

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1995-6

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the twenty-third season of Cippenham Table Tennis Club, and its twelfth since moving to the present multi-table headquarters at Haymill Centre in October 1984.

Season 1994-5 was a hard act to follow with unprecedented success for the club, but in many respects last season was even more successful. What a list of honours!

Teams representing the club have:

- ◆ retained the **championship** of the **Southern Region Ladies' League** giving the Club its third successive title and five in all in this prestigious league and making it easily the most successful club in the history of both Southern Region leagues - mens and ladies;
- ◆ retained the **championship** of the **Slough League** for a hattrick of wins and a total of twelve in the past nineteen years;
- ◆ retained the **championship** of the **Slough Woolwich Junior League**;
- ◆ retained the **championship** of the **Slough Summer League**;
- ◆ only narrowly failed to win the **championship** of the **Southern Region League** finishing second;
- ◆ come second in the under-12 competition at the **St. Ives Inter-Club Team Tournament** and fourth in the under-14;
- ◆ regained a position in national league competition with the entry of a boys team in the **Woolwich Junior British League**.

Players representing the club have enjoyed further individual successes and honours:

- ◆ **Gareth Herbert**, at the age of just 15, has become the **English Junior Closed under-17 Boys Singles** and **Mixed Doubles** champion;
- ◆ and represented **England** at junior level and cadet level in the **European Youth Championships**;
- ◆ **Gareth Herbert, Jesper Hougaard, Martin Rule, Nick Wilson, Robert Wilson, Johnny Davidson** and **Georgia Veneer** have all been ranked nationally in the top 14 players in their age group;
- ◆ Altogether, 25 have appeared in **England** ranking lists;
- ◆ 11 have represented **Buckinghamshire**;
- ◆ 19 have represented **Slough**;
- ◆ club members have **won every title** except divisionals (for the second year running) at the **Slough Closed Championships**;
- ◆ and the **Slough Masters** title;
- ◆ and six events at the **Bucks Closed Championships**;
- ◆ and other **veteran** and **junior** national open tournament titles;
- ◆ and two titles at the **Slough Hard Bat Tournament**.

In the world of administration:

- ◆ **Peter Hillier** was honoured as a **Vice-President** of the **ETTA** last July;
- ◆ **Graham Trimming** was presented with an engraved plate at the last **Slough League AGM** to commemorate **20 years** as **Fixtures Secretary** and is be honoured with a **Vice-Presidents** position at the **Buckinghamshire County AGM** next week.

If this was not enough, construction is progressing on the new purpose designed £490,000 Cippenham Table Tennis Centre, opening in September of this year.

Wow!

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past twelve months a total of sixty-five players have represented the club in match play, and fifty-seven have held full membership of the club during the winter season. The latter figure is four up on the previous season. With other players attending club practise and coaching sessions, there are now over eighty players associated with the club in one way or another. Cippenham Table Tennis Club remains one of the largest and most successful sporting organizations in Slough.

Twenty-two teams were run in various leagues during the past season, the same number as in the previous season. Eighteen teams operated in the Slough League, ten in the senior divisions and eight in the Woolwich Junior League, while the usual two mens and one ladies teams were entered into leagues run by the ETTA Southern Region. For what is hoped will be an isolated season no team was operated in the Maidenhead league but the club reentered national league competition by way of a boys team in the Woolwich Junior British League. This was the first time that the club had entered any of the British leagues since withdrawal from the main British League in 1985.

Jacquie Lovell and Anna Watton both passed 200 appearances for the club during the year. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1121	Rodney Potts	316
Peter Hillier	676	Alec Watson	301
Frank Earis	640	Dave Pountney	276
Ken Phillips	518	Steve Crow	268
Jackie Thomas	374	Mike Rhodes	253
Neil Bird	358	Jacquie Lovell	219
Frank Cowley	353	Anna Watton	204
George Appleby	335	Steve Dorrell	200
Gareth Lovell	322		

ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting last May, met twelve times, many more than in any previous season, due to the amount of work undertaken in focusing upon the issues and reconstitution necessary prior to the move to our own premises. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Alec Watson	Chairman	9	May 31st	7
Graham Trimming	Secretary	12	July 12th	8
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	11	August 22nd	7
Ken Phillips	Deputy Chairman	12	September 12th	7
Mike Rhodes	Venue Liaison Administrator	12	October 23rd	6
Neil Bird	Press Secretary	7	December 4th	5
Richard Ford	Coaching Administrator	0	January 15th	4
Steve Joel	Committee member	7	March 4th	7
Gareth Lovell	Committee member	7	March 20th	6
Frank Earis	Committee member	1	April 10th	7
			April 29th	7
			May 23rd	7

Frank Earis resigned from the club and all his positions on 7th September. Richard Ford did not take up his elected position and on 23rd October was deemed to have resigned from the Committee and Steve Joel was elected to serve as Coaching Administrator in his stead.

Sub Committees took on the following aspects of the club's administration:

Invitation Tournament:	Neil Bird, Mike Rhodes, Graham Trimming;
SRL Selection:	Mike Rhodes, Gareth Lovell, Jacquie Lovell;
Sponsorship:	Steve Joel, Gareth Lovell, Frank Earis (resigned 7th September).

Steve Joel was appointed 100 Club Coordinator, Ken Phillips took on the role of Top Club Coordinator, Neil Bird acted as Entries Secretary for all three club tournaments and Jacquie Lovell was nominated as Refreshments Organiser.

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 fifteenth year as Chairman and twenty-first as Fixtures Secretary, while Mike Rhodes has completed his seventh season on the committee and his sixth as Inter-League Secretary. Gareth Lovell reappeared on the Committee back in his old job of Press Secretary.

Peter Hillier has now completed more than nine years as Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, and was rewarded for his outstanding contribution by way of being made a Vice-President at the Annual General Meeting last June. For the Buckinghamshire County Association Ken Phillips has continued his role as Treasurer, and taken back a previous role of Coaching Officer.

Samantha Marling took over Steve Joel's role as ETTA Southern Region Development Officer in September. This is a full time salaried appointment but one which is now vacant as Samantha procured an alternative position with the Squash Rackets Association in March. Steve has now been with the National Coaching Foundation for a year. With Paul Baker the ETTA Facilities Officer we currently have three members employed full time in sports development. When you also consider that Ken Phillips is virtually full time in table tennis coaching, and add Peter Hillier's success as ETTA Treasurer it could be claimed that we must have one of the most qualified member bases in sports administration in any sport in any area. We will need them all and more at the new Centre.

Some coverage of the club's activities has been enjoyed in the local press, with the Slough Express, Slough Observer, Maidenhead Advertiser and their sister newspapers reporting major events including matches in the Southern Region leagues. Success of club members in local and national competitions has also been reported. In addition there were radio and television broadcasts when the National Lottery announced their support for the new Centre. The Westgate School has also obtained coverage on the project in the local newspapers as the publicity machine rolls into action.

A further two newsletters were produced this season, mainly through the efforts and imagination of Steve Joel who is to be congratulated on an exciting presentation. These were mainly a publicity vehicle for the new Centre and the second of these was timed for distribution at the Slough Closed Championships in order to gain a wider readership.

On the subject of publicity, as a result of his being England junior champion, Gareth Herbert appeared live on BBC TV's Blue Peter and his photograph also appeared on the front cover of the December/January issue of "Table Tennis News".

VENUE AND EQUIPMENT

The existing equipment at the club is looking very old and tired and most is planned to be replaced, funds permitting, in September when the new Centre is opened. For match and tournament play four Butterfly Nippon Rollaway tables are used, each court individually enclosed and lit by four 500W tungsten halogen lamps permanently attached to the ceiling at a height of eighteen feet. For practice and coaching five or six tables are erected.

