



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2014-15

Highlights of the Year

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

- The success of junior players, with girls winning tournaments and the emergence of two star boys;
- The success of the girls' team in qualifying for the Junior British League and then winning their division;
- The continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for prestigious events;
- The vastly extended press coverage in the local newspapers;
- The introduction of a Flickr account with photographs from many of the Club's hosted events;
- The healthy, yet managed, financial result;
- The appointment of caterers from within the Club's membership and the positive endorsement of them.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



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

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

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

In addition the Centre owns eight serviceable Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables purchased in 2007. There are also about 55 quality spectator chairs. This number has reduced as chairs become old and need to be discarded but a replacement batch is currently being sourced. The Club also owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

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

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

It is planned to renew the floor surface in the playing hall this summer and the Club, led by Paul Baker, is currently engaged in the tendering process for this. This will require the Club to be closed for a period of time over the summer holidays and it is expected also that other remedial works will be carried out at the same time. The cost of this will be shared with the host school and Sue Hayes is currently busy liaising with the school about this.

Administration and Management

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

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	8	June 3	8
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	8	Jun 20	8
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	5	August 13	5
Elena Tant	Bookings Officer	7	October 8	6
Simon Wilde	Events Officer	2	November 19	4
Naomi Hayes	General Committee member	8	January 18	6
Bassam Mocharrafe	General Committee member	4	February 27	7
Dave Tant	General Committee member	7	April 8	5

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

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

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

The following appointments were made:

Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes	Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Ken Phillips
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Ken Phillips	Club Championships Organizer:	Simon Wilde
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips	Grand Prix Administrator:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Catering Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Stock Buyer:	Ken Phillips
PremierClub Contact:	Graham Trimming	Anniversary Party Organiser:	Charles Mitchell
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Facilities Manager:	Ken Phillips
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming	Health and Safety Advisor:	Dave Tant
Calendar Coordinator:	Elena Tant	Club/Members' Supply Agent:	Simon Wilde
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes	Photocopier Liaison:	Sue Hayes

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

The following sub-committee was also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth

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

External appointments included:

Ken Phillips:	Coaching Officer and Selector for the Bucks Association; Referee for the Maidenhead Closed Championships; Organiser and Referee for the Southern Region U11/12/13/14 Qualification tournament; Organiser and Referee for the Junior & Cadet Regional Qualification Tournament;
Graham Trimming:	Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
Steve Smith:	Referee at many national events including Grand Prix tournaments and the Heritage Oil Qualification event; acting Referee at Senior National Championships;
Jan Chapman:	Chair of the Maidenhead Association;
Gemma Chapman:	General Secretary and Minutes Secretary for the Maidenhead Association;
Denise Weller:	General Secretary of the Berkshire Association and the Newbury League;
Elena Cockrell:	Entries Secretary for the Maidenhead Closed Championships;
Wendy Porter:	Coaching Officer and Junior/Youth Officer for the Reading League.



Many of those listed above have been in their positions for many years and given great service to the organisations they represent. For his service as Auditor of the Maidenhead Association for thirty-nine years, Graham Trimming was elected a Vice-President in May 2015. Steve Smith has been in demand to referee many events for the past few years and passed his assessment to become an International Umpire in July 2014.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For the best part of two years, this role has fulfilled extremely well by Naomi Hayes. Naomi is the fourth, and last (!), of the Hayes siblings to be undertake this role.

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

Accreditation

For many years the Club held the status of an ETTA *PremierClub* at Excellence level, the only club in the Southern Region to have this distinction. With this came Sport England *ClubMark* status. We had become increasingly frustrated at the poor administration of *PremierClub* over the past few years, culminating in the Club being unduly granted only the lowest of status. This, together with a lack of response from Table Tennis England to our expressed concerns resulted in the Club taking the decision to relinquish its membership last autumn. We hope that *PremierClub* becomes fit for purpose in the future and that the Club might once again take its rightful place amongst the accredited elite.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

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

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



One of the annual highlights is the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went to Dave Tant for his contribution to the Club, especially in his capacity as an electrician. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Junior Player of the Year award perpetuates the names of Alan Farral and Terry Boxall in its title and was presented to Ben Naylor-Smith, while the Senior Player of the Year award went to Albert Cheung in recognition of his performances in the Maidenhead League.

