



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2012-13

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the fortieth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the seventeenth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. This was a season that was beset with problems, many due to a lack of willing and capable volunteers and also unreliability of playing members, but there were some highlights and these included:

- Peter Hillier, Jacque Lovell and Ken Phillips being rewarded with Life Membership of the Club;
- Two of our young players, Shristi Ghosh and Jemma Walker, being selected to represent England Schools;
- The continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for prestigious events including the County Championships Veterans' and Junior Premier divisions and British League including the play-offs.

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 two representatives of the School.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery, extended in 2004, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design attracts many compliments from visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office that doubles as a control point for tournaments. In the opinion of many, the Centre remains one of the finest table tennis facilities in the country.

In the summer of 2012 the Centre replaced its front line equipment with Butterfly after having signed an agreement with Tees Sport. 10 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables were purchased and these were augmented by 12 Butterfly Europa net and posts sets, 12 Butterfly scoring machines and 80 Butterfly surrounds in blue with "Butterfly" printed on one side and "Cippenham" on the other in light blue. In addition a new wheeled frame was purchased to hold some of the surrounds.



In addition the Centre owns eight serviceable Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables purchased in 2007. The older Donic Waldner Sinus tables and existing surrounds were retired and disposed of to local table tennis organisations. There are also about 80 quality spectator chairs. The Club also owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events. 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 main criteria for selection of these configurations were implications for health and safety.

During the Easter holidays all the light bulbs in the playing hall were replaced and so the intensity level should now be restored to its original 600 lux. The Club was very fortunate that Dave Tant, helped by Ken Phillips, gave up a lot of time to do this work and we extend our thanks to them for this.

Around the same time Malcolm Makarian used his woodworking skills to good effect when building, from scratch, two cabinets for the lounge area. This has provided much needed storage capacity and enhanced the look of the lounge area by hiding the unattractive cleaning tools.

Cleaning of the premises has been performed internally for several years, saving the Club a considerable amount of money. This is a paid service and has been performed by Ricky Hardcastle and, latterly, Malcolm Makarian.

Administration and Management

The 2012 Annual General Meeting was poorly attended and failed to elect a workable Management Committee. A Special General Meeting was arranged and this attracted a much better attendance and elected a Management Committee that met nine times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	9	July 3	9
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	9	August 19	9
Craig Thorne	Treasurer	3	September 30	7
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	9	November 11	6
Steve Smith	Events Officer/Club Captain	1	December 14	7
Rebecca Hayes	Bookings Officer	3	February 1	7
Malcolm Makarian	Events Officer	8	March 22	5
Martin Adams	General Committee member	2	April 19	4
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	5	May 15	5
Bassam Mocharrarie	General Committee member	5		
Jimmy Rustomji	General Committee member	1		
David Williams	General Committee member	2		
Colin Wilson	General Committee member	2		

Terry Boxall resigned on 1 February 2013 and David Williams resigned on 1 April 2013, both on health grounds. Sadly, Terry later passed away as a result of his illness and an obituary appears later in this report.

Steve Smith suffered an illness that restricted his ability to drive for much of the season and he has therefore been unable to attend the Club. Jimmy Rustomji, who has not renewed his membership, and Bassam Mocharrarie spent periods of time away from the district. All of this resulted in the Club's management not being as strong as would appear from the list of thirteen people above. Rebecca Hayes, also, was away at university but managed to fulfil her function remotely. As can be seen from the above chart, attendance at meetings reduced over time and by the end of the season there was left only a small core managing the Club.

Craig Thorne, who is related to Terry Boxall but not a Club member, answered the call to be Treasurer when no-one else came forward but failed to fulfil the role properly and Graham Trimming was asked to take over his duties in March. Graham has spent much of the last month retrospectively producing the accounts and paying and collecting debts.

Two officers' positions were unfilled: Public Relations Officer and Social Officer.