The club had regular bookings each Thursday during the year for practise and some matches, and Sundays for coaching. Monday evenings were sublet to Slough and Maidenhead Advanced Coaching Centre (SMACC) and Wednesday evenings were booked direct by Slough Council for *Champion Coaching*. During the winter season there was also a block booking on Tuesday evenings for local league matches. Regional league matches were played on five Sunday afternoons, while ten other weekend sessions played host to the Slough League's Woolwich Junior League and Woolwich Junior Schools League as well as the club's three tournaments and three ETTA coach education courses.

BUILDING PROJECT

It took over four years of incredibly hard work by a team of dedicated members but their efforts were rewarded over the Easter holidays when work finally commenced on the construction of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in the grounds of The Westgate School in Cippenham Lane. Congratulations to the Building Committee who are Alec Watson (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary), Steve Joel, Frank Earis and Steve Crow. I hope the others will not mind if I mention that it has really been Graham and Steve Joel who have driven the project forward in recent months along with Paul Baker, as ETTA Facilities Officer. Graham, Paul, Wendy Armstrong (Head, Westgate School) and Derek Hampshire (Archadia Chartered Architects) have formed a committee which meets regularly at the site on Friday afternoons to monitor progress and take any decisions which have become necessary.

This time last year we had cash funding of £220,000 available. Now that figure has reached £480,000 due to a successful bid to the National Lottery Sports Fund which contributed £255,634 and through the endeavours of Derek Hampshire a matched grant from the Funding Agency for Schools of £105,000. The original Sports Council grant of £130,000 was superseded by the National Lottery funding, but the Sports Council have again come up trumps with a £30,000 grant to meet a shortfall that arose.

The final funding arrangements are:

Cash:	National Lottery Sports Fund	£255,634
	Funding Agency for Schools	£105,000
	Foundation for Sport and the Arts	£70,000
	Sports Council Southern Region	£30,000
	The Westgate School	£20,000

		£480,634
Benefits in kind:	Slough Borough Council	£8,200

		£488,834

This is the largest amount of money yet raised under Focus Sport for the building of a table tennis centre anywhere in the country.

It has not been easy, and even as late as Christmas there was still considerable doubt about what would eventually be built. In August planning permission was granted for a building which would include a main hall measuring 22m by 22m and an ancillaries area including a bar measuring 8m by 4m. After the tenders were returned in late August it became immediately apparent that we could not afford even this. The Sports Council intervened with the suggestion that we make a bid to the Lottery in the full knowledge, however, that Lottery funding could not rank alongside Sports Council funding, and therefore the latter's £130,000 contribution would be lost. Then Derek Hampshire suggested that a bid to the Funding Agency for Schools could be made on the back of existing partnership funding by the Sports Council and Foundation for Sport and the Arts. When both bore fruit in December we had more money than we knew how to spend! A quick reversion to Slough Council who allowed a planning amendment to go through unchallenged allowed a vital additional 3m to be added to the length of the Main Hall and the bar to be doubled in size to 11.5m by 6m.

Even so, the cost v. funding equation problems did not finish there. The school wanted to upgrade the existing changing rooms at a cost of £12,000 and the Funding Agency for Schools insisted that £29,000 of their grant should be used for the creation of better access to the school site. Back again to find cost cuttings. Eventually the equation was reconciled in February, the contractor geared up, the health and safety plan agreed (eventually, leading to another two weeks delay), and, hey presto, the first sod was dug in late March.

Another about turn has been the decision that the building will remain the property of the school and all of the grants have now been transferred to the school's name. This was to obviate difficulties that would have been presented by the existence of funding which is essentially for school purposes, namely from the Funding Agency for Schools. Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited, the company limited by guarantee and registered by the Club's committee members in February 1995, will have the benefit of a

sixty year lease and will paradoxically transfer back control to the school's governing body during school hours. A management agreement between the school, CTTC Ltd and the Sports Council was signed in January. This lasts for a period of twenty-one years during which time we are obliged to make periodic reports and present development plans to the Sports Council.

The final specification of the building is as follows. The Main Hall will measure 25m by 22m internally and will feature a Tarkett polyurethane area elastic floor on a sprung wooden batten substructure and high frequency fluorescent lighting which can be switched in different configurations all of which has been checked for lux level on the Phillips computer. A range of different table plans will be operated. League matches will take place in eight courts measuring 11m by 5.5m, and for tournaments up to nine tables can be configured in Grade 3 (10m by 5m) conditions. Twelve tables will be available for the Woolwich Junior League and fifteen for coaching.

