

Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2007-08

Highlights of the Year

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

- n the award to the Club of Sport England's Clubmark status as an ETTA *PremierClub*;
- n the inclusion of the Centre into the London 2012 Olympics Pre-Games Training Guide;
- n the ETTA Volunteer of the Year awards presented to Graham Trimming, Jacquie Lovell, Jan Chapman and Stephanie Mitchell;
- n the ETTA Merit Awards presented to Sue Hayes and Jan Chapman;
- n the Junior Club of the Year award at Slough Sports Awards and the award made to David Hayes as Senior Sportsperson of the Year;
- n the Life Membership of the Club bestowed upon the Founder, Graham Trimming;
- n the day out in Queensmere Shopping Centre advertising the Club and the sport to a wide audience;
- n the large amount of training undertaken for Club officials and members as part of our annual development plan;
- n the outstanding attendances at the Club's twice-weekly practice evenings;
- n the success, both in terms of participation and in meeting its objectives, of the Club's weekly Grand Prix event;
- n the massive entries received once again for the Young Players' Summer and New Year Festivals and the Cadet and Under-13 Open;
- n the continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for its prestigious events including the National Junior Masters, the County Championships Senior and Junior Premier divisions and the British League Division One promotion playoffs;
- n the hosting of all other seven days' programme of the British League;
- n the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- n the fantastic financial result due to the enormous effort put in to the day to day running of the Club by its hard working management team and volunteer force.

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 three 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 attracts many compliments from visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office that doubles as a control point for tournaments. There is a disabled wash-room and changing and toilet facilities 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 purchased nine Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables at the start of the season as part of a policy for the regular upgrading and renewing of equipment. 12 of the existing Donic Waldner Sinus tables were retained and these remain the first to be used on Club evenings. 9 net and posts sets were also purchased during the season along with a rack for carrying a large proportion of the court surrounds. Twelve scoring machines have been refurbished with numbers produced on the Club's own laminating machine. A robot, purchased in 2002, recently became unusable and is due for replacement. Since 2003 the Centre has benefited from 80 court surrounds in blue with the name of the Club printed in yellow. This has helped create a striking brand identity at the home venue. There are also about 90 quality spectator chairs.

The Club has developed a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events and markings for these were made on the skirting thereby easing the tournament set-up process. These configurations 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 implications for health and safety.

Administration

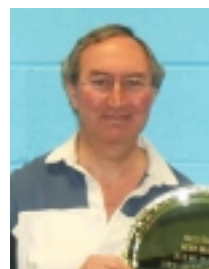
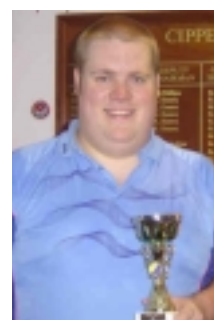
The Management Committee elected at the 2007 AGM met nine times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Graham Trimming	Chairman/General Secretary	9	June 17	8
Peter Hillier	Treasurer/Bookings Officer	9	July 29	9
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	7	September 9	10
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	9	October 21	8
Catherine Hayes	Events Officer	6	December 9	9
Martin Adams	General Committee member	6	January 20	8
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	8	March 2	7
Gemma Chapman	General Committee member	3	April 6	6
John Lloyd	General Committee member	9	April 30	9
Steve Smith	General Committee member	8		

For the third year the Management Committee drew 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
Welfare Officer:	Jacquie Lovell
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Ken Phillips
Coaching Liaison:	Gemma Chapman
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips
Committee Secretary:	Jacquie Lovell
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming
PremierClub Contact:	Graham Trimming
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming
Supply Players' Agent:	Roy Linz
Marketing Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Calendar Coordinator:	Catherine Hayes
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes
Weekday Duty Manager:	Jacquie Lovell
Umpires' Coordinator:	Terry Boxall
Servery Manager:	Jacquie Lovell
Westgate School Liaison:	Jacquie Lovell
Health and Safety Advisor:	Jacquie Lovell
Maintenance Manager:	Terry Boxall
Supply Club Agent:	Peter Hillier
Auditor:	Filippo Rotunno.



