



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2016-17

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the forty-fourth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the twenty-first since the opening of our purpose-built premises. This has been another successful year, the highlights of which were:

- The huge success of the Club's second and third Junior 4-Star Opens;
- The regional volunteering awards won by Naomi Hayes, Malcolm Makarian and Ken Phillips plus Naomi and Steve Smith being runners-up for national awards;
- Shae Thakker and Lucie Bouron gaining international recognition for the GB Para team;
- The addition of a second men's team in the Veterans' British League which went on to win promotion;
- Ricky Hardcastle's superb performance at the Maidenhead Closed Championships.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



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

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

The floor of the playing hall was renewed in January 2016 but has proved to be a little troublesome with reports from players of slipperiness. To combat this, in January 2017, £1,500 was invested in a cleaning machine and the use of this has relieved much of the problem. We hope it will improve more with further cleaning.

A further nine Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables were purchased in September 2016, bring the total stock to 19. All older tables have now been disposed of. A further 9 Butterfly Europa net and posts sets were purchased at the same time to add to existing stock and, more recently, 12 Butterfly scoring machines have replaced the older stock. Still giving service are the 80 Butterfly surrounds in blue with "Butterfly" printed on one side and "Cippenham" on the other in light blue that were purchased in 2012. Many of these surrounds are stacked on a specially design wheeled trolley.



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

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

Cleaning of the premises has been performed internally for several years, saving the Club a considerable amount of money, and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips who takes on much of this process.

Administration and Management

The 2016 Annual General Meeting attendance was moderate and elected the following Management Committee which met six times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	5	June 7	5
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	6	June 21	4
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	5	July 26	5
Elena Tant	Bookings Officer	5	October 11	4
Naomi Hayes	Events Officer	1*	December 15	5
Bassam Mocharrafi	General Committee member	0	February 7	6
Dave Tant	General Committee member	5	April 4	inquorate
Simon Vine	General Committee member	2		

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

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

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

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

The following appointments were made:

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

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

The following sub-committees were also elected:

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

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

External appointments included:

Ken Phillips: Coaching Officer and Selector for the Buckinghamshire Association; Referee for the Maidenhead Closed Championships; Organiser and Referee for the Southern Inter-Region Qualification Tournament;

Sue Hayes: General Secretary for Buckinghamshire Association; Referee for the Brighton Veterans' Ratings 2-Star Open;

Graham Trimming: Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;

Steve Smith: Referee at many national events including several Grand Prix tournaments, BTTAD National Championships, VETTS National Masters, Jersey Open, RAF Championship, Inter-Services Championships, Bishop Auckland Junior 2-Star Open and Birmingham Closed Championships;

Denise Weller: General Secretary of the Newbury League;

Elena Tant: Organiser and Entries Secretary for the Maidenhead Closed Championships;

Wendy Porter: Tournament Organiser, Coaching Officer and Junior/Youth Officer for the Reading League.

At the May 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Maidenhead and District Association, Elena Tant was presented with the Hugh Bartholomew Trophy for her services to table tennis in Maidenhead.

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

For more than fifteen years the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For much of the year under review this role has been undertaken by Megan Ashfield on Tuesdays and Dylan Thakker on Thursdays. Dylan, being under sixteen years of age, has been supervised by his father Sunjay and Megan has received great support from her mother Mel and we thank both parents for their assistance. Thankfully, we have also had the experienced services of Naomi and Rebecca Hayes to call upon at other times.

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

Volunteer Investment and Awards

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

The Club has a Privileged Membership scheme. This is awarded to Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year and a few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. There is also a higher tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two, but usually many more, years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for local league matches, coaching and practice. During the past year there have been 8 Gold Privileged Members and 4 ordinary Privileged Members. Elena and Dave Tant were awarded Privileged Membership during the year and Paul Baker was elevated to Gold Privileged Membership. Congratulations to them! A practice voucher scheme is in place, but rarely used, whereby volunteers are incentivised to assist the Club and are rewarded with a voucher that they can use to pay practice fees at a Tuesday or Thursday session.

