



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2022-23

Highlights of the Year

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

- Divisional titles and promotions for our top teams in the Senior British League and Veterans' British League;
- Running a second team in the Senior British League for the Club's junior players;
- Retaining the Maidenhead League Division 1 and Division 2 titles;
- The staging of the first Cippenham Women & Girls' Open;
- Increased attendances at the Club's Tuesday and Thursday practice sessions;
- The great success of the pre-Christmas Festive Evening;
- Completion of the bounce-back from the Covid intervention;
- Great financial result.

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

The Centre owns 19 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables. A selection of net and posts sets services those tables. Finding suitable scoring devices that do not break remains a big problem as no commercially produced devices have yet to demonstrate the quality we require. 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 but are now in need of replacement. Many of these surrounds are stacked on a specially design wheeled trolley.

There are also about 75 quality spectator chairs which are stored on a purpose-designed trolley. The Club also owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events. These configurations cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and eleven courts for lesser events. The National Junior and Cadet leagues utilise a 12-table configuration although this configuration prevents access to the main amenities block.

The playing hall is lit by 180 high-frequency fluorescent tubes in 45 installations. In order to maintain the lux level at or near its original rating of 600, these tubes are replaced every three years or so although this was last done in August 2018. A small experiment was carried out recently in which in one of the installations the fluorescent bulbs were replaced with LEDs. However, this did not provide the additional illumination that was hoped for.

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



Thanks are due to the seven 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 2022, was attended by only nine members and elected the following Management Committee which met six times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	5	June 24	9
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	6	September 20	5
Elena Tant	Deputy Chairman/Bookings Officer	5	November 15	8
Martin Adams	General Committee member	2	January 17	6
Keith Hall	General Committee member	6	March 10	7
Sue Hayes	General Committee member	3	April 13	6
Elroy Hull	General Committee member	5		
Steve Piercey	General Committee member	5		
Dave Tant	General Committee member	2		
Sunjay Thakker	General Committee member	2		

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

The Club benefits from having the services of people that have amassed a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973. Ken Phillips re-joined the Committee in 2012 after a few years absence but had been a foremost member for a great many years prior to that, including several as Chairman. Elena Tant joined the Committee in 2014 having previously served more than twenty years as League Secretary for the Maidenhead & District Association while Elroy Hull served many seasons on the Slough & District League committee as Inter-League Secretary.

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

The following appointments were made:

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

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

The following sub-committees were also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund:	Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
Calendar:	Elena Tant; Sue Hayes; Ken Phillips; 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 for the Buckinghamshire Association
Graham Trimming:	Auditor for the Maidenhead Association; member of Table Tennis England's Competition Review steering group and member of the Archives, Records and Museum Committee
Sue Hayes:	General Secretary and National Councillor for Buckinghamshire County Association
Steve Smith:	Referee for various events including National Junior and Cadet Championships and Grand Prix events
Jan Chapman:	President and Management Committee member of Maidenhead Association
Chris Collins:	General Secretary and Minutes Secretary of Maidenhead Association
Hari Prasad:	Treasurer of Maidenhead Association
Martin Adams:	Divisional Fixtures Secretary for Reading 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 resumed post-Covid in March 2022 and for the past year has been filled by Arjun Prasanna Kumar, aided by his mother Jyothi Puttaswamy.

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

The Lexmark photocopier, purchased in 2019, continued to be used for the copying of newsletters, scoresheets, etc, but has now reached the end of its useful life and has recently been replaced.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

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

The Club has a Privileged Membership scheme. This is awarded to Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year and a few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. There is also a higher tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two, but usually many more, years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for local league matches, coaching and practice. During the past year there have been nine Gold Privileged Members and two ordinary Privileged Members. A practice voucher scheme is in place, but rarely used, whereby volunteers are incentivised to assist the Club and are rewarded with a voucher that they can use to pay practice fees at a Tuesday or Thursday session.



The usual annual awards were reinstated, after a two-year Covid-related absence, and presented just before Christmas during an event which doubled as the Anniversary Party and Annual Awards with the Festive Grand Prix. The Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution of the Year Award was made to Jyothi Puttaswamy for her assistance with the Duty Officer position, general all-round helpfulness and serving refreshments at various weekend events. The Player of the Year awards were made at the same time and these went to Robert Hansell (senior), William Saint (boys) and Rachael Iles (girls).

