



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 1999-00

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the twenty-seventh season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the fourth since the opening of the new premises. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- the generous praise shown by most visitors to the Centre for the way in which the Centre operates, the welcome that visitors receive and the quality of the activity programme devised by the Club;
- the use of the Centre for the prestigious National Junior and Cadet Masters and Premier Division of the Senior County Championships;
- the highly successful range of open tournaments organised by the Club at the Centre;
- the awards made to Ken Phillips of ETTA Male Coach of the Year and to the Club as Slough Borough Council's Junior Club of the Year;
- Gareth Herbert's selection for England in the World, European and Commonwealth Championships, Gemma Chapman's and Joanna Parker's for the forthcoming European Youth Championships and other events and Bradley Evans' for England U12 and Schools;
- The incredible success of the local Slough, Maidenhead and High Wycombe teams in the national junior and cadet team championships over the past two seasons;
- the Club's success in winning Junior British League Girls' Premier Division, Boys Division 3A, Veterans' British League Division 3 and being runners-up in British League Division 2 South and Women's British League Division 2;
- the success of Club members in national and open competitions, especially the national titles won by Joanna Parker and Bradley Evans;
- the success of the Club's teams and players in Slough League competitions, winning nearly everything entered;
- the continuing success of the Club's coaching activities;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- the tremendous energy shown by the Club's management in the day to day operation of the Centre;
- the sustained financial result for the year that is helping to secure the viability of the Centre in the future.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre

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



The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area which includes a 69 sq.m. lounge bar area with kitchen, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing great views over the playing area. This facet of the design has been very favourably received by visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office, which doubles as a control point for tournaments. Men's and women's toilets are supplemented by a disabled toilet and shower facility, while a link is established to the

School's changing rooms. In the opinion of many the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

The Centre is the home of the Southern Region Sports Psychology Unit and its library is housed in an impressive cabinet in the lounge area. Members of the Club have free access to the books and tapes contained therein. The top half of the cabinet currently displays the impressive range of silverware won the Club over the past year.

In order to maintain equipment standards at the highest level, a further four new Donic Waldner Sinus tables plus their associated nets and posts were purchased last year to supplement the ten similar tables purchased in 1998. These tables are now used for all competitive play and the 12 Persson tables, purchased in 1996, have remained in use for general practice and coaching. The four very old Butterfly Nippon tables were disposed of during the year. With one other old table on site the total stock at the Centre stands at 27 and all can be accommodated within the existing storage area!

Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 1999 AGM met ten times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Ken Phillips	Chairman & Coaching Officer	9	May 23 rd 8
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	10	July 11 th 7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	10	September 19 th 6
Rhys Evans	Deputy Chairman	8	October 24 th 7
Mike Rhodes	Bookings Officer	5	November 28 th 6
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	7	January 23 rd 7
Linda Evans	General Committee member	4	February 27 th 4
Sue Hayes	General Committee member	10	April 2 nd 6
Brian Furness	General Committee member	2	April 26 th 6 May 14 th 8

Brian Furness was co-opted onto the committee on February 27th. There were no officially appointed sub-committees during the year, although other meetings were held by the Coaching Group and the Calendar Working Group.

Thanks are due to all whom have contributed to the administration of the club, including all the team captains.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his nineteenth year as Chairman and twenty-fifth as Fixtures Secretary, Mike Rhodes has completed his tenth as Inter-League Secretary while Peter Hillier commenced his third stint as the League's Treasurer. Ken Phillips (Coaching Co-ordinator) and Armando Borges (Trophies Secretary) also served on the Committee.

Two Club members are full time employees of the ETTA, Paul Baker as Facilities Officer and Wesley Bush-Harris as Southern Region Development Officer. Last autumn Sue Hayes was appointed Honorary Chairman of the ETTA Southern Region Coaching Panel. For the Buckinghamshire County Association Ken Phillips has continued in his role of Coaching Officer and is joint organiser of the Southern Region National Junior League as well as being on the ETTA Tournaments Committee.



In October the Club made its third Outstanding Contribution Award and the popular recipient was Sue Hayes in recognition of her contribution to coaching in the time since she moved into the area in 1997. The Club also won an award of its own - as the Junior Club of the Year at the annual Slough Borough Council Sports Awards. This was the third award in as many years made to the Club which is considered very highly in the local sporting world.

