



# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2003-04

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### Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the thirty-first season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the eighth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- the success of members in international competitions especially Gavin Evans' victory in the Mini-boys' (U13) Singles at the Luxembourg International Youth Championships on his international debut and Joanna Parker's in the Junior Girls' Singles at the Portuguese International Youth Championships. Also Gavin's win in the Cadet Singles at the Home International Championships, his team gold with brother Bradley at the same event and David Hayes' team gold in the junior section on his Irish international debut;
- the success of members in national championships: Joanna Parker (Junior Girls' Singles), Gavin Evans (U12/U11/U10 Boys' Singles, U12 Boys' Doubles), Myles Evans (also U12 Boys' Doubles), Joanna Parker's victory in the Junior Masters and these and other Club members in other open tournaments;
- the success of the Club's teams and players in Slough League competitions and Bucks Closed Championships, especially winning all three Slough League divisions outright – the first time this has ever happened in the League's 73-year history;
- the three awards that the Club secured at the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards especially the Service to Sport award made to Graham Trimming and the Club winning the Senior Club of the Year award for the first time;
- the continuing success and national recognition of the Club's coaching activities;
- the continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for its prestigious events including the National Junior and Cadet Masters and the County Championships Junior Premier Division;
- 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 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 especially the massive entry received for the Young Player's Summer Festival;
- the tremendous energy shown by the Club's management in the day to day operation of the Centre;
- the continuation of our Volunteer Investment Programme, the adoption of a Child Protection Policy and the creation of a Development Plan.

### Cippenham Table Tennis Centre

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 that includes a 69 sq.m. lounge bar area with kitchen, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into 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. There is a disabled wash room and newly built men's and women's changing and toilets facilities are expected to be available shortly. 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 owns 20 Donic Waldner Sinus tables purchased over the past five years and four Donic Persson tables purchased in 1996. Nets, posts and scoring machines are routinely replaced to ensure that the Centre maintains a high quality standard of equipment, although we have had difficulty sourcing scoring machines of acceptable quality recently. There is also a robot machine purchased in 2002 to replace an earlier model. Prior to the season starting the Centre purchased 80 new court surrounds in blue with the name of the club imprinted in yellow. This has helped in creating a more striking brand identity at the home venue. Over the past few years some of the original stock of chairs have been disposed of so 36 new chairs were purchased during the season. This more than makes up for the number lost.

The major event in the past seven months has been the building works that the School has undertaken and which will provide the Club with enhanced toilet, washing and changing facilities. This has meant considerable disruption during the season especially as we have had to make do with a temporary entrance into the lounge and the use of temporary toilet facilities at larger events. More recently the lounge area has also been disrupted because of the extension being created for our own benefit. The building works have been the source of some irritation within the Club because of the difficulty in communicating with the building contractors and their reluctance to supply the Club with information about costs, work schedules and time schedules. The Club is indebted to Jackie Lovell and Paul Baker as they continue to seek a resolution to these problems. The building works should be completed shortly and a set of fridges, freezers and dish-washers have been purchased to improve the set-up in the kitchen area.



One of the disappointing facets of the premises over time has been the standard of cleaning. This has never been satisfactory and, although it is still not good enough, efforts made by Jackie Lovell, in particular, to impress upon the cleaners the required standard and monitoring procedures put into place have resulted in some improvement.

## Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2003 AGM met twelve times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman & Coaching Officer	11	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	9
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	12	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	8
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	12	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	7
Robin Farquhar	Deputy Chairman	12	August 31 <sup>st</sup>	7
Jacqui Lovell	Social Officer	11	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	8
Sue Hayes	Bookings Officer	9	October 12 <sup>th</sup>	9
Jeremy Bateman	Club Captain	0	November 9 <sup>th</sup>	8
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	12	December 7 <sup>th</sup>	8
Dave Bull	General Committee member	7	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	7
Gemma Chapman	General Committee member	8	February 29 <sup>th</sup>	8
			April 4 <sup>th</sup>	8
			May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7

Jeremy Bateman resigned his position as Club Captain on August 15<sup>th</sup> and Dave Bull was appointed into this position on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Other appointments:

Volunteer Champion: Jackie Lovell (appointed 2002-3);

Bookings Officer assistant (clerical): Anne Farquhar (appointed June 15<sup>th</sup>);

Auditor: Tim Kiteley (appointed July 13<sup>th</sup>).