Congratulations also to Sue Hayes who won Table Tennis England's Southern Region Female Volunteer of the Year award and to Steve Smith who reached the pinnacle of his achievements so far in qualifying as an International Referee.

Membership

Membership of the Club currently stands at 199 and this compares to 255 this time last year. However, last year's figure is misleading as it was really two years rolled into one due to the changes in membership structure introduced to cope with the pandemic. The final figure for last year, in August 2022, was 263.

Over the past twelve months a total of 65 players have represented the club in match play, three more than in the previous season. 17 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, five more than in the previous year season. 21 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, two more than in the previous season. 9 teams were operated in the British League, 7 in National leagues and 5 in the Maidenhead League. There was also a team in the new VETTS Super 60s Team Competition.

The Club is now 50 years old and during that time a total of 890 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances with over 1,650. Mike Rhodes, who has the third most

appearances of all players, made his 700th appearance during the season while Martin Adams celebrated his 400th and Denise Weller her 300th. The all-time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1659	Robert Hansell	374	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	624	Georgia Veneer*	336	Ashley Shaw	234
Sue Hayes	578	Rodney Potts*	316	Ricky Hardcastle	217
Ken Phillips	549	Denise Weller	301	James Milton	205
Armando Borges	457	Alec Watson*	301	Anna Watton	204
Neil Bird	435	Gemma Chapman	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Martin Adams	404	Jacquie Lovell	282	Steve Dorrell	202
Jackie Napper	403	Wendy Barlow	279	Catherine Hayes	200
Gareth Lovell	381	Steve Joel	278		

- known to have deceased

The busiest player during the past season was Bharath Prasanna Kumar who played 36 matches in the Maidenhead League, National Junior League and National Cadet League. Rachael Iles and Sue Hayes were next in line with 30 each.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are a surplus of £7,685 compared to £1,404 in the previous year. Gross revenues, at over £32,500, were more than £9,000 up on the previous year as activities returned to their pre-Covid levels. About 45% of this revenue was leveraged from non-members due to the hard work of Committee members, and reflects, after associated costs have been taken into consideration, a huge subsidy of about £9,000 against members' fees. All aspects of the Club's revenue stream increased with practice income reaching an all-time high, reflecting the large number of players participating in the Club's Tuesday and Thursday open sessions.

It needs to be noted that the Club has received only one small invoice from The Westgate School for costs associated with the building since February 2020. No amount has been accrued into the accounts because it is impossible to estimate what costs, if any, are likely to be charged. However, the impact upon next year's accounts could potentially be several thousand pounds. In a full year of operation, we would expect the costs charged by the host school to be in the region of £4,500. If this had been the case in this financial year, the result might have been a surplus of about £3,000.

Every three years or so the Club incurs a cyclical expense of about £3,000 for clothing for our teams in the British League. This was incurred in 2021-22 and the cost this season has been minimal except for £660 as we, for the first time, extended this privilege to our teams in the National Junior and Cadet leagues.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that on 30 April 2023 stood at £90,336. £53,353 is invested at Cater Allen but no longer on a term deposit as the bank no longer offers this facility. The remainder is in accounts at Barclays and Nat West plus a residual balance in Paypal into which fees have been paid during the past year. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £106,075.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. Annual membership fees are £18 with an additional £18 payable for registration in the Maidenhead League. Practice and local league match fees are £4 and coaching fees £6. All these are halved for juniors and over-60s. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £30 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Attendees at the Monday evening coaching classes pay a term fee of £25 while those attending Wednesday evening elite coaching pay a fee of £35 each term. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses although this has been covered by the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund for several years. In the British League a £5 match fee is payable with players also contributing their individual registration fees. This fee structure has remained largely unchanged now for many years and the healthy state of the Club's finances means that there is no requirement for change.

The Club maintains the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund which was started many years ago with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees from 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. Press reports, usually accompanied by photographs from the event, have been submitted to the local newspapers in Slough and Maidenhead. Reports of open tournaments also appeared on the Table Tennis England website.

