

# CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

## ANNUAL REPORT 1979 - 1980

### MEMBERSHIP

During the year we welcomed many new members to the club; I hope they will enjoy being connected with Cippenham T.T.C.

Altogether membership totalled 44 and there were a further twelve non-members registered with the club in the leagues thus making a grand total of 56 players registered for the club.

### ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the club was capably carried out by a Management Committee consisting of five members; Peter Hillier (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary), Dave Lee (Treasurer), Lawrence Hammond and Bob Milne. Dave Pountney was also elected onto the Committee at the Annual General Meeting but resigned in August.

Seven Management Committee meetings were held, there being a full attendance on each occasion.

For the fourth time a club handbook was produced - a worthy publication for a club such as ours.

The Secretary enjoyed great co-operation from most team captains but unfortunately there were difficulties with certain teams. After one match the captain and another player in the Scoundrels team resigned from the club but luckily Linda Smith volunteered to take over and keep the team alive. Another team with problems (certainly a problem to me!) were the Rascals who conceded three league matches and thus became the first team from Cippenham to concede even one match (in seven years!) in the winter league. Fortunately most other captains honoured their responsibility to the club.

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), Graham Trimming (General Secretary and Fixtures Secretary), Bob Milne (Treasurer) and Dave Lee (Inter-League Secretary). Dave also accepted the post of Inter-League Championships Secretary to the Buckinghamshire County Association, and Joan Gatley was General Secretary of the Maidenhead & District Association.

### PLAYING PERFORMANCES

#### Slough & District League

First and foremost, congratulations to our Buccaneers team of John Barton, Frank Earis, John Lewis and Dave Pountney on their fine achievement in winning the Slough League championship and thus qualifying the club for entry into the National Club Championship for the second time in three seasons.

The prospects of our second league championship seemed rosy at the beginning of March but then two defeats in three weeks to N.W.C.A. 'A' and Pinewood 'A' meant that the last three matches needed to be won by a sets aggregate of at least 27-5 to win the title. Our players rose magnificently to the challenge, achieved 28-2, and thus won the championship by two sets.

Altogether eleven teams were operated by the club in the Slough League with, once again, four in the top division. Unfortunately one of these, the Pirates, finished bottom of the table albeit having gained the highest number of points finishing bottom of any division since 1958/9. Of the others, the Villains finished sixth and the Outlaws seventh.

In Division Two the Bandits, Rogues and Rascals finished third, fifth and seventh respectively while the Vagabonds also finished seventh in Division Three and the Brigands fifth in Division Four.

In Division Five we had the two strongest teams and the Rebels duly won the championship with the Scoundrels as runners-up.

John Barton and Frank Earis were third and fourth respectively in the averages for Division One. Jay Allen was fourth and Ken Phillips was sixth in Division Two while Paul Eyres was seventh in Division Four. The Division Five averages have the look of a Cippenham batting list with Alistair Richardson second, Paul Elliott third, Kenny Baker fourth and Robin Baker sixth.

For the first time in six years Cippenham were not represented in the Dilger Cup Final as the Outlaws being the last surviving team from the club were ousted in the semi-final.

#### Maidenhead & District Association

Our customary Division One team was run again in the Maidenhead League and achieved its highest ever position - fourth. The team had a stronger squad of players this season and at one time looked likely to finish runners-up.

#### Inter-League and County Rankings

Following early season trials Steve Brown earned the distinction of being the first Cippenham man to be ranked in Bucks (no.13). However, subsequent to a reshuffle following results in the Inter-League competition he was joined by John Barton (6) and Dave Pountney (11). Len Pratt, although not a full member of the club, was also ranked.

Ann Finlay was ranked by Bucks at number three and played five times for county teams.

Cippenham players again provided the backbone of the Slough representative teams. John Barton, Frank Earis and Dave Pountney were the Slough Men 'A' team who finished third in Division A of the Bucks Inter-League - not bad for a club team! - while Graham Trimming was a member of the Slough 'B' side which won Division B. For the first half of the competition the Slough 'C' team comprised Fung Fung, Peter Hillier and Peter Swinn, and Alistair Richardson was selected for the second half when the juniors were given their chance.

