



# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2001-02

### Highlights of the Year

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

- Gareth Herbert's selection for England in the European Championships, Joanna Parker's for the European Youth Championships last summer and other international recognitions that have been bestowed upon Bradley Evans, Gemma Chapman, Warren Brooks, David Hayes and (shortly) Robert Lemon;
- the Club's success in British league competitions winning Women's Division 1 and Veterans' Division 3 and being runners-up in Junior Girls' Premier Division and the main Division 3 South;
- the success of members in national championships, especially Gareth Herbert (Men's Doubles), Joanna Parker (Junior Girls' Singles), Bradley Evans (U12 Boys' Singles and Doubles) and Gavin Evans (U10 Boys' Singles), and other open tournaments;
- The success of the Cippenham and Slough teams in the national team championships: winning Gainsford Cup and Hammersley Cup and reaching the final stage of Carter Cup and Leach Cup;
- the success of the Club's teams and players in Slough League competitions;
- the award to Sue Hayes of ETTA Female Coach of the Year and of ETTA Merit Awards to Ken Phillips and Mike Rhodes;
- the continuing success and national recognition of the Club's coaching activities;
- the use of the Centre for a European Women's League match between England and Netherlands plus the continuing prestigious National Junior and Cadet Masters and Junior Premier Division of the County Championships;
- the generous praise shown by visitors to the Centre for the way in which the Centre operates, the welcome that visitors receive and the quality of the activity programme devised by the Club;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- the successful range of open tournaments organised by the Club at the Centre;
- the tremendous energy shown by the Club's management in the day to day operation of the Centre;
- the sustained financial result for the year that is securing the viability of the Centre in the future.

### Cippenham Table Tennis Centre

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1996 as a result of the hard work and enterprise of the Club's Management Committee. It is a joint project with



The Westgate School and is used by the School during school hours for a variety of sporting activities. Outside of schools hours, in the evenings, weekends and holidays it is used exclusively by the Club for table tennis. The Centre is managed by Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited, a company formed by the management of the Club for the sole purpose of managing the facility. The Board of Directors includes six Club members and a representative of the School staff.

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

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

The Centre owns 14 Donic Waldner Sinus tables, all of which are in good condition and are reserved primarily for competitive use. There are also 12 Donic Persson tables, purchased in 1996, and these have remained in use for

general practice and coaching.

Nets, posts and scoring machines are routinely replaced to ensure that the Centre maintains a high quality standard of equipment. The playing hall and lower lobby were redecorated in the summer of 2001 and there are plans to replace the floor covering in the men's toilets.

## Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2001 AGM met ten times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman & Coaching Officer	10	May 31 <sup>st</sup>	6
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	10	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	6
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	10	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7
Rhys Evans	Deputy Chairman	1	September 16 <sup>th</sup>	9
Mike Rhodes	Bookings Officer	6	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	5
Jacque Lovell	Social Officer	8	November 25 <sup>th</sup>	6
Jeremy Bateman	Club Captain	6	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	5
Sue Hayes	General Committee member	7	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	8
Linda Evans	General Committee member	0	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	6
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	8	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	8



Owing to him leaving the area, Rhys Evans resigned from the committee on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Mike Rhodes has been working in Southampton since the end of January and since that time his duties as Bookings Officer have been covered by Sue Hayes.

In addition the following three sub-committees operated:

Super League: Mike Rhodes (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary and Administrator);

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Jacque Lovell, Charles Mitchell, Frankie Butterworth.

Calendar Working Party: Ken Phillips, Graham Trimming, Sue Hayes.

