



# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2005-06

### Highlights of the Year

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

- Gavin Evans' successes last summer with England and his three gold medals at the European Youth Championships, Mini European Championships and World Cadet Challenge;
- Other international successes for the three Evans brothers and international appearances by David Hayes and Melanie Farquhar;
- Individual national titles for Gavin and Myles Evans, David Hayes, Eddie Mitchell and Diccon Gray;
- The Cippenham girls' first team success in regaining the Junior British League Premier Division championship after a five year wait;
- The Cippenham women's team success in regaining the Gainsford Cup – four titles in five years;
- the successful defence of the Slough League title for thirteen straight wins and 22 altogether;
- the massive entries received for the Young Players' Summer and New Year Festivals;
- the continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for its prestigious events including the National Junior and Cadet Masters and the County Championships Senior and Junior Premier divisions;
- the hosting of all seven days programme of the British League;
- the Life Membership honour bestowed upon Ken Phillips by the Buckinghamshire County Association;
- the awards made to the Club and Gavin Evans at the Mayor of Slough Annual Sports Awards;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- the much improved financial result due to the enormous effort put in to the day to day running of the Club by its hard working volunteer management team.

### Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1996 as a result of the hard work and enterprise of the Club's Management Committee. It is a joint project with The Westgate School and is used by the School during school hours for a variety of sporting activities. Outside of schools hours, in the evenings, weekends and holidays it is used exclusively by the Club for table tennis. The Centre is managed by Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited, a company formed by the management of the Club for the sole purpose of managing the facility.

The Board of Directors includes four Club members and a representative of the School staff.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery, extended in 2004, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design has been very favourably received by visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office, which doubles as a control point for tournaments. There is a disabled wash room and changing and toilet facilities which were completed in 2004 as part of a substantial upgrade of facilities undertaken by the School. In the opinion of many the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

The Centre owns 22 Donic Waldner Sinus tables purchased over the past seven years. All the old Donic Persson tables purchased in 1996 have now been retired. Nets, posts and scoring machines are routinely replaced to ensure that the Centre maintains a high quality standard of equipment. Twelve scoring machines have been refurbished with numbers produced on the Club's own laminating machine. This became necessary because of the poor quality experienced from the proprietary equivalents. There is also a robot machine purchased in 2002 to replace an earlier model. In 2003 the Centre purchased 80 new court surrounds in blue with the name of the Club imprinted in yellow. This has helped in creating a more striking brand identity at the home venue. There are also about 90 quality spectator chairs.

During the year the Club developed a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events. These cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and twelve courts for lesser events. The main criteria for selection of these configurations were the implications for health and safety.

# Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2005 AGM met ten times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Graham Trimming	Chairman/General Secretary	9	June 12	7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	10	July 24	8
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	9	September 4	7
Ken Phillips	Coaching Officer	9	October 26	7
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	10	November 20	7
Anne Farquhar	Bookings Officer	0	January 8	7
Paul Baker	Club Captain	7	February 19	5
Catherine Hayes	Events Officer	5	March 19	8
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	8	April 23	5
			May 28	6



A new Chairman was elected at the 2005 AGM. Graham Trimming, founder of the Club in 1973 and General Secretary ever since, took up the helm for the first time. He did so with a promise that he would try to guide the Club through the new twelve months with an agenda of action to improve certain areas of the Club's management and a financial agenda to return the Club to a break-even position of operating income.

The only other change in the Management Committee was the election of Paul Baker into the position of Club Captain, a position that had never been satisfactorily filled before, and which Paul tackled with some skill. With Graham chairing meetings, Jacquie Lovell took on from him the position of Committee Secretary, responsible for recording minutes and preparing agenda.

One of the first things Graham did after becoming Chairman was to draw up an Organization Chart. This had two purposes: it formalised the structure of responsibility with Officers shown the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identified gaps in the management hierarchy. Some gaps remain unfilled.

