



CIPPENHAM NEWS

Official Newsletter of Cippenham Table Tennis Club : May/June 2025 : No. 255

Sai's fantastic April—3 titles

Sai Prasanna Kumar, the Club's youngest and latest protégé, enjoyed three fantastic weekends in April with medals galore in national and international events.

The first weekend saw Sai make his international debut during which he helped his England team to a resounding win at the Primary Schools International in Cardiff. Sai became the nineteenth protégé from the Cippenham coaching scheme to receive international honours for England Schools over a period of thirty-six years, since Anna Watton became the first to be honoured, and is the third of the current crop of players at the Club.

Sai was one of four members of the England boys' team that won every match against Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Jersey and Guernsey. Sai's individual record was flawless, winning all ten of his singles matches and all five of his doubles.

After the team events on Friday and Saturday, Sunday was given over to the individual events. After winning his group, Sai progressed through the quarter-final and semi-final to set up a final match against his England teammate Jayden Chen which Chen won 3-1.

The following weekend Sai once again proved himself to be the best player on the country at his own age group. Having won the national under-10 boys' singles crown in 2024, Sai was one of the favourites to win the under-11 title this year. However, Sai was not the number one seed. That honour fell to Jayden Chen who had beaten Sai the previous weekend in the final of the Primary Schools International event. However, Chen was not at his best and surprisingly finished only second in his preliminary round group and then was completely knocked-out by the second seed Lusio Wen in the round of sixteen. Sai then defeated Wen in the semi-finals to set up a final encounter with Thomas Ellis. Despite losing the first and fourth games, Sai stormed to 11-3 in the fifth and final game to secure his back-to-back titles.

Later in the month, Sai once prevailed



Sai poses with his U11 national trophy and his coach Ken Phillips



Sai and Chen with the Primary Schools International team trophy with the rest of the boys and girls in the England squad.

Photo: TTE



Sai (blue shirt) with his U11 Schools trophy.

Photo: TTE

over Chen when he won the U11 Boys' Singles title at the Butterfly Schools Championships.

England U11 boys' champion
Primary Schools International team champ
England Schools U11 boys' champ

Maidenhead League Final Tables

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 1							
Cippenham Trojans	18	15	0	3	132	48	132
Cippenham Saxons	18	14	2	2	121	59	121
NWCA Bluejays	18	8	3	7	97	83	97
Cookham Social Pumas	18	5	3	10	82	98	82
Old Gords Harriers	18	6	5	7	75	105	86
OLOP Bears	17	6	1	10	70	100	70
Cippenham Vikings	17	0	2	15	43	127	43
Division 2							
Cippenham Spartans	16	15	0	1	122	38	122
Stoke Poges Bees	16	9	1	6	94	66	94
Bourne End Lions	16	8	1	7	77	83	77
Stoke Poges Hornets	16	4	0	12	60	110	60
NWCA Seahawks	16	3	0	13	47	113	47

The match between OLOP Bears and Cippenham Vikings was abandoned due to the terrible events during the match concerning Bas Mocharrafié and was not re-arranged.

Players' Averages:

	M	P	W	Av
Trojans				
Michal Garski	3	9	9	100
Maciej Dlugozima	13	38	36	95
Bharath Prasanna Kumar	10	30	26	87
Haro Prasad	9	26	14	54
Graham Trimming	14	41	21	51
Albert Cheung	5	15	6	40
Saxons				
Sai Prasanna Kumar	10	30	29	97
Louis Alexander	12	35	33	94
Mary Heffernan	7	21	18	86
Chloe Ireland	11	32	15	47
Sue Hayes	4	12	4	33
Peter Chipperton	10	29	8	28
Vikings				
Bas Mocharrafié	8	24	13	54
Aarav Seth	8	24	7	29
Armando Borges	10	29	7	24
Qasim Hussain	11	31	6	19
Randall Rodrigues	2	6	1	17
Newton Moraes	12	34	4	12
Spartans				
Rohit Varshney	11	30	30	100
Umair Farooqui	10	30	25	83
Randall Rodrigues	13	37	27	73
Margaret Thornton	3	9	7	71
Steve Piercey	8	22	12	55
Jan Chapman	1	3	1	33

The final report for the Maidenhead League appeared in the April edition of this Newsletter.