In addition the following sub-committees operated:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Jackie Lovell; Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth;

Calendar Working Party: Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming; Sue Hayes.

Necessarily, all the Committee members do far more than might be supposed from their job titles, none more so than the Chairman, Ken Phillips, who spends up to 80 hours a week on table tennis duties. Thanks are due to all who have contributed to the administration of the Club, including all the team captains.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his twenty-ninth year as Fixtures Secretary while Peter Hillier has completed the fifth year of his third stint as the League's Treasurer. Jeremy Bateman and Clive Perry have both completed three years as General Secretary and Competitions Secretary respectively. Club member Jan Chapman also continued as Chairman on the Maidenhead Association while Nick Hansell maintained his Treasurer's function for the Bucks County Association. Graham Trimming

continued his responsibility for the Table Tennis Collectors' Society.

Paul Baker is a full time employee of the ETTA as Facilities Officer and in an honorary capacity Ken Phillips also contributed greatly as joint Organiser of the National Junior League (Southern Region) and Roy Linz to the Southern Region Training Squad.

In the late summer of 2003 the Club conducted a survey of its members. All 240-odd members of the Club were sent a survey form and invited to respond on a variety of topics. The response rate was not as high as might have been hoped which perhaps means that most members are satisfied with the services provided. The responses that were received were largely positive about the Club. Robin Farquhar, in his first task as the new Deputy Chairman, drafted a detailed report on the findings and this was published on the Club's web site.

Robin's second task has been the creation of a development plan for the Club, blueprint for the future direction that we wish to pursue. This is still being prepared and all officers have been asked to contribute aspects relevant to their own departments. The plan is nearing completion but the starting point was the adoption of a mission statement: "To be the pre-eminent table tennis club in England".

## Volunteer Investment

In 2002 Jackie Lovell was appointed the Club's first Volunteer Champion with a remit of taking care of our volunteers, ensuring that they have a voice and feel an integral part of the Club. An important part of this is to build the Club's skill base. Jackie is ideally suited to take on this role having a professional qualification in human resources management.

Jackie's first task, completed in the summer of 2003, was the creation of a Volunteers' Reference Manual. This is a file containing a series of about thirty documents that assist volunteers in understanding the various tasks undertaken at the Club and about the Club's procedures. As well as documents dealing with such subjects as how to run a tournament and how to fix a broken photocopier, it also contains valuable resources such as the membership list, rules and regulations and policy statements on such topics as child protection. Vital information is also available about fire and first aid procedures. This is readily available at the Centre to all volunteers at all times.

The objectives of the Volunteer Investment Programme are geared towards making volunteering an easy, rewarding and worthwhile thing to do. The Club aims to train its volunteers so that all feel that they have the skill sets required to do their particular tasks and any others they might choose. This includes basic duty officer training, including health and safety measures, and other "on the job" training. Mentoring by more experienced members is one of the ways in which this is undertaken. The Club also encourages members into coaching and will pay reasonable expenses for them to attend courses.



Critical to the success of this scheme is reward. The volunteer has to feel that he or she has made a worthwhile contribution and gain satisfaction from having assisted the Club. Ever since 1997 the Club has made an Outstanding Contribution Award at its annual Anniversary Party. The 2003 award was made to Frankie Butterworth in recognition of her assistance with catering at weekends and always being on hand during our cleaning and maintenance sessions. Opportunity is also taken at the party to recognise in a smaller way many other members for their continued loyal support to the Club. In 2003 the Club also made awards to players and the Senior Player of the Year award went to Kuldeep Singh and the counterpart Junior Player of the Year award to Gemma Chapman.