The TOPClub initiative within which the Club was a pilot scheme has recently been replaced by the ETTA with the PremierClub scheme. The Club has recently made application for inclusion therein and is expecting to be granted the highest status.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 201, so far just short of the final figure of 214 achieved in the last membership year which finished in August 1999, and very comparable with the number of 60 four years ago. Some of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless this represents a huge increase since the opening of the Centre and must make the Club one of the largest in the country.

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, Gareth Herbert who has been granted special rights to practice facilities and two others - Jane Dickens and Alan Farral who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. Last summer 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 94 players have represented the club in match play, seven fewer than in the previous year. 38 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, three less than in the previous season. Eight of these were in British leagues and a further seven in the National Junior League, which is in its third season. Twenty-three teams operated in the Slough League, seven in the senior divisions and sixteen in the Youth Divisions. Disappointingly, these figures represent six fewer teams operating in the senior divisions of local leagues than two years ago. 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.

Mike Rhodes became the sixth player to celebrate his 400th appearance for the Club during the past year, while Roland Clapton reached 200 after not appearing for the Club between 1980 and 1999! The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1253	Gareth Lovell	373	Jacquie Lovell	272
Peter Hillier	718	George Appleby	372	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	Frank Cowley	363	Steve Joel	263
Ken Phillips	536	Rodney Potts	316	Armando Borges	224
Mike Rhodes	410	Alec Watson	301	Georgia Veneer	223
Jackie Thomas	403	Dave Pountney	276	Jane Dickens	215
Neil Bird	374	Wendy Barlow	274	Roland Clapton	211

The busiest ten players at the Club during the season were all juniors, and the busiest of all was David Hayes with 60 appearances.

One of the nicest developments at the Club over the past four years has been the involvement of whole families with the youngsters playing while the parents assist in the administration, coaching or general well being of the Club. Of special note in this context are the Dickens, Evans, Hayes and Mitchell families. Sadly, we have to report that one special lady is no longer with us: Karen Mitchell tragically passed away in March after becoming ill with cancer.

Finance

The financial success of the Club and the Centre has surpassed all expectations. The Club is far ahead of its financial plan drawn up when the facility was being considered. Income is higher than expected through the success of our tournaments, hiring arrangements with other table tennis bodies, and the funds generated through coaching and catering activities. Coupled with this, the Centre is costing much less to run than was first anticipated. The strategy remains to keep fees at their present levels, having reduced them over the past two years, and to build up a fund to secure the future financial viability of the Centre.

The surplus for the year shown in the Club's accounts is £7,713 and the balance sheet reveals a net worth of £35,062. In addition the Centre made a surplus of £1,131 and the consolidated net worth is £39,384. Cash balances total £29,247, less than the net worth because of the further investment that has been made in capital equipment. For the first time corporation tax has had to be paid and this has reduced the result for the year by £647. Corporation tax is payable on any surpluses of the Centre and on investment income earned by the Club. Surpluses arising out of members' fees are not subject to tax.

The financial surplus is less than in the last few years because it has been deliberately managed downwards by reducing fees and waiving fees in respect of Gold Privileged Members. However it should be borne in mind that these surpluses are only earned through the hard work of the Club's committee and helpers. Coaching provided a surplus of £5,462, catering £4,673, letting fees £3,952, open tournaments £1,717 and interest income £1,182. Because of the wear and tear that the Club's equipment suffers it has been decided to accelerate the depreciation provision and minor items such as nets and scoring machines are now expensed at the time of purchase.

Members this season paid an annual fee of £10 plus Slough League fees of £10. Match fees were reduced to £2.50 while coaching fees remained £3 and practice fees remained £2.50. All these are halved for juniors and OAPs. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1 (50p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £17.50 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address.

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

Training

The Club continues to train coaches, umpires and administrators. Sue Hayes became the second Club coach to attain Level 4 (Senior) status while last summer Terry Boxall passed his level 3 coaching assessment and several others - Jan Chapman, Andrew Misseldine, Roy Linz - have successfully passed Level 2.

