

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1988-9

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the sixteenth season of Cippenham Table Tennis Club, and its fifth since moving to the present multi-table headquarters at Haymill Centre in October 1984. In many ways, this was the club's most successful season yet, with membership at record levels.

Other highlights were the championship successes in the Slough and Maidenhead leagues, creditable performances in the Leeds Southern Region leagues, and the continued success of our players in various tournaments.

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past twelve months a total of sixty-three players have represented the club in match play, and fifty-six currently hold full membership. Both figures are far greater than in any previous year. With non-members regularly attending club practice and coaching sessions, there are now about seventy players associated with the club in one way or another. Cippenham Table Tennis Club is truly one of the largest and most successful sporting organizations in Slough.

Twenty-one teams were run in various leagues during the past season - another record. Fifteen teams operated in the Slough League, ten in the senior divisions and five in the Youth, while two more played in the Maidenhead League, and for the first time the club entered a team in the High Wycombe League.

Three teams were once again entered into the Leeds Southern Region leagues, a competition extended to two mens and ladies division for its second season.

During the past year Peter Hillier celebrated his 500th appearance for the club, Frank Earis his 400th, Rodney Potts and Alec Watson their 200th, and the following all made their 100th appearances: George Appleby, Neil Bird, Steve Dorrell, Eddie Herrity, Emma Thomas, Kay Waters and Anna Watton. The all time leading appearance list now reads: Graham Trimming 771, Peter Hillier 531, Frank Earis 437, Ken Phillips 287, Frank Cowley 262, Jackie Thomas 250, Dave Pountney 248, Rodney Potts 242 and Alec Watson 201. The busiest players over the past year were Jacquie Farwell and Eddie Herrity who both played 54 times.

ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting last May, met seven times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance at meeting	
Alec Watson	Chairman	4		
Graham Trimming	Secretary	7	25th July	9
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	7	14th September	7
Ken Phillips	Deputy Chairman / Coaching Administrator	4	14th October	8
			2nd December	6
			25th January	7
Jackie Thomas	Venue Liaison Administrator	6	15th March	7
Neil Bird	Press Secretary	7	17th May	5
Frank Earis	Committee member	6		
Eddie Herrity	- do -	4		
Phil Woodhouse	- do -	4		

Ken Phillips resigned his positions in January.

Thanks are due to the above and also the teams captains who have organised their sides in an efficient and responsible manner. A special thanks to Tim George who took over the captaincy of the Rebels team mid-season, after Margaret Cummings had left the area, and managed to deal with the backlog of fixtures.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a large Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his eighth year as Chairman and fourteenth as Fixtures Secretary, while Peter Hillier extended his current spell as Treasurer to eight years. Gareth Lovell now has four years as Press Secretary and Closed Championships Secretary, while Jacquie Farwell returned this season to her former position of General Secretary.

Peter Hillier has now completed more than two years as Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, a very busy office, and has been returned unopposed for a third term. Of particular pride is the honour of the Malcolm Scott Award bestowed upon Peter by the ETTA for his efforts in this capacity. Graham Trimming has this season been the main organizer of the Leeds Southern Region leagues in his position as Match Secretary.

Frank Earis has once again represented the club on the Haymill Centre Management Committee, elected to serve all users, and enables a dialogue to be maintained with the "landlord".

Much coverage of the club's activities has been enjoyed in the local press, with the Slough Express, Slough Observer, Maidenhead Advertiser and their sister newspapers reporting all major events including matches in the Leeds Southern Region leagues. In addition, of course, the club's exploits in the local leagues attracted extensive coverage, as did the success of our players in local tournaments.

VENUE AND EQUIPMENT

The £5500 investment made over the period between the end of 1984 and early 1986 continues to meet our requirements, and no fresh capital expenditure has been required. The club justifiably boasts having the finest playing conditions, an opinion shared by many visitors including those in the Leeds Southern Region leagues. For match and tournament play four Butterfly Nippon Rollaway tables are used, each court individually enclosed and lit by four 500W tungsten halogen lamps permanently attached to the ceiling at a height of eighteen feet. For practice and coaching five or six tables are erected.