Necessarily, all the Committee members do far more than might be supposed from their job titles, none more so than the Chairman, Ken Phillips, who spends up to 80 hours a week on table tennis duties. Thanks are due to all whom have contributed to the administration of the club, including all the team captains.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his twenty-seventh year as Fixtures Secretary while Mike Rhodes completed twelve years on the Committee and two as Press Officer. Peter Hillier has completed the third year of his third stint as the League's Treasurer. Jeremy Bateman and Clive Perry joined the Committee as General Secretary and Competitions Secretary respectively while Elroy Hull became Inter-League Secretary. Club member Jan Chapman also continued as Chairman on the Maidenhead Association while Nick Hansell took over the Treasurer's function for the Bucks County Association. In late 2001 Graham Trimming took on another job by assuming responsibility for the Table Tennis Collectors' Society.

Two Club members are full time employees of the ETTA, Paul Baker as Facilities Officer and Wesley Bush-Harris as Southern Region Development Officer while Sue Hayes is Honorary Chairman of the ETTA Southern Region Coaching Panel. Ken Phillips also contributed greatly as joint Organiser of the National Junior League (Southern Region).



At the Anniversary Party the Club made its fifth Outstanding Contribution Award and the recipient this time was Terry Boxall in recognition of his contribution to coaching and general handyman tasks for which he is indispensable. On other occasions Peter Hillier and Mike Rhodes were presented with salvers – Peter to belatedly mark his 25 years of service on the Club's Management Committee and Mike, whose services we will shortly lose when he moves out of the district, to thank him for the work he has done for more than a decade.

Ken Phillips and Mike Rhodes were also presented with the ETTA Merit Awards for their service to table tennis in general. The Club is very proud of all those that have received awards during the season. An award also came the way of the Club itself when we were runners-up in the ETTA National PremierClub of the Year in the Excellence category.

Graham Trimming attended, on behalf of the Club, the ETTA PremierClub Conference in July 2001 while Graham and Terry Boxall attended the Slough Borough Council organized "Slough's Sporting Future" two months later. Robin Farquhar became the Club's delegate at the recent PremierClub Conference in May 2002.

# Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 228, a little down on the same stage of last year which reached a record total of 240. To put this into context, the total membership in 1996 prior to the move into our purpose-built centre was 60. Some of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless this must make the Club one of the largest in the country. Despite the size of the membership, the Club has been concerned for some time about the lack of adult members both from the perspective of potential members of our Slough League teams and suitable people to take on management responsibilities in the future. Some of the development work currently being undertaken at the Club is targeted in this area.

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 plus Gareth Herbert, who has been granted special rights to practice facilities, and three others - Jane Dickens, Alan Farral and Jan Chapman who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. In 1999 the Club introduced another tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for matches, coaching and practice. Jan Chapman was rewarded for her contribution with promotion to this status in 2001.

Over the past twelve months a total of 100 players have represented the club in match play, eight more than in the previous year. 35 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, one less than in the previous season. Eight of these were in British leagues and a further eight in the National Junior League and, for the first time, two in the National Cadet League. Three teams also bore the Club's name in the Cippenham Super League. Fifteen teams operated in the Slough League, seven in the senior divisions and eight in the Youth Division. Disappointingly, these figures represent six fewer teams operating in the senior divisions of local leagues than four years ago. It appears that even a club with the size of membership and success rate of Cippenham is finding it difficult to enthruse players of the virtues of local league table tennis, which for more than seventy years has been the core competitive product offered by the sport.

Graham Trimming became the first player to make 1,300 appearances for the Club and is 560 ahead of the second-placed! David Hayes became the 24<sup>th</sup> player to celebrate 200 appearances while ten players made their 100<sup>th</sup> appearances during the year: Clive Perry; Myles Evans; Warren Brooks; John Camilleri; Jenny Hansell; Paul Zeun; Catherine Hayes; William Mitchell, Sylvana Bielec and Jeremy Bateman. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1300	Gareth Lovell	373	Jacquie Lovell	277
Peter Hillier	740	George Appleby	372	Dave Pountney	276
Frank Earis	669	Frank Cowley	363	Steve Crow	268
Ken Phillips	536	Rodney Potts	316	Armando Borges	254
Mike Rhodes	495	Alec Watson	301	Georgia Veneer	247
Jackie Wood	403	Wendy Barlow	279	Roland Clapton	236
Neil Bird	374	Steve Joel	278	Jane Dickens	226

The busiest players during the season were Sylvana Bielec and Gemma Chapman with 45 appearances each followed by Paul Baker with 42.

