



# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2021-22

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### Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the forty-ninth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the twenty-sixth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. We have now played in our purpose-built premises for longer than we did in our two previous venues. This has been another successful year, the highlights of which were:

- Bouncing back from the adverse effect of the Coronavirus pandemic to produce a nearly complete season of competitive table tennis;
- Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of our purpose-built table tennis centre;
- Generally good performances by our teams in the British League, finishing divisional runners-up in three different leagues and winning JBL Girls' Division 2;
- Retaining the Maidenhead League title and adding the Division 2 title also.

### 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 while the School is also entitled to nominate two representatives although these positions are currently vacant.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery 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. The Club has access to adjoining changing and shower facilities in the more recently built school block but this access is used only during weekend events.

The floor of the playing hall was renewed in January 2016 and after an initial spell in which it was slippery, it settled down with the help of a £1,500 investment by the Club in a floor-cleaning machine.

The Centre owns 19 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables. A selection of net and posts sets services those tables. A new set of twelve Joola scoring machines were purchased in the autumn but the numbers on these are brittle and are proving to be unsatisfactory. Older scoring machines are still called into use especially for matches in the National Junior and Cadet leagues and for local league matches. Still giving service are the 80 Butterfly surrounds in blue with "Butterfly" printed on one side and "Cippenham" on the other in light blue that were purchased in 2012. Many of these surrounds are stacked on a specially design wheeled trolley.

There are also about 75 quality spectator chairs which are stored on a purpose-designed trolley. 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 National Junior and Cadet leagues utilise a 12-table configuration although this configuration prevents access to the main amenities block.

The playing hall is lit by 180 high-frequency fluorescent tubes in 45 installations. In order to maintain the lux level at or near its original rating of 600, these tubes are replaced every three years or so although this was last done in August 2018.

The lounge area benefitted from a complete revamp in the summer of 2019. There are now five coffee tables and three dining tables and enough upholstered chairs to serve them all. One group of these chairs is arranged around a coffee table in the alcove. There is a drinking water dispenser for topping up players' water bottles.

# Administration and Management

After an absence in 2020, an Annual General Meeting was eventually held on 19 July 2021, having originally been scheduled for 21 June 2021, the rescheduling being caused by Covid-related government restrictions.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by only eight members and elected the following Management Committee which met seven times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	7	July 19	8
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	7	August 23	7
Elena Tant	Deputy Chairman/Bookings Officer	6	October 1	8
Steve Piercey	Events Officer	4	November 18	7
Keith Hall	General Committee member	5	January 7	6
Sue Hayes	General Committee member	4	March 4	7
Elroy Hull	General Committee member	5	April 26	4
Dave Tant	General Committee member	6		
Sunjay Thakker	General Committee member	3		

No nominations were made for the positions of Club Captain, Social Officer and Public Relations Officer.

The Club benefits from having the services of people that have amassed a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973. Ken Phillips re-joined 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. Elena Tant joined the Committee in 2014 having previously served more than twenty years as League Secretary for the Maidenhead & District Association while Elroy Hull served many seasons on the Slough & District League committee as Inter-League Secretary.

The Management Committee again drew up an organization chart. This has two purposes: it formalises the structure of responsibility with officers showing the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identifies gaps in the management hierarchy. Some positions remained unfilled.

## The following appointments were made:

Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes	Weekday Duty Manager:	Ken Phillips
Volunteer Champion:	Sunjay Thakker	Club Championships Organizer:	Elena Tant
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips	Grand Prix Administrator:	Graham Trimming
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Catering Liaison:	Steve Piercey
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Facilities Manager:	Ken Phillips
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Elena Tant
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Health & Safety Advisor:	Dave Tant
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming	Club Supply Agent:	Ken Phillips
Calendar Coordinator:	Elena Tant	Members Supply Agent:	Ken Phillips

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

## The following sub-committees were also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth  
Calendar: Elena Tant; Ken Phillips; Steve Piercey; Graham Trimming

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:

Ken Phillips: Coaching Officer, Selector and Minutes Secretary for the Buckinghamshire Association; Referee for Maidenhead Closed Championships  
Graham Trimming: Auditor for the Maidenhead Association; member of Table Tennis England's Competition Review steering group and contributor to the Centenary Heritage Project  
Sue Hayes: General Secretary and National Councillor for Buckinghamshire County Association  
Steve Smith: Referee for various events including National Junior and Cadet Championships and London Grand Prix  
Jan Chapman: President and Management Committee member of Maidenhead Association  
Chris Collins: General Secretary of Maidenhead Association

Many of those listed above have held their positions for many years and given great service to those organisations.

