



CIPPENHAM NEWS

Official Newsletter of Cippenham Table Tennis Club : February 2026 : No. 259

First team leapfrog into second place

The Cippenham first team enjoyed a very profitable day single-day third session of the Senior British Clubs League. They won both their matches comfortably and, in doing so, leapfrogged Waterside to claim second place in National Division B-2 with four matches left to play at the end of March.

The day got off to the perfect start with a runaway 9-0 thrashing of Crusaders. Rob Hansell and Andy Norwood were made to work hard by Angus Norman and Jaydan Griffiths respectively, but after that it was pretty much one way traffic.

Bristol Associates were the second team to be put to the sword. Martin Adams, Rob Hansell, Hari Gehlot and Andy Norwood all won their opening matches to put Cippenham 4-0 up in double quick time. Martin and Hari lost a close doubles match and then Rob won a close tussle with Lee Phillips over five games to give Cippenham a match-winning 5-1 lead. Martin dominated Scott Cooper, conceding a mere seven points in three games, before Andy just got the better of Danny Harris close in the fifth game. At the conclusion of the match, Hari suffered a close loss against Svilen Andreev thus making the final match score 7-2 in Cippenham's favour.

The Cippenham second team were unlucky to come away from the day without adding to their points tally, suffering close 5-4 defeats to two of the top three teams in Division C-5.

Despite being on the losing side, Sai Prasanna Kumar, still only eleven years old, was named player of the match against Godalming Simply Let after beating both Kinga Oryl and Sean Au. Sai's brother Bharath also beat Au while Maciej Dlugozima also beat Oryl.

Thanks to Steve Joel for the photos



The second match presented the toughest of all assignments against an Ellenborough side that have won all ten of their matches this season. Cippenham actually boasted a 3-1 lead early in the match as Maciej beat Sara Williams, Bharath beat Bethany Yang and his brother Sai eased past Aidan Lees, all while dropping only one end between them. The brothers then suffered a defeat in the doubles and results started to go against Cippenham.



Senior British Clubs League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
National Division B-2							
Fusion 3	10	9	0	1	76	14	18
Cippenham 1	10	9	0	1	60	30	18
Waterside	10	8	0	2	59	31	16
Gwent TTC	10	5	0	5	45	45	10
Foresters 1	10	5	0	5	44	46	10
Crusaders	10	3	0	7	31	59	6
Joola Plymouth 2	10	1	0	9	18	72	2
Bristol Associates	10	0	0	10	27	63	0
National Division C-5							
Ellenborough 1	10	10	0	0	70	20	20
Horsham A	10	6	0	4	50	40	12
Godalming Simply Let	10	6	0	4	50	40	12
Isle of Wight 1	10	6	0	4	49	41	12
Newton Abbot TTC	10	5	0	5	49	41	10
Cippenham 2	10	4	0	6	45	45	8
Generation 2	10	3	0	7	27	63	6
Falmouth Docks	10	0	0	10	20	70	0

Players' Averages:

	M	P	W	Av
Cippenham 1				
Martin Adams	10	20	16	80
Shae Thakker	4	8	6	75
Dave Barr	4	8	6	75
Martin Gray	2	4	3	75
Andy Norwood	4	8	6	75
Robert Hansell	8	15	11	73
Hari Gehlot	4	8	5	63
Steve Munson	4	8	1	13
Cippenham 2				
Sai Prasanna Kumar	6	12	10	83
Louis Alexander	8	16	9	56
Bharath Prasanna Kumar	10	20	11	55
Maciej Dlugozima	2	4	2	50
George Driscoll	6	12	5	42
Hari Gehlot	4	8	3	38
Steve Joel	4	8	2	25

Results:

Cippenham 1	Cippenham 2
9-0 Crusaders	4-5 Godalming Simply Let
7-2 Bristol Associates	4-5 Ellenborough 1

Steve Joel could not match up to Williams, Bharath lost in four games to Kyle Murphy, and Maciej failed to hold onto a 2-1 lead he held against Lees. With Ellenborough now 5-3 up, Sai completed his brace with a 3-0 win over Yang.

