

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1986-7

INTRODUCTION

The club's fourteenth season in all, and it's third at the Haymill headquarters has been successfully completed, and this report contains a summary of all the activities that have taken place over the last twelve months. It has been yet another successful season on the table, and the club has consolidated it's position after the activities of the previous two years in equipping and running the Haymill venue.

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past twelve months fifty players have represented the club, and of these, thirty-eight were full members for the 1986-7 season. This represents a club membership increase of two over the previous season. The club ran eight teams in the senior divisions of the Slough League, plus three in the Youth Division, while two more were run in the senior divisions of the Maidenhead League. A total of thirteen teams was one more than in 1985-6. The expansion in membership, hoped for when the club moved to Haymill, is slowly materialising, but what is evident is the strong bond that now exists within the club's membership. The move to Haymill has improved the spirit in the club markedly.

The only personal milestone reached during the season was Frank Cowley's 200th appearance for the club. He is now in sixth place in the all time appearance list which reads: Graham Trimming 663, Peter Hillier 461, Frank Earis 350, Dave Pountney 243, Ken Phillips 235, Frank Cowley 223, Roland Clapton 193, Jackie Thomas 173 and Rodney Potts 167.

ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting last May, met six times, two less than in 1985-6 when more activity in capital projects at Haymill was undertaken, but in line with club rules which require bi-monthly meetings. The Management Committee comprised nine persons:

Name	Position	Meetings attended	Attendance at meeting	
Frank Earis	Chairman	6		
Graham Trimming	Secretary	6		
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	5		
Ken Phillips	Coaching Administrator	6	25th July	6
Angela Sanders	Venue Liaison Administrator	6	17th September	7
Jackie Thomas	Committee member	6	3rd November	6
Mike Davis	- do -	3	5th January	6
Alec Watson	- do -	1	9th March	6
Gareth Lovell	- do -	0	11th May	8

Thanks are due to the above and also the teams captains who organised their sides in an efficient and responsible manner.

Frank Earis is standing down at the AGM after six years as Chairman, during which time he has masterminded the move to Haymill and led the club through it's most important era. We are also to lose Angela Sanders after one year as Venue Liaison Administrator. She is moving out of the area. Thanks to both of these for their past efforts.

The Slough League Management Committee, as always, had a strong Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming acted as Chairman and Fixtures Secretary, Peter Hillier as Treasurer and handbook editor, while Gareth Lovell was Press Secretary and entries secretary for the Slough Closed Championships. Peter Hensman was also a committee member until his resignation in January, while Rodney Potts acted as Inter-League Secretary from outside of the committee. In Maidenhead Mike Davis once again organised the annual championships and was also responsible for the Berkshire County Association's Inter-Town Competition.

Frank Earis has represented the club once again on the Haymill User Group and continued to serve as one of their representatives on the full Haymill Management Committee. Graham Trimming was also elected as a committee member on the Haymill Community Association.

In February, honour came to the club when Graham Trimming was presented with the Slough Observer Service to Sport Award at the annual Slough Sportsmen's Reception. This award, for which he was nominated by Jackie Thomas, was given for efforts in table tennis administration over fifteen years, and must have improved the image of the club with the local authorities.

The major event nationally in table tennis over the past year has been the election of John Prean as Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, and the subsequent resignation of key members of the national administration team. Further to this Peter Hillier was been nominated, without opposition, as ETTA Treasurer and will take up his duties shortly. Peter now provides the club with a direct link through to the National Council, the parliament of English table tennis, and the ETTA Management Committee.

The club continued to feed reports to the local press about such topics as the club championships, county closed championships, open tournaments and county matches. In addition, Cippenham teams and players received good coverage in reports submitted by the Slough and Maidenhead leagues.

The club now has two qualified umpires to call upon as, apart from Peter Hillier who has held an International Umpires qualification for some years, Rodney Potts was awarded his County Umpires badge during the season.

VENUES AND EQUIPMENT

The Haymill venue was fully equipped towards the end of season 1985-6 so little activity has been required this year. The club now boasts the finest playing conditions in a wide area. For match and tournament play four Butterfly Nippon Rollaway tables are used, each court individually enclosed and lit by four 500W tungsten halogen lights permanently attached to the ceiling. For practice five tables are erected unscreened, and for coaching six are used in a three by two configuration.

