

## CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

### ANNUAL REPORT 1990-91

#### INTRODUCTION

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

The highlights of the year were the double of mens and ladies championships in the Southern Region League, and a re-establishment of the club at the top of the Slough League.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Over the past twelve months a total of sixty-four players have represented the club in match play, and all but four of these currently hold full membership. Both of these statistics are new records for the club. With non-members regularly attending club practice and coaching sessions, there are now over seventy players associated with the club in one way or another. Cippenham Table Tennis Club is truly one of the largest and most successful sporting organizations in Slough.

Twenty-two teams were run in various leagues during the past season - two more than in the previous season and another record number. Fifteen teams operated in the Slough League, ten in the senior divisions and five in the Youth, while four more played in the Maidenhead League. This represented a new team in Division Four of the Maidenhead League and an extra side in the Slough League Youth Division.

Three teams were once again entered into the Southern Region League, one in each of its three divisions.

During the past year Frank Earis celebrated his 500th appearance for the club, Jackie Thomas, Rodney Potts and Frank Cowley all made 300, while Neil Bird raised his total above 200. The all time leading appearance list now reads: Graham Trimming 877, Peter Hillier 591, Frank Earis 517, Ken Phillips 362, Jackie Thomas 312, Rodney Potts 308, Frank Cowley 303, Alec Watson 260, Dave Pountney 257, Gareth Lovell 218, and Neil Bird 217. The busiest players over the past year were George Appleby and Graham Trimming with 55 and 46 appearances respectively.

#### ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting last May, met six times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance at meeting	
Alec Watson	Chairman	4		
Graham Trimming	Secretary	6	27th July	6
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	4	22nd August	9
Ken Phillips	Deputy Chairman /	6	26th September	7
	Coaching Administrator		28th November	4
Jackie Thomas	Venue Liaison Administrator	4	6th March	7
Neil Bird	Press Secretary	6	8th May	6
Frank Earis	Committee member	4		
Steve Joel	- do -	3		
Phil Woodhouse	- do -	2		

Phil Woodhouse was co-opted onto the Committee with effect from 22nd August.

Thanks are due to the above and also the teams captains who have organised their sides in an efficient and responsible manner.

A selection committee for the Southern Region League teams consisted of the three team captains - Jacquie Lovell, Graham Trimming and Alec Watson.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a large Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his tenth year as Chairman and sixteenth as Fixtures Secretary, while Peter Hillier concluded his current spell as Treasurer after ten years. Gareth Lovell now has six years as Press Secretary and Closed Championships Secretary, while his wife Jacquie completed her third year in this spell, this season as Minutes Secretary and Slough Closed Organizer. Mike Rhodes, in his second year on the committee, took on the roles of Inter-League Secretary and Hard Bat Tournament Secretary.

Peter Hillier has now completed more than four years as Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, a very busy office, and has been returned unopposed for a fifth term. As a reward for his endeavours he has been awarded the Malcolm Scott Trophy for the second time in three years, as well as being elected a Vice-President of the ETTA last July. Graham Trimming has for the third season been the main organizer of the Southern Region leagues in his position as Match Secretary. For the County, Ken Phillips has continued his roles for the Buckinghamshire Association as Coaching Secretary, Treasurer, member of the Selection Committee and representative on the Southern Region Coordinating Committee. As well as being a Vice-President, Alec Watson has also served as a member of the Buckinghamshire Selection Committee.

Ken Phillips' activities in the sphere of coaching extend beyond Cippenham, as he plays a major role at the Maidenhead Association's weekly class, plus more recently has been involved in a new venture at Knowl Hill. Last summer he was also involved in the week long Bucks School of Sport.

Frank Earis has once again represented the club on the Haymill Centre Management Committee, elected to serve all users, and enables a dialogue to be maintained with the "landlord".

Much 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 all major events including matches in the Southern Region leagues. In addition, of course, the club's exploits in the local leagues attracted extensive coverage, as did the success of our players in local tournaments.

