



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2018-19

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the forty-sixth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the twenty-third since the opening of our purpose-built premises. This has been another successful year, the highlights of which were:

- Our team in the Senior British League finishing second in its division;
- A triple success in the Maidenhead League with teams winning Division 1, Division 2 and the Knock-out Handicap Competition;
- Rachael Iles' success in finishing runner up in the Under-12 National Cup;
- The continued success of the Club's programme of open tournaments with entry levels at or near capacity.

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 but 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 but this access is used only during weekend events.

The floor of the playing hall was renewed in January 2016 and was initially a little troublesome with reports from players of slipperiness. To combat this, in January 2017, £1,500 was invested in a cleaning machine and the regular use of this has relieved much of the problem and the floor is improving all the time.

The Centre owns 20 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables, 9 of which were purchased in September 2016 and the remainder about four years previously. Two of these are damaged and are currently out of service. A selection of net and posts sets services those tables with the most recently purchased being retained for weekend events. There are also 12 Butterfly scoring machines plus some older ones that remain in service 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 make use of a 12-table configuration although this configuration prevents access to the main amenities block.

The lights in the playing hall were all replaced in August 2018, an exercise we undertake every three years or so to maintain the lux at suitable levels. The fans were also serviced at the same time. The Club is indebted to Dave Tant for his tremendous work in this area and for Keith Hall in assisting him.

Cleaning of the premises has been performed internally for several years, saving the Club a considerable amount of money, and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips and Emma Human who take on much of this process.

Administration and Management

The 2018 Annual General Meeting was attended by nine 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	June 19	7
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	7	September 11	8
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	5	October 9	5
Elena Tant	Bookings Officer	5	November 30	6
Julia Piercey*	Events Officer	7	February 8	8
Keith Hall	General Committee member	7	March 22	7
Elroy Hull*	General Committee member	3	May 17	6
Bassam Mocharrafe	General Committee member	2		
Dave Tant	General Committee member	4		

*Julia Piercey and Elroy Hull were co-opted onto the Management Committee at its first meeting.

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. Sue Hayes joined the Committee in 1999. 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:	Ken Phillips	Weekday Duty Managers:	Sue Hayes & Ken Phillips
Volunteer Champion:	Ken Phillips	Club Championships Organizer:	Elena Tant
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips	Grand Prix Administrator:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Catering Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Facilities Manager:	Ken Phillips
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Health & Safety Advisor:	Dave Tant
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming	Anniversary Party Organiser:	Charles Mitchell
Calendar Coordinator:	Elena Tant	Club Supply Agent:	Sue Hayes
Members' Supply Agent:	Sue Hayes		

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

The following sub-committees were also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund:	Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
Calendar:	Elena Tant; Sue Hayes; Ken Phillips; Julie 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
Sue Hayes:	General Secretary and National Councillor for Buckinghamshire Association;
Graham Trimming:	Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
Steve Smith:	Referee for Cadet & Junior National Championships; Senior National Championships Qualifier; Cardiff Grand Prix; Crawley Grand Prix; Jersey Grand Prix; London Grand Prix; Inter-Service Championships; Bishop Auckland 2-Star Open;
Denise Weller:	General Secretary of the Newbury League;
Wendy Porter:	Tournament Organiser, Coaching Officer and Junior/Youth Officer for the Reading League;
Jan Chapman:	Management Committee member of Maidenhead Association;
Ricky Hardcastle:	Publicity Officer of Maidenhead Association;
Mark Banks:	Divisional Fixtures Secretary for Reading & District League;
Chris Collins:	General Secretary for Maidenhead Association.

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

For more than seventeen years the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and this role is currently performed extremely well by Emma Human while Harry Coles also performed the role for a period of time last summer.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Since the start of 2018 the set-up teams have been arranged individually for each event and usually comprise members of the Club's Management Committee to whom we express our thanks.



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; Jacque 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 three 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.



One of the annual highlights is the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went to Keith Hall for his all-round contribution to the Club. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Junior Player of the Year award perpetuates the names of Alan Farral and Terry Boxall in its title and was presented to Anna Piercey. The Senior Player of the Year award went to Ashley Shaw in recognition of his performances for the Cippenham Saxons team, champions of the Maidenhead League.

