



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2011-12

Highlights of the Year

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

- Our teams' successes in the Maidenhead League including winning the championship;
- The first team in the British League finishing in the top half of Division 1;
- The improved financial result following successful implementation of decisions made a year ago;
- The continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for prestigious events including the County Championships Senior and Junior Premier divisions and British League including the play-offs.

However, despite an influx of new members of the Management Committee last year, the Club still relies on too few people to shoulder too much of the burden of running the Club and, as a result, there are things that are not done as well as they might otherwise be.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



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

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery, extended in 2004, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design attracts many compliments from visitors. During the year the servery shutter became damaged and had to be replaced at a cost of about £1,000. There is a spacious reception area and an office that doubles as a control point for tournaments. Last summer the School opened a brand new, large, gymnasium adjacent to the table tennis hall with washroom and changing facilities between. The Club has made use of these ancillary facilities during weekend events and partial use of the new gymnasium was afforded for the four days of the National Cadet League. Doors cut into the east wall of the playing hall, affording entry into the new area, have inconvenienced the Club's weekend events and the table capacity has had to be reduced accordingly. However, in the opinion of many, the Centre remains one of the finest table tennis facilities in the country.

The Centre owns eight serviceable Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables purchased in 2007 and 9 serviceable Donic Waldner Sinus tables retained from a previous lot. Following an incident with one of the Donic tables it was decided to switch their use around and for the second half of the season the Tibhar tables have been in general use in preference to the Donic tables. The Donic tables are due to be retired this summer. Net and post sets are regularly replaced in order to maintain standards. Twelve scoring machines have been refurbished with numbers produced on the Club's own laminating machine. The Centre also benefits from 80 court surrounds in blue with the name of the Club printed in yellow. This helps create a striking brand identity at the home venue. Many of these are stored on a purpose-made trolley but are showing signs of wear from being moved on and off its frame and will be renewed this summer. There are also about 80 quality spectator chairs. The Club also owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events and there are markings for these on the skirting thereby easing the tournament set-up process. These configurations cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and eleven courts for lesser events. The main criteria for selection of these configurations were implications for health and safety.

Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2011 AGM met eight times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Graham Trimming	Chairman/General Secretary	8	July 20 6
Peter Hillier	Treasurer/Bookings Officer	6	August 24 7
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	8	September 28 4
Terry Boxall	Events Officer	5	October 26 6
Martin Adams	General Committee member	0	November 30 6
Rebecca Hayes	General Committee member	6	January 11 5
Eddie Mitchell	General Committee member	0	February 22 6
Andrew Sullivan	General Committee member	5	March 28 inquorate
David Williams	General Committee member	7	May 9 5

Peter Hillier resigned as Bookings Officer on 6 May and as Treasurer on 8 May.

Four Officers' positions were unfilled: Coaching Officer, Club Captain, Public Relations Officer and Social Officer.

The members of the Committee have a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973 and Peter Hillier joined the Committee only two years later and was Treasurer from 1980. Sue Hayes joined the Committee in 1999, Terry Boxall in 2001 and Martin Adams in 2007. Rebecca Hayes, Eddie Mitchell, Andrew Sullivan and David Williams were new to the Committee in 2011.

For the seventh year the Management Committee drew up an Organization Chart. This has two purposes: it formalised the structure of responsibility with Officers shown the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identified gaps in the management hierarchy. Some gaps remain unfilled.

As a result the following additional appointments were made:

Development Coordinator:	Graham Trimming
Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Terry Boxall
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming
PremierClub Contact:	Graham Trimming
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming
Supply Members' Agent:	Rebecca Hayes
Marketing Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Social Media Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Calendar Coordinator:	Peter Hillier
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes
Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Steve Smith
Club Championships Organizer:	Steve Smith
Grand Prix Administrator:	Graham Trimming
Grand Prix Organiser:	Rebecca Hayes
Umpires' Coordinator:	Terry Boxall
Catering Liaison:	Peter Hillier
Facilities Manager:	Terry Boxall
Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Health and Safety Advisor:	Terry Boxall
Maintenance Manager:	Terry Boxall
Supply Club Agent:	Peter Hillier
Auditor:	Filippo Rotunno.