## VENUE AND EQUIPMENT

The £5500 investment made over the period between the end of 1984 and early 1986 continues to meet our requirements, except that four replacement net and posts sets, and two further scoring machines were purchased during the year. Thus there are now four TSP scoring machines available; one for each match table. The club justifiably boasts having the finest playing conditions, an opinion shared by many visitors including those in the Southern Region leagues. 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.

To provide much needed ball feeding capacity during coaching sessions, the club invested over £300 in a Butterfly robot machine. The club has applied for a grant towards its cost to the Slough Sports Council, and, through the Slough League, to the ETTA Development Fund. The club is assured of receiving at least £150 towards its cost, as the Slough League has agreed to contribute this amount less any funds received from elsewhere.

The Haymill gymnasium has been used each Thursday throughout the year, and Tuesdays during the winter and summer league seasons. Eight Slough League teams have utilised Tuesday, with the remaining three Slough League teams and the four Maidenhead League sides playing on Thursdays. On all occasions space has been allocated for at least one practice table on Thursday evenings throughout the winter. Two hours each Sunday afternoon have been reserved for coaching, and occasional use has been made of Sunday evenings for matches in the Southern Region leagues, with the club's three tournaments being played on Saturdays.

The Slough League has made use of Haymill on seven Saturday afternoons for its Youth Division, and on another occasion for its Hard Bat Tournament. Considerable use has also been made for inter-league matches, providing income to the club. In addition, nearly all of Bucks' home matches in the County Championships have been staged at Haymill, often two at a time on Saturday afternoons and evenings.

The club still has a few shirts with the name of the club printed on the back. These are available for purchase by members.

## FINANCE

The Treasurer has reported another financially successful year, with a cash surplus of £630, a seasonally adjusted surplus of £769, and cash balances of £3006. The surpluses are, for the first time, more than the amount of £544 deemed necessary to cover depreciation of the club's equipment, thus generating a reserve for its eventual replacement. The adjusted surplus includes the non-recurring income of £185 prize money from the Southern Region leagues.

£50 sponsorship receipts were received from Slough Social Fund during the year.

Last summer the club was advised of new charges for the use of the Haymill gymnasium which raised the cost of a match evening from £22.50 to an average of £29, an increase of 29%. As a result all the clubs fees were increased by about 25%. The club has recently heard that Haymill now wish to further increase the cost to £40 per evening. This would represent another 38% increase, making a total of 78% in a year. The club's management will be trying to negotiate a lower figure, but further fee increases appear unavoidable. Plans for an expansion of the club had to be shelved last year because there was no additional capacity available at Haymill, now they will be delayed because of the financial implications of hiring more space while increasing members' use by a smaller amount. The financial surplus that the club has generated by utilising the venue to its maximum capacity over the last few years will now be utilised in keeping fee increases to a more modest level.

Members this season paid an annual fee of £13 plus match fees of £2.50. Practice fees were £2 for non-members and £1.50 for members. All fees are halved for juniors and OAPs.

### TEAM COMPETITIONS

#### **Southern Region leagues**

For the first time the same club has won the mens and ladies sections of the Southern Region League - a wonderful achievement. In its four year history the club has now won the mens league three times (1988, 1990, 1991) and the ladies title twice (1989, 1991). Cippenham can justifiably claim to be the fourth strongest club in the entire region, after British League clubs Amity Generation II, Kingfisher and AHW.

In a very open title race our Mens "A" team eventually won the honours by one point over Pyestock, a team they defeated twice. However we did taste defeat three times in the ten matches, away to Kingfisher and Generation, and home in the very last match of the season to Burnham. The fact that Alec Watson was injured and did not play in two of these matches may have been a contributory factor. Congratulations to Alec, Frank Earis and Graham Dixon, plus the "B" team players who played up on occasions and won important matches. Whether Cippenham's domination of the Southern Region League can continue now that Alec Watson has announced his retirement from representative matches remains to be seen.