One of the annual highlights is the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went, for the third time, to Malcolm Makarian for his continued contribution to the Club in which he spends more time at the Club than anyone other than Ken! He is also the main go-to man for DIY. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Junior Player of the Year award perpetuates the names of Alan Farral and Terry Boxall in its title and was presented for the second time to Shae Thakker in recognition of his international para call-up and his unbeaten performance throughout the National Junior League season. The Senior Player of the Year award went to Martin Adams in recognition of his performances for the successful Senior British League and Veterans' British League teams.



Table Tennis England initiated their "Pride of Table Tennis" awards in 2016. We had two nominations for our Club Volunteer of the Year and both received certificates. Malcolm Makarian was nominated by the Club and Ken Phillips was nominated by Sunjay Thakker. In addition the Club put forward nominations for national awards. We were delighted that three of them won awards for the South Region: Malcolm Makarian as Regional Volunteer of the Year; Naomi Hayes as Regional Young Volunteer of the Year and Ken Phillips as Regional Coach of the Year. Naomi topped this by being runner-up in the national Young Volunteer of the Year as was Steve Smith in the national Technical Officer of the Year.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 113, 2 down from the same stage last year and less than half the number at the peak a decade or more ago. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2016 was 115, 9 up on the previous year. Despite membership numbers being less than they have been historically, the premises remain busy during the twice weekly practice sessions and that is the true indication of the healthy state of the Club.



Over the past twelve months a total of 59 players have represented the club in match play, 8 more than the previous year. 20 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, 2 more than in the previous year. 18 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, 2 more than in the previous season. 8 teams were entered into British leagues, 6 in National leagues and 4 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 44 years old and during that time a total of 812 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club with more than 1,500 appearances. Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 850. During the season Armando Borges marked his 400th appearance for the Club while Denise Weller passed 200 and Megan Ashfield brought up her first 100. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1589	George Appleby	372	Steve Joel	278
Peter Hillier	858	Frank Cowley	363	Dave Pountney	276
Frank Earis	669	David Hayes	350	Steve Crow	268
Mike Rhodes	666	Georgia Veneer	336	Roland Clapton	257
Paul Baker	559	Robert Hansell	323	Jane Dickens	235
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Denise Weller	220
Sue Hayes	461	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	435	Martin Adams	296	Anna Watton	204
Armando Borges	408	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Jackie Wood	403	Jacquie Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
Gareth Lovell	381	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200

The busiest players during the year were Sue Hayes and James Western-Kaye with 28 appearances each followed by Shae Thakker and Jaiden Caldeira on 27 and Pranav Gudipati on 26.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £1,521 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £2,117. This represents a decrease of £3,039 from the previous year but is nevertheless a satisfactory result. The Club continues to benefit from good financial management and the current financial model has provided financial stability for many years.

Revenues increased by about £3,200 and this can largely be attributed to the running of two Junior 4-Star Open tournaments. This is, however, something which will not be repeated next season. Venue hire revenues and practice fees were also up on the previous year while other revenue streams showed modest decreases.

Direct expenditure increased by a whopping £6,500. £1,300 arose from the additional Junior 4-Star Open while £2,600 was the spend on clothing for our teams in the British leagues. This was the first year of a new agreement with Tees Sport and will not be repeated next season. Depreciation and renewal of table tennis equipment cost the Club £700 more than in the previous season as might be expected during a period in which much of the equipment stock was largely replaced. Team expenses cost the Club an additional £1,650 and this cannot all be explained by having two additional teams. Generally, entry fees into the British leagues were substantially higher, mostly as a result of venue and umpire surcharges being levied.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that as at 30 April 2017 stood at £83,172, an increase of nearly £3,000 in the year. £51,720 is invested at Cater Allen on a term deposit paying interest at 1% p.a. Another £17,145 is currently in a deposit account with Barclays, although this account no longer pays interest, while the remainder is in a current account with NatWest. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £103,682.

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

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund which was started many years ago with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees of all junior and younger age open tournaments run by the Club. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for children's activities and that includes support for children who may, for one reason or another, need help with expenses incurred in the pursuit of table tennis. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts. There have been no payments out of the Fund in the last year.

Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, and much of it for a great many years by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers: Slough Express, Slough Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 21 reports have been submitted during the year and all of them found their way into at least one of the local newspapers with about half of them appearing in all three. The A total of about 800 column inches was achieved across the three publications, about 25% less than in the previous season, but higher than in any other recent year. The reduced coverage compared with the previous season can largely be explained by the lack of success of the Club's teams. The last three years have seen action photographs submitted along with many of the reports and this has led to increased publicity during that time period. 45 photographs appeared in the local newspapers although this was down from 56 in the previous season. Reports also appeared on the Table Tennis England website including 29 photographs.

The Club has its own web site (www.cippenhamttc.co.uk) hosted by Easily.co.uk, who are also used to maintain the Club's domain name and email address. The Club has had a website since 1999 and the current manifestation was introduced in

2008. The website was designed and is maintained by Graham Trimming and is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from June 2016 to May 2017 have been: 1,285 unique visitors; 3,511 visits; 6,230 pages; 41,488 hits. All four of these numbers show substantial increases from the previous year. September 2016, which included the Junior 4-Star Open, had a new record number of 1,784 unique visitors while the daily record was beaten on 15 July when the number of unique visitors reached 416 in a single day. There was no apparent reason for this particular spike and the next highest daily figure was on 20 April with 333 unique visitors. This was more understandable as the programme for the third Junior 4-Star Open was uploaded late the previous evening. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

The Club's Facebook page has also been used to drive readers to the website. All reports have been linked and many events have been advertised on Facebook. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 580 followers on Facebook, up substantially from 419 a year ago, and 389 on Twitter, up from 312. Facebook postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account, introduced in the autumn of 2014. A further 15 albums of photographs have been uploaded this year, 13 by Graham Trimming and 2 by Sunjay Thakker. Together, they represent 3,300 photos and the albums have attracted well over 6,500 views, an incredible statistic. The September 2016 Cippenham Junior 4-Star Open album by itself has been viewed by over 1,700 people. These statistics show that this service is appreciated by members and visitors. The photographic backdrop purchased in November 2015 is used for most of the presentation photographs.

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

Social Activities and Amenities

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

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

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television is also a popular attraction. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue. Broadband wifi was installed three years ago and this has provided a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto Table Tennis England's website.

The twentieth annual party, once again organised and hosted by Charles Mitchell, was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. In the week before Christmas, a Festive Grand Prix was held during which mulled wine and mince pies were an additional attraction to the table tennis. This is now a popular annual event.

Venue Utilisation

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

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Elite coaching
Thursday	5:15 to 7:15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice

One team from Old Gordonians TTC also played their home matches in the Maidenhead League at Cippenham on Tuesday 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 security.

External Events

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

The Club was delighted that the County Championships Senior Premier Division stayed at Cippenham. We also hosted all four weekends of the Senior British League, with two divisions each weekend. National Division C-5 played all their matches here while the prestigious Championship Division and National Division C-7 staged their matches on two weekends each. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. Thanks also to the umpires who umpired all the matches in the Championship Division. We also hosted all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson.

The Club was also especially pleased to host, for the fourth year, the Southern Disability Grand Prix, organised by SportsAble and training camps organised by Paul Drinkhall and Cippenham old boy Gavin Evans.

A full list of external events (June 2016-May 2017), totalling 35 weekend days, one more than to the previous year, was as follows.

Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2) Senior British League (7) National Junior League (4) National Cadet League (4)
Southern Region:	Inter-Region Qualification Tournament
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (9)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading & DTTA:	Reading Junior Closed Championships
SportsAble:	Southern Disability Grand Prix (2)
Paul Drinkhall:	Training days (3)



Club Events

Open Tournaments

The open tournament programme remained the same as in the previous year with one addition. Another organisation pulled out of running a junior 4-star in September and Cippenham took their place in the calendar. It was decided to retain also the original April date and therefore two junior 4-stars were run during the season. In total, seven open tournaments, covering ten days of play, have been staged by the Club at the Centre since the last report.