The Haymill gymnasium has been used each Thursday throughout the year, and Tuesdays during the winter and summer league seasons. Eight Slough League teams have utilised Tuesday, with the remaining two Slough League teams, and the Maidenhead and High Wycombe league sides playing on Thursdays. On all but odd occasions space has been allocated for at least two practice tables on Thursday evening throughout the winter. Two hours each Sunday afternoon are reserved for coaching, and occasional use has been made of Sunday evenings for matches in the Leeds Southern Region leagues.

The Slough League has made use of Haymill on six Saturday afternoons for its Youth Division, and on another occasion for its Hard Bat Tournament. Occasional use has also been made for inter-league matches.

The Lynford club have also played all of its home matches in the Maidenhead League at Haymill on Thursday evenings.

The curtains which line the gymnasium windows, and which are the property of the club, were criminally damaged during the season. The Haymill Centre has undertaken to make repairs.

For the second time, the club bulk purchased a supply of green shirts and printed the club's name on the back. These have been sold to members and most now proudly wear them when representing the club.

FINANCE

The Treasurer has reported another financially successful year, with a cash surplus of £583, a seasonally adjusted surplus of £604, and cash balances of £2036. The surpluses are just enough to cover depreciation of the club's equipment, thus generating a reserve for its eventual replacement.

It should be understood that the financial position during the past year is the maximum that can be achieved as the venue has been utilised to capacity. Any further increase in membership would require an extension in the time booked at Haymill, which may not in any case be available, and would lead to a reduction in cash generation until the extended hours were again filled to capacity.

The club acquired two sponsors for its Leeds Southern Region League teams. Tunes Engineering and Slough Social Fund together contributed £75 towards expenses.

Fees remained unchanged from the previous season. Members currently pay an annual fee of £10 plus match fees of £2, both halved for junior players and OAPs. Practice fees are £1.20 for members and £1.50 for non-members, again both halved for juniors and OAPs.

TEAM COMPETITIONS

National Club Championship

As champions of the Slough League, Cippenham was once again proud to represent the town in the Ormesby Cup. It became our most successful run yet, as the zone final (last sixteen) was reached after two victories. Luck was on our side as all three ties were at home and some cracking matches were witnessed as both Sonning Common & Peppard (Reading) and Falmouth Docks (West Cornwall) were beaten 5-2, before defeat by the same scoreline to Kingfisher (Bracknell). Alec Watson and Frank Earis both had victories over England Top-100 players en route.

Leeds Southern Region leagues

Cippenham lost its crown as Leeds Southern Region League champions, a title proudly won in the League's inaugural season. This season Kingfisher strengthened their side by relegating two players from their British League team, and pushed our trio into second place. Apart from two losses to Kingfisher, all other matches were won and Alec Watson remained unbeaten except against the champions. He finished third in the official averages, while Frank Earis was sixth. Only the Kingfisher club had players higher.

The mens "B" team operated in the newly created First Division, and finished third, the highest placed of all "B" teams. Steve Dorrell was our most successful player and finished sixth in the averages.

Previous champions Generation II elected to enter the mens league instead, opening up the way for our ladies team to win the Southern Region Ladies League. In fact, it was all too easy as only one set was dropped in four matches and Jacquie Farwell remained unbeaten, with Jackie Thomas losing just one.

Cippenham can justifiably claim to be the fourth strongest club in the entire region, after British League clubs Amity Generation II, Kingfisher and AHW.

Slough League

A record breaking season! Champions for the eighth time in twelve years, with the Outlaws team of Frank Earis, Graham Trimming and Rodney Potts, aided by Graham Dixon and Alec Watson, winning all their matches. This was the first time since 1961 that the Slough League champions had won every match, and no team has had to play anything like twenty-two matches in order to accomplish this. The most successful team ever in Slough League's history! Who would have predicted that?

Four Cippenham teams occupied the top five places in Division One. Pirates, Buccaneers and Rogues all played superbly to eliminate all opposition except Burnham I. This again was a record as no club had ever claimed four of the top five teams before. Such was the confirmation of Cippenham's supremacy in the Slough League.

In Division Two our two teams found themselves at opposite ends of the table, though staying out of the promotion and relegation areas to finish third and ninth. In Division Three the Rascals team came in fourth, while our three teams in Division Four came fourth, seventh and tenth.

