



# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2010-11

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### Highlights of the Year

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

- The award of ETTA Excellence *PremierClub* of the Year for 2010;
- Our boys' team winning Junior British League Division 1;
- Our women's team winning Veterans' British League Division 2 in their debut season;
- Our second boys' team winning National Junior League Southern Region Division 2;
- The continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for prestigious events including the County Championships Senior and Junior Premier divisions and British League including the play-offs.

However, there is no doubt that this has been second challenging year for the Club as too few volunteers are available to assist in delivering the Club's range of activities and the Club made a record financial deficit.

### 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 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 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 five Club members and representatives 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, 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 washroom 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 owns nine Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables purchased in 2007 and 11 Donic Waldner Sinus tables retained from a previous lot. The latter remain the first to be used on Club evenings while the newer tables are used for week-end events. Net and post sets are regularly replaced in order to maintain standards. Twelve scoring machines have been refurbished with numbers produced on the Club's own laminating machine. 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. Many of these are stored on a purpose-made trolley but are now showing signs of wear from being moved on and off its frame and are due for renewal. There are also about 90 quality spectator chairs. 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 and there are markings for these 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 2010 AGM met eight times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Graham Trimming	Chairman/General Secretary	8	July 12
Peter Hillier	Treasurer/Bookings Officer	7	August 16
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	8	September 20
Steve Smith	Events Officer/Club Captain	6	October 25
Martin Adams	General Committee member	1	November 22
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	7	March 24
			April 18
			May 16

The members of the Committee have a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973 and Peter Hillier joined the Committee only two years later and has been Treasurer since 1980. Sue Hayes joined the Committee in 1999, Terry Boxall in 2001 while Steve Smith and Martin Adams joined relatively recently in 2007.

For the sixth year the Management Committee drew up an Organization Chart. This has 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
Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Terry Boxall
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips
Slough Schools Coaching Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming
<i>PremierClub</i> Contact:	Graham Trimming
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming
Supply Members' Agent:	Roy Linz
Marketing Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Calendar Coordinator:	Peter Hillier
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes
Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Steve Smith
Club Championships Organizer:	Steve Smith
Grand Prix Administrator:	Steve Smith
Umpires' Coordinator:	Terry Boxall
Catering Liaison:	Peter Hillier
Facilities Manager:	Terry Boxall
Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Health and Safety Advisor:	Terry Boxall
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. These are noted later in this Report.

**In addition the following sub-committee was elected:**

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Jacquie Lovell; Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth

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.

**External appointments included:**

Graham Trimming:	Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, Handbook Secretary, Webmaster, for the Slough League (which, however, did not operate) and Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
Steve Smith:	Volunteer at the English Open; Deputy Referee for several ETTA Grand Prix events
Terry Boxall:	Umpires' Secretary for the Bucks Association;
Ken Phillips:	Coaching Officer and Selector for the Bucks Association and Referee for the Bucks Closed Championships
Jan Chapman:	Chair of the Maidenhead Association;
Nick Hansell:	Treasurer for the Bucks Association.

# Volunteer Investment and Awards

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, especially over the past couple of years, 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. However, this facet of the Club's management has suffered in the past three years by the lack of anybody able and willing to fulfil the role of Volunteer Champion.



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 Mick Strode who, uniquely, is not even a member of the Club. Nevertheless the country's busiest tournament referee still finds time to officiate at some of the Club's open tournaments and we are very grateful for his guidance and support. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Alan Farral Junior Player of the Year was shared between Alex Nagle, for his remarkable record in the National Junior League, and Charleigh Kirby for her record in the Women's British Leaguer and Junior British League. The Senior Player of the Year award was presented to Paul Baker for his all-round contribution and winning the Slough Masters title.

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 services of Rebecca Hayes fulfil this role and Ricky Hardcastle has performed a similar function at the Friday sessions.

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 is managed by Jim Hayes and is largely undertaken by members of the Hayes family with help from whoever is present at the Friday practice sessions. Another aspect that goes largely unnoticed is maintenance. Terry Boxall undertakes much of this work and uses his many skills for the benefit of the Club.

