



# Cippenham Table Tennis Club

## Annual Report 2025-26

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### Highlights of the Year

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

- National titles won by Rachael Iles, Sai Prasanna Kumar and Mia Lakhani;
- Rachael Iles' selection for England women's team at the Home Countries International;
- Winning Division 2A of the Senior British Clubs League, representing an immediate return back up to the division above;
- A third-place finish in the Girls' Premier Division in the Youth British Clubs League, an improvement of one place;
- Retaining the Maidenhead League title;
- Sue Hayes' award of Vice-President of Table Tennis England;
- The continued success and attendances at the Club's three weekly coaching sessions;

### 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 school block but this access is used only during some weekend events.

The lighting in the playing hall was completely renewed with LED lamps in the summer of 2024 as part of an overhaul of the electrical installation throughout the entire school premises. The Club specified a minimum lux level of 750 and this was achieved, improving the overall intensity and coverage.

The Centre owns 19 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables of which the most recently acquired are nine that were purchased in August 2023. The school is permitted to use the ten older tables but has decided against sharing the cost for the nine newer ones. A selection of net and posts sets services those tables. The Club has renovated thirteen scoring devices with home-made laminated numbers as it has been impossible to find commercial products which stand up to the rigours of the use required of them. The courts are enclosed by eighty Butterfly-branded screens purchased in November 2023.

There are also about 70 quality spectator chairs which are stored on a purpose-designed trolley.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events. These configurations cater for four Grade 4 courts, rarely used, or eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size. The Senior British Clubs League is hosted on eight Grade 3 courts. The Junior and Cadet British Clubs Leagues utilise a 12-table configuration that exceeds Grade 1 requirements but is slightly smaller than the suggested Grade 2 and this configuration prevents access to the main amenities block.

In the lounge there are 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 professionally-maintained drinking water dispenser for topping up players' water bottles.

Issues arose during the year with access through the main entrance door. The complications arose from the newly installed timed automatic opening and the necessity, at times, for a card to operate this. Lengthy discussions with the school finally resolved this.

More recently, while demolition works have been in progress adjacent to our building, access via the usual route has been impossible. The school provided alternative access from the specially created car park compound erected on the playing field. After a week or so of teething difficulties, this worked satisfactorily and this phase of the building work has completed. Unfortunately, further disruption is due when the rebuilding phase gets underway in the summer.

During the year, after rejecting extraordinary external quotes, much effort was expended in tidying up and making repairs to the washrooms and the Club is indebted to Tim Kiteley and Keith Hall for their work in this respect. Thanks are also due to the members and their families who spent a few hours at the Club just before the start of the season cleaning the premises and all the equipment therein. A great effort!

## Administration and Management

The Annual General Meeting, held in June 2025, was attended by eleven members and elected the following Management Committee which met seven times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Sue Hayes	Chairman/Events Officer	6	19 June	9
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	7	4 July	6
Tim Kiteley	Deputy Chairman	6	25 September	7
Martin Adams	Social Officer	3	13 November	7
Randall Rodrigues	Bookings Officer	7	22 January	7
Keith Hall	General Committee member	7	26 March	8
Elroy Hull	General Committee member	3	14 May	6
Steve Piercey	General Committee member	6		
Jyothi Puttaswamy	General Committee member	5		

No nominations were made for the positions of Coaching Officer, Club Captain or 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 also has extensive experience both with the Club and Bucks and also previously in roles at other leagues. Elroy Hull served many seasons on the Slough & District League committee as Inter-League Secretary. Ken Phillips, while no longer a member of the Management Committee, continues to play an influential role which he has done for four decades.

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:	Jyothi Puttaswamy
Volunteer Champion:	Randall Rodrigues	Club Championships Organizer:	Martin Adams
Facilities Manager:	Tim Kiteley	Festive Evening Organiser:	Martin Adams
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Calendar Coordinator:	Randall Rodrigues
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes & Tim Kiteley
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Club Supply Agent:	Tim Kiteley
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Members' Supply Agent:	Tim Kiteley
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming		

In addition, secretaries and captains were appointed for all teams and organizers and referees were 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: Randall Rodrigues; Sue Hayes; 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:

Sue Hayes: General Secretary, National Councillor and Selector (seniors; veterans; over-60s) for Buckinghamshire County Association; member of Table Tennis England Disability Select Committee  
 Graham Trimming: Auditor for the Maidenhead Association; member of the Table Tennis England Archives, Records and Museum Committee  
 Martin Adams: Chairman, Data Protection Officer, Press Officer and Divisional Fixtures Secretary for Reading Association  
 Ken Phillips: Tournament assessor for Table Tennis England

Jan Chapman: President and Management Committee member of Maidenhead Association  
 Hari Prasad: Treasurer of Maidenhead Association  
 Chloe Ireland: TTE Women and Girls Ambassador for South East Region  
 Steve Joel: National Councillor and Closed Championships Organiser for Somerset County Association

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

For more than twenty years the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This post has been filled since September 2024 by Bharath Prasanna Kumar, aided by his mother Jyothi Puttaswamy.

