



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2000-01

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the twenty-eighth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the fifth since the opening of the new premises. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- 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 unique treble of awards to Ken Phillips as coach of the year from the National Coaching Foundation, English Table Tennis Association and Slough Borough Council;
- the other awards from the Council to the Club as Community Club of the Year and to Gemma Chapman as Junior Sportsperson of the Year;
- Gareth Herbert's selection for England in the World and Commonwealth Championships, Joanna Parker's for the European Youth Championships last summer and other international recognitions that have been bestowed upon Bradley Evans, David Hayes and Myles Evans;
- The success of the Slough teams in the national junior and cadet team championships especially in winning the Carter Cup and also the Club being runners-up in the Gainsford Cup;
- the Club's success in retaining Junior British League Girls' Premier Division and winning Division 2 plus gaining a runner-up spot in Boys' Division 1;
- Joanna Parker's double success of Cadet Girls Singles and Doubles at the National Junior Championships;
- the success of members in other national and open competitions, especially the National Cadet Masters title won by Joanna Parker and her second place in the Junior Masters plus Bradley Evans' second place in the Cadet Masters;
- the success of the inaugural season of the Cippenham Super League;
- the success of the Club's teams and players in Slough League competitions;
- the continuing success and national recognition of the Club's coaching activities;
- the use of the Centre for the prestigious National Junior and Cadet Masters and Premier Division of the Junior County Championships;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- the successful range of open tournaments organised by the Club at the Centre;
- the tremendous energy shown by the Club's management in the day to day operation of the Centre;
- the sustained financial result for the year that is helping to secure the viability of the Centre in the future.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1st 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 six 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 which includes a 69 sq.m. lounge bar area with kitchen, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing great views over the playing area. This facet of the design has been very favourably received by visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office, which doubles as a control point for tournaments. Men's and women's toilets are supplemented by a disabled toilet and shower facility, while a link is established to the School's changing rooms. In the opinion of many the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

The Centre is the home of the Southern Region Sports Psychology Unit and its library is housed in an impressive cabinet in the lounge area. Members of the Club have free access to the books and tapes contained therein. The top half of the cabinet currently displays the impressive range of silverware won the Club over the past year.

The Centre now owns 14 Donic Waldner Sinus tables, all of which are in good condition and are reserved primarily for competitive use. There are also 12 Donic Persson tables, purchased in 1996, and these have remained in use for general practice and coaching.

Nets, posts and scoring machines are routinely replaced to ensure that the Centre maintains a high quality standard of equipment. Small holes had appeared in the floor over the past couple of years and these were repaired early in 2001. However, we are not satisfied with the standard of repair and have asked the contractor to rectify this. Some re-decoration is planned for summer 2001.

Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2000 AGM met ten times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Ken Phillips	Chairman & Coaching Officer	10	May 31 st 5
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	10	June 11 th 7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	9	July 7 th 7
Rhys Evans	Deputy Chairman	6	August 20 th 7
Mike Rhodes	Bookings Officer	7	September 24 th 6
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	10	October 22 nd 5
Brian Furness	Club Captain	3	December 16 th 5
Sue Hayes	General Committee member	7	February 4 th 7
Linda Evans	General Committee member	0	March 11 th 6
			May 6 th 6

Brian Furness resigned from the committee on November 13th.

In addition the following two sub-committees were formed:

Super League: Mike Rhodes (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary and Administrator), Brian Furness;

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Jacquie Lovell, Charles Mitchell, Brian Furness; Linda Evans

Calendar Working Party: Ken Phillips, Graham Trimming, Mike Rhodes.

Thanks are due to all whom have contributed to the administration of the club, including all the team captains.

At a spin-off from the Club's development activities two documents were published during the season: Management Committee Terms of Reference and a Statement of Quality Practices. Both of these can be accessed via the Club's web site. Sue Hayes produced a skills database from data collected from the Club's Membership Form.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his twenty-sixth year as Fixtures Secretary but stepped down after nineteen years as Chairman. Mike Rhodes also stepped down after ten years of being Inter-League Secretary but took on the job of Press Officer instead while Peter Hillier has completed the second year of his third stint as the League's Treasurer. Armando Borges also served as Trophies Secretary and Elroy Hull as a Committee member. Club member Jan Chapman also continued as Chairman on the Maidenhead Association.