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 work very hard but are assisted by a great many more in such tasks as captaining of teams, coaching, umpiring, chauffeuring youngsters, setting up for weekend events, general maintenance, etc. The Club can count on about thirty volunteers for various roles, a huge number in comparison to other organizations. Not all of our valuable volunteers are even members of the Club, some are parents.

## Development

Phase 7, year 6, of the Club's Action Plan included a variety of objectives as follows:

### **Objective 1: to sustain servery**

Following the resignation, on medical grounds, of Jacquie Lovell from her position of Social Officer and Servery Manager in early 2010 it became evident that a replacement volunteer was not going to be found. It therefore became necessary to sub-contract the weekend servery management to an external commercial operation. Catherine Hayes rang around many local caterers and established a shortlist of those who were interested. Graham Trimming then met with Sharon Catering and they were appointed. Since late August 2010 Sharon Catering have been responsible for all catering at weekend events and the relationship has worked well with the Club earning a commission on all sales. Weekdays duty officers have been tasked with maintaining supplies for weekday evenings.

### **Objective 2: to enhance the format and revenue generation of the Club's open tournaments**

It was decided to abandon the Cippenham Series concept after two years of running and replace it with six tournaments. Three of these were branded Super 6s and were 2-star events with a maximum capacity of 48 players with eight preliminary round groups of six players each. This was considered better value for money, even for an increased entry fee, and recognised the fact that our tournaments were not attracting as many entrants as had been the case a few years ago. The other three tournaments were branded 5 by 2 and were 1-star events. As might be deduced from the title these had two age group events each day and the preliminary round groups contained five players each. As 1-star events they benefited from eliminating the need for player licences or day licences. Attendances were better than had been the case with the Series but not as good as the Club wished for.

### **Objective 3: to utilise social media for marketing**

Martin Adams used his IT skills to build Facebook and Twitter sites for the Club and these went live in October 2010. Facebook links have been generated to all news items on the main website and entry forms uploaded also. At the time of writing there are 71 followers of the Club on Facebook and, interestingly, more than half are not members or past members of the Club. Facebook items automatically feed also onto



Twitter for which there are 19 followers. The Club regards social media as an increasingly important means of marketing its events to prospective customers.

#### **Objective 4: to maintain members' accreditation and training requirements**

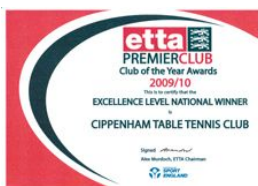
An umpires' course, organised by the ETTA, was hosted at the Club and was attended by four people associated with the Club and many others not connected. One member, Andrew Sullivan, and one associate subsequently gained their County Umpire qualifications.

An emergency life support course was held at the Club in April and was attended by twelve members who all received certificates of attendance.



## **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 highlight of the year, in this respect, was the presentation to the Club of the ETTA National Excellence *PremierClub* of the Year award. This came as a surprise to the Club because it was not considered, within the Club, to have been one of our better years. This is the third time that the Club has won the highest national honour, the other two occasions being in 1996 and 1997. This year, as well as the national award, the Club also scooped the counterpart award for the South East Region.

The Club retained its status as an ETTA *PremierClub* at the highest Excellence level and with it the Sport England ClubMark accreditation. It is one of only eight accredited at Excellence level nationally. Also, of course, the Centre continues to feature in the Official Guide for Pre-Games Training Camps for the London 2012 Olympics although no enquiries have yet been 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 120.

## **Membership**

The current official membership of the Club stands at 136, 37 down on the same stage last year and 81 down on two years ago. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2010 was 184, 48 down on the previous year. Part of this will have been caused by the ETTA Individual Membership scheme that requires all members of *PremierClubs* to take out direct membership with the ETTA. This has been poorly accepted by Cippenham members and decimated the Club's previously successful family membership scheme.

For the second season the Club issued membership cards. These were professionally printed and featured a photograph of the Club's premises on the face of the card along with logos for the Club, ETTA *PremierClub* and ClubMark. On the reverse was an advertisement for the card's sponsors, Rosemount Accounting Services, the accountancy practice set up by the Club's Chairman and General Secretary Graham Trimming.