## As a result the following additional appointments were made:

Development Coordinator:	Graham Trimming
Volunteer Champion:	Jacquie Lovell
Child Protection Coordinator:	Jacquie Lovell
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming
PremierClub Contact:	Graham Trimming
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming
Open Evenings Coordinator:	David Hayes
Jarvis Sports Players' Agent:	Roy Linz
Calendar Coordinator:	Sue Hayes
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes
Weekday Duty Manager:	Jacquie Lovell
Catering Manager:	Jacquie Lovell
Westgate School Liaison:	Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips
Health and Safety Advisor:	Jacquie Lovell
Maintenance Manager:	Terry Boxall
Equipment Manager:	Ken Phillips
Jarvis Sports Club Agent:	Peter Hillier
Auditor:	Filippo Rotunno.

Also, secretaries and captains were appointed for all teams and organizers and referees appointed for all events.

## In addition the following sub-committees were elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund:	Jacquie Lovell; Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
British League Ranking:	Paul Baker; Martin Adams; Mark Jackson
Slough League Selection:	Paul Baker; Sue Hayes; Graham Trimming
Calendar:	Anne Farquhar; Sue Hayes; Catherine Hayes; Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming.

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

This year was unusual as only one Cippenham member held office for the Slough League, Graham Trimming who completed his 31<sup>st</sup> year as Fixtures Secretary. Jan Chapman continued as Chairman of the Maidenhead Association while Nick Hansell maintained his Treasurer's function for the Bucks County Association. Graham Trimming continued his

responsibility for the Table Tennis Collectors' Society, but only until Christmas, and as Auditor of the Maidenhead Association.

Paul Baker and Diccon Gray are full time employees of the ETTA as Facilities Officer and National Development Manager respectively and in an honorary capacity Ken Phillips also contributes greatly as joint Organiser of the National Junior League (Southern Region) and Roy Linz to the Southern Region Training Squad.

## Development

Graham Trimming's succession to the position of Chairman brought with it a different perspective on development. In the previous season a lengthy and comprehensive development plan had been drawn up but it had become so lengthy, both in terms of the time taken in its preparation, and in its format, that it became unworkable. It was an ambitious and well thought through plan and although it was adopted by the Club's Management Committee it was never put into by action.

Graham presented to the Club's management a shorter, simpler and more workable plan; in fact, an action plan rather than development plan, although it included many of the ideas that had been contained in the previous plan. Concentrating on necessary improvements to identified weaknesses, the first phase of the plan worked from June to September 2005. Following delivery of most of the actions contained therein, a follow-up plan of less urgent issues followed from October and this lasted through to the end of the season. This strategy has worked much better and focussed management on important and achievable objectives.

Phase 1 objectives included:

1. to achieve break-even operating income;
2. to improve supply of players for Slough League teams;
3. to improve communication with Slough League team captains and members;
4. to increase attendances at coaching sessions;
5. to increase attendances at practice sessions.

Phase 2 objectives included:

6. to increase awareness;
7. to look at things differently;
8. to improve the Club's reputation and public relations;
9. to improve management of venue set-up for weekend events;
10. to mitigate loss of revenue from county match sessions;
11. to commence planning for season 2006-7.

Although more work is required to be done, the Club has made monitored progress towards its objectives with some, of course, being completed more successfully than others. The main actions taken as a result of the plan are included in their relevant sections of this report.

## Volunteer Investment



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

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

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

Critical to the success of this scheme is reward. The volunteer has to feel that he or she has made a worthwhile contribution and gain satisfaction from having assisted the Club. Ever since 1997 the Club has made an Outstanding Contribution Award at its annual

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Anniversary Party. The 2005 award was made to Jan Chapman, for the second time, in recognition of her invaluable work in the coaching field and also supporting Ken Phillips with the administration at some of the Club's events. Opportunity is also taken at the party to recognise in a smaller way many other members for their continued loyal support to the Club. Since 2003 the Club has also made awards to players and in 2005 the Senior Player of the Year award went to Rob Lemon and the counterpart Junior Player of the Year award jointly to Catherine Hayes and Eddie Mitchell.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Tom Mitchell fulfilled this position until he left for university at the end of September and since then David Hayes has taken over. David has merited the huge praise he has received for the manner in which he has carried out his duties and the Centre is a more welcoming place for his being there.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. The Club is grateful to Jim Hayes who has undertaken the management of this for the past several months. Unfortunately, Jim's requests for ordinary members of the Club to put themselves forward for a roster to help in this respect have gone largely unanswered and so much of the burden remains shared by only a few of the hardest working members of the Committee.