Different winners for all five events



Day 1

The final Wednesday coaching session of the Spring term was given over to the Junior Singles, the first of five events that constituted the 2025 Club Championships. Seventeen players, including most of the Club's top young players, were split into five preliminary round groups from which the top two from each group fought out a knock-out to determine the champion.

All the top five seeded players won their groups with some comfort but, after that, there were a lot of close matches and at least one enormous shock. The first round of two matches only, saw Rohan Bhide eliminate his Junior British Clubs League team-mate Edward Meacock and Anna Piercey overcoming Chris Farrall.

The quarter-finals brought a huge shock as Rohan, who has starred in the junior and cadet leagues this season, winning 52 out of his 54 matches, eliminated the top seed Jamie Woodford, a mainstay in the Club's teams in both the Youth and Senior British Leagues. Rohan won 3-1 with the fourth game finishing 11-4. Louis beat George Driscoll 3-0 but the other two quarter-finals were very close affairs. Anna Piercey, in match between two nationally highly ranked girls, did well to take second seed Rachael Iles to a deciding game and in a match between the Prasanna Kumar brothers, Sai ended the hopes of Bharath, reversing the result of their

encounter in the Maidenhead League a couple of weeks earlier.

Rohan very nearly caused another huge upset in his semi-final with Sai, leading 2-1 at one stage before Sai found a further gear and ran out 11-3, 11-5. Meanwhile, Rachael was in full flow as she beat Louis 3-0 and then repeated that scoreline in the final against Sai.

Days 2-4

The blue riband event, the Open Singles, played on Thursday evening 8 May, saw sixteen players arranged into four preliminary round groups. The standard was probably the best ever seen at this event in the Club's history and did not disappoint. The eight fancied players all emerged from the groups to contest the quarter-finals with the best match being played out by two of Cippenham's young guns. Third seed Sai Prasanna Kumar was edged out 13-11 in the fifth and deciding game by Louis Alexander. However, both made it into the semi-finals after Sai eliminated his older brother Bharath, the fourth seed, in three close games while Ludo Montiel was no match for Louis. Top seed Martin Adams eased past 2017 champion Maciej Dlugozima and second seed Hari Gehlot dropped only one end to Anna Piercey.

Those present were enthralled by the spectacle of the top semi-final between the experienced Martin and the young Sai. Sai took a two-game lead against

the Club's British League captain but Martin fought back to square the match 2-2 with two easy games. The fifth game flowed one way and then the other with both players having and saving match points. It seemed to be over when Sai flashed a drive down Martin's backhand but the veteran somehow managed to get his bat to the ball which arched, out of control, high into the air and then, desperately for Sai, flicked the back edge of the table to keep the match alive. A few points later and Martin luckily again found the edge of the table to end, at 15-13, what was probably the best match ever seen in the Championships. Meanwhile, Hari was making lighter work of Louis but Martin was now in full flow and beat his Berkshire teammate to win his first Cippenham Open Singles title 3-0.

New champions were also crowned in the other three events. Hari Gehlot, two weeks earlier, had won the Veterans' Singles beating Maciej Dlugozima in the final while the Tweenies' Singles, with a minimal entry, was won by Maciej Burczyk.

In the intervening week, the Open Doubles resulted in a final between two junior pairs with Louis Alexander and Bharath Prasanna Kumar winning the title against Rachael Iles and Anna Piercey in the final. The beaten semi-finalists were Sai Prasanna Kumar partnered by Maciej Dlugozima, and Paul Elliot with Peter Chipperton.

First team relegated



Cippenham teams fared poorly during the final weekend of the Senior British Clubs League season, each winning only one match and losing three. As a consequence, both teams eased down one place in their respective divisions but for the Cippenham first team this meant dropping into the relegation zone, despite gaining two more points than the previous season when they finished one place higher. Barring a reprieve, their two-year stay in National Division A appears to have come to an end and they will face next season in Division B.