The members of the Committee have a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973. Sue Hayes joined the Committee in 1999, Terry Boxall in 2001 and Martin Adams in 2007. 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.

For the eighth year the Management Committee 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 remain unfilled.

As a result the following additional appointments were made:

Development Coordinator:	Graham Trimming
Welfare Officer:	Malcolm Makarian
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Terry Boxall
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming
<i>PremierClub</i> Contact:	Graham Trimming
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming
Marketing Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Social Media Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Calendar Coordinator:	Rebecca Hayes
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes
Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Steve Smith
Club Championships Organizer:	Steve Smith
Grand Prix Administrator:	Graham Trimming
Umpires' Coordinator:	Terry Boxall
Catering Liaison:	Terry Boxall
Stock Buyer:	Ken Phillips



Anniversary Party Organiser: Charles Mitchell
 Facilities Manager: Terry Boxall
 Westgate School Liaison: Sue Hayes
 Health and Safety Advisor: Terry Boxall
 Maintenance Manager: Terry Boxall
 Supply Club Agent: Steve Smith
 Auditor: Filippo Rotunno.

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

In addition the following sub-committee was elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth

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:

Graham Trimming: Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
 Steve Smith: Referee's Assistant at Olympic Games and Paralympic Games;
 Referee at National U11-U14 Championships; Referee and Deputy Referee for several ETTA Grand Prix events;
 Terry Boxall: Umpires' Secretary for the Bucks Association;
 Ken Phillips: Coaching Officer and Selector for the Bucks Association and Referee for the Maidenhead Closed Championships;
 Jan Chapman: Chair of the Maidenhead Association;
 Nick Hansell: Treasurer of the Bucks Association;
 Denise Weller: General Secretary of the Newbury League.



Steve Smith was a very busy man last summer. He was ever present on all days of both the Olympic and Paralympic events at the ExCel, London and did a terrific job behind the scenes for the referee's team.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This role was fulfilled by Rebecca Hayes until she left for university in the autumn and her place was then taken by Eddie Mitchell.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. This work is managed by Jim Hayes and is largely undertaken by members of the Hayes family. Another aspect that goes largely unnoticed is maintenance. Until his illness Terry Boxall undertook much of this work and used his many skills for the benefit of the Club.



Obituary: it was with great shock that we learned, just after Christmas, of the illness that would eventually lead to the passing of Terry Boxall in May. Terry had a great many friends at the Club and elsewhere in table tennis who are dismayed at his passing at the age of 70. Terry joined Cippenham in 1997 when introduced to the Club by his great friend the late Alan Farral. Terry was a player and a coach, helping Alan run the Thursday early evening beginners' class before he took over fully after Alan's passing in 2008. Terry then joined the Management Committee in 2001 and was for many years the Club's Facilities Manager, looking after the fabric and maintenance of the building. When the lounge and servery were enlarged in 2004 it was Terry and Alan that undertook the work of fitting out the servery and what a great job they did! Terry also ran tournaments, organised junior teams and regularly umpired at events. We will miss him for all of this and as our go-to Duty Officer at weekend events when he would selflessly give up his days to look after the premises for external hirers. In hindsight, it was fitting that Terry should have been awarded, for the second time, the Club's Outstanding Contribution Award last autumn. Terry will be impossible to replace and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. **RIP Terry.**

Accreditation

For many years the Club has held the status of an ETTA *PremierClub* at Excellence level, the only club in the Southern Region have this distinction. With this come Sport England *ClubMark* status. The ETTA has now redefined its *PremierClub* programme and the Club has submitted its self assessment form but has yet to hear what rating has been awarded.

Volunteer Investment and Awards



The highlight of the year was the presentation of Life Memberships made at the 2012 Annual General Meeting to Peter Hillier, Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips. All three have contributed immensely to the growth and success of the Club over a great many years, spanning in Peter's case the whole period from 1975 to 2012. There had only ever been one such presentation previously, an indication of how highly this status is valued by the Club.