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

## Accreditation

For some years now the Club has been seeking accreditation by entering itself and its players and volunteers for awards and has been very successful in gaining recognition in this way on a number of occasions. When a development plan was written 2004-5 the chosen mission statement was "to be the pre-eminent table tennis club in England".

Pre-eminence suggests an important "presence" in national table tennis activities. An unofficial ranking of clubs in the British leagues, based on a statistical analysis carried out by the Club, places Cippenham second overall out of about 120.

The ETTA itself is seeking accreditation for clubs through its *PremierClub* scheme and has issued all *PremierClubs* with a record of achievement file that will be populated with documentation and used to gain Sport England Clubmark accreditation. Graham Trimming has undertaken the task of collating the required contents. Work on this has slowed lately but it is hoped that the file will soon be ready for initial presentation to the ETTA.



At the annual Mayor of Slough Sports Awards, often such a rich source of accreditation, the Club was honoured with the Junior Club of the Year for the third time and Gavin Evans was rewarded for a fantastic year on the table with his award of Junior Sportsman of the Year. David Hayes has recently been named the Irish Junior Player of the Year for 2005-6.

As reward for his hard work in the coaching field over many years and for running County junior teams also over many years, and specifically in recognition of the County's first title in the Junior Premier Division, Ken Phillips was awarded with the highest possible honour of Life Membership of the Buckinghamshire County Table Tennis Association at a presentation in June 2005.

## Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 170, down from 193 on the same stage of last year. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2005 was 195, 4 down on the previous year. To put this into context, the total membership in 1996 prior to the move into our purpose-built centre was 60. Some of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless this must make the Club one of the largest in the country. Despite the size of the membership, the Club has been concerned for some time about the lack of adult members both from the perspective of potential members of our Slough League teams and suitable people to take on management responsibilities in the future. This has been the subject of some development in the last two years through a number of open evenings, and will continue to be a prime focus for development during the forthcoming year.

Members are only permitted to use the Centre when it is officially open. The only exceptions to this are key-holding Privileged Members. These are Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year and a

few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. In 1999 the Club introduced another tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for matches, coaching and practice.

Over the past twelve months a total of 74 players have represented the club in match play, 7 less than in the previous year. 17 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to 18 the previous year. 21 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, one less than in the previous season. Ten teams were entered into British leagues, six in the National Junior League, four in the Slough League and one team made a welcome return to the Maidenhead League. It appears that even a club with the size of membership and success rate of Cippenham is finding it difficult to enthuse players of the virtues of local league table tennis, which for more than seventy years has been the core competitive product offered by the sport.

The Club is now 33 years old and during that time a total of 631 players have played in our teams. The Club's Founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club while another old stager, Peter Hillier, became the second player to make 800 appearances. Paul Baker and Georgia Veneer joined the group of fifteen players who have achieved 300 appearances. Two more players reached the century: Terry Boxall and Mark Jackson, bringing the total in this group to 89. The all time leading appearance list now reads:



Graham Trimming	1388	David Hayes	329	Steve Crow	268
Peter Hillier	801	Rodney Potts	316	Gemma Chapman	262
Frank Earis	669	Paul Baker	303	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	569	Georgia Veneer	301	Robert Hansell	245
Ken Phillips	549	Alec Watson	301	Jane Dickens	235
Jackie Wood	403	Jacquie Lovell	282	James Milton	205
Gareth Lovell	381	Wendy Barlow	279	Anna Watton	204
Neil Bird	374	Armando Borges	278	Andrew Dickens	203
George Appleby	372	Steve Joel	278	Steve Dorrell	202
Frank Cowley	363	Dave Pountney	276		

The busiest players during the year were Edward Mitchell (39 appearances), Paul Baker (31), and Ashley Shaw (31).