Month	Event	Organizer(s)	Referee	Entries
Jun '16	Young Players' Summer Festival	Catherine & Rebecca Hayes	Sue Hayes	97
Sep '16	Junior 4-Star	Mike Atkinson	Steve Smith	191
Oct '16	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	54
Nov '16	Super 6 Veterans' 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Sue Hayes	37
Jan '17	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	24 pairs
Feb '17	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	91
Apr '17	Junior 4-Star	Mike Atkinson	Steve Smith	187



The junior 4-stars take a great deal of organising and an army of umpires are assembled for each day. The Organiser is Mike Atkinson while Steve Smith uses his National Referee qualification and Ken Phillips acts as the Entries Secretary with the entry form itself being prepared by Naomi Hayes. Graham Trimming produces the programme, looks after the publicity and takes the photographs. The Umpires' Controller was Jan Chapman in September and Mike



Atkinson in April while Sunjay Thakker checked the players in, helped by Rebecca Hayes in September. These tournaments run over two days with cadet events on the Saturday and junior events on the Sunday. Both events were very successful.

The format of all tournaments remained the same as season 2015-16. Two of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 2-Star Opens and catered for open and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 54 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. Another tournament was branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Open and featured two age groups in the same day. Each event is run in groups of five

and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 players. The Young Players' Summer Festival is effectively two Five by Two's on consecutive days. Entry levels were generally very good with three tournaments being over-subscribed but the entry for the Young Players' Summer Festival was disappointing and has contracted greatly since its heyday a decade or so ago. Entry for the Veterans' Open could have been better if VETTS had not changed the date of one of their Masters tournaments to clash with ours.

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

Josh Bennett won the Junior Boys' Singles at the September running of the Junior 4-Star Open while Shae Thakker won the Under-14 Boys' Singles at the Young Players' Summer Festival.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past ten seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. For the fifth year, there was also a Junior Singles, played during a Monday evening coaching session. The entry the Junior Singles was good while for all events it was moderate. Shae Thakker retained his Junior Singles title while the Open Singles and Veterans' Singles went to Maciej Dlugozima and Darren Brown respectively. Maciej also teamed up with Lawrence Harvey to win the Open Doubles.



Festive Grand Prix

For the sixth year a Festive Grand Prix was organised in the week before the Christmas shutdown. This was organised using the standard Grand Prix format with the added encouragement of mulled wine and mince pies. Shae Thakker, too young to participate in the mulled wine (!!), was the worthy winner.

Team Competitions

The Club ran eighteen teams in various leagues this season, two more than in the previous season.

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

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

British League Competitions

The Club ran eight teams in the British leagues, one more than in the previous season. The additional team was a second men's team in the Veterans' British League. In general, this was a difficult season results wise as five of the eight teams finished bottom of their divisions. However, the remaining three had much better results.

After the excitement of nearly winning Division 1 South in the previous campaign, the first team in the Senior British League had a very disappointing season. The reorganisation of the League into a Premier Division playing on a home and away basis and a national Championship Division did Cippenham no favours. The Championship Division proved to be very strong and included teams who had opted out of the home and away format of the Premier Division. However, the loss of every match with exactly the same squad as the previous season was disappointing.

The second team, placed in National Division C-5 fared much better and finished a creditable third and were in top spot at times during the season. Tony West, Shae Thakker and Simon Vine all finished with good personal records.

Both teams in the Women's British League finished bottom of their divisions. The first team maintained their spot in Division 3 last summer, despite being candidates for relegation, but this time relegation will probably not be spared. The young second team, having gained promotion to Division 4, found the going tough and their best players were not always available.

Buoyed by the success of the veteran men's team last season, it was decided to enter another team at the bottom of the League. Martin Adams was joined by Martin Gray and Mark Banks in the first team while the other three players plus Simon Vine formed the second team. A good all-round team effort produced a third placed finished in Division 1A for the first team while the second team were runners-up in Division 4B and will be promoted next season. A good team effort from Simon Vine, Mike Rhodes, Christos Hannides and Paul Baker. It was a different story for the women's team as they gained only two points and finished bottom of Division 1 after winning Division 2 last season.



