

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1985-6

INTRODUCTION

Yet another season has been successfully concluded. Once again, success on the table has been taken almost for granted, as our representatives, teams and individuals, have collected an impressive haul of silverware. We have introduced more youngsters to competitive table tennis and established our coaching scheme with a more permanent format. However, the season will be remembered as the time when our Haymill venue "came together", as a result of some hard work and the necessary amount of good fortune.

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past twelve months 51 players have represented the club, and of these, 36 were full members for the 1985-6 season. This represents a club membership increase of three over the previous season. In the Slough League, the club operated seven teams again in the senior divisions, and three in the newly founded Youth Division. In the Maidenhead League we amalgamated our two senior teams to run one senior and one junior team. The hoped for expansion of the club since moving to Haymill is taking place, but more slowly than expected.

During the season Graham Trimming celebrated his 600th appearance for the club, Peter Hillier his 400th and Ken Phillips his 200th. The top six in the all time appearances list reads: Graham Trimming 619, Peter Hillier 427, Frank Earis 329, Dave Pountney 240, Ken Phillips 212 and Frank Cowley 195.

ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting last May, met eight times, the most meetings ever in one season. It was also the largest ever committee, consisting of eleven members, although it is fair to say that some of the newer members contributed less than the more established administrators.

The full Management Committee comprised:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Attendance at meeting</u>	
Frank Earis	Chairman	8		
Graham Trimming	Secretary	8		
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	7		
Jackie Thomas	Venue Liaison Officer	6	26th July	9
Rodney Potts	Coaching Administrator	7	18th September	7
Ken Phillips	Committee member	8	18th October	8
Mike Davis	do.	4	26th November	6
Steve Dorrell	do.	3	3rd January	8
Gareth Lovell	do.	3	7th February	7
Alec Watson	do.	3	2nd April	6
Kay Kennedy	do.	2	21st May	8

Thanks are due to the above and also the team captains who all organised their sides in an efficient and responsible manner.

Obviously, the club attracted far less publicity than in the four previous seasons when the National League team was the main attraction. The club submitted only six press reports this year about such topics as the Haymill Open Day, Bucks county matches, results in national veterans events, the National Club Championship match, Bucks Closed and the club championships. Extensive publicity was however gained through the weekly reports submitted by the Slough and Maidenhead leagues.

The Slough League Management Committee, as always, was well blessed with Cippenham members. Graham Trimming acted as Chairman/Fixtures Secretary, Peter Hillier as Treasurer, Rodney Potts Inter-League Secretary, and Gareth Lovell Press Secretary who also took charge of the Slough Closed Championships. Over in Maidenhead Mike Davis once again organised the annual championships and also acted as Inter-Town Championships Secretary for the Berkshire County Association.

Frank Earis has represented the club on the Haymill User Group for some time but now the club has additional power as Frank has become one of the User Group's three elected members on the Haymill Management Committee, alongside Centre staff and local government officials.

VENUE AND EQUIPMENT

The past year has seen the completion of our capital investment programme at Haymill. The week-end before the start of the season Maidenhead Electrical Co., aided by three committee members, installed sixteen 500W tungsten halogen lamps into the ceiling. The configuration is four lamps over each of four match courts, and these are switched in pair of the two inside lights, and the two outside lights.

Then in November a large group of club members and childrens' parents painted the gymnasium walls, thus obviating the problems hitherto caused by a white background. A week later we took delivery of two further Butterfly Nippon Rollaway tables.

After what seemed a long wait curtains were installed, by Custom Curtains, over all window areas in January and then in April six further Butterfly court surrounds were delivered.

Haymill now boasts the finest playing conditions in a wide area. Matches are played in four individually screened courts, each with a Nippon Rollaway table and four 500W lamps providing exceptionally good lighting. For coaching and practice, six tables can be erected in a three by two configuration.

All this has left one table spare, so while the old Stiga and Dunlop tables remain at Haymill, and the Jaques sees service at St. Andrews, the Hampden table has been lent semi-permanently to the Fullick family, where some members of our coaching scheme are able to make use of it.