The ETTA recently launched a new initiative - the Junior Umpire Award. About a dozen, so far, of the Club's young players have been trained and received their awards.

Public Relations

The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well in the three local newspapers - Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. In the absence of a Public Relations Officer these reports from the Club have been written by Graham Trimming who has also produced ten issues of the Club Newsletter 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. The Club also has its own web site. This has been designed, written and is maintained up to date also by Graham. A full range of information is available and the site has become a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's monthly Newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments.

Many Club members have taken advantage of the special terms arranged with Jarvis Sports for the supply of Club kit. Kit has also been supplied at the Club's expense to members of the eight teams in the British leagues and to some of the coaching staff. These kits carry the Club's professionally designed logo on the back of the shirt and tracksuit and are therefore an important part of the establishment of the Club's corporate identity.

The Centre was used for a photo-shoot by the ETTA in January and these pictures will shortly appear in a range of ETTA publications. At the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards a demonstration was given by Gemma Chapman and Bradley Evans and this was well received by the spectators.

Venue utilisation

Since the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre on 1st October 1996 two principles of utilisation have been established: that weekdays should be for regular events, and that weekends should be filled on an ad hoc basis with no regular weekly events impeding this. The weekday format at present is:

Monday	5.30 to 7.30 pm	Advanced coaching group
	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Excellence coaching group
Tuesday	5.15 to 7.15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7.30 to 9.30 pm	U12/14/17 squad training
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
Friday	7.00 to 9.30 pm	Elite coaching group

Wednesday evening squad sessions began in September 1999. Prior to June 30th there was England squad training. In addition to the seven teams run in the senior divisions of the local league by Cippenham, the Andfoil team in Division 3 of the Slough League also played from the Centre.

Top England player Matthew Syed has a key and uses the Centre as a practice venue on occasions, and Privileged Members are allowed to play when the Centre is not in use for other activities. Many weekend dates have been sold to outside events, which will be detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club or for matches in the British League. Each British League date has hosted two matches: one for Cippenham in Division 2 South and one for OLOP in the Premier Division. There were few dates during the season when the Centre remained empty.

On each occasion that the Centre is open a Duty Officer is nominated. The responsibilities of the Duty Officer include the collection of fees, health and safety, the proper use and storage of the Club's equipment together with the security of the Centre. Much praise is deserved by Mike Rhodes who, in his capacity of Bookings Officer, organises appointment of Duty Officers and often undertakes the work himself. Special mention should be made to Peter Hillier who also often makes himself available for this role.

Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge bar area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area doubles up as a refreshment area at tournaments during which the kitchen copes remarkably well with the demands placed upon it to feed over 100 competitors plus their coaches and parents. This is due in no small way to the skill and hard work of the Club's Social Officer Jacquie Lovell and her staff, especially Pam Dickens and Jan Chapman. Many others, including several parents of our younger members, have also given a great deal of 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. A pay telephone is available for the benefit of members and visitors and the television and VCR are also popular attractions.



The lounge benefits from a full on-licence and the bar is open Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 11 pm and at weekends when required. Thanks are due to Alan Farral who has run the bar almost every Tuesday since the Centre opened and Thursdays are usually manned by Jacquie Lovell. The licensees named are Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips.

The third annual party was arranged in the bar to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members, their families and visitors. Another popular social occasion was the annual barbecue on a Sunday in July (*pictured*).

Outside Events

The Club has been very successful in marketing the Centre for outside events. Extensive use has been made by the ETTA, ETTA Southern Region, Buckinghamshire County Association, Royal County of Berkshire Association and the Slough and Maidenhead Leagues. In addition, the Club was pleased to be able to promote three prestigious ETTA events, for which we granted the ETTA a free venue,

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

A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	National Junior and Cadet Masters (4 days) County Championships Senior Premier Division (2) National Junior League (4) England Junior Training Squad (Wednesday evenings) Tutor coaches' day
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Preliminary/Final Trials (2) Coaches Get-Together/junior training (2) Under-12 squad training
Bucks County TTA:	Junior Closed Championships Men's Inter-League (2) Junior Inter-League Cadet Inter-League County matches (9 dates) Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town Junior/Cadet Inter-Town
Slough League:	Slough Closed Championships (2) Slough Youth Division sessions (5) ETTA Leach Cup session Slough Hard Bat Tournament (Wednesday evening) Slough League play-off matches (Wednesday evening) Bucks Inter-league matches (midweek)

Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
	Maidenhead Charity Handicap Tournament
	ETTA Bromfield Trophy session
OLOP TTC:	British League Premier Division matches (7)
Polish TTC:	ETTA Ormesby Cup session
Barclays Bank TTC:	National Championships (2)
East Berks College:	Level 2 coach education course (2)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

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

Jun 99	Veterans' Summer 2 Star	Jan 00	Veterans' 2 Star
Jun 99	Young Players' Summer Festival	Jan 00	Senior 2 Star (Grand Prix)
Oct 99	Under-9/10/11 1 Star	May 00	Under-12 2 Star
Jan 00	Junior 3 Star		

A Cadet Open was planned for March but re-arranged once and subsequently cancelled from its alternative date due to the ETTA scheduling other events to clash.

The four junior age group events (YPSF; U9/10/11; Junior; Under-12) were all organised by Ken Phillips. All attracted good entries and the Young Players' Summer Festival introduced events for under-8 alongside -9, -10, -11 and -13 in what is probably a first for this country. The two veterans' events were organised by Graham Trimming and attracted entries of about 60. The Senior open (no age restriction) was organised by Rhys Evans, was included in the ETTA's Grand Prix initiative, and attracted a large entry of 96. The Club is indebted to Mick Strode, Ken Phillips and Graham Trimming who all acted as Referee for the events.

The Centre lends itself very well to tournaments of this kind - singles only in groups of four with the top two in each group going forward into the championship, while the third and fourth placed go into a consolation event. If there are fewer entries than the maximum that can be accommodated, then first round groups are enlarged to either five or six players.

Cippenham players often excel at these events and Gemma Chapman (3 times), Warren Brooks (2), James Milton (2) and Joe Misseldine have all become champions this year.

Members' Tournaments

The Club Championships and Handicap Tournament were rolled into one again this season, played in April, and attracted a record entry of 58, four more than last year. Paul Baker and Gemma Chapman won the main events. The seventeen events produced sixteen different winners for the second year running and 28 players went home with at least one trophy!

Team Competitions

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

British League Competitions



Once again eight teams were run in British League competitions and three 1st places and two 2nd places were claimed. A second girls' team was run but the second men's team from the previous season was abandoned. For the first time the Club was crowned as national champions when the girls' first team won the Premier Division of the Junior British League. Congratulations are due to the team of Emily Dearing, Joanna Parker and Gemma Chapman who dropped only one point over the two weekends. Joanna lost only two of her 20 matches, a fine feat for a 12-year old. In order to fully support Jo and Gemma the Club went outside of its core membership to recruit Emily who is a last-year junior from Yorkshire.

Another team to drop only one point was the team which won Veterans' British League Division 3. Clive Payne was unbeaten throughout the season and was well supported by Mike Rhodes and Paul Baker to give the team its second successive promotion. This success was by the large margin of five points, as was the margin with which the boys' second team won Division 3A of their league. This was a remarkable performance by David Hayes, who was unbeaten at the second weekend, Bradley Evans and Thomas Mitchell. This team was seeded to finish fifth at the beginning of the season and yet was heads and shoulders above the others by the end.



The second places were gained by the team in the main British League Division 2 South and by the first team in the Women's British League Division 2. The latter position carries automatic promotion back to Division 1 after last year's relegation. The boys' first team finished third in Division 1 after losing the services, through injury, of John Camilleri for the second weekend, the newly formed girls' second team finished fifth in their Division 2 and the women's second team finished fourth in their Division 3.

Other National Competitions

For the first time the Club entered a team into the Gainsford Cup, the national knock-out championship for women's teams. After winning the group in Stage 1, albeit after a three-way tie, the team was without Sue Collier for the finals and finished fourth. In the counterpart men's competition, which Cippenham was able to enter by virtue of being Slough League champions, our under-strength team fell at the first hurdle.

