

Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 1998-9

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the twenty-sixth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- the generous praise shown by most 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 use of the Centre for the prestigious National Junior and Cadet Masters and Premier Division of the Senior County Championships;
- the highly successful and ever increasing range of open tournaments organised by the Club at the Centre;
- Gareth Herbert's debut for England in the European League and Bradley Evans' and Joanna Parker's selection for England Schools;
- Slough's victory last summer in the Leach Cup, the Club's appearance in the semi-final of the Ormesby Cup the same weekend and the continued success of local teams in national competitions this season;
- the Club's success in winning Woolwich Junior British League Boys' Division 2A and being runners-up in Girls' Division 1 and the Veterans' British League Division 4;
- the continued success of our teams in the Woolwich National Junior League where our teams are poised to win both the boys' and the girls' sections when these are completed in June;
- the success of Club members in national and open competitions, especially the national titles won by Gareth Herbert, Warren Brooks and Gemma Chapman together with the three medals won by Kai Milvek at the 1998 World Veterans' Championships;
- the success of the Club's teams and players in Slough League competitions, winning nearly everything entered;
- the continuing success of the Club's coaching activities;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- 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;
- the award to the Club of the Slough Borough Community Club of the Year.

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 eight 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, 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 ladies' toilets are supplemented by a disabled toilet and shower facility, while a link is established to the School's changing

rooms which have had their shower areas completely renovated. In the opinion of many visitors the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

Club member Terry Boxall installed hand dryers into the toilets during the year and also an extractor fan in the kitchen. The Centre is also now the home of the Southern Region Sports Psychology Unit and its library is housed in an impressive cabinet, tailor made for us by Club member Bob Plumridge. 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.

In order to maintain equipment standards at the highest level, ten new Donic Waldner Sinus tables plus their associated nets and posts were purchased in September from Jarvis Sports in a deal which represented great value for the Club. These tables are a great improvement on the Donic Perssons purchased for the opening of the Centre and have been kept for best in their first season being brought out principally for events within the ETTA ranking scheme. The 12 Persson tables have remained in use for all local events and general practice and coaching and have been supplemented by four very old Butterfly Nippons. With one other old table on site the total stock at the Centre stands at 27 and all can be accommodated within the existing storage area!

Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 1998 AGM met ten times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman & Coaching Officer	10	July 12 th	7
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	10	July 19 th	7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	10	August 17 th	7
Rhys Evans	Deputy Chairman	10	September 27 th	6
Mike Rhodes	Bookings Officer	10	November 1 st	6
Steve Joel	Public Relations Officer	3	December 8 th	6
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	10	January 24 th	6
Frank Earis	General Committee member	0	March 14 th	7
Linda Evans	General Committee member	2	April 25 th	7
			May 16 th	6



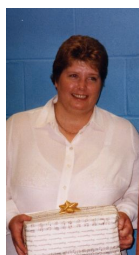
Frank Earis resigned from the Committee in November and Linda Evans was co-opted at the meeting on 24th January. One innovation that worked well this year was holding Management Committee meetings on Sunday evenings. Careful choice of dates resulted in good attendances with six of the seven officers ever present (at least for some part of every meeting) although Steve Joel failed to attend after August 17th and has been inactive in his role as Public Relations Officer. There were no officially appointed sub-committees during the year, although other meetings were held by the Coaching Group and the Calendar Working Group.

Thanks are due to all whom have contributed to the administration of the club, including all the team captains. A great boost was made to the efficiency of the Club's administration last summer when £700 was invested in a photocopying machine. The annual usage has been about 25,000 copies - how did we do all that in the past?

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his eighteenth year as Chairman and twenty-fourth as Fixtures Secretary, while Mike Rhodes has completed his ninth as Inter-League Secretary. Ken Phillips (Coaching Co-ordinator) and Armando Borges (Trophies Secretary) also served on the Committee.

Steve Joel, for the second year has been Chairman of the ETTA Membership Committee and is also Secretary to the Information Technology Working Party. Paul Baker is employed full time by the ETTA as Facilities Officer. For the Buckinghamshire County Association Ken Phillips has continued in his role of Coaching Officer and he was also responsible for a great deal of the success of the England v. Czech Republic European Men's League match at Maidenhead and the Southern Open Grand Prix tournament which followed it at Windsor just before Christmas.

As part of the training programme being undertaken by the Club Graham Trimming became the second Club member to qualify as a Tournament Referee.



In October the Club made its second Outstanding Contribution Award and the popular recipient was Pam Dickens in recognition of her contribution to the catering at weekend events. Pam is just one member of a family that contributes greatly to table tennis in the area. On the same occasion Graham Trimming, founder of the Club and Secretary ever since, was presented with a salver in commemoration of his 25 years of service. 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 second award in as many years made to the Club which is considered very highly in the local sporting world.



Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 196, up from 177 a year ago and 60 three years ago. Some of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless this represents a huge increase since the opening of the Centre and must make the Club one of the largest in the country. If all of the children attending coaching had joined the Club then membership would be well over 200.

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, elite players such as Gareth Herbert and Martin Rule who have been granted special rights to practice facilities and three others - Jane Dickens, Alan Farral and Sue Hayes who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions.

Over the past twelve months a total of 101 players have represented the club in match play, sixteen more than in the previous season and the first time that this figure has exceeded a century. A record forty-one teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, ten more than in the previous season. Eight of these were in British leagues and a further seven in the National Junior League, which is only in its second season. Twenty-five teams operated in the Slough League, nine in the senior divisions and sixteen in the Woolwich Junior League, while one team was also entered in the Maidenhead League. Disappointingly, these figures represented three fewer teams operating in the senior divisions of local leagues than in the previous season. 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 half a century has been the core competitive product offered by the sport.

Peter Hillier became the second player to celebrate his 700th appearance for the Club during the past year, while Armando Borges, Georgia Veneer and Jane Dickens all passed 200. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1231	Gareth Lovell	373	Steve Crow	268
Peter Hillier	704	George Appleby	372	Wendy Barlow	261
Frank Earis	669	Frank Cowley	362	Steve Joel	253
Ken Phillips	536	Rodney Potts	316	Armando Borges	218
Jackie Thomas	403	Alec Watson	301	Georgia Veneer	207
Mike Rhodes	381	Dave Pountney	276	Jane Dickens	205
Neil Bird	374	Jacque Lovell	272	Anna Watton	204

The busiest ten players at the Club during the season were all juniors, and the busiest of all were "Skip" Dickens and Tom Mitchell with 65 and 59 appearances respectively. It is amazing how many matches are played altogether when the local league, Woolwich Junior League, National Junior League and St. Ives competition are all taken into account!

One of the nicest developments at the Club over the past three 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, Hayes and Mitchell 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 of the Club remains to keep fees at their present levels, with minor downward alterations only, 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 £10,039 and the balance sheet reveals a net worth of £27,340. In addition the Centre made a surplus of £3,181 and the consolidated net worth is £30,540. The figures for the year 1998-9 include reversals of accruals for gas and rates made in the previous year which proved to be too high. Cash balances total £19,800, less than the net worth because of the further investment that has been made on capital equipment.

Members this season paid an annual fee of £10 plus Slough League fees of £10 and Maidenhead League fees of £15. Match fees and coaching fees remained £3 while practice fees were reduced to £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.

A new deal was negotiated with Jarvis Sports who are the official suppliers of kit and equipment to the Club. All purchases this year will produce a 5% sponsorship next year. Part of the current year income has been utilised to provide voucher prizes at the Junior and Cadet Open tournaments.

Public Relations



MP for Slough, Fiona Mactaggart, was a visitor to the Centre in July when she attended at the invitation of the Sports Council. Mrs. Mactaggart is also Heritage Secretary and the Sports Council was using her local table tennis centre as an example of best practice to promote the benefits of Lottery sports funding. Away from the Club's premises, we were represented at an open day (actually two days!) held at the newly built Slough Centre by Alan and Jean Farral.

The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well in the three local newspapers - Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. Most press reports from the Club have been written by Graham Trimming although Jacquie Lovell has submitted occasional reports on British League matches. The Club also featured on BBC Grandstand in May when the cameras came to film Matthew Seed. Of course, the venue looked resplendent even though Matt was supposed to be the star of the show!

Club Newsletters have been produced in folded A3 format by Graham Trimming every 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. From the middle of March the Club has had its own web site. This has been designed, written and is maintained up to date also by Graham, and surfers log onto the site at <http://freespace.virgin.net/graham.trimming>. A full range of information is available and the site will 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.

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 all 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.

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
	5.15 to 9.15 pm	One to one coaching
	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	4.30 to 8.45 pm	England squad training
Thursday	5.15 to 7.15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	5.15 to 9.15 pm	One to one coaching
	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice
Friday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Elite coaching group

The Wednesday evening England squad training commenced on 14th April and will continue until 30th June. In addition to the ten teams run in the senior divisions of the local league by Cippenham, the Andfoil team in Division 2 of the Slough League also played from the Centre as did the three John Crane teams for the final weeks of the season.

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 or for matches in the British League. 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.

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, Jan Chapman, Alan Farral and Karen Mitchell.