Also, secretaries and captains were appointed for all teams and organizers and referees appointed for all major 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; Phil Clarkson
Slough League Selection:	John Lloyd; Amar Abid-Ali; Catherine Hayes; Graham Trimming
Calendar:	Catherine Hayes; Sue Hayes; Peter Hillier; 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.

On the Slough League Committee Graham Trimming completed his 33rd year as Fixtures Secretary and also held the positions of Chairman and Treasurer this year. Elroy Hull also served as Inter-League Secretary and Competitions 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 also continued as Auditor of the Maidenhead Association. Ken Phillips was the Referee for the Bucks Closed Championships for both the senior and junior events and

for the Bucks Trials.

Paul Baker left his position as the full time Facilities Officer for the ETTA in mid-season while Roy Linz continued his work on behalf of the Southern Region Training Squad.

Volunteer Investment

The Club has, for several years now, placed great emphasis on volunteer investment management – the recruitment, retention and reward of the Club's volunteer work force. Although there are never enough people to do all the things we would like to do the Club does have a more able, better focussed and more highly motivated volunteer force than most other organizations of its type. This is recognized by the ETTA which continues to place faith in the Club to host events on its behalf.

Jacquie Lovell is the Club's Volunteer Champion and it is her dedication in this and her many other tasks, leading by superb example, that keeps many others engaged in their work load, giving up their time to the benefit of the Club willingly and enthusiastically. The wine that is sometimes on offer in the servery at weekend events helps a little too! Jacquie maintains the valuable Volunteer Reference Manual with its collection of written resource materials and has organized a great deal of training for members over the past year as the Club embarks on a policy of training and accreditation for its volunteer workforce.



Critical to the success of volunteer management 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 presented the Outstanding Contribution Award at its annual Anniversary Party. The 2007 award was made to Malcolm Makarian for the many hours he spends assisting the Club at weekend events and during the Club's practice evenings. Malcolm is the epitome of the sort of member every Club would like to be able to call upon – always ready and willing to take on a variety of tasks. 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 2007 the Senior Player of the Year award went to octogenarian Georgia Veneer and the counterpart Junior Player of the Year award to Rachel Farquhar.

There was a surprise too for the Club's founder Graham Trimming at the annual awards evening. He was honoured with being the first, and so far only, Life Member of the Club and received a framed certificate of which a duplicate resides in the lounge area at the Club.

There has been a plentiful supply of ETTA awards coming the Club's way also during the past year. At the ETTA Volunteer and Coach Awards in September, Graham Trimming received the Premier Club Volunteer of the Year award, Jacquie Lovell the Volunteer Coordinator of the Year award, Steph Mitchell the Young Volunteer of the Year award and Jan Chapman the Female Coach of the Year award. Four in one year! Wow!

Backing that up, Jan Chapman and Sue Hayes received the ETTA Merit Award in October, an award for which ten years' loyal service is the absolute minimum and recently came the news that Graham Trimming is to be elected as a Vice-President of the ETTA at the forthcoming AGM.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Club is fortunate to have had the service of Catherine Hayes in this position throughout the year and the success of these sessions is has a lot to do with the manner in which she goes about her duties.

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. Another aspect that goes largely unnoticed is maintenance. Terry Boxall and Alan Farral undertake much of this work and use their many skills for the benefit of the club. They have also run our Thursday coaching sessions for many years and we owe them a great deal of thanks.

Roy Linz is another member who quietly gets on with tasks in the background including processing and dealing with Bribar orders, regularly helping at coaching sessions and sometimes stepping in to the breach as Duty Officer. For the second year Chris Tucker has taken on the role of National Junior League Administrator.

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, umpiring, 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 some of the events held at Cippenham.

Development

Phase 4, year 3, of the Club's Action Plan saw more emphasis on marketing, accreditation and training. Previous phases, with initiatives to increase participation in the Club's twice-weekly practice session and to improve the Club's operating financial position, had been very successful. Having got two of the most important building blocks in place it was time to concentrate on less urgent but still very important aspects of the Club's development.

Objective: to increase awareness in the local and wider table tennis communities

A new roadside sign was erected in August and this immediately brought in new members previously unaware of the Club's existence. A photographic backdrop was sourced in September and this has been used since for photographs supplied to the local and table tennis media.

In January the Club's exhibited to local shoppers for a full Saturday in Queensmere Shopping Centre. Shoppers were encouraged to have a go and queues formed of people wanted to try it out. A handful of new members were recruited from this exercise.