Once again the Club entered seven teams in the Southern Region section of the National Junior League. This event was held on four Saturdays at Cippenham and Chesham High School. In 1998-9 season, which was concluded after production of this report last year, we finished both first and second in the girls' section. This year our challenge fell away, due to some extent to unavailability of some players for some matches, and the most successful was the girls' top team that finished second.

Slough League

For a record seventh year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This sixteenth title, also a record, was won by the Pirates team of Martin Rule, Steve Joel, Nick Wilson and Chris Lusher with help from Martin Adams and Clive Payne. Cippenham Outlaws also finished runners-up in Division One but in controversial circumstances in which Chalfont A's last match was declared void after being played out of time. Of the seven teams the only other one to taste success was the Rogues who claimed second position in Division Two but lost out in the newly introduced play-offs for promotion. Rogues gained some consolation in winning the Dilger Cup handicap competition.

Slough League Youth Divisions

Cippenham provided all but one of the 17 entrants into this competition and consequently won all the honours. Strays, spearheaded by David Hayes, won Division 1, Fugitives (Sylvana and Sebastian Bielec) Division 2 and Beggars (Matthew Tucker, Frazer Harper) Division 3. The Tunes Cup handicap competition was won by Urchins.

Slough Summer League

Three teams were entered with Alpha (Nick and Robert Hansell) winners of Division One.

St. Ives Inter-Club Competition

Cippenham became the first club ever to win all three age group events at the annual St. Ives Inter-Club Tournaments. This was the fifth time that the Club has entered and the success becomes greater each year. The U17 section was won by a team of Warren Brooks, Robert Hansell and John Camilleri. Warren also teamed up with Gemma Chapman and Tom Mitchell to win the U14 section. Other teams also finished fourth in the U17 section and third and fifth in the U14s.

That was surpassed, however, in the U12 section where Bradley Evans, David Hayes and James Milton were supreme and other Cippenham sides finished 2nd, 5th and 8th. Even more remarkable is that the three section winners all won every match 3-0! Now that is domination!

Coaching



Coaching of young players is probably the most important work that is undertaken by the Club. The coaching scheme has been established for many years and has been very successful for some time. However, it continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of Club Coaching Officer Ken Phillips. Ken has assembled around him a team of dedicated coaches and the reward for their efforts is evident in the results of our players on the national circuit. Possibly one of the most significant events over the past year was the award made to Ken Phillips by the English Table Tennis Association as its Male Coach of the Year. This alone demonstrates how highly the ETTA rates the coaching work being undertaken at Cippenham.

Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken, most importantly at Farnham Common Middle School. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away (Oxfordshire, Wiltshire etc.) who want to take advantage of the high standard of coaching and development management available at the Club. Another link is with Arbour Vale in Slough, a school for pupils with special needs. This has yet to provide the Club with any players for its own sessions, and may be unlikely to do so, but it is a source of great inspiration for Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman who enjoy the challenge of teaching these youngsters.

There are currently six weekly coaching sessions for youngsters. On Tuesday and Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral and Ken Phillips respectively. The Monday evening sessions for the Advanced and Excellence performers, who are there by invitation, have been established for many years, having been introduced by Ken under the banner of the Slough and Maidenhead Advanced Coaching Centre (SMACC). Ken is still running these sessions with help from a number of other coaches and feeders. The Friday session was introduced two years ago with the objective of raising the levels of the elite squad of players, all of whom have been selected from the Advanced and Excellence squads for their potential and willingness to work hard. These sessions focus not only on playing skills but also on physical fitness and psychology and are run by Ken Phillips, Sue Hayes and Rhys Evans. These three coaches are also responsible for the age group squads that were introduced into the vacant slot on Wednesday evenings in September 1999. These squads are limited to eight players at U12/14/17 age groups and selection is based entirely on national ranking for the two top groups. These squads replaced the one-to-one coaching that was previously organised although some of this continues on an ad-hoc basis.

Advantage is also taken of the school holidays to organise whole day sessions for a small group of players. The Club owes a great debt to its coaches who have done more than anyone to put Cippenham TTC on the national map and are paving the way for even greater success in the future.

The Club's coaches also travel with the juniors many weekend 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. As well as the coaches, the Club is indebted to Linda Evans who organises the overnight stay arrangements on these occasions.