Cippenham A started the weekend one place above the relegation zone in Division A-2 and really need to win either of their two matches on the Saturday to secure their place for next season. The first of these was against Joola Plymouth who eventually finished in the top half of the division. Dave Barr got Cippenham off to a perfect start with a hard-fought five-set win over Leo Nguyen. Rob Hansell lost an equally close match against Dom Sussex but, after Shae Thakker and Martin Gray had beaten Harry Cutler and Hugo Nguyen respectively, Cippenham were 3-1 up and looking good for a win. However, with team captain Martin Adams unavailable, Dave stepped up to partner Rob in the doubles set and the tide turned with that and following defeats for Dave and Shae against Sussex and Leo Nguyen. Rob regain parity at 4-4 for Cippenham with an eclipsing win over Hugo Nguyen but Cutler secured the points for the Devon side against Martin.

A win against Horsham Spinners in the Saturday afternoon match then became of paramount importance. Shae Thakker, player of the match, won twice 3-0 against Ben Watson and Jacob Evans but the match went against Cippenham

with two nail-bitingly close defeats for Rob Hansell against Oleh Biletskyi and Joe Sheard. Dave Barr also beat Evans and Cippenham won the doubles but it was not quite enough.

Sunday's matches were predictable. Divisional champions Finsbury were just too strong and won 6-3 despite a double for Dave, who was playing only because of an injury to Rob, over Munib Ahmad and Abdullah Ubaidullah and another for Andy Norwood against Jonathan Lancry. The season finished with a flourish as bottom team Brighton were beaten 8-1. Andy was the only loser and Rachael Iles, deputizing for Martin, marked her promotion from the second team by winning both her matches.

The Cippenham second team eventually finished sixth in Division C-5, their lowest finish in the three years that the team has been together. In truth, it was a patched-up team with regulars unavailable. Cippenham were really put to the sword by a dominant Isle of Wight team on Saturday morning, the islanders running out 9-0 victors. The 6-3 defeat to Newton Abbot in the afternoon match showed better with Anna Piercey and Paul Baker both beating Wim Faassen while Paul paired with Maciej Dlugozima to pinch the doubles at deuce in the fifth.

A much-changed and slightly stronger Cippenham team showed up for the Sunday matches. Bottom team Horsham were sleighed 7-2 with braces from Rachael Iles, Louis Alexander and Jaiden Caldeira while only the doubles set and Jamie Woodford's defeat by the Horsham number one eluded the host team. Godalming, the divisional runners-up, presented a tougher opponent for the afternoon and ran away 8-1 winners. Anna Piercey was Cippenham's only winner against Varun Shrastry,

Senior British Clubs League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
National Division A-2							
Finsbury	14	11	0	3	82	44	22
London Academy 1	14	11	0	3	78	48	22
Fusion 2	14	9	0	5	70	56	18
Joola Plymouth 1	14	8	0	6	72	54	16
Horsham Spinners 1	14	6	0	8	66	60	12
Urban TTC 2	14	6	0	8	62	64	12
Cippenham 1	14	5	0	9	58	68	10
Brighton TTC 2	14	0	0	14	16	110	0
National Division C-5							
Bristol Associates	14	13	0	1	95	31	26
Godalming Simply Let	14	10	0	4	80	46	20
Isle of Wight 1	14	9	0	5	81	45	18
Newton Abbot TTC	14	9	0	5	73	53	18
Horsham Spinners 3	14	7	0	7	60	66	14
Cippenham 2	14	6	0	8	54	72	12
Generation 2	14	2	0	12	32	94	4
Horsham TTC	14	0	0	14	29	97	0

Players' Averages:

	M	P	W	Av
Cippenham 1				
Tom Windram	1	2	2	100
Rachael Iles	1	2	2	100
Martin Adams	10	20	12	60
Dave Barr	9	18	10	56
Robert Hansell	12	24	11	46
Shae Thakker	8	16	7	44
Andy Norwood	12	24	7	29
Martin Gray	3	6	1	17
Cippenham 2				
Rachael Iles	3	8	5	83
William Saint	4	8	5	63
Jamie Woodford	10	20	10	50
Louis Alexander	6	12	6	50
Sai Prasanna Kumar	5	9	4	44
Anna Piercey	5	10	4	40
Jaiden Caldeira	12	24	6	25
Maciej Dlugozima	4	8	2	25
Paul Baker	2	4	1	25
Bharath Prasanna Kumar	5	9	2	22

Results:

Cippenham 1	Cippenham 2
4-5 Joola Plymouth 1	0-9 Isle of Wight 1
4-5 Horsham Spinners 1	3-6 Newton Abbot TTC
3-6 Finsbury	7-2 Horsham TTC
8-1 Brighton TTC 2	1-8 Godalming Simply Let



Anna and Rachael successful at Austrian event

Cippenham's Rachael Iles and Anna Piercey were in Linz, Austria for the Easter weekend along with a further eleven young table tennis athletes participating for the England DiSE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence) team at the Raiffeisen Youth Championships. Rachel and Anna formed the under-19 girls' team who unfortunately lost their first two matches 3-2 and thus qualified for the Challenge Division rather than the Championship Division. Here, however they went on a storming run and won their category with a final victory over a team from Switzerland.

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Key Club Contacts

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Weekday Timetable

Mon	18:00	Beginners' Coaching Group (<i>term time</i>)
	19:45	Advanced Coaching Group (<i>term time</i>)
Tues	19:15	Maidenhead League matches (<i>seasonal</i>)
	19:15	Practice tables
Weds	19:30	Elite Coaching Group (<i>term time</i>)
Thurs	19:15	Maidenhead League matches (<i>seasonal</i>)
	19:15	Practice tables

Fees Season 2024-25

	Full	Conc'n
Annual Membership (1/9 to 31/8)	£20.00	£10.00
Family Membership (1/9 to 31/8)	£30.00	n/a
National Junior League registration	n/a	£13.00
National Cadet League registration	n/a	£13.00
Practice Fees	£4.50	£2.50
British League match fees	£5.00	
Maidenhead League Match Fees	£4.50	£2.50
Coaching Fees (Monday) (per term)		£30.00
Coaching Fees (Wednesday) (per term)		£40.00



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Published by Cippenham Table Tennis Club, 16 May 2025
Edited by Graham Trimming, Rosemount, Juniper Lane, Wooburn Green,
Bucks, HP10 0DE
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Annual General Meeting

This will take place on Thursday 19 June 2025 at Cippenham Table Tennis Centre, 7:30 pm

All members are urged to attend when the agenda will include:

Presentation of the Annual and Financial Reports

Election of Officers

Elections of members of the Management Committee

Cippenham ranked tenth nationally

In an unofficial ranking of English table tennis clubs, based on finishing positions in the four main (senior; women; youth; veterans) sections of the British Clubs League, Cippenham are placed tenth nationally, down from seventh in 2024, and third in the South East Area that comprises Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Sussex.

One point was awarded to the team at the bottom of each of the six sections (SBCL; WBCL; VBCL (men); VBCL (women); YBCL (boys); YBCL (girls)), two points for the next to bottom teams and so on until the number of points awarded for top position equaled the number of teams in that section.

National (England):

Club	Town	Pts
Draycott & L Eaton	Draycott	773
Fusion	London	724
BATTS	Harlow	404
Foresters	Crawley	376
Ormesby	Middlesbro'	370
London Academy	London	363
Joola Plymouth	Plymouth	350
eBaTT	London	346
Brighton	Brighton	333
Cippenham	Slough	331

South East Area:

Club	Town	Pts
Foresters	Crawley	376
Brighton	Brighton	333
Cippenham	Slough	331
Horsham Spinners	Horsham	234
New House	Sittingbourne	161
Worthing	Worthing	147
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	123
Graham Spicer	New Malden	97
Portsea Island	Portsmouth	90
Kingfisher	Reading	82

Cippenham Table Tennis Club

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