

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1992-93

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the twentieth season of Cippenham Table Tennis Club, and its ninth since moving to the present multi-table headquarters at Haymill Centre in October 1984.

The highlights of the year were the outstanding successes of our junior players, culminating in Gareth Herbert and Terry Young making their international debuts for England, the championship of the Southern Region League, and the continued work in our attempt to build our own premises.

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past twelve months a total of seventy-six players have represented the club in match play, and sixty-nine have held full membership of the club during the winter season. Both these figures are at record levels. With non-members regularly attending club practice and coaching sessions, there are now over eighty players associated with the club in one way or another. Cippenham Table Tennis Club remains one of the largest and most successful sporting organizations in Slough.

Twenty-three teams were run in various leagues during the past season, creating a new record one more than the previous season. This number is now seriously constrained by the amount of time available at Haymill. Sixteen teams operated in the Slough League, eleven in the senior divisions and five in the Youth, while four more played in the Maidenhead League. Three teams were once again entered into the Southern Region League, including a ladies team.

During the past year Ken Phillips celebrated his 400th appearance for the club, Neil Bird made it past 300, Steve Crow reached 200, while Wendy Barlow, Ken Human, Ping Lee and John Raemers all raised their totals above 100. The all time leading appearance list now reads: Graham Trimming 974, Peter Hillier 640, Frank Earis 580, Ken Phillips 447, Jackie Thomas 357, Rodney Potts 322, Frank Cowley 317, Neil Bird 304, Alec Watson 283, Dave Pountney 276, Gareth Lovell 261, George Appleby 256, Steve Crow 234 and Steve Dorrell 200. The busiest players over the past year were Graham Trimming and Barbara Smallwood with 55 and 51 appearances respectively.

ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting last May, met eight times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance at meeting	
Alec Watson	Chairman	6		
Graham Trimming	Secretary	7	13th July	7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	7	26th August	5
Ken Phillips	Deputy Chairman /	7	30th September	6
	Coaching Administrator		2nd December	5
Mike Rhodes	Venue Liaison Administrator	7	18th January	6
Neil Bird	Press Secretary	5	1st March	5
Frank Earis	Committee member	1	5th April	6
Steve Joel	- do -	0	25th May	
John Raemers	- do -	0		
Phil Woodhouse	- do -	0		

The above attendances do not include the meeting scheduled for 25th May.

Thanks are due to the above and also the teams captains who have organised their sides in an efficient and responsible manner. Some have had difficult tasks caused by some players not making themselves available as often as they had indicated, and those captains are especially thanked. Special mention should be made of Pammi Sohanpaul who, despite being a new member, took over a difficult team at short notice and organized it extremely well.

A selection committee for the Southern Region League teams consisted of the three team captains - Gareth Lovell, Mike Rhodes and Jackie Thomas.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his twelfth year as Chairman and eighteenth as Fixtures Secretary, while Gareth Lovell now has eight years as Press Secretary and Closed Championships Entries Secretary. Mike Rhodes was in his fourth year on the Committee, and his third as Inter-League Secretary.

Peter Hillier has now completed more than six years as Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, a very busy office, and has been returned unopposed for a seventh and eighth term. Graham Trimming has for the fifth season been the main organizer of the Southern Region leagues in his position as Match Secretary. For the County, Ken Phillips has continued his roles for the Buckinghamshire Association as Coaching Secretary, Treasurer, and representative on the Southern Region.

Ken Phillips' activities in the sphere of coaching extend beyond Cippenham, as he plays a major role at the Maidenhead Association's weekly class. Last summer he was again involved in organising the week long Bucks School of Sport, and holds the post of Assistant Staff Coach for the ETTA Southern Region.

Frank Earis once again represented the club on the Haymill Centre Management Committee, until the structure of the committee was changed earlier this year.

Much coverage of the club's activities has been enjoyed in the local press, with the Slough Express, Slough Observer, Maidenhead Advertiser and their sister newspapers reporting all major events including matches in the Southern Region leagues and the success of our junior players on the national open tournament circuit. In addition, of course, the club's exploits in the local leagues attracted extensive coverage, as did the success of our players in local tournaments.