In September the Club hosted an Essential First Aid training course run by St John Ambulance Service. Nine Club members attended with a view to always having someone qualified in first aid on the premises.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 108, 7 less than the same stage last year and less than half the number at the peak a decade or so ago. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2014 was 115, 25 down on the previous year. Despite the reducing membership numbers, which has been a feature for several years, the premises remain busy during the twice weekly practice sessions and that is the true indication of the healthy state of the Club.

Over the past twelve months a total of 42 players have represented the club in match play, 3 less than the previous year. 11 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, one more than in the previous year. 12 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, the same number as in the previous season. 6 teams were entered into British leagues, 2 in National leagues and 4 in the Maidenhead League.



The Club is now 42 years old and during that time a total of 775 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club with more than 1,500 appearances. Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 850. Several players reached milestones during the year with pride of place going to Paul Baker who made his 500th appearance for the Club. Not far behind was Sue Hayes with her 400th, while Robert Hansell went past 300, Martin Adams played his 250th and Simon Wilde played his 100th. The



all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1556	George Appleby	372	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	858	Frank Cowley	363	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	David Hayes	350	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	651	Georgia Veneer	336	Martin Adams	254
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Jane Dickens	235
Paul Baker	510	Robert Hansell	306	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	435	Alec Watson	301	Anna Watton	204
Sue Hayes	407	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Jackie Wood	403	Jacque Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
Armando Borges	387	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200
Gareth Lovell	381	Steve Joel	278		

The busiest players during the year were Shae Thakker and Sue Hayes with 30 and 29 appearances respectively.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £3,377 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £4,120. This represents an increase of £705 over the previous year and reflects good financial management of the Club and a strong and balanced financial model. Revenues decreased by 4% to £23,011 but there were no changes in rates of fees charged.

The major contributor to the decrease in revenue was that letting fee income was reduced substantially from the previous year but still contributed nearly £6,000 to the bottom line. The decrease was due to the regions that make up Table Tennis England being restructured and the consequent lack of income being received for hiring from the Southern Region. Less was earned also from Table Tennis England itself. There was also a reduction in catering revenue but this was the result of a conscious decision by the Club to reduce the percentage commission take.

All other income streams showed an increase with particular increases in match fees and open tournaments entry fees. Match fees were influenced by an additional team in the Maidenhead league and more matches being scheduled by the League. Tournament income benefited from the playing of the Young Players' Autumn Festival, cancelled the previous year, and a large increase in the entry for the counterpart Summer Festival.

Direct expenditure was reduced by £1,249 despite the £660 increase in team entry fees, half of which was because we entered a team in the Junior British League. The Club chose not to renew the kit for our teams in the British leagues and therefore spent only a fraction of that spent the previous season with a year on year saving of £1,100. However, £611 more was spent on travel and accommodation costs for our teams principally because of the additional team in the Junior British League and the claim of some expenses of the Senior British League second team and the veteran men's team, albeit much less than their entitlement, who had claimed anything in the previous season. Some equipment became fully depreciated and that saved the Club more than £500 and there was also a substantial reduction in the amount spent on balls and equipment renewals.

Savings were made on administrative expenses. No holiday pay was accrued for the Duty Officer but this is likely to become payable in the next financial year while the reduction in expense of photocopier rental was offset by the cost of wifi provision. Annualisation of the effect of the photocopier rental will reduce costs further next year.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that as at 30 April 2015 stood at £81,054. £50,000 is invested at Cater Allen on a term deposit paying interest at 1.1% p.a. Another £16,750 is currently in a deposit account with Barclays paying 0.9% and the remainder is in a current account with NatWest. Part of the Club's cash assets are likely to be used within the next few months to pay for the renewal of the floor surface in the playing hall. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £96,409.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. A 20% discount is available to hirers that meet a certain threshold. Annual membership fees are £18, practice and local league match fees £4 and coaching fees £6. All these are halved for juniors and over-60s. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £30 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Attendees at the Monday evening advanced coaching and Wednesday evening elite coaching pay a fee of £35 each term. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses. In the British leagues a £5 match fee (50% in the Junior British League) is payable with players also contributing their individual registration fees.

