach); Roy Linz (Level 2), John Lloyd (Level 2) and Ken Phillips (Level 4). The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

## Tournament Success for Individuals



This has been another remarkable year for the Club's members. A list of their achievements can be found in the appendix and as usual it is the Club's younger players who have achieved most success. The final few weeks of the season brought huge success to the Club's players in events such as the Home International Championships, National Junior and Cadet Championships and National Junior and Cadet Masters. What other club in the country can claim ten different national and international title winners in the same year?

In the summer of 2004 Joanna Parker and Gavin Evans struck gold at the German Open, Jo winning the Junior Girls' Singles with a victory over the European number one in the final, and Gavin in the cadet boys' team event.

In the Home International (Six Nations) Junior Championships Gavin Evans retained his Cadet Boys' Singles title while brother Bradley was runner-up in the Junior Boys' Singles as was Melanie Farquhar in the Junior Girls' Singles. Mel and Bradley also helped their England teams to gold medals in the team

events, while Gavin picked up a silver and David Hayes, representing Ireland, won a couple of bronzes. Naomi Owen, a Cippenham player in the Women's British League, won the Junior Girls' Singles for Wales.

That was the start of an incredible few weeks in which Catherine Hayes became the next Cippenham player to win a national title with the Cadet Girls' Doubles at the English National Junior Championships and culminating in a double success at the English National Masters. One week it was Gavin Evans with the Cadet Boys' title, the next it was Melanie Farquhar in the Junior Girls'.

Gavin Evans won an unprecedented five titles at the English National Under-10/11/12/13 Championships in June 2004. This brought his incredible tally to twelve titles at this event in four years with a further two years left in this age group. Gavin won all the events open him – the U11, U12 and U13 Boys' Singles and both the U12 and U13 Boys' Doubles. The

latter were respectively with Edward Mitchell and brother Myles Evans as his partners. Katie Rule was another winner in the U12 Girls' Doubles while she was also a finalist in the U12 Girls' Singles as was Edward Mitchell in the U10 Boys' Singles.

Across the water, David Hayes has been establishing himself as number one junior in Ireland with wins in major events culminating in the big one – the Junior Boys' Singles title at the Irish National Championships.

There were no Bucks or Slough closed championships this season so the local event calendar was a little thin. The one major title that was held, the Slough Masters, went to the area's dominant player David Hayes.

## Representative Honours and Rankings

With Gareth Herbert having retired from international play and Joanna Parker living and playing in Germany during the winter, and neither renewing their membership, the Club only had one senior international, Naomi Owen of Wales. However, there were five players engaged in the European Youth Championships last summer. Bradley and Gavin Evans were members of England's silver winning cadet boys' team although neither made it off the bench in the team matches. Conversely, Melanie Farquhar was an ever present in the England cadet girls' team after having made her international debut a few weeks before in the Cadet Six Nations Tournament. David Hayes was also there as a regular playing member of the Irish junior boys' team as was Joanna Parker, while still a member of the Club, in the England junior girls' team.

There were other international appearances also for Gavin, Bradley, Melanie and David.

A large proportion of the Club's membership have again found their way onto England ranking lists this season, and seven made it all the way into the top ten in the various categories. Gavin Evans is in an absolute class of his own at the head of the U13 boys' ranking and also features at number three in the cadets and five in the juniors. Brothers Bradley and Myles reached six in the juniors and cadets respectively. Katie Rule was placed top of the U13 girls' list while other top ten places were occupied by Melanie Farquhar, ninth in the junior girls, her sister Rachel, eighth in the U13 girls, and Eddie Mitchell, sixth in the U13 boys. Lesley Keast, Gemma Chapman and Emily Tucker also occupied places in the top twelve.

A massive nineteen players have represented Buckinghamshire and six have represented Slough. The Bucks junior team of Gavin, Bradley and Myles Evans, David Hayes, Emily Tucker and Caroline Linz won the Junior Premier Division for the very first time. The Slough junior boys' team, including David Hayes, Oliver Shaw and Ashley Shaw reached the final stage of the Carter Cup. Paul Baker, Mike Rhodes and Oliver Shaw comprised the Slough men's team for the Wilmott Cup while Paul was also a member of the Slough veteran men's team that reached the second stage of the Alec Brook Trophy.

Bucks staged men's and veterans' events only in the Inter-League and neither Slough team was particularly successful. Oliver and Ashley Shaw made their senior debuts for Slough while Graham Trimming played in both the men's and veterans' teams.

Congratulations and thanks are given to all the organisers, coaches, helpers, players and teams that have made the past season yet another successful one for Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

**Graham Trimming**  
General Secretary  
May 2005