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

## Finance

One of his main election pledges when Graham Trimming became Chairman last summer was to arrest the decline in the Club's finances. After many years of generous surpluses the previous two years had produced losses of a significant amount. Although, with a substantial amount of cash in the bank, the Club could have continued to make such losses for many years without jeopardizing its existence, it was nevertheless bad practice and required attention. The decision was taken that the Club must budget to break even at the operating income level, i.e. before interest income is counted. A financial model was developed and relied upon additional events, higher fees and reduced costs. Where possible the service level was increased to produce more revenue rather than decreased to contain costs. Such measures were incorporated into the first section of the action plan carried through last summer.

The plan was successful and turned a £2,450 operating deficit in 2004-5 into a £1,900 surplus in 2005-6. When interest income is included the total consolidated surplus of the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Ltd was £3,696, cash balances were £37,537 and the total net worth £59,414. We hope to see a further improvement in the financial position of the Club next season as the cleaning arrangements, at the instigation of the school, have significantly changed. We hope that members have noticed an improvement in the cleaning as this has now changed to a different company.

Increases in the level of fees, including open tournament entry fees, provided an additional £2,300 while changes to the level of activity provided an additional surplus of £1,800. The reduction in the hours of the Duty Officer during the summer months saved £480 in cost. This was all the result of conscious decision making by the management of the Club. Not everything went according to plan – attendances at the Club's existing tournaments fell and this, together with other changes in the level of attendances, reduced the Club's surplus by £1,350. However, this was largely offset by other incidental reductions in costs. However, it must also be borne in mind that because of the vagaries of the calendar there were two Banded Open tournaments in the financial year and two National Cadet Masters events. Also, in the third year of a three-year deal the cost of playing apparel for the Club's teams in the British leagues was negligible.

Annual membership fees were increased from £12 to £15 and Slough League fees were increased from £10 to £15 in order to balance the revenue stream from running teams in the local league to its associated cost. Match fees were increased to £3.50 while coaching fees were increased to £5 and practice fees to £3.50. All these are halved for juniors and over-60s. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £25.00 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Players in the National Junior League continued to pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses and for the first time players in the British leagues were

asked to contribute the cost of their individual registration fees with the Club continuing to bear the remainder of the cost. No further increases in fees are planned for next season.

A structured approach to reimbursing expenses for teams in the British leagues continued this season. This is available for all teams playing away from Cippenham. We continued with the support from Jarvis Sports that enables our British league teams to be clothed less expensively and provides a discount to members on all equipment and kit requirements.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of our friend who passed away at too early an age in 2000. The Fund was started with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees of all junior and younger open tournaments run by the Club. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for children's activities and that includes support for children who may, for one reason or another, need help with expenses incurred in the pursuit of table tennis. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts.

## Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, mostly by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well in the three local newspapers: Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 38 reports have been submitted during the year and these reports have covered 58 stories. The Club has also monitored its success in gaining space this year and has achieved over 1,000 column inches together with over 20 photographs. Reports of the Club's open tournaments have also appeared in "Table Tennis News". An edition of the Club Newsletter has also been published 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. A Membership Pack was introduced five years ago and this, updated when necessary by Jacquie Lovell, has proved to be a useful document to give to potential members on the occasion of their first visit.

The Club also has its own web site ([www.cippenhamttc.co.uk](http://www.cippenhamttc.co.uk)). This has been designed, written and is maintained up to date also by Graham. A full range of information is available and the site is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's monthly Newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated table tennis web site in the country.