Objective: to recruit and retain more new players in order to build membership

This has worked well with adults and now it is time to target juniors. With the ETTA and Burnham Schools Sport Partnership as partners, the Club is seeking to recruit a part-time paid coach to work in local schools and link them to the Club. Recruitment will commence soon with the aim to have a scheme up and running by the new school year in September.

Objective: to enhance the available skill sets available to the Club

A large budget of £2,000 was set aside for training Club officials and members in a variety of different skills. In July an ETTA Tournament Organizers course was held at the Club and seven Club members successfully qualified at Level 2. In November and February a Level 1 coaching course was held which three members attended while the associated Emergency Life Support and Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses were so successful in January that they were repeated in March. A total of 13 members attended the Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses and ten attended the Emergency Life Support courses. In addition, delegate from other table tennis organizations attended all of the courses.



Future plans include an umpires' course in June and a referees' course in the autumn. At the end of May an ETTA Ability course has been booked.

Objective: to gain PremierClub accreditation

After a lot of hard work and collection of the necessary evidence, this was achieved in January.

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. The summer of 2007 provided the best possible reward with the Club scooping four awards at the English Table Tennis Association's annual Volunteer and Coach Awards. Club founder Graham Trimming was rewarded for 35 years of work in table tennis with the *PremierClub* Volunteer of the Year award while Steph Mitchell followed in Catherine Hayes' footsteps to bring the Young Volunteer of the Year award to Cippenham for the second year

running. Add to this Jacquie Lovell as Volunteer Coordinator of the Year and Jan Chapman as Female Coach of the Year and we have Cippenham's equivalent of the "Fab Four". Then in April came the news that Graham Trimming is to be appointed a Vice-President of the English Table Tennis Association at its AGM in June. On the playing front, Gavin Evans was honoured as the Junior Sportsman of the Year at the East Midlands BBC Sports Awards.

Personal awards are fantastic for rewarding service to the sport and for encouraging others to follow. They send a message to the recipient that shows that the hard work is valued and not taken for granted. However, from the Club's perspective the most important accreditation this year was the certification by the ETTA, on behalf of Sport England, of the Club as an Excellence PremierClub. The Club has for many years been registered in the PremierClub programme and this certification at the highest possible status puts Cippenham amongst the elite of sports clubs in England and provides the public with an assurance that the highest standards are met. It took a long time to complete the file of evidence to support the application but it was worthwhile. By all accounts the ETTA was very impressed with the Club's file.



Further evidence that Cippenham Table Tennis Centre is one of the best in the country came with the announcement, on March 1, that the Centre is to be included in the Official Guide to Training venues for the 2012 Olympic Games. What this means, in practice, is that the Centre will feature in a guide from which national Olympic bodies choose their training facilities. With our ideal transport network, being close to Heathrow Airport and to London, we are confident that we represent as good a facility as can be found specific to table tennis.

Accreditation comes locally as well as nationally. The Club was presented with the Junior Club of the Year at the annual Slough Sports Awards for 2007 while David Hayes received the accolade of Senior Sportsperson of the Year at the same event. The Club has also signed a Service Level Agreement with Slough Borough Council for which funding is received.

When a development plan was written in 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, shows that Cippenham has retained third place overall out of over 100 despite running fewer teams in those leagues.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 192: 22 up on the same stage last year. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2007 was 173, 6 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.

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 59 players have represented the club in match play, 17 less than in the previous year. 8 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to 23 the previous year. Only 16 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, the lowest number for very many years. Seven teams were entered into British leagues, four in the National Junior League and five in the Slough League (one of which dropped out). 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 35 years old and during that time a total of 663 players have played in our teams. The Club's Founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club with over 1,400 while Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 800. Armando Borges became the 16th player to play 300 matches for Cippenham while Catherine Hayes became the 31st player to make 200 appearances. No player, this season, reached their first century. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1436	Georgia Veneer	327	Steve Crow	268
Peter Hillier	813	Paul Baker	323	Robert Hansell	259
Frank Earis	669	Rodney Potts	316	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	559	Alec Watson	301	Jane Dickens	235
Ken Phillips	549	Armando Borges	300	Sue Hayes	224
Jackie Wood	403	Jacque Lovell	282	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	388	Gemma Chapman	280	Anna Watton	204
Gareth Lovell	381	Wendy Barlow	279	Andrew Dickens	203
George Appleby	372	Steve Joel	278	Steve Dorrell	202
Frank Cowley	363	Dave Pountney	276	Catherine Hayes	200
David Hayes	335				

The busiest players during the year were Steve Smith (31), on debut, Ollie Valdez (24) and Paul Baker (20).