For the last twenty year or so the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This was suspended during the time when these sessions were the subject of Covid-related restrictions and only resumed in March 2022 with the appointment of Arjun Prasanna Kumar, aided by his mother Jyothi Puttaswamy.

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 late afternoons and/or evenings on Fridays 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. The set-up teams are arranged individually for each  
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event and usually comprise members of the Club's Management Committee to whom we express our thanks.

The Lexmark photocopier, purchased in 2019, continues to be used for the copying of newsletters, scoresheets, etc.

## Volunteer Investment and Awards

For their immense service over a great many years, four individuals are honoured with Life Membership of the Club. These are: Peter Hillier; Jacquie Lovell; Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming.

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, but usually many more, 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 nine Gold Privileged Members and two ordinary Privileged Members. A practice voucher scheme is in place, but rarely used, 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.

As the season 2020-21 had no competitive play at all and the season before was curtailed, the usual annual awards presentations were not held in 2021.

During the year, Tim Kiteley qualified as an umpire.

## Membership

Because of the pandemic and the lack of table tennis activity that arose from this, membership was extended to two years rather than just one. Those that took out membership for the year 2019-20 had their membership extended until 31 August 2021 and those that took out membership from 1 September 2020 had theirs extended until 31 August 2022. During the time of Covid-related restrictions, the Club changed its policy and only allowed members, and not non-members, to book practice sessions, something which had to be done and paid for online. The current membership figure therefore includes anyone that has paid for membership since 1 September 2020 and is consequently higher than would have been expected in an ordinary year. However, the current figure of 255 is extraordinary and a record and exceeds prior years by about a hundred. Nevertheless, and disappointingly, the numbers currently attending practice sessions is quite low.

Over the past twelve months a total of 62 players have represented the club in match play, nine less than in the previous year of competition. 12 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, nine less than in the previous year of competition. 19 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, one less than in the previous season of competition. 8 teams were operated in British leagues, 6 in National leagues and 5 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 49 years old and during that time a total of 873 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances with over 1,600. No player passed a century landmark for appearances during the season. The all-time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1645	George Appleby	372	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	858	Frank Cowley	363	Steve Crow	268
Mike Rhodes	698	Robert Hansell	360	Roland Clapton	257
Frank Earis	669	David Hayes	350	Jane Dickens	235
Paul Baker	613	Georgia Veneer	336	Ashley Shaw	234
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Ricky Hardcastle	217
Sue Hayes	548	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Armando Borges	440	Gemma Chapman	282	Anna Watton	204
Neil Bird	435	Jacquie Lovell	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Jackie Napper	403	Wendy Barlow	279	Steve Dorrell	202
Martin Adams	382	Steve Joel	278	Catherine Hayes	200
Gareth Lovell	381	Denise Weller	278		

The busiest player during the past season was Nick Carter who played 24 matches as an ever present across the National Junior and National Cadet leagues. Martin Adams played one fewer and Lucie Bouron 22 followed by five players who all notched up 21.

## Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are a surplus of £1,404. It needs to be noted that the Club has not received an invoice from The Westgate School for costs associated with the building since February 2020. No amount has been accrued into the accounts because it is impossible to estimate what costs, if any, are likely to be charged. However, the impact upon next year's accounts could potentially be a few thousand pounds.

In a full year of operation, we would expect the costs charged by the host school to be in the region of £4,000. If this had been the case in this financial year, the result might have been a loss of about £2,500. However, there was a large

expense, amounting to £3,100, for kit for our teams in the British League, which is a cyclical expense that happens every three or four years, with a much lower level of expense in the intermediate years.

The Coronavirus pandemic continued to affect the Club's finances in the year being reported due to a reduced level of activity last summer, with near-full activity not returning until September 2021. For the same reason, comparisons against the previous year are meaningless.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that on 30 April 2022 stood at £81,769. £53,353 is invested at Cater Allen but no longer on a term deposit as the bank no longer offers this facility. The remainder is in accounts at Barclays and Nat West plus a residual balance in Paypal into which fees have been paid during the past year. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £98,389.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. Annual membership fees are £18 with an additional £18 payable for registration in the Maidenhead League. Practice and local league 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. Attendees at the Monday evening coaching classes pay a term fee of £25 while those attending Wednesday evening elite coaching pay a fee of £35 each term. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses although this has been covered by the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund for the last few years. In the British League a £5 match fee is payable with players also contributing their individual registration fees. This fee structure has remained largely unchanged now for many years and the healthy state of the Club's finances means that there is no requirement for change.

The Club maintains 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.