Many Club members have taken advantage of the special terms arranged with Jarvis Sports for the supply of Club kit. Kit was previously supplied at the Club's expense to members of the teams in the British leagues and to some of the coaching staff although the cost of the three new kits required in the past year were shared by the Club and the players. These kits carry the Club's professionally designed logo on the back of the shirt and tracksuit and are therefore an important part in the establishment of the Club's corporate identity. The Club is thankful to Roy Linz who has managed the service to members over the past year and to Peter Hillier who has acted as agent for the Club's own requirements.

Six open evenings were held, two in early autumn, two in January and two just after Easter, with the aim of expanding the Club's membership. David Hayes co-ordinated the events and they were mostly very successful with large attendances. In addition, the Club used an opportunity to promote its activities at the School's open evening for the new yearly intake last summer.

## Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge and refreshment area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area and the servery cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed over 100 competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the extension was finished at the end of the summer 2004. The success of the Club's catering is due totally to the skill and hard work of the Club's Social Officer Jacquie Lovell and her staff, especially Jan Chapman, Gloria Shaw, Gill Tucker, Frankie Butterworth, Susana Hansell, Fen Fen Oetiker, Muriel Hooker, Terry Boxall, Alan Farral, Catherine Hayes, Stephanie Mitchell and Anne Farquhar. Many others, including several other parents, have also given assistance.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television and VCR are also popular attractions. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche. With the large-scale emergence of mobile telephones, the pay telephone in the lounge enjoyed little outward activity and was therefore replaced in 2005 by the Club's own mobile.

The ninth annual party was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. The Christmas party was replaced by a meal, in November, at a restaurant, and this was attended by 25 people. For the second year, the usual summer family barbecue did not happen but is planned to make a return in 2006.

# Venue Utilisation

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

Monday	5.30 to 7.30 pm	Advanced coaching group
	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Excellence coaching group
Tuesday	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Squad coaching
Thursday	5.15 to 7.15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice

Tuesdays and Thursdays practice sessions were reduced to finish at 9:30 pm during the summer months when there were no league matches being played alongside. It was rare for members to wish to continue playing after this time and it made good economical sense to reduce the cost of the provision of a Duty Officer.

After Easter 2006, the two Monday sessions have been amalgamated and made into one session of 2.5 hours from 7:00 pm.

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

On each occasion that the Centre is open a Duty Officer is nominated. The responsibilities of the Duty Officer include the collection of fees, health and safety, the proper use and storage of the Club's equipment together with the security of the Centre. Before each weekend event the venue needs to be set-up, often on a Friday evening. The Club is indebted to Jim Hayes who took over the management of this together with Ken Phillips, Peter Hillier, Graham Trimming, Terry Boxall and Sue Hayes who are the mainstays of this activity.

# Outside Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for outside events. Extensive use has been made by the ETTA, ETTA Southern Region, Buckinghamshire County Association, Royal County of Berkshire Association and the Slough, Maidenhead and Reading Leagues. However, use by Bucks, this season, was curtailed to one county match session and the junior trials after Bucks did not apply to host any of the county sessions. This caused a few gaps in the weekend timetable.

The ETTA events included the National Junior and Cadet Masters for the tenth time and the Premier Division of the Junior County Championships for the sixth time. In addition the Senior County Championship were hosted for the fourth time. For the Masters and the Junior Premier the venue is given free of charge to the national association, i.e. six days in total. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips, Jacquie Lovell and their teams for their involvement in this.

The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League – Division 2 South and Midlands on all four occasions, Division 1 South three times and Division 4 South and West once. These were organized by Graham Trimming while Ken Phillips and Peter Hillier acted as Referees. As has been the case since its inception, the Club, acting in conjunction with Mike Atkinson and Chesham High School, hosted the four days of the National Junior League with Ken Phillips acting as Organizer and Referee.