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 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 named are Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips.

The second 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. Also for the second year, a children's party was held just before Christmas and the most popular guest amongst the 30 or so children was none other than Santa himself! Yet another popular social occasion was the annual barbecue, this year celebrating the Club's 25th anniversary, on a Sunday in July and Club member Jackie Thomas held her 50th birthday party in the bar on a Wednesday evening in March.



A pay telephone is available for the benefit of members and visitors but the drinks vending machine was discarded after it was vandalised.

Thanks to the professional expertise of Sue Collier and Laura Barry two first aid training sessions, aimed at teaching the Club's duty officers, were held during the year.

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

The latter included the National Junior and Cadet Masters for the third time and a first appearance for the Premier Division of the Senior County Championships. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organisational work involved on these occasions and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips for his involvement in this. Another who gets totally involved is Jacquie Lovell who arranges for the catering and accommodation needs to be fully satisfied.

Apart from playing events, the Club also hosted an ETTA conference on 20th January "Opportunities in Table Tennis" when we were able to show off the Centre to some more of the ETTA's top brass. This conference was one of ten held throughout the country, one in each region, and a photograph of the Cippenham Centre was utilised on the front cover of the promotional brochure. Like at all events run at the Centre, visitors were full of praise for both the Club and the premises and it is becoming quite usual for grateful letters of thanks to be received from the organisations that are hosted here.

A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	National Junior and Cadet Masters (2 days) County Championships Senior Premier Division (2) Woolwich National Junior League (4) England Under-12 Training Squad (8) England Junior Training Squad (Wednesday evenings) Development conference
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Preliminary/Final Trials (2) Coaches Get-Together
Bucks County TTA:	Junior Closed Championships Men's Inter-League (2) Junior Inter-League Cadet Inter-League County matches (5 dates) Junior/Cadet Trials

Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town
	Junior/Cadet Inter-Town
Slough League:	Slough Closed Championships (2 days)
	Woolwich Junior League (6)
	National competitions session
	Hard Bat Tournament
	Inter-league matches
OLOP TTC:	British League Premier Division matches (3)
Barclays Bank TTC:	National Championships (2)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

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

Jun 98	Veterans' Summer 2 Star	Mar 99	Veterans' 2 Star
Oct 98	Senior 2 Star	Mar 99	Cadet 3 Star
Dec 98	Junior 3 Star	Apr 99	Senior 2 Star
Jan 99	Senior 2 Star	May 99	Under-12 2 Star
Jan 99	Under-9/10/11 1 Star		



The four junior age group events (cadet, junior, U12, U9/10/11) were all organised by Ken Phillips. The first two both attracted maximum entries of 108, the U12 103 and the U9/10/11 a massive 144 event entries from 81 players. The demand for our young age group tournaments has reached such a massive scale than a two-day festival with U8/9/10/11/13 events is planned for the summer. The two veterans' events were organised by Graham Trimming and attracted entries of about 60. The Senior opens (no age restriction) were organised by Steve Joel and included in the ETTA's Grand Prix initiative. They attracted poorer entries of about 50. The Club is indebted to Mick Strode who has acted as Referee for many of the events.

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.

The most amazing performance at these events has come from Michael Auchterlonie, a player from Twyford but not a Cippenham member, who nevertheless has won the Men's Singles at all four senior opens run over two years. It is quite common for Cippenham members to do well at their own tournaments and pride of place must go to Gemma Chapman who has won four of our events since April 1998 including this season's junior and cadet tournaments. It is in the younger age groups that Cippenham players really excel with David Hayes winning the U12 and being runner-up to his team mate Bradley Evans in the U11. Bradley was also runner-up the same day in the U10 while John Camilleri and Jane Dickens performed similarly at the Junior Open.

In the adult events we are better at being runners-up although Sue Collier did win the January Senior Open. Gemma Chapman was second best at the April Senior Open while Martin Adams had a similar fate at the October Senior Open as did Mike Rhodes in the Veterans' Summer event.



Members' Tournaments

The Club Championships and Handicap Tournament were rolled into one this season, played in January, and attracted a record entry of 54. Mike Rhodes and Gemma Chapman won the main events, Mike beating Tetsuo Kasahara deuce in the third of a titanic struggle in the Men's Singles final. The eighteen events produced sixteen different winners and an incredible 30 players went home with at least one trophy!

