



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2015-16

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the forty-third season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the twentieth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. This has been a successful year with more highlights than for many years, including:

- Highest ever position, 2nd in Division One South, gained by the Club's first team in the Senior British League after an unblemished final weekend;
- Veteran women's team winning Division 2 of the Veterans' British League thanks, in part, to an unbeaten performance in the first half from Sue Hayes;
- Men's team almost as successful, second in Division 2B of the Veterans' British League with Martin Adams unbeaten throughout;
- Young second team gaining promotion from Division 5 of the Women's British League, being named Team of the Weekend for the first half, and with an unbeaten performance from Jemma Walker in the second half;
- Shae Thakker's international recognition for the GB Para team and his 100% success record over the entire season in the National Junior League;
- Prestigious titles for three of our players at the Bucks Closed;
- Huge success of the Club's inaugural Junior 4-Star Open;
- Fantastic financial result, due to the hard work and dedication of the Club's management team;
- Much improved attendances at the Club's coaching sessions;
- Increased exposure from all the Club's publicity vehicles: local newspaper coverage; website; Facebook; Twitter; Flickr.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre

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

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design attracts many compliments from visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office that doubles as a control point for tournaments. In the opinion of many, the Centre remains one of the finest table tennis facilities in the country. The Club has access to the new adjoining facilities block but this access is used only during weekend events.



It was planned to renew the floor surface in the playing hall last summer but we were let down by the suppliers and this only occurred during the Christmas shutdown. Thanks to a lot of liaison work by Paul Baker, the Centre now boasts a new floor that should last for fifteen years or so. A couple of months after its laying, there were reports of slipperiness but these were overcome by washing off the surface, something that probably should have been done immediately after installation.

The playing hall was also fully redecorated during the summer recess and so the arena now looks as good as it has for many years.

The front-line equipment comprises equipment purchased in 2012. There are 10 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables, 12 Butterfly Europa net and posts sets, 12 Butterfly scoring machines and 80 Butterfly surrounds in blue with "Butterfly" printed on one side and "Cippenham" on the other in light blue. In addition there is a further table of the same description, purchased in September 2013, and a wheeled frame that holds many of the surrounds.

In addition the Centre owns eight older Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables although four of these have been taken out of service and are due to be scrapped. It is planned to retire the remainder of these this summer and replace this stock. The replacements will then become the front-line stock while the Butterfly tables are brought into everyday use.

There are also about 75 quality spectator chairs, including 24 purchased within the last year. The Club also owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events. These configurations cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and eleven courts for lesser events. The National Junior and Cadet leagues make use of a 12-table configuration but this configuration prevents access to the main amenities block.

Cleaning of the premises has been performed internally for several years, saving the Club a considerable amount of money. Malcolm Makarian used to perform this as a paid service but latterly much has been done by Ken Phillips, albeit still with assistance from Malcolm.

Administration and Management

The 2015 Annual General Meeting attendance was merely average and elected the following Management Committee. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	8	June 2	7
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	8	June 19	7
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	7	July 16	7
Elena Tant	Bookings Officer	7	September 9	8
Naomi Hayes	Events Officer	3*	October 26	5
Bassam Mocharrafi	General Committee member	5	January 9	3
Dave Tant	General Committee member	7	February 16	7
Simon Vine	General Committee member	7	April 19	8

* Naomi has been away at university for much of the year.

No nominations were made for the positions of Club Captain, Social Officer and Public Relations Officer.

The Club benefits from having the services of people that have amassed a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973. Sue Hayes joined the Committee in 1999. Ken Phillips rejoined the Committee in 2012 after a few years absence but had been a foremost member for a great many years prior to that, including several as Chairman. Elena Tant joined the Committee in 2014 having previously served more than twenty years as League Secretary for the Maidenhead & District Association.

Management Committee again drew up an organization chart. This has two purposes: it formalises the structure of responsibility with officers shown the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identifies gaps in the management hierarchy. Some gaps remained unfilled.