Two Club members are full time employees of the ETTA, Paul Baker as Facilities Officer and Wesley Bush-Harris as Southern Region Development Officer while Sue Hayes is Honorary Chairman of the ETTA Southern Region Coaching Panel. Ken Phillips also contributed greatly as joint Organiser of the National Junior League (Southern Region).

At the Anniversary Party the Club made its fourth Outstanding Contribution Award and the recipient this time was Jan Chapman in recognition of her contribution to coaching both at the Club and at Arbour Vale School together with her assistance with catering at weekend events. The Club also won an award of its own - as the Community Club of the Year at the annual Slough Borough Council Sports Awards. This was the fourth award in as many years made to the Club which is considered very highly in the local sporting world.

The Club was successful in gaining acceptance into the ETTA PremierClub scheme at Excellence level and Graham Trimming gave a 50 minute presentation to the National Teaching and Training Conference in September at Lilleshall. The topic was "Club Promotion and Membership Services" and used the Club as an example of good practice. At the request of the ETTA Graham also wrote a case study about the Club.



Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 230, 29 more than at the same time last year when the final total for the membership year, which ends on August 31st, reached 218. Thus the number of members has grown each year since 1996 when, prior to the move, the number stood at 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.

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, Gareth Herbert, who has been granted special rights to practice facilities, and three others - 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 92 players have represented the club in match play, two fewer than in the previous year. 36 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, two less than in the previous season. Eight of these were in British leagues and a further seven in the National Junior League, which has completed its fourth season. Three teams also bore the Club's name in the Cippenham Super League. Eighteen teams operated in the Slough League, seven in the senior divisions and eleven in the Youth Divisions. Disappointingly, these figures represent six fewer teams operating in the senior divisions of local leagues than three years ago. 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.

Four players made their 100th appearances during the year: Bradley Evans; Sue Hayes; James Milton; Helen Smith. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1282	Gareth Lovell	373	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	727	George Appleby	372	Jacquie Lovell	272
Frank Earis	669	Frank Cowley	363	Steve Crow	268
Ken Phillips	536	Rodney Potts	316	Armando Borges	239
Mike Rhodes	458	Alec Watson	301	Georgia Veneer	229
Jackie Thomas	403	Wendy Barlow	279	Roland Clapton	225
Neil Bird	374	Steve Joel	278	Jane Dickens	223

The busiest player at the Club during the season was Mike Rhodes with 48 appearances.

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

Finance

The financial success of the Club and the Centre has surpassed all expectations. The Club is far ahead of its financial plan drawn up when the facility was being considered. Income is higher than expected through the success of our tournaments, hiring arrangements with other table tennis bodies, and the funds generated through coaching and catering activities. Coupled with this, the Centre is costing much less to run than was first anticipated. The strategy remains to keep fees at their present levels, having reduced them in previous years, and to build up a fund to secure the future financial viability of the Centre.

The surplus for the year shown in the Club's accounts is £8,517 and the balance sheet reveals a net worth of £43,579. By virtue of our policy of maintaining the most favourable tax position it has been necessary to show a loss in the Centre's account of £1,459. Thus the consolidated surplus was £7,057 and the net worth is £46,441. Cash balances total £41,128, less than the net worth because of the investment that has been made in capital equipment. Corporation tax is payable on any surpluses of the Centre and on investment income earned by the Club and this year has been minimised at £173. Surpluses arising out of members' fees are not subject to tax.

The financial surplus has reduced over the past two years because it has been deliberately managed downwards by reducing fees and waiving fees in respect of Gold Privileged Members. It is now the Club's policy to maintain surpluses at about the current rate. However it should be borne in mind that these surpluses are only earned through the hard work of the Club's committee and helpers. Coaching provided a surplus of £6,082, catering £3,742, letting fees £3,491, open tournaments £2,078 and interest income £1,728.

All fees remained the same as in the previous season. Members paid an annual fee of £10 plus Slough League fees of £10. Match fees were £2.50 while coaching fees were £3 and practice fees £2.50. All these are halved for juniors and OAPs. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1 (50p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £17.50 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address.

