



CIPPENHAM NEWS

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Junior teams make good starts

The third consecutive weekend marking the start of the British League season saw the turn of junior teams from around the country converging on Derby Arena, including two boys' and a girls' team from Cippenham.

The girls were the highest placed of Cippenham's teams, being allocated into Division 1, just one step lower than the Premier Division. As such, it was a tough assignment especially for Mia Lakhani who, as Cippenham's number one, had to play the top two players from some of the best teams in the country. Mia won three of her ten matches throughout the weekend, as did Anna Piercey, while Cippenham's number two Rachael Iles was the star performer with seven wins to her name.

Cippenham girls started the weekend well with a great 5-1 win over Bribar Crewe Central with two wins for Rachael and Mia with Anna suffering defeat only 11-9 in the deciding game. A 5-1 reverse followed at the hands of Grantham College 2, the leaders of the division after this first weekend of matches. Rachael won Cippenham's solitary set. The final Saturday encounter followed a similar course with Rachael once again Cippenham's only winner in another 5-1 defeat, this time against Draycott 2.

Sunday morning saw a refreshed Cippenham bounce back with a great 5-1 win over Ormeau, a team from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Rachael and Anna led the way for Cippenham with two wins each while Mia added another. 5-1 appeared to have become the order of the day in Cippenham's results as the final match of the weekend resulted in another defeat to London Academy 2. All three defeats across the weekend had come against the second teams of clubs whose first teams were operating in the Premier Division. As Head Coach Ken Phillips remarked "it was a tough division against teams from some of the biggest clubs in the country".

Cippenham's two boys' teams had a new look about them this season. Of last year's players, Jaiden Caldeira had become over-age and the other two, William Saint and Jamie Woodford were split so that the much-improved William could play in a higher division. To make this possible, two players were recruited from outside the club's core membership to partner William, while Jamie led the new



second team with Louis Alexander and George Driscoll promoted to the Junior British League from having played previously in the lower grade National Junior League.

The boys' first team acquitted themselves well in Division 2, winning three of their five matches and, despite finishing in only fourth position, are only two points behind the divisional leaders. Benjamin Dunkley played superbly throughout winning nine of his ten matches while William Saint won seven times and Ryan Chung twice.

Saturday was a great day as Cippenham won all three matches they played. Lillington were the first to suffer, the eventual divisional leaders suffering their only defeat of the weekend, beaten 4-2, with Benjamin and William both bagging a brace each. After lunch Grantham Academy 3 were put to the sword as Cippenham ran out easy 6-0 winners and the day ended with another 4-2 victory, this time against Fusion 2. Cippenham thus finished day one with maximum points and with Benjamin and William having won all their individual matches.

Unfortunately, Sunday proved to be a different story. William suffered his first defeats of the weekend as Cippenham lost 4-2 to Draycott 2 in the morning match despite Benjamin prevailing in his two encounters, both close matches that required deciding games. Later, though, Benjamin suffered his only defeat in the final match as he and William won one each for Cippenham in another 4-2 defeat against Woodford Wells.

The Cippenham boys' second team were placed in Division 7 and finished the first weekend in fourth place out of eight. Jamie Woodford led his team well and contributed eight wins from his ten individual matches while debutants Louis Alexander, with five wins from nine, and George Driscoll, who won twice, provided the back-up.

Cippenham won their first and last matches of the weekend while sandwiched in between were two draws and a solitary defeat. Jamie and Louis won twice each, backed up by one from George as Cippenham defeated Wood Green 5-1 in the opening match. Player of the match Jamie maintained his unbeaten record against Ashford, including a 13-11 fifth-game opening win over Ernie Kemp. Jamie also beat Siva Pranav Ghanta and Louis secured a draw for his side in the final set of the match against Owenxander Ballad. Cippenham's only defeat came late on Saturday, 4-2 against local rivals from Reading, Kingfisher 2.

Sunday opened up with Cippenham's second drawn match, 3-3 with Bribar Cleve Park. This was a complete all-round team effort with all three players contributing one win apiece. It was left to George to keep his nerve and pull off a 11-9 fifth-game win over Nilay Balaji to secure that precious league point. In the final match of the weekend, Draycott 3 were able to field only two players and therefore contributed two walkovers in Cippenham's 4-2 win. Jamie made sure of maximum points for his team by straight-sets wins over both opponents.