The gymnasium at Haymill has been used every Thursday evening during the year, plus Tuesdays during the winter season. Most evenings have seen three matches played with the fourth table available for general practice. Further use of Haymill has been made for coaching every Sunday afternoon.

We have maintained our presence at St. Andrews Shared Church which, until the club's move to Haymill in October 1984, had been our home since 1973. This has been done by allowing it's use by the Slough League for inter-league matches and by three Slough League teams - Busby, Farnham Royals and Inex. In addition Haymill has been used by the Haymead team and also for other Slough inter-league matches. The Slough League has also made use of Haymill on six Saturday afternoons for it's Youth Division and for the Hard Bat Tournament in November and the junior events of the Slough Closed Championships in March.

IMAGE

In an attempt to enhance further the image of the club, both to it's own members and to the outside world, a bulk order of green club shirts was obtained towards the end of the season. These were all printed with "Cippenham TTC Slough" on the back and offered to senior members for £8, a subsidy of £2 with the club also paying for the printing. Nearly all members took advantage of this offer. Members of the club's coaching scheme who play matches for the club had their shirts given to them. The idea is that the club as a whole is more identifiable to them, and provides more incentive for other members of the scheme to "earn" their shirt.

FINANCE

The Treasurer has reported what amounts to a break-even over the year to the end of April. The actual accounts show a cash surplus of £99 for the year, but after presenting the information in an "income and expenditure" format there is a deficit of £65 before charging depreciation of £616.

Membership fees have been £10 annual plus a match fee of £1.50, both halved for junior players. At present Haymill are threatening a 25% increase in room hire charges which, if implemented, would require a match fee of about £2 to balance. The Management Committee is currently negotiating with Haymill on this point.

TEAM COMPETITIONS

National Club Championship

As champions in 1985-6, Cippenham received an invitation to represent the Slough League in the Ormesby Cup. Unfortunately, due to an administrative mix-up by the League, the entry form was not submitted.

Buckinghamshire competitions

Two teams were entered this season into the Bucks cups. What was really the Outlaws team was entered as Cippenham I in the Premier Division Challenge Trophy, and the Vagabonds, as Cippenham II, were entered in the Intermediate Cup. Both teams were eliminated in the first round.

This is the fourth season of these competitions. In the first season our first team played magnificently to win the Premier Division Trophy to become the Buckinghamshire champion club. Unfortunately, the staging of the competition by the county association has not been good enough to encourage them to attempt this feat again. We hope that Bucks will improve the presentation of these competitions to encourage fuller participation.

Slough League

Due perhaps largely to the unfortunate injury which kept Dave Pountney sidelined until the end of the season, the club lost it's hold on the championship of the Slough League to Burnham. The run of three successive titles is broken but we will be striving again next season for our seventh win.

Our most successful sides were Buccaneers and Rascals who were runners-up in Divisions One and Three respectively. We might not be league champions, but with three of the top five teams in Division One we proved beyond doubt that Cippenham is still the strongest club in the area, a magnificent achievement. In doing that Outlaws, the only team to beat the champions, slipped two places to fourth, while Rogues leapt three to fifth. We also had the fourth and fifth teams, Villains and Vagabonds in Division Two, while Bandits and Rebels finished seventh and ninth respectively in Division Four, with most players improving as the season progressed.

In the Youth Division our young inexperienced teams were fifth, seventh and eighth.

As usual Cippenham players featured highly in the League's averages. Frank Earis, with just two defeats against him, was top in Division One, followed by Eddie Herrity in fourth place, Steve Dorrell fifth and Graham Trimming seventh. In Division Two Roy Mitchell did not play enough matches to qualify so Neil Bird was our highest in third position, with Chris Prior sixth. The Division Three list sees Ken Human fifth and Frank Cowley seventh. Ben Taylor was sixth in the Youth Division.

The club won the Dilger Cup team handicap competition for the fifth time. It was the Vagabonds team of Jackie Thomas, Neil Bird and Kay Waters who triumphed in the final at Burnham against A.C.O. "A". The Urchins team of John Potts and Craig Dommett made it a double for the club by adding the Tunes Cup, the handicap competition for Youth Division teams.

Maidenhead League

Champions again! For the fourth time, every occasion that a serious attempt has been made, Cippenham have won the Maidenhead League. The previous occasions were 1980-1, 1983-4 and 1984-5. Congratulations to the team of Alec Watson, Eddie Herrity, Graham Trimming, Frank Earis, Rodney Potts and Nick Heaps. It was a superb team performance in the truest sense, admirably led by Alec Watson.