Finance

The progress that the Club has made financially over the past three years is staggering! Three years ago the Club had made deficits for two consecutive years, since then surpluses have been built up each season to a position where the Treasurer can report an amazing surplus of over £10,000. This, of course, does not just happen. It is the result of an enormous amount of hard work by a dedicated volunteer work force and a great deal of management focus and attention.

The top slice of the surplus (about £2,000) is due to interest on cash invested, leaving an operating surplus of about £8,000. Compared to three years ago, the big ticket winners are: (1) a reduction in cleaning expense by doing the work ourselves (actually, Jacquie) £3,600; (2) an increase in practice fee revenue through much better attendances at Tuesday and Thursday sessions £3,200; (3) increased fee income from open tournaments, partly through fee increments and partly through higher levels of participation £2,200; (4) charging players a fee for registration in the British leagues £1,250, and (5) increased catering income £1,200. These results are after spending over £1,000 in the year on training.

Further analysis of the consolidated financial results of the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Ltd reveals that revenue generated from non-members, external income, exceeded revenue generated from members by 66%. This shows how much the enormous effort at weekends maintains the low cost to members by leveraging finance from outside of the Club's membership. Another healthy financial yardstick is that the margin of safety stands at 35%.

At the end of the financial year in April, cash balances stood at about £48,500 and net assets at £73,000. That is good in anybody's terms. These balances and renewed confidence in the operating results of the Club means that, should another worthwhile project be identified, funds could be made available for capital expenditure.

No new increases in fees were introduced this season and none are proposed for next season except that the rate at which we hire our premises to third parties rose from £18 to £20 per hour. Annual membership fees remained £15, practice and match fees £3.50 and coaching fees £5. 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 second year 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.

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.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of our friend who passed away 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, and much of it 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. 33 reports have been submitted during the year. These achieved over 650 column inches together with 24 photographs, both statistics up on the previous year but not as high as some seasons before that. Reports of the Club's open tournaments and other news have also appeared in "Table Tennis News", on the ETTA web site and in the VETTS Newsletter. An edition of the Club Newsletter has also been published ten times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. These and the notice boards at the Centre are an important source of information for everyone. A Membership Pack was introduced several years ago and this, updated when necessary by Jacquie Lovell, and improved during the past few months, 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). 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 club table tennis web site in the country.

Then Club has enjoyed a good working relationship with Bribar since signing up with them as the Club's official suppliers in 2006 and has welcomed Barry and Sue Chapman at a number of our events. A striking combination of yellow shirt, blue shorts and blue tracksuit is used as the Club's kit and this was supplied at the Club's expense to members of the 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 in the establishment of the Club's corporate

identity. Some Club members have taken advantage of the special terms arranged with Bribar for the supply of Club kit and playing equipment. The Club is thankful to Roy Linz who has managed the service to members and to Peter Hillier who has acted as agent for the Club's own requirements.

Martin Adams has had a busy year as the Club's Marketing Coordinator and he has coordinated many ventures. In the summer of 2007 a new roadside sign was erected and immediately began to draw in new members. By September we also had a new photographic backdrop made to our design and specification and this has already assisted in portraying the Club's image by its use in many photographs that have appeared in newspapers and magazines.



Then for a whole day in January the Club displayed table tennis to Saturday shoppers in Queensmere Shopping Centre, Slough. Thanks are due to the players and coaches who gave up their time to man the display, exhibit their table tennis skills, and speak knowledgeably to the public about our sport. About half a dozen new members were recruited as a direct result. Reports in the local newspapers and on the ETTA web site alerted readers with the catchy header "Cippenham Goes Shop-ping-pong"!

Another public demonstration was at the Slough Sports Awards in March. The capacity audience was thrilled by the spectacular exhibition by Martin Adams and David Hayes and the demonstration of table tennis as a sport for all ages as Eddie Mitchell (aged 13) was paired against Malcolm Makarian (70).