The Club had the support of three sponsors this season for which we are very grateful. IS Networking Solutions Ltd., through contact with Brian Furness, sponsored the new Cippenham Super League for £1,000 thus allowing substantial prize money to be offered. Through Karen Shepherd's father we gained £750 sponsorship from Addleshaw Booth, the law firm, to mitigate the expenses of the Girls' "A" team that retained its Junior British League Premier Division title. Thirdly, 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.

During the year the Club initiated the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of the lady of that name 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 assistance towards training and competition costs for junior players who are less well off financially. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts.

Training

The Club is fortunate to have a number of trained coaches and officials but is constantly seeking to augment the number. Little training has been done in the past year but this is the next subject to be tackled in the Development Plan and September 2001 has been designated as a "Training Month". The Club did, however, pay for Malkeet Panesar to attend a Level 2 coach education course.

Public Relations

The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well, in fact better than previously, in the three local newspapers - Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. Reports are submitted most weeks during the season and have been supplemented by photographs taken with the Club's own digital camera, purchased last summer. In the absence of a Public Relations Officer these reports from the Club have been written by Graham Trimming who has also produced the Club Newsletter each month 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. The Club also has its own web site and purchased its own domain name during the year (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 has become 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 front page of the web site has recently been improved and the overall effect has been helped by use of photographs, again taken with the digital camera. 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 eight 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 of the establishment of the Club's corporate identity. Due to the old shirt becoming unavailable a new shirt was chosen this season and will remain, along with the current tracksuit, for at least the next two years. The Club is indebted to Ken Phillips for his management of this service.

As a result of the ETTA's photo-shoot at the Centre last year, photographs of the Centre and Club members now appear on ETTA leaflets and also two brochures produced by Sport England. This is especially true of the new ETTA leaflet "Take It Up" in which many of the photos have been taken at Cippenham. The Club has acquired 250 copies of this and over-printed local information. These are now available at the Centre to visitors and will also be used in schools.

The Club held four open evenings during the year, two before the season started and two more after its end. These were advertised in the local press both in press reports and paid advertising. The first two produced good response – one with nearly thirty newcomers attending – but the last two were disappointing.

One of the results of the Development Plan has been the recent publication of a Membership Pack which will serve as an introduction to the Club for new members. Parts of this have been written by different members of the Management Committee and the finished article was put together by Jacquie Lovell.

Development

In June 2000 the Club held an Open Development Meeting with the object of gaining ideas from the membership of developments that should be made. Four years after the move into the new Centre had seen a transformation of the Club and its scope of activities and consolidation of those so it was considered that it was time to take the next step. Several ideas came forward from the meeting, particularly addressing the lack of adult membership.

Following this Graham Trimming drew up a list of points for consideration under the title "Development Plan and Operational Review 2000" and the Committee decided to take the headings one at a time. So far the subjects tackled have been Management, Publicity and Training but at current rate it will take at least another year to complete all the items.

So far the following have been the direct results of the Development Plan:

- publication of Management Committee Terms of Reference;
- publication of Statement of Quality Practices;
- two further open evenings;
- publication of Membership Pack;
- designation of September 2001 as Training Month.

Venue Utilisation

Since the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre on 1st October 1996 two principles of utilisation have been established: that weekdays should be for regular events, and that 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	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
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 10.30 pm	Adult coaching
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice
	7.45 to 9.45 pm	Cippenham Super League matches
Friday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Elite coaching group (occasional)

Top England player Matthew Syed has a key and uses the Centre as a practice venue on occasions, and 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, which will be detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club. There were few dates during the season when the Centre remained empty.

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. Much praise is deserved by Mike Rhodes who, in his capacity of Bookings Officer, organises appointment of Duty Officers and often undertakes the work himself. Special mention should be made of Peter Hillier who also often makes himself available for this role.

Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge bar area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area doubles up as a refreshment area at tournaments during which the kitchen copes remarkably well with the demands placed upon it to feed over 100 competitors plus their coaches and parents. This is due in no small way to the skill and hard work of the Club's Social Officer Jacquie Lovell and her staff, especially Pam Dickens and Jan Chapman. Many others, including several parents of our younger members, have also given a great deal of 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 for the benefit of members and visitors and the television and VCR are also popular attractions. The television has recently benefited from the installation of an exterior aerial.