A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	National Junior Masters (2 days)
	National Cadet Masters (2)
	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	County Championships Junior Premier Division (2)
	National Junior League (4)
	British League (7)
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior/Cadet Trials (2)
	Junior Training/Assessment (10)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships session
	Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)

## Club Events

### Open Tournaments

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

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 05	Banded 2-Star	Paul Baker	Graham Trimming	52
Jun 05	Young Players' Summer Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	364 (180)
Jul 05	Veterans' Summer 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Mick Strode	52
Oct 05	Cadet 2-Star	Terry Boxall	Graham Trimming	55
Nov 05	Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Peter Hillier	69
Jan 06	Young Players' New Year Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	302
Feb 06	Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Peter Hillier	49
Mar 06	Double Group 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	62
Apr 06	Junior 2-Star	Paul Cheong	Graham Trimming	65
Apr 06	Banded 2-Star	Terry Boxall	Peter Hillier	36

This list represents three more than in the previous season but includes two Banded Opens because one was staged in June 2005 as a date could not be found in the season 2004-5 proper. The tenth tournament was a new event, the Double Group Open. The concept of this was for the first round of the two knock-out competitions, following the preliminary round groups, to be played as a second group of three players. This format was chosen from a multiple choice of four presented in market research conducted at the Senior Open.

The Young Players' New Year Festival in January was based on the same two-day five-age format that has been so very successful at the Young Players' Summer Festival for several years. These two 1-star events are the jewels in the open tournament calendar. They attract maximum entries from a very wide geographical area and are staged on sixteen tables with the help of four in the school gymnasium.

Entries were down on the previous year for all the Club's 2-star events. In some cases it was probably as a result of the entry forms not being distributed widely enough or in a timely manner and some events suffered from unfortunate clashes of dates. The Banded Open, which has never really taken off as had been hoped, has been dropped after four years from the 2006-7 calendar and will be replaced with a newly conceived Team Open for pairs of players.



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

There was a double for the Club's players at the Senior Open when Rob Lemon and Sue Hayes won the two events. Otherwise home success was limited to a few juniors. Eddie Mitchell won every age group from U11 to U15 (U11, U12, U13, U14, Cadet); Melanie Farquhar won U16 and U18, Rachel Farquhar U13 and U14 and Matt Ware U16. Except for Ed's cadet title all these were won at the "festivals".



Many thanks are due to the organizers, their unsung helpers and referees. It is a testament to their abilities that so many pleasant messages are received from happy participants at the end of the day's play.

## Team Competitions

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

## **British League Competitions**

Ten teams were run in the British league competitions, augmented from the previous season by a second team in the Women's British League.

All our three teams acquitted themselves well in the Senior British League. The first team, under Martin Adams' captaincy, benefited from having the same line-up for all fourteen matches. Some of the results seemed a little strange: both teams above their third place in Division One South were beaten once while the two matches against the next to bottom team were lost. Mark Butler, playing at number three, was the most successful player with 75%. It was good to see that two of the team, Robert Hansell and Rob Lemon, were products of the Club's coaching scheme.

The second team operated in Division 2 South and Midlands and finished runners-up, a position good enough to qualify for promotion to the new Division 1 South and Midlands for next season. This team was the antipathy of the first team using no less than nine players with new boy Steve Buck the most successful. The captaincy was once again entrusted to Mark Jackson. The third team, captained by Phil Clarkson, finished third in Division 4 South and West and have been promoted to Division 3 South for next season. Ashley Shaw, one of three products of the Club's coaching scheme in the squad, finished top of the averages with 75%. Paul Baker acted as overall British League Captain with Graham Trimming as Teams' Secretary.

The fourth place gained by the team in the Women's British League Premier Division might have been better had Abigail Embling, a new signing for the season, not been recovering from an operation at the time of the second weekend. Melanie Farquhar took her place and enjoyed some good results in the higher division. The reinstated second team had a good first weekend and were in third place in Division 3 but they missed Melanie in the second half and dropped a place. Jan Chapman and Sue Hayes were the Captains and Secretaries of the two teams.