At the Slough Closed Bradley Evans was presented with the Leo Thompson Trophy as the most improved young player in the League.

Tournament Success for Individuals

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

Gareth Herbert, who has always retained his membership of the Club, retained his national Men's Doubles title. Others have been following in Gareth's footsteps for some years now and the Club is justifiably building up a successful reputation at the National U10/11/12 Championships. In June 1999 Joanna Parker won both the Girls' Singles and Girls' Doubles titles in the U12 age group and Bradley Evans commenced his career by claiming the U10 Boys' Singles. In May 2000 Bradley followed this up by winning the U11 Boys' Singles and was runner-up in the U12's.

Many of the Club's other junior players have won events on the open circuit as have older hands Georgia Veneer and Kai Milvek. Georgia also performed well at the European Veterans' Championship in Sweden, reaching the semi-final of the Over-75 Women's Singles and receiving a bronze medal. Locally, Cippenham players dominated the Slough Closed and Bucks Junior Closed championships and the various smaller and handicap competitions. At the Bucks event Cippenham players won every event for the fourth year in succession! Mike Rhodes, Thomas Mitchell and Gemma Chapman had exceptionally good results, while Martin Rule claimed the Slough Masters title.



At the National Junior/Cadet Masters tournaments, held at Cippenham, home players were well to the fore with Gemma Chapman and Joanna Parker featuring strongly in both events and Thomas Mitchell, Bradley Evans, Warren Brooks and Gemma Hollett also qualifying for the Cadets'.

Representative Honours and Rankings

A large proportion of the Club's membership have found their way onto England ranking lists this season, and seven have made it all the way into the top ten in the various categories. Highest ranked man is Gareth Herbert, who has featured in England's team in the World, European and Commonwealth Championships and Joola European Men's League this season, and reached number five on the list. Gareth won a gold medal when England won the Commonwealth men's team title. In the junior girls' list Emily Dearing, Gemma Chapman and Joanna Parker have reached highs of 4, 7 and 8 respectively and Gemma and Jo have been 2 and 3 in the cadet girls' section. In the cadet boys Warren Brooks has been ranked as high as 7, while Bradley Evans and David Hayes have been 2 and 5 in the U12 boys' list. At the other end of the ranking list Gavin Evans made an appearance at the age of just six making him certainly the youngest player ever to be ranked nationally.

Bradley Evans made his England debut in an U12 tournament in France and has subsequently also played for England Schools at U11 level. Bradley also won the Boys' Singles event at this British Primary Schools' Championship. Gemma Chapman (at U17) and Joanna Parker (U14) both played for England in the Home Countries International Championship and Jo won the Cadet Girls' Singles event there. Both girls have also been selected to play for England in the forthcoming European Youth Championships. Another member of the Club, Jesper Hougaard, who learned his table tennis at Cippenham, played for Denmark at junior level and became his national Junior Mixed Doubles champion. The turn of the millennium inevitably brought with it some additional awards and Kai Milvek was voted the third best female player of the century in her native Estonia.

10 players who represent Cippenham in the Slough League have played for Buckinghamshire this season, while 20 have represented Slough. Slough have now won the Leach Cup (national U14 boys' team championship) four times in the last five years and in both 1999 and 2000 the successful team was Thomas Mitchell, Bradley Evans and David Hayes.



Success though has not been confined to Slough recently as Maidenhead teams have won the Bromfield Trophy (U17 girls) and Hammersley Cup (U14 girls) in both the last two years. The Cippenham coaching scheme has supplied the majority of the players for these teams - Gemma Chapman, Joanna Parker, Emma Human and Jane Dickens. High Wycombe, represented by Warren Brooks, Robert Hansell, Duane Brooks, Stuart Tweedy, Chris Hansell and Ross Drabble, have been runners-up to Slough for the past two seasons in the Leach Cup and were also second this year in the Carter Cup (U17 boys).

When, in 1999, the Slough U14 girls' team of Hannah Stone, Helen Smith and Francesca Parnell also made it to the final of the Hammersley Cup it meant that Cippenham supplied all 12 players for the finals of the two national U14 team finals. That's also domination!

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

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
May 2000

Photographs by: Rhys Evans; Mike Rhodes; Graham Trimming