A second team was run in the First Division and they finished in sixth position.

Alec Watson won the Wilkinson Sword for the second time in three seasons. This beautiful and prestigious trophy is presented to the player with the best average in the Premier Division, with the requirement to play in a minimum number of matches. Alec was actually second in the averages but the leader did not play enough matches to qualify for the Sword. In addition, Nick Heaps was third and Frank Earis seventh in the Premier Division averages. In Division One Roy Mitchell was second and Peter Hillier seventh.

Summer Leagues

Graham Trimming and Rodney Potts, as Cippenham Alpha, lifted the Slough Summer League championship for the fourth consecutive season. It was also the sixth season running that Graham has won this event and the eighth altogether in the last ten years.

Cippenham Beta just missed out on runners-up by games difference, while Delta were successful in claiming that spot in Division Two. Our three teams in Division Three were third, sixth and seventh.

In the Maidenhead Summer League our one team finished midway in Division One.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

The past season has also been a successful one for members in individual competitions. Injury to Alec Watson seriously blunted our challenge for honours at the Maidenhead Closed but this was made up for with much success at the Bucks and Slough championships. Once again Alec and Frank Earis were our most successful players, and this season Jackie Thomas also produced some memorable performances.

In many ways the Bucks Closed was the best with two titles for Jackie Thomas and one each for Alec Watson, Frank Earis and Emma Thomas. Jackie won the Ladies Singles title for the first time, really her first major singles win in twenty-five years. Her defensive play dominated the event, and the Mixed Doubles that she won in tandem with Frank. Alec won the Veterans Singles for the fourth time - he has never lost in this event - while perhaps the best performance came from Emma Thomas when she beat the junior county team number one in the final of the Cadet Girls Singles. This was the most major success so far for a product of the club's coaching scheme.

Frank and Alec lost their Mens Doubles title, beaten closely in the final, while Jackie and Kay Waters also ran up in the Ladies Doubles, as did Julie Bell and Anna Watton in the Junior Girls Doubles.

If the Bucks Closed was one long success story, the Berkshire Closed was a case of what might have been. Four finals were reached, and all four lost. Alec Watson, injured in the process, was responsible for three of these, the Mens Singles, Veterans Singles and Mens Doubles with Frank Earis. Indeed Alec had been number one seed in all three events. The other finalists were Jackie Thomas and Kay Waters in the Ladies Doubles.

Frank Earis stole the honours at the Slough Closed. Seeded two, he came through to win the Mens Singles, Veterans Singles and Mens Doubles with Graham Trimming. Anna Watton retained her Girls Singles title, while at seventy-six years of age, George Appleby was the oldest player ever to win a title with his popular victory in the Division Four Singles. Runner-up spots were claimed by Anna Watton in the Division Four Singles and Emma Thomas in the Cadet Singles.

The Maidenhead Closed was a disappointment for the club when only Nick Heaps reached a final, losing with his brother in the Mens Doubles.

The Slough Masters competition was unique in that in it's four year history it was not won by a Cippenham player. Nevertheless four of the eight qualifiers were from this club, Frank Earis and Eddie Herrity being eliminated in the semi-finals.

Success also prevailed in the leagues' minor competitions. Jackie Thomas won the Wharton Vase, Slough's ladies handicap competition, beating Anna Watton in the final. Frank Earis reached the counterpart Lynford Bowl final, open the players from either sex. In Maidenhead Roy Mitchell won the Charity Handicap Singles event. Graham Trimming won the doubles at the Maidenhead Hard Bat while Frank Earis, this time, had to settle for second best in the singles at the Slough Hard Bat.

Alec, Frank and Rodney Potts have also been attending some of the VETTS open championships around the country. Frank, with Sylvia Coombs, has been successful in mixed doubles, reaching the final at Coventry and the quarter-final at Brighton. Alec reached the quarter-final of the Mens Over-40 Singles at Brighton after what was probably the most masterly individual performance of the season when he destroyed England number five Matt Sheader. However the most memorable, and dare I say the most unlikely, was Rodney Potts' win over defending champion Henry Buist. This was Rodney's career best and a popular result for the Bucks number fourteen veteran over the England number two!