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

In addition the following sub-committee was elected:

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

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

External appointments included:

Graham Trimming: Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, for the Slough League (which, however, did not operate); Auditor for the Maidenhead Association; volunteer at ITTF Pro Tour Finals;

Steve Smith:	Referee and Deputy Referee for several ETTA Grand Prix events; Referee's Assistant at ITTF Pro Tour Finals; umpire at the English Senior National Championships;
Terry Boxall:	Umpires' Secretary for the Bucks Association;
Ken Phillips:	Coaching Officer and Selector for the Bucks Association and Referee for the Bucks Closed Championships;
Jan Chapman:	Chair of the Maidenhead Association;
Nick Hansell:	Treasurer of the Bucks Association;
Denise Weller:	General Secretary of the Newbury League.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

The Club has, for several years now, placed great emphasis on volunteer investment management – the recruitment, retention and reward of the Club's volunteer work force. Although there are never enough people to do all the things we would like to do, especially over the past three years, the Club does have a more able, better focussed and more highly motivated volunteer force than most other organizations of its type. This is recognized by the ETTA which continues to place faith in the Club to host events on its behalf. However, this facet of the Club's management has suffered in the past three years by the lack of anybody able and willing to fulfil the role of Volunteer Champion.

Personal training and qualification continues to be high on the Club's agenda and we were very pleased that Steve Smith gained both his National Referee and National Umpire qualifications this year.

During the year a Practice Voucher scheme was introduced whereby volunteers are incentivised to assist the Club and are rewarded with a voucher that they can use to pay practice fees at a Tuesday or Thursday session.



One of the annual highlights is the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went to Muriel Hooker for her involvement in coaching at the Club for many years. Unfortunately, Muriel was unable to be present to receive the award. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Alan Farral Junior Players of the Year were Joseph Underwood and Megan Ashfield for their general improvement over the previous twelve months while the Senior Player of the Year award was presented to Robert Hansell in recognition of his performance in the British League.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Club is fortunate to have had the services of Rebecca Hayes to fulfil this role and Ricky Hardcastle performed a similar function at the Friday sessions until they were discontinued.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. This work is managed by Jim Hayes and is largely undertaken by members of the Hayes family with help from Ricky Hardcastle. Another aspect that goes largely unnoticed is maintenance. Terry Boxall undertakes much of this work and uses his many skills for the benefit of the Club.

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 work very hard but are assisted by a great many more in such tasks as captaining of teams, coaching, umpiring, chauffeuring youngsters, setting up for weekend events, general maintenance, etc. The Club can count on about thirty volunteers for various roles, a huge number in comparison to other organizations.

Accreditation

No awards came the way of the Club or its members this season, but none were nominated for! It is not even known whether the Slough Sports Awards have taken place for the past two years.

The Club retained its status as an ETTA *PremierClub* at the highest Excellence level and with it the Sport England ClubMark accreditation. It is one of only eight accredited at Excellence level nationally. The Centre also continues to feature in the Official Guide for Pre-Games Training Camps for the London 2012 Olympics although no enquiries have yet been received and it would appear now, as the date of the Games looms, that none will be.

When a development plan was written in 2004-5 the chosen mission statement was "to be the pre-eminent table tennis club in England". Pre-eminence suggests an important "presence" in national table tennis activities. An unofficial ranking of clubs in the British leagues, based on a statistical analysis carried out by the Club, shows that Cippenham, because of its lower positions generally through the British leagues this season has slipped to eleventh place nationally, out of a total of about 120, from the third position it has graced in the past several seasons.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 148, 12 more than the same stage last year but still well below figures for the previous dozen or so years. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2011 was 138, 44 down on the previous year and 92 less than the year before that. Part of this will have been caused by the ETTA Individual Membership scheme that requires all members of *PremierClubs* to take out direct membership with the ETTA. This has been poorly accepted by Cippenham members and decimated the Club's previously successful family membership scheme.