The Junior British League girls' team also struggled to field their strongest line-up with Jemma Walker absent the whole season and consequently finished bottom of Division 2.

National League Competitions

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



The A team in the National Junior League started off well in Division 1 and maintained their place in this division all season. However, the unavailability of unbeaten Shae Thakker for the final batch of matches saw them ultimately finish bottom of the division but fourth on aggregate throughout the season. The B team started in Division 3 but were demoted to Division 4 after the first round of matches and finished alongside the C team mid-table in that division.

The A team in the National Cadet League also relied heavily on Shae and when he was unavailable after the first day's matches they fell from mid-table in Division 1 to finish third in Division 2. The B team won Division 3 in the first round but ultimately finished bottom of Division 2 while the C team maintained their position in Division 4 through. Apart from Shae, Jack and Luke Mailey together with Gustav Coliander all returned good percentages.

Local Leagues

The Club ran four teams in the Maidenhead League this season, the same as the previous season and remains the joint biggest club in the League. Saxons retained the runners-up position while Trojans were two places behind in a division containing only six teams. Spartans finished next to bottom of Division 2 while Titans, with a team of entirely new players, excelled by winning Division 3 and winning every match.

Simon Vine was the Club's best performing player in Division 1, losing only twice in 24 matches. Ricky Hardcastle, Ashley Shaw and Albert Cheung also put up strong performances. Igor Liiko, Jamie Hubbard, Keith Hall and Ike Greenberg filled the first four places in the Division 3 averages, losing only nine matches between them all season.



Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club for more than two decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally.

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

Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for about thirty years now and he is still the mainstay of the operation, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising. The Thursday session has been run by Sue Hayes with assistance from Ken.

Ken and Jan Chapman also undertook coaching for pupils of The Westgate School, organised and financed by BerkshireActive. This has run for the autumn and spring terms in both the last two years and is set to return this autumn.

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

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

Tournament Successes for Individuals



Shae Thakker has been the most successful player on the national and international stage and during the year gained his first international medals. These came at the Romanian Open and included the gold medal in the Under-23 Class 10 Men's Singles. Shae has also been runner-up in several national events, detailed in the appendix, and was named junior player of the tournament at the British Para Championships. In able-bodied events Shae also won three events at Under-13, -14 and -15 levels in open tournaments.

At the recent National Junior Championships Josh Bennett was successful in the Junior Boys' Doubles.

Ricky Hardcastle had a field day at the Maidenhead Closed Championships. He was successful in four events, winning all three singles events open to him and that included beating Mark Banks in the final of the Men's Singles.

The Buckinghamshire Closed Championships, which in the previous year provided titles for four of our players, was not run this season.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Josh Bennett was a member of the England junior boys' team that won the gold medals at the Slovak Junior Open in May.

Shae Thakker and Lucie Bouron have both been selected for GB representation at international para events abroad.

Shae Thakker, William Fricker, Pranav Gudipati and Anna Piercey all represented the South Region at the recent Inter-Regional Tournament.

Six Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with Megan Ashfield and Robert Hansell being honoured by the first team. Three Cippenham players turned out for the junior team and one for the veterans. Denise Weller represented Berkshire at over-60 level.



Nineteen Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories and this number is two more than in the previous season and seven more than in 2014-15. Many players appeared in more than one list. Josh Bennett, ranked 4 in Junior Boys and 5 in Under-21 Men and Jasmine Williams who peaked at 5 in the Under-13 Girls' list made it into the top 10. Other notable high rankings were Martin Adams (15 in Veteran Men), Josh Bennett (19 in Senior Men) and Jemma Walker (20 in Junior Girls).

The Club has three players ranked in the British Table Tennis Association for the Disabled rankings: Lucie Bouron is third in Women's Class 3; Shae Thakker is fourth in Men's Class 10 and Jaiden Caldeira is thirteenth in Men's Class 7.

Two of these also have world rankings both in the senior lists and in the junior (under-23) lists: Lucie is fourth in the Class 3 juniors and twenty-fifth in the seniors; Shae is twelfth in the Class 10 juniors and thirty-fifth in the seniors.

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

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2017