

## Second team make flying start



Both Cippenham teams have made an encouraging start to the new Senior British Clubs League season. Hosting the event at their home centre, and welcoming other teams from all around the south of England and south Wales, the weekend started in perfect fashion with all four matches won across the two teams. Sunday saw the second team carry on their unbeaten start to the season while the first team faltered slightly.

Pride of place goes to the Cippenham second team, operating in National Division C-8 and trying to improve on their sixth-place finish last season. The weekend was a personal triumph for the two Prasanna Kumar brothers who won fifteen out of sixteen individual encounters between them. Twelve years-old Sai, fresh from his success at the England World Hopes Qualification tournament the previous weekend, in which he qualified as the sole England male representative for the World Hopes Week, won all eight of his matches. This was especially remarkable as he was promoted to number one on the team, from fourth last season, and therefore had the toughest opponents. His older brother, Bharath, won seven of his eight from the number four position while Hari Gehlot won six and Maciej Dlugozima three in an excellent all-round team display.

Strangely, despite winning all of his matches, Sai was nominated as the player of the match only once, that being in the opening 7-2 win over Ashford 3. Instead, Hari received this accolade for the next two matches as Cippenham beat Newton Abbot 7-2 and Isle of Wight 8-1. The final match of the weekend was the most competitive as Cippenham recovered from 3-2 down to lead with a match-winning 5-3 before Bharath



**Team 2 (l-r): Maciej Dlugozima; Bharath Prasanna Kumar; Hari Gehlot; Sai Prasanna Kumar**

suffered his only defeat of the weekend in the dead rubber.

Cippenham 2 finished the weekend in second position in the table, behind leaders Bristol Associates, who they have yet to play, on sets aggregate but with a gap of four points already opened up from the third-placed team Horsham.

Having won promotion by winning Division B-2 last season, the Cippenham first team were expecting to have to battle for points in Division A-2. However, the Saturday matches went as well as could have been hoped. Two 5-4 victories were recorded against Urban 2 and Horsham Spinners.

The first match followed an unusual pattern with Cippenham storming into a 5-0 lead with wins for Shae Thakker, Rob Hansell, Martin Adams and Martin Gray and a doubles success for Shae and Rob. After that it followed a different path with Cippenham players losing all four reverse encounters, three of which were decided very closely in the fifth

and deciding game. With all eight players in the match winning once and losing once, the computer allocated the player of the match to Shae who had recorded a 3-0 win over Costas Papantoniou but lost 11-9 in the fifth to Costas' son Lucas.

Martin Adams won twice to deservedly be named player of the match in the second match, a 5-4 win over Horsham Spinners. Shae also won twice while Rob ensured the points for Cippenham when he made the score 5-3 by beating Aedan McGivern.

Sunday's matches showed that Cippenham will have to work hard to avoid relegation from this division. With Andy Norwood replacing Martin Gray, Cippenham lost the morning match 7-2 against eBaTT 2 despite having led 2-1 at an early stage. The afternoon proved what a strong division this is going to be when Cippenham were thumped 9-0 by a strong Woodford Wells team and finished the weekend in sixth place, albeit equal on points with the third-placed team.

# Sai qualifies for World Hopes Week

Cippenham's rising young star Sai Prasanna Kumar, playing the best table tennis of his young life according to his coach Ken Phillips, sensationally won all nine of his matches to win the England Hopes competition at Draycott Table Tennis Club.

The reward for this success is substantial as it qualifies Sai for

the World Hopes Week as England's only male representative. This will take place in Sheffield this month when Sai will have the enormous opportunity of training and competing with the very best under-12s in the world.

Congratulations, Sai, and good luck!



## 30 years ago this month

Exactly thirty years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1996, the purpose-built Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened.

It was way back In early 1992, inspired by the amount of funding possible from the newly created Foundation for Sport and the Arts, that Cippenham drew up

### SBCL Results

| National Div A-2 | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Match Point 1    | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 10 | 8   |
| Woodford Wells 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 10 | 6   |
| Urban TTC 2      | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 18 | 4   |
| eBaTT 2          | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 18 | 4   |
| ham Brunswick    | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 19 | 4   |
| Cippenham 1      | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 24 | 4   |
| Horsham Spinners | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 19 | 2   |
| Fusion 3         | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 26 | 0   |

| National Div C-8   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Bristol Associates | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 5  | 8   |
| Cippenham 2        | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 9  | 8   |
| Horsham A          | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 19 | 4   |
| Isle of Wight 1    | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 22 | 4   |
| Ashford 3          | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 23 | 4   |
| Penlan             | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 18 | 2   |
| Foresters 2        | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 22 | 2   |
| Newton Abbot       | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 26 | 0   |

