

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1980 - 1981

MEMBERSHIP

Nine new members joined the Club for the 1980-1 season making a total of 35 which when added to the four non-members registered made a grand total of 39 players registered for the Club during the season. Quite a drop from the previous season but still nine teams, three fewer than in 1979-80, competed in the leagues. Unfortunately the good pre-season attendances at our weekly practice sessions were not maintained during the playing season which caused the cancellation of those sessions in November.

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Club was capably carried out by a Management Committee consisting of four members: Dave Lee (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary), Peter Hillier (Treasurer) and Lawrence Hammond. Dave moved to Derbyshire in November but has continued to act as Chairman although naturally he is resigning at the Annual General Meeting. We all owe Dave a great debt for the work he has done so capably and enthusiastically over the last eight years and he certainly leaves an enormous gap to fill. Cippenham's loss is Matlock's gain. Lawrence Hammond resigned from the Management Committee in February due to pressure of college work.

Only two Management Committee meetings were held this season, one in July and one in February - everything seemed to be running so smoothly. This season team captains have performed marvellously to ensure the smooth running of their sides - something greatly appreciated by a relieved Club Secretary.

Club members were again heavily committed to the administration of the sport locally with the Management Committee of the Slough & District League including Frank Earis (Chairman), Bob Milne (Treasurer), Graham Trimming (Fixtures Secretary) and Dave Lee (Inter-League Secretary). Dave also acted as Inter-League Championships Secretary for the Buckinghamshire County Association. Dave was presented with the Joe Coral Trophy by the Slough & District League in recognition of his administrative services to the League over the last four years.

PLAYING PERFORMANCES

How does one begin to describe the most successful season ever in the Club's eight year history?

In the Leagues

Most notably the Club achieved a unique double by winning both the Slough & District and the Maidenhead & District league titles in one season. This was something we set out specifically to achieve and full credit must go to our very strong squad of John Barton, Vix McCarthy, Dave Pountney, Frank Earis and John Lewis. The Slough championship was won in a canter by a margin of eleven points whereas the counterpart Maidenhead event turned out to be a two-horse race with our lads just getting home. In the Maidenhead League twelve of the twenty-two matches were won 10-0 and four more by 9-1 - a quite incredibly achievement.

The other seven teams the Club ran in the Slough & District League did not fare so well. The Outlaws finished eighth in Division One; Bandits, Pirates and Rogues third, eighth and ninth respectively in Division Two; Vagabonds and Rascals ninth and tenth in Division Three; and Rebels fourth in Division Five. Unfortunately this means

that Rogues, Vagabonds and Rascals are all due for relegation. This demonstrates how the standard has improved in the lower divisions.

Viv McCarthy topped the Slough Division One averages while Frank Earis and Dave Pountney were fifth and eighth respectively. John Barton actually had the highest average but did not play in the required number of matches to qualify. Hugh Murray and Bob Keeley came fifth and seventh in the Second Division averages. In the Maidenhead League averages Frank Earis, Dave Pountney, Viv McCarthy and John Barton all featured in the top seven.

After missing out in the previous season the Club made it a record of six appearances in seven years in the Dilger Cup final but for the third time in four years our representatives lost to Calor - this time it was the Rogues, who were the only Cippenham team to survive the second round.

Four teams operated in the Summer League and it was the 'Gamma' team, led by Dave Lee, that was most successful finishing runners-up in Division Two.

Inter-League and County Rankings

John Barton (6, then 4, finally 5) and Viv McCarthy (7, later 6) both featured in the Bucks mens' ranking list throughout the season. Viv was an ever present in the Bucks II team but injuries and unavailability restricted John's appearances.

The Club had the distinction, as champions, of representing Slough in the National Club Championship but after a first round bye were beaten by the Oxford team, Kidlington Forum, in a most exciting second round match.

Cippenham players again provided the backbone of the Slough Mens' teams. In the Wilmott Cup an all Cippenham side reached the third round losing to Milton Keynes, after having disposed of Maidenhead and Reading. John Barton, Viv McCarthy and Dave Pountney played in the side which came runners-up in the Berkshire Inter-League and these three also appeared in the Slough 'A' team in the Bucks Inter-League. In the latter competition, however, it was Slough 'B' that had most success finishing runners-up, and that team included Frank Earis and Gary Cameron. Graham Trimming was an ever present in the Slough 'C' team and Fung Fung made one appearance for Slough 'D'.

Alistair Richardson was a member of the Slough Boys' Carter Cup team and also played for the Boys 'B' team in the Bucks Inter-League.

John Jenkins played for the England paraplegic team and won three gold medals at a home countries championship in Ireland.

Tournaments

Altogether a very successful season in local tournaments, although with the exception of the Slough Closed our players generally had to be content with runners-up awards.

As mentioned the Slough Closed was our most profitable tournament with John Barton winning the Mens' Singles and the Mens' Doubles with Dave Pountney, who himself reached the semi-final of the singles. Mary Stafford won the Ladies' Singles, the Ladies' Doubles and came runner-up in the Mixed Doubles with Hugh Murray. Congratulations to all!

Dave Pountney, John Barton and Viv McCarthy all reached their allotted quarter-final positions in the Mens' Singles event at the Maidenhead Closed from where John reached the final and Viv was beaten in the semi. John and Dave also reached the final of the Mens' Doubles. As a result of this performance our three players were seeded 3, 4 and 5 in the Berkshire Closed where again Viv reached the semi and John the final. These two also reached the semi-final of the Mens' Doubles.

Compared to last season our performance at the Bucks Closed was disappointing. Dave did reach the semi-final of the Mens' Singles, however, having eliminated the number one seed en route; Dave and John reached the semi of the Mens' Doubles, Viv the final of the Mixed

Doubles and Graham Trimming the final of the Restricted Singles. Such is the standard of failure nowadays!

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The date of the annual club championship, on a Saturday after the end of the season, was a little unfortunate and restricted entries to a disappointing thirteen. What was lacking in quantity was amply made up for by quality as all five of our championship squad competed. There were very many exceedingly close matches especially in the handicapped events.

Viv McCarthy achieved the championship double at his first attempt. In the singles he gave John Barton a rare thrashing and then combined with Frank Earis to win the doubles. All of the awards changed hands from the previous season.

Unfortunately the Junior Singles event was cancelled due to lack of entries.

NATIONAL CLUB LEAGUE

After failing to find a venue or sponsorship last year's intended entry into to National Club League was postponed. This season we have a venue lined up, Dorney Village Hall; we have a very enthusiastic squad of five players including Alec Watson; all we now need is a sponsor. Attempts are being made at this time to secure the sponsorship we so badly need.

MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. New venue: our efforts to obtain the Free Church Youth Hall as a second venue last summer failed so again we have extensively used St. Andrews Shared Church.
2. Umpiring: shortly after the last A.G.M. Peter Hillier heard that he had qualified as an International Umpire - the only one in Slough, and only the second in Bucks. Congratulations!
3. Screens: six court screens of 5ft by 2ft were made up for us last summer, thanks to the contacts of Dave Lee.