Perfect for “Perfect Match”

The nineteenth annual running of the Cippenham Team 2-Star Open proved once again to be very popular with entries having to be closed off around three weeks before the official closing date. This competition, devised by Cippenham Table Tennis Club, allows for teams of two rather than individual players and, after the preliminary round groups, features a progressive knock-out format that produces a final ranking list of all twenty-four teams.

All the favoured teams from the eight groups won their sections and these teams then played off against one another to secure a place in the quarter-finals.

The four losers of these matches then had to play a winner from a similar playoff subjected to the teams that placed second in the preliminary round groups. Only the “Equipment Junkies”, namely Kevin Fang and Quentin Kwan, lost the potential for a top eight finish when beaten by “Chaos & Giggles” in the form of Steve Joel and Kinga Oryl, the latter team thus joining the originally-fancied other seven teams in the quarter-finals.

With Chris Doran, ranked nine in the England men’s list, spearheading a team called “Toddlies 44’s”, their aggregate ranking points generated a top

seed billing. However, the format of the competition requires both players to contribute to a team win during the progressive knock-out rounds and with Matthew Horrocks not quite able to fulfil this, eighth place was all that could be achieved. The place at the top of the draw was, as a consequence, taken by “Only came to Sling!”, apparently a phrase used around the Bristol table tennis scene by Lee Phillips and Scott Cooper. They beat “Chaos & Giggles” to secure a place in the semi-final but then found eventual runners-up “RA+NM”, Rayan Ansari and Marcel Ndongala, too hot to handle. That pair had also ended the prospects of last year’s winners, Kidlington TTC, albeit with a change of personnel, one round earlier.

In the bottom half of the draw, the “Perfect Match” of Mircea Neagu and Ewelina Sychta, the 2024 champions, were progressing well against “Toddlies” and “Hanging by a thread” in the form of Kyle Murphy and Anatol Gasiowrovski, to reach the final.

“Perfect Match” won the perfect match 2-0 in the final against “RA+NM”. Mircea Neagu eclipsed Raya Ansari 11-2, 11-7, 11-7 before Ewelina Sychta secured the title by defeating Marcel Ndongala 11-8, 8-11, 11-9, 12-10.



Perfect Match: Ewelina Sychta & Mircea Neagu

Chris Doran and Ewelina Sychta were the only unbeaten players throughout the day while Mircea Neagu (to Doran), Ndongala (in the final against Sychta), and Gasiowrovski (also to Sychta), all lost only once.

The tournament was organised as a companion event to the Senior British Clubs League weekend by Graham Trimming and was refereed by Ken Phillips, deputising for Sue Hayes.

Results:

1. Perfect Match: Mircea Neagu & Ewelina Sychta
2. RA+MN: Rayan Ansari & Marcel Ndongala
3. Hanging by a Thread: Kyle Murphy & Anatol Gasiowrovski
4. Only came to sling!: Lee Phillips & Scott Cooper

Series titles for Mai and Sai



Mai and Sai proudly display their trophies

Photos: TTE

Two of Cippenham’s brightest young prospects further enhanced their credentials on the national stage at the weekend. This was the culmination of the National Series, a competition played across three weekends that pitched the best players in the country against each other with the winners being crowned champions.

Mai Lakhani and Sai Prasanna Kumar were both in action at Grantham College.

Sai, two weeks short of his twelfth birthday, was playing in the Under-13 Boys’ competition, a year out of his age group. And yet Sai, playing the most brilliant table tennis according to his coach Ken Phillips, was simply outstanding as he beat all six opponents, being extended to a deciding game only twice. In one match he played one shot, apparently, which went around the net from below and then rolled, rather than bounced, across the table making its return impossible.

Mai was playing in the Under-19 Girls’ competition and won five of her six matches in the round-robin, losing her final match to seventh-placed Maja Wojcicka, and being extended to deuce in the fifth twice more.