In a title shoot out reminiscent of the previous season, it was winner take all when Cippenham Ladies met Kingfisher at Haymill on 21st April. At 2-2 Jacquie Lovell proved herself the best player in the league, beating Lisa Crick from 9-15 down in the third. Cippenham's only defeat came when they travelled to bottom team Isle of Wight with a weakened team. Congratulations to Jacquie Lovell and Jackie Thomas, supported by Anna Watton.

What a turnaround for the Mens "B" team. In 1990 they managed just one win in ten matches and finished bottom. This season six matches were won, and a very creditable third place gained in Division One.

Cippenham's supremacy was underlined by Alec Watson and Jacquie Lovell topping the mens and ladies league averages. Alec, with over 90%, was more than 20% higher than his nearest rival. Frank Earis was third in the Premier Division averages, Steve Dorrell sixth in Division One and Jackie Thomas sixth in the Ladies League, counting players who appeared in at least half of the matches.

## **Slough League**

After the disappointment of 1990, Cippenham rightfully regained the Slough League championship this season, for the club's ninth title in fourteen years. For the Outlaws team of Frank Earis, Graham Dixon and Graham Trimming, aided by Dave Pountney and Alec Watson, it was sheer consistency that proved successful in the end. Four matches were lost, two each to the next two teams in the table, but all other matches were won, while challengers were dropping points at random.

Pirates finished a creditable fifth in Division One, after acquiring the services of Neil Simpson when struggling for a third player due to Anna Watton's college commitments and Kay Waters' retirement. The Rogues, who failed to organise themselves properly at times during the season just managed to stave off relegation, while Buccaneers dropped into the feared bottom two.

Our two teams in Division Two both played throughout in the middle of the table, Vagabonds eventually finishing sixth and Villains ninth, but after narrowly escaping relegation last year, Rascals could not pull off the same trick this year and ended up bottom of Division Three, despite winning six matches against six different teams.

After being denied a place in Division Three it was no surprise that Bandits won the Fourth in a canter, winning every match and only conceding twenty-one sets. Congratulations to Terry Stevens, Ray Lewington, Michael Snape and Greg Stevens. Rebels came in a creditable fourth, while Vandals, with only one point to show for a season's endeavours, were rooted at the foot of the table.

In the Youth Division, played in seven weekend sessions at Haymill, the five Cippenham teams filled the top five places in a ten team division, and while many are now good enough players to be promoted to the senior divisions, most are still too young to be allowed late night matches. The championship became a nail biter eventually won by the girls Urchins team of Wendy Barlow and Lucy Templeton from the boys Terrors team of Terry Young and Daniel West.

In the League's official averages, Graham Dixon was sixth, Frank Earis eighth and Mike Rhodes ninth in Division One, Ken Phillips top of Division Two, Terry Stevens and Ray Lewington were both unbeaten in Division Four, while Michael Snape and John Raemers were third and fifth respectively. In the Youth Division Terry Young was unbeaten, and he was followed by Wendy Barlow, Lucy Templeton, Daniel West, Praveen Reddy, Tom Fray and Edward Donovan.

There was no success either this season for Cippenham in the Dilger Cup. The Bandits were the last remaining Cippenham team, beaten in the quarter-final.

However the Youth Division equivalent, the Tunes Cup, was won by Ashley Cox (for the second year) and Praveen Reddy when Devils overcame a thirty point start awarded to Castle Hill "A".

## **Maidenhead League**

For the first time in several years the club decided not to make an attempt upon the Maidenhead Premier Division title, and stated so publicly before the start of the season. Instead, two of last season's Trojans team were retained in the top flight and added to the Spartans team. Under the captaincy of Neil Bird the team put up a tremendous performance in finishing second, beyond our pre-season expectations.

In Division One our two teams finished fourth and seventh. For the first time in many years the club also entered a team in the lower divisions of the Maidenhead League. Two of the players for whom the team had been entered vanished at the start of the season, and it was only due to the diligence of captain George Appleby and the acquisition of Barbara Simpson that allowed the team to continue after experiencing difficulties in its first few matches.

Alec Watson was listed fourth in the League's Premier Division averages, while Ken Phillips and Jacquie Lovell were fourth and sixth respectively in Division One.