## 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 a great many years by Graham Trimming. The Club's press reports have featured in the Maidenhead Advertiser and Slough Express, both in the printed and online versions. With the move away from printed media, a log of column inches has not been maintained this season. Photographs, also taken mainly by Graham Trimming, have appeared alongside these reports. Reports of all open tournaments also appeared on the Table Tennis England website.

Four years ago Graham Trimming revised the Club's website and the current (third) incarnation uses the Wix software and platform. It is a modern type of website, optimised also for viewing also on smart phones. The website 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 website is also used for online tournament entry forms, the online membership form and for sign-up to the Maidenhead League and the open tournament mailing database. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club web site in the country. Google Analytics reports the following statistics for the twelve months from June 2021 to May 2022: 4,527 users (2021: 1,709); 9,642 sessions (2021: 2,793). It is natural that these statistics should be much higher this year, reflecting the lack of activity in the previous year. The highest number of visitors in any single day was 247 on December 2<sup>nd</sup> when the draw for the Junior 4-Star Open was published. 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. All reports have been linked and many events have been advertised on Facebook. As at the end of May, the Club had 792 followers on Facebook, up from 745 a year ago, and 570 on Twitter, up from 559. Facebook and Twitter postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account which has 74 followers. A further 15 albums of photographs have been uploaded onto Flickr this year, all by Graham Trimming. Together, they represent 3,410 photos and the albums have attracted over 6,000 views. These statistics show that this service is appreciated by members and visitors. The photographic backdrop purchased in 2015 is used for most presentations at tournaments.

An edition of the Club newsletter has also been published seven times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. The articles are enhanced by many photographs.

## 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 80 competitors plus their coaches and parents.

Catering has proved to be a bit of a problem this season. For the re-commencement of weekend events, the Club decided to attract a professional catering outfit to run this operation and Lunchbox, a sandwich shop with premises in Burnham

High Street, was selected. The first couple of days ran well with by far the most professional approach seen for many years. However, soon after, the person allocated to the task by Lunchbox failed to appear and was consequently dismissed by his employers. Efforts by Lunchbox to replace him were unsuccessful and they were forced to withdraw from the full-service operation. Since that time, Lunchbox have continued to provide cold food and beverages which have been served by Club volunteers to whom we extend our thanks. Special mention and thanks go to Jyothi Puttaswamy who has been a fantastic help on National Junior and National Cadet League days.

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. Broadband wifi was installed eight years ago and this has provided a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto Table Tennis England's website.

The usual annual Anniversary Party was delayed from its usual time in October to just before Christmas to allow time for the Club to start functioning properly again after Covid restrictions were lifted. As this was the twenty-fifth anniversary, special efforts were made to make it a little bit special and a hard bat competition was run alongside. The event went well with an encouraging turnout.



## 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 usual routine had to be amended to take into account Covid-related restrictions, initially by the government and latterly imposed locally by the Club. After a total lockdown, practice sessions recommenced in May 2021 but only on Tuesday evenings. These sessions were for members only and had to be booked and paid for online and in advance. Thursday sessions, under the same protocols, recommenced when local league matches started in late September. Those protocols were retained until late March when normal service resumed.

The current weekday format is:

Monday	6:00 to 7:30 pm 7:45 to 9:15 pm	Beginners' coaching group Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm 7:30 to 10:00 pm	Local league matches General practice
Wednesday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Elite coaching
Thursday	7:15 to 11:00 pm 7:30 to 10:00 pm	Local league matches 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 security.

## External Events

The Club continues to be successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by Table Tennis England and local associations continue to hold events 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 work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips who has acted as Duty Officer for a great number of bookings.

Once again, we also hosted all weekends of the Senior British League playing host to National Divisions A-2 and B-4. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. We also hosted all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League.



A full list of external events (June 2021-May 2022), totalling 23 weekend days, three fewer than in 2019-20, and significantly fewer than a few years ago, was as follows.

**Weekend dates:**

Table Tennis England:	Senior British League (7) National Junior League (4) National Cadet League (4) Regional Championships and Qualification (1)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (3)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (1)
Reading & DTTA:	Reading Closed Championships (1) Individual Handicap Competition (1)
British Para Table Tennis	Cippenham Para Open Grand Prix (1)

# Club Events

## Open Tournaments

New regulations imposed by Table Tennis England have made it more difficult to stage open tournaments this season. The national body now requires there to be both a referee and tournament organiser present on the day, neither of which are permitted to play, coach or umpire. The Club has written to the TTE Competitions Steering Group requesting that these measures be relaxed for 1-star events and has also downgraded all its tournaments, except the Junior 4-star, to 1-star status. There does not appear to have been any consequential significant downturn in either quantity or quality of entries as a result of this reduced status.