One of the most important pieces of work undertaken by the Club during the past year was the creation and adoption of a Child Protection Policy. Jackie Lovell and Robin Farquhar spent many hours writing this policy that is based on the ETTA policy and guidelines. It was rolled out in March 2004. The policy is geared towards the protection of children and

vulnerable adults and also the protection of the Club's volunteer force from results of poor practice and false accusation. Thankfully, the Club has never had a problem in this area and with the Policy in place it is hoped that this will continue.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Callum Mather, a teacher at the School, was the first appointment and when he left at the end of June 2003 Robert Hansell took over for three months before he returned to university. From October Jackie Lovell fulfilled the position and this was then shared with Gemma Chapman when she reached the required eighteen years of age in January. More recently, Gemma has fulfilled the job alone. We are looking for a replacement in September for when Gemma goes to university.

The Club would like to place on record its grateful thanks to the many people that assist in a great variety of ways. The Management Committee members all work very hard but are assisted by a great many more in such tasks as catering, captaining of teams, coaching, chauffeuring youngsters, general maintenance, etc. Not all of our valuable volunteers are even members of the Club, some are parents. Particular thanks are due to Mick Strode who acts as referee for many of the events held at Cippenham.

## Accreditation

The first act in writing the Club's development plan was to decide upon a mission statement. The chosen words were "To be the pre-eminent table tennis club in England". The word "pre-eminent" suggests a reputation with others and therefore, as part of this process and as a measurement of pre-eminence, accreditation has become important to the Club. For some years now the Club has been seeking accreditation by entering itself and its players and volunteers for awards and has been very successful in gaining recognition in this way on a number of occasions.

The ETTA itself is seeking accreditation for clubs through its *PremierClub* scheme and has recently issued all *PremierClubs* with a record of achievement file that will be populated with documentation and used to gain Sport England Clubmark accreditation. The contents required for this file are currently being collected but there are some actions that will need to be taken before this can be completed.

The Club entered for the ETTA *PremierClub* of the Year award in the summer of 2003 and was honoured with second place nationally at the highest, Excellence, level. After third place in 2002, second also in 2001 and winner in 1996 and 1997, the Club has a history of achievement at this level. Members of the Club's volunteer staff were also nominated for individual awards but, this year, no first places were achieved.

That was not the case at the Mayor of Slough's Sports Awards 2003 in March 2004 when the Club won the Senior Club of the Year for the first time, after having twice been Junior Club of the Year and three times Community Club of the Year and Graham Trimming followed Ken Phillips as the recipient of the Service to Sport award. This is the pinnacle or reward locally for voluntary service to sport and is the second time that Graham has been honoured in this way as he won the award also for 1987. David Hayes was the winner of the Junior Sportsman of the Year for 2003 and Ken Phillips, Melanie Farquhar and Katie Rule were also in the lists of nominations in various categories.

Pre-eminence demands high standards in all facets of the Club's administration and public relations. With this in mind the Club strives for quality in all its output. It was therefore very gratifying that the Club was honoured with the British League Programme of the Year award for the second year running. The programme is produced by Graham Trimming.



## Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 196, a little down on the same stage of last year. The final figure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2003 was 214, 27 down on the previous year but this was largely due to the demise of the Super League. To put this into context, the total membership in 1996 prior to the move into our purpose-built centre was 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. Despite the size of the membership, the Club has been concerned for some time about the lack of adult members both from the perspective of potential members of our Slough League teams and suitable people to take on management responsibilities in the future. Much of the current development plan is targeted in this area.