Team Competitions

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

British League Competitions

This was one area in which the club did not excel so much as in the previous season. Two additional teams were run: a second team in the British League and a second team also in the Women's British League. Although it had been the Club's wish to enter a second women's team, in the end we responded to a late vacancy and were put into a higher division than desired. It was no surprise then that this team finished fifth and is due to be relegated. More distressing was the relegation suffered by our first women's team. Having assembled a squad which was probably as strong as the eventual Premier Division champions our team was decimated by players being unavailable. For the first session Shelley Ruocco had a prior engagement at a wedding and for the second session Sue Collier was unfit and Kai Milvek was unable to rearrange work commitments and therefore did not travel from her home in Estonia.

The first team in the British League fared better, finishing fourth in Division 2 South and was contesting the championship until near the end. Martin Adams and Clive Payne were recruited to play alongside Kimber Choda and Martin Rule. Later Tetsuo Kasahara made an impact on the team and Steve Joel played a lot towards the end of the season. The second team, however, failed to field a team of the right standard and was bottom of Division 3 South and West. It has been decided not to enter a second team for next season.



Two of the junior teams kept the Club's name glowing. The boys' first team, after a wretched second weekend finished last in the Premier Division, albeit against some very strong sides, but the second team of Warren Brooks, Robert Hansell, Douglas Speed and Marc Gilston led the rest of the Division 2A field by five clear points. Nearly as successful was the girls' team of Gemma Chapman, Jane Dickens and



Emma Human who were runners-up in Division One and Jane, in particular, surpassed expectations.

Not to be completely outshone by the juniors, the old men (Mike Rhodes, Paul Baker and Graham Trimming) also picked themselves up to climb from fourth to second in the Veterans' Division 4 during the second weekend and in so doing were awarded "Team of the Weekend".



Other National Competitions

In the Ormesby Cup, the national club championship for which we qualify by winning the Slough League there are two different seasons to report upon. At the time of the AGM last season our team had reached the semi-final where they were drawn against a team from Huddersfield. Not for the first time our plans were scuppered by the ETTA who selected Gareth Herbert for the Polish Junior Open the same weekend. As it was our team still nearly won and only went down 5-4 in a match that, with Gareth, we would have won comfortably. In season 1998-9 the first group of four was successfully hurdled but then, again denied the services of Gareth Herbert who was not allowed to leave an England training camp, we went down at the second stage to many times champions Ifield.

The Woolwich National Junior League really took off in its second season, thanks to the efforts locally of Mike Atkinson and Ken Phillips. Cippenham entered four boys' teams and three girls'. Our Southern Region section, which included teams also from outside of the region, was played on four Saturdays at Cippenham and Chesham High School. Initially there were 23 boys' teams in two groups and a girls' group of 9. Each of the teams played each other and then each section was split into two for the final two sessions. The top boys' section and the girls' section were played at Cippenham and the final session has been postponed until 6th June because of an unfortunate clash of dates with the ETTA calendar. Cippenham looks poised, at present, to win both the boys' and the girls' sections, which would mean an invitation for these teams to take part in next season's Woolwich Junior British League. The Chesham sections have finished and our "F" team of David Chaytor, Harjote Grewal and Andrew Dickens was successful in winning Division 4.

Slough League

For a record sixth year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This fifteenth title, also a record, was won by the Pirates team of Martin Adams, Kimber Choda, Clive Payne, Steve Joel, Mike Levene, Chris Lusher and Kevin Rowe. Cippenham teams also filled the next two places in Division One, while another team was fifth. The highest placed of the other five teams in the three divisions was Rascals who were fifth in Division Three.

Slough Woolwich Junior League

The Club once again dominated the Woolwich Junior League, winning each division and being runners-up also in two of them. Congratulations to the winning teams in Division One (Waifs: Ross Drabble; Stuart Tweedy), Division Two (Imps: David Chaytor; Emily Tucker) and Division Three (Vagrants: Myles Evans; William Mitchell). One fact of special note is that the Division 3 averages were headed, with only one loss (counting in the official averages at least!), by Gavin Evans. Gavin was still only five years of age when he played his final match - quite incredible!

Maidenhead League

Only one team was entered this season, Spartans once again finishing third in the Premier Division.

Slough Summer League

Three teams were entered with Alpha runners-up in Division One and Gamma doing likewise in Division Three.

St. Ives Inter-Club Competition

Cippenham entered teams for the fourth time in the junior team competition at St. Ives and it was our most successful entry yet. Our U14 "A" team of Warren Brooks, John Camilleri and Gemma Chapman won the cadets' section while the "B" team were runners-up (the best two teams out of 32 from all over the country!). The U12 team of Thomas Mitchell, Paul Zeun and James Milton also won their event without dropping a single set all day. Only in the U17 section did we have to settle for second place, and it took an excellent team from Germany to beat us there. Top British club in each of the three age groups - our coaching staff can be very proud!