The following appointments were made:

Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes	Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Ken Phillips
Volunteer Champion:	Simon Vine	Club Championships Organizer:	Elena Tant
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips	Grand Prix Administrator:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Catering Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Stock Buyer:	Ken Phillips
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Facilities Manager:	Ken Phillips
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming	Health and Safety Advisor:	Dave Tant
Calendar Coordinator:	Elena Tant	Members' Supply Agent:	Bassam Mocharrafi
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes	Club Supply Agent:	Sue Hayes
Anniversary Party Organiser:	Charles Mitchell		

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

The following sub-committees were also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
Calendar: Elena Tant; Sue Hayes; Ken Phillips

Necessarily, the more active 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 and event organisers.

External appointments included:

Ken Phillips: Coaching Officer and Selector for the Bucks Association; Referee for the Maidenhead Closed Championships; Organiser and Referee for the Southern Inter-Region Qualification Tournament;
Sue Hayes: General Secretary for Bucks Association;

Graham Trimming: Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
 Steve Smith: Referee at many national events including National Senior Championships, Grand Prix tournaments, VETTS National Masters and other VETTS events;
 Denise Weller: General Secretary of the Berkshire Association and the Newbury League;
 Elena Cockrell: Entries Secretary for the Maidenhead Closed Championships;
 Wendy Porter: Coaching Officer and Junior/Youth Officer for the Reading League.

Many of those listed above have been in their positions for many years and given great service to the organisations they represent.



For more than fourteen years the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For a couple of years, this role was ably filled by Naomi Hayes until she left for university in September 2015. Louise Cockrell then took over on Tuesday evenings with Rebecca Hayes returning to her old position for a period on Thursday evenings. Joe Underwood then, in January, took over Thursdays from Rebecca and also filled in on Tuesdays when Louise left in March. We have been pleased to have the services of Naomi back again over the Easter holidays.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. This work has been managed by Jim Hayes for many years now and is largely undertaken by members of the Hayes family.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

For their immense service over a great many years, four individuals are honoured with Life Membership of the Club. These are: Peter Hillier, Jacqui Lovell, Ken Phillips and Graham Trimming.

The Club has a Privileged Membership scheme. This is awarded to Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year and a few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. There is also a higher tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two, but usually many more, years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for local league matches, coaching and practice. During the past year there have been 7 Gold Privileged Members and 4 ordinary Privileged Members. A practice voucher scheme is in place, but rarely used, whereby volunteers are incentivised to assist the Club and are rewarded with a voucher that they can use to pay practice fees at a Tuesday or Thursday session.



One of the annual highlights is the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went to Catherine Hayes for her continued contribution to the Club, especially for her role in running the Club's biggest annual event, the Young Players' Summer Festival. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Junior Players of the Year award perpetuates the names of Alan Farral and Terry Boxall in its title and was presented to Shae Thakker and Jemma Walker and the reasons for those will become apparent elsewhere in this report. The Senior Player of the Year award went to Ricky Hardcastle in recognition of his performances in the Maidenhead League and for being the only player to defeat Mark Banks in that League in the past six seasons.

Congratulations are due to Sue Hayes who qualified as a Tournament Referee during the year, bringing the number of qualified referees within the Club's membership to five.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 115, 7 more than the same stage last year but less than half the number at the peak a decade or more ago. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2015 was 106, 9 down on the previous year. Despite membership numbers being less than they have been historically, the premises remain busy during the twice weekly practice sessions and that is the true indication of the healthy state of the Club.

Over the past twelve months a total of 51 players have represented the club in match play, 9 more than the previous year. 18 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, 7 more than in the previous year. 16 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, 4 more than in the previous season. 7 teams were entered into British leagues, 5 in National leagues and 4 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 43 years old and during that time a total of 793 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club with more than 1,500 appearances. Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 850. Only one milestone was reached during the year, this being Julie Dean who played her 100th match for the Club. The all time leading appearance list now reads:



Graham Trimming	1572	George Appleby	372	Martin Adams	276
Peter Hillier	858	Frank Cowley	363	Dave Pountney	276
Frank Earis	669	David Hayes	350	Steve Crow	268
Mike Rhodes	659	Georgia Veneer	336	Roland Clapton	257
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Jane Dickens	235
Paul Baker	542	Robert Hansell	314	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	435	Alec Watson	301	Anna Watton	204
Sue Hayes	433	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Jackie Wood	403	Jacquie Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
Armando Borges	397	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200
Gareth Lovell	381	Steve Joel	278		

The busiest players during the year were Paul Baker, Pranav Gudipati and Sue Hayes with 32, 28 and 26 appearances respectively.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £4,517 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £5,156. This represents an increase of £1,036 over the previous year and is the largest surplus for seven years. It reflects good financial management of the Club and a strong and balanced financial model. Revenues increased by 18% to £27,163 and this represents greater activity and increased participation because there have been no changes in the rates of fees charged.

The increase in revenue by more than £4,000 had two significant contributors. The introduction of the Junior 4-Star Open, which itself provided more than £3,000 revenue boosted revenue from open tournaments by £2,187. The net increase was reduced by this event being a replacement for the Young Players' Autumn Festival. The other increase, by over £2,000 came from coaching. Half of this was through higher attendances at the Club's coaching sessions and the other half came through the BerkshireActive engagement.

Direct expenditure increased by just over £3,000, thereby generating a increase in gross profit by just over £1,000. Two of these were directly offset by additional revenue. £800 is attributed to the Junior 4-Star open as the Club had to pay expenses to officials, especially a large army of umpires, and another £725 was paid to coaches under the arrangement with Berkshire Active. The other main expense, non-funded, was incurred last summer when a full redecoration of the playing hall was undertaken. This cost the Club £1,250, the expense being shared on a 50:50 basis with the School.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that as at 30 April 2016 stood at £80,176. This is a little less than a year ago as the replacement of the floor in the playing hall cost £6,675. £51,257 is invested at Cater Allen on a term deposit paying interest at 0.9% p.a. Another £16,831 is currently in a deposit account with Barclays also paying 0.9% and the remainder is in a current account with NatWest. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £101,565.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. A 20% discount is available to hirers that meet a certain threshold. Annual membership fees are £18, practice and local league match fees £4 and coaching fees £6. All these are halved for juniors and over-60s. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £30 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Attendees at the Monday evening advanced coaching and Wednesday evening elite coaching pay a fee of £35 each term. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses. In the British leagues a £5 match fee (50% in the Junior British League) is payable with players also contributing their individual registration fees.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund which was started many years ago with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees of all junior and younger age open tournaments run by the Club. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for children's activities and that

includes support for children who may, for one reason or another, need help with expenses incurred in the pursuit of table tennis. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts. One payment has been made out of the Fund in the last year.

Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, and much of it for many years by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers: Slough Express, Slough Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 21 reports have been submitted during the year and all of them found their way into the local newspapers. The Maidenhead Advertiser printed 20 reports, the Slough Express 18 but the Slough Observer only 9. The Observer did not print any reports until January but then printed all but two that were sent after that. A total of 1,038 column inches was achieved across the three publications, 36% higher than in the previous season and nearly three times the coverage two years ago. These last two years have seen action photographs submitted along with many of the reports and this is considered to be a prime factor in the increased publicity. Of course, great performances from winning teams and players has also help enormously! 56 photographs appeared in the local newspapers, up from 40 the previous year and 20 the year before. Reports also appeared on the Table Tennis England website including 28 photographs.

The Club has its own web site (www.cippenhamttc.co.uk) hosted by Easily.co.uk, who are also used to maintain the Club's domain name. The Club has had a website since 1999 and the current manifestation was introduced in 2008. The website was designed and is maintained by Graham and 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 newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from June 2015 to May 2016 have been: 983 unique visitors; 2,970 visits; 5,366 pages; 39,369 hits. All four of these numbers show substantial increases from the previous year. November 2015, which included the Junior 4-Star Open, had a new record number of 1,248 unique visitors while the daily record was beaten on 10 September when the number of unique visitors reached 215 in a single day. Sadly, it was the posting of an obituary for Georgia Veneer, linked also from the VETTS Facebook page, that led to this spike. December 2015 was unique in that every single day saw 100 or more visitors, even though there were less unique visitors in December than in any other month during the season proper. It is not known why this was the case in an otherwise unremarkable month! Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