The use of online forms through the website continues to gather pace. This year, an online booking form for third-party hirers was added to the list that already included the Club's membership form, open tournament entry forms and sign-up forms for the Maidenhead League and for the tournament mailing list.

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 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 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; 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 ten Gold 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.

The usual annual awards were for the second time presented at the Festive Evening just before Christmas. The Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution of the Year Award was made to Jan Chapman for her dedicated work at the Club's coaching sessions. This is the third time that Jan has received this honour. The Player of the Year awards were made at the same time and these went to Mary Heffernan (senior) and to Sai Prasanna Kumar and Rachael Iles (junior).



Eleven Club members attended a six-hour first aid training course, held at the Club, in September. All gained an accreditation, thus improving the Club's ability to respond to medical emergencies and enhancing their own life skills. This was the most recent of several such courses hosted by the Club over many years and demonstrates the Club's commitment to providing a safe environment.

Huge congratulations to Sue Hayes who received the honour of Table Tennis England Vice-President at the national governing body's AGM in July 2025. Sue becomes the fifth member of Cippenham to receive this honour, quite a collection for one club!

Congratulations also to Chloe Ireland who was selected as one of only fifteen English umpires to officiate at the centenary World Team Championships first stage at the Copper Box Arena.

## Membership

Membership of the Club has remained fairly steady over the past year and currently stands at 233 compared to 253 this time last year. The final figure for last year, in August 2025, was 256.

Over the past twelve months a total of 59 players have represented the Club in match play, ten fewer than in the previous season. 13 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, seven fewer than in the previous season. Of these 13 debutants, 10 were juniors. 17 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, two fewer than in the previous season. 14 teams were operated in the British Clubs Leagues, incorporating the previously-named National Leagues, and three in the Maidenhead League. Additionally, there was also a team in each of the VETTS Super 50s and 60s Team Competitions.

The Club is now 53 years old and during that time a total of 943 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances with nearly 1,700. Unusually, no players made it past a century landmark this year. The all-time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1697	Gareth Lovell	381	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	858	George Appleby*	372	Steve Crow	268
Mike Rhodes	708	Frank Cowley*	363	Roland Clapton	257
Frank Earis*	669	David Hayes	350	Jane Dickens	235
Paul Baker	645	Georgia Veneer*	336	Ashley Shaw	234
Sue Hayes	641	Rodney Potts*	316	Julie Dean	226
Ken Phillips	549	Denise Weller	315	Ricky Hardcastle	217
Armando Borges	489	Steve Joel	310	James Milton	205
Martin Adams	470	Alec Watson*	301	Anna Watton	204
Neil Bird	435	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Robert Hansell	425	Jacquie Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
Jackie Napper	403	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200

- known to have deceased

The busiest players during the past season were the Prasanna Kumar brothers, Sai and Bharath, with 32 and 29 appearances respectively, followed by Mary Heffernan with 26.

## Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year show a surplus of £597 compared to £3,905 in the previous year. This surplus included £2,112 of bank interest covering an operating deficit of £1,515.

Gross revenues reduced by £5,393 to £29,865, largely due to the reduced number of open tournaments, especially the lack of a Junior 4-Star Open. Growth in lettings income, from the Heathrow League plus more extensive use for county sessions organised by Paul Baker of Surrey County Association, helped mitigate this.

Maintenance of the building and its functionality proved a bit costly this year. The £1,406 spent included £875 on repairs to the washrooms, especially leaks in the male cubicles, £184 share for a repair to the electrical cabinet door plus £388 for replacement keys.

