

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1981 - 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Last summer the club broke new ground by entering a team in the National League as founder members of Division Three South. Administratively we coped well enough although the team's results, despite a late rally, were not quite good enough to prevent us from finishing bottom.

Outside players Alec Watson and Ray Tilling were signed together with seven of the club's domestic players. The regular team was Ray Tilling, Viv McCarthy, Dave Pountney and Frank Earis after Alec Watson had become indisposed through illness, but John Barton, Sid Montgomery and Peter Simmonds also made appearances. Ray was our most successful player but Frank's exploits also deserve mention.

Home matches were played in excellent conditions at The Centre, Slough and the financial burden was overcome by cash grants from Slough Borough Council's Lottery Fund and the Southern Region Sports Council. The club also signed a three-year contract with Butterfly (UK) Ltd. for the supply of equipment and kit at a substantial discount.

Thanks are due to all who helped in any way: Mike Ainsworth, John Barton, Deborah Bevan, Frank and Jo Earis, Tony Emery, Peter Hillier, John Lewis, Ken Phillips, Dave and ManChu Pountney, Graham Trimming, Brian Webb, the staff at The Centre and our financial backers.

A fuller report appears separately.

MEMBERSHIP

Nine new members joined the club for the 1981-2 season making a total of 35. There were also nine non-members registered and a grand total of 41 players represented the club plus an additional three in the Summer League. Apart from the National League we fielded the same number of teams as in the previous season; eight in the Slough & District League and one in the Maidenhead & District Association.

ADMINISTRATION

A Management Committee of six was elected at the Annual General Meeting: Frank Earis (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary), Peter Hillier (Treasurer), John Lewis, Ken Phillips and Dave Pountney.

Four Management Committee meetings were held and each was attended by at least five members. Team captains again did their jobs admirably and thanks are due to Stuart Anderson who took over the captaincy of the Rascals team after the resignation of Geoff Ryan.

Graham Trimming and Peter Hillier as Chairman/Fixtures Secretary and Treasurer respectively also assisted in the administration of the Slough & District League while the former was responsible for the publication of a booklet entitled "Fifty Years of Table Tennis in Slough", in celebration of the League's anniversary.

PLAYING PERFORMANCES

National Club Championship

We were again honoured to represent Slough in this competition between champion clubs. After a first-round victory - our first ever in national competition - over a weakened Omega side we lost by the narrowest of margins 19-21 in the third game of the final set to the Maidenhead Youth and Community Centre club.

In the Leagues

We failed to live up to the previous season's outstanding success, losing both league championship titles; in fact no attempt was made to defend the Maidenhead title. The Buccaneers thus finished as runners-up in Division One, a feat emulated by the Bandits and Rogues teams in Divisions Two and Three respectively. For much of the season it looked as if the Pirates team would take the honour in Division Two but a terrible run at the end of the season dropped them into third place. Had the Rogues team been able to field a regular third player all season they may well have won their division as they beat the champions twice.

Outlaws and Villains, who both struggled to field full teams at times finished sixth and eleventh in Division One, the latter therefore suffering relegation. Vagabonds came a creditable fifth in Division Three while Rascals escaped from the relegation zone in Division Four by games aggregate.

In the League's averages, Viv McCarthy finished fifth in Division One while Frank Eavis and Dave Pountney were equal seventh; Steve Miller, Bob Keeley and Mary Stafford came third, fourth and seventh respectively in Division Two; Ken Phillips, Charles Passmore and Frank Cowley were third, fourth and eighth in Division Three while Stuart Anderson was seventh in Division Four. Peter Simmonds actually achieved the best average in the top division but did not appear in sufficient matches to qualify.

Outlaws lasted longest in the Dilger Cup, eventually succumbing in the semi-final.

In the summer our Alpha team of Brian Simmonds and Graham Trimming won the title and scored an impressive 5-0 victory over Langley who until that time had won all of their five matches without dropping a set.

Inter-League and County

Peter Simmonds was ranked at number two in Bucks throughout the season and yet failed to play for the county. As a result no Cippenham players wore county colours for the first time in a few years.

Frank Eavis was given a number seven ranking after his good inter-league performances while Viv McCarthy and Dave Pountney moved to Berkshire where they were ranked eleventh and twelfth respectively.

Frank, Viv and Peter composed the Slough 'A' team that won the Bucks Inter-League title in a canter and Frank and Peter added the distinction of sharing the Sewell Cup, awarded to the player with the best record in the competition.

Viv, Frank and Dave were Slough's Wilmott Cup representatives while John Lewis and Graham Trimming also made appearances in the Berkshire competition. Chris Whitt played for Slough 'B' while Brian Simmonds and John Lewis were members of the 'C' team that came second in Division B and Graham Trimming made one appearance for the 'D' team, winners of Division C.

John Jenkins again represented his country in paraplegic competitions while Stuart Anderson and Chris Fall are also close to national recognition.

Tournaments

Viv McCarthy stole the show at the Slough Closed becoming triple champion of Mens' Singles, Mens' Doubles (with Sid Montgomery) and Mixed Doubles. Len Pratt won the Veterans' Singles and the club provided many more runners-up.

Peter Simmonds won the Mixed Doubles at the Bucks Closed while brother Brian was runner-up in the Mens' Doubles, a feat emulated by Viv McCarthy in Berkshire.

Also of note was Graham Trimming's performance in reaching the final of the Slough League's handicap competition, the Lynford Bowl.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

We again experienced a disappointing entry of only fourteen for the annual championships caused probably by the lateness of the tournament in the calendar. Some of the stars were missing but this did not detract greatly from the entertainment provided.

The Slough Mens' Singles and doubles champions failed to win the club's events. Peter Swinn knocked out Viv McCarthy in a gripping singles semi-final but then lost to Frank Earis in the final. Frank then combined with Peter Hillier to defeat Viv and Sid Montgomery in the doubles final.

All of the awards changed hands from the previous season.

EQUIPMENT

As a temporary replacement to our ailing Stiga table the club was fortunate to purchase a second-hand but nearly new Dunlop towards the end of the season.

As a result of the National League entry the club now also possesses a Butterfly Nippon rollaway with net and posts set, ten Butterfly surrounds and a scoring machine.