The amenities area will feature a reception area with an office which will double as a tournament control point, a lounge bar with server, mens and ladies toilets and a disabled shower and toilet facility. This will be linked to the school's existing and upgraded changing and shower rooms.

The building will be mainly brick built on a steel superstructure with block interior. At the time of writing, in late May, the foundations are complete and the amenities area in places has reached eye level.

We have been waiting a long time but the wait will have been very worth while. We shall a facility which is the envy of England and will be used for national, regional and county as well as local events.

FINANCE

The Treasurer has presented financial statements which show a cash deficit on the year of £11 but an adjusted deficit, after allowing for accrued expenses, of £305. This is the third season in succession that the Club has made a small loss after always producing a healthy surplus hitherto. With the building project underway conscious decisions have been made in the past three years to subsidise the seasons from previous surpluses and not attempt to recover all of the hefty room hire charges passed on by the Haymill landlords. It is due to the negotiating powers of members of the Committee and great attention to financial detail that the deficits have not been much greater.

Members this season paid an annual fee of £25 plus match fees of £3. Practice fees were £3 for members and £3.50 for non-members. All fees are halved for juniors and OAPs. Coaching fees were £1.50.

A successful *100 Club* was run this year which yielded £210 profit to the Club.

DEVELOPMENT

The Management Committee recognises that the move to our own Centre is going to require a very different approach to the management of the Club. Instead of being tenants we effectively become landlords of a facility which will cost thousands of pounds a year to run. A five year financial plan, drawn up by Graham Trimming, has estimated that the fixed and semi-variable costs associated with running the Centre will be £12,500 in the first year, of which half will have to be found by the Club. In other words the present turnover of the Club will only just cover even these costs, on top of which needs to be added variable costs such as heating and lighting plus table tennis administration and sundry expenses. At the level of activity assumed (868 hours p.a. in year 1) in this five year plan the building costs borne by the Club amount to £9,200 and total costs £11,750.

A development plan for next season and beyond is currently evolving. Three major issues has so far been tackled - membership, events programme and management. A new membership structure is being proposed that makes Full Membership of the Club more financially accessible. A Privilege Membership scheme which will act as a reward for those participating in the management of the Club and the new Centre is also being considered.

The events programme is broken down into two discreet areas - weekday and weekend. The weekday schedule will probably include extensive coaching between the hours of 4 pm and 7 pm, with league matches two evenings each week, practice one evening, coaching one evening, with fifth evening being utilised for a members' competition, probably on the lines of a grand prix event where the object is to build up a points tally over a twelve week period.

We are currently marketing weekends to potential users - Slough League, Bucks County Association, ETTA Southern Region and the ETTA national body. The aim is to attract a large number of match, tournament, player development and coach education events. The Club is also aiming to organise its own members' tournaments, as before, and has also been granted permission by the ETTA Tournaments Committee for three open tournaments - cadet, junior and veteran.

Significant progress is also being made on restructuring the management of the Club with the creation of a new organization chart with the focus being on organising the various elements of the Club's activities through teams of people reporting up to the Management Committee through their respective heads of department. Many more people are going to be required to become involved in these activities, which if managed well will deliver the Club's programme of events in an efficient and effective manner.

TEAM COMPETITIONS

Woolwich Junior British League

After a gap of ten years since the Club left the mens' British League at the conclusion of the 1984-5 season, Cippenham were once again represented in national league competition by our junior boys team which responded to a late invitation to participate in Division Three of the Woolwich Junior British League.

Ours was a very young team to be playing at this level in under-17 competition. Martin Rule and Nick Wilson are both under-13s while Jesper Hougaard is a year younger still. At the first weekend, in Milton Keynes in November, the team really excelled. After losing the first match to the eventual champions they remained undefeated throughout the remaining six matches, winning three and being involved in three other very exciting drawn matches. All three players performed well, especially Martin Rule, and Nick Wilson was awarded the Player of the Weekend for his division largely because of his tenacity in turning likely defeats into victories.