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. 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 years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for matches, coaching and practice.

Over the past twelve months a total of 55 players have represented the club in match play, 11 down on the previous year. 11 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to 24 the previous year. 14 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, 4 less than in the previous season due to the demise of the Slough League. 8 teams were entered into British leagues, 2 in the National Junior League and 4 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 38 years old and during that time a total of 715 players have played in our teams. The Club's Founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club closing in on 1,500 while Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 800. During the season, Paul Baker became the seventh player to pass the 400 appearances mark for the Club. Steve Smith and Chris Hansell both made it to their first 100. The all time leading appearance list now reads:



Graham Trimming	1479	David Hayes	346	Steve Joel	278
Peter Hillier	840	Armando Borges	338	Dave Pountney	276
Frank Earis	669	Georgia Veneer	336	Steve Crow	268
Mike Rhodes	615	Rodney Potts	316	Roland Clapton	257
Ken Phillips	549	Alec Watson	301	Jane Dickens	235
Neil Bird	435	Sue Hayes	287	James Milton	205
Paul Baker	434	Gemma Chapman	282	Anna Watton	204
Jackie Wood	403	Jacquie Lovell	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Gareth Lovell	381	Wendy Barlow	279	Steve Dorrell	202
George Appleby	372	Robert Hansell	279	Catherine Hayes	200
Frank Cowley	363				

The busiest players during the year were Denise Weller (40 appearances), Paul Baker (38) and Sue Hayes (31).

## Finance



This season the Club sustained its highest ever net deficit of £1,496 and that is after having received over £1,000 in interest income. The operating deficit was £2,646. Although the Club retains strong cash reserves of about £63,800 (2010: £63,200) it would be poor management to allow this to be depleted over time by making operating deficits. With this in mind some rules change propositions will be put before the Annual General Meeting that will seek to increase revenues and a discussion will also take place about how to reduce the cost burden incurred by participation in the British leagues.

This is a much changed scenario from that of a couple of years ago when the Club reported a surplus of over £12,500. How has £14,000 been taken off the bottom line? In short, it is because of having to sub-contract catering, reduced numbers of people attending sessions and events and greater claims for travel expense in the British leagues.

Catering was always a bit of a gold mine for the Club, several times netting a surplus of about £5,000. Last season the net surplus was £300 and the change in two years has been a whopping £4,500. That shows quite clearly the remarkable impact that catering had on the Club's finances when it was run by a fantastic team of volunteers under the direction of the incomparable Jacquie Lovell. Attendance at practice sessions has dropped from its peak of two years ago causing a loss of revenues of about £1,500 despite the fact that Friday evenings have proved popular lately and practice income actually increased from last year. Going back to the comparison with two years ago, coaching income has been on the decline for many years and was down by about £1,750 on 2008-9 while income from open tournaments was down nearly £2,000 principally due to the absence of a New Year Festival and a much reduced entry for the Summer Festival. In addition travel expense claims for the British leagues have increased by over £2,000 and in 2008-9 the Club also benefited from £1,000 via a service contract with Slough Borough Council.

No fees were increased this season although the rate charged to external hirers was increased by 10% to £22 per hour. A 20% discount is available to hirers that meet a certain threshold. 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 sixth 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 has been available for all teams playing away from Cippenham but may not be continued next season.

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.

## 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 in the three local newspapers, Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. Most submitted reports find space in the Express and Advertiser and more reports found their way into the Slough Observer than had been the case the previous season. 26 reports have been submitted during the year and the total column inches were about 500, twice the amount managed in the previous season but still short of seasons before that when the Club's teams and players were generally more successful. Eleven of the Club's reports also appeared on the ETTA web site. An edition of the Club Newsletter has also been published nine times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. A



Membership Pack was introduced several years ago and this continues to be a useful document to give to potential members on the occasion of their first visit.