Four years ago Graham Trimming revised the Club's website and the current (third) incarnation uses the Wix software and

platform. It is a modern type of website, optimised for viewing also on smart phones. The website is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The website is also used for the online membership form and for sign-ups to the Maidenhead League and the open tournament mailing database. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club website in the country. Google Analytics reports the following statistics for the twelve months from June 2022 to May 2023: 4,666 users (2022: 4,527); 9,216 sessions (2022: 9,642). The highest number of visitors in any single day was 113 on December 8th when the draw for the Junior 4-Star Open was published. Many of the membership and coaching enquiries received by the Club 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 841 followers on Facebook, up from 792 a year ago, and 599 on Twitter, up from 570. Facebook and Twitter postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account which has 81 followers, up from 74. A further 11 albums of photographs have been uploaded onto Flickr this year, all by Graham Trimming. Together, they represent 3,664 photos and the albums have attracted over 4,500 views. These statistics show that this service is appreciated by members and visitors. The photographic backdrop purchased in 2015 is used for most presentations at tournaments.

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

Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge and refreshment area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area and the servery cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed as many as 80 competitors plus their coaches and parents.

Catering at weekend events continued this season in the same format as previously post-Covid. When sufficient numbers of players are present, the Club receives filled rolls delivered by Lunchbox, a sandwich shop in Burnham High Street. These rolls and various drinks are served by Club volunteers. Special thanks must be given to Jyothi Puttaswamy who has provided this service on Senior British League, National Junior League and National Cadet League days and often augments the food offering with samosas and other tasty Asian delights.

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 provides a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto Table Tennis England's website.



The usual annual Anniversary Party was merged 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

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.

The current weekday format is:

Monday	6:00 to 7:30 pm	Beginners' coaching group (term-time)
	7:45 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group (term-time)
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches (seasonal)
	7:30 to 10:00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Elite coaching (term-time)
Thursday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches (seasonal)
	7:30 to 10:00 pm	General practice

Privileged Members are allowed to play when the Centre is not in use for other activities. Many weekend dates have been sold to outside events, detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club.

On each occasion that the Centre is 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 League playing host to National Divisions B-4 and C-5. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. We also hosted all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League.

A full list of external events (June 2022-May 2023), totalling 26 weekend days, three more than in the previous year, was as follows:

Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	Senior British League (7) National Junior League (4) National Cadet League (4) Regional Qualification event (1) Level 1 coach education course (2)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (2)
Royal County of Berks TTA:	Inter-Town Competition (1)
Surrey County TTA:	County Championships sessions (2)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (1)
Reading & DTTA:	Reading Closed Championships (1) Individual Handicap Competition (1)



In addition, there was a midweek coaching day on behalf of Bucks during a school holiday.

In September 2022, during a normal practice evening, Bribar set up a stand and made up bats that members and visitors alike could test out on the tables. Bribar did a roaring sales trade and described the evening as “very successful;”.

Club Events

Open Tournaments

The Club scheduled five open tournaments for the season, including, for the first time, a Women and Girls’ Open instead of the usual Senior Super 6:

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
25-26 Jun 2022	Young Players’ Summer Festival	Steve Piercey	Ken Phillips	137
4-5 Dec 2022	Junior 4-Star	Ken Phillips	Steve Smith	211
19 Feb 2023	Team 1-Star	Graham Trimming	Sue Hayes	25 pairs
26 Feb 2023	Women & Girls’ 1-Star	Elena Tant	Sue Hayes	39
19 Mar 2023	5x2 Senior/Veterans’ 1-Star	Paul Baker	Sue Hayes	91



The Junior 4-star takes a great deal of organising. The Organiser and Entries Secretary was Steve Piercey, assisted by Ken Phillips, who did much of the organisational work. Steve Smith was the Referee, his first appointment since he acquired the distinction as a qualified International Referee. Graham Trimming produced the Draw Sheet and was also responsible for the publicity and photography. The Club is indebted to an army of other helpers and qualified umpires without whom the event could not be run. The tournament ran over two days with cadet events on the Saturday and junior events on the Sunday.

The Team 1-Star Open is for teams of two players and, following a short preliminary round in groups of three, utilized the progressive knock-out format to ultimately place all twenty-four teams in their ranking order. The 5x2 event is two competitions, one for veterans in the morning and the other an open age group in the afternoon. Each event is restricted to 45 players and is run on nine tables. The Women and Girls’ event featured three competitions. In the morning there were separate events for the under-40s and the over-40s 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. The annual Young Players’ Summer Festival covers two days and four age-groups and uses smaller courts to allow for additional tables.