All equipment at Haymill is stored in the lock-up space at the end of the gym where a metal cabinet, courtesy of Jackie Thomas, now contains the nets and miscellaneous items.

The total gross investment at Haymill over the last two seasons now exceeds £5500 but the result is admirable.

The club participated in an Open Day organised by the Haymill Centre in June 1985. However the Centre failed to attract sufficient publicity and the event, at least from our point of view, was not a success.

The greatest disappointment over the past twelve months was the realisation, in August, that a misunderstanding between the club and Haymill had caused us to lose the use of Tuesday evenings. We had been planning to use Tuesdays for Slough League matches from mid September, allowing Thursdays to be used for Maidenhead League matches and practice. All Slough League home nights reverted to Thursdays while Maidenhead League matches were switched to St. Andrews Shared Church on Wednesdays and Fridays, and through season practice cancelled altogether. On a happier note, we are now assured that Tuesdays are once again available for us at Haymill next season.

Meanwhile our venues have also been used by third parties. The Slough League has held two tournaments at Haymill, the Hard Bat in November and the junior events of the Slough Closed in March. Haymill has also been used by the League on six Sunday mornings for the Slough League Youth Division, while the Buckinghamshire County Association used the club's facilities for the first time in promoting three county matches on two separate occasions. The Slough League has also used St. Andrews for all it's home matches in the Bucks Inter-League competitions.

Use has also been made by four "squatter" teams in the Slough League. Haymead made up the numbers on alternate Thursdays at Haymill, while Buzby, Farnham Royals and Inex have all used St. Andrews as their home base.

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

The club has been extremely lucky with the grants it has received for the financing of the necessary capital investment at Haymill. Last season we were awarded a grant of £2000 from the Sports Council and the remaining balance of £1330 of this was received in this financial year.

While generous in the extreme, this was not nearly enough, and it was thus with immense relief that we heard in July of a further £2000 grant awarded by Berkshire County Council, as a direct result of an appeal to Slough Borough Council's Lottery Fund having been referred by them to the county. With only the Sports Council's money it had been difficult to know what best to spend it on, but once Berkshire's contribution was known it meant the whole project could be developed. All this money has now been received by the club and we also profited by donations of £200 and £150 from Slough Social Fund, courtesy of Mars Ltd. and Slough Estates Ltd. respectively.

A grant application for coaching expenses was made to Slough Borough Lottery Fund in February but, to date, this has not produced a response.

A small fundraising exercise, organised by Jackie Thomas and Steve Dorrell, was undertaken through the Gold C book scheme.

FINANCE

The adoption of large fee increases at last May's AGM, and the loss of subsidised second evenings at Haymill, have turned round the club's finances in the last year. The accounts for the year to 30th April 1986 show a cash surplus of £484 and a closing cash balance of £1176.

Following the discussion at the last AGM the accounts have also been presented in an "Income and Expenditure Account" format. Eliminating capital purchases and grants, and accruing liabilities of £124 the annual surplus is reduced to £269 before charging depreciation of £616.

An innovation recently has been the computerisation of the club's accounts by the Treasurer using spreadsheet software.

TEAM COMPETITIONS

National Club Championship

As champions, Cippenham was honoured to represent Slough for the sixth consecutive season in the Ormesby Cup, the national mens' club championship. An invitation was also received from Maidenhead but this was declined. After a first round bye we were eliminated 5-2 at home by BCL Bridgewater, opponents in each of the last three seasons.

Buckinghamshire competitions

Four teams were entered in the Buckinghamshire club competitions, two competing in the Premier Division Cup and two in the Intermediate Cup, open to teams from Slough's second and third divisions. Unfortunately none of our teams won a match, and the first team conceded for the second year running after winning the inaugural competition in season 1983-4.