Away from the Club, Steve Smith was awarded the Chris Moffat Memorial Trophy for his outstanding contribution to the RAF Table Tennis Association.

Training has always been a key part of volunteer investment. In May, another first aid course was conducted by Elroy Hull and his colleagues at St John's Ambulance Brigade and we are very thankful for to them for this.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 139, 18 more than from the same stage last year. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2018 was 122, 8 up on the previous year. It is gratifying that membership numbers have increased in recent years but they are still only about 60% of what they were two decades ago. However, the premises remain busy during the twice weekly practice sessions and that is the true indication of the healthy state of the Club.

Over the past twelve months a total of 64 players have represented the club in match play, five more than in the previous year. 19 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, a much higher number than in the previous year. 18 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, the same as in the previous season. 6 teams were operated in British leagues, 7 in National leagues and 5 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 46 years old and during that time a total of 841 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances with over 1,600. During the season Sue Hayes became the seventh player to pass 500 appearances while Dave Tant completed his first century. The all-time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1622	George Appleby	372	Steve Joel	278
Peter Hillier	858	Frank Cowley	363	Dave Pountney	276
Mike Rhodes	686	David Hayes	350	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	Robert Hansell	343	Roland Clapton	257
Paul Baker	598	Martin Adams	339	Denise Weller	247
Ken Phillips	549	Georgia Veneer	336	Jane Dickens	235
Sue Hayes	508	Rodney Potts	316	Ashley Shaw	222
Neil Bird	435	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Armando Borges	423	Gemma Chapman	282	Anna Watton	204
Jackie Wood	403	Jacque Lovell	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Gareth Lovell	381	Wendy Barlow	279	Steve Dorrell	202
				Catherine Hayes	200

It was the youngsters that played in both the National Junior and National Cadet leagues that were the busiest during the past season. William Saint played in all 30 matches while Anna Piercey played 29, Isam Sousseing 28, Jaiden Caldeira 27, Kwame Sousseing 26, Mateusz Skowera 25 and Rachael Iles 24.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £1,865 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £2,260. This is consistent with what the previous year would have been if we had not been faced with a huge bill for roof repairs.

Revenues decreased when compared to the previous year by about £3,700. This can largely be attributed to the lack of a Junior 4-Star Open tournament in this financial year as its date, in May 2019, fell into the next financial year. Other revenue streams balance one another out: a reduction in coaching revenue by nearly £1,000 and match fees by £500 was offset by £700 additional practice income and £300 additional membership fees.

Direct expenditure was significantly lower than the previous year even after eliminating the effect of the roof repair and redecoration carried out in 2017-18. League fees were down by about £700, reflecting the reduction in the number of teams in the Senior and Women's British leagues while teams' expenses also fell by £900 for the same reason. The lack of a Junior 4-Star open reduced the expense of running our tournaments by about £1,100.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that as at 30 April 2019 stood at £78,190, nearly £5,000 more than at the same time the previous year as very little investment in the building or equipment has been carried out in the past year. £52,606 cash is invested at Cater Allen on a term deposit paying interest at 0.7% p.a. Another £16,737 is currently in a deposit account with Barclays paying negligible interest, while the remainder is in a current account with NatWest and a small amount remains in the new PayPal account. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £95,709.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. Annual membership fees are £18, 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 advanced coaching and 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 second time this season. In the British leagues a £5 match fee (50% in the Junior British League) is payable with players also contributing their individual registration fees. This fee structure has remained unchanged now for many years and the healthy state of the Club's finances means that there is no requirement for an increase.

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 activities and successes have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers: Slough Express, Slough Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 19 reports have been submitted during the year and all of them found their way into at least two of the three local newspapers with the Maidenhead Advertiser including every report submitted. The Slough Express printed 16 reports and the Slough Observer 15. A total of 1,125 column inches was achieved across the three publications, 25% more than the previous season. The last six years have seen action photographs submitted along with many of the reports and this has led to increased publicity during that period of time. A record 73 photographs appeared in the local newspapers this year compared to 60 in the previous season. Most of the photographs were taken by Graham Trimming. Reports of all open tournaments, along with 15 photographs, also appeared on the Table Tennis England website.