At the second weekend, in Durham in March, the team fared less well but retained the fifth position they had hoped to improve upon. On this occasion Jesper Hougaard, promoted by now to number two in the order, performed best and travelling reserve Stephen Rule was rewarded with two appearances.

Ormesby Cup

As champions of the Slough League in 1995, the club was invited to compete in the national club championship for the Ormesby Cup. After a first round bye, we came up against a very strong Kingfisher team, all ranked in the top 60 in England, and not surprisingly lost 5-0.

Southern Region Leagues

After two defeats by the Isle of Wight and one by a strengthened KCD team in the final and rearranged match, the mens team had to concede defeat in their bid to retain the Southern Region League championship. However, pride of place in the league's averages went to Steve Joel and Mike Rhodes who finished first and second respectively.

In the nine seasons of the League Cippenham have won the title five times, a feat now equalled by the ladies team who remained unbeaten throughout to win the league in convincing style by ten clear points. Congratulations to Jacquie Lovell and Wendy Barlow who were the mainstays of the successful side and both completed the season unbeaten.

Slough League

It might have been a new team, built around captain Steve Joel, but the winners name of the Jackaman Cup for the Slough League championship is the same as in 1995 - Cippenham Pirates. The manner was also similar as the team remained unbeaten for the second successive year and hearty congratulations are due to Steve, Paul Baker, Chris Lusher and Owen Brazell. This was the club's twelfth title in its twenty-three year history, an average of better than every other year, and a similar result next year will emulate Slough Centre's record haul of thirteen titles, starting in 1939.

The club was able to field five teams in the top division this season although Buccaneers will make the drop back down into Division Two. Outlaws once again finished third, Vagabonds were fifth and Rogues seventh.

In Division Two Villains and Rascals were seventh and eighth respectively, the latter dropping into the relegation zone for a swift return to Division Three where they were so successful the previous season. Our only team in Division Three, Bandits, finished sixth while Rebels and Vandals were fourth and seventh in Division Four.

For the second season Gareth Herbert remained unbeaten in Rogues' matches in Division One but played in too few matches to qualify for the official averages. These were headed by Steve Joel and Mike Rhodes, with Paul Baker fourth, Stan Mathurin ninth, Ken Phillips tenth, Graham Trimming eleventh and Samantha Marling twelfth. In Division Three new member Clive Perry topped the averages with his former Andfoil teammate Jeremy Bateman third while one division lower Aaron Brown and Ashley Cox, in his first senior season, were sixth and seventh.

Rascals became the only Cippenham team to survive the third round of the handicapped Dilger Cup and they then reached the semi-final.

Slough Woolwich Junior League

Of the eight teams fielded in the Slough Woolwich Junior League, six operated in the top division and Waifs (Jesper Hougaard and Robert Wilson) duly retained the championship for the Club. The league programme was marred by the absence of some players on occasions, notably during the Woolwich Junior British League weekends when the top players were elsewhere, and no reserves were available to take their places. Regrettably there were other occasions when players merely failed to show, a situation which can not be tolerated.

Both Jesper Hougaard and Martin Rule remained undefeated although the latter did not play in enough matches to qualify for the averages. Second in the official list was Nick Wilson, followed by his brother Robert, Martin Bell, Stephen Rule and Barnabas Tandy. Russell Coombes was third in Division Three.

Summer League

Five teams were entered into the 1995 Slough Summer League and congratulations go to Steve Joel and Graham Trimming who, as Cippenham Alpha, retained the title for the Club. Beta were runners-up in Division Two and the successful players here were Wendy Barlow, Filippo Rotunno and Jacque Lovell.