Volunteer investment used to be a high priority for the Club a few years ago but since Jacquie Lovell left the

post nobody has come forward to take on the role of Volunteer Champion. Because of this, volunteers are not as well supported as the Club would like them to be and training has been virtually non-existent for a couple of years.

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 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 10 Gold Privileged Members and 4 ordinary Privileged Members. A practice voucher scheme was introduced in the previous season 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 to Terry Boxall for his all-round contribution to the Club. In the light of recent events, it was fitting that this award was made to Terry, for the second time, when the opportunity still existed. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Alan Farral Junior Player of the Year award was



presented to Alex "Sasha" Gillen while the Senior Player of the Year award went to Denise Weller in recognition of her performances in the Women's British League, Veterans' British League and Maidenhead League.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 133, 15 less than the same stage last year. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2012 was 154, 16 up on the previous year. Members are only permitted to use the Centre when it is officially open. The only exceptions to this are key-holding Privileged Members.

Over the past twelve months a total of 57 players have represented the club in match play, 3 more than the previous year. 20 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, exactly the same as the previous year. 15 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, one more than the previous season, however two of these failed to finish their fixtures, an embarrassment to the Club. 5 teams were entered into British leagues, 6 in National leagues and 4 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 40 years old and during that time a total of 755 players have played in our teams. The Club's Founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club and during the season he played his 1,500th match for the Club. Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 850. The only other milestone reached during the season was when Denise Weller played her 100th match for the Club. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1513	Armando Borges	354	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	858	David Hayes	350	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	Sue Hayes	350	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	635	Georgia Veneer	336	Jane Dickens	235
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Martin Adams	218
Paul Baker	476	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	435	Robert Hansell	298	Anna Watton	204
Jackie Wood	403	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Gareth Lovell	381	Jacquie Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
George Appleby	372	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200
Frank Cowley	363	Steve Joel	278		

The busiest players during the year were Sue Hayes (33 appearances) and Denise Weller (32), just as they were the previous season.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £2,305 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £2,903. However, provision has been made in the accounts for £1,499 cash and cheques that have "gone missing" in the custody of the Treasurer. The Club hopes that these funds will be recovered but has taken the prudent measure of providing for them in the accounts, making the net reported surplus for the year £1,404.

No rate increases were made last year although the Club benefited from the annualisation of some of the measures taken in 2011. Letting fee income remained strong with revenue from the ETTA's Wednesday evening High Performance sessions making up for the loss of income from Gareth Herbert's coaching weekends. Of particular note is a 33% increase in fees from the Tuesday and Thursday practice sessions which much more than made up from the curtailment of the Friday sessions in July 2011.

Most other income streams and expenditure tracked reasonably closely with the previous year. Clothing cost for teams was up by £806 as would be expected in the first year of a new contract but travel expenditure was down by £500, mainly as a result of the first team not having to travel to Devon for a weekend. Income from tournaments was down by £900 because of the lack of a suitable date for one event, the cancellation at short notice of another due to snow and the much reduced entry for the Young Players' Summer Festival.

£800 was spent in April replacing all the light bulbs in the playing hall, something that happens about every three years, but other building costs such as cleaning and utilities were down on the previous year.

In the summer of 2012 the Club went through a tendering process for the supply of kit and equipment to the Club. Five companies tendered and the winner was Tees Sport. Nearly £6,000 was spent on new equipment but the Club still retains strong cash reserves of about £65,000 (2011: £67,800). Until August 2012, £50,000 of this was placed on a term deposit at Cater Allen but the Treasurer failed to renew this and since that time much of the Club's cash has been in our NatWest current account earning no interest. Also, many hiring periods were invoiced late in the year and this has resulted in funds being tied up in debtors rather than cash at the balance sheet date.