The Club also has its own web site ([www.cippenhamttc.co.uk](http://www.cippenhamttc.co.uk)). This was completely re-designed by Graham late in 2008 and is hosted by Square Brothers in India. 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. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from December 2010 to April 2011 have been: 606 unique visitors; 931 visits; 2,544 pages; 28,750 hits. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

Extensive use of photographs, mostly taken against the specially made backdrop, has been made to illustrate press reports and items on the Club's website. All winners and runners-up of open tournaments have been photographed and these have all appeared on the Club's website. A colour photocopier, a replacement for an older monochrome copier, was leased from December 2009 so those photographs can now be enjoyed more fully by readers of the Club's Newsletter.

A second television screen in the lounge is used to publicise forthcoming events and on British League weekends is also used to convey information such as up to date league tables.



A television crew descended upon the Club one Thursday evening in November. They were recording a programme about the origins and history of table tennis and interviewed Club Chairman Graham Trimming on the subject. Graham brought along part of his extensive collection of table tennis artefacts and memorabilia to use as props for the interview which was recorded in the lounge against the backdrop of the playing arena. Afterwards, the camera went out into the playing hall and recorded some Club members in action on the table. The programme is one of four in a series, covering sixteen sports, called "The Ball's in our Court" and will be screened on the Blighty TV channel between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

In October Steve Buck organised a 24-hour marathon of table tennis at the Club commencing on a Friday evening and continuing until Saturday evening. Several Club members took part in this and funds were raised for "Help for Heroes".

## 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 100 or so competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004.

Until last summer catering at weekend events was carried out on a voluntary basis, masterminded by Jacquie Lovell until she had to give up the position on medical grounds early in 2010. As the Club was unable to find another volunteer to carry on this work, the catering was sub-contracted to Sharon Catering on a commercial basis. This partnership works well for the Club and earns us a commission on all revenues.

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, VCR and streaming monitor, 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. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue.

The fourteenth annual party was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. The Christmas Party, however, had to be cancelled at short notice after a heavy snow fall led to roads and the car park becoming unsafe.

## 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
	7:40 to 10:15 pm	Grand Prix
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	7:30 to 9:30 pm	General practice

During the summer of 2010 Wednesday evenings were used for regional training squads and for a period of time adult

coaching by Steve Buck was held on Friday evenings.

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.

## External Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by the ETTA, ETTA Southern Region, Bucks County Association and the Maidenhead and Reading leagues. This year use was also made by Surrey County Association and UK Deaf TTA. Gareth Herbert and Colin Wilson have also conducted high level coaching days at the Club.

The ETTA events included the Premier Divisions of the Senior and Junior County Championships. These have now been staged at Cippenham for many years. We missed out on the National Masters this season because it clashed with another event we were hosting also for the ETTA! 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, Steve Smith and their teams for their involvement in this and to Terry Boxall who acts as Duty Officer for many of the Bucks and Southern Region bookings.

The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League Division 1 South and Midlands, three weekends of Division 1 South and the Division 1 Promotion Play-offs. The main British League weekends were organized by Graham Trimming and the Play-offs by Peter Hillier while Ken Phillips acted as Referee.

A full list of outside events (June 2010-May 2011), totalling 46 days, 3 less than the previous year, was as follows:

ETTA:	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	County Championships Junior Premier Division (2)
	British League (9)
	Coach education courses (7)
	Tutor orientation course (2)
	Coaches' workshop
	Training camp
	Umpires' training course
UK Deaf TTA:	Training day
ETTA Southern Region:	Regional training day
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (3)
	Junior & Veterans' Trials
	Junior Closed Championships
Surrey County TTA:	County Championships sessions (2)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
	Carter Cup session
Gareth Herbert:	Weekend coaching sessions (3)
Colin Wilson:	Holiday (midweek) coaching sessions (4)

## Club Events

### *Open Tournaments*

Ten open tournaments, covering twelve days of play, have been staged by the Club at the Centre since the last report. These included two events left over from the Series 2009-10.