During the year the club has been registered with the E.T.T.A. Join A Table Tennis Club Campaign.

VENUE AND EQUIPMENT

The #5500 investment made over the period between the end of 1984 and early 1986 continues to meet our requirements. The club justifiably boasts having the finest playing conditions, an opinion shared by many visitors including those in the Southern Region leagues. For match and tournament play four Butterfly Nippon Rollaway tables are used, each court individually enclosed and lit by four 500W tungsten halogen lamps permanently attached to the ceiling at a height of eighteen feet. For practice and coaching five or six tables are erected.

Due to the demands placed upon storage capacity at Haymill over the past couple of years, some equipment has deteriorated faster than expected. An acceptable storage method for our screens has yet to be found, and these will all require replacement in the near future, although the temptation is to resist reinvestment pending the potential change of venue.

The Haymill gymnasium has been used each Thursday throughout the year, and Tuesdays during the winter and summer league seasons. Eight Slough League teams have utilised Tuesday, with the remaining three Slough League teams and the four Maidenhead League sides playing on Thursdays. On most occasions space has been allocated for at least one practice table on Thursday evenings throughout the winter. Sunday afternoons have been reserved for coaching, and occasional use has been made at the weekend for matches in the Southern Region leagues, with the club's three tournaments being played on Saturdays.

The Slough League has made use of Haymill on six Saturday afternoons for its Youth Division, played on six tables. In addition the Mens Division A of the Buckinghamshire Inter-League Championship was staged on two Saturdays at the club, while the Slough League has made occasional use of the venue for matches in other Inter-League competitions.

The club still has a few shirts with the name of the club printed on the back. These are available for purchase by members.

BUILDING PROJECT

In January 1992 the club established a Building Sub-Committee whose remit was to assess the feasibility of the club building and operating its own premises. This was in response to the creation of the Foundation for Sport and the Arts with an annual budget of forty million pounds to grant to sport.

The Sub-Committee comprises Alec Watson (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary), Steve Crow, Frank Earis and John Raemers, and has now met a total of nineteen times, not including the many other meetings that have been held with third parties, e.g. Slough Borough Council, building contractors and architects, schools personnel, Sports Council etc. A great deal of work over many hundreds of hours has been undertaken and the club owes a great debt to the members of this Sub-Committee.

A preliminary application was made to the Foundation for grant aid totalling #545,000 in July 1992, and an answer from the Foundation is expected this summer. The project site is on land situated at Cippenham Middle School in Elmshott Lane, and the building will be available for use by the school during school hours, and by the club at all other times.

The main hall will measure 725 sq.m., and will accommodate a range of table configurations from six in E.T.T.A. Grade 2 conditions, seven for league matches, eight to ten for tournaments, twelve for practice and sixteen for coaching. In addition tiered seating for 150 spectators will be accommodated, and 65 sq.m. of storage for table tennis equipment and a full public address system will be incorporated. The plans contain a two storey amenities area, with the ground floor including a reception and waiting area, changing, showers and toilets, plus school storage and plant. The first floor, accessible by stairs and lift, will feature a lounge bar, cafeteria, kitchen, meeting room and toilets. A glazed screen will run the length of the amenities area at first floor level overlooking the main hall.

Now we keep our fingers crossed for the necessary finance.

FINANCE

The Treasurer has reported another financially successful year, with another increase in the club's cash reserves, which will be of great benefit to the club if the building project becomes a reality. The club remains well managed financially, a feature of its twenty year history. With membership at capacity levels, the year's financial results represent an optimum situation.

#50 sponsorship receipts were received from Slough Social Fund during the year.

Members this season paid an annual fee of #15 plus match fees of #3. Practice fees were #2.50 for non-members and #2 for members. All fees are halved for juniors and OAPs. These were increased from the previous year in order to recover increased rental charges from Haymill.