One of the nicest developments at the Club over the past six years has been the involvement of whole families with the youngsters playing while parents assist in the administration, coaching or general well-being of the Club. Of special note in this context are the Chapman, Dickens, Evans, Hansell, Harper, Hayes, Linz, Mitchell and Tucker families.

# Finance

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

The surplus for the year shown in the Club's accounts is £7,400 and the balance sheet reveals a net worth of £50,979. By virtue of our policy of maintaining the most favourable tax position it has been necessary to show a loss in the Centre's accounts of £1,113. Thus the consolidated surplus was £6,287 and the net worth is £52,728. Cash balances total £48,825 including £1,183 in the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund. This is less than the net worth because of the investment that has been made in capital equipment. Corporation tax is payable on any surpluses of the Centre and on investment income earned by the Club and this year has been minimised at £95. Surpluses arising out of members' fees are not subject to tax. As a result of the announcement in the recent Budget, it is anticipated that there will be no corporation tax burden falling upon the Club or Centre in the future.

The financial surplus has reduced over the past three years because it has been deliberately managed downwards by reducing fees and waiving fees in respect of Gold Privileged Members. It is now the Club's policy to maintain surpluses

at about the current rate. However it should be borne in mind that these surpluses are only earned through the hard work of the Club's committee and helpers. Coaching provided a surplus of £5,605, catering £4,626, letting fees £3,780, practice fees £2,892, open tournaments £2,275 and interest income £1,569. It will be appreciated that only a small percentage of the Club's income is derived from membership and match fees, minimising the financial burden placed upon the Club's core membership.

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

We continued with the support from Jarvis Sports that enables our British league teams to be clothed less expensively and provides a discount to members on all equipment and kit requirements. The Club sponsored one of the Buckinghamshire junior teams operating in the County Championships, paying all its expenses, and the contribution totalled £97.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of the lady of that name who passed away at too early an age in 2000. The Fund was started with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees of all junior and younger open tournaments run by the Club. The aim of the Fund is to provide assistance towards training and competition costs for junior players who are less well off financially. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts.

## Training

The Club is fortunate to have a number of trained coaches and officials but is constantly seeking to augment the number. Sue Hayes and Terry Boxall both attended the Level 4 Coaching Course at Lilleshall in September while Graham Trimming was due to attend the Tournament Organisers' Level 3 course but this was cancelled. A Level 2 Coach Education course was held at the Centre in May 2002 and this was attended by Mark Jackson.

The ETTA has booked the Centre in October 2002 for one of its regional conferences. Delegates will hear a number of key note presentations about how to recruit and retain volunteers.

Although reasonably well off compared to other clubs, the Club still requires more of its members to train as coaches, umpires, tournament organizers and referees. A number of members have received training as duty officers and bar help during the last year and this is assisting in sharing the burden on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

## Public Relations

The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well in the three local newspapers - Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. Reports are submitted most weeks during the season and have been supplemented by photographs taken with the Club's own digital camera. In the absence of a Public Relations Officer this service has been provided by Graham Trimming. Graham has also produced eleven editions of the Club Newsletter during the past year. These have been well received by members and visitors and provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. These and the well-maintained notice boards at the Centre are an important source of information for everyone. A Membership Pack was introduced about a year ago and this, updated when necessary by Jacquie Lovell, has proved to be a useful document to give to potential members on the occasion of their first visit.

The Club also has its own web site ([www.cippenhamttc.co.uk](http://www.cippenhamttc.co.uk)). This has been designed, written and is maintained up to date also by Graham. A full range of information is available and the site is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's monthly Newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated table tennis web site in the country.

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

As a result of the ETTA's photo-shoot at the Centre in 2000, photographs of the Centre and Club members appear on ETTA leaflets and also two brochures produced by Sport England. This is especially true of the new ETTA leaflet "Take It Up" in which many of the photos have been taken at Cippenham.