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 100 or so competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 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, Haley Allen, Philippa Armstrong, Terry Boxall, Natalie Buck, Frankie Butterworth, Gemma Chapman, Jan Chapman, Susana Hansell, Catherine Hayes, Maggie Lemon, Alexander Lovell, Charles Mitchell, Eddie Mitchell, Stephanie Mitchell, Fen Fen Oetiker, Phil Prady and Gill Tucker.

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 eleventh 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 summer barbeque re-emerged but as a picnic at the Club rather than a barbeque.

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	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
	7:40 to 10:15 pm	Grand Prix
	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Squad coaching
Wednesday	5:15 to 7:15 pm	Beginners' coaching
Thursday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice

The Grand Prix is now a popular event during the week and has been played mainly on Tuesday evenings. In addition, the Club Championships used some of the hall for five Thursday evenings in April and May.

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 manages this. He has been assisted by other members of the Hayes family plus Terry Boxall, Alex and Jacquie Lovell, Malcolm Makarian, Ken Phillips and Steve Smith.

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 and the Maidenhead and Reading Leagues.

The ETTA events included the National Junior Masters for the twelfth time although the Cadet Masters went elsewhere this year after eleven years at Cippenham. The Premier Division of the Junior County Championships was also staged for the eighth time and the Premier Division of the Senior County Championships for the sixth time. For the Masters and the Junior Premier the venue is given free of charge to the national association, i.e. four 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 1 South and Division 1 South and Midlands and the end of season Division One promotion playoffs. These were organized by Graham Trimming while Ken Phillips acted as Referee. 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, this year just the girls' division, and with Sue Hayes and Chris Tucker doing the organization and administration.

A full list of outside events, totalling 41 days, was as follows:

ETTA:	National Junior Masters (2 days) County Championships Senior Premier Division (2) County Championships Junior Premier Division (2) British League (9)
ETTA Southern Region:	National Junior League (4) Junior/Cadet Trials (2) Junior Training/Assessment (6)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (6) Junior/Cadet Trials Bucks Junior Closed
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Gareth Herbert:	Weekend coaching sessions (2)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

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

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 07	Young Players' Summer Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	316
Jul 07	Veterans' Summer 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Peter Hillier	39
Sep 07	Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Peter Hillier	74
Oct 07	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	24 prs
Nov 07	Junior 2-Star	Terry Boxall	Ken Phillips	93
Jan 08	Young Players' New Year Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	313
Feb 08	Group to Group 2-Star	Steve Smith	Mick Strode	33
Mar 07	Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Mick Strode	64
Apr 07	Cadet/Under-13 2-Star	Sue Hayes	Graham Trimming	120

The Veterans' Summer Open clashed with the European Veterans' Championships and the entry was consequently low. Once again the Group to Group Open failed to attract a worthwhile entry and has been dropped from the calendar for next season. All the other events secured good levels of entry, especially the two Festivals and the Cadet and Under-13 Open. Entries had to be turned away for the latter and that was after some creative scheduling allowed more entries to be accommodated than the normal maximum.

While the majority of our events run on eight (sometimes nine) tables, the Festivals take seventeen with the last five being accommodated in the school gymnasium. These festivals are brilliantly successful, attract huge entries and make a meaningful contribution to the Club's financial result.

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.

The Club used to supply a good number of winners of our own tournaments. This is not so anymore and reflects the falling standard in the general ability of the Club's junior players. Only Eddie Mitchell managed to avert this trend, winning two titles, the Boys' Singles at the Junior Open and the Under-14 Boys' Singles at the Summer Festival.

Many thanks are due to Catherine Hayes and 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.

Club Championships

The Club Championships was staged the same way that was trialed last season, during practice evenings in a less formal setting. Five events were staged with the Open Singles and Open Doubles events both attracting a good turnout. The number of entries was less good for the age group events, the Veterans' Singles, Tweenies' Singles and Junior Singles. Catherine is again thanked for her work in organizing these events.

Tony Stead became the Club's Open Singles champion and took the Open Doubles with Steve Buck, while Paul Elliott won the Veterans' Singles, Grzegorz Strojny the Tweenies' Singles and Anthony Gardner the Junior Singles.