It's tough in the Premier Division!

Weekend two of the new British League season saw three Cippenham teams travel up to Derby for the first weekend of the Veterans' British League. The men's first team were expecting a tough time, having been promoted to the Premier Division for the first time in the Club's history. They started well enough with a 3-3 draw against Team Bribar who ultimately finished the weekend in third place in the table, level on points with the top two. This was a fine all-round team performance with all three Cippenham players contributing a win apiece. After David Barr had succumbed to England veteran number three Jason Ramage in the first set, team captain Martin Adams came from behind to defeat Chris Rogers, ranked fourteen places above him. This was after two deuces in the deciding game. Hari Gehlot then lost to Scotland international Niall Cameron and Bribar went 3-1 ahead when Martin lost to Ramage, despite taking the newly-crowned Home Countries International over-50s champion to a fifth game. However, all was not lost for Cippenham as the defensively-minded David rolled back the years with a three-straight win over Cameron and Hari secured Cippenham's first point of the campaign by beating Rogers 3-1.

Unfortunately, that was as good as it got for Cippenham during the weekend. David and Hari both defeated Costas Papantoniou but Foresters A ran out victors 4-2 and then in the concluding Saturday match Cippenham could only manage one win, that in the opening set by Martin against Richard Jermyn, as they lost to Lilleshall 5-1. Two more 5-1 defeats were suffered on Sunday, firstly against Tees Sport and then against Topspin Fusion 1. Hari was the only Cippenham winner in these two matches.

The men's second team fared much better and, with four victories and a draw from their five matches, sit second in Division 4B. Star of the show for Cippenham was Steve Munson, a player who has played many years for the Club in the Senior British League but was making his debut in the Veterans' British League. Steve won all eight of his individual matches. Steve Joel made a welcome return to a Cippenham team since moving out of the area more than two decades ago and won five of his eight matches while Samson Bekele and Paul Baker both won half of theirs.

Steve Munson gained the first of his four player-of-the-match awards as he led his team to a 4-2 victory in the first match against Cippenham. He firstly beat Gary Wilson and then held off a determined challenge by Trevor Lloyd to secure his brace 15-13 in the fifth and deciding game. Steve Joel and Samson both beat



Steve Joel made a return to a Cippenham team after 20 years

Many thanks to Mike Rhodes for the photos—despite opting not to play this year, he still went along with his trusty camera!

Rick Jemmott to secure maximum points for Cippenham. Cippenham went one better on Saturday afternoon with a 5-1 result against Foresters F. Steve Munson won his customary two and this was supplemented by a brace from Paul and one from Steve Joel. The first day ended with a deserved 4-2 victory against Draycott 5. Steve Munson was stood down for this match and it was left to Steve Joel to gain the player-of-the-match award by beating Martin Walters and Viv Rayson without dropping a single game. Samson, over Rayson, and Paul, over Adam Ellis, provided the support required.

Sunday started in a similar vein with another 4-2 victory over De Vere NETTS. This was accomplished courtesy of two wins each from Steve Munson and Samson but the final match saw Cippenham drop their first point of the season with a 3-3 draw against Cutnall Green, the only other team in the division with a previously unblemished record. Steve Munson made quick work of Julian Wootton and Steve Horton and was supported by Steve Joel's 11-9 fifth-game win over Wootton.

Meanwhile, the Cippenham team in the women's section were also having a successful time, winning three of their four matches. Their weekend did not start well, being a 5-1 defeat by Division 3 leaders Foresters 5. Mary Heffernan was Cippenham's only winner, easily beating Celia Hooker but narrowly missing out to Lynne Trussell. From that point forward, results improved dramatically. Mary and Sue Hayes won two each, and Julie Dean contributed another, as Cippenham eased aside Fulham Brunswick 5-1.