For the third season the Club issued membership cards. These were professionally printed and featured a photograph of the Club's premises on the face of the card along with logos for the Club, ETTA *PremierClub* and ClubMark.

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 and a few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. There is also a higher tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for local league matches, coaching and practice.

Over the past twelve months a total of 54 players have represented the club in match play, 1 down on the previous year. 20 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to 11 the previous year. 14 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, the same number as in the previous season. 7 teams were entered into British leagues, 3 in the National Junior League, 3 in the Maidenhead League and a boys' team was entered into the National Cadet League for the first time.

The Club is now 39 years old and during that time a total of 735 players have played in our teams. The Club's Founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club closing in on 1,500 while Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 800. During the season, Sue Hayes became the seventeenth player to pass the 300 appearances mark for the Club. Martin Adams reached the 200 milestone while Anthony Gardner completed his first century. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1499	David Hayes	350	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	840	Armando Borges	343	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	Georgia Veneer	336	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	625	Sue Hayes	317	Jane Dickens	235
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Martin Adams	208
Paul Baker	454	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	435	Robert Hansell	292	Anna Watton	204
Jackie Wood	403	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Gareth Lovell	381	Jacquie Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
George Appleby	372	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200
Frank Cowley	363	Steve Joel	278		

The busiest players during the year were Sue Hayes (30 appearances), Denise Weller (28) and Andrew Sullivan (24).

Obituary: it was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Frank Earis in October 2011 at the age of 69. Frank was Chairman of the Club from 1981 to 1987 and before that was Chairman of the Slough League from 1976 to 1981. Frank's involvement was inspirational during the Club's two moves: from St. Andrews Shared Church to Haymill Centre in 1984 and from there to the present venue in 1996. As a player, Frank won numerous local and county titles, represented Cippenham in the British League and peaked at number nine in the England veterans' rankings. Frank remains third in the all-time list of appearances for Cippenham with 669 over a period of 23 years from 1975 to 1998 when he prematurely retired from the sport.



Finance

This time last year the Club reported its highest ever net deficit for a year and had lost nearly £4,000 over two years at the operating income level. A plan was set in motion at last year's Annual General Meeting to correct this and the result is that the Club has once again reported a surplus. Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £1,710 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £3,054.

The measures introduced last year were (total effect £2,590):

1. Introduction of a £5 match fee for British leagues (effect £1,440);
2. Increase in annual membership, practice and local league match fees (effect £700);
3. Increases in coaching fees (although some were deferred until part way through the year) (effect £250);
4. Increases in entry fees to 5 by 2 open tournaments (effect £100);
5. Increases in letting rate (most yet to come next season) (effect £100).

The annualisation of some of these measures will produce even greater income in the year to come and therefore there is no requirement to introduce further revenue earning or cost cutting measures this year.

Stricter control was also exercised over travel and accommodation in the British leagues and with one team less operating, this produced a saving of £870. The net cost to the Club of running teams in the British leagues was £3,415 this season compared to £5,492 last, a saving of over £2,000.

The Club was also very fortunate to gain additional lettings this year. Lettings, in total, raised £2,020 more than the previous year and this figure included £1,264 from eight sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League.

The Club retains strong cash reserves of about £67,800 (2011: £63,800).

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

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

Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, and much of it by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers, Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. Most submitted reports find space in the Express and Advertiser and more reports found their way into the Slough Observer than had been the case the previous season. 20 reports have been submitted during the year, covering 22 stories, and the total column inches were 465, 6% less than the previous season but nearly twice the amount managed in the season before that. It was pleasing to see more reports appearing in the Observer than has been the case for several years. Seven of the Club's reports also appeared on the ETTA web site. An edition of the Club Newsletter has also been published nine times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. A Membership Pack was introduced several years ago and this continues 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). This was designed and is maintained by Graham and is hosted by Square Brothers in India. 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 club table tennis web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from May 2011 to April 2012 have been: 611 unique visitors; 1,014 visits; 2,016 pages; 31,121 hits. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

The Club's Facebook page has also been used to drive readers to the website. Most reports have been linked and many events have been set up on Facebook. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 100 followers on Facebook and 46 on Twitter.