Administrative expenses grew by £1,377 year on year. This was most due to expenditure of £603 relating to the upkeep of the defibrillator, a first aid training course costing £618 and additional wages for the weekday duty officer totalling £460, partly resulting from the enforced closure in the summer of 2024. Reductions in other expenditure categories mitigated some of this additional expense.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that on 30 April 2026 stood at £81,912. This is substantially lower than the previous year but that year's figure was skewed with £11,780 having to be paid out to The Westgate School in the first few days of May 2025. £68,886 is invested in a 95-day deposit, earning interest at 2.47% p.a., down from 3.44% p.a. a year ago, at NatWest Bank. The remainder of the cash is in other accounts at NatWest and Barclays plus a residual balance in Paypal into which the majority of fees have been paid during the past year. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £103,795.

A card reader, introduced in January 2024, is used at the Club to take the vast majority of weekday match fees, practice fees and weekend income from refreshments with the proceeds being credited to the Club's Paypal account. This facility supplements the cash payment option for which use is now very reduced. For a few years now, membership fees and entry fees for open tournaments have been collected via Paypal from which the balance is then transferred to the Club's Barclays account.

Headline fee rates remained the same as for the previous season, having been increased in summer 2024. The rate charged to external hirers is £30 per hour. Annual membership fees are £20, halved for concessions, but there is no longer an additional fee payable for registration in the Maidenhead League. Practice and local league match fees are £4.50, reduced to £2.50 for concessions. 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 £30 while those attending Wednesday evening elite coaching pay a fee of £40 each term. Players in the Junior and Cadet British Clubs Leagues pay a £13 fee to part cover the season's expenses although this cost has been covered by the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund for several years. In the other British Clubs Leagues a £5 match fee is payable with players also contributing £48 to the team entry fees, the individual registration fee having now been incorporated into the team fee by Table Tennis England. This fee structure has remained largely unchanged now for many years.

The Club is three years through a four-year contract with Tees Sport, signed in August 2023, for the supply of kit and equipment to the Club. This enables the Club and its members to benefit from generous discounts on a range of products.

The Club maintains the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund which was started many years ago with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees from all junior and younger age open tournaments run by the Club, but of which there have been none in the past season. 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. Press reports, usually accompanied by photographs from the event, have been submitted to the local newspapers in Slough and Maidenhead. Reports of open tournaments have also appeared on the Table Tennis England website.

Eight 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 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. The website is also used for the online membership form, online open tournament entry forms and payments, and for sign-ups for the Maidenhead League. An electronic booking form for third-party hires was also introduced this year. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club website in the country. However, Wix Analytics reports much reduced statistics for the twelve months from June 2025 to May 2026: 3,926 unique users (2025: 6,194); 6,659 sessions (2025: 11,166). Many of the membership and coaching enquiries received by the Club continue to 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 920 followers on Facebook, marginally down from 925 a year ago, and 620 on Twitter, a small increase from 606. Facebook and Twitter postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account which has 94 followers, up from 89. A further 7 albums of photographs have been uploaded onto Flickr this year, all by Graham Trimming. Together, they represent 2,359 photos and the albums have attracted over 1,300 views. These statistics are well below the previous year when there were more weekend events and a photographic service was available for all Senior British League weekends rather than just one.

Six editions of the Club's Newsletter have been published 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 eighty competitors plus their coaches and parents.

Catering has been provided for many of the weekend events and for this we extend our thanks to Jyothi Puttaswamy and her husband Kumar. Jyothi has been entirely responsible for sourcing the fare and the tasty delights she has served have proved very popular with visitors. This makes a tremendous difference to the experience of visitors.



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, renegotiated at a reduced cost by Randall Rodrigues last autumn, provides a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British Clubs League results onto Table Tennis England's website.

The former annual Anniversary Party was merged once again this year with the Festive Grand Prix, becoming a Festive Evening and took place a few days before Christmas. Thanks are due to Martin Adams who made the arrangements for this. There was plenty of food and drink and some games to aid to the merriment of the occasion. The evening was extremely well attended and witnessed the presentation of the annual awards. Some of the attendees just partied while a very encouraging number also took to the tables for a friendly hard-bat competition.

# Venue Utilisation

Ever 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.

Monday	6:00 to 7:30 pm 7:45 to 9:15 pm	Beginners' coaching group (term-time) Advanced coaching group (term-time)
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm 7:15 to 10:00 pm	Local league matches (seasonal) General practice
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Elite coaching (term-time)
Thursday	7:15 to 11:00 pm 7:15 to 10:00 pm	Local league matches (seasonal) 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 below, or used for tournaments organised by the Club.

