



# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2002-03

### Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the thirtieth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the seventh since the opening of our purpose-built premises. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- Gareth Herbert's two gold medals at the Commonwealth Games plus his and Joanna Parker's selections as regulars in the England senior teams;
- the success of members in national championships: Joanna Parker (Junior Girls' Doubles, Junior Mixed Doubles) and Gavin Evans (U11 Boys' Singles, U10 Boys' Singles), and other open tournaments;
- a second successive championship and promotion in the Veterans' British League together with other creditable performances in British league competitions;
- the retention of the Gainsford Cup, the national championship for women's team;
- the success of the Club's teams and players in Slough League competitions and Bucks Closed Championships;
- the four awards that the Club secured at the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards especially the Service to Sport award made to Ken Phillips;
- the continuing success and national recognition of the Club's coaching activities;
- the visit of a Saudi Arabia deaf squad for training and an international match against England;
- the continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for its prestigious events including the National Junior and Cadet Masters and the County Championships Junior Premier Division;
- 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 especially the massive entry received for the Young Player's Summer Festival;
- the tremendous energy shown by the Club's management in the day to day operation of the Centre;
- the appointment of Jacquie Lovell as Volunteer Champion and the instigation of a Volunteer Investment Programme;
- the appointment of a paid Duty Officer for Tuesday and Thursday evenings;
- 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 20 Donic Waldner Sinus tables, six of which have been purchased during the past year. Most of these

have now been introduced into general use, replacing the tables acquired in 1996. Five of the original Donic Persson tables also remain. Nets, posts and scoring machines are routinely replaced to ensure that the Centre maintains a high quality standard of equipment. A replacement robot machine was also purchased last summer. It has also been decided to replace all court surrounds before next season and these will carry the Club's name, further bolstering the corporate image of the Club and the Centre. Last September a team of Terry Boxall, Ken Phillips and Peter Hillier replaced all 180 light bulbs in the playing hall, restoring the illumination level to its original 600 lux.

During the year the floor covering in the men's toilets has been replaced. The Club is currently involved with the School in approving plans for the redevelopment of the area that embraces the toilets and changing rooms. The plan is to totally rebuild this area, upgrading the facilities, so that the School meets enhanced criteria of provision for pupils with physical handicaps. Also under consideration at present is a possible expansion of the lounge and kitchen area, a venture that would eat considerably in to the cash resources built up over the past seven years.

In an attempt to curb potential theft a key code pad has recently been installed on the office door.

## Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2002 AGM met eleven times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings		Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman & Coaching Officer	11		May 28 <sup>th</sup>	6
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	11		July 15 <sup>th</sup>	7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	11		September 1 <sup>st</sup>	7
Jacque Lovell	Social Officer	11		September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6
Sue Hayes	Bookings Officer	8		October 20 <sup>th</sup>	6
Jeremy Bateman	Club Captain	2		November 24 <sup>th</sup>	7
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	8		January 5 <sup>th</sup>	5
Dave Bull	General Committee member	7		February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6
				March 16 <sup>th</sup>	6
				April 13 <sup>th</sup>	6
				May 5 <sup>th</sup>	7

Jacque Lovell was also appointed as the Club's first Volunteer Champion on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

In addition the following sub-committees operated:

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

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

Appointment Panel: Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming; Jacque Lovell.

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-eighth year as Fixtures Secretary while Peter Hillier has completed the fourth year of his third stint as the League's Treasurer. Jeremy Bateman, Clive Perry and Elroy Hull have both completed two years as General Secretary, Competitions Secretary and Inter-League Secretary respectively. Club member Jan Chapman also continued as Chairman on the Maidenhead Association while Nick Hansell maintained his Treasurer's function for the Bucks County Association. Graham Trimming continued his responsibility for the Table Tennis Collectors' Society.

Paul Baker is a full time employee of the ETTA as Facilities Officer and in an honorary capacity Ken Phillips also contributed greatly as joint Organiser of the National Junior League (Southern Region) and Roy Linz to the Southern Region Training Squad.