Led by Ken Phillips, and supported by Josh and Gareth Herbert, the Club also exhibited at the Chalvey Carnival in August 2001.

Table tennis celebrated its centenary in the Slough area as the first clubs were formed and the first tournaments organized in early 1902. The main focal points of the celebrations were the publication by Graham Trimming of a journal, entitled "Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer – a Special Edition for the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Area" which included all known press reports from the local area for the years 1901 to 1904, and a special Hard Bat Tournament run by the Slough League. At the latter event Graham exhibited a part of his extensive collection of table tennis artefacts of 100 years ago.

## 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. The weekday format at present is:

Monday	5.30 to 7.30 pm 7.30 to 9.30 pm	Advanced coaching group Excellence coaching group
Tuesday	7.15 to 11.00 pm 7.30 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches General practice
Wednesday	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Squad coaching
Thursday	5.15 to 7.15 pm 7.15 to 11.00 pm 7.30 to 11.00 pm 7:45 to 9:45 pm	Beginners' coaching Local league matches General practice Cippenham Super League matches

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

On each occasion that the Centre is open a Duty Officer is nominated. The responsibilities of the Duty Officer include the collection of fees, health and safety, the proper use and storage of the Club's equipment together with the security of the Centre. Until Christmas Mike Rhodes often undertook this himself but has been unable since due to his place of work moving to Southampton. Peter Hillier and Graham Trimming are the mainstays now with intermittent assistance from many others.

## Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge bar area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area doubles up as a refreshment area at tournaments during which the kitchen copes remarkably well with the demands placed upon it to feed over 100 competitors plus their coaches and parents. This is due in no small way to the skill and hard work of the Club's Social Officer Jacquie Lovell and her staff, especially Jan and Gemma Chapman, Pam Dickens, Gill Tucker and Frankie Butterworth. Many others, including several other parents, have also given a great deal of assistance.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. A pay telephone is available and the television and VCR are also popular attractions. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche.



The lounge benefits from a full on-licence and the bar is open Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 11 pm and at weekends when required. Thanks are due to Alan Farral who has runs the bar almost every Thursday and to others who fill in on Tuesdays. The licensees are Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips.

The fifth annual party was arranged in the bar to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members, their families and visitors. Other popular social occasions included the Christmas party, including a welcome visit from Santa Claus, and the annual barbecue on a Sunday in July.



# Outside Events

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

The latter included the National Junior and Cadet Masters for the sixth time and the Premier Division of the Junior County Championships for the second time after twice having previously played host to the counterpart senior event. An even more prestigious event came to the Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> December when England beat Netherlands 3-2 in a European Women's League match that thrilled the 100+ crowd. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organisational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips and Jacque Lovell for their involvement in this.



A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	European Women's League England v. Netherlands National Junior and Cadet Masters (4 days) County Championships Junior Premier Division (2) National Junior League (4) British League Divisions 1 South and 3 South (2)
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Preliminary/Final Trials (2) Junior Training (9) Coaches Get-Together (2)
Bucks County TTA:	Senior/Veterans' Closed Championships Junior Closed Championships Men's Inter-League Junior Inter-League Cadet Inter-League County Championships sessions (6) Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town County Championships session
Slough League:	Slough Closed Championships (2) Slough Youth Division sessions (5) Slough Hard Bat Tournament (Wednesday evening) Slough League play-off matches (Wednesday evening) Alec Brook Trophy Stage 1 Bucks Inter-league matches (midweek)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2) Maidenhead Charity Handicap Tournament
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)

# Club Events

## **Open Tournaments**

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

Jun 01	Young Players' Summer Festival	Jan 02	Under-13/15 1-Star
Jun 01	Veterans' Summer 2-Star	Feb 02	Veterans' 2-Star
Oct 01	Senior 2-Star	Apr 02	Cadet 3-Star
Dec 01	Junior 3-Star		

Two age group events (YPSF and U13/15) were organised by Ken Phillips while Graham Trimming was Organiser for the two veterans' events, Mike Rhodes for the Senior Open, Sue Hayes for the Cadet and Terry Boxall for the Junior. All attracted good entries especially the Cadet which had an entry of 102. The Club is indebted to Mick Strode, Ken Phillips and Graham Trimming who all acted as Referee for the events.