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

Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, and much of it for many years by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers: Slough Express, Slough Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 21 reports have been submitted during the year and all but one of them has found its way into the local newspapers. The Maidenhead Advertiser has printed 19 reports, the Slough Express 17 but the Slough Observer only 7. On the few occasions that the Observer did include the Club's report they granted a lot of space to it and their average space per report was far higher than the other papers. A total of 762 column inches was achieved across the three publications, more than twice the previous season. The Club also featured as "Club of the Week" in the Slough Observer in March. This greater coverage, at least in terms of column inches, can be partly attributed to the provision, for the first time, of action photographs. 40 photographs appeared in the local newspapers, up from 20 the previous year, and, of these, 22 were action photographs submitted by the Club. Reports also appeared on the Table Tennis England website including 17 photographs.

The Club has its own web site (www.cippenhamttc.co.uk) hosted by Easily.co.uk, who are also used to maintain the Club's domain name. The Club has had a website since 1999 but the current manifestation was introduced in 2008. The website was designed and is maintained by Graham and is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from June 2014 to May 2015 have been: 823 unique visitors; 2,621 visits; 4,868 pages; 32,568 hits. All four of these numbers show substantial increases from the previous year. November 2014 had a record number of 986 unique visitors while the daily record was smashed on 17 December when the number of unique visitors reached 210 in a single day. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

The Club's Facebook page has also been used to drive readers to the website. All reports have been linked and many events have been advertised on Facebook. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 257 followers on Facebook, up substantially from 142 a year ago, and 239 on Twitter, up from 173. Last autumn the Club also introduced a Flickr account onto which photographs from events are uploaded. So far 1,288 photographs, nearly all being players in action taken by Graham Trimming and a few by Mike Rhodes, have been uploaded into 13 albums. This feature is proving very popular with every album having attracted at least 145 views with two having amassed over 300 views.

An edition of the Club newsletter has also been published eight times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. Since 2009 the Club had leased a colour photocopier and so members and visitors to the Club are able to enjoy a full-colour copy of the latest newsletter while they relax in the lounge. When the lease of the photocopier expired in January 2015, the Club acquired title to it and consequently now owns it. This was considered appropriate because much less use is made of the photocopier than was the case in the past as most entry forms are now distributed electronically.

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 serving cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed as many as 70 competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004.

Until 2010 catering at weekend events was carried out on a voluntary basis but has been sub-contracted on a commercial basis since then. During the summer of 2014 the contractor Dee's Catering withdrew and the Club had to find a replacement. Club member Bhanu Muralitharan was given the contract and she has since provided a valuable service much appreciated by the patrons.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television is also a popular attraction. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue. Wifi was installed in the early summer of 2014 and this has provided a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto Table Tennis England's website.

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



Venue Utilisation

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

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

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

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

External Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by Table Tennis England, Bucks County Association and the Maidenhead League. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips who has acted as Duty Officer for a great number of bookings and to also to his associate, the ever-present Malcolm Makarian. Dave and Elena Tant have also assisted recently in this area.



The Club hosted all four weekends of the Senior British League, with two divisions each weekend. Division 1 South played all its matches at Cippenham while Division 3 South and Division 5 South utilised the other side of the venue. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. Thanks also to the umpires who umpired all the matches in Division 1 South. We also hosted the British League Premier Division promotion play-offs and all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson.

The Club was also especially pleased to host, for the second year, the Southern Disability Grand Prix, organised by SportsAble.

A full list of external events (June 2014-May 2015), totalling 34 weekend days, 10 less than the previous year, but the same as two years ago, was as follows.

Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	Senior British League (9) Junior/Cadet National Championships Regional Qualification U11-14 National Championships Regional Qualification National Junior League (4) National Cadet League (4)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (9) Buckinghamshire Closed Championships
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
SportsAble:	Southern Disability Grand Prix (2)
Other:	Heritage Oil Cup Qualification

Holiday dates:

Berkshire Schools:	Berkshire School Games
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Club Events

Open Tournaments

Six open tournaments, covering eight days of play, have been staged by the Club at the Centre since the last report.

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 14	Young Players' Summer Festival	Catherine Hayes	Steve Smith	206
Sep 14	Young Players' Autumn Festival	Catherine Hayes	Ken Phillips	82
Nov 14	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Ken Phillips	70
Jan 15	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	25 pairs
Feb 15	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Steve Smith	48
Apr 15	Super 6 Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Ken Phillips	27

The format of open tournaments remained the same as season 2013-14. Two of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 2-Star Opens and catered for open and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. Another tournament was branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Open and featured two age groups in the same day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 players. Entry levels were approximately the same as the previous season, with the Team Open and Super 6 Senior Open achieving maximums, except for the Young Players' Festivals. The Summer event showed a substantial increase while the Autumn festival went ahead whereas the 2013 event was scrapped because of insufficient interest.

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

The Club's younger players are now winning some events that the Club promotes. This commenced in 2013-14 and has continued this season. Shristi Ghosh (2), Megan Ashfield and Shae Thakker all won events at the Festivals while all four plus Jemma Walker and Ben Naylor-Smith also procured runners-up awards. There is some way to go to get back to the hey-day of a decade or more ago, but the progress made is encouraging.

Club Championships



The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past eight seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. For the third year, there was also a Junior Singles played during a Thursday evening coaching session and, this time, some of the more established juniors took part. The entry for all events was moderate. The undoubted start of the show was 11-years old Shae Thakker. Shae became the youngest ever winner of the Open Singles and the first player since Gareth Herbert nineteen years ago to win the senior (open or men's) and junior (or boys') events in the same season. Bas Mocharrarie won the Veterans' Singles while Steve Smith and Tony Stead prevailed in the Open Doubles.

Festive Grand Prix

For the fourth year a Festive Grand Prix was organised in the week before the Christmas shutdown. The format was the standard Grand Prix format used for several years on regular evenings with the added encouragement of mulled wine and mince pies. The junior players again showed their more experienced counterparts how it is done and the first prize went to Ben Naylor-Smith.

Team Competitions

The Club ran twelve teams in various leagues this season.

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

British League

Captain and Secretary:

Martin Adams

Women's British League

Team Captains:

Martin Adams; Paul Baker

Veterans' British League

Captain and Secretary:

Denise Weller

National Junior League

Captains and Secretaries:

Paul Baker; Denise Weller

National Cadet League:

Captain and Secretary:

Ken Phillips

Maidenhead League

Captain and Secretary:

Ken Phillips

Team Captains

Simon Wilde

Selection Sub-Committee

Simon Wilde; Sue Hayes; Elena Tant

Simon Wilde; Elena Tant; Graham Trimming



British League Competitions

The Club ran six teams in the British leagues, two more than in the previous season. The additional teams were the veteran men who were promoted from the Veterans' National League to the Veterans' British League and the revival of a girls' team in the Junior British League.

The junior girls started off in the qualification event in July. They won all four matches and duly took their place in Division 3 of the Junior British League. The first weekend saw Cippenham still finding their feet and fourth place was occupied at the half-way stage. However, the second half was a completely different story. Our girls won all their matches, with Jemma Walker remaining unbeaten all weekend, to romp to the divisional title. Congratulations to Jemma, Shristi Ghosh and Megan Ashfield for a fantastic achievement.



Our first team finished fifth in Senior British League Division 1 South. Only newcomer Tom Windram finished with more than 50% win record. The second team were seventh in Division 3 South and struggled to field a consistent team but the signs are good for a more settled team next season.



The same four ladies made up the Club's teams in the Women's British League and the Veterans' British League. Unfortunately they finished bottom of both divisions, following an unexpected promotion to Division 2 of the Women's British League, and face relegation in each.