Extensive use of photographs, mostly taken against the specially made backdrop, has been made to illustrate press reports and items on the Club's website. All winners and runners-up of open tournaments have been photographed and these have all appeared on the Club's website. A colour photocopier, a replacement for an older monochrome copier, was leased from December 2009 so those photographs can now be enjoyed more fully by readers of the Club's Newsletter.

A second television screen in the lounge is used to publicise forthcoming events and on British League weekends is also used to convey information such as up to date league tables.



The Club appeared in television during the year. Blighty television channel ran a series of four programmes, entitled *The Ball's in our Court* about the origins and history of sixteen sports including table tennis. Much of the piece about table tennis had been recorded at the Club in November 2010 and featured an interview with Graham Trimming and film of Club members during the course of a Thursday evening practice session. The programme was first screened on 7 July 2011 and has since been repeated.

In November Andrew Sullivan organised a Charity Hard Bat Grand Prix in aid of *BBC Children in Need*. £70 was raised by the ten contestants who wielded old-fashioned hard bats, provided by Andrew, with scoring reverting to the old style 21-up. Andrew's partner Hannah Meyer baked some cakes and sold these to swell the coffers. For the record, the event was won by Ricky Hardcastle with Ashley D'Sa second and Sue Hayes third.



Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge and refreshment area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area and the servery cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed as many as 60 competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004.

Until 2010 catering at weekend events was carried out on a voluntary basis but as the Club was then unable to find a volunteer to carry on this work, the catering was sub-contracted to Sharon Catering on a commercial basis. This partnership works well for the Club and earns us a commission on all revenues.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television, VCR and streaming monitor, 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 Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue.

The fifteenth annual party was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. The Christmas Party, however, was cancelled due to lack of interest and instead a dozen members met for lunch at a nearby Indian restaurant. Both of these events were organised by Andrew Sullivan with help from Hannah Meyer.



Venue Utilisation

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

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
	7:40 to 10:15 pm	Grand Prix
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

There was also a Friday evening practice session but this was cancelled at the end of the July term because it started to attract undesirable elements and became more trouble than it was worth.

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

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

External Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by the ETTA, Bucks County Association, the Maidenhead League and by Gareth Herbert for coaching weekends.

The ETTA events included the Premier Divisions of the Senior and Junior County Championships. These have now been staged at Cippenham for many years. The National Cadet Masters returned this season after a clash of dates forced it away last year. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips and to Terry Boxall who acts as Duty Officer for a great number of bookings.



The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League Division 2 South and East and three weekends of Division 1 South. These were organized by Graham Trimming while Ken Phillips acted as Referee for three weekends with Graham standing in on the other. We also welcomed back the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson with Terry Boxall being Duty Officer on all occasions.

In July 2011 the Club hosted a star-studded open tournament called the Fusion Masters. It was organised by Gareth Herbert and featured a number of highly ranked players including the eventual winner, England number one, Paul Drinkhall. ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch was on hand to present the

trophies and Geoff Ware interviewed Drinkhall and posted the result on YouTube.

A full list of outside events (June 2011-May 2012), totalling 50 days, 4 more than the previous year, was as follows:

ETTA:	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	County Championships Junior Premier Division (2)
	British League (7)
	National Junior League (4)
	National Cadet League (8)
	U11-14 National Championships Regional Qualification
	Coach education courses (6)
UK Deaf TTA:	Training day
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (6)
	Junior Trials
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Gareth Herbert:	Weekend coaching sessions (8)
	Fusion Masters (2)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

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

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 11	Young Players' Summer Festival	Catherine Hayes	Steve Smith	204
Aug 11	5 by 2 Senior/Junior 1-Star	Catherine Hayes	Steve Smith	73
Oct 11	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Steve Smith	59
Oct 11	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	25 pairs
Feb 12	5 by 2 Cadet/Under-13 1-Star	Terry Boxall	Mick Strobe	60
Mar 12	Super 6 Junior 2-Star	Sue Hayes	Steve Smith	25
Apr 12	Super 6 Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Steve Smith	21
Apr 12	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Terry Boxall	Mick Strobe	29

The format of open tournaments remained the same as season 2010-11 and encompassed eight events. Three of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 2-Star Opens and catered for open, junior and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. All these were played late in the season and the entry for each was disappointing.