Four members of the Club attended the opening of the Ping-Pong Parlour in Slough's Queensmere shopping centre and left flyers there to be picked up by users. Ken Phillips also organised a come and try session at the equivalent parlour in Maidenhead. Some new players have been attracted to the Club's sessions as a result of visits to these parlours.

In May 2018 Graham Trimming revised the Club's website and the current (third) incarnation uses the Wix software and platform. It is now a much more modern type of website, optimised also for viewing 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 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 2018 to May 2019: 3,735 users; 6,913 sessions; 19,179 page views. The most visitors in any single day was 129 on January 7th when the report from the Team 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. Postings on Facebook are automatically sent to Twitter. The Club has 721 followers on Facebook, up from 681 a year ago, and 550 on Twitter, up from 493. Facebook postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account which has 59 followers. A further 15 albums of photographs have been uploaded this year, all by Graham Trimming. Together, they represent 3,700 photos and the albums have attracted well over 3,300 views. These statistics show that this service is appreciated by members and visitors. The photographic backdrop purchased in November 2015 is used for most of the presentation photographs.

An edition of the Club newsletter has also been published eight times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. The articles are enhanced by many photographs and the publication is reproduced in colour on the Club's own photocopier.

The Club had to take heed of the new GDPR regulations in the summer of 2018. This involved drafting and agreeing a Data Privacy Policy which can be found on the Club's website. It also involved the replacement of the mailing list for tournament entry forms with a new list comprising only those players who had specifically requested to be included. Prior to the new regulations being in force, all players on the old list were contacted and asked if they wished to be included and this initial new list has been added to by players requesting inclusion via a tick box on tournament entry forms and also by a sign-up form from the Club's website.

Online entry forms for four of the Club's open tournaments have also been created for the first time this season and this allows participants to enter completely online and make payment of their fees via Paypal. This has worked particularly well with approximately half of the entrants using this modern and much quicker form of entry.

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.

Until 2010 catering at weekend events was carried out by volunteers but has since been sub-contracted on a commercial basis. Former Club member Bhanu Muralitharan and her family have been providing this valuable service, much appreciated by patrons, since September 2014.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television is also a popular attraction. Broadband wifi was installed five 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 365's website.

The twenty-second annual party, once again organised and hosted by Charles Mitchell, was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. In the week before Christmas, a Festive Grand Prix was held during which mulled wine and mince pies were an additional attraction to the table tennis. This is now a popular annual event.



Venue Utilisation

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

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Elite 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

One team from Old Gordonians TTC also played their home matches in the Maidenhead League at Cippenham on Tuesday evenings.

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 very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by Table Tennis England and Buckinghamshire County Association while the Maidenhead and Reading leagues continue to hold their annual championships 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. Thanks are also due to Sue Hayes and Elena Tant who have assisted in this area.



The Club was delighted that the County Championships Senior Premier Division stayed at Cippenham. We also hosted all four 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, organised by Mike Atkinson.

A full list of external events (June 2018-May 2019), totalling 33 weekend days, four more than in the previous year, was as follows.

Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	Senior British League (7)
	National Junior League (4)
	National Cadet League (4)
Southern Region:	Inter-Region Qualification Tournament (1)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (8)
	Bucks Closed Championships (1)
Berks County TTA:	Berkshire Inter-Town (1)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading & DTTA:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Paul Drinkhall:	Training day (1)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

The open tournament programme remained the same as in the previous year with a total of six open tournaments, covering eight days of play, have been staged by the Club at the Centre since the last report.

Month	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun '18	Young Players' Summer Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	136
Sep '18	Super 6 Senior 2-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	48
Nov '18	Super 6 Veterans' 1-Star	Graham Trimming	Wendy Porter	50
Jan '19	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	25 pairs
Mar '19	5 by 2 Senior/Veterans' 1-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	76
May '19	Junior 4-Star	Mike Atkinson	Steve Smith	145

The Junior 4-star takes a great deal of organising and an army of umpires is assembled for each day. The Organiser was Mike Atkinson while Steve Smith used his National Referee qualification and Ken Phillips acted as Entries Secretary and Assistant Organiser and was responsible for much of the organisation. Graham Trimming, Dave Tant and Elena Tant together produced the Draw Sheet, while Graham also looked after the publicity and took the photographs. Julia Piercey assisted on the control desk while she and Keith Hall and Steve Piercey booked in the players. The tournament ran over two days with cadet events on the Saturday and junior events on the Sunday.