The lounge benefits from a full on-licence and the bar is open Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 11 pm and at weekends when required. Thanks are due to Alan Farral who has run the bar almost every Tuesday since the Centre opened and Thursdays are usually manned by Jacquie Lovell. The licensees are Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips.

The fourth annual party was arranged in the bar to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members, their families and visitors. Other popular social occasions included the Christmas party, including a welcome visit from Santa Claus, and the annual barbecue on a Sunday in July.

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. In addition, the Club was pleased to be able to promote three prestigious ETTA events, for which we granted the ETTA a free venue,

The latter included the National Junior and Cadet Masters for the fifth time and the Premier Division of the Junior County Championships for the first time after twice having previously played host to the counterpart senior event. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organisational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips and Jacquie Lovell for their involvement in this.

A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	National Junior and Cadet Masters (4 days) County Championships Junior Premier Division (2) National Junior League (4)
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Preliminary/Final Trials (2) Junior Training (6) Coaches Get-Together Southern v. London inter-region match for players with disabilities
Bucks County TTA:	Junior Closed Championships Men's Inter-League Junior Inter-League Cadet Inter-League County matches (5 dates) Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town
Slough League:	Slough Closed Championships (2) Slough Youth Division sessions (4) ETTA Carter Cup session Slough Hard Bat Tournament (Wednesday evening) Slough League play-off matches (Wednesday evening) Bucks Inter-league matches (midweek)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2) Maidenhead Charity Handicap Tournament
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

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

Jun 00	Young Players' Summer Festival	Feb 01	Junior 3 Star
Jul 00	Veterans' Summer 2 Star	Mar 01	Veterans' 2 Star
Dec 00	Under-9/10/11 1 Star	Mar 01	Cadet 3 Star
Jan 01	Senior 2 Star	May 01	Under-12 2 Star

Three age group events (YPSF; U9/10/11; Under-12) were organised by Ken Phillips while Graham Trimming was Organiser for the two veterans' events, Mike Rhodes for the Senior Open, Sue Hayes for the Junior and Rhys Evans for the Cadet. All attracted good entries but not quite the extraordinarily high figures that some tournaments attracted a couple of years ago. The Club is indebted to Mick Strode, Ken Phillips and Graham Trimming who all acted as Referee for the events. The Club is the only organisation to include under-8 events in its catalogue of tournaments as we continually strive to provide opportunities for the very young.



The Centre lends itself very well to tournaments of this kind - singles only in groups of four with the top two in each group going forward into the championship, while the third and fourth placed go into a consolation event. If there are fewer entries than the maximum that can be accommodated, then first round groups are enlarged to either five or six players.

Cippenham players have a habit of doing well in their own tournaments and the following have won events this year: Martin Adams (MS); Bradley Evans (JBS); Gemma Chapman (JGS); Tom Mitchell (CBS/U13BS); Melanie Farquhar (U11GS); Myles Evans (U10BS/U9BS(2)); Stephanie Mitchell (U9GS/U8GS); Gavin Evans (U8BS).

Super League



This season was memorable for the inauguration of the Cippenham Super League. IS Networking Solution Ltd generously sponsored the competition to the tune of £1,000 and this enabled a total prize fund of £1,050 to be established. The League was marketed in the summer of 2000 and entries sought from established clubs, arranged teams and individuals. The final constitution of the League was seven teams: two established clubs in London Progress, whose players were drawn from their British League sides including the Premier Division champions, and OLOP AWCS; three teams playing under the Cippenham banner; and two teams put together by the Organising Committee from individual entries.

The League ran on fourteen Thursday evenings, fortnightly, and so arranged as to fall into the vacant weeks of a similar established competition at BATTS, Harlow. The format was two-a-side playing five sets including a doubles. At the end of the season a singles competition for the top eight qualifiers was run.

Unsurprisingly London Progress became the inaugural winners with Cippenham Aces, our first team from British League Division 1 South, second and OLOP AWCS third. The standard was good and included seven players from the top 65 in England. The end of season Players' Championship was won by Jason Sugrue (London Progress) who also won the award for the highest average with 100%.