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 10	Young Players' Summer Festival	Catherine Hayes	Steve Smith	125
July 10	Series 2: Senior 2-Star	Steve Smith	Steve Smith	21
July 10	Series 6: Junior 2-Star	Steve Smith	Mick Strode	10
Aug 10	Super 6 Junior 2-Star	Sue Hayes	Steve Smith	33
Sep 10	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Terry Boxall	Mick Strode	41
Nov 10	5 by 2 Cadet/Under-13 1-Star	Terry Boxall	Paul Baker	64
Nov 10	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	22 pairs
Jan 11	5 by 2 Senior/Junior 1-Star	Steve Smith	Steve Smith	60
Feb 11	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Steve Smith	51
Mar 11	Super 6 Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Mick Strode	26

This season brought about a fresh approach to open tournaments. The Series, run for two previous seasons, was replaced by six one-day events. Three of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 2-Star Opens and catered for open, junior and veteran age groups. This was partially a return to the format of successful open tournaments run in the eleven years prior to the Series but the number of participants was restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. The Senior Open produced a maximum entry while the other two were a little disappointing.

The other three tournaments were branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Opens and featured two age groups each day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 or 60 players depending on whether the nine or twelve table layout is used. Two of these events produced reasonable entries where the senior and veterans' event was a little short.

The Team 2-Star Open and Young Players' Summer Festival remain in their previous format. Entries for the Summer Festival in 2010 were very disappointing but the Team Open, with its progressive knock-out format, continues to be popular.

The Club used to supply a good number of winners of our own tournaments. This is not so anymore. However, Steve Buck marked his debut as a veteran by winning the first such event of the season and Nick Brown was part of a pairing that won the Team Open. Nick, again, and Robert Hansell also reached the finals of two of the senior events.

Many thanks are due to Steve Smith and the organizers, their unsung helpers, especially Malcolm Makarian, and referees, especially Mick Strode. 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 were staged the same way as the past four seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings and the Junior Singles during a beginners' coaching session. A good entry of twenty players contested the Open Singles and there were a few shock results before Tony Stead eventually overcame Paul Baker in the final. Tony, Steve Smith and Josh Gallen won the other singles events: Veterans', Under-40 and Junior respectively while Steve Buck and Antony Constantinou combined to win the Open Doubles.

## Grand Prix

Participation in the Club's weekly Tuesday evening Grand Prix has diminished during the past two years. Seven events have been completed in the last year and Ricky Hardcastle was successful in three of these. The other winners were Rajan Waterman, Ben Cunningham, Anthony Gardner and Tom Mitchell making a welcome return to the sport.

# Team Competitions

The Club ran fourteen teams in various leagues this season and a few were successful. The junior boys' and veteran women's teams both won their divisions of their British leagues while the Club's top team in the Maidenhead League only failed by the narrowest of margins.

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
	Secretary:	Sue Hayes
Junior British League	Non-playing Captain:	Steve Smith
	Secretary:	Sue Hayes
	Non-playing Captain (boys):	Steve Smith
	Non-playing Captain (girls):	Sue Hayes
Veterans' British League	Captain (men):	Mike Rhodes
	Secretary (men):	Graham Trimming
	Captain and Secretary (women):	Sue Hayes
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary:	Terry Boxall
Maidenhead League	Captain and Secretary:	Steve Smith
	Team Captains	Paul Baker; Simon Wilde; Terry Boxall; David Williams





## **British League Competitions**

The Club ran eight teams in the British leagues, one more than the previous season following the inclusion, for the first time, of a women's team in the Veterans' British League. Two of the teams were successful in winning their divisions.

The Senior British League brought another year of all three teams fighting against relegation. This year, however, the second team did not survive in Division One South & Midlands, losing out on count-back by a solitary set. However, it has long been a struggle to maintain two teams at this level and this relegation is seen as a benefit for the Club. The third team came bottom of Division 2 South & West but this division was a team short and therefore this does not mean automatic relegation. However, in view of the second team's relegation to Division 2, the Club has asked for its third team to be placed in Division 3 next season. This should enable some of the Club's younger up and coming players to be included. The first team rallied at the end of the season and, although only seventh in Division One South, were a long way ahead of the bottom team. In a second team that struggled all season, Robert Hansell's performance deserves special mention and he was easily the Club's most successful player.

In the Women's British League our team finished fourth, mid-table, in Division 4 with Denise Weller our most successful player, as she was for the newly formed veteran women's team that won Division 2 of the Veterans' British League at the first attempt. Congratulations also to Sue

Hayes and Julie Dean in a strong team performance. The veteran men's team were not so successful, finishing seventh,

one from the bottom, in Division 1B. Steve Buck, a first-year veteran, provided half of the team's points from the number one position.