The best results of all came from the girls' teams in the Junior British League. The first team managed the draw they needed in the final match against nearest challengers Draycott & Long Eaton to clinch the Premier Division championship for the third time. The previous occasions were in 2000 and 2001. Congratulations to Sarah Hall, Melanie Farquhar and Caroline Linz. The girls' second team, after a poor first weekend, managed eight points from a possible ten in the second weekend to finish runners-up in Division 2 and be presented with the Team of the Weekend award. The boys' teams also both had better second halves and finished fifth in their divisions, 2B and 3A.

Ken Phillips acted as Secretary for all teams while the coaches were Ken, Jan Chapman, Gemma Chapman and Leigh Hipkins.

Despite a strong performance from Diccon Gray, who won 85% of his matches, the Veterans' British League team could not hold onto its Division 1 status and finished fifth. Mike Rhodes acted as Captain and Graham Trimming Secretary.

## **Other National Competitions**

Four titles in five years! Lesley Keast, Gemma Chapman and Sue Hayes regained the Gainsford Cup that was our property for the previous three years. This is the national knock-out competition for women's club teams. Lesley was involved for the first time but Gemma and Sue now have four winners' medals each.

The men's counterpart event, the Ormesby Cup, brought only disappointment. Disappointment, because after winning the trophy so dramatically last May, we were unable to defend our title in the first stage because of clashes with other important events. The Club's cadet boys' team played in the Leach Cup but did not make it past the second stage.



Five boys' and one girls' teams were entered into the National Junior League, played at Cippenham and Chesham High School. The top boys' team finished fourth in Division 2 while the girls were also fourth in their division. This league is an introductory league for aspiring young players but unfortunately the teams played short on some occasions because of lack of players. These teams were managed by Ken Phillips.

## **Local leagues**

For a record thirteenth year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This was the Club's twenty-second title, also a record. During the second half of the season, following Outlaws' pre-Christmas defeat at the hands of Burnham Nomads, it appeared likely that the Club's grip on the title would be severed. However, a 6-4 victory late in the season over championship rivals Chalfont Argonauts proved decisive. The importance of that result, secured from a 3-4 deficit, can be measured by the knowledge that if any one of the last three sets had been lost then so might the title. Paul Baker,

the captain of the team, marshalled his resources of Graham Trimming, Ashley Shaw, David Hayes and Sue Hayes to excellent effect.

Buccaneers propped up the other end of Division One while the Club's other two teams operated in the basement Division Two. Several new players joined these teams this season, a hopeful situation but which does not really make up for the loss of two teams from the previous season. These teams were captained by Tim Kiteley, Armando Borges and Ray Burbidge.

Vagabonds, in the form of Armando Borges, Georgia Veneer and Malcolm Makarian, nearly had a moment of limelight but after qualifying for the final of the Division 2 Handicap final they succumbed to Burnham Lions 4-3.

After an absence of six years, Cippenham once again had a team operating in the Maidenhead League. Captained by Ken Phillips, whose initiative it was, the team finished third in Division One and secured the Knock-Out Handicap Competition.

## Coaching

Coaching of young players is probably the most important work that is undertaken by the Club. The coaching scheme has been established for many years and has been very successful for a long time. It continues to be one of the most successful coaching set-ups in the country ably managed by Ken Phillips and the other coaches. The Club is fortunate to have such dedicated and highly qualified staff with Ken and Sue Hayes having both received ETTA Coach of the Year awards in the last few seasons.

Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken and an informal cluster exists comprising: Farnham Common Middle School; Burford School, Marlow Bottom; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; Arbour Vale School, Slough; and the Westgate and Cippenham Junior Schools Cluster. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away who want to take advantage of the high standard of coaching and development management available at the Club. Arbour Vale School is a school for pupils with special needs and provides a source of great inspiration for Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman who enjoy the weekly challenge of teaching these youngsters.