The Club's Facebook page has also been used to drive readers to the website. All reports have been linked and many events have been advertised on Facebook. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 419 followers on Facebook, up substantially from 257 a year ago, and 312 on Twitter, up from 239. Facebook postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account, introduced in the autumn of 2014. A further 14 albums of photographs have been uploaded this year, 12 by Graham Trimming and one each by Mike Rhodes and Sunjay Thakker. Together, they represent 2,800 photos and the albums have attracted well over 4,600 views, an incredible statistic. The



Cippenham Junior 4-Star Open album by itself has been viewed by nearly 1,200 people. These statistics show that this service is appreciated by members and visitors.

A new photographic backdrop was purchased last autumn and has been used for all the presentation photographs since.

An edition of the Club newsletter has also been published seven times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. The articles are enhanced by many photographs and the publication is reproduced in colour on the Club's own photocopier.

Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge and refreshment area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area and the servery cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed as many as 70 competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004.

Until 2010 catering at weekend events was carried out on a voluntary basis but has since been sub-contracted on a commercial basis. Club member Bhanu Muralitharan has been providing this valuable service, much appreciated by patrons, since September 2014.

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 is also a popular attraction. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue. Broadband wifi was installed two years ago and this has provided a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto Table Tennis England's website.

The nineteenth annual party, once again organised and hosted by Charles Mitchell, 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. In the week before Christmas, a Festive Grand Prix was held during which mulled wine and mince pies were an additional attraction to the table tennis. This is now a popular annual event.

Venue Utilisation

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

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Elite 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

Outcasts have been using the Club's premises for many years for Maidenhead League matches and, this season, two of the Old Gordonians TTC teams also played their home matches at Cippenham.

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 security.

External Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by Table Tennis England, Bucks County Association and the Maidenhead League. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips who has acted as Duty Officer for a great number of bookings and to also to his associate, the ever-present Malcolm Makarian. Thanks are also due to Dave and Elena Tant who have assisted in this area.

The Club was delighted that the County Championships Senior Premier Division returned to Cippenham. We also hosted all four weekends of the Senior British League, with two divisions each weekend. Divisions 1 South and 2 South played all their matches here. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. Thanks also to the umpires who umpired all the matches in Division 1 South. We also hosted all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson.

The Club was also especially pleased to host, for the third year, the Southern Disability Grand Prix, organised by SportsAble and a training camp organised by Paul and Joanna Drinkhall with help from Cippenham old boy Gavin Evans.

A full list of external events (June 2015-May 2016), totalling 34 weekend days, identical to the previous year, was as follows.

Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	Senior British League (7)
	National Championships Regional Qualification
	National Junior League (4)
	National Cadet League (4)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (9)
	Buckinghamshire Closed Championships
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
SportsAble:	Southern Disability Grand Prix (2)
Other:	Drinkhall Training Camp (2)



Club Events

Open Tournaments

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

Month	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 15	Young Players' Summer Festival	Catherine Hayes	Steve Smith	142
Nov 14	Junior 4-Star	Mike Atkinson	Steve Smith	208
Jan 16	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	24 pairs
Feb 16	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	42
Feb 16	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Ken Phillips	75
Apr 16	Super 6 Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Peter Hillier	34

A new and ambitious innovation this season was the introduction of a Cippenham Junior 4-Star Open. 4-star events involve a great deal more effort from the organisers and it was a bold step for the Club, led by Ken Phillips. The idea was born out of the requirements for players to compete in a certain number of 4-star events in order to be eligible for the national championships and a lack of opportunities to do this in the south of England. Mike Atkinson, whose idea it was, became the Organiser, Steve Smith the Referee and Ken Phillips the Entries Secretary with the entry form itself being prepared by Naomi Hayes. Graham Trimming produced the programme, looked after the publicity and took the photographs while Elena and Dave Tant, with help from Simon Vine, were responsible for booking players in on the day. A large army of qualified umpires was also assembled, ably controlled by Jan Chapman. In the calendar, this event took the place of the Young Players' Autumn Festival. The event was a huge success and is scheduled to be repeated next April.