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 who have been in office for at least one year plus Gareth Herbert, who has been granted special rights to practice facilities, and four others – Rhys Evans, 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 87 players have represented the club in match play, 19 less than in the previous year. Only 16 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to 42 the previous year. The reason for this must partly be the Club's decision not to enter the Slough League Youth Division that had become a one-club competition but it also shows that the recruitment of new members is drying up and this needs to be addressed. 23 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, nine less than in the previous season. This loss is explained by the lack of a Slough League Youth Division. Eight teams were entered into British leagues and a further



nine in the National Junior League. Six operated in the Slough League, two less than operated in the senior divisions a year previously. 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.

The Club is now 31 years old and during that time a total of 596 players have played in our teams. Graham Trimming is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club while another old stager, Peter Hillier, is on his own in second place. Andrew Dickens and James Milton joined the elite group of 29 who have appeared 200 times for the Club while Martin Adams, Caroline Linz, Prabdeep Panesar, Oliver Shaw and Matthew Tucker all reached 100. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1338	Rodney Potts	316	Roland Clapton	255
Peter Hillier	772	Alec Watson	301	Gemma Chapman	234
Frank Earis	669	Jacque Lovell	282	Jane Dickens	232
Ken Phillips	536	David Hayes	281	Paul Baker	228
Mike Rhodes	531	Wendy Barlow	279	Robert Hansell	217
Jackie Wood	403	Steve Joel	278	Anna Watton	204
Gareth Lovell	381	Dave Pountney	276	Andrew Dickens	203
Neil Bird	374	Georgia Veneer	270	Steve Dorrell	202
George Appleby	372	Steve Crow	268	James Milton	201
Frank Cowley	363	Armando Borges	255		

The busiest players during the year were Oliver Shaw (36 appearances), David Hayes (29), Paul Baker (28) and Walter Aldridge (27).

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

## Finance

After seven years of unparalleled financial surpluses that saw the Club build up an accumulated surplus of nearly £60,000, the year just finished has seen a decline in the Club's financial affairs and the first loss incurred since the opening of our Centre in 1996. Several factors have influenced this: the appointment of a paid duty officer on Tuesday and Thursday evenings; the purchase of new kit for all players in the British leagues in year one of a three-year cycle, a decline in letting fees due to fewer events being held at the Centre and the disruption caused to some of our services by the building works.

It is important to remember, though, that the Club is still wealthy by table tennis clubs' normal standards and will remain so even after payment has been made for the current building works that will enlarge the lounge area and kitchen. In the financial statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004 the Club has reported a net deficit of £585, cash assets of £49,353 and an accumulated fund of £56,959. When consolidated with the accounts of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Ltd, providing the most meaningful figures, the loss is £1,157, cash assets are £49,433 and the accumulated fund is £56,971.

Before investment income, the operating loss was £3,468. Cash assets are expected to reduce by about £20,000 in the near future when payment for the building works is made. Whilst the Club has cash resources to successfully finance many years of losses of this size it is important that a financial model is not perpetuated that makes loss-making a habit and therefore it will be necessary to raise revenue in the coming year. Ideally, the operating result, before adding in investment income, should not be a deficit.

Looking at the consolidated accounts the main providers of net income were: coaching £5071 (2002-3 : £5,119); letting fees £3,649 (£4,700); catering £3,186 (£4,917); open tournaments £2,654 (£2,881); practice fees £2,636 (£2,841) and interest income £2,311 (£1,081).

The main areas of expense were: national competition programme including clothing supplies £6,233 (2002-3 : £3,878); premises £6,147 (£7,892); equipment and balls £3,292 (£3,466); duty officer £3,118 (£792); photocopying and stationery £1550 (£981); general (non-buildings) insurance £1,166 (£581).

Fees remained the same as in the previous season except for an increase in the annual subscription. Members paid an annual fee of £12 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 £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £21.00 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address.

A structured approach to reimbursing expenses for teams in the British leagues was introduced this season. This is available for all teams playing away from Cippenham. The cost, £954, is included in the £6,233 support given to teams in national competitions. 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.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of our friend 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 financial assistance for children's activities which 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 £829 and is separately disclosed in the accounts.