Five teams operated in the Youth Division although only three drew players from our coaching scheme. Waifs and Strays were absorbed under a "flag of convenience". Devils went unbeaten to win the league, and were followed in the next three places by Waifs, Strays and Urchins, with Terrors sixth.

Frank Earis topped the League's averages, with Eddie Herrity third, Graham Trimming fifth and Steve Dorrell sixth. In Division Two Jacquie Farwell was our highest ranked player in eighth place while in Division Three we have to go down to twelfth place to find Frank Cowley and Georgia Veneer was sixth in Division Four.

Cippenham players filled all the top four places in the Youth Division averages, headed by Ben Taylor, and followed by Anthony Rotunno, Danny Abbott and Lindsay West.

The final of the Dilger Cup turned out to be an all Cippenham affair. Vagabonds had reached the final with wins of one, two and six points, while Vandals had won their matches far easier. It was no real surprise that Vandals were able to hold onto enough of their lead to win the final, and the cup was won by a good team effort, but especially the results achieved by Alan Ward in earlier rounds.

For the first time the club did not win the Tunes Cup, although Devils made it to the final where they were beaten by Castle Hill "A".

Maidenhead League

Champions for the third consecutive year and the sixth time altogether. Congratulation to Alec Watson, Eddie Herrity, Frank Earis, Nick Heaps and Graham Trimming. Just one lost match all season, as big wins were registered against championship contenders.

Cippenham will have two teams in the Premier Division next season, as a last ditch effort realised Trojans' ambitions of the runners-up spot by one point. No-one predicted that after Trojans lost five consecutive matches mid-season.

In the Premier Division averages Alec Watson was forced into second place in the race for the Wilkinson Sword, with Nick Heaps third, Frank Earis eighth and Eddie Herrity thirteenth. In the First Division Neil Bird was third.

High Wycombe League

This was the first time that Cippenham had entered a team in the High Wycombe League, a venture designed to provide more table tennis to players not participating so regularly in the Maidenhead League. Our middle strength team surpassed themselves to finish third, behind the big two! Whether the team is run again next season depends on many factors, not the least of which is the players' dissatisfaction with venue conditions in this league.

Summer League

For the first time in six years Cippenham failed to win the Slough Summer League, and the Alpha team of Graham Trimming and Steve Crow had to be content with runners-up. In all seven teams were organised with Epsilon finishing second in Division Three, with John Potts beaten only once.

TOURNAMENTS

The club organised three tournaments during the season.

Club Championship

Held in mid April, this annual event attracted an entry of thirty-two participants, one down on last year and a little disappointing considering the increase in membership. However the day was enjoyed by all, with plenty of table tennis for everyone as a Tweenie Singles event was introduced for those too old for junior events, and too young for veterans. Four main events, Mens, Ladies, Boys and Girls singles were played in groups for the first round.

Alec Watson gained two championships, the Mens Singles and Veterans Singles, the latter final being conceded by the injured Frank Earis. Steve Crow and Nick Heaps won the Championship Doubles, beating Neil Bird and Gareth Lovell who had eliminated the holders Earis/Watson. Kay Kennedy returned from Germany to win the Ladies Singles.

John Potts and Kay Fullick were victorious in the Boys and Girls singles respectively, while John teamed with Craig Dommett to win the Junior Doubles.

Handicap Tournament

For the second year, the Handicap Tournament was staged in the first half of the season, away from the main championship events. The entry was twenty-four, five down on the previous season.

Despite being the most heavily handicapped player, Alec Watson retained his Handicap Singles crown. Other events were won by Frank Earis, Peter Hillier, Kay Fullick, Rodney Potts and Anthony Rotunno.

Invitation Tournament

Two Cippenham teams and four other clubs, including one from Fareham, accepted invitations into the second Cippenham Invitation Tournament, now a prestigious event. Eddie Herrity organised the event this year and, once again, it was played on a Saturday prior to the commencement of the season, and provided top quality practice for our best players.

The absence of Alec Watson weakened both Cippenham teams who consequently finished third and fifth. The winners were Castle Hill from Maidenhead.