TEAM COMPETITIONS

Southern Region Leagues

Considering its final position of sixth the previous season, it was something of a surprise that our "A" team carried all before them in winning the Premier Division of the Southern Region League this season. The club has now won this league in four of its six seasons of existence. This time the league was virtually won early on when six straight wins were established, giving us what proved an unassailable lead, despite the loss of three of the last four matches. Congratulations to the team of Mike Rhodes, Frank Earis and Terry Young, who were supported from the "B" team by Steve Crow and Graham Trimming.

The Ladies team were very unlucky not to win their league also, as with nine wins from ten matches, they were beaten by one set when finishing level on points with Aldershot "A". The team was admirably led by new girl Barbara Smallwood, but the availability of captain Jackie Thomas for only two matches was a crucial factor in its failure to actually gain the title.

The "B" team was demoted to the newly formed Second Division and won three matches out of eight to finish fourth. Not once was it able to field its best team, principally due to calls for its players from the "A" team.

Slough League

For the first time in a decade the club has not won the league for two successive seasons, the attempt by Outlaws to gain the club its tenth championship faltering in the last weeks of the season with two defeats by champions Burnham One. Pirates finished fifth and Rogues seventh in the First Division so the club retained its position as the overall strongest club in the area.

We did however win two of the other divisions, Vagabonds being successful in Division Two, while Rascals were never really threatened in Division Four. Congratulations to all the players involved.

Of the other teams, in Division Two Buccaneers and Villains came fifth and ninth respectively, the latter finding a last ditch effort to avoid relegation, while Bandits and Scoundrels were fifth and eighth in Division Three, and Rebels and Vandals seventh and tenth in Division Four.

Once again our five teams in the Youth Divisions performed creditably, with Terrors being runners-up in Division One, and were followed by Strays, Urchins and Devils in three of the next four places. In Division Two Waifs came in sixth. The youth division structure once again proved very successful in introducing very young players to competitive table tennis.

In Division One Terry Young finished third in the averages, a very good performance for a cadet in his first year in that exalted company, while Mike Rhodes, Frank Earis and Graham Trimming came fifth, sixth and ninth respectively. In Division Two Ken Phillips came out on top, with Mark Dozell, Gareth Herbert, Rhys Evans and Barbara Smallwood occupying positions four to seven respectively. In Division Four Mick Bradfield headed the individual averages, followed by Chris Davies fourth and Nicola Eaglestone fifth. Tom Baker had an excellent season in finishing top of Youth Division One averages, closely followed by Ashley Cox in fourth position.

No Cippenham team this year got past the fourth round of the Dilger Cup, the handicap knock-out competition, however Strays did win the Youth Division counterpart, the Tunes Cup.

Maidenhead League

For the third year, no attempt was made to win the Maidenhead League, and to retain third place in the Premier Division was more than was expected of Spartans. Next season the club will have two Premier Division spots as Trojans were successful in winning Division One. Our other two teams fared less well, both occupying relegation positions, Roundheads bottom of Division One and Saxons rather unluckily next to bottom in Division Three where more points separated them from the bottom team than from the team in third position.

The League averages are not available at the time of writing but Ken Phillips will feature strongly in the Division One list as will Ping Lee in Division Three.

In the Knock-Out Handicap Competition all three teams which entered were eliminated in the first round, thus giving entry into the Consolation Competition. Saxons were beaten first time but Roundheads, after replaying a tied quarter-final, saw off Trojans in the semi-final only to lose out in the final itself.

Summer Leagues

Seven teams were run in the Slough Summer League and two in Maidenhead. The most successful was Epsilon who won Slough Division Three. Graham Trimming finished top of the Slough Division One averages.

TOURNAMENTS

Club Championship

Held in late March, this annual event attracted a poor entry of only twenty-six participants, the same number as last year. However many of the club's premier players were present, and the day provided much competitive play. The day was enjoyed by all, with plenty of table tennis for everyone. The veterans, tweenie, boys and girls singles were run initially in groups, with all other events being played on the knock-out principle. Four tables were kept busy for most of the day after which the finals were staged on two tables.