For most of the year there have been four weekly coaching sessions for youngsters although this has recently been reduced to three with the amalgamation of the two Monday sessions. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral. The Monday evening sessions for the Advanced and Excellence performers, who are there by invitation, have been established for many years, having been introduced by Ken under the banner of the Slough and Maidenhead Advanced Coaching Centre (SMACC). Ken is still running these sessions with help from a number of other coaches and feeders. The other regular weekly session takes place on Wednesday evenings. This is for a squad of invited players, which has recently and very successfully passed into Sue Hayes' management.



The Club's coaches also travel with the juniors many weekends to open and national tournaments up and down the country. The children benefit greatly from these experiences and gain from them the ranking points that are the main object of desire for many of them.

Following on from the open evenings in the autumn, a series of adult coaching sessions were arranged. Attendances varied greatly, as did the level of experience of those taking part and the series was dropped in January.

The coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall (Level 3); Jan Chapman (Level 2); Paul Cheong (Level 2); Alan Farral (Level 3); Sue Hayes (Level 4); Muriel Hooker; Tim Kiteley (student coach); Roy Linz (Level 2), John Lloyd (Level 2) and Ken Phillips (Level 4). The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

## Tournament Success for Individuals

This has been another remarkable year for the Club's members. A list of their achievements can be found in the appendix and as usual it is the Club's younger players who have achieved most success.



The summer of 2005 perhaps will never be eclipsed in the career of Gavin Evans. He may well go on to even greater successes in the future but to win three most prestigious gold medals in the space of three months was incredible. It started in July when Gavin was part, with Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight, of the England team that won the Cadet Boys' team event at the European Youth Championships. 12-years old Gavin was playing three years out of his age group. August brought individual glory. Winning the U12 Boys' Singles at the Mini European Championships proved what we had guessed all along – Gavin was simply the best player of his age in Europe. Two months later and how do you better two European titles? Only a World title can do that! The same three England boys, invited into the World Cadet Challenge on the basis of being European champions, won the event against teams representing their continents rather than just countries. So England were better than the rest of Europe combined and Asia!

Gavin followed this up with other successes in international open events and his brothers sometimes joined him on the podium. Bradley and Gavin won the Junior Boys' Team event at the Portuguese Youth Open while Myles was runner-up in the Cadet Boys' Singles at the Catalunya Open in Spain.

Gavin also led the way in national events and has now amassed an incredible 15 titles in five years at the National U10/11/12/13 Championships, a record that he will break himself in 2006 but is never likely to be equalled again. Over the past year he has won the English U12, U13 and Cadet Boys' Singles titles and the Cadet Masters. Edward Mitchell won the U11 Boys' Singles to make it a clean sweep for the Club of the four age group events between U11 and U15. Gavin and Edward also combined to win the U13 Boys' Doubles while Myles Evans was Gavin's partner in their Cadet Boys' Doubles title success. Across the water, David Hayes retained his Irish National Junior Boys' Singles title and won the Irish Junior Top 8 while the older players were represented on the podium by Diccon Gray winning the English Veterans' Men's Doubles title.

Other titles came the way in open tournaments, the Southern Region and Buckinghamshire trials and Maidenhead Closed Championships.

## Representative Honours and Rankings

For the first time in several years the Club did not boast a senior international player during the year. However, the exploits of Gavin Evans in the England cadet boys' team made up for that and more. Myles Evans also appeared, successfully, for England cadets while Gavin and older brother Bradley played for the junior team. Melanie Farquhar and David Hayes both represented their countries, England and Ireland, in the junior ranks at the Home International Championships. Gavin, Bradley and Melanie also won gold medals while representing England Schools at the British Schools Home International Championships last summer.



The Buckinghamshire junior team retained the Junior Premier Division title in the County Championships thanks to a team comprised entirely of Cippenham members. The three Evans brothers were joined by Caroline Linz and Catherine Hayes.

The Slough junior boys' team of David Hayes, Ashley Shaw and Edward Mitchell qualified for the final stage of the national Carter Cup and were unlucky to finish third in a three-way tie. Had one set gone the other way, another national title would be resting at Cippenham.

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

**Graham Trimming**  
Chairman & General Secretary  
May 2006