The original photocopier, purchased about four years ago, has been tremendously useful for the Club, enabling easy copying of newsletters, entry forms, etc. In fact, the annual usage is around 25,000 copies. As it was beginning to show its age the Club has recently invested in a lease for a newer and more capable machine.

## Volunteer Investment

The nucleus of the Club's management has remained largely in the same hands throughout the period since gaining our own specialist facility. We have been fortunate to attract a few other dedicated and capable people in that time but have been unfortunate in losing three that have moved from the area. A club of Cippenham's stature and one with such a demanding activity schedule requires a large team of highly motivated individuals to drive its development and an even larger team of people willing to help do some of the "dirtier" work. It is in recognition of this and the fact that the core

adult playing membership of the Club is much smaller than the overall membership that initiatives have been put into place in an attempt to introduce more people into these teams.

The ETTA conference held at Cippenham in September 2002 and entitled "Recruit and Prosper" was attended by Graham Trimming and Peter Hillier. They reported back to Committee many good ideas learned from the speakers about volunteer investment. The most immediate response by the Club was to appoint Jacquie Lovell as our first Volunteer Champion with a remit of taking care of our volunteers, ensuring that they have a voice and feel an integral part of the Club. An important part of this is to build the Club's skill base. Jacquie is ideally suited to take on this role having a professional qualification in human resources management.

One of Jacquie's first tasks, now nearly complete, has been to produce a Volunteers' Reference Manual. This is a file containing a series of about thirty documents that assists volunteers in understanding the various tasks undertaken at the Club and about the Club's procedures. As well as documents dealing with such subjects as how to run a tournament and how to fix a broken photocopier, it also contains valuable resources such as the membership list, rules and regulations and policy statements on such topics as child protection. Vital information is also available about fire and first aid procedures.

The objectives of the Volunteer Investment Programme are geared towards making volunteering an easy, rewarding and worthwhile thing to do. The Club aims to train its volunteers so that all feel that they have the skill sets required to do their particular tasks and any others they might choose. This includes basic duty officer training, including health and safety measures, and other "on the job" training. Mentoring by more experienced members is one of the ways in which this is undertaken. The Club also paid for the Berkshire Ambulance Service to run a full evening's first aid course in January and thirteen members attended this. Three members have also commenced training to become Tournament Referees and one of these, Peter Hillier, has been successful and has become the Club's third qualified referee. The Club also encourages members into coaching and will pay reasonable expenses for them to attend courses.

Critical to the success of this scheme is reward. The volunteer has to feel that he or she has made a worthwhile contribution and gain satisfaction from having assisted the Club. Ever since 1997 the Club has made an Outstanding Contribution Award at its annual Anniversary Party. The 2002 award was made to Alan Farral in recognition of his dedication to beginners' coaching and to running the bar, both tasks that he had undertaken weekly since the opening of the Centre in 1996. Add to this his general DIY and maintenance skills, which have provided the Club with much of its storage capacity, Alan was a most worthy recipient of the award for the second time, the first person to be so honoured. Opportunity is also taken at the party to recognise in a smaller way many other members for their continued loyal support to the Club.



In order to ease the burden on the Club's Committee a decision was taken in the summer of 2002 to have a paid duty officer for Tuesday and Thursday evenings although the arrangement was ultimately delayed until February as the search for a suitable candidate was undertaken. From February 1<sup>st</sup> Callum Mather has been the Club's Duty Officer on those evenings and his other duties include running the bar. Callum is paid £30 per evening for his services and, as he is employed as a teacher at The Westgate School, it has proved convenient to enter into a services agreement with the School rather than create a special payroll. This appointment has proved to be a big success. Callum is moving on at the end of June and we wish him well.



Slough Borough Council also honours volunteers with awards at the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards. The Club usually does well at this event but the ceremony in March 2003 proved even better than before as one of the four awards scooped by the Club was the Service to Sport Award made to our Chairman Ken Phillips. This was indeed just reward for the thousands of hours of dedicated work given by Ken to the sport in his various roles, including, of course, coaching. This was the second time that a member of the Club had received this award that also went to Graham Trimming as long ago as 1987. Other awards came the Club's way with the Community Club of the Year at the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards, for the third time and third place in the ETTA Premier Club of the Year (Excellence Level). The programme produced by Graham Trimming for the British League weekends also received the Programme of the Year award.