For good measure, adding to our two local players, Plymouth-based Alyssa Nguyen, who represents Cippenham in the Girls’ Premier Division of the Youth British Clubs League, won the U13 Girls’ event

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A team bounce straight back

Cippenham A took the opportunity to jump straight back to the top division of their section of the Junior British Clubs League, winning Division 2 during the third day's play. Having been relegated at the end of the previous day in November, an unbeaten performance from George Driscoll, backed up superbly by Rohan Bhide, ensured that they will finish the season next month in the top division.

George, unsurprisingly, was named player of the match on all three occasions as Cippenham beat Stanmore B and Chiltern A both 6-3 and Oaks 5-4. Anish Adapa also contributed a win in the first of those matches but it was the combination of George and Rohan who

ultimately led Cippenham to a deserved top spot.

The second team finished third in Division 5 but were hampered by having the results of one player disallowed through ineligibility, he having played for the A team previously. Armaan Koteswar was named player of the match against Twickenham Brunswick B while Jude Marshall also won all his three matches as Cippenham triumphed 6-3. The other two matches resulted in defeats against Chiltern B 5-4 and Crusaders D 3-6. Armaan and Jude both ended up winning two-thirds of their matches across the day while Nayan

Yelkur was successful in half of his.

The Cippenham C team, playing in a topsy-turvy Division 6, ultimately finished second. Ayush Kulkarni was player of the match as his team started with a 9-0 thrashing of Twickenham Brunswick C. Shreyas Wagle and Saavan Hunjan also banked maximums in this match. Ashford C were then far too good in the second match, running out 9-0 winners and then the day concluded with another defeat, this time 4-5 to Ashford D. Shaurya Bapna won two here, backed up by Shreyas and Saavan with one each.

Junior British Clubs League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 2—Round 3							
Cippenham A	3	3	0	0	17	10	17
Stanmore B	3	2	0	1	15	12	15
Oaks	3	1	0	2	12	15	12
Chiltern A	3	0	0	3	10	17	10
Division 5—Round 3							
Chiltern B	3	3	0	0	21	6	21
Crusaders D	3	2	0	1	16	11	16
Cippenham B	3	1	0	2	13	14	13
Twickenham Brunswick B	3	0	0	3	4	23	4
Division 6—Round 3							
Ashford C	3	3	0	0	24	3	24
Cippenham C	3	1	0	2	13	14	13
Ashford D	3	1	0	2	12	15	12
Twickenham Brunswick C	3	1	0	2	6	22	6

Players' Averages:

	M	P	W	Av
Cippenham A				
George Driscoll	9	27	24	89
Rohan Bhide	7	20	12	60
Anish Adapa	7	20	2	10
Aaron Mendonca	4	12	1	8
Cippenham B				
Jude Marshall	7	21	15	71
Armaan Koteswar	9	27	17	63
Nayan Yelkur	7	21	11	52
Ignacy Jaraszek	2	6	0	0
Cippenham C				
Saavan Hunjan	4	12	8	67
Ayush Kulkarni	7	20	11	55
Shaurya Bapna	4	12	6	42
Simon Powell	5	15	6	40
Shreyas Wagle	7	21	7	33

Aaron Mendonca appeared in two matches for Cippenham B but was ineligible.

Results:

Cippenham A	Cippenham B
6-3 Stanmore B	4-5 Chiltern B
6-3 Chiltern A	3-6 Crusaders D
5-4 Oaks	6-3 Twickenham Brunswick B
Cippenham C	
9-0 Twickenham Brunswick C	
0-9 Ashford C	
4-5 Ashford D	

Short teams cost Cippenham

The three Cippenham teams faced a more difficult task as the Cadet British Clubs League resumed after Christmas. Day 2 saw the Club struggling to maintain full teams and both the B and C teams were represented by only two players with the A team drafting in Rohan Bhide in order to complete that team.

Rohan, who had enjoyed an excellent season last year, stepped up once again and won two player of the match awards as his tally of eight wins from nine matches propelled his team to second place in the Division 3 table. He was ably supported by Armaan Koteswar and Anish Adapa. They beat both the Warren Springs teams but were just unable to get the better of Kingfisher C.