Slough League

As champions for the third successive season, and the sixth time overall, the club emulated it's 1978 and 1985 performances in providing both the top two teams in Division One. Congratulations to champions Buccaneers represented by John Lewis, Dave Pountney, Frank Earis and Alec Watson, and aided by Nicky Heaps and Tony King. Outlaws were eight points behind and this year had a serious challenge from South Bucks Nalgo Bees to overcome before claiming second spot on sets difference. Graham Trimming, Martin King and Rodney Potts were the mainstays of this team.

Our other successful side was the Vagabonds who won promotion to the top flight by finishing runners-up in Division Two. Well done, Ken Phillips, Peter Hillier, Jackie Thomas and Terry Stevens.

Of the other teams Rogues finished eighth in Division One after recovering from a poor start, promoted Villains with personnel changes were seventh in Division Two, Rascals sixth in Division Three, and Rebels one off the bottom of Division Four. In the new Youth Division, where teams of two play in Sunday morning sessions at Haymill, our teams finished fourth, seventh and eighth. The latter two teams are very inexperienced and better results are expected in the future.

Dave Pountney was top, and Frank Earis second in the Division One averages for the second successive year. Other featured Cippenham players were John Lewis third and Martin King fifth. Alec Watson was unbeaten but failed to play in enough matches to qualify for the official averages. After maintaining an unbeaten record for most of the season, Ken Phillips slipped into second place in the Division Two averages, followed by Peter Hillier in fourth place. Anna Watton came fifth in the Youth Division averages.

This was not our most successful season in the Dilger Cup. The Buccaneers, beaten in the quarter-final, were our last representatives. However the Juniors side of Julie Bell and Anna Watton more than made up by becoming the first winners of the Youth Division Knock-Out Competition.

Maidenhead League

Abandoning a policy of attempting to win the Maidenhead League, our playing resources were pooled into one senior side. However, a series of good results meant that the team were in fact involved in a three horse championship race until the finish. Alec Watson rather unluckily lost the Wilkinson Sword, the award for the highest Premier Division average that he won in 1985, by losing just one match and finishing second to Susan Collier, a player he beat.

Our Youth Division side, the Athenians, also finished third in their division, on games average, after another three horse championship race. After being knocked out in the first round of their handicap competition they then survived through to contest the final of the consolation event.

Summer Leagues

Graham Trimming and Rodney Potts, as Cippenham Alpha, lifted the Slough Summer League title for the third year running, the fifth consecutive win for the club, and the seventh in nine years. The Beta side finished bottom of Division One, while Gamma were runners-up on game difference in Division Three despite not having a full team on two occasions.

One team was entered in the Maidenhead League, finishing sixth in Division One with Graham Trimming remaining unbeaten.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

We have enjoyed another season of success for individual members although the absence of any Buccaneers' players blunted our attack on titles at the Slough Closed.

It was Alec Watson and Frank Earis who led the challenge at other events, both individually and together with some memorable doubles performances. Alec was a triple winner at the Maidenhead Closed where he collected his first Mens Singles title at the third time of asking, on each occasion as number one seed. He also won the Veterans Singles, beating Frank in the final, and together they commenced a successful run in Mens Doubles events during which they collected the Maidenhead, Bucks and Cippenham titles.

Alec also won the Veterans Singles at the Bucks Closed where Jackie Thomas was a double runner-up, in Mixed Doubles with Frank Earis and Ladies Doubles with Dawn Robbins. This tournament also produced the first success for our junior coaching scheme when Anna Watton left with a runner-up prize in the Cadet Girls Singles.

Rodney Potts was the club's star at the Slough Closed where he won two events and was runner-up in another. The Mens Doubles was captured with Graham Trimming, the Division One Singles event was won, but the Mixed Doubles with Jackie Thomas surrendered in the final. Martin King could not fulfil his number one seeding in the Mens Singles but did well to reach the final, Anna Watton played extremely well to win the Girls Singles, and Bob Keeley reached the final of the Veterans Singles.

Cippenham maintained its undented tradition of providing the Slough League Masters champion. Five of the eight qualifiers were from this club, as were all four semi-finalists, but eventually it was Frank Earis who retained his title by defeating Dave Pountney, the 1984 champion, in the final.