Other than that, the format of open tournaments remained the same as season 2014-15. Two of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 2-Star Opens and catered for open and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. Another tournament was branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Open and featured two age groups in the same day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 players. The Young Players' Summer Festival is effectively two Five by Two's on consecutive days. Entry levels were consistent with previous years with the Saturday events of the Junior 4-Star being over-subscribed and the Team Open also being full.

The Clubs places on record its thanks for the organisers and referees, listed above, who give their time to help the Club.

For the first time since 2009-19, we went through an entire year without any of the Club's members winning any of the home tournaments. There were some runners-up positions, the two most notable being Jemma Walker in the Cadet Girls' Singles at the Junior 4-Star and Mike Rhodes in the Senior Singles at the 5 by 2 Senior & Veterans' 1-Star.

Club Championships



The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past nine seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. For the fourth year, there was also a Junior Singles, this time played during a Monday evening coaching session. The entry the Junior Singles was good while for all events it was moderate. Shae Thakker retained his Junior Singles title while the Open Singles and Veterans' Singles went to the 2014 winners, Ricky Hardcastle and Simon Vine, respectively. Ricky also teamed up with Laura Feldmann to win the Open Doubles.

Festive Grand Prix

For the fifth year a Festive Grand Prix was organised in the week before the Christmas shutdown. The was organised using the standard Grand Prix format with the added encouragement of mulled wine and mince pies. Seb Nimier demonstrated the progress that he has made by winning the event.

Team Competitions

The Club ran sixteen teams in various leagues this season.

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

British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
Women's British League	Team Captains:	Martin Adams; Paul Baker
Veterans' British League	Captain and Secretary:	Denise Weller
National Junior League	Captains and Secretaries:	Paul Baker; Denise Weller
National Cadet League:	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
Maidenhead League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
	Team Captains	Elena Tant
	Selection Sub-Committee	Graham Trimming; Sue Hayes; Elena Tant
		Elena Tant; Dave Tant

British League Competitions

The Club ran seven teams in the British leagues, one more than in the previous season. The additional team was a second team, comprising our junior girls, in the Women's British League. All in all, this turned into one of our more successful campaigns with a divisional title and two runners-up positions.



The first team in the Senior British League achieved their highest ever finish, second in Division 1 South, missing out on the title only on sets aggregate after a faultless final weekend. This qualified the team for a place in the play-offs for promotion to the Premier Division. However, with the Premier Division being reorganised next season into a home and away basis on fourteen different dates, this invitation, in common with most other teams, was declined. Instead, we are guaranteed a place in the new national Championship Division for next season. Congratulations to the team of Josh Bennett, Owe Karlsson, Martin Adams, Robert Hansell, Martin Gray and Tom Windram on this historic achievement. Josh had the added bonus of receiving the award for the player with the most wins in the division.

The second team struggled with availability throughout the season and had to bring in additional players to fulfil their fixtures and eventually finished bottom of Division 3 South.

The new junior team in the Women's British League justified the belief placed in them and gained the runners-up spot in Division 5. Their play and immaculate behaviour won them the award for Team of the Weekend in the first half. Jemma Walker was supreme throughout especially during the final weekend when she returned a 100% record. The first team finished fifth in Division 3 and both teams may well face each other in Division 4 next season.



A whole season unbeaten for Martin Adams was the bedrock of second place for our men's team in Veterans' British League Division 1B and the consequential promotion next season to Division 1. Meanwhile, the women's team went one better, winning Division 2 after being demoted in the summer. Congratulations to Denise Weller, Julie Dean and Wendy Porter but especially Sue Hayes who was beaten only once the entire season.



The Junior British League girls' team, after a successful first season, were placed in Division 2 and finished fourth.

National League Competitions

Five teams were entered in total this season, three in the National Junior League and two in the National Cadet League..