Despite being a player short, both the B and C teams managed to finish above the relegation zone after having been promoted at the end of day 1. Nayan Yelkur excelled with seven wins from nine, winning two player of the match awards, while Ignacy Jaraszek also won his three matches as the B team beat Crusaders C in Division 4.

Yuvan Varshney also picked up a player of the match award as his C team, helped by Shreyas Wagle, beat Graham Spicer 8 but lost the other two matches both 2-7 in Division 5.

Cadet British Clubs League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 3—Round 2							
Kingfisher C	3	3	0	0	19	8	19
Cippenham A	3	2	0	1	15	12	15
Warren Spring B	3	1	0	2	11	16	11
Warren Spring A	3	0	0	3	9	18	9
Division 4—Round 2							
Ashford B	3	3	0	0	24	3	24
Chiltern B	3	2	0	1	14	13	14
Cippenham B	3	1	0	2	10	17	10
Crusaders C	3	0	0	3	6	21	6
Division 5—Round 2							
Ashford C	3	3	0	0	20	7	20
Graham Spicer 7	3	2	0	1	17	10	17
Cippenham C	3	1	0	2	9	18	9
Graham Spicer 8	3	0	0	3	8	19	8

Players' Averages:

	M	P	W	Av
Cippenham A				
Rohan Bhide	3	9	8	89
Armaan Koteswar	6	18	11	61
Anish Adapa	6	18	8	44
Nayan Yelkur	3	9	3	33
Cippenham B				
Yuvan Varshney	3	9	8	89
Nayan Yelkur	3	9	7	78
Ayush Kulkarni	3	9	7	78
Ignacy Jaraszek	6	18	5	28
Cippenham C				
Simon Powell	3	9	9	100
Saavan Hunjan	3	9	9	100
Yuvan Varshney	3	9	6	67
Shreyas Wagle	6	18	9	50

Results:

Cippenham A	Cippenham B
4-5 Kingfisher C	3-6 Chiltern B
6-3 Warren Spring A	6-3 Crusaders C
5-4 Warren Spring B	1-8 Ashford B
Cippenham C	
2-7 Ashford C	
2-7 Graham Spicer 7	
5-4 Graham Spicer 8	



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Key Club Contacts

Chairman, Events Officer & Welfare Officer

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Weekend Diary

Feb 8:	Heathrow League (4)
Feb 15:	Berkshire Inter-Town
Feb 28:	Junior British Clubs League (4)
Mar 1:	Cippenham Women & Girls' 1-Star Open
Mar 7:	County Championships Veterans Division
Mar 8:	County Championships Veterans (Surrey)
Mar 15:	Cadet British Clubs League (4)
Mar 21:	Reading Closed Championships
Mar 22:	Heathrow League (4)
Mar 28/29:	Senior British Clubs League (4)
Apr 11:	Maidenhead Closed Championships
Apr 12:	Heathrow League (6)

Weekday Timetable

Mon	18:00	Beginners' Coaching Group (term time)
	19:45	Advanced Coaching Group (term time)
Tues	19:15	Maidenhead League matches (seasonal)
	19:15	Practice tables
Weds	19:30	Elite Coaching Group (term time)
Thurs	19:15	Maidenhead League matches (seasonal)
	19:15	Practice tables

Fees Season 2025-26

	Full	Conc'n
Annual Membership (1/9 to 31/8)	£20.00	£10.00
Family Membership (1/9 to 31/8)	£30.00	n/a
Junior British Clubs League registration	n/a	£13.00
Cadet British Clubs League registration	n/a	£13.00
Practice Fees	£4.50	£2.50
British Clubs Leagues match fees	£5.00	
Maidenhead League Match Fees	£4.50	£2.50
Coaching Fees (Monday) (per term)		£30.00
Coaching Fees (Wednesday) (per term)		£40.00



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Calling all women and girls—have you entered yet?



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

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