Grand Prix

This is a very real success story for the Club. The Grand Prix has now run thirteen times, in series of six weeks each, and its popularity continues to grow. The Grand Prix has succeeded on many fronts. It has pepped up practice sessions and given them a structure for those players who wish that rather than to play on an ad hoc basis. It has also made it much easier for new members to integrate and has introduced new players to competitive table tennis in readiness for possible involvement in the local leagues. Currently the Grand Prix is run on Tuesday evenings, freeing up Thursdays for league matches.

Since the Grand Prix started in the summer of 2006 an incredible 148 different players have participated. The most recent series attached a record 48 players with the average attendance being 19. The highest attendance in any one week has been 24.



During the year Steve Smith became only the second player to win two Grand Prix series while the other five were won by Gerald Finesilver, Graham Trimming, David Akehurst, Paul Chandler and Grzegorz Strojny. Graham holds the record number of points in a series – 420.

Team Competitions

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

British League Competitions

Seven teams were run in the British league competitions, two down on the previous season caused by dropping one of the two girls' teams in the Junior British League and one of the teams in the Women's British League. Two seasons ago the Club ran ten teams and this is one rare area of the Club's activities that is in a partial and, hopefully, temporary and cyclical, decline.



In the Senior British League the first team made a slow start to their Division One South campaign, largely as a result of Lee Dredge being unavailable for the first weekend after an operation. A good rally in the final weekend that included a tremendous 7-1 thrashing of second-placed Brighton, saw the team finish fifth, disappointing after four third place finishes in the previous six seasons. Playing at the same level in Division One South and Midlands, the second team were up against it and struggled with player fitness and availability. Finishing in seventh place, their respite from relegation was secured when Oxford Fireplace

Centre were expelled from the League after failing to turn up for the third weekend. In Division Three South another late rally saw the third team escape the clutches of bottom place to finish seventh and also secure their place for next season.

Martin Adams, the only player to have played more than 100 matches for Cippenham in the British League, again headed the first team with great personal consistency and finished with a win record of 75%. Of the other players, only Eddie Mitchell in his first season in Division Three managed more than 50%.

Paul Baker acted as overall Captain and Secretary and the individual teams were captained by Martin Adams, Mark

Jackson and Phil Clarkson.

In the Women's British League the Club effectively pulled the first team, leaving our only remaining team in Division Three. At the time of writing only half the season has been played with the team lying second only on sets aggregate and hopeful of securing the title in June. Rachel Farquhar had a fantastic first half, winning all ten of her matches 3-0. Sue Hayes acted as Secretary and Captain of this team.

Following the same trend we pulled the Premier Division girls' team in the Junior British League when it became unsustainable with no local players available for selection. The remaining team operated in Division One and finished fourth with Rachel Farquhar recording 70% win ratio. The boys' team finished runners-up in Division 2A with Ruihao Zhang, a player recruited from Hampshire, winning 70% and Andrew Linz 60%. Ken Phillips acted as Secretary for both teams and he and Jan Chapman acted as Captains.

A reorganization of the Veterans' British League placed the Club in one of two equal Division Ones. Following a season in which survival in the old Division Two was seen as a special accomplishment, it was no surprise to see our team propping up the final table. Mike Rhodes acted as Captain and Graham Trimming Secretary.

National League Competitions

Three boys' and one girls' teams were entered into the National Junior League, played at Cippenham (girls' divisions) and Chesham High School (boys' divisions). This was a significant reduction of three boys' teams from the previous season but the drop in numbers did have the welcome effect of our teams not playing short so often. The top boys' team finished fourth in Division 2 while the girls finished top of their Division 2. These teams were managed by Ken Phillips.

Local leagues

For the second season Cippenham Outlaws saw the Slough League championship wrested from them by Chalfont Argonauts, but only during the final match of the season. The Slough League was reformatted this season with one division that split into two sections at the half-way stage. Five teams were entered initially by the Club but one of these perished after a few matches, the players being dissatisfied with the new format that saw them being beaten by large margins by superior teams.

The two Cippenham teams that remained in Section 2 both made it through to the Handicap Competition final, a match won 8-2 by Scoundrels.