The Club would like to place on record its grateful thanks to the many people that assist in a great variety of ways. The Management Committee members all work very hard but are assisted by a great many more in such tasks as catering, captaining of teams, coaching, chauffeuring youngsters, general maintenance, professional advice, etc. Not all of our valuable volunteers are even members of the Club, some are parents while thanks are especially due to Mick Strode who acts as referee for many of the events held at Cippenham.

# Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 209, a little down on the same stage of last year due to the loss of players from the discontinued Super League. The final figure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002 was 241, one more than the previous record. 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. Much 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 four others – Rhys Evans, 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.

Over the past twelve months a total of 106 players have represented the club in match play, six more than in the previous year. As many as 42 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year and this rather belies the cry that we often hear about "same old players". It proves that Cippenham is a vibrant club introducing new players to table tennis and existing players to new environments. 32 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, three less than in the previous season. The net loss was fully explained by the lack of a Cippenham Super League. Eight of these were in British leagues and a further eight in the National Junior League and National Cadet League. Sixteen teams operated in the Slough League, eight in the senior divisions and eight in the Youth Division. This represented the first increase in the senior divisions for many years but was still five fewer teams operating in the senior divisions of local leagues than five years ago. It appears that even a club with the size of membership and success rate of Cippenham is finding it difficult to enthuse 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.

The Club is now thirty years old and during that time a total of 581 players have played in our teams. Graham Trimming is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club while another old stager, Peter Hillier, is on his own in second place. Mike Rhodes became the fifth player to break the 500 barrier during the season while Gemma Chapman, Robert Hansell and Paul Baker all reached 200. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1321	Frank Cowley	363	Armando Borges	255
Peter Hillier	759	Rodney Potts	316	David Hayes	252
Frank Earis	669	Alec Watson	301	Roland Clapton	247
Ken Phillips	536	Wendy Barlow	279	Jane Dickens	232
Mike Rhodes	516	Jacquie Lovell	279	Gemma Chapman	211
Jackie Wood	403	Steve Joel	278	Anna Watton	204
Neil Bird	374	Dave Pountney	276	Robert Hansell	203
Gareth Lovell	373	Steve Crow	268	Steve Dorrell	202
George Appleby	372	Georgia Veneer	258	Paul Baker	200

The busiest players during the year were Paul Baker (34), David Hayes (33), Walter Aldridge (32) and Usman Tanveer and Ivor Powell with 31 appearances each.

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 Bielec, Chapman, Dickens, Farquhar, Hansell, Harper, Hayes, Linz, Mitchell and Tucker families.

# Finance

The financial success of the Club and Centre since 1996 continues to provide a stable backbone from which the Club can continue to prosper, maintain quality, contemplate capital projects, invest in people and even take a few risks,

The surplus for the year shown in the Club's accounts is £6,565 and the balance sheet reveals a net worth of £57,544. Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited's accounts show a net loss of £1,165 as a strategy of maintaining a low value in the Company is continued. Thus the consolidated surplus was £5,400 and the net worth is £58,128. Cash balances total £52,221 including £988 in the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund. This is less than the net worth because of the investment that has been made in capital equipment. Following a decision made by the Government in the budget of 2002 no Corporation Tax liability now accrues on surpluses of less than £10,000.

The financial surplus has reduced over the past four 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 and therefore minor increases on practice and open tournament fees are proposed for next

season. 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 £5,119, catering £4,917, letting fees £4,700, open tournaments £2,881, practice fees £2,841, and interest income £1,081. 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 £78.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of our friend 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.

## 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, recently replaced. In the absence of a Public Relations Officer this service has been provided by Graham Trimming. Gareth Herbert also turned his hand to journalism with a well-written series of articles in the Slough Observer about his experiences in international table tennis. 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 two years 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.