The format of all tournaments remained the same as season 2017-18. Two of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 1-Star or 2-Star Opens and catered for open and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. Another tournament was branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Open and featured two age groups in the same day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 players in each event. The Young Players' Summer Festival is effectively two Five by Two's on consecutive days, under-12 and under-14 on Saturday, under-16 and under-18 on Sunday. Entry levels were generally very good with participation at or near maximum levels except for the Summer Festival and the Junior 4-Star which, although attracting a decent entry, was well down on previous years because of summer exams.

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

Anna Piercey won the Under-12 Girl's Singles at the Young Players' Summer Festival while Hari Gehlot was a winner twice in the Veterans' Singles at the Super 6 Veterans' 1-Star and also the 5 by 2 Senior & Veterans' 1-Star. At the YPSF Club members also gained two runners-up awards: Shae Thakker in the U16 Boys' Singles and Rachael Iles in the U12 Girls' Singles.



Club Championships

The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past eleven seasons with the senior events played during practice evenings. At the time of presentation of this report, the Junior Singles has not yet been played and is scheduled for a Monday evening in June. The four events played so far have yielded different winners of each and the full list can be found in the Appendix.

Festive Grand Prix

For the eighth year a Festive Grand Prix was organised in the week before the Christmas shutdown. This was organised using the standard Grand Prix format with the added encouragement of mulled wine and mince pies. A record twenty-three players took part and the winner was Shae Thakker.

Summer Grand Prix

A pre-season Grand Prix was run over six weeks during August and September. A total of twenty-one players took part and the winner was Bassam Mocharrafie.

Team Competitions

The Club ran eighteen teams in various leagues this season, the same as in the previous season.

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	Captain and Secretary:	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:	Ashley Shaw; Igor Liiko; Harry Coles; Elena Tant; Walter Aldridge
	Selection Sub-Committee:	Elena Tant; Keith Hall; Dave Tant; Graham Trimming

Sign-up for teams to represent the Club in the Maidenhead League was performed a different way this season. Instead of sign-up being part of the annual membership form, thus requiring the membership form to be completed and submitted earlier than would otherwise have been necessary, a separate sign-up form, in both hard copy and online versions, was created. This proved very successful and will be repeated this year.

British League Competitions

The Club ran only six teams in the British leagues, two fewer than in the previous season. The second teams in the Senior British League and Women's British League were dropped and, in the Junior British League, a boys' team replaced a girls' team.



The Senior British League team were placed in National Division B-4 with all matches being played at Cippenham. This proved to be a far better season than the last few and the team acquitted themselves really well, finishing runners-up only to a very strong Ellenborough side that won every match. Robert Hansell and Martin Adams were both exceptional with averages of 90% and 86% respectively and Martin won the award for the player in the division with the most wins.

In the Women's British League our team finished a disappointing fifth in Division 5A, winning only two of their ten matches.

The men's teams in the Veterans' British League were severely hampered by the non-availability of two of the three first-team players during the first weekend. Worse was the follow when it was discovered, after Saturday's matches had been concluded, that Silviu Garduli was ineligible through age. His results were duly expunged from the records. Back to full strength, the men's first team then picked up nine points out of ten during the second weekend and finished third in Division 2A. The second team also finished third in their Division 4B. There were a number of good performances with Mark Banks losing only once in ten while Hari Gehlot did extremely well to finish with 80% and Martin Adams 70% from his one weekend. The women's team made it a hat-trick of third place finishes for the club in Division 2A with Mary Heffernan gaining 71% win rate on debut.

Third was a popular finishing position with the junior boys' team emulating their older counterparts in Junior British League Division 4B. With William Fricker injured for the first weekend, Mihnea Dascalu was drafted in and responded with a 78% win rate while Shae Thakker did well with 60%.

National League Competitions

Seven teams were entered in total this season, three in the National Junior League and four in the National Cadet League.

In the National Junior League all three teams remained throughout in their originally allotted divisions. The A team finished fourth in Division 1, the B team also fourth in Division 2 and the C team bottom of Division 4. The best individual performance came from the fast improving William Saint who won 60% of his matches for the B team.