On each occasion that the Centre is officially 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 Clubs League playing host to National Divisions B-2 and C-5. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. Thanks are also due to Steve Piercey and Randall Rodrigues who deputised for Graham when he could not be present. We also hosted all sessions of the Junior British Clubs League and Cadet British Clubs League. This season, Surrey County Associated extended their use of Cippenham to eight weekend dates and we were pleased to be able to offer a home to the Heathrow League on six occasions.

A full list of external events (June 2025-May 2026), totalling 34 weekend days was as follows:

### Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	Senior British Clubs League (7) Junior British Clubs League (4) Cadet British Clubs League (4)
Buckinghamshire County TTA:	County Championships sessions (2)
Royal County of Berkshire TTA:	Inter-Town Competition (1)
Surrey County TTA:	County Championships sessions (8)
Reading & DTTA:	Reading Closed Championships (1) Individual Handicap Competition (1)
Heathrow League:	Heathrow League (6)

### Midweek dates:

Maidenhead & DTTA:	Handicap Knock-Out Final
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## Club Events

### Open Tournaments

The Club scheduled only two open tournaments for the season, as follows:

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
18 Jan 2026	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Ken Phillips	24 pairs
1 Mar 2026	Women & Girls' 1-Star	Margaret Thornton	Sue Hayes	26

Following an initiative by the British Clubs League Committee, the Team 2-Star Open took the empty Sunday spot during the third weekend of the Senior British Clubs League and the decision was taken to upgrade from 1-star to 2-star status. This tournament is for teams of two players and, following a short preliminary round in groups of three, utilizes the progressive knock-out format to ultimately place all twenty-four teams in their ranking order. As is always the case, this tournament sold out weeks before the official closing date.

In contrast, the turnout for the Women and Girls' event was disappointingly low but this did not spoil the competitiveness or enjoyment of the event. The day featured three competitions. In the morning there were separate events for the under-21s and the over-21s and then both age groups came together in the afternoon for the Open Singles. This event is one of several such events across the country as Table Tennis England endeavours to promote female participation in the sport.



It was impossible to find a date, which satisfied Table Tennis England, for the usual 5x2 Senior & Veterans' 1-Star Open and so this tournament has been deferred until September.

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

## Club Championships



The Club Championships ran in its now familiar format on weekday evenings with the senior events played in May while the Junior Singles has been deferred until after the date of this report. Sai Prasanna Kumar, at just twelve years of age, was the winner of the Open Singles while Sai also combined with Maciej Dlugozima to win the Open Doubles. The Veterans' Singles was successfully defended by Hari Gehlot and the Tweenies' Singles provided a gold medal for new member Srinika Selvam.

Thanks are due to Martin Adams and Graham Trimming who organised the events which were reasonably well supported.

## Hard-Bat Competition

At the Festive Evening, twenty-seven players took part in a singles competition organised by Martin Adams with the title being retained by Jamie Woodford.

# Team Competitions

The Club ran nineteen teams in various leagues and competitions this season.

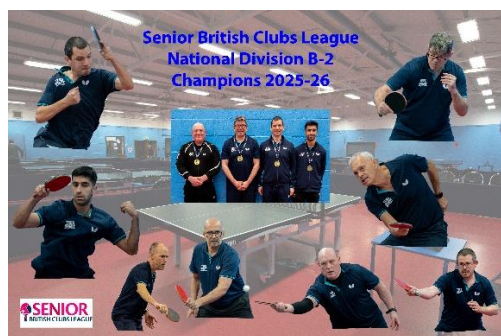
The following managerial positions were appointed and are acknowledged with thanks for their time and energy:

Senior British Clubs League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams, assisted by Ken Phillips
Women's British Clubs League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
Veterans' British Clubs League	Captains and Secretaries:	Paul Baker, assisted by Martin Adams; Denise Weller
Youth British Clubs League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
VETTS Super 60/70 Comp	Captain and Secretary:	Sue Hayes
Junior British Clubs League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips assisted by Tim Kiteley
Cadet British Clubs League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips assisted by Tim Kiteley
Maidenhead League	Captain:	Amit Kumar
	Secretary:	Graham Trimming
	Team Captains:	Graham Trimming; Peter Chipperton; Amit Kumar
	Selection Sub-Committee:	Sue Hayes; Steve Piercey; Randall Rodrigues; Graham Trimming

## British Clubs League Competitions

The Club ran eight teams in the main (Senior; Women's; Veterans; Youth) British Clubs League, two fewer than in the previous season following the dropping of the second boys' team and the second women's team, plus three in each of the junior and cadet leagues.