## Public Relations

The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well 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. In the absence of a Public Relations Officer this service has been provided by Graham Trimming. Gareth Herbert also turned his hand to journalism with a well-written series of articles in the Slough Observer about his experiences in international table tennis. Graham has also produced eleven editions of the Club Newsletter 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. A Membership Pack was introduced three years ago and this, updated when necessary by Jacquie Lovell, has proved to be a useful document to give to potential members on the occasion of their first visit.

The Club also has its own web site ([www.cippenhamttc.co.uk](http://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 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 monthly Newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. 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. A change was made to the colour of the Club kit in 2003, the previous blue was dispensed with and grey shirts and black shorts introduced. These kits carry the Club's professionally designed logo on the back of the shirt and tracksuit and are therefore an important part in the establishment of the Club's corporate identity. The Club is indebted to Ken Phillips for his management of this service.

## 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 Jan and Gemma Chapman, Gill Tucker, Frankie Butterworth, Susana Hansell, Geraldine Linz, Nanda Bielec and Anne Farquhar. Many others, including several other parents, have also given a great deal of assistance. The kitchen is set to expand in size soon and the extension will provide for the "dirty" area, sinks and dish washers etc., to be less on public view.

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 and the television and VCR are also popular attractions. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche.

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. The licensees are Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips.

The seventh 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 and the annual barbecue on a Sunday in July.



# 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. 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	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 11.00 pm	General practice

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, detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club. Weekend usage, and consequently letting income, was down on previous years because the Slough League did not operate a Youth Division and the Bucks County Association did not run any inter-league competitions.

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.

## 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 ETTA events included the National Junior and Cadet Masters for the eighth time and the Premier Division of the Junior County Championships for the fourth 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 organizational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips, Jacque Lovell and their teams for their involvement in this.

The Club also hosted three weekends of the British League Divisions 1 South and 2 South. These were organized by Graham Trimming (2) and Ken Phillips while Ken (2) and Peter Hillier acted as Referees.

A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	National Junior Masters (2 days)
	National Cadet Masters (2)
	County Championships Junior Premier Division (2)
	National Junior League (5)
	British League Divisions 1 South and 2 South (5)
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Preliminary/Final Trials (3)
	Junior Training/Assessment (10)
	Coaches Get-Together
Bucks County TTA:	Junior Closed Championships
	County Championships sessions/matches (4)
	Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town
Slough League:	Slough Closed Championships
	Slough League play-off matches (midweek)
	Carter Cup group matches
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Gareth Herbert:	Weekend coaching sessions (6)
Sean Pickin:	The Alencon Exchange

# Club Events

## ***Open Tournaments***

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

May/Jun 03	Young Players' Summer Festival	Dec 03	Banded 2-Star
Jun 03	Veterans' Summer 2-Star	Jan 04	Under-14/16 1-Star
Oct 03	Cadet 2-Star	Jan 04	Veterans' 2-Star
Oct 03	Senior 2-Star	Apr 04	Junior 2-Star

Two age group events (YPSF and U14/16) were organised by Ken Phillips while Graham Trimming was Organiser for the two veterans' events, Dave Bull for the Senior Open, Paul Baker for the Banded, Robin Farquhar for the Cadet and Terry Boxall for the Junior. All attracted good entries especially the YPSF weekend that attracted a massive entry keeping 16 tables busy over an entire weekend. The Club is indebted to Mick Strode, Ken Phillips, Graham Trimming and Peter Hillier who acted as referees for the events.

The Centre lends itself very well to tournaments of this kind - singles only in groups of at least four with the top two (or three) in each group going forward into the championship, while the remainder go into a consolation event.

David Hayes and Melanie Farquhar maintained the Club's run of successes in our own tournaments although the number of victories was not as high as in the previous season. Mel won the Junior Girls' Singles, the U16 Girls' Singles and U14 Girls' Singles while David twice won the U16 Boys' Singles. Melanie's success at the Junior Open was most welcome as it maintained a winning run by Club members in this event that stretches back to 1998.