Three other tournaments were branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Opens and featured two age groups each day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 or 55 players depending on whether the nine or eleven table layout is used. These events produced reasonable entries.



The Team 2-Star Open and Young Players' Summer Festival have remained in the same format for several years. Entries for the Summer Festival in 2011 were very much better than the previous occasion and the Team Open, with its unique progressive knock-out format, continues to be popular and achieved a maximum entry.

The Club used to supply a good number of winners of our own tournaments. This is not so anymore. However, our members were successful on occasions. Jonathan Evans was a member at the time he won the Junior Singles in August last year while Christos Hannides, who signed up to play in the Veterans' British League, won the Veterans' Open and Alex Gillen was runner-up in the Cadet and Under-13 events. The highlight, though, was the success of Robert Hansell and Steve Munson in an incredibly closely contested Team Open.

Many thanks are due to Events Officer Terry Boxall who was greatly helped by Steve Smith, Sue Hayes and Graham Trimming who maintains the mailing database and emails out entry forms for all events. Thanks also to the organisers and referees, especially Steve Smith who used his newly acquired National Referee status to officiate at five of the eight events. It is a testament to their abilities that so many pleasant messages are received from happy participants at the end of the day's play.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past five seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. The entry was moderate although the Open Singles was keenly contested with Shane Clark beating all four seeds to clinch the title. The Open Doubles was won by Steve Smith and Hari Prasad Reddy while Elroy Hull and Ricky Hardcastle took the Veterans' and Under-40 Singles respectively.



Grand Prix

Participation in the Club's weekly Tuesday evening Grand Prix has diminished during the past three years and only four events were completed in the past twelve months. Three of these were won by Ricky Hardcastle and the other by Anthony Gardner.

Another initiative by Andrew Sullivan saw a single event Festive Grand Prix on the final practice evening before the Christmas shutdown. Mulled wine and mince pies were the attraction as well as the table tennis. Ricky was also the winner of this!

Team Competitions

The Club ran fourteen teams in various leagues this season and what success we achieved was more local than national. We won the Maidenhead League for the first time in twenty-three years with Saxons getting the better of Spartans who had to settle for runners-up. To complete a double, Trojans were winners of Division 2.

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

British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
Women's British League	Secretary and Captain:	Sue Hayes
Junior British League	Secretary:	Sue Hayes
	Non-playing Captain:	Ken Phillips
Veterans' British League	Captain (men):	Mike Rhodes
	Secretary (men):	Graham Trimming
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary (women):	Sue Hayes
National Cadet League:	Captain and Secretary:	Terry Boxall
Maidenhead League	Secretary:	Graham Trimming
	Captain:	David Williams
	Team Captains	Steve Smith; Andrew Sullivan; David Williams



British League Competitions

The Club ran seven teams in the British leagues, one less than in the previous season following the withdrawal of our girls' team through lack of players. All of the teams finished in the lower reaches of their divisions apart from the senior first team which finished in the top half of Division One for the first time in five years and inflicted the only defeat of the season on the champions.

It was good to see a more local flavour to our teams in the Senior British League especially following the re-shuffle which occurred between the first and second weekends. In the final analysis, players from the Club's "local" nucleus took up 77% of all available places. With quite a number of players being unavailable for the second weekend, two of the second team squad were promoted to the first team, three of the third team promoted to the second team and a new team brought in to fulfil the fourth team's fixtures. The second and third teams had got off to good starts in their respective divisions, having been relegated the previous summer, and the points that they secured that first weekend eventually helped stave off further relegation.