The Centre lends itself very well to tournaments of this kind - singles only in groups of at least four with the top two (or three) in each group going forward into the championship, while the remainder go into a consolation event.

Cippenham players have a habit of doing well in their own tournaments and the following have won events this year: Robert Lemon (JBS); Gemma Hollett (JGS); Bradley Evans (CBS); Sylvana Bielec (U13GS); Myles Evans (U10BS); Gavin Evans (U9BS/U8BS).

## **Super League**

The Super League ran for a second season but this time it was without the benefit of sponsorship. Nevertheless the Club generously offered a prize fund of £800 from its own resources. Entries to the League were sought from established clubs, arranged teams and individuals. The final constitution of the League was seven teams: two teams from British League champions London Progress; three teams playing under the Cippenham banner; and two teams that remained from last season's individual entries.

The League ran on fourteen Thursday evenings, fortnightly, and so arranged as to fall into the vacant weeks of a similar established competition at BATTs, Harlow. The format was two-a-side playing five sets including a doubles. At the end of the season a singles competition for the top eight qualifiers was run.

London Progress retained their title and also wrested second place from under the noses of Cippenham Aces. The end of season Players' Championship was won for the second time by Jason Sugrue (London Progress), who also won the award for the highest average with 100%. Jason has remained completely unbeaten over the two seasons.

From an organizational point of view the League struggled mid-term, suffering from the postponement of ten matches. A no-postponements regulation was then enforced and the League ran much more smoothly thereafter. Teams also co-operated well with a schedule of re-arranged dates drawn up by the Administrator Graham Trimming.



## **Members' Tournaments**

The Club Championships and Handicap Tournament will be held in June as it has proved impossible to find a suitable date prior to the Annual General Meeting.

# Team Competitions

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

## **British League Competitions**

Eight teams were run again in the British league competitions. In the main event our teams were successful with the first team finishing third in Division 1 South and the second team securing runners-up position in Division 3 South. This latter team was a new addition this year and was organized as a blend of youth and experience. All the players gained at least a 50% win record with youngsters Robert Lemon and Robert Hansell being especially successful. The first team suffered through injuries sustained by Wesley Bush-Harris and Clive Payne and had to call upon the services of reserves to fulfil the programme. Thanks are especially due to Brian Burn who stepped in to assist. Graham Trimming acted as Team Secretary with Clive Payne and Mike Rhodes the team captains and Robert Hansell assisting with team selection.



Only one women's team was run this season and, having been relegated from the Premier Division the year before, duly regained its position in the top flight by becoming champions of Division 1. Congratulations are due to the team of Gemma Chapman, Becky Fisher and Claire Plumridge. Jan Chapman acted as Team Secretary.

Having been national champions for the past two seasons the girls' first team lost their hold on the title and had to content themselves with being runners-up, albeit a mile ahead of the third-placed team. The boys' first team was promoted to the Premier Division but, largely due to illness depriving the team of the services of Warren Brooks for the second half, finished in a lowly seventh place. The boys' second team was also affected, by the

promotion of David Hayes in place of Warren, and slipped to fifth in Division 1. The girls' second team finished a creditable third in Division 2 and was awarded "Team of the Weekend" at the first session. Ken Phillips acted as Secretary to all four teams and the travelling coaches were Ken himself, Rhys Evans, Sue Hayes and Jan Chapman.

With Clive Payne available again, although only for the first weekend, the veterans' team bounced back into Division 2 by claiming the championship of Division 3. Clive was supported ably by Mike Rhodes and Paul Baker and, for the second half, by his deputy Ken Philipson. Graham Trimming acted as Team Secretary and Mike Rhodes as captain.