Because of the above difficulties, the Super 6 Veterans' 1-Star Open was not scheduled this season and the Club ended up with a programme of five events, including one scheduled for later than this report, rather than the usual six.

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
4-5 Dec 2021	Junior 4-Star	Ken Phillips	Steve Smith	197
27 Jan 2022	Team 1-Star	Graham Trimming	Ken Phillips	25 pairs
30 Apr 2022	Super 6 Senior 1-Star	Paul Baker	Graham Trimming	53
28 May 2022	5x2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Graham Trimming	87



The Junior 4-star takes a great deal of organising and an army of umpires is assembled for each day. The Organiser and Entries Secretary was Ken Phillips with Steve Smith as the Referee. Graham Trimming produced the Draw Sheet and also looked after the publicity and took the photographs. The Club is indebted to an army of other helpers and qualified umpires without whom the event could not be run. The tournament ran over two days with cadet events on the Saturday and junior events on the Sunday.



The Team 1-Star Open is for teams of two players and, following a short preliminary round in groups of three, utilized the progressive knock-out format to ultimately place all twenty-four teams in their ranking order. The Super 6 event is played on nine tables with a maximum 54 entries while the 5x2 event is two competitions, one for veterans in the morning and the other open age group in the afternoon. Each event is restricted to 45 players and is run on nine tables.

In late June, the Club will also run its popular Young Players' Summer Festival. This covers two days and four age-groups and uses smaller courts to allow for additional tables. Because of the pandemic, this event has not run since 2019.

The Club places on record its thanks for the organisers and referees, listed above, who give their time to help the Club.

## Club Championships

The Club Championships returned after an absence of two years, running on four weekday evenings in May. The Open Singles was won by Shae Thakker, the doubles by Maciej Dlugozima and Chris Collins, the Veterans' Singles also by Maciej and the Junior Singles by Jamie Woodford.

## Anniversary Hard Bat Competition

Instead of the usual pre-Christmas Festive Grand Prix, this year we arranged a Hard Bat Tournament alongside the celebrations for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre. This was organised using the standard Grand Prix format. As befitted the occasion, there was food and drink available as well as the usual mulled wine and mince pies, effectively the amalgamation of two usual events, the Anniversary Party and Festive Grand Prix. A very healthy entry of twenty-nine players took part on the hard-bat event and the winner was Mike Rhodes.



# Team Competitions

The Club ran nineteen teams in various leagues this season, one fewer than in season 2019-20.

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

Senior British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
Women's British League	Captains and Secretaries:	Ken Phillips; Denise Weller
Veterans' British League	Captains and Secretaries:	Paul Baker; Denise Weller
Junior British League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
National Cadet League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
Maidenhead League	Captain and Secretary:	Elena Tant
	Team Captains:	Graham Trimming; Chris Collins; Josh Blagden; Qasim Hussain; Jan Chapman
	Selection Sub-Committee:	Elena Tant; Dave Tant; Graham Trimming

## British League Competitions

The Club ran eight teams in the British League, two more than in season 2019-20. A boys' team and a second women's team were added.

The Senior British League team was placed again in National Division B-4 with all matches being played at Cippenham. The team of Martin Adams, Robert Hansell, Martin Gray and Steve Munson performed well throughout and finished in a creditable runners-up position, behind runaway leaders Ormeau 2. Robert Hansell was especially successful, winning all his last eighteen matches and being player of the match for all of his team's final eight matches despite twice being on the losing side. Robert was second in the order of players winning the most matches in the division.



A second team was entered into the Women's British League, spearheaded by juniors Rachael Iles and Ann Piercey with Lucie Bouron. This team was more successful than the first team, finishing top of Division 4 for stage one, and being named as team of the first weekend, but then fell away in the final stage. The first team finished next to bottom of Division 3 in stage 1 and then dropped that further place in stage 2.

Having been promoted from Division 2B, the Cippenham men's first team were placed in Division 1B of the Veterans' British League. They finished second – a good overall team performance. The second team finished bottom of Division 3A and face relegation whilst the women's team fared better and came fourth in Women's Division 2.



Both a boys' and a girls' team were run in the Junior British League for the first time since season 2010-11. This was a successful season with the girls winning Division 2, dropping only one point along the way. Hannah Silcock, from Jersey, awarded female player of the weekend for the first weekend, remained unbeaten for Cippenham and she was ably backed up by Rachael Iles and Anna Piercey. The boys' team had a very strange season. After the first half weekend they were rock bottom of Division 5 with zero wins. The second half was altogether different as, with the same team, they won all five of their matches to storm up the table into second place. William Saint was superb in winning 88% of his matches and he was backed up by Pranav Gudipati, Jamie Woodford and Jaiden Caldeira.