COACHING

Now into its fifth year, the Cippenham coaching scheme has continued under the expert guidance of Ken Phillips every Sunday afternoon. Attendances have varied between six and twenty, and many more youngsters have been introduced to the sport.

Six pupils have passed the Dunlop Skills Award at Grade 1 and 2. They are Julie Barlow, Wendy Barlow, Guy Botha, Simon Davis, Mitchell Fisher and Praveen Reddy.

Recently Ken Phillips has attended an advanced coaching course and several tournaments in his quest to become an ETTA coach. The process also has involved the submission to the Director of Coaching of a paper outlining his plans for the next two years, and when successful Ken hopes to elevate the club coaching scheme to the status of Club Advanced Centre.

Two of our juniors are head and shoulders above the others, and not surprisingly John Potts and Anna Watton were nominated as Boy and Girl of the Year. John was also the first to be awarded the Leo Thompson Memorial Trophy by the Slough League as the most improved junior, while Jazz Dhillon was a close second in the voting.

The quarterly improvement awards went to Reshad Khan, Jazz Dhillon, Julie Barlow and Jazz Dhillon again.

TOURNAMENT SUCCESSES FOR INDIVIDUALS

This has been yet another wonderful year for members' successes in tournaments, with twenty-one club members sharing the awards, and the 1989 Slough Closed becoming the most successful tournament ever for the club. In total thirty titles were won, and twenty-four runners-up awards received. In the Slough Closed twelve of the fifteen titles came to the club.

Easily the most successful was Frank Earis with nine titles. These included a first win in the Mens Singles at the Maidenhead Closed, and the Slough Masters title for the fourth time in its six year history. Anna Watton won six titles, including five doubles titles (four with Lisa Crick) and the Girls Singles championship of Buckinghamshire. Alec Watson only won three titles this season, the Bucks and Maidenhead Mens Doubles titles, and the Bucks Veterans Singles. Frank Earis beat Alec in two other veterans finals, Berkshire and Maidenhead, and won the Slough veterans for a hatrnick of local titles.

Jacque Farwell won the Ladies Doubles at the Slough and High Wycombe tournaments, while Steve Joel won the Mens Doubles and Division One Singles titles at the Slough Closed. One of the highlights of the year was Steve Dorrell's win in the Mens Singles at the Slough Closed.

Two consolation singles titles came to the club in national tournaments. Eddie Herrity won at the VETTS Southern Masters, to add to his Berkshire Veterans Doubles success, while Wendy Barlow won the Under-11 consolation at the Tunbridge Wells Junior Open.

At the Slough Closed, Cippenham members performed the incredible feat of winning every medal in the age group events; juniors, cadets and veterans. John Potts was the most successful with the Boys Singles, and Junior Doubles with Craig Dommett, while Julie Bell won the Girls Singles and Ben Taylor the Cadet Singles.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

Of a four person Buckinghamshire Veterans I team, Cippenham provided three of the players for both week-ends. Three wins by the team were enough to retain Premier Division status for a third year. Congratulations to Alec Watson, Frank Earis and Kay Waters. A total of seven Cippenham players represented the county as Jacque Farwell and Jackie Thomas both appeared by the senior team, Anna Watton was first choice for the Junior team, and Eddie Herrity made his county debut in the Veterans II team.

The Bucks ranking lists for the season included three Cippenham players in number one positions:

Men: Alec Watson (5), Frank Earis (6)

Women: Jacque Farwell (3), Anna Watton (4), Jackie Thomas (5)

Girls: Anna Watton (1), Emma Thomas (3), Julie Bell (4)

Veteran Men: Alec Watson (1), Frank Earis (3), Eddie Herrity (6), Rod Potts (9)

Veteran Women: Kay Waters (1).

Anna Watton has progressed up the England junior girls ranking list to position 26, while in the latest veterans lists Alec Watson appears at 18 and Frank Earis somewhat below his true position at 52.

Eighteen members earned the honour of representing Slough this season. Alec Watson, Frank Earis and Eddie Herrity formed the teams for the Wilmott Cup and VETTS national championships. At the time of writing our threesome have won though three rounds of the VETTS competitions to reach the quarter-final. Jackie Thomas and Jacque Farwell played for the League in the Rose Bowl.

Graham Trimming
May 1989