The Organisers were gratified by the praise which the League received from the players and it is certain to be repeated next season with the possibility that it could become a joint venture with London Progress TTC.

Members' Tournaments

The Club Championships and Handicap Tournament were rolled into one again this season, played in May, and attracted an entry of 40, 18 less than last year's record. Mark Jackson, a new member who had been training at Cippenham midweek despite having his home in Warwick, and Sue Hayes won the main events. The eighteen events produced nineteen different winners and 31 players went home with at least one trophy, both figures higher than the previous season!

Team Competitions

The Club has had another very successful season in league competitions, winning many events at national and local levels. Congratulations are due to all the players and organisers who have contributed to this success which continues to secure Cippenham's position as one of the major forces in English table tennis.

British League Competitions

Once again eight teams were run in British League competitions and two 1st places and one 2nd place were claimed. All the successes came in the Junior British League. The highlight was the performance of both girls' teams with the first team retaining their Premier Division title and the second team exceeding expectations by winning Division 2. The Girls' "A" team was sponsored by law firm Addleshaw Booth and rewarded the sponsors with an exception record of winning every match, conceding only four sets, and opening up a nine point advantage over the second-placed team. Karen Shepherd, from Stockport, joined the team and brought with her the sponsorship and an unbeaten record. An inspired signing! Karen was well supported by established Cippenham players Joanna Parker, who lost only once, and Gemma Chapman who won 17 of her 20 matches.



The second girls' team was a real team effort with only one match separating the records of Gemma Hollett, Emily Tucker and Francesca Parnell. In the first stage of eight teams they won six and drew one and then completed the season unbeaten by winning once and drawing twice in the second stage. It looked odds on a third championship as our Boys' "A" team went into the final match leading Division 1. Even the draw that they secured would have been enough to gain the title if London Boys had beaten Cippenham "B" by any less than the 6-0 result they accomplished. Such is the thin line between success and something else (you cannot call second place failure!). The "B" team finished up in fourth

place. Warren Brooks won 80% of his matches and Adam Bleakley, brought into the set-up to replace the injured David Hayes for the first weekend, managed 75%.

The men's team were placed in Division 1 South having been runners-up the previous season in Division 2 South. The team performed very creditably picking up four wins and four draws from fourteen matches. Star of the show was undoubtedly Clive Payne who performed wonderfully well to win 19 of his 22 matches. However, this team also provided the biggest problem. Due to business and holiday commitments it transpired that only two of the five registered players were available for the final series of three matches due to take place over a weekend in early May. With the registration deadline having long passed it was impossible to raise a side and the matches were conceded. This does the Club's reputation no good at all and was the blackest aspect of the Club's activities in an otherwise wonderful year.

The two women's team were both placed in divisions one above where there finishing positions for the previous year dictated. Who knows why? In fact, it meant that the first team skipped a division and were promoted from Division 2 to the Premier. Unfortunately our players were not quite equal to the challenge and the teams finished bottom of the Premier Division and fifth in Division 2. The second team would probably have done better if captain Claire Plumridge had not had a work commitment in the second weekend but the first team's fate was already known so Kai Milvek, the most successful player, was not brought from her home in Estonia for the final act.

The veterans' team also face relegation after having finished fifth in Division 2. Unfortunately, Clive Payne was unavailable for both weekends and his absence seriously weakened the team to the point where it finished eight points behind the champions who were the same team that Cippenham had beaten by five points when winning Division 3 in the previous season. Tim Heaps was brought into the side as Clive's replacement and performed well in the second weekend while Paul Baker's form was remarkable the first time around.

Other National Competitions

The Club entered the Gainsford Cup, the national club competition for women, for the second time and was successful in reaching the final, claiming the runners-up medals and were so close to the title itself. Congratulations to the team of Gemma Chapman, Joanna Parker and Sue Hayes. In the counterpart men's competition, the Ormesby Cup, our team survived the first round of matches but fell at the second.

Once again the Club entered seven teams in the Southern Region section of the National Junior League. This event was held on four Saturdays at Cippenham and Chesham High School. Our top girls' team regained their title of two years previously and congratulations are due to Helen Smith, Sylvana Bielec and Katherine Tweedy. The "D" team only missed out on second place by one point and would, no doubt, have been successful in this quest but for illness and unavailability of key first team players for the final session.