Frank Earis, who remained unbeaten on the day, and Edward Donovan, who made the most of the absence of higher ranked juniors, were the most successful players each with wins in three events. Wendy Barlow, who won a close Ladies Singles final, had two, as did Ben Donovan. Other events were won by Steve Crow and Mike Rhodes.

Handicap Tournament

This tournament reverted to the autumn this season, and twenty-eight players took to the tables in November.

The titles were well shared out with only Ashley Cox winning more than one. The main Handicap Singles final witnessed a tremendous battle won by Barbara Smallwood over Phil Woodhouse, and there were wins also for Neil Bird, Philip Davies, Edward Donovan, Katie Dickens and Adam Fearon. Five other players made finals, so the handicapping committee deserve special praise for their work.

Invitation Tournament

The sixth Cippenham Invitation Tournament was played in September with, for the fourth year, a maximum entry of eight teams. Invitations were accepted by Castle Hill (Maidenhead), Chalfont St. Peter Community Centre, DEN (High Wycombe), Kingfisher (Reading), Our Lady of Peace (Reading) and Pyestock (Aldershot), plus two teams from the host club.

The tournament was played in two groups of four, then cross-over semi-finals and finals to establish all positions one to eight. Thus each team played five matches of six sets, under the experimental scoring system of thirteen-up.

The event was very evenly contested this year, without the very high quality teams that have sometimes played in the past. Winners were Castle Hill, for the second time, by beating DEN in the final. Cippenham's two teams finished sixth and eighth. Very good pre-season practice was thus provided for all participants who clearly enjoyed and benefitted from the occasion.

COACHING

Now into its ninth year, the Cippenham coaching scheme has continued under the expert guidance of ETTA Coach Ken Phillips who has been assisted by trainee coach Julie Barlow and several of the club's senior players. Attendances were extremely good in the early autumn, enabling the club to split the session into two parts, one for beginners and one for more advanced players. The two sessions run one after the other on Sunday afternoons. The scheme has retained its status as Club Advanced Centre. Weekly sessions on Wednesday mornings were also held during the school summer holidays.

All the junior players who so successfully represented Slough were from this club, which now has the finest under-14 squad in the Southern Region, and possibly even nationally.

The club's Boy and Girl of the Year awards were made once again to Gareth Herbert and Wendy Barlow. Gareth also picked up a trio of other awards with the Leo Thompson trophy for the most improved junior in Slough, the Hugh Bartholomew Trophy similarly presented in Maidenhead, and most prestigious of all, the Slough Borough Junior Sportsperson of the Year, in which the competition was from all other sports.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In July of last year the club exhibited at the Family Fun Day in Upton Court Park. The event was organized by Slough Council Sports and Leisure and many sports were represented. On a difficult windy day members of the public were invited to play on the two tables against members of the club, including some of our best juniors, or have a go on the robot. Ours was one of the more popular activities and provided a few potential members for the club who were invited to a follow-up session at the club. The event will be repeated this summer.

TOURNAMENT SUCCESSES FOR INDIVIDUALS

This has been a memorable year for individual successes for the club's players, and the list of awards for our junior players in the appendix is probably not exhaustive.

A national champion inevitably takes pride of place, and Gareth Herbert became the first such for this club with a brace of successes in the Boys Singles and Doubles at the England Under-12 championships. This was despite being not at all well on the day! This capped a wonderful season for Gareth who had been taking all before him in under-12 events up and down the country. Terry Young was also extremely successful on the circuit, being runner-up at the England Junior Championships in the Cadet Singles and Cadet Doubles, with Gareth, and also in the England Cadet trials. Robert Pountney also tasted his first event win in an Under-12 Boys Singles event at Grantham.

As if not to be totally outdone by players at one end of the age spectrum, Jackie Thomas won the Mixed Doubles at the VETTS Northern Masters, and then, to cap a fine season, won the Ladies Doubles (not veterans) at Blackpool.