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 Club is the hub of one of ten *TOP Club* schemes being piloted in the country although this scheme is yet to really take off. Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken, most importantly at Bourne End Junior Sports Club and 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. A more recent link officially created is with Arbour Vale School in Slough, a school for pupils with special needs. This has yet to provide the Club with any players for its own sessions, and may be unlikely to do so, but it is a source of great inspiration for Ken Phillips, Malcolm Makarian and Jan Chapman who enjoy the challenge of teaching these youngsters.

There are currently five weekly coaching sessions for youngsters. On Tuesday and Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral and Jane Dickens respectively. 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 fifth coaching session was introduced just over a year 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 Friday sessions focus not only on playing skills but also on physical fitness and psychology and are run by Ken Phillips, Sue Hayes and Rhys Evans.

In addition, the one-to-one coaching has now been formalised since November and operates successfully on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Also, advantage is taken of the school holidays to organise whole day sessions for a small group of players. The Club owes a great debt to its coaches who have done more than anyone to put Cippenham TTC on the national map and are paving the way for even greater success in the future. Four of the Club's coaching staff obtained their Level 2 qualification during the season - Jane Dickens, Jacque Lovell, Malcolm Makarian and Claire Portsmouth.

Four Club members are currently included in the England U12 squad which is financed by the World Class Performance National Lottery grant. These are Bradley Evans, Thomas Mitchell, Joanna Parker and Hannah Stone. Previously David Hayes and Chris Wilson were also included until the numbers were cut down. Warren Brooks and Gemma Chapman are also included in the national structure of regional cadet squads.

At the Slough Closed Thomas Mitchell 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. As usual it is the Club's younger players who have achieved most success, but they have had to share the glory with the senior and veteran players on occasions.

The Club's best player is undoubtedly Gareth Herbert who has won many titles including the English National Men's Doubles title and has recently started winning Men's Singles titles at Grand Prix events. Also at the national championships Shelley Ruocco, who lives in Essex but represents Cippenham in the WBL, won the U21 Women's Singles. One of the very best performances came from Kai Milvek at the World Veterans' Championship held in Manchester in June. Kai, sporting her Cippenham kit, was a bronze medal winner in the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles and took gold from the World Team Championship for Over-40 women with her Estonian club side.



The year started well with three more national titles coming to the Club at the National U12 Championships last summer. Warren Brooks emulated Robert Wilson by winning the U12 Boys' Singles, this keeping the title at Cippenham, and for good measure also won the U12 Boys' Doubles. At the same tournament Gemma Chapman retained her U12 Girls' Doubles title and was runner-up in the singles. Apart from the aforementioned, Sue Collier, Joanna Parker and Bradley Evans have also tasted much success on the national open tournament circuit. In the Bucks Closed Championships, Mike Rhodes and Sue Hayes both won events and other players from the Club dominated the junior events. Even greater domination was evident at the Slough Closed Championships where most of the titles came to Cippenham including Tetsuo Kasahara and Gemma Chapman in the Men's and Women's Singles, while Thomas Mitchell dominated the junior events.

Representative Honours and Rankings

A large proportion of the Club's membership have found their way onto England ranking lists this season, and eight 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 Joola European Men's League this season, and is currently number five on the list. Gareth also played for England in the European Youth Championships last summer and won eleven of his thirteen singles matches. On the women's side, both Sue Collier and Shelley Ruocco have been ranked eight at some time during the season while Kai Milvek was one place higher in her native Estonia. Martin Rule peaked at number nine in the England junior boys' list, Warren Brooks at 7 in the cadet boys', Gemma Chapman at 5 in the cadet girls', Thomas Mitchell at 3 in the U12 boys' and Joanna Parker and Hannah Stone at 3 and 10 respectively in the U12 girls'. Stephen Beerling, John Camilleri, Robert Wilson, Joe Ferguson and Emma Human have all made it to the top twenty.

Another Cippenham youngster to make his debut for England Schools this season was Bradley Evans who played in the same Home Countries tournament for the national U11 team as Joanna Parker.

12 players who represent Cippenham in the Slough League have played for Buckinghamshire this season, while 35 have represented Slough. Martin Rule, Nicholas Wilson and Daniel Jacobs comprised the Slough junior boys' team that retained the national Carter Cup last summer. The cadet boys' team (Thomas Mitchell, Bradley Evans, David Hayes, James Milton) and cadet girls' (Francesca Parnell, Helen Smith, Hannah Stone) have both made it to the national semi-finals this season. In addition, the Slough men's and veterans' teams both won their sections of the Buckinghamshire Inter-League this season.

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 1999