Sunday started with a bang as Cippenham thrashed Continental Stars 6-0 with Denise Weller, Julie Dean and Sue Hayes losing only two ends between them. The weekend concluded with another Cippenham victory, this time 5-1 over Halton. Mary and Denise again won both their



Mary Heffernan starred for the women's team

Veterans' British League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Men's Premier Division							
Topspin Fusion 1	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Tees Sport	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Team Bribar	5	2	3	0	18	12	7
Lilleshall	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Foresters A	5	1	1	3	12	18	3
Cippenham 1	5	0	1	4	8	22	1

Men's Division 4B							
Cutnall Green	5	4	1	0	23	7	9
Cippenham 2	5	4	1	0	20	10	9
De Vere N.E.T.T.S.	5	3	0	2	18	12	6
Chippinham	5	2	0	3	14	16	4
Draycott 5	5	1	0	4	8	22	2
Foresters F	5	0	0	5	7	23	0

Women's Division 3 Stage 1							
Foresters 5	4	4	0	0	20	4	8
Foresters 4	5	4	0	1	21	9	8
Cippenham	4	3	0	1	17	7	6
Halton	4	2	0	2	12	12	4
Drumchapel Glasgow 1	4	1	1	2	11	13	3
Continental Stars	5	0	1	4	5	25	1
Fulham Brunswick	4	0	0	4	4	20	0

Players' Averages:

	M	P	W	Av
Men 1				
Hari Gehlot	5	10	4	40
Martin Adams	5	10	2	20
David Barr	5	10	2	20
Men 2				
Steve Munson	4	8	8	100
Steve Joel	4	8	5	63
Samson Bekele	4	8	4	50
Paul Baker	3	6	3	50
Women				
Mary Heffernan	3	6	5	83
Denise Weller	3	6	4	67
Sue Hayes	3	6	4	67
Julie Dean	3	6	4	67

Results:

Men 1	Men 2
3-3 Team Bribar	4-2 Cippenham
2-4 Foresters A	5-1 Foresters F
1-5 Lilleshall	4-2 Draycott 5
1-5 Tees Sport	4-2 De Vere N.E.T.T.S.
1-5 Topspin Fusion 1	3-3 Cutnall Green
Women	
1-5 Foresters 5	6-0 Continental Stars
5-1 Fulham Brunswick	5-1 Halton TTC

Mixed fortunes in SBL opener

The first weekend of the new Senior British League season, hosted by Cippenham, saw mixed fortunes for the host's two teams. The second team, comprising some of the younger players, won three of their four matches and sit nicely in second place in Division C-5. However, the first team, weakened by the non-availability of Shae Thakker and Martin Gray, won only one of their matches and are seventh out of eight in Division A-2, having won promotion to that higher echelon by virtue of winning Division B-4 last season.

Junior British League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boys' Division 2							
Lillington TTC	5	4	0	1	20	10	8
Draycott 2	5	3	1	1	17	13	7
Woodford Wells TTC	5	3	1	1	17	13	7
Cippenham 1	5	3	0	2	18	12	6
Fusion 2	5	1	0	4	14	16	2
Grantham Academy 2	5	0	0	5	4	25	0
Boys' Division 7							
Bribar Cleeve Park 1	5	3	2	0	20	10	8
Urban TTC 3	5	4	0	1	18	12	8
Kingfisher 2	5	2	3	0	18	12	7
Cippenham 2	5	2	2	1	17	13	6
Brighton TTC	5	2	1	2	19	11	5
Draycott 3	5	1	1	3	12	18	3
Wood Green	5	1	0	4	8	22	2
Ashford	5	0	1	4	8	22	1
Girls' Division 1							
Grantham College 2	5	3	2	0	22	8	8
London Academy 2	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Draycott 2	5	2	2	1	16	14	6
Cippenham	5	2	0	3	13	17	4
Bribar Crewe Central	5	0	2	3	11	19	2
Ormeau 1	5	0	2	3	9	21	2
Players' Averages:							
	M		P		W		Av
Boys 1							
Benjamin Dunkley	5		10		9		90
William Saint	5		10		7		70
Ryan Chung	5		10		2		20
Boys 2							
Jamie Woodford	5		10		8		80
Louis Alexander	5		9		5		56
George Driscoll	5		9		2		22
Girls							
Rachael Iles	5		10		7		70
Mia Lakhani	5		10		3		30
Anna Piercey	5		10		3		30
Results:							
Boys 1				Girls			
4-2 Lillington TTC	5-1 Bribar Crewe Central						
6-0 Grantham Academy 3	1-5 Grantham College 2						
4-2 Fusion 2	1-5 Draycott 2						
2-4 Draycott 2	5-1 Ormeau 1						
2-4 Woodford Wells TTC	1-5 London Academy 2						
Boys 2							
5-1 Wood Green	3-3 Bribar Cleeve Park 1						
3-3 Ashford	4-2 Draycott 3						
2-4 Kingfisher 2							