The veteran men's team had more success. With star player Martin Adams stepping into the number one position, the team used their promotion and ultimately finished third in a closely contested Division 2B. However, it was still left to the last point of the last match to secure the difference between a top half finish and relegation. Martin won 17 of his 20 matches.

National League Competitions

Only one team was entered into each of the National Junior League and National Cadet League this season.

The boys' team in the Junior League stayed in Division 2 throughout the three phases and finished fourth, third and third again. The mainstay of the team was Shae Thakker who won 83% of his matches.

In the Cadet League, a mixed team started the season in Division 1 but were relegated after the second phase and finished the season top of Division 2. Shae was also the star of this team with a 69% win ratio.

Local Leagues

The Club ran four teams in the Maidenhead League this season, one more than in the previous season and became the joint biggest club in the League. Saxons dropped a place to third in Division One with Trojans coming home one place behind. Our two teams in Division 2, Vikings and Spartans, finished in sixth and seventh place respectively.

The best performing players were the Trojans duo of Simon Vine and Ricky Hardcastle who posted 88% and 83% respectively in Division 1. This was an especially good return for Simon who was making a comeback to competitive table tennis after more than two decades away. Ricky hit the headlines when he became the only player to defeat Mark Banks in the last five seasons. Another newcomer, Sebastian Nimier, won 84% in Division 2 and also performed creditably in Division 1 when called upon to do so. Simon Wilde, Albert Cheung, Bas Mocharrafi, Graham Trimming and Dave Tant also all returned averages of more than 50% in their divisions.

Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over two decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. Attendances are still not at the levels they were in the past but a new crop of youngsters are on the upward path and gaining recognition. The exploits of the girls' team and a couple of boys are covered elsewhere in this report.

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

Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for about thirty years now and he is still the mainstay of the operation, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising. He is ably assisted by Jan Chapman, principally on Mondays, while Gemma Chapman has been assisting on Wednesdays. The

Thursday session has been run by Malcolm Makarian with assistance from Sue.

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

The Club does not offer adult coaching but Malcolm helps a few players on a private basis.

Tournament Successes for Individuals

It was the Club's younger players, in the main, who tasted most of the success in tournaments although some of the older ones joined in at local events.

Megan Ashfield was one of the most successful. She started her season by winning the Southern Region Cadet Qualification Tournament and thus qualified for the National Championships. Also qualifying at this event were Scarlett Jones and Ben Naylor-Smith while Shristi Ghosh and Jemma Walker were pre-qualified because of their high rankings. Shristi also qualified in the juniors.



At the Bucks Closed Championships it was the ladies who stole the show for the host club. Pride of place went to Megan Ashfield who did the double of Women's Singles and Women's Doubles, the latter in combination with Shristi Ghosh. There were also many runners-up places for the ladies while Robert Hansell shared in a Mixed Doubles success.

Over in Berkshire, Wendy Porter won two doubles events at the Closed while Simon Vine was our only winner at the Maidenhead Closed Championships. Simon won both the Veteran Men's Singles and the Division 1 Singles titles.

Shae Thakker started his season with successes at the Southern Disability Grand Prix, hosted at Cippenham and organised by SportsAble. Shae won three events and was named as the player of the tournament. Richard Barton also won medals at the tournament. Shae may not have actually won any events at the BTTAD National Championships but, nevertheless, was judged the junior player of the tournament.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Nine Cippenham members, once again, represented Buckinghamshire during the season with Megan Ashfield, Shristi Ghosh, Robert Hansell and Sue Hayes being honoured by the first team. Seven Cippenham players turned out for the cadet team.

This year Table Tennis England has been publishing the entire ranking list on their website rather than just the top thirty in each age category as they did previously. Therefore, the list of national rankings in the Appendix has been extended to the top 100. Twelve Club members have been included in these top 100 lists with some players appearing in more than one list. The highest places were gained in the list of cadet girls with Shristi Ghosh, Jemma Walker and Megan Ashfield all making the top 25.

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

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2015