### **Summer Leagues**

After failing in 1989, the club regained the championship of the Slough Summer League and so brought the title to the club for the tenth time. On this occasion the successful duo were Mike Rhodes and Bob Keeley, with the former retaining an unbeaten record.

In total, four teams were entered into the Slough League and one in Maidenhead, while for the 1991 season the numbers are six and one.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

The club organised three tournaments during the season.

#### **Club Championship**

Held in mid April, this annual event attracted a record entry of thirty-eight participants, four more than last year. The day was enjoyed by all, with plenty of table tennis for everyone. The major age group singles events, Veterans Singles, Tweenie Singles, Boys Singles and Girls Singles were played initially in groups while all other events were run on the knock-out principle. For the first time a Cadet Singles event was added to the day's agenda. Four tables were kept busy from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. when the finals were staged on two tables.

Frank Earis was the most successful player with three titles, while Dave Pountney and Mark Dozell took back two each. Frank's Mens Singles title was his second in succession, his fifth in seven years and his eighth in total. Only Alec Watson and Dave Pountney have even won the event twice. Frank's Championship Doubles title was his eighth in the last eleven years. When one considers his three Veterans Singles titles, Frank has collected quite a handful of awards over the years.

On the distaff side, Jacquie Lovell repeated her success on 1990 in the final of the Ladies Singles over Anna Watton.

#### **Handicap Tournament**

For the fourth year, the Handicap Tournament was staged in the first half of the season, away from the main championship events. The entry was twenty-six, slightly disappointing and five down on the previous season, yet provided many hours of enjoyment to all participants.

There were successes in two events each for Ashley Cox and Frank Earis, all in doubles, while the singles events were won by John Raemers and Terry Young.

## **Invitation Tournament**

The fourth Cippenham Invitation Tournament was played in September with, for the second year, a maximum entry of eight teams. Invitations were accepted by AHW (Milton Keynes), Amity Generation II (Fareham), Castle Hill (Maidenhead), Kingfisher (Reading), Old Gordonians (Maidenhead) and Pyestock (Aldershot), plus two teams from the host club. Unfortunately a change of date meant that a strong entry from St. Albion (Sheffield) had to be withdrawn.

The tournament was played in two groups of four, then cross-over semi-finals and finals to establish all positions one to eight. Thus each team played five matches of six sets, under the experimental scoring system of thirteen-up.

The event attracted very good quality players and was won by Pyestock, for the second year and who fielded a team stronger than that which represents them in the Southern Region League. Runners-up were AHW while Cippenham "A" finished joint third. Very good pre-season practice was thus provided for all participants who clearly enjoyed and benefitted from the occasion.

## COACHING

Now into its seventh year, the Cippenham coaching scheme has continued under the expert guidance of ETTA Coach Ken Phillips every Sunday afternoon. Attendances have been good during the winter after the failure of the Tuesday evening experiment last summer.

During the year the club was assessed by the Regional Coaching Officer who granted us the status of Club Advanced Centre. As mentioned earlier a ball feeding robot machine was purchased in December and has proved very popular with the children attending and is a great help to their coaching.

The club's Boy and Girl of the Year awards were made to Terry Young and Wendy Barlow. The Slough League's Leo Thompson Trophy award to the most improved junior was made to Jonathan Phillips.

## TOURNAMENT SUCCESSES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Twenty winners and twenty-five runners-up placings were achieved by club member during the season, better than 1989-90 but not as good as the bumper year of 1988-9. However this collection was achieved with the club's number one player not participating in a single tournament. The statistics include only successes when the player involved is deemed to be representing the club.

Wendy Barlow, Frank Earis and Jackie Thomas were the most successful, winning four events each, while Jacquie Lovell won three. Again, it was our lady players who tended to be more successful, with useful contributions from veterans and juniors.

The year started brilliantly for Jackie Thomas, who last May, won the Ladies Restricted Singles at the VETTS National Championships, and then reached the semi-final of the Ladies Singles proper, beating en route a player selected to represent England in the following World Veterans Championships. Jackie has added to her success in VETTS tournaments, as has Georgia Veneer in Over-60s events.