During the season Graham did a mathematical exercise ranking all English clubs in order by virtue of their positions in all the British leagues. No-one will be surprised that Cippenham came out as the second most successful club in England!



### ***Other National Competitions***

Having been runner-up in 2001 the Cippenham women's team went one better and won the Gainsford Cup for the first time. The team was not at full strength but nevertheless won all three matches in the finals. Congratulations to Gemma Chapman, Sue Hayes and Jane Dickens.

Once again the Club entered seven teams in the Southern Region section of the National Junior League. This event was held on four Saturdays at Cippenham and Chesham High School. Our top girls' team retained the title and congratulations are due to Sylvana Bielec, Rebecca Tweedy and Caroline Linz. For good measure the other girls' team also won Division 2. The boys' teams finished third in Divisions 1, 2, and 3, second in Division 4 and top of Division 5.

The club also entered the National Cadet League for the first time, securing the top two positions in the girls' division held at Chesham High School. The reward for this should have been a place in the national finals but no other girls' division had been operated in the rest of the country and the offer of a place to play against boys was rejected.

### ***Slough League***

For a record ninth year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This eighteenth title, also a record, was won by the Rogues team of Mark Jackson, David Hayes, James Milton and Geoff Harris with some help from Sue Hayes. Rogues just managed to gain the title ahead of Pirates who finished two points behind. Mark Banks finished top of the Slough League averages but Mike Rhodes deserves special praise for his 58 consecutive wins between the end of season 1999-2000 and early in season 2001-2. Rogues also won the Dilger Cup to become the first team to do the league and cup double since 1970.

### ***Slough League Youth Divisions***

Cippenham Desperadoes (Ashley Shaw, Oliver Shaw) won this division but only because Waifs did not turn up for one of the sessions. Cippenham Beggars (David Baker, Alexander Lovell) won the handicapped Tunes Cup.

### ***Slough Summer League***

Five teams were again entered with Reds runners-up in Division One and Blues runners-up in Division 2.

### ***St. Ives Inter-Club Competition***

Cippenham continued its complete domination of this event by winning all three age groups for the third year in succession.



# Coaching

Coaching of young players is probably the most important work that is undertaken by the Club. The coaching scheme has been established for many years and has been very successful for some time. It continues to be one of the most successful coaching set-ups in the country ably managed by Ken Phillips and the other coaches. The Club is fortunate to have such dedicated and highly qualified staff and congratulations are due to Sue Hayes who was presented with the ETTA's Female Coach of the Year award in September 2001. This follows on from Ken Phillips having won the counterpart men's award in both of the previous two years. A blow was dealt to the Club's coaching activities in September when Rhys Evans moved away from the area. Rhys continues to coach Cippenham players at open tournaments and in the Junior British League but is no longer involved on a day-to-day basis at the Club. The Club thanks Rhys for the formidable amount of effort he put in over many years prior to his move.



Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken, most importantly at Farnham Common Middle School and Oldfield School. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away who want to take advantage of the high standard of coaching and development management available at the Club. Another link is with Arbour Vale in Slough, a school for pupils with special needs. This is a source of great inspiration for Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman who enjoy the challenge of teaching these youngsters. Ken coaches at other schools also and has in the past few months become involved in the after-school session at Westgate for children within the Cippenham Cluster.

There are currently four weekly coaching sessions for youngsters. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral with help from Ken Phillips, Terry Boxall and Jan Chapman. These have recently become extremely well patronised and a record 42 children attended one session early in May. The Monday evening sessions for the Advanced and Excellence performers, who are there by invitation, have been established for many years, having been introduced by Ken under the banner of the Slough and Maidenhead Advanced Coaching Centre (SMACC). Ken is still running these sessions with help from a number of other coaches and feeders. The other regular weekly session takes place on Wednesday evenings when there are three squads of invited players coached by Ken, Sue and Jan. There have also been ad-hoc sessions on a few Friday evenings to which good standard players have been invited as feeders.