| Players - Team 1       | M | P | W | Av  |
|------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Shae Thakker           | 4 | 8 | 4 | 50  |
| Martin Adams           | 4 | 8 | 3 | 38  |
| Robert Hansell         | 4 | 8 | 2 | 25  |
| Andy Norwood           | 2 | 4 | 1 | 25  |
| Martin Gray            | 2 | 4 | 1 | 25  |
| Players - Team 2       | M | P | W | Av  |
| Sai Prasanna Kumar     | 4 | 8 | 8 | 100 |
| Bharath Prasanna Kumar | 4 | 8 | 7 | 88  |
| Hari Gehlot            | 4 | 8 | 6 | 75  |
| Maciej Dlugożima       | 4 | 8 | 3 | 38  |

| Results - Team 1     |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Urban TTC 2          | 5-4 |
| Horsham Spinners     | 5-4 |
| eBaTT 2              | 2-7 |
| Woodford Wells TTC 1 | 0-9 |
| Results - Team 2     |     |
| Ashford 3            | 7-2 |
| Newton Abbot TTC     | 7-2 |
| Isle of Wight 1      | 8-1 |
| Horsham A            | 5-4 |

imaginative and elaborate plans for its own purpose-built facility. A Building Sub-Committee was formed, and in the summer of 1992 an application was submitted to the FSA. A year later the news that this had been rejected came as a blow but was not unexpected. By now the bandwagon was rolling and agencies such as Slough Council, Sports Council and the ETТА were extremely supportive and gave the Club encouragement to pursue the project further. Sometime later The Westgate School in Cippenham was identified as having the necessary attributes to become a successful partner with the Club and a company limited by guarantee was incorporated to be the legal lessee. After four years of intense work and not a few tears came the news in December 1995 that a National Lottery grant of £255K had been awarded to add to the £70K secured by then from the FSA via the ETТА. However, when the tenders came in at £100K over the estimated cost it took a further award of £105K from the Funding Agency for Schools and considerable goodwill from the English Sports Council for the project to become viable.

Building work commenced in March 1996 and on 1st October 1996 Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened, the first ceremonial ball being struck by Graham Trimming, mainstay of the Building Committee and the Club's founder 23 years earlier.

Photos (right) show the build in progress and the final Building Committee (l-r): Graham Trimming; Frank Earis; Alec Watson; Steve Joel.



# Rob defends his title at 5x2

The new season got underway at Cippenham in early September with the Cippenham Five by Two Senior and Veterans 1-Star tournament. This was the thirteenth running of this particular event and attracted a good entry of fifty-five players who could choose between participating in both the senior and veterans' events or just one. Separate events were run for women who, because of the lack of numbers in those events, were also invited to additionally play in the all-comers' events alongside the men.

The morning session started out with the veterans' events for those aged forty or older. The women's section was played as a round robin of four players and this was won emphatically by Bhanureka Sabaratnam, a former Cippenham player, who had travelled down from south Wales for the occasion. The runner-up was Christine Williams.

The all-comers' event provided sterner competition with the players originally drawn into eight groups. The top ranked player in each of the groups all made it through in first place without too many alarms and all but one of those progressed safely through to their allotted spots in the quarter-finals. The exception was Vadym Krevs who lost out one round earlier to Mark Banks, a late entrant after having decided to enter just one day earlier and having not played for five years. Banks' progress did not stop there as he then defeated fourth seed Kevin Caldon in the quarter-final. The other three quarter-finals all featured players from the host club as Hari Gehlot and Rob Hansell eliminated Rory Scott and Daniel Heo respectively but Steve Joel fell to top seed Paul Carter.

Banks' run eventually came to a halt when he lost to Carter in the semi-final, despite winning the first game while Rob emerged successfully from his encounter with Hari.

The overall winner was Cippenham star Rob Hansell as the second seed successfully defended the crown he won in January 2025 by beating Paul Carter 13-11, 11-3, 11-5.

The afternoon Women's Singles event was, like the veterans' event in the morning, contested by four players, three of these being the same players. Bhanu Sabaratnam once again emerged victorious without dropping a game with the runner-up being Cippenham's Chloe Ireland.