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 via its now familiar format on weekday evenings in April and May. The two open events were both won by junior players, the Open Singles by Jaiden Woodford and the doubles by Rachael Iles and Anna Piercey. The Veterans' Singles was won by Maciej Dlugozima and the Tweenies' Singles by Michal Garski. The Junior Singles has been deferred until the players have completed their school exams!



Festive Hard Bat Competition

For the second year we arranged a friendly hard-bat tournament alongside the presentations of the annual awards and this took place a few days before Christmas. This was organised using the standard Grand Prix format. A very healthy entry of forty-one players took part and the winner was Shae Thakker.

Team Competitions

The Club ran twenty-two teams in various leagues and competitions this season, three more than 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, assisted by Ken Phillips
Women's British League	Captains and Secretaries:	Ken Phillips; Denise Weller
Veterans' British League	Captains and Secretaries:	Paul Baker, assisted by Martin Adams; Denise Weller
Junior British League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips, assisted by Steve Piercey
VETTS Super 60 Comp	Captain and Secretary:	Denise Weller
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:	Chris Collins; Alan Moss; Qasim Hussain; Jan Chapman; Elena Tant (npc)
	Selection Sub-Committee:	Elena Tant; Dave Tant; Graham Trimming

British League Competitions

The Club ran nine teams in the British League, one more than in season 2021-22 with the addition of a second team in the Senior British League for the Club's up and coming junior players.



Cippenham was the host venue for both our teams in the Senior British League. The first team was placed again in National Division B-4 and the team of Robert Hansell, Martin Adams, Martin Gray, Shae Thakker and Steve Munson performed well throughout and were worthy winners of their division. Special praise must go to Shae who lost only one of his nineteen matches and finished second in the divisional averages while Martin Gray was only one place below and Robert Hansell, who was elevated to number one position in the team, came in fourth. The second team, operating in National Division C-5, also played well and eventually finished third, losing out on the runners-up spot only on sets aggregate. This was an encouraging debut season for the younger players.

The two teams in the Women's British League swapped places from the previous season, with the youngsters forming the first team and the veterans the second team. The young first team players all acquitted themselves well as the team finished in the top half of Division 3 while the second team were just below half-way one division lower.

In the Veterans' British League the men's first team signed up former England international David Barr for a successful attempt to achieve promotion from Division 1 and have subsequently earned the right to play in the Premier Division next season. Congratulations to David, Martin Adams, Andy Trott and Hari Gehlot. David, Andy and Martin finished second, third and fourth respectively in the divisional averages. The second team finished next to bottom of Division 4A whilst the women's team fared worse and were the basement team in Women's Division 2. On the subject of Veterans' British League, we must pay tribute to Mike Rhodes who has decided to call it a day. Mike was an extremely valued volunteer when he lived in Slough before work commitments took him away to Southampton in 2006. However, Mike has still turned out every year since for Cippenham in VBL in which he amassed 235 of his total of 708 appearances for the Club, the latter made over a period of thirty-five years. Needless to say, Mike would be warmly welcomed back should he change his mind.



It was a case of so nearly for our two teams in the Junior British League. Both teams put themselves in a position where winning their divisions was a distinct possibility but, in the end, both had to settle for the runners-up position, the boys in Division 5 and the girls in Division 2. William Saint was second and Janie Woodford fifth in the boys' division averages. In the girls' division, Mia Lakhani was third and Rachael Iles fifth in the averages.

National League Competitions

Seven teams were entered in total this season, four in the National Junior League and three in the National Cadet League. This represents an increase of one since the previous season. These leagues continue to provide opportunities for new players to commence their competitive pathway.

In the National Junior League, the Cippenham A team maintained a position in Division 2 throughout, always finishing in either second or third position while the B, C and D teams operated lower down in Divisions 4, 5 and 6. Bharath Prasanna Kumar was the most successful player with an average of over 80% for the C team while Charlie Cook was only a few points behind for the B team.