## ***Members' Tournaments***

The Club Championship was run in November and the top events were won by Robert Hansell and Melanie Farquhar. The men's event was especially strong but the female events were poorly supported. Dave Bull acted as Tournament Organizer. Unfortunately, the Handicap Tournament, scheduled for March, was cancelled due to lack of interest.



# Team Competitions

The Club has had another very successful season in league competitions. Congratulations are due to all the players and organizers who have contributed to this success that continues to secure Cippenham's position as one of the major forces in English table tennis.

## ***British League Competitions***

Eight teams were run again in the British league competitions. Both our teams finished fourth in their divisions of the main British League and this would have been good enough to secure promotion for both if the Premier Division restructuring proposals had been passed at the annual British League conference. As it is the teams will operate in Division 1 South and Division 2 South and Midlands next season. David Hayes' performances earned him the honour of being the Division 2 South Player of the Year. Clive Payne captained the first team that also included Martin Adams, Mark Butler, Terry Haley and Lee Dredge. The second team was managed by joint captains Robert Hansell and Gemma Chapman and also featured Mark Jackson, Rob Lemon and Paul Baker in addition to David Hayes. A third team has been entered for next season and this will operate in Division 4 South and Midlands. Graham Trimming acted as Secretary for the teams.

Marina Zarzycka, a Russian player living locally, was added to the Women's British League squad of Gemma Chapman and Lesley Keast while pregnancy forced Rebecca Hurrell to miss the season. When Marina was forced to miss the second half through illness Jacquie Lovell and Melanie Farquhar were drafted in. After a good first half during which only one point was dropped, performances fell away, understandably, in the second half and the team finished bottom of the division for the top six. Jan and Gemma Chapman acted as Secretaries for the team.

David Hayes elected to play for Irish Boys in the Junior British League so a squad of Rob Lemon, Marc Armstrong, James Milton and Chris Hansell formed the team that finished fourth in Division 1. After Joanna Parker and Karen Shepherd both defected to another team the Club considered not entering a team in the Girls' Premier Division. However, to show loyalty to Gemma Chapman and to maintain the Club's standing, Emily Tucker was promoted to the first team and Sarah Hall from Wales was recruited to give the team higher ranking. They finished fifth in the division. The second team was a revelation in becoming champions of Division 2 with Melanie Farquhar, especially, exceeding all expectations. Her 90%



record was able backed up by Sylvana Bielec and Caroline Linz. A young third team was entered in Division 3 and finished seventh with 50% records being returned by Catherine Hayes and Katie Rule with Jenny Hansell also contributing important wins. Ken Phillips acted as Secretary for the teams and as a travelling coach along with Jan Chapman, Sue Hayes and Ken Lemon.

Terry Haley was added to the Veterans' British League squad to add some depth following two successive promotions. It was just as well as Clive Payne was unavailable for both weekends but a great performance from Terry and team work by Mike Rhodes and Paul Baker ensured that a safe third position was gained in Division 1. Graham Trimming acted as Team Secretary and Mike Rhodes as captain.

### ***Other National Competitions***

The Club's women's team, the holders, are again through, by default, to the finals of the Gainsford Cup that will be played in June.

Eight boys' teams and one girls' team were entered into the National Junior League, played at Cippenham and Chesham High School. The top boys' team succeeded in winning the league for the first time since 1998. Oliver Shaw, Ashley Shaw and Sebastian Bielec were the successful trio. The second team (named "C" because of the team in the Junior British League) came third in the same section. Ken Phillips acted as Team Secretary for all teams with assistance from a number of coaches and parents at the event.