As in the earlier veterans' event, the players lined up in eight groups for the All-Comers' Singles. The group winners were Sammy Kaye, Hasitha Udara, Kiarash Shaddel, Joe Britnell, Quentin Kwan, Vadym Krevs, Sanjiv Malhotra and Steve Joel. Six of these made it through to the quarter-finals, the exceptions being Malhotra who was beaten by Chandupa Alahakoon and Steve Joel who lost out to Krevs. They were joined by Hari Gehlot who won a battle between two group runners-up.

Once into the quarters, Udara beat Kwan 3-2 in a close match decided only at deuce in the fifth game, Britnell and Shaddel won their matches 3-1 against Krevs and Alahakoon respectively while top seed Kaye dropped only fifteen points in making light work of Hari Gehlot.

## Cippenham 5x2 Senior & Veterans 1-Star Results

| Event      | Winner                 | Runner-up               |
|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| All-Comers | Sammy Kaye (Bk)        | Hasitha Udara (He)      |
| WS         | Bhanu Sabaratnam (WAL) | Chloe Ireland (Bk)      |
| A-C VS     | Robert Hansell (Bu)    | Paul Carter (Sx)        |
| WVS        | Bhanu Sabaratnam (WAL) | Christine Williams (Gs) |
| A-C Cons   | Darius Atashroo (Mi)   | Ryan Li (Mi)            |
| A-C VCons  | Richard Comley (Gs)    | Bhanu Sabaratnam (WAL)  |

Kaye was now in full flow and won the title by beating Shaddel 11-7, 11-7, 11-4 in the semi-final and Udara 11-7, 11-8, 11-4 in the final leaving Richard West, in the preliminary group, as the only player to take games off Kaye the entire day.

The tournament was organised by Paul Baker and refereed by Sue Hayes.

## JBCL and CBCL team selections update

### Junior British Clubs League

#### Cippenham A

Nayan Yelkur; Aaron Mendonca; Arjan Dhillon; Alexander Taylor

#### Cippenham B

Jude Marshall; Shaurya Bapna; Yuvan Varshney; Vivaan Dhankhar

#### Cippenham C

Avyan Varshney; Shay Bhambra; Ishaan Dhankhar; Dylan Bhambra

### Cadet British Clubs League

#### Cippenham A

Yuvan Varshney; Vivaan Dhankhar; Karam Tucker

#### Cippenham B

Cylan Bhambra; Ayaan Zaib; Soham Chattopadhyay

#### Cippenham C

Avyab Varshney; Ushaan Dhankhar; Emmanuel John

## Key Club Contacts

### Chair & Events Officer

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### Coaching Enquiries

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## Weekday Timetable

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

## Fees Season 2026-27

|                                          | 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    |
| Junior British Clubs League registration | n/a    | £20.00 |
| Cadet British Clubs League registration  | n/a    | £20.00 |
| Practice Fees                            | £4.50  | £2.50  |
| British Clubs Leagues match fees (home)  | £7.50  |        |
| Maidenhead League Match Fees             | £4.50  | £2.50  |
| Coaching Fees (Monday) (per term )       |        | £40.00 |
| Coaching Fees (Wednesday) (per term )    |        | £50.00 |

## Weekend Diary

|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Oct 11    | Heathrow League (1)                |
| Oct 17    | Junior British Clubs League (1)    |
| Oct 24    | County Championships Veterans      |
| Nov 7/8   | Senior British Clubs League (2)    |
| Nov 14    | Bucks Closed Championships         |
| Nov 15    | Heathrow League (2)                |
| Nov 21    | Junior British Clubs League (2)    |
| Nov 28    | Cippenham Women & Girls' 1-Star    |
| Nov 29    | Cadet British Clubs League (1)     |
| Dec 5/6   | County Championships Seniors       |
| Dec 12    | County Championships Veterans      |
| Dec 13    | Heathrow League (3)                |
| Jan 9     | Reading League Individual Handicap |
| Jan 10    | Cadet British Clubs League (2)     |
| Jan 16    | Senior British Clubs League (3)    |
| Jan 17    | Cippenham Team 1-Star              |
| Jan 23    | Junior British Clubs League (3)    |
| Jan 24    | Heathrow League (4)                |
| Jan 30    | County Championships Over-60s      |
| Jan 31    | Cadet British Clubs League (3)     |
| Feb 27    | Junior British Clubs League (4)    |
| Mar 6     | County Championships Veterans      |
| Mar 7     | Reading Closed Championships       |
| Mar 14    | Cadet British Clubs League (4)     |
| Mar 21    | Heathrow League (5)                |
| Apr 3/4   | Senior British Clubs League (4)    |
| May 3(BH) | Cippenham Under-13/17 1-Star       |

## Cippenham Women and Girls 1-star

Saturday 28 November 2026



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