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 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. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League continued to pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses. In the British leagues and Veterans' National League a £5 match fee was introduced in 2011 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. No payments have been made 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 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. Most submitted reports find space in these newspapers. 17 reports have been submitted during the year and a total of 392 column inches achieved, 14% less than the previous season corresponding to the reduced number of submissions. Six of the Club's reports also appeared on the ETTA web site. 13 photographs appeared in the local newspapers and 12 on the ETTA website. The Club also featured in a "Club of the Week" article in the Slough Observer in August. This coincided with the Club's post-Olympics open evening which attracted a few new visitors.



The Club has its own web site (www.cippenhamttc.co.uk). Hosting was changed during from the season from Square Brothers in India to a UK-based host, Easily.co.uk, who are also used to maintain the Club's domain name. The website was designed and is maintained by Graham 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 table tennis web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from June 2012 to May 2013 have been: 652 unique visitors; 1,252 visits; 2,518 pages; 31,798 hits. All of these numbers show increases from the previous year. 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. Most reports have been linked and many events have advertised on Facebook. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 120 followers on Facebook and 108 on Twitter.

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. Since 2009 the Club has leased a colour photocopier and so members and visitors to the Club are able enjoy a full-colour copy of the latest newsletter while they relax in the lounge.

The Club makes extensive use of photographs to add visual appeal to its press reports, website and newsletter articles and all winners and runners-up of open tournaments and the Club Championships have been photographed this season, as have all other important presentations.

The Club appeared again on television during the year when Blighty television channel repeated, more than once, their series of four programmes entitled *The Ball's in our Court* about the origins and history of sixteen sports including table tennis. Much of the piece about table tennis was been recorded at the Club in November 2010 and features an interview with Graham Trimming, aided by demonstrations using his collection of table tennis antique artefacts, and film of Club members during the course of a Thursday evening practice session.

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 60 competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004.

Until 2010 catering at weekend events was carried out on a voluntary basis but as the Club was then unable to find a volunteer to carry on this work, the catering was sub-contracted to Sharon Catering on a commercial basis. This partnership works well for the Club and earns us a commission on all revenues.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television is also a popular attraction. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue.

The sixteenth annual party, 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.

Venue Utilisation

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

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
	7:40 to 10:15 pm	Grand Prix
Wednesday	6:00 to 9:00 pm	ETTA high performance training
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

Privileged Members are allowed to play when the Centre is not in use for other activities. Many weekend dates have been sold to outside events, detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club.

On each occasion that the Centre is open a Duty Officer is nominated. The responsibilities of the Duty Officer include the collection of fees, health and safety, the proper use and storage of the Club's equipment together with the security of the Centre.

External Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by the ETTA, Bucks County Association and the Maidenhead League. The Southern Region, Nicky Jarvis and Colin Wilson have also used the premises for coaching days while the ETTA ran their high performance training there on Wednesday evenings from September.

The ETTA events included the Premier Divisions of the Veterans' and Junior County Championships. Many of these Premier Division sessions have now been staged at Cippenham for many years. 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 and to the late Terry Boxall who have acted as Duty Officer for a great number of bookings.

The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League Divisions 1 South and 2 South and East. These were organized by Graham Trimming while Ken Phillips acted as Referee. We also hosted the British League Premier Division promotion play-offs and all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson.

A full list of external events (June 2012-May 2013), totalling 34 weekend days, 12 less than the previous year, was as follows. However, a further 9 holiday dates were booked and many Wednesday evenings as described above.

Weekend dates:

ETTA:	County Championships Veterans' Premier Division (2)
	County Championships Junior Premier Division (2)
	British League (9)
	National Junior League (4)
	National Cadet League (4)
	U11-14 National Championships Regional Qualification (2)
	Coach education courses (3)
UK Deaf TTA:	Training day
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (4)
Oxfordshire TTA:	County Championships session
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Holiday dates:	
ETTA Southern Region:	Training session (2)
Nicky Jarvis:	Summer camp (2)
Colin Wilson:	Coaching group (5)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

Six open tournaments, covering seven days of play, have been staged by the Club at the Centre since the last report. The full normal annual quota at present is eight but the Super 6 Veterans' 2-Star Open, which had attracted a good entry, had to be cancelled the day before the event was due to take place because of snow while the arrangements for the 5 by 2 Junior & Senior 1-Star Open were not made in time for it to go ahead on its original date and an alternative date was not found.