Another title Frank retained was the Slough Hard Bat singles championship, where he and Jackie Thomas also reached the final of the doubles.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

Alec Watson and Frank Earis were ever present in the Buckinghamshire Veterans side that so unluckily were relegated in their first season in the Premier Division. Alec, ranked two originally, was promoted to number one and won all his first eleven matches, including victories over the second and third England ranked players. Frank was ranked three throughout.

Jackie Thomas, after an excellent trial, was ranked second in the ladies list, and was selected for the first six Senior II team matches. Other rankings were Kay Kennedy seventh in the ladies list, Peter Hillier twelfth in the veterans, Julie Bell and Emma Thomas seventh and eighth respectively in the girls.

Both Alec and Frank have been ranked in the top ten in England veterans this season, their current positions being 9 and 20 respectively. After his good results at the previous season's English Closed Championship, Alec also began the season ranked 113 in the England mens list, but dropped out as he played in only one further qualifying event.

Cippenham had eleven representatives in the Slough inter-league teams, including providing Martin King, Rodney Potts and Graham Trimming for the Mens "A" and Wilmott Cup teams. The club also provided the entire Cadet Girls side, Julie Bell, Emma Thomas and Anna Watton, for the Berkshire Competition. In addition, Peter Hillier, Steve Dorrell, Malcolm Hicks, Kay Kennedy and Jackie Thomas all represented Slough.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The club championship was held at Haymill during an April Saturday morning and afternoon. The record entry of twenty-six players kept four tables in operation for seven hours before the final four matches were staged. One new event was added this season, a Veterans Singles, while members of the club coaching scheme who do not represent another club in the leagues were invited to participate. Graham Trimming acted as Tournament Secretary, Peter Hillier the Referee, while Mike Davis lent his expertise in timing the events. An innovation was the use of a computer to make the tournament draw and for player control at the event.

This was certainly the biggest and best ever club championship, with all our top players in attendance. The standard of play was considerably higher than that at the Slough Closed!

Alec Watson, Frank Earis and Anna Watton, as in many other events during the season, were the most successful players. In his first Cippenham championships, Alec won the Mens Singles, and the Championship Doubles with Frank, who had taken advantage of Alec's absence earlier in the day to win the Veterans Singles. Anna won both the junior events. Jackie Thomas won the Ladies Singles from a field of eight, while Malcolm Hicks profited from both handicap events, partnered in the doubles by Mike Davis.

Two new trophies were purchased this year, for the Handicap Singles and the Handicap Doubles.

COACHING

The loss of Tuesday evenings at Haymill had the effect of curtailing coaching to a one hour session each Thursday at the beginning of the season, until it was transferred to Sundays in November, where a two hour session has been supervised by qualified coach Cathy Hasberry, to whom expenses have been paid.

The fee for attending was originally 50p per session, was reduced to 30p for the duration of the Thursday curtailment, then increased to £1 when the Sunday format was introduced.

Attendances have fluctuated between about six at worst to about twenty at most. Normal attendances have been a comfortable twelve to fifteen lately. Since February a rota has been operated for three club members to assist Cathy each week. Often more volunteers have turned up to help.

The coaching group has become part of the Dunlop Skills Award Scheme and to date seven members have been presented with their Grade One badge. In 1986 the club has also initiated a quarterly award to the most improved player, and an annual award to the Boy and Girl of the Year. The latter awards are restricted to members who do not represent other clubs. John Potts and Anna Watton were nominated

Cippenham's Boy and Girl of the Year for season 1985-6 and presented with their awards at the club championship. The first quarterly award was made to Andrew Nicolson.

In September the club sent twelve juniors along to Castle Hill one Saturday afternoon to play three friendly matches against the host club. The exercise was thoroughly enjoyable even if the results of our teams were not impressive.

PRACTICE

Practice sessions at Haymill were held each Thursday last summer but then had to be cancelled because of the lack of a second evening. Recently, after the end of the season, these sessions have resumed and are seen as important if new players are to be recruited to the club.

Graham Trimming
May 1986