### Senior British Clubs League



Cippenham was once again the host venue for both our teams in the Senior British Clubs League. The first team excelled in winning National Division B-2, winning all but one of their matches, to reclaim the position they had in Division A prior to relegation the previous season. Shae Thakker won eleven of his twelve matches while ever-present team captain Martin Adams recorded a win rate of nearly eighty percent. Andy Norwood contributed a high percentage of wins when called upon and Rob Hansell, David Barr, Hari Gehlot and Martin Gray all also achieved high win rates.

The second team maintained their sixth-place finish in National Division C-5 but that was a little disappointing. The one really bright note was the performance of young Sai Prasanna Kumar who achieved a staggering ninety percent win rate.

## Women's British Clubs League

With the veteran ladies having decided not to compete in the Women's British Clubs League this season, the Club fielded only one team. The team was represented by the same personnel that had won successive divisional titles and promotions in the previous two years but this time they had to settle for third place in Division 1 having secured seven points out of a possible ten during the first weekend but only two during the second.

## Veterans British Clubs League

Mid-table finishes were the order for our three teams in the Veterans' British Clubs League this season. The men's first team, for whom Robert Hansell won seven matches out of ten in his only weekend, finished third in Division 1B, while the men's second team occupied a similar position in Division 3B. Steve Joel and Hari Gehlot both recorded high win rates for this team.

The women's team finished sixth out of eight in their Division 2 with no player able to win half of their matches.

## Youth British Clubs League

With Anna Piercey from the previous season's team overage, Alyssa Nguyen, who hails from Plymouth, was recruited to support Rachael Iles and Mia Lakani in our girls' team in the Premier Division of the Youth British Clubs League. With Alyssa and Rachael both gaining a seventy percent or better win rate, and Mia supporting well, the team finished one place higher in third place against the best girls' teams in the country.

Only one boys' team was entered into the League this season, the players from the previous year's first team having mostly reached the end of their junior lives. The team that did run excelled in winning Division 5 when Sai Prasanna Kumar won the final individual encounter of the final match, deep into the fifth game, over their nearest challengers. Sai finished with a superb record and was really well supported by Louis Alexander and Bharath Prasanna Kumar.



## Junior and Cadet British Clubs Leagues

Three teams were entered into both the Junior British Clubs League and Cadet British Clubs League this season. All the matches were played at Cippenham in divisions of four teams operating on each of four days with promotion and relegation operating between the days.

In the junior competition, the Club's A team started off well, coming second in Division 1 on the first day but then suffered a relegation only to fight back and end the season back in Division 1, albeit in fourth place. The B team yoyoed between Divisions 5 and 6 while the C team stayed all year in Division 6 which they won at the final attempt. George Driscoll and Rohan Bhide offered strength to an otherwise struggling A team while Armaan Koteshwar, Jude Marshall, Saavan Hunjan, Ayush Kulkarni and Shaurya Bapna all won more than half of their matches for the other two teams.

In the cadet competition, the A team spent most of the time in Division 3 which they won on the third day and finished the season in fourth place in Division 2. The B team started out in Division 5, got promoted and then relegated again but ended up winning Division 5, for the second time, on the final day. The C team started out by winning Division 6 and spent the rest of the season in Division 5. Rohan Bhide and Yuvan Varshney were the standout performers for their teams while Armaan Koteshwar and Ayush Kulkarni also won more than half of their matches.

## VETTS Team Competitions

This season the Club was represented by teams in two VETTS competitions: the over-60s, for the fourth year, and the newly inaugurated over-50s into which the team funded themselves.

The over-50s competition featured only one division of five teams, was very strong and our team finished fourth.

In the over-60s, our team was placed in Division 1, having been promoted last year, and finished fifth out of six.

## Maidenhead League

The Maidenhead League was reduced to one division of eight teams this season with Cippenham contributing three of those teams. Congratulations to the Cippenham Trojans team of Sai Prasanna Kumar, Jake Neilson, Hari Prasad and Graham Trimming with Albert Cheung also making five appearances. This is the fifteenth time that a Cippenham team has won the Maidenhead League and the eighth in a row. Cippenham Saxons finished fourth and Cippenham Spartans sixth. Sai went through the entire season unbeaten while Chloe Ireland, Mary Heffernan, Hari, Jake and Rohit Varshney all won more than sixty percent.

The Handicap Knock-Out Final was won by Spartans in the form of Rohit, Amit Kumar and Randall Rodrigues while Armando Borges and Steve Piercey featured in the semi-final.



## Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club for about four decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. The products of the Club's coaching scheme are currently being more successful, both collectively and individually, than has been the case for more than a decade.

The weekly timetable this year followed the pattern that was established in January 2022 after attendance numbers had increased following the post-Covid re-start. There were two classes on Monday, an early evening class for beginners and a later class for improvers. The elite class on Wednesday evening continues for the Club's better players. Attendances have increased to the extent that, for the second spring in a row, a waiting list had to be introduced.

Despite having relinquished all his titles, except for Lead Coach, Ken Phillips remains at the pinnacle of the Club's coaching activities, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising youngsters. The other busy Lead Coaches are Tim Kiteley and Jan Chapman. Randall Rodrigues and Margaret Thornton have also provided Ken with great assistance as have some of the Club's senior players who have helped as practice partners. Bharath and Sai Prasanna Kumar have also been a great help during the Monday beginners' sessions while Sue Hayes has assisted with the administration. Grateful thanks are due to all.



The Club welcomed a visit from TTE Coach Developer Aad Kwakkelstein in April. He witnessed a coaching session and later wrote a report following discussions with Ken Phillips and Tim Kiteley. One of the main topics of this discussion was succession planning.

The Club has recently nominated four members for the TTE Level 1 coaching course. These are Amit Kumar, Bharath Prasanna Kumar, Jyothi Puttaswamy and Randall Rodrigues.

Like football clubs and their academies, Cippenham Table Tennis Club can pride itself with successfully introducing players who have come up through the Club's coaching scheme into the Club's teams in the Senior British Clubs League. When George Driscoll played this season, he

became the thirtieth such graduate, a series which began back in season 1997-98 with Martin Rule, who, incidentally, turned out for Falmouth Docks at Cippenham this season. Robert Hansell is the most notable of such graduates, having amassed 244 appearances for the Club in the Senior British Clubs League since his debut in 1998-99 plus another 13 in the Veterans British Clubs League.

## Tournament Successes for Individuals

With neither of the usual local tournaments, the Bucks Closed Championships nor the Maidenhead Closed Championships, which usually provide a plethora of titles for Cippenham players, being run this year we have to look further afield for tournament successes.

Two Cippenham players featured for England and won events at the Home Nations Championships and these are detailed in the section below.

There was triple success at the National Series with Mai Lakhani winning the under-19 girls, Alyssa Nguyen the under-15 girls and Sai Prasanna Kumar the under-13 boys.

At the various English National Championships events, Alyssa Nguyen emerged with three titles including the Under-17 Girls' Singles while Rachael Iles got her first senior title when



winning the Under-21 Mixed Doubles. Sai Prasanna Kumar was our other winner with the Under-12 Boys' Doubles.

Andy Trott, not a local but who represents Cippenham in the Veterans British Clubs League, won two VETTS over-50s men's doubles titles.

## Representative Honours and Rankings



Rachael Iles takes the top honours this season having been promoted from the junior girls' team to play for the full England women's team in the Home Nations Championships in Dublin and earning a silver medal. Alyssa Nguyen, who despite hailing from Plymouth, represented Cippenham this season in the Youth British Clubs League, represented England cadet girls at the same event, winning gold in the team event and silver in the individual singles event. Alyssa was also selected for the five-player squad for England women at the centenary World Team Championships in London but was not selected to play in any of the team's matches.

Seven Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season, these being Robert Hansell, Sue Hayes, Mary Heffernan, Rachael Iles, Steve Munson, Dawn Pearce and Anna Piercey. Some played in multiple teams. Rachael and Anna were ever-present, and Robert missed only one of the matches, for the senior team as they were runners-up in Division 2A

The Maidenhead teams which played at the Berkshire Inter-League included seven players who represent the Club in that League. The Prasanna Kumar brothers, Bharath and Sai, represented the Maidenhead A team in the senior section and won the division.

An incredible number of twenty-three Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories over the past season. Several players have appeared in multiple lists. Six of these made it into the top twenty and these were Rachael Iles, Alyssa Nguyen and Mia Lakhani in multiple lists including Senior Women. Martin Adams and Andy Trott made the top twenty in Veteran Men, while Sai Prasanna Kumar did likewise in three of the youngest age groups. Sai was the only player to reach number one, that was in the boys' under-12s, while Rachael, Mia and Alyssa all reached top five positions in various categories. A full list can be found in the Appendix to this report.

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

**Graham Trimming**  
General Secretary  
June 2026