For the first time a Southern Region League Closed Championships was held, and in this Anna Watton won the Ladies Doubles. In the Bucks Closed Championships the club almost achieved a clean sweep of wins on the distaff side, both at senior and junior level. Jackie Thomas and Wendy Barlow led the way with Jackie getting the double of Ladies Singles and Ladies Doubles events, while Wendy picked up the Junior Girls Singles, Junior Girls Doubles and Cadet Girls Singles. Anna Watton was Jackie's partner for the Ladies Doubles while Jacquie Lovell chipped in with the Mixed Doubles and Frank Earis the Veterans Singles.

There was no Berkshire Closed event this season.

In the Slough Closed the honours were shared more evenly. Jacquie Lovell won both doubles events, the Ladies with Jackie Thomas and the Mixed with Steve Dorrell. Frank Earis won the Veterans Singles and Wendy Barlow the Girls Singles, as in the Bucks tournament, while Terry Young won the Cadet Singles and Youth Division Singles, Mark Dozell the Junior Doubles and Ken Phillips the Division Two Singles. Frank Earis could not add a fifth success in the Slough Masters Tournament, having to settle for second place instead.

There were no winners this season from the Maidenhead Closed even though Jacquie, Jackie and Nick Heaps picked up runner-up trophies.

The Slough Hard Bat Tournament was dominated by Cippenham players, with Frank Earis winning both events, the Doubles in tandem with Mike Rhodes. At the Maidenhead Hard Bat it was Graham Trimming who came through to win the Doubles.

Away from club activities, but worthy of mention, Andrew Munnock won the Bucks Schools Under-11 championship last summer.

#### REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

No less than nine Cippenham players have appeared in England ranking lists this season, a remarkable statistic for a club of our size and stature. Highest placings achieved are as follows:

Ladies:	Anna Watton (90), Jacquie Lovell (113)
Veteran Men:	Frank Earis (45), Alec Watson (62)
Veteran Women:	Kay Waters (21), Jackie Thomas (24)
Cadet Girls:	Wendy Barlow (30), Lucy Templeton (32)
Over-60 Women:	Georgia Veneer (9).

In addition, ten players have appeared in Bucks Ranking lists:

Men:	Frank Earis (10)
Women:	Jacquie Lovell (1), Anna Watton (2), Jackie Thomas (5), Wendy Barlow (8), Julie Barlow (9), Lucy Templeton (10)
Veteran Men:	Alec Watson (1), Frank Earis (2), Steve Crow (7)
Veteran Women:	Jackie Thomas (1)
Junior Girls:	Wendy Barlow (2), Lucy Templeton (3)
Cadet Girls:	Wendy Barlow (1), Lucy Templeton (2)
Cadet Boys:	Praveen Reddy (13)

Nick Heaps has been ranked 18 in Berkshire Men and 5 in Veteran Men.



Ten Cippenham players represented their counties over the past year while nineteen represented their leagues. Alec Watson, Frank Earis and Jackie Thomas were first choice in the Buckinghamshire Veterans I team which unfortunately was demoted for the second season. Steve Crow also made appearances for this team which, on two occasions, was composed entirely of Cippenham players. Jacquie Lovell and Anna Watton were regulars in Bucks senior teams, while Graham Trimming also appeared once for the second team. Wendy Barlow and Lucy Templeton were ever present for the juniors.

Eighteen club members represented Slough, including eight in prestigious national competitions. Steve Dorrell, Mike Rhodes and Graham Trimming made up the mens side in the Wilmott Cup, while Jacquie Lovell, Jackie Thomas and Anna Watton played Slough's two matches in the Rose Bowl. Slough's team in the VETTS competition included Steve Crow and Rod Potts, while Nick Heaps represented Maidenhead in their VETTS side. Wendy Barlow was presented with her Slough League badge at the end of the season.

Congratulations to all the players who, by their team or individual successes, have made this season a memorable one in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

Graham Trimming  
May 1991