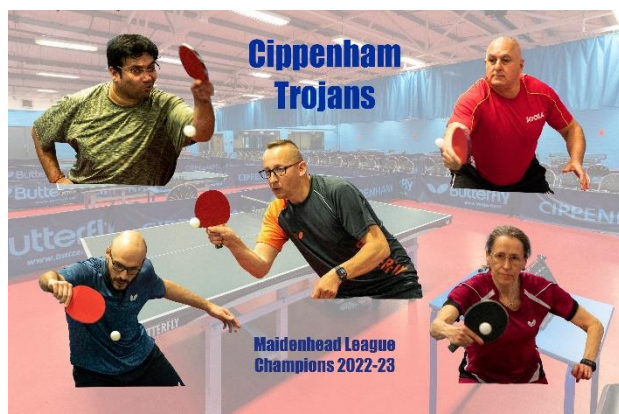
Our A team in the National Cadet League commenced the season in Division 2 but won promotion at the end of the second day and then stayed in Division 1, eventually finishing third. The other two teams operated in Divisions 3, 4 and 5, eventually occupying the top two places between them in Division 5. Sai Prasanna Kumar had the outstanding record in this league, winning over 80% of his matches for the C team before being promoted to the B team for the final day in which his team, which also included Aarav Seth and Arman Hafeez, dominated to such an extent that their sets aggregate for the day was 27-0, the only occurrence of this kind over the two leagues all season.

VETTS Super-60s Team Competition

A new one-day competition emerged this season, run by the Veterans' English Table Tennis Society, and labelled the Super-60s Team Competition. Three of the four ladies from the Club's Veterans' British League team entered and finished runners-up in Division 2. All three returned good percentages with Mary Heffernan the best with 80%.

Local League Competitions

The Club ran five teams in the Maidenhead League this season, the same as in 2022-23 and remains the club with the most teams in the league. Numbers fell again and resulted in only twelve teams being entered and these were arranged into two divisions of seven and five.



The results of our teams were almost identical to the season before, winning both divisions and also runners-up in Division 1. However, the Division 1 title race was more exciting this season with three teams in the frame, our two and NWCA who, despite being near-season-long leaders, were propelled back into third place by results of matches in the last few weeks. Congratulations to the title-winning Cippenham Trojans team of Maciej Dlugozima, Hari Prasad, Bas Mocharrarie, Chris Collins and Sue Hayes and to Cippenham Spartans, the Division 2 champions, team of Bharath Prasanna Kumar, Peter Chipperton, Sunjay Thakker and Steve Piercey.

Maciej maintained a 100% record in Division 1 as well as winning the singles title at the Maidenhead Closed Championships while Bharath was undefeated in Division 2. Alan Moss, Hari Prasad, Igor Liiko and Albert Cheung all recorded averages above 70% in Division 1 as did Peter Chipperton, with nearly 90% in Division 2

Coaching

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

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 advanced class for improvers. The elite class on Wednesday evening continues for the Club's better players.

Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for about thirty-five years now and he is still the mainstay of the operation, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising youngsters. Jan Chapman, Sue Hayes and Tim Kiteley have also provided Ken with great assistance as have some of the Club's senior players who have helped as practice partners, especially during Ken's recent period of inactivity. Grateful thanks are due to all.

Tournament Successes for Individuals



Shae Thakker won the Para Class 10 Mem's Singles at the European Universities Games while Andy Trott continued to win many doubles events in the VETTS circuit.

Maciej Dlugozima was again the star of the show at the Maidenhead Closed Championships winning both the singles and doubles events, the latter in tandem with Hari Prasad, all-in-all a repeat performance from the previous year.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Shae Thakker was once again selected for GB representation at an international para event abroad.

Seven Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season for what was a reduced number of teams operated by the county. Juniors Rachael Iles, Anna Piercey, William Saint and Shae Thakker all, for the second season, appearing for the senior first team and the same quartet represented the juniors. Sue Hayes played for both the senior second team and the over-60s team which also featured Bas Mocharrafie and Mary Heffernan while Mary also played for the veterans' second team.

Five Cippenham players represented Maidenhead in the Berkshire Inter-Town Competition with the duo of Maciej Dlugozima and Alan Moss finishing second in the veterans' section.

An incredible number of twenty-four Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories over the past season. Several players appeared in multiple lists. Eight made it into the top twenty and these were Andy Trott, Martin Adams and David Barr in Veteran Men, Rachael Iles, Mia Lakhani and Anna Piercey in various junior age groups, William Saint in under-17 boys and Sai Prasanna Kumar in three categories, under-11, under-10 and under-9, with the latter list featuring him at number one for a period of time.

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



Graham Trimming
General Secretary
June 2023