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 12	Young Players' Summer Festival	Catherine Hayes	Steve Smith	92
Oct 12	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	24 pairs
Nov 12	Super 6 Junior 2-Star	Terry Boxall	Mick Strode	26
Nov 12	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Mick Strode	43
Feb 13	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Mick Strode	51
Apr 13	5 by 2 Cadet/Under-13 1-Star	Sue Hayes	Paul Baker	36

The format of open tournaments remained the same as season 2011-12. Three of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 2-Star Opens and catered for open, junior and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. Two other tournaments were branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Opens and featured two age groups each day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 or 55 players depending on whether the nine or eleven table layout is used. Generally, the senior and veterans' events produced satisfactory entries while those for the junior age groups were disappointing..

The Team 2-Star Open and Young Players' Summer Festival have remained in the same format for several years. Entries for the Summer Festival in 2012 were very disappointing while the Team Open, with its unique progressive knock-out format, continues to be popular and achieved another maximum entry.

The Club was fortunate in having the services of Mick Strode to referee three of the events while Paul Baker stepped up to organise two and make his refereeing debut in another. Graham Trimming performed both functions for the Team Open



while Sue and Catherine Hayes, Terry Boxall and Steve Smith all either organised or refereed other tournaments. The Club has a mailing list that is used to circulate entry forms but update of this has been lacking this year for want of someone willing to undertake this job.

The Club used to supply a good number of winners of our own tournaments. This is not so anymore. The only "home" success came in the final of the Veterans' Singles at the 5 by 2 Senior & Veterans' event where an all-Cippenham final was won by Martin Gunn over Mike Rhodes.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past six seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. This year also a Junior Singles was played during a Thursday evening coaching session. The entry for all events was moderate. There was a different winner in every event with Ricky Hardcastle taking the Open Singles, Lawrence Harvey and Filippo Rotunno the Open Doubles, Paul Baker the Veterans' Singles, Andrew Sullivan the Tweenies' Singles and Angus Whittam the Junior Singles.



Grand Prix

The weekly Grand Prix events on Tuesday evenings have not been as popular as before and have been run when there were enough interested people present. The overall series prizes encompassing six weekly events have not continued this season.

For the second year Andrew Sullivan, this time with help from Ed Mitchell, ran a Festive Grand Prix in the week before the Christmas shutdown. The format was changed with teams of two: one player drawn from each section based on playing performance. Team matches were decided by two singles and a doubles if required, each individual match being a quick-fire best of three up to seven. This format was most successful and kept the competition moving quickly despite the necessity to refuel on mulled wine and mince pies. The winning team was Shane Clark and Charles Mitchell.

Team Competitions

The Club ran fifteen teams in various leagues this season, one more than in the previous year. Unfortunately, two of the team failed to complete their fixtures much to the embarrassment of the Club. Success on the table was equally hard to find.

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

British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
	Team Captains:	Martin Adams; Paul Baker; Eddie Mitchell
Women's British League	Secretary and Captain:	Denise Weller
Veterans' British League	Captain and Secretary:	Denise Weller
Veterans' National League	Captain and Secretary:	Paul Baker
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary:	Terry Boxall
National Cadet League:	Captain and Secretary:	Terry Boxall
Maidenhead League	Secretary:	Rebecca Hayes
	Captain:	David Williams
	Team Captains	Simon Wilde; Sue Hayes; David Williams; Sharath Jetty
	Selection Sub-Committee	Rebecca Hayes; Steve Smith; Graham Trimming; David Williams

British League Competitions

The Club ran five teams in the British leagues, two less than in the previous season following the relegation of our veteran men's team to the Veterans' National League and the boys opting to go instead into the National Junior League.