The non-availability of four players hit our teams hard during the final stage of the National Cadet League with players having to be promoted through the teams and inexperienced players drafted in. That led to a disappointing final round in which only the A team, who finished fifth in Division 1, were not rooted to the foot of their respective divisions. Round 2 had seen our teams fifth in Division 1, third in Division 2 and first and second in Division 4. Kwame Sousseing, Rachael Iles, Anna Piercey and Isam Sousseing all achieved win rates of 60% or higher in their original divisions.

Local Leagues

The Club ran five teams in the Maidenhead League this season, one more than in the previous season and is now alone as the club with the most teams in the league.



Saxons successfully defended the league title and this became the ninth time that Cippenham has won the Maidenhead League. Congratulations to the team of Ashley Shaw, Oli Shaw, Ricky Hardcastle, Graham Trimming and Albert Cheung. The new Cossacks team finished sixth in the top division.

Trojans made it a double for the Club with success in Division 2. Congratulations to Chris Clifford, Harry Coles, Keith Hall and Sue Hayes. Unfortunately, our two other teams in this division, Titans and Spartans, finished in the bottom two places.

Oli Shaw, Ashley Shaw, Ricky Hardcastle and Chris Clifford all finished with averages over 75%.

The Maidenhead Knock-Out Handicap competition provided a second successive win for Cippenham when the Titans team of Walter Aldridge, Lucie Bouron and Akeel Mir beat OLOP Bears in the final.

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.

There are three weekly coaching groups. On Mondays, it is the advanced class for invited players. Wednesday sees a smaller squad of hand-picked players in the elite group and on Thursdays there is the beginners' class to which everyone is welcome and is where young players are first introduced to the Club.

Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for about 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 has also assisted Ken greatly with the Monday group. The Thursday session has been run by Sue Hayes and Ken.

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

Tournament Successes for Individuals

The highlight of the year was when Rachael Iles, seeded fifth, surpassed expectations and was runner-up in the Under-12 National Cup.

Locally, Robert Hansell swept to a hattrick of titles at the Bucks Closed Championships while Mary Heffernan won two events. The Maidenhead Closed Championships were not so successful for Club members although Ricky Hardcastle won two events including the Mixed Doubles in tandem with Lucie Bouron.



Representative Honours and Rankings

Shae Thakker and Lucie Bouron have both been selected for GB representation at an international para event abroad.

Three players qualified from the Inter-Regional Qualification Tournament to play in the finals but two have since become ineligible because their rankings have improved. Only one player from the Club, Anna Piercey, therefore represented the Southern Region in those finals.

Ten Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with Robert Hansell and Steve Munson being honoured by the first team. William Fricker, Pranav Gudipati, Shristi Ghosh, Shae Thakker and Jemma Walker all appeared for the county junior team while Pranav also appeared for the cadets alongside Anna Piercey and William Saint.

Steve Munson appeared also for the veterans' first team while Mary Heffernan played for the second team.

Twenty Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories. Many players appeared in more than one list. Four made it into the top twenty and these were Martin Adams, 20 in Veteran Men, Julie Lawrence 11 in Veteran Women and Rachael Iles and Anna Piercey who were 10 and 11 respectively in the under-13 girls.

The Club has two para players ranked in the World: Lucie Bouron (Class 3) is ranked 28 while Shae Thakker (Class 10) is 51 in the seniors and 19 in the juniors (under-23). In the British rankings Lucie and Shae are joined by Jaiden Caldeira. In their respective senior lists, Lucie is top, Shae is second and Jaiden sixth. In the junior lists, Shae is top and Jaiden fourth, both in the Standing Class 6-11 category.

Obituaries



In January we bade a sad farewell to former Chairman (1987-1997) Alec Watson. Alec played for our pioneering team in the National League in the early eighties and was also the number one player in Cippenham teams that won numerous Maidenhead League titles during the same period. Alec was for many years the number one player in Buckinghamshire and was once ranked in the top ten veteran players in the country. His legacy also includes being Chairman of the Building Committee responsible for the creation of our purpose-built premises.

Another of our debut National League team from 1981, Viv McCarthy, also sadly passed away at too early an age during the year. Others who have unfortunately left us during the past year include former Management

Committee member John Lloyd and players Ken Human, Bob Keeley and Rodney Potts.

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

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2019