Away from Cippenham activities five members of the club, Alec Watson, Frank Earis, Graham Trimming, Steve Dorrell and John Lewis, together with practice member Mike Bloomer, formed the Calcot "A" team which finished mid-way in the Reading League Division One. Alec's performances in the League, in which he remained unbeaten for a large part of the season, earned him an invitation into the Reading Masters tournament. Playing quite superbly, Alec was runner-up to England top fifty player Dave Reeves.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

Alec Watson, Frank Earis and Anna Watton have all been regular members of Buckinghamshire county teams this season. Alec, who remained unbeaten, and Frank were in the successful Veteran I team that won promotion back to the Premier Division by winning Division 2. Anna was called into the junior team for the second match and retained her place.

The early season Bucks ranking lists also contained the names of Jackie Thomas (ladies), Julie Bell (girls) and Peter Hillier (veteran men). Alec Watson (men), Jacquie Farwell and Kay Kennedy (ladies) and Rodney Potts (veteran men) were added in December, when Peter Hillier lost his place.

Fourteen players from the club have also earned the distinction of representing Slough this season. Graham Trimming, Rodney Potts and Steve Dorrell all appeared for the Mens "A" team, while Ken Phillips made his inter-league debut for the "B" team. Alec Watson, Frank Earis and Rodney Potts were the first choice members for the veterans team in the VETTS national championship, and Peter Hillier appeared for the "B" team in the Bucks inter-league. Jackie Thomas and Kay Waters were members of the ladies team and Ben Taylor and Emma Thomas represented the league in the first Bucks cadet competition. Cippenham had a full house in the girls team with Julie Bell, Emma Thomas, Anna Watton and Kay Fullick all gaining recognition.

Alec Watson and Frank Earis have both been ranked within the top thirty on the Lentec England veterans list this season, although both would be considerably higher in they entered more qualifying events.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The club championship was held on a Saturday in March at Haymill. A massive record entry of thirty-three contestants, seven more than the previous record, playing an additional two events, proved to be too much and the tournament ran very late. As a result the club will run two tournaments next season, separating the handicapped events from the main championships events.

Ten events were run, the two new ones being the separation of Boys Singles and Girls Singles, and the introduction of a Junior Handicap Doubles. Ken Phillips took on the task of Entries Secretary, while Peter Hillier was the tournament referee. Computerization of the tournament was extended with Graham Trimming's program having overall control of the tournament, including maintaining the draw sheets and printing match results sheets. As a result the work of control table personnel was reduced. Thanks to our keen ladies, a very successful refreshment stall kept hunger away from the players.

Frank Earis was undoubtedly the star of the tournament with three wins. He triumphed in the Mens and Veterans singles events over Alec Watson, then combined with Alec to take the Championship Doubles. By the end of the tournament Alec, who also had a successful run to win the Handicap Singles, had played for seven hours non-stop and was not able to offer more than token resistance.

The Ladies Singles was won by Kay Waters, the boys and girls singles by Craig Dommett and Anna Watton, while the handicap events also brought success to John Potts, Neil Bird, Gareth Lovell and Reshad Khan. Reshad, at ten years of age, was a year older than one of his opponents, Philip Waters who became the youngest ever finalist at the club championships. It is interesting that the difference in age between the oldest and youngest participants was sixty-seven years!

Two new trophies, for the boys and girls singles, were purchased this year.

COACHING

Under the supervision of Ken Phillips the club has maintained weekly coaching sessions at Haymill on Sunday afternoons. Ken took total charge when our previous coach, Cathy Hasberry, moved out of the area last summer. Since then Ken has been really bitten by the bug, attending many training courses, and will shortly be assessed for his club coach award.

Attendances at the sessions have been good, averaging between twelve and sixteen juniors, with as many as twenty on odd occasions. Since February a rota system for senior players to play against the juniors, providing improved feeding and pressure play, has operated successfully.

Twenty-two awards have been made in the Dunlop Skills Award Scheme. Eight were Grade 1, twelve for Grade 2, while Emma Thomas and Anna Watton have both passed Grade 3.

The annual Boy and Girl of the Year awards were made to Ben Taylor and Anna Watton, while the four quarterly improvement awards were presented to Alan Hoyle, John Potts, Jonathan Phillips and Jazz Dhillon.

Graham Trimming

May 1987