## 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	Advanced coaching group
	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Excellence coaching group
Tuesday	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Squad coaching
Thursday	5.15 to 7.15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7.15 to 11.00 pm	Local league matches
	7.30 to 11.00 pm	General practice

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. Up until February this role was carried out by Committee members but for the past four months a professional Duty Officer has been employed on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

## 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, Frankie Butterworth, Susana Hansell, Geraldine Linz, Nanda Bielec and Anne Farquhar. 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. Since February the weekday service has been provided by the paid Duty Officer, previously it was Club members and special thanks are due to Alan Farral who performed this duty once per week from 1996 until that time. The licensees are Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips.

The sixth 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 and the annual barbecue on a Sunday in August.



## 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 three prestigious ETTA events, for which we granted the ETTA a free venue and a regional training conference in the School hall.



The ETTA events included the National Junior and Cadet Masters for the seventh time and the Premier Division of the Junior County Championships for the third time after twice having previously played host to the counterpart senior event. In addition, a fourth international match was staged at the Centre when England played host to Saudi Arabia in August. This match featured deaf players and was the culmination of two weeks' training arranged for the Saudi squad at Cippenham. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips, Jacquie Lovell and their teams for their involvement in this.

The Club also hosted five days of the British League Divisions 1 South and 2 South although one was on behalf of London Progress TTC. The two weekends staged by Cippenham were organized by Graham Trimming with assistance from Dave Bull while Graham, Ken Phillips and Peter Hillier acted as Referee.

A full list of outside events was as follows:

ETTA:	Deaf international England v. Saudi Arabia National Junior Masters (2 days) National Cadet Masters (2) County Championships Junior Premier Division (2) National Junior League (4) British League Divisions 1 South and 2 South (5)
ETTA Southern Region:	Development conference Junior Preliminary/Final Trials (2) Junior Training/Assessment (8) Coaches Get-Together (1)
Bucks County TTA:	Junior Closed Championships Men's Inter-League Junior Inter-League Cadet Inter-League County Championships sessions (4) County Championships match Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA: Slough League:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town Slough Closed Championships Slough Youth Division sessions (5) Tunes Cup semi-finals and final (3) (midweek) Slough League play-off match (midweek)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2) Maidenhead Charity Handicap Tournament
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2) Alec Brook Trophy stage 1 session
Oxford League:	Alec Brook Trophy stage 1 session

A new bookings procedure was introduced last summer involving the completion of bookings forms and the payment of a deposit to secure the date. This has brought more discipline to the procedure and has worked well.

## Club Events

### *Open Tournaments*

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

Jun 02	Young Players' Summer Festival	Dec 02	Banded 2-Star
Jun 02	Veterans' Summer 2-Star	Jan 03	Under-14/16 1-Star
Sep 02	Cadet 2-Star	Feb 03	Veterans' 2-Star
Oct 02	Senior 2-Star	Apr 03	Junior 2-Star

Two age group events (YPSF and U13/15) were organised by Ken Phillips while Graham Trimming was Organiser for the two veterans' events and the inaugural Banded Open, Paul Baker for the Senior Open, Sue Hayes for the Cadet and Terry Boxall for the Junior. All attracted good entries especially the YPSF, held over Jubilee Weekend, which attracted a massive entry of 180 players, 326 entries resulting in 850 matches being played. 16 tables were kept busy over an entire weekend. The Club is indebted to Mick Strode, Ken Phillips and Graham Trimming who acted as referees 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: David Hayes (JBS); Caroline Linz (JGS); James Milton (U16BS); Melanie Farquhar (U16GS, CGS, U14GS, U12GS); Sylvana Bielec (U15GS, U13GS). Melanie won an incredible four events while the Club's players' domination of the Cippenham Junior Open continued – both titles in each of the last four years and the Girls' Singles every year except the first tournament in 1997.

### *Members' Tournaments*

The Club Championship and Handicap Tournament was run twice in the past year – in June 2002 for the previous season and in March for the season just finished. Both events attracted fair but not great entries with Mark Jackson and Robert Hansell respectively attaining the Open Singles titles. Dave Bull organized the latter event and was helped on the day by Robert and Susana Hansell.