Ann Finlay was a member of the Slough Ladies team which won their division.

In the Berkshire Inter-League Frank Earis, John Barton, John Lewis and Graham Trimming all played in the Slough Mens' team which won Division Two.

Our top three men were also the Slough team for the Wilmott Cup and Steve Kelly made an appearance in the Carter Cup.

#### Bucks Closed Championships

For sure this was our best performance to date in the Bucks Closed as John Barton and Dave Pountney won the Mens' Doubles. Their final opponents included Frank Earis - three men from one club team in a county final! John also did very well to reach the semi-final of the Mens' Singles while Ann Finlay was a winner of the Ladies' Doubles.

#### Slough Closed Championships

With John Barton unable to play we did not enter the Slough Closed with all cylinders firing. However this must rank as Ann Finlay's tournament as she did the hatrick of victories in the Ladies' Singles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

The club also provided both the finalists in the Division One and Division Five Singles events.

#### Summer League

Four teams were entered in the 1979 Summer League (as have again in 1980). Our top two teams finished second and third in Division One and Dave Lee came second in the division's averages.

#### CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Twenty players took part in the Club Championships, played on a Saturday afternoon and evening on four tables after the end of the season.

More entries would have been welcome but as it was the tournament ran smoothly and finished in good time. The seeding committee deserve a pat on the back for having achieved a 100% success in their predictions.

John Barton, in his first season with the club, won the Championship Singles by beating Dave Pountney in the final, and combined with Dave to take the Championship Doubles.

Alistair Richardson met Paul Eyres in two finals, the Junior Singles and the Handicap Singles, and won both. Alistair then went on to win the Handicap Doubles with Steve Williams. For Steve it was third time lucky having been runner-up for the last two seasons.

Only one major shock occurred throughout the day; that was the defeat of Peter Hillier and Dave Lee in the Championship Doubles by Lawrence Hammond and Keith Machin.

The club was grateful to receive two dozen YSP 4-star select balls from Tees Sport free of charge for the Club Championship.

### NATIONAL CLUB LEAGUE

Subject to the approval of members at the Annual General Meeting the club will be seeking election to the Third Division of the National Club League for next season.

This decision was made at a meeting on April 30th to which all members were invited but only seven attended. Those present considered that entry to the League was not only desirable but also financially viable.

A squad of five players will be maintained, three from within the club's present playing staff and two proven players from outside to give us more strength in the top positions. It is hoped that home matches can be staged at the Youth Hall behind the Free Church in Elmshott Lane and sponsorship is being sought to cover the financial burden.

### MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. New venue: next year we shall have two venues in which to stage home matches. The Youth Hall behind the Free Church will be used by four teams on Tuesday evenings, two each week, and may also be used for practise sessions on Monday evenings. The hall has an unpolished wooden floor, has an area of 36 feet by 35 feet plus a viewing balcony and catering area, and a height of 12 feet.
2. Tracksuits and badges: thirteen club tracksuits were ordered for club members last August, eight of them with the club's name on the back of the jacket. We also attempted to have badges made up but so far have been unsuccessful due to the complexity of our design.
3. Swiss tour: the club organised a trip to Berne in Switzerland for five players to see the European Championships. Home for two weeks was a Bedford six-berth motor home. We stayed for a couple of days in Berne after the championships and played a match against T.T.C. Bern whose team was made up of players from their National League Division B and C sides. A tired and out of touch Cippenham side lost 2-13 but were not as far behind their opponents as the score suggests.
4. New table: shortly after last year's Annual General Meeting we took delivery of a Stiga Match table acquired via the E.T.T.A. peppercorn scheme.
5. Coaching: Dave Lee qualified as a Club Coach during the year. Congratulations to Dave who we hope will produce some junior talent for Cippenham in the future.
6. Umpiring: Peter Hillier took his written International Umpires examination a little while ago and at present awaits his results. Peter is already the only National Umpire in Slough.