In local tournaments it was also the junior and lady players who led the way. Barbara Smallwood did the double of Ladies Singles wins at the Slough and Bucks Closed championships, where at both she also won the Ladies Doubles to add to the Maidenhead title in a triple success. Wendy Barlow won all junior events open to her at the Bucks Closed, plus the Slough Girls Singles, while Gareth Herbert won all his junior events at the Slough Closed and the ones he entered at the Maidenhead Closed. There were also wins for Nicola Eaglestone, Ken Phillips, Dave and Robert Pountney and Praveen Reddy.

Runners-up awards of note were gained in Mens Doubles events by Mike Rhodes and Graham Trimming at the Southern Region League Closed and by Ken Phillips at the Bucks Closed, while Frank Earis was a runner-up in the three major events at the Slough Closed.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

For the first time Cippenham players represented England in E.T.T.A. international competition. The first to gain recognition was Gareth Herbert who played in a triangular tournament just before Christmas with Belgium and host nation France. Initially selected for the under-12 team, Gareth was so successful on the first day that he was promoted to the under-14 team. Terry Young's call up came at the end of April when he debuted for England under-14 against France at Grantham and then went on to play in the English Junior Open.

No less than fifteen Cippenham players have appeared in England ranking lists this season, which have been very much extended lately. Gareth Herbert became the first Cippenham player to be ranked number one in England when he reached the pinnacle of the under-12 rankings in March. Terry Young continued his meteoric climb to number three in the under-14 list. Highest placings achieved are as follows:

Men:	Mike Rhodes (279), Terry Young (379), Frank Earis (474), Gareth Herbert (655), Dave Pountney (688), Praveen Reddy (874), Edward Donovan (942), Robert Pountney (969), Colin Digby (982), Ben Finesilver (1000), Ben Donovan (1003)
Ladies:	Anna Watton (78), Jackie Thomas (99), Jacquie Lovell (101), Wendy Barlow (249)
Under-21 Men:	Terry Young (80), Gareth Herbert (151), Praveen Reddy (273), Edward Donovan (329), Robert Pountney (354), Colin Digby (366), Ben Finesilver (382), Ben Donovan (385)
Under-21 Women:	Anna Watton (28), Wendy Barlow (85)
Junior Boys:	Terry Young (23), Gareth Herbert (72), Praveen Reddy (188), Edward Donovan (244), Robert Pountney (269), Colin Digby (281), Ben Finesilver (297), Ben Donovan (300)
Junior Girls:	Wendy Barlow (44)
Veteran Men:	Frank Earis (81), Dave Pountney (160)
Veteran Women:	Jackie Thomas (15)
Cadet Boys:	Terry Young (3), Gareth Herbert (11), Edward Donovan (45), Colin Digby (60), Robert Pountney (78), Ben Donovan (93), Ben Finesilver (100)
Under-12 Boys:	Gareth Herbert (1), Robert Pountney (10), Ben Donovan (15)

Seven Cippenham players represented Buckinghamshire teams over the past year while twenty represented Slough and one Berkshire. Barbara Smallwood made her Bucks debut for the Senior I while Steve Crow and Frank Earis played for the Veterans I and Ken Phillips and Dave Pountney for Veterans II. In the junior ranks Wendy Barlow played for the first team and Praveen Reddy for the seconds. In Berkshire Gareth Herbert played for the junior seconds. Club members Jackie Thomas and Terry Young also played for their counties but not from the league in which they represent Cippenham.

Frank Earis and Mike Rhodes played in all three Slough matches in the Wilmott Cup, while Ken Phillips came into the team on one occasion. Similarly Frank Earis and Dave Pountney were ever present in the three matches in the VETTS competition, with Steve Crow playing once. The Leach Cup team which reached the semi-final comprised Edward Donovan, Gareth Herbert and Robert Pountney.

Ben Donovan, Linda Evans, Dave Pountney and Robert Pountney were all presented with Slough badges recently.

Congratulations to all the players who, by their team or individual successes, have made this season a memorable one in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

Graham Trimming
May 1993