The first team finished fourth in Division 1 South, the second team seventh in Division 2 South and East and the thirds also seventh in Division 3 South-Midlands-West. Steve Munson and Robert Hansell both performed well, initially in the second team and then for the final three weekends for the first team where they supported other good performances from Dob Tokov and Martin Adams. Eddie Mitchell won half of the matches he played for the second team while his brother Tom Mitchell impressed in his debut season also with a 50% record for the third team.

In the Women's British League our team finished fifth in Division 4 and face relegation while the same trio of ladies were fourth in Division 1 of the Veterans' British League after winning their last two matches to escape from the bottom of the table. Julie Dean was the most successful player with 50% in both leagues. The men's veterans' team, however, finished bottom of Division 2A and face demotion to the Veterans' National League even though Steve Buck and his stand-in Christos Hannides won 60% and 50% of their matches respectively.

The young and inexperienced boys' team in the Junior British League finished fifth in Division 4A and have indicated that they wish to return to the lower ranked National Junior League next season.

National League Competitions

The Club ran two additional teams in national leagues this season. As well as the two boys' teams in the National Junior League, a girls' team was re-introduced and also a boys' team in the National Cadet League for the first time ever. Both these competitions were played in their entirety at Cippenham.

Having started the season in fourth place in Division 2 in the first round of matches, the boys' A team then won the same division in round 2 but found the going tougher in the final round and finished bottom of Division 1 following promotion. The B team moved up steadily from fourth to third and then to second place in Division 3 while the young girls were generally off the pace in their first season. Best performers in the National Junior League were Alex Parkinson, George Weller and Fenton Varady.

In the National Cadet League our team finished sixth out of eight in Division 4 in the first round and this saw them placed in Division 5 when the split came. They then won this division in round 2 and got promoted to Division 4 for the final round but were much less successful in the higher echelon. Sam Fletcher and Reeshabh Hamal both achieved good percentages.

Local Leagues



The Club won the Maidenhead League for the first time in twenty-three years in a record-breaking season that saw another team finish second in the top division and the third team win Division 2. The battle for Division 1 was a see-saw affair between Saxons and Spartans with the former eventually winning by eleven points, courtesy of a remarkable 8-2 win, against the odds, over their rivals in the penultimate fixture of the season. Congratulations to the Saxons team of Steve Smith, Simon Wilde, Graham Trimming and Terry Osborne. Spartans Eddie Mitchell, Tom Mitchell and Ricky Hardcastle featured highly in the division's averages.



Trojans, for whom Denise Weller finished top of the divisional averages, won Division 2. Congratulations also to her and Ashley D'Sa, Sue Hayes, Armando Borges and David Williams.

Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over many years and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. After receding for the past several years coaching attendances increased this year mostly as a result of pupils being attracted from schools where Head Coach Ken Phillips operates. Latterly Alison Broe has also been bringing pupils from her regional coaching squad to Cippenham on Monday evenings following the loss of her previous venue.

An informal cluster exists with the other coaching classes run by Ken comprising: Farnham Common Middle School; St. Anthony's School, Slough; Lynch Hill School, Britwell; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead.

There have been two weekly coaching sessions once again this year. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Terry Boxall. On Monday there are classes for more advanced performers run by Ken Phillips with help from a number of other coaches and feeders including Jan Chapman.

Tournament Successes for Individuals

For the first time in a great many years there are no successes to report on the national scene.

Rob Hansell won the Men's Singles at the Bucks Closed Championships while Anthony Gardner, Simon Wilde, Steve Smith, Tom Mitchell and Ashley D'Sa all won titles at the Maidenhead Closed.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Fourteen Cippenham members represented Bucks during the season with five enjoying the honour of playing for the county first team.

Only six members gained national rankings high enough to be published in the main lists on the ETTA website with Imogen Scarles being the highest ranked at seven in under-13 girls. Alex Gillen was twelfth in under-13 boys while Megan Ashfield peaked at seventeen in under-13 girls.

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

Graham Trimming
Chairman & General Secretary
June 2012