The boys' teams finished third in Division 1, first in Division 2, fourth in Division 3 and third in Division 5 while the third girls' team was second in Division 2.

Slough League

For a record eighth year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This seventeenth title, also a record, was won by the Outlaws team of Mike Rhodes, Graham Trimming, Roland Clapton and Paul Baker. Mike's record for the champions was remarkable as he won every one of his 41 matches. Cippenham also occupied third and fourth places in the top division with the Pirates and Rogues teams while Buccaneers finished second in Division 2 but lost in the play-off for promotion. Altogether seven teams were run across all four divisions. No teams got beyond the third round of the Dilger Cup.

Slough League Youth Divisions

Cippenham provided all of the 11 entrants into this competition and consequently won all the honours. Elves (Helen Smith; David Harris) won Division 1, Fugitives (Rebecca Tweedy; Caroline Linz; Catherine Hayes) Division 2 and Terrors (Prabdeep Panesar; Jhaapjeet Panesar) Division 3. The Tunes Cup handicap competition was won by Goblins (Andrew Linz; William Mitchell).

Slough Summer League

Five teams were entered with Extra runners-up in Division One and Alpha runners-up in Division 2.

St. Ives Inter-Club Competition

Last year Cippenham became the first club ever to win all three age group events at the annual St. Ives Inter-Club Tournaments. This year we repeated that and also provided all the runners-up as well for a complete domination of the event that saw only one set being lost to another club by any of our six teams. The under-17 event was won by Cippenham "B" in the guise of Thomas Mitchell, Gemma Chapman and Ross Drabble while the successful U14 and U12 teams comprised Bradley Evans, Tom Mitchell, David Hayes and Bradley Evans, James Milton, Sylvana Bielec.

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 some time. However, it continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of Club Coaching Officer Ken Phillips. Ken has assembled around him a team of dedicated coaches and the reward for their efforts is evident in the results of our players on the national circuit. The reputation of Ken and the Club in general was never more to the fore than with the three awards made to Ken this season. In 1999 Ken became the first recipient of the ETTA Male Coach of the Year Award. This was repeated at Lilleshall in early September 2000 so Ken has now been the only recipient of this top award in the two years it has been made. In making the presentation ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome challenged the rest of the country to put forward a candidate who could match Ken's achievements. Remarkably an even greater tribute came in February when Ken was presented with the National Coaching Foundation's England Local Volunteer Coach in an Individual Sport in a ceremony at Leeds. This was one of only six annual awards covering both professional and volunteer coaching across the broad spectrum of all sports. The complete the triumvirate Ken was also awarded Slough Council's Coach of the Year for the second time in March.



Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken, most importantly at Farnham Common Middle School. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away (Oxfordshire, Wiltshire etc.) who want to take advantage of the high standard of coaching and development management available at the Club. Another link is with Arbour Vale in Slough, a school for pupils with special needs. This is a source of great inspiration for Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman who enjoy the challenge of teaching these youngsters and was one of the reasons for the Club gaining the Slough Council's Community Club of the Year Award. One other award gained at the same event went to Gemma Chapman as Junior Sportswoman of the Year.

There are currently six weekly coaching sessions for youngsters. On Tuesday and Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral and Ken Phillips respectively with help from Terry Boxall and Jan Chapman. 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 (especially Rhys Evans and Sue Hayes) and feeders. The Friday session was introduced three years ago with the objective of raising the levels of the elite squad of players, all of whom have been selected from the Advanced and Excellence squads for their potential and willingness to work hard. These sessions have been curtailed this season due to the increasing participation in weekend events by the coaching staff and players. These same three coaches are also responsible for the squads that have been operating on Wednesday evenings since September 1999.

Adult coaching has been introduced this year on Thursday evenings and is run on an ad hoc basis by Terry Boxall.

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. As well as the coaches, the Club is indebted to Linda Evans who organises the overnight stay arrangements on these occasions. Club members Bob and Claire Plumridge also had the honour of travelling to Sydney as coaches to the British Paralympic team and were also interviewed there by BBC Television.

At the Slough Closed Gavin Evans was presented with the Leo Thompson Trophy as the most improved young player in the League.