John Lloyd acted as Slough League Captain and the individual team captains were Neil Bird, Tim Kiteley, Amar Abid-Ali and Ray Burbidge.

Coaching



Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over many years and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. However, there are now fewer children being coached for fewer hours than at any previous time since 1996. It is hoped that the participation in the proposed Slough Schools Coaching Project will assist in improving this situation. Our highly accredited Head Coach Ken Phillips is assisted by many other qualified coaches including others, Sue Hayes and Jan Chapman, who



have been honoured as ETTA coaches of the year.

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; Lynch Hill School, Britwell; 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. Lynch Hill replaced Burford School, Marlow Bottom in the "cluster" during the past year. Arbour Vale School is a school for pupils with special needs, has recently moved into brand new premises, and provides a source of great inspiration for Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman who enjoy the weekly challenge of teaching these youngsters. Terry Boxall performs curricular coaching at the host Westgate School.

There have been three weekly coaching sessions this year. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral with help from Terry Boxall while on Monday there are classes for more advanced performers run by Ken Phillips with help from a number of other coaches and feeders including Jan Chapman. The other regular weekly session takes place on Wednesday evenings. This is for a squad of invited players and is under Sue Hayes' management with assistance from Roy Linz.

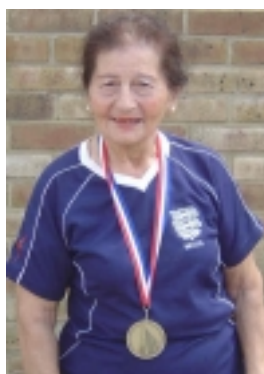
The Club's coaches also travel with the juniors many weekends to open and national events up and down the country. The children benefit greatly from these experiences and gain from them the ranking points that are the main object of desire for many of them. Some coaches also provide one-to-one coaching at the Club during other times and this specialist coaching has been one of the reasons why so many of our juniors have gone on to national and international success over the years.

The coaches and student coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall, Jan Chapman, Alan Farral, Sue Hayes, Muriel Hooker, Tim Kiteley (recently emigrated to France), Malcolm Makarian, Roy Linz, John Lloyd, Ken Phillips and Steve Smith. The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

During the year three members attended their Level 1 coaching classes and the associated child protection and emergency life support courses: Muriel Hooker, Steph Mitchell and Steve Smith.

Tournament Success for Individuals

This has been another successful 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.



However, at the other end of the age spectrum, Georgia Veneer was again in the medals. This time it was bronze in the Over-85 Women's Doubles at the European Veterans' Championships in Rotterdam.

Gavin Evans, possibly still the best player of his age in Europe despite only finishing third in the European Cadet Top Ten, has again achieved on the international scene. He won the Boys' Singles at the European Youth Olympic Festival and has won further gold medals in national open events in Spain and Slovakia. Matthew Ware has also featured in the international area and he has won events at the Junior Six Nations and the Mondals BTK tournament in Sweden.

In the English Junior Closed Championships Gavin under-performed by his high standards and had to settle for two runners-up medals, while Matt rose to the occasion to achieve a similar result.

Gavin, Matt, Bradley Evans and Lee Dredge have all won events on the English Grand Prix circuit while locally several of our players gained top honours in the Bucks Junior Closed, Bucks Trials and Slough Closed Championships.

Representative Honours and Rankings

David Hayes (Ireland) and Gavin Evans (England) both had the distinction of representing their countries at the senior World Championships in Zagreb last summer. Neither had any great wins but what an experience! Gavin also featured, of course, for England in the European Youth Championships, as did Melanie Farquhar, while Bradley Evans has also appeared in the England senior team and Matt Ware in the junior team this season. Gavin has played in many top tournaments all over the World and has become a regular member of the England senior squad as well as the junior team.

A Buckinghamshire team, comprising of six Cippenham players, Danny Baxter, Gemma Chapman, Chris Hansell, David Hayes, Caroline Linz and Steve Munson, won Division 1 of the County Championships and have thus won promotion for the county to the Premier Division. Steve put in a remarkable performance winning all thirteen of his matches. Six other Cippenham players have represented Bucks in junior matches.

Gavin Evans, Matt Ware and David Hayes all have World rankings while a total of twelve Cippenham members have featured in the truncated England ranking lists that appear on the ETTA web site.

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 2008