In the Senior British League our first team finished sixth in Division 1 South, the second team were bottom of Division 2 South & East while the third team failed to fulfil their fixtures in Division 2 South-Midlands-West. Turning up with only three players for the third weekend and withdrawing altogether from the fourth weekend cost the Club £180 in fines and a great deal of embarrassment. It is especially galling that this team was entered at the request of specific younger players who asked to play together as a team. This will not be allowed to happen again and only two teams have been entered for next season.

A lack of available local talent saw the introduction of more "guests" with players from outside of the Club's core membership taking up 47% of the playing positions, twice the amount of the previous season.

The same three ladies made up the Club's teams in the Women's British League and the Veterans' British League. In the open competition they finished third in Division 4 while in the veterans' events they were third in Division 1.

National League Competitions

A last gasp effort saw our men's team in the Veterans' National League escape further relegation and finish fourth in Division 1B.

We ran two boys' and two girls' teams in the National Junior League this season. The top boys' team did very well to finish runners-up in Division 1 with Alex Nagle impressing with a 77% win record. The boys' second team finished the season fourth in Division 2 while our two girls' teams finished third and fourth in their division with Shristi Ghosh outstanding with 82%

In the National Cadet League our team finished the season top of Division 3 with Angus Whittam, a replacement for one day only, weighing in with 80%, Sam Fletcher achieving 74% and Reeshabh Hamal 71%

Local Leagues

The Club ran four teams in the Maidenhead League this season. Saxons finished runners-up in Division 1, a mere one point behind the champions, while Trojan were fourth and Spartans seventh in Division 2. The Vikings team, comprised entirely of players from Slough Cricket Club, failed to fulfil their fixtures and, to the shame of the Club, their record was expunged from Division 3.

Simon Wilde had his best ever season with a 83% record in Division 1 while Ricky Hardcastle obtained 79% and Albert Cheung 78%. In Division 2, David Williams also had his best ever season with 77%.



Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over many years and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. Attendances have declined once again this year after a brief recovery in the previous twelve months but there are signs that a very good crop of junior girls is beginning to emerge and this could pave the way for a brighter future.

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

There have been two weekly coaching sessions once again this year. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes that were run by Terry Boxall until his illness made it impossible for him to continue. Since then, these have been run by Ken Phillips.. On Monday there are classes for more advanced performers run by Ken with help from a number of other coaches and feeders especially Jan Chapman and Malcolm Makarian.

Tournament Successes for Individuals

The Bucks Closed Championships was not run this year but Bradley King was successful in the Under-21 Singles at the Berkshire Closed. Ricky Hardcastle won both the Tweenies' Singles and the Division 1 Singles at the Maidenhead Closed while Simon Wilde retained his Veteran men's Singles crown at the same event.

Alex Gillen and Shane Clark won band 1 events at Sussex Opens.

Representative Honours and Rankings



For the first time in several years members of the Club gained international honours this season. Whilst, strictly speaking not representing Cippenham while doing so, Shristi Ghosh and Jemma Waller are to be congratulated for being picked to play for England Schools in the British Primary School International. Both girls return from Ireland with a runners-up medal in the team event. Shristi and Jemma also represented the Southern Region in the annual inter-regional championships.

Eight Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with three enjoying the honour of playing for the county first team while at least one other represented Berkshire and two represented Maidenhead in the Berkshire Inter-Town.

Nine members gained national rankings high enough to be published in the main lists on the ETTA website with the highest positions being Jemma Walker and Shristi Ghosh at numbers seven and nine respectively in the under-13 girls. Gemma Chapman, Denise Weller, Alex "Sasha" Gillen, Sam Wilson, Megan Ashfield and Charlotte Parrett were the others to feature.

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

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2013