# 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 (for the second time) in Division 1 South and the second team fifth in their first season in Division 2 South. Clive Payne, who captained the first team, won the Division 1 South Player of the Year award for the second successive year despite not being fully fit throughout. The team had a Hampshire feel about it with Richard Tilford and Lee Dredge joining Clive and Mark Butler from that county. Berkshire's Martin Adams was once again a tower of strength at the top of the team. A squad system was used for the second team although Robert Hansell played throughout and Mark Jackson

and Robert Lemon played the majority of matches. Graham Trimming acted as Team Secretary while he and Ken Phillips acted as selectors for the second team.

Having been promoted last season the Women's British League team did well to finish in the top half of the Premier Division. Former Welsh international Lesley Keast (nee Tyler) was added to the team to provide more experience but it was the junior Gemma Chapman who proved the most successful. Jan Chapman acted as Team Secretary.

The girls' team slipped one place to third in the Junior British League Premier Division due to the unavailability of Joanna Parker whose place was taken by Gemma Yarnley of Kent. Gemma Chapman was the most successful player in this team also although Karen Shepherd, from Cheshire, was only one win behind. The second team was promoted to Division One and a new third team was entered into Division Two, not the lowest. This proved too much for the young newcomers who, despite some good individual performances, finished bottom, one place worse off than the second team.

Emily Tucker played particularly well in Division One. Due partly to the Evans' electing to play for Grove instead of Cippenham, only one boys' team was entered and this finished a creditable third in Division One. David Hayes registered good results while James Milton had a strong second half. Ken Phillips acted as Team Secretary for all the junior teams and was joined by Sue Hayes and Jan Chapman as travelling coaches.

It was a similar story as the previous season for the team in the Veterans' British League. Mike Rhodes and Paul Baker (especially) produced great results while Clive Payne held on to his career 100% record in the competition by remaining unbeaten in the first half. Clive was unavailable for the second half again and, as in the previous season, Ken Philipson came to the rescue and performed well. Champions of Division 3 in 2002 became champions of Division 2 in 2003 and with it the Team of the Weekend award for the second weekend. Cippenham became the first team to win this award twice in its history. Graham Trimming acted as Team Secretary and Mike Rhodes as captain.

## **Other National Competitions**

The Club's women's team won the Gainsford Cup for the second successive year at the National Team Finals in Knowsley in late May. Congratulations to the trio of Gemma Chapman, Jane Dickens and Sue Hayes.



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. The mix this year was six boys' and only one girls' team, largely because of the elevation of a third girls' team into the British League. The young girls' team did not fare well but Cippenham had three of the top eight boys' teams including the team that finished third. The Shaw brothers, Oliver and Ashley, had the best returns. Ken Phillips acted as Team Secretary for all teams with assistance from a number of coaches and parents at the event.

One team was also entered in the National Cadet League, run on four weekend dates at Chesham. This team finished in the middle of the five participating teams with Jenny Hansell and Catherine Hayes being the most successful players. Sue Hayes acted as Team Secretary.

## **Slough League**

For a record tenth year running Cippenham are Slough League champions. This nineteenth title, also a record, was won by the Pirates team of Mark Banks, James Milton and Geoff Harris with help from Robin Benwell and a number of other

players who made occasional appearances. Mark Banks finished top of the Slough League averages with Mike Rhodes second, both for the second successive year. Outlaws and Rogues finished third and fourth in the top division while Villains, bolstered by an unbeaten 57 match winning streak from new member Kuldeep Singh finished runners-up in Division Two. Unfortunately Villains failed in the play-off for promotion by the narrowest of margins, losing on games after having drawn the match 5-5.

In total, the Club entered eight teams in the senior divisions of the Slough League, this being the first increase for many years. Rogues, with a team consisting of David Hayes, Andy Spiers, Mark Jackson and Dave Bull retained the Dilger Cup.

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

Cippenham Goblins (Alex Polding, William Mitchell, Frazer Harper) won the Youth Division while second placed Beggars (Alex Lovell, David Baker) triumphed in the Tunes Cup.

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

Eight teams were entered in the Summer League, an increase of three, with Greens (Jeremy Bateman, Clive Perry, Ron Hedley, John Lloyd) winning Division 2 and Yellows (Ivor Powell, Walter Aldridge) winning Division 3.

## **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 a long 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 with Ken and Sue Hayes having both received ETTA Coach of the Year awards in the last few seasons.