### ***Slough League***



For a record eleventh year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This twentieth title, also a record, was party of a unique treble for the Club as Rogues, Buccaneers and Vagabonds succeeded in winning all the divisions of the League. This was the first time that teams from the same club had won all the top three divisions outright in the same season in the 71-years history of the League. None of the champion teams lost a match, indeed only Buccaneers drew any. Rogues won Division 1 in a canter and eclipsed most of their opponents 10-0 and David Hayes, James Milton and Mark Banks all went through the season unbeaten while Sean Pickin lost only once and Paul Baker

four times. Sue Hayes, Peter Hillier, Clive Perry and John Lloyd were the mainstays of the Buccaneers team while Laurence Orton, also unbeaten, Walter Aldridge and Kathy Dudley starred for Vagabonds.

Vagabonds, to cap a highly successful season also featured in the two cup finals and against the same opponents. After having lost the Dilger Cup final to Burnham Zebras, one week later they gained retribution by winning the Divisions 2/3 Handicap Competition.

Six teams were entered into the senior divisions but there was no youth division in the Slough League this season as the Club declined to enter what had become a one-club event and instead increased its presence in the National Junior League.

### ***Slough Summer League***

Nine teams were entered in the Summer League, an increase of one, with Silvers (Dave Bull, Andy Spiers) winning Division 2 and Purples (Paul Cheong, Laurence Orton, Joe Cheong) winning Division 3.

## **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 a long time. It continues to be one of the most successful coaching set-ups in the country ably managed by Ken Phillips and the other coaches. The Club is fortunate to have such dedicated and highly qualified staff with Ken and Sue Hayes having both received ETТА Coach of the Year awards in the last few seasons.

Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken, most importantly at Farnham Common Middle School and Oldfield School. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away 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 weekly challenge of teaching these youngsters. Ken coaches at other schools also and for more than two years has been involved in the after-school session at Westgate for children within the Cippenham Cluster.

There are currently four weekly coaching sessions for youngsters. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral. These have been extremely well patronised for some time with regular attendances of over 30 children. 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 and feeders. The other regular weekly session takes place on Wednesday evenings when there are two squads of invited players coached by Ken and Jan Chapman.

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.

The Leo Thompson Trophy, presented by the Slough League to the most improved junior, was once again given to David Hayes.

The coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall (Level 3); Gemma Chapman (not qualified); Jan Chapman (Level 2); Paul Cheong (Level 2); Alan Farral (Level 3); Sue Hayes (Level 4); Muriel Hooker; Tim Kiteley (not qualified); Roy Linz (Level 2) and Ken Phillips (Level 4). The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

## 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.

Gavin Evans and Joanna Parker have both extended their winning ways in national events to start doing the same in international events. Indeed, Gavin's international debut provided the first of his gold medals when he won the Mini-boys' (U13) Singles at the Luxembourg International Youth Open. Against a strong international field Gavin showed that the obvious potential we had seen in England over the past few years was transferable to the international stage and he was playing three years above his age group. Incredible! Gavin followed this up by sharing the Cadet Boys' Doubles at the Hungarian Cadet Open while Joanna Parker won the Junior Girls' Singles at the Portuguese International Youth Championships. Gavin and Joanna also won titles at the Oostende Open in Belgium and the Safir International Tournament in Sweden. Perhaps England does have a brighter future in international table tennis after all.



In the Home International (Six Nations) Junior Championships, an event that clashed with the National Junior Masters, the Evans boys, Gavin and Bradley played each other in the Cadet Boys' Singles. Gavin saved match points to beat his older brother to the title.

On the national stage, no-one was surprised when Gavin became the first player ever to win the England U10, U11 and U12 Boys' Singles titles in the same year (2003). He also combined with his other brother Myles to take the U12 Boys' Doubles. Katie Rule and Rachel Farquhar were runners-up at the same event in the U11 and U10 Girls' Singles respectively. Joanna Parker dominated the junior girls' scene by winning both national singles titles, the English Junior National Championships and the National Junior Masters.



Joanna, Bradley, Myles and Gavin have also won titles on the open tournament circuit this season as have Jane Dickens and Melanie Farquhar in banded events and David Hayes across the Irish Sea.