Other events

For the first time Cippenham entered teams in the St. Ives Inter-Club Team Events. This was really a SMACC initiative but the teams had to be entered as Cippenham to overcome the fact that SMACC is not an affiliated organization to the ETTA. The best performance came from the under-12 team of Robert Hansell, Jesper Hougaard and Johnny Davidson who finished second out of sixteen against teams from all other parts of the country. The cadet team finished a creditable fourth out of 32, while the junior team were 14th out of 24. Robert Hansell won the player award for teams finishing 1st to 4th in the Under-12 event, while Daniel Jacobs was similarly rewarded in the Under-17 competition for places 13 to 16.

At the Peniel Junior Select Tournament a team representing Cippenham was engaged in a quarter-final match against the Danish national team. This is the first time that we have played against a national team, but not of course against international opposition.

TOURNAMENTS

Club Championship

A disappointing entry of only nineteen members contested the annual club championships held in mid April. Neil Bird acted as Entries Secretary and Graham Trimming programmed the event onto the computer. Play started at 10.00 in the morning and, due to withdrawals from some of the events by a few of the junior players, the tournament was concluded early at 5.15 p.m.

Gareth Herbert retained his Mens Singles, Junior Singles (formally Boys Singles) and Championship Doubles titles, the latter once again with Steve Joel. Jacquie Lovell was successful this year in the Ladies Singles and Tweenie Singles (for those between junior and veterans age groups!), while Mike Rhodes won the Veterans Singles again and Jesper Hougaard triumphed in the Cadet and Under-12 events. Martin Bell retained his Junior Doubles title, this time with Stephen Rule, and Ayman Saleh won the new Restricted Singles event for non juniors below Slough Division One.

Handicap Tournament

This event, in January, attracted 25 entries although one unfortunately was not well enough to attend. Four tables were kept busy for nine hours from 10.00 a.m. and all but two of the events were run in groups. An innovation this year was the inclusion of parents' events, singles and doubles. These were well received and contested by players of vastly differing standards.

Mike Rhodes and Stephen Rule won the two main singles events, while others to pick up winners' trophies included Jeremy Bateman, Martin Rule, Jesper Hougaard, Ken Phillips, Richard Davidson, Chris Dickens and John and Sue Rule. A very even share out!

Invitation Tournament

The ninth Cippenham Invitation Tournament was played in September with eight teams playing in two groups of four, then crossover semi-finals and finals, ensuring each of the competing teams had five matches.

All matches were played with the experimental scoring of thirteen-up but this time Cippenham "A" could not quite secure the honours in their home tournament, losing out to Den by a deciding doubles in the final match. Although the standard was perhaps not quite as high as some seasons the tournament continues to be a success and this season included the young players from SMACC.

COACHING

This year the Club's coaching scheme has been run mainly by Steve Joel as Ken Phillips has found himself increasingly involved in travelling the junior tournament circuit. Coaching activities have not been entirely trouble-free this year as all the established juniors have been engaged in tournaments most weekends and a completely new group of children has been introduced into the scheme from *Table Toppers* and *Champion Coaching*.

The previous set up of two Sunday sessions, one for beginners from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. followed by a progressors group from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. was persevered with until the end of the room hire agreement with Haymill at the end of March. Coaching has now been restructured with just one session per week on Sundays between 10.30 and 12.30 and is now breaking even after making large losses all year.

There have also been other coaching activities at the Club with Ken Phillips' Slough and Maidenhead Advanced Coaching Centre (SMACC) running every Monday evening during term time and Slough Council's *Champion Coaching* operating in the Autumn and Spring for 20 Wednesday evenings. Stan Mathurin and Peter Avenell have been especially helpful to Ken in these two initiatives.

Ken Phillips, who is a Level 4 (Senior) coach, has this season been involved with the England under-13 squad and this represents a great tribute to his talents as a coach. Steve Joel is Level 2 qualified and other club members passed their Coaching Award course during the season: Katie Dickens, Ken Human, Jacquie Lovell, Stan Mathurin and Clive Perry.

Six members have been invited to England training camps this season: Gareth Herbert, Johnny Davidson, Jesper Hougaard, Martin Rule, Nick Wilson and Robert Wilson.