The Club's coaches also travel with the juniors many weekends to open and national tournaments up and down the country. The children benefit greatly from these experiences and gain from them the ranking points that are the main object of desire for many of them.

The coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall; Gemma Chapman (not qualified); Jan Chapman; Alan Farral; Sue Hayes; Roy Linz and Ken Phillips. The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

## Tournament Success for Individuals

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



Four players have won national titles over the past year. Last summer, at the National U10/11/12 Championships the Evans family did the treble with Bradley winning the U12 Boys' Singles and U12 Boys' Doubles while 8-years old brother Gavin won the U10 Boys' Singles. This completed the hat-trick of U10, U11 and U12 singles titles for Bradley in successive years. At the same tournament Rebecca Tweedy excelled in being runner-up in the U11 Girls' Singles. Joanna Parker surpassed her ranking at the National Junior Championships in May by winning the U17 Girls' Singles. Joanna, who still has two more years in this age group, had last year won the U14 title. At the National Senior Championships Gareth Herbert won the Men's Doubles for the third time in four years and he also was Men's Singles runner-up at the Home Countries Senior International.

Bradley and Joanna also won events at the Safirs International Tournament in Sweden and Gareth, Joanna, Gavin, Rebecca, Gemma Chapman and Rebecca Fisher also won events at open tournaments, principally on the ETTA Grand Prix circuit. At veterans' age level, Georgia Veneer is our most successful player having gained a bronze medal last summer in the O75 Women's Doubles at the European Veterans' Championships.

Steve Munson (MS, MD), Gemma Chapman (WS) and Mike Rhodes (VS, VD) won events at the Bucks Senior Closed

while at the junior event Cippenham players won all but one event. There were singles titles here for James Milton, Gemma Chapman, Bradley Evans, Sylvana Bielec and Gavin Evans.

At the Slough Closed also Cippenham players won every major event with Mark Jackson winning the Men' Singles. At the Slough Masters it was Mark Banks who came up trumps.

## Representative Honours and Rankings

A large proportion of the Club's membership have again found their way onto England ranking lists this season, and fourteen have made it all the way into the top ten in the various categories. Pride of place must go to Gareth Herbert who reached the pinnacle of being ranked top of the England men's list in December 2001. Eight further Club members have been ranked in the top 100. In the women's list Joanna Parker reached ninth position and she also peaked at number 4 in the junior girls' list with Karen Shepherd and Gemma Chapman following at 7 and 8. In the cadet boys' rankings Bradley Evans reached 3, Niv Bogen 4, David Hayes 5 and James Milton 8. Six players have appeared in the top ten in the U12 age category. Included there are three boys – Gavin Evans (4), Dorian Robinson (6) and Myles Evans (also 6) – and three girls – Melanie Farquhar (2); Rebecca Tweedy (3) and Catherine Hayes (10).

Gareth Herbert has continued to represent England and featured in the European Championships where he had some fine victories. Joanna Parker has also represented her country on numerous occasions with the highlight being the European Youth Championships in July 2001. Cippenham's third international player this season has been Bradley Evans. Last summer, also, Gemma Chapman, Warren Brooks and David Hayes all represented England Schools. Robert Lemon will shortly become the latest international player at Cippenham having been selected for the Schools International.



All twelve players to represent the Southern Region in the Inter-Region Squad Championships were Cippenham players but the team could not replicate last season's achievement in winning the event.

Many Club players have again represented Buckinghamshire and Slough. After having won the Leach Cup four times and the Carter Cup three times in recent seasons the Slough boys' teams that appeared in the finals were under-strength and could not repeat the feat. This time it was the Slough cadet girls' team that proved victorious, winning the Hammersley Cup for the first team, and against expectations. Many congratulations to the team of Sylvana Bielec, Caroline Linz and Catherine Hayes.

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

**Graham Trimming**  
General Secretary  
May 2002

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