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 weekly challenge of teaching these youngsters. Ken coaches at other schools also and for more than a year has been 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 been extremely well patronised for some time with regular attendances of over 30 children. 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. Very recently the Club has invested in a set of radio microphones that are expected to increase audibility of the coaches during coaching sessions.

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.

Although now living in Nottinghamshire, Gavin Evans won the award for the Junior Sportsman of the Year at the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards. This is the same award that Gareth Herbert won twice in the past. The Leo Thompson Trophy, presented by the Slough League to the most improved junior, was given to David Hayes.

The coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall; Gemma Chapman (not qualified); Jan Chapman; Paul Cheong; Alan Farral; Sue Hayes; Tim Kiteley (not qualified); 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.

Gavin Evans and Joanna Parker have both won national titles this year. Gavin won two, retaining the England U10 Boys' Singles title and adding the U11 also at the National U10/11/12 Championships last June. Young starlet Katie Rule also excelled in reaching the final of the U10 Girls' Singles. Joanna lost her Junior Girls' Singles crown but gained some consolation with the Junior Girls' and Mixed doubles titles. Jo was also runner-up at the senior championships in the Women's Doubles and U21 Women's Singles.



Cippenham players, especially Bradley Evans and his brother Gavin, also won a few titles in open tournaments while David Hayes, who has agreed to represent Ireland, won the Munster Open Cadet Boys' Singles title in his adopted country.

Cippenham players took a clean sweep of the titles at the Bucks Senior Closed and the Bucks Junior Closed. In the senior event Jane Dickens gained a memorable hat-trick of Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles with Mark Jackson. Robert Hansell won his first Men's Singles title and he and Mark teamed up to win the Men's Doubles. In the junior event in which all the titles traditionally come to Cippenham, David Hayes and Gemma Chapman won the two main singles events while others were won by Sylvana Bielec, Chris Witchell and Katie Rule.

Cippenham players won every major event at the Slough Closed with cadet David Hayes successful in every event he entered except .... the Cadet Singles!. At the Slough Masters it was Mark Banks who triumphed for the second successive year.

## Representative Honours and Rankings



Cippenham has another gold medallist on the international stage. England regular Gareth Herbert, who still lives within a mile of the Club, had a magnificent Commonwealth Games at Manchester in July/August winning gold in the Men's Team and Men's Doubles events. Gareth and his partner, Andrew Baggaley, saved match points in a dramatic fifth game win in the doubles. In the team final Gareth beat eventual singles gold medallist Segun Toriola as England beat Nigeria 3-0. In the singles event Gareth succumbed in the quarter-finals to Indian Chetan Baboor who he had beaten in the team event. Gareth has been a regular member of the England team in the European League and World and European Championships but it was his performance in the Commonwealth Games that

earned him the Senior Sportsperson of the Year award at the Slough Sports Awards.

A large proportion of the Club's membership have again found their way onto England ranking lists this season, and nine made it all the way into the top ten in the various categories. Gareth Herbert spent most of the season ranked second in the men's list while Joanna Parker went one better than that in the junior girls and also peaked at 3 in the women's list. The girls lists also featured Gemma Chapman at 5 and Karen Shepherd at 10. The cadet girls included Gemma Yarnley at 4 while the cadet boys had no less than four Cippenham players in the top ten – Bradley Evans at 4, Gavin Evans and David Hayes both at 5 and James Milton 7. Gemma also reached 12 in the senior women's list while others who were just outside the top ten in various categories included Lesley Keast, Rebecca Tweedy, Melanie Farquhar, Sylvana Bielec and Catherine Hayes.

Joanna Parker has become a regular in the England women's team, playing in the European League and European Championships. Bradley Evans again represented his country at cadet level while Gavin Evans, Myles Evans and Katy Rule all represented England Schools.

Cippenham supplied eight of the twelve players in the Southern Region team that finished third in the National Regional Squad Championships.

Many Club players have again represented Buckinghamshire and Slough. The Slough cadet boys' team of David Hayes, James Milton and Ashley Shaw finished as runners-up in the national Leach Cup while the cadet girls' team are through to the final of the Hammersley Cup in which they will meet Hastings on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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 2003