The Leo Thompson Trophy, awarded by the Slough League to the most improved junior, went this season to Jesper Hougaard.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

For the fourth year the club took part in the Slough Show, organised by Slough Borough Council, outdoors in Upton Court Park in June. The weather was kinder this year and many of Slough's youngsters accepted the opportunity to try table tennis, especially with the help of the popular ball feeding machine.

TOURNAMENT SUCCESSES FOR INDIVIDUALS

This has been another memorable year for individual successes for the club's players, far too many to list here but a full (?) list can be found in the appendix.

On the national scene pride of place goes to our junior players, the successes led by Gareth Herbert, but he is now having to share some of the glory with his younger club mates. At the English Junior Closed Gareth became the national boys under-17 champion, two years ahead of his time. This completes a wonderful hat-trick for Gareth who last year won the cadet (under-14) title, and two years previously had won the under-12 event. Gareth, this season, also won the Junior Mixed Doubles and was runner-up in the English Junior Masters.

The younger members, Martin Rule, Jesper Hougaard, Nick Wilson and Jane Dickens have also been busy making their mark on the national tournament scene, winning titles at some events while Martin and Nick qualified for the English Cadet Masters and finished sixth and tenth respectively - a great performance! At the other end of the age scale Georgia Veneer (who also ran the London Marathon at the age of 74 - a remarkable lady!) proved herself in over-70s VETTS events, winning the singles title at Hinckley.

Club members won six events at the Bucks Closed championships and once again it was the juniors that led the way. Jane Dickens had a marvellous tournament winning her four junior events, including doubles with her sister Katie and Jesper Hougaard. Jacquie Lovell took the Ladies Singles title to keep it at the club while Stan Mathurin was successful in the Restricted Singles.

Once again we were highly successful at the Slough Closed winning every event apart from three of the divisional singles. Gareth Herbert won the Mens Singles, Mixed Doubles (with Wendy Barlow) and Boys Singles, while Jacquie Lovell did the double in Ladies events. The Mens Doubles was won by Steve Joel and Paul Baker, while Mike Rhodes succeeded in the Veteran Singles and Martin Rule, Jesper Hougaard and Jane Dickens mopped up the remainder of the junior events.

Paul Baker capped a fine first season in Cippenham's colours by taking the £120 first prize at the Slough Masters in April. He had to battle from behind in all three of his matches and certainly earned the cash.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

25 Cippenham players have appeared in England national ranking lists this season and a further two have appeared only in VETTS age group lists. Seven of these have been in the top 14 in their respective lists making Cippenham surely one of the best represented clubs in the country. One number one position has been secured, that being Georgia Veneer in the VETTS Ladies Over-70s. Gareth Herbert reached number two in the England Boys list, Jesper Hougaard number three in the Under-12 Boys, Martin Rule 5th in the Cadet Boys while Nick Wilson, Robert Wilson and Johnny Davidson are just outside the top ten in their respective age groups.

Gareth Herbert began the year, last summer, by representing England Cadets in the European Youth Championships at The Hague and has since played for his country at junior level in other events.

Eleven players have been honoured with Buckinghamshire representation this season. Jacquie Lovell, Anna Watton, Danny Baxter and Mike Rhodes all played for the two senior teams, Mike Rhodes and Graham Trimming appeared for the veterans teams, while Martin Rule, Jane Dickens, Jesper Hougaard, Katie Dickens, Nick Wilson and Stephen Rule turned out for the juniors.

Cippenham players have once again figured prominently in Slough teams with nineteen getting the call up. Pride of place goes of course to the juniors, especially the cadet boys team of Martin Rule, Jesper Hougaard and Nick Wilson which has reached the final of the national Leach Cup competition. We wish them well at Grantham in their match against Bristol on 16th June. In Bucks inter-league competition Slough juniors carried all before them winning both the juniors and cadets events. Congratulations to Martin Rule, Stephen Rule, Jesper Hougaard, Robert Wilson, Martin Bell and Jane Dickens.

Robert and Nick Wilson both qualified for the award of their Slough League badges this season.

Congratulation to all the teams and players who have made 1995-6 such a very successful season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

Graham Trimming
May 1996