With a promotion and relegation system operating twice during the season, the A and B team both finished the National Junior League in Division 2. The A team spent all season in the division whereas the B team won promotion for the final round by winning Division 3 in round 2. The C team was at or near the bottom of Division 4 throughout. The undoubted star of the competition was Shae Thakker who went through the entire season unbeaten, that's 35 matches!

In the National Cadet League, the A team started in Division 1 but finished the season in Division 2. The B team started in Division 3 and finished in Division 4.

Local Leagues

The Club ran four teams in the Maidenhead League this season, the same as the previous season and remains the joint biggest club in the League. Saxons regained the runners-up position they lost the previous year while Trojans were only one place behind. The two teams in Division 2 and 3 finished at or close to the bottom of their divisions. Saracens failed to fulfil their last four fixtures in Division 3 in what was the only black spot for the Club in any otherwise successful season. Unfortunately, one player took up residence abroad during the season and one other failed to honour his obligations. Thanks are due, though, to the players who did battle on in adverse circumstances.

Simon Vine was the Club's best performing player, losing only twice in thirty matches. Ricky Hardcastle and Paul Baker also put up strong performances while Ricky, Albert Cheung, Graham Trimming and Laura Feldmann were the Saxons team that won runners-up awards.

Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over two decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. Attendances have improved this season and the coaching is once again on the rise.

There are three weekly coaching groups. On Mondays, it is the advanced class for invited players. Wednesday sees a smaller squad of hand-picked players in the elite group and on Thursdays there is the beginners' class to which anyone is welcome and is where young players are first introduced to the Club.



Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for about thirty years now and he is still the mainstay of the operation, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising. He is ably assisted by Jan Chapman, principally on Mondays, while Gemma Chapman was assisting on Wednesday before personal matters took precedence. The Thursday session has been run by Sue Hayes and Ken.

Ken and Jan also undertook coaching for pupils of the School, organised and financed by BerkshireActive. This has run for two terms and will recommence in the autumn.

An informal cluster exists with the other coaching classes run by Ken Phillips comprising: Farnham Common Middle School; St. Anthony's School, Slough; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; Cox Green School, Maidenhead (run by Jan Chapman).

The Club does not offer adult coaching but Malcolm Makarian helps a few players on a private basis.

Tournament Successes for Individuals

This season has seen individual successes by players across the age ranges, even though this has been confined to a small number of players.

Starting with the juniors, our Senior British League number one, Josh Bennett was runner-up in the Junior Boys' Doubles at the English Junior Closed Championships. Shae Thakker was on the winners' rostrum twice at the Southern Disability Grand Prix and at the Berkshire Schools' Championships while Jemma Walker won both senior doubles events at the Bucks Closed.

The senior players who won events were Robert Hansell and Ricky Hardcastle. Robert won the Men's Singles and Men's Doubles at the Bucks Closed while Ricky won the Tweenies' Singles and Mixed Doubles at the Maidenhead Closed.

Representing the veterans were Sue Hayes and Wendy Porter. Sue became Bucks Closed Women's Singles champion and was also Jemma's partner for that Women's Doubles success. Wendy won the Mixed Doubles at the Berkshire Closed.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Shae Thakker became the Club's latest international representative when called up for the GB Para team on two occasions. Shae made his debut in the Belgian Para Open and this was followed up by an appearance at the Lignano Master Open in Italy.

Five Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with Shristi Ghosh and Sue Hayes being honoured by the first team. Three Cippenham players turned out for the junior team and the same number for the cadet team. Denise Weller represented Berkshire at both veterans and over-60 age levels.

Seventeen Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories and this number is five more than in the previous season. Many players appeared in more than one list. Josh Bennett, ranked 5 in Junior Boys and Jemma Walker who peaked at 10 Cadet Girls made it into the top 10. Other notable high rankings were Shae Thakker, 12 in Under-13 Boys, Josh Bennett 12 in Under-21 Men, Martin Adams, 16 in Veteran Men and Shristi Ghosh, 17 in Cadet Girls.

In addition Shae is ranked at 6 in the BTTAD Men's Standing Class 10 list.

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

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2016