The other successful team this season was the boys in Junior British League Division 1. They dropped only point all season and it was a good team effort from Mark Scutts, Luca Mariano, Mike Ho and Eddie Mitchell with George Downing pitching in during the first weekend.



## **National League Competitions**

Two boys' teams, one down on the previous year, were entered into the National Junior League played at Chesham High School. The first team won Division 2 in stage 1 and were duly promoted to Division 1. There they found the going a lot tougher and finished bottom, returning to Division 2 for stage 3 which they won with supreme ease. Congratulations to the team of Alex Nagle, Joseph Underwood and Harrison Simmons. The second team remained in Division 2 throughout and finished fourth, second and third in the three stages.

Alex Nagle was the again the undoubted star, losing only once in 25 matches in Division 1. His team-mates were also successful while Sam Joyce also won more than three-quarters of his matches for the second team.

## **Local Leagues**

Due to the demise of the Burnham club, the Slough League found it could not operate this season and so the emphasis for the Club's local teams was focussed on the Maidenhead League with four teams once again represented.

The fight for the Premier Division title went right down to the last by one set in the final match. Unfortunately, Graham Trimming, despite winning the first two games and holding leads in the fourth and fifth could not quite get the better of Eric van Looy and the title was retained by Kingfisher by the narrowest margin of just one point. Saxons thus finished second with Spartans one place behind. Trojans finished one off the bottom in Division 1 while Vikings made good their promotion with a fourth-place finish in Division 2.

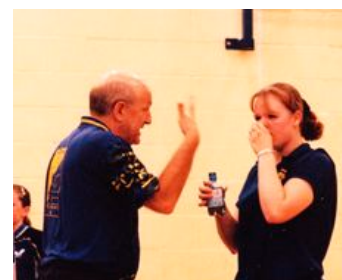
Eddie Mitchell, Matt Brown and Ricky Hardcastle all finished high in the Premier Division averages but did not play enough matches to qualify for the Wilkinson Sword that was won for the second year running by Simon Wilde. David William, with nearly 80%, fished high in the Division Two averages, dominated by players from Cookham Social Typhoons.

The knock-out handicapped events almost brought success to the Club. Saxons reached the final of the competition proper while Trojans reach the consolation final. However, both failed at the final hurdle.

# **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. Our highly accredited Head Coach Ken Phillips is assisted by many other qualified and student coaches.

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; St.



Anthony's School, Slough; Lynch Hill School, Britwell; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; and the Westgate and Cippenham Junior Schools Cluster. Terry Boxall also performs curricular coaching at the host Westgate School.

There have been only two weekly coaching sessions this year. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Terry Boxall. 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 coaches and student coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall, Jan Chapman, Sue Hayes, Mary Heffernan, Muriel Hooker, Malcolm Makarian, Ken Phillips, Steve Smith and Colin Wilson. The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

## Tournament Successes for Individuals

On the national scene successful Club members included Evangeline Collier, Charleigh Kirby, Mark Scutts and Natalie Slater.

Nick Hansell won a plethora of titles at the Bucks Senior Closed, mostly at veterans' level and combined with son Robert to win the Men's Doubles. At the Junior Closed Alex Nagle and Eddie Michell both emerged with titles. Over at the Maidenhead Closed Eddie, again, and Ricky Hardcastle won titles.

## Representative Honours and Rankings

Twelve Cippenham members represented Bucks during the season with five enjoying the honour of playing for the county first team.

Natalie Slater and Evangeline Collier were the only members to gain top ten rankings nationally this season and Natalie got two: 6 in junior girls and 8 in senior women. Evangeline ranked 10 in the junior girls and Charleigh Kirby, Ayonija Sunderarajan, Luca Mariano, Mark Scutts, Michael Ho, Feifei Pei and Megan Ashfield all appeared in the top 30 ranking lists on the ETTA website.

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

**Graham Trimming**  
Chairman & General Secretary  
June 2011