## National League Competitions

Six teams were entered in total this season, three in each the National Junior League and in the National Cadet League. This represents a decrease of one in each league from season 2019-20. These leagues continue to provide opportunities for new players to commence their competitive pathway.

The A team maintained their position in Division 1 throughout and eventually finished third with Nick Carter winning over 80% of his matches. The B team started out bottom of Division 5, then won Division 6 and Division 5 in successive rounds, finishing third in Division 4. George Driscoll was their most successful player. The C team stayed in Division 6 throughout, maintaining second place for the last three rounds.

A fairly similar pattern arose in the National Cadet League. The A team maintained its place in Division 1 throughout, eventually finishing second with Nick Carter, again, being the most successful team member. Then B team started in Division 4 but were relegated to Division 5 where they finished bottom on the final day. The C team were bottom of Division 6 throughout.

## Local League Competitions

The Club ran five teams in the Maidenhead League this season, one fewer than the record set in 2019-20 but remains the club with the most teams in the league. Post-Covid, only fourteen teams entered the League and these were arranged into two divisions of seven.



This season, overall, proved quite a triumph for Cippenham with Saxons winning Division 1 and Vikings winning Division 2. For good measure, Trojans finished runners-up in the top division 1. Spartans were fourth in Division 2 while Titans finished bottom of Division 1.

Cippenham players dominated the top averages in Division 1, the top place being taken by Maciej Dlugozima of Trojans. The successful Saxons quartet of Ludo Montiel, Alan Moss, Graham Trimming and Albert Cheung all finished with averages above 80%.

The successful Vikings team was Walter Aldridge, Armando Borges, Clive Chapman and Qasim Hussain and the first three all finished with averages above 85%.

Titans made up for disappointments in the league by reaching the semi-final of the Knock-Out Handicap Competition.

## Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club for three decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally.

Following the pandemic, the weekly schedule has changed a little. The beginners' class, formerly early on Thursday evenings, was amalgamated after restart with the Monday evening advanced class. The elite class on Wednesday evening continued. After Christmas, by which time the numbers of attendees had increased, it was decided to split the Monday session in two sections, with the beginners' class starting at 6 pm and the advanced class at 7:45 pm.

Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for more than thirty years now and he is still the mainstay of the operation, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising youngsters. Jan Chapman, Sue Hayes and Tim Kiteley have also provided Ken with great assistance.

## Tournament Successes for Individuals

Shae Thakker continues to win events, doing the double of Class 9-10 Singles and Standing A Singles at both the Cippenham and Sheffield Para Open Grand Prix. Jaiden Caldeira also won the Class 6-10 Singles and Standing B Singles at Sheffield.

VBL player Andy Trott won the Over-50s Men's Doubles at both the VETTS Eastern and Southern Masters and Jersey-based Hannah Silcock, who plays for Cippenham in JBL, has won events at Grand Prix and 4-star events.

Maciek Dlugozima was the star of the show at the Maidenhead Closed Championships, reduced this year to just four events. Maciej won the Championship Singles and the Championship Doubles, in tandem with Hari Prasad, while Ricky Hardcastle made the journey from his new home in Poole to win both handicap events.



# Representative Honours and Rankings

Shae Thakker was once again selected for GB representation at an international para event abroad, this time the French Para Open.

Ten Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with juniors Rachael Iles, Anna Piercey, William Saint and Shae Thakker all appearing for the first (senior) team. Rachael, Anna and William along with Pranav Gudipati and Jamie Woodford were also selected for the junior team. Steve Munson played for the veterans' first team while Mary Heffernan and Sue Hayes played for the Over-60s first team and Sue Hayes and Graham Trimming for the Over-60s second team. Bucks did not run a cadet team this season.

The Berkshire Inter-Town Tournament did not take place this season and so no players had the opportunity to represent the Maidenhead League.

Seventeen Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories. Several players appeared in more than one list. Four made it into the top twenty and these were Andy Trott and Martin Adams in Veteran Men, and Rachael Iles and Mia Lakhani in both the under-17 and cadet girls. Congratulations also to our young duo of Rachael and Anna who have recently broken into the top 100 of the England senior rankings: Rachael at 70 and Anna at 94.

The Club has two para players ranked in the World: Lucie Bouron (Class 3) is ranked 27 while Shae Thakker (Class 10) is 49 in the seniors and 8 in the juniors (under-23).

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

**Graham Trimming**  
General Secretary  
June 2022