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.

Pride of place this year goes to Joanna Parker who won all three national cadet titles open to her. Jo started with winning the Cadet Girls' event at the National Junior & Cadet Masters when this was held at Cippenham on 1st April. She then followed up with the Cadet Girls' Singles and Doubles titles at the National Junior Championships at Wigan in May. Jo's partner in this doubles success was her Addleshaw Booth Cippenham team mate Karen Shepherd. Jo also took the runners-up spot in the Junior Girls' event at the Masters as did Bradley Evans in the Cadet Boys. Other players qualified for these events through the county and regional trials which Cippenham players dominated.

Joanna and Bradley also led the challenge for open tournament titles this year with Jo and Gemma Chapman both winning U21 Women's Singles titles at Grand Prix events. The other two Evans brothers, Myles and Gavin, also got into the act and at one Grove tournament took all the boys' singles titles between U9 and U13 between them.

Gareth Herbert, while playing for England, won gold in both the team and Men's Singles event at the Home Countries International Championship.

Cippenham players won every title at the Buckinghamshire Junior Closed Championships. Good result – even better when it was the fifth year running! The main singles events were won by Robert Hansell and Helen Smith (U17), David Hayes and Emily Tucker (U14) and James Milton and Sylvana Bielec (U12).

At the Slough Closed also Cippenham players won every major even with Mike Rhodes and Gemma Chapman retaining their Men's and Ladies' singles titles. At the Slough Masters it was Steve Joel who came up trumps.

Representative Honours and Rankings

A large proportion of the Club's membership have again found their way onto England ranking lists this season, and thirteen have made it all the way into the top ten in the various categories. Highest ranked man is Gareth Herbert, who has featured in England's team in the World and Commonwealth Championships, where he reached the semi-final of the Men's Singles, and Joola European Men's League this season, and reached number seven on the list. In the women's list Jo Parker is highest ranked at 17 and she is also 6 in the junior girls and top of the cadet girls. Another to top the national lists was Bradley Evans in the U12 boys in which James Milton, Gavin Evans and Myles Evans also featured in the top eleven. Bradley also reached 4 in the cadet boys, one behind Adam Bleakley and two ahead of Tom Mitchell while David Hayes peaked at 11. Other top ten placings were Karen Shepherd, 2 in cadet girls and 9 in junior girls, Gemma Chapman, 7 also in junior girls and Kai Milvek 3 in veteran women, a position Michael Chan equalled in the junior boys. Kai was also voted the Veteran Player of the Year 2000 in Estonia for her performance in gaining a doubles bronze medal and a quarter-final place in the singles at the World Veterans' Championships.

Jo Parker represented England cadet girls in the European Youth Championships last July and at the same tournament former Cippenham player Jesper Hougaard (remember him?) played for Denmark. Jo, Karen Shepherd, Bradley Evans and Adam Bleakley have all subsequently represented England cadets in other national open championships and Bradley has also played for the U12 side. Bradley and Myles Evans were both unbeaten as England won the British Primary Schools Championship and Bradley became the first player ever to retain his Boys' Singles title at the same event. Last summer Gemma Chapman and Warren Brooks both played for England in the Schools International Championships and Gemma helped her country to the team title and herself to the U16 girls' title.

This year saw the inauguration of an Inter-Regional Squad Championships. The Southern Region, eleven of whose twelve players were from Cippenham, exceeded expectations by winning the event.

11 players who represent Cippenham in the Slough League have played for Buckinghamshire this season, while 27 have represented Slough. The Bucks Junior team, playing in the Premier Division for the first time, came desperately close to the championship. The runners-up team was comprised entirely of Cippenham players: Robert Hansell; Warren Brooks; Bradley Evans; Gemma Chapman; Emily Tucker.

Again there was plenty to celebrate at the National Team Finals played late in May. The Slough U17 boys' team of Bradley Evans, David Hayes and James Milton won the Carter Cup and the same three players were runners-up in the counterpart U14 competition for the Leach Cup. The Slough U14 girls' team of Emily Tucker, Sylvana Bielec and Caroline Linz were also runners-up in the Hammersley Cup.

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



Graham Trimming
General Secretary
May 2001

Photographs © Cippenham TTC