David Hayes was the dominant player in local events. He won the Men's Singles titles at the Bucks Closed and Slough Closed, the latter for the second time. There were titles also for Sue Hayes, Robert Hansell, Mark Jackson, Jane Dickens and Mike Rhodes as Cippenham players monopolised the Bucks Senior Closed. We also picked up all the titles at a sparsely attended Bucks Junior Closed with Ashley Shaw, Matthew Tucker and Chris Witchell taking the three singles events.

Four of the five senior titles at the Slough Closed were won by exactly the same players as at the Bucks Closed and all by Cippenham players as were the junior events with David Hayes, Sylvana Bielec and Eddie Mitchell taking the singles titles. However, the Slough Masters title has virtually become the property of Mark Banks. He won it for the third time running.

# Representative Honours and Rankings

Gareth Herbert and Joanna Parker continued as regular members of the England teams in the European League and Joanna also represented her country in the World Team Championships in Doha. England did not send a men's team. Gavin Evans made his international debut in the Luxembourg International Youth Championships and marked his appearance with a gold medal in the Miniboy's (U13) Singles. Brother Bradley also played for England in the same event as they both did as England took the cadet team gold in the Home International Junior Championships. In the same event David Hayes made his Ireland debut and was part of their gold medal winning team in the junior boys' event. Joanna Parker was part of the England team that won the women's section of the Home International Championships in September 2003. Melanie Farquhar has been picked for her England debut in the forthcoming Cadet Six Nations Tournament.

Katie Rule was honoured for the second year running with selection for England Schools and Edward Mitchell made his debut in the same event in Guernsey. In the summer of 2003 Gemma Chapman, David Hayes and Marc Armstrong all played for England in the British Schools' Championships.

A large proportion of the Club's membership have again found their way onto England ranking lists this season, and eleven made it all the way into the top ten in the various categories. Gareth Herbert spent most of the season ranked second in the men's list while Joanna Parker has spent all season at number one in the junior girls' list and much of it in the same position in the women's list. Gavin Evans is an outright number one in the U13 boys with brother Myles at number 2. Gavin also climbed to number 4 in the cadet list, one behind his other brother Bradley who also peaked at 5 in the junior boys. Incredibly Gavin finished the season at 8 in the junior boys' list, with a mere seven more years to go in this age group! Melanie Farquhar's hard work training at Cippenham was rewarded with a number 3 ranking in cadet girls, a position emulated by Katie Rule in the U13 girls. Others to feature highly were Gemma Chapman at 7 in her last junior girls season, Lesley Keast at 4 in the veteran women, Sylvana Bielec at 9 in cadet girls and even Marina Zarzycka at 5 in the women's before they realised she did not qualify. David Hayes was ranked joint number 1 in the Irish junior boys' list.



Many Club players have again represented Buckinghamshire and Slough. The Bucks junior team, as usual, was an all-Cippenham representation and they excelled in finishing second in the Premier Division with a team consisting of Bradley Evans, Gavin Evans, James Milton, Gemma Chapman and Emily Tucker.

There was no Buckinghamshire Inter-League this season but Slough entered teams into some of the national competitions. Slough retained the Hammersley Cup (cadet girls) in June 2003 by beating Hastings 7-2 in the final. The Slough team was Sylvana Bielec, Caroline Linz and Catherine Hayes. The team has also qualified for the finals this summer with the same team plus Angela Oetiker involved. The junior girls' team are also through to the finals with the team being

Sylvana, Caroline and Jenny Hansell. The junior boys' team of James Milton, Oliver Shaw, David Hayes and Ashley Shaw made it through the first group stage of the Carter Cup but were then narrowly eliminated by the holders at the next stage. The cadet boys' team of Andrew Linz, Prabdeep Panesar and Ashley Shaw received a bye through the first stage of the Leach Cup but then fell at the next. The veteran men's team that included Mike Rhodes and Paul Baker with help from Graham Trimming also survived the first stage of the Alec Brook Trophy but not the second stage.

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

**Graham Trimming**  
General Secretary  
May 2004