The weekend started well for both teams. The Cippenham first team won their opening match against Kingfisher, local rivals from Reading. Martin Adams, making his 300th appearance for Cippenham in this competition, and Rob Hansell began in fine form, beating David Barr and Harry Randall respectively both 3-0. However, Kingfisher hit back with Hari Gehlot getting the better of Steve Munson and Ryan Chung defeating Tom Windram who was making a re-appearance for Cippenham after seven seasons and having answered an SOS call to help out. Martin and Rob duly won the doubles to put Cippenham back into the lead and that lead was extended after an easy win by Rob over Barr. Martin established Cippenham's winning lead with a 3-1 success over Gehlot and Tom saw off the challenge of Randall. Chung won the final set against Steve to make the final result 6-3 in Cippenham's favour.

The Saturday afternoon encounter with Ellenborough proved much more difficult. Tom defeated Sara Williams and Rob got the better of Tony Halling but that was all Cippenham could muster in a disappointing 7-2 defeat, giving Ellenborough what would prove to be their only victory of the weekend. Sunday morning started brightly as Cippenham raced into a 3-0 lead against Finsbury. Rob, Martin and Tom all contributed in what, at that stage, looked like one-way traffic. However, the tide turned and turned big. Steve lost his singles and then Rob and Martin were beaten in the doubles. Rob then faced Finsbury's number one Abdullah Ubaidullah and led 10-6 in the fifth and deciding game. Ubaidullah then unleashed some of his best shots and took the game 13-11. This was the point at which the momentum turned so strongly that Cippenham were unable to win another set and lost the match 3-6.

A disappointing weekend reached its logical conclusion with defeat on Sunday afternoon against Woodford Wells. Martin and Rob won the doubles and Martin got the better of Lucas Papantoniou but that was all the hosts managed in a 2-7 defeat.

The Cippenham second team had a much better time of it. Jamie Woodford got the nod as player of the first match against Isle of Wight. Jamie beat both Christos Hannides and Rod McMullan while William Saint also won both of his matches against Alex Rorke and Hannides. Jaiden Caldeira beat Gabor Bodnar but was beaten by Rorke. That all made the scoreline 5-4 in Cippenham's favour after a closely contested match in which six of the nine sets required a deciding game and the other three were all 3-1.

Disappointment was to follow in the Satur-

Senior British League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
National Division A-2							
Wensum 1	4	4	0	0	27	9	8
Woodford Wells TTC 1	4	4	0	0	22	14	8
Finsbury	4	3	0	1	22	14	6
Ellenborough 1	4	1	0	3	17	19	2
Joola Plymouth 1	4	1	0	3	17	19	2
Horsham Spinners 1	4	1	0	3	14	22	2
Cippenham 1	4	1	0	3	13	23	2
Kingfisher 1	4	1	0	3	12	24	2
National Division C-5							
Joola Plymouth 2	4	4	0	0	30	6	8
Cippenham 2	4	3	0	1	25	11	6
Horsham Spinners 3	4	3	0	1	23	13	6
Newton Abbot TTC	4	3	0	1	20	16	6
Bristol Associates	4	1	0	3	16	20	2
Isle of Wight 1	4	1	0	3	14	22	2
Gwent TTC	4	1	0	3	14	22	2
Generation 2	4	0	0	4	2	34	0
Players' Averages:							
	M		P		W		Av
Cippenham 1							
Robert Hansell	4		8		4		50
Martin Adams	4		8		4		50
Tom Windram	4		8		3		38
Steve Munson	4		8		0		0
Cippenham 2							
Rachael Iles	2		4		4		100
William Saint	4		8		7		88
Jamie Woodford	4		8		6		75
Jaiden Caldeira	4		8		6		75
Anna Piercey	2		4		0		0
Results:							
Cippenham 1				Cippenham 2			
6-3 Kingfisher 1				5-4 Isle of Wight			
2-7 Ellenborough 1				4-5 Gwent TTC			
3-6 Finsbury				7-2 Bristol Associates			
2-7 Woodford Wells TTC 1				9-0 Generation 2			

day afternoon match with the Cippenham second team losing 5-4 against Gwent to give the Welsh side their only points of the weekend. Jaiden won both of his matches while William and Jamie won one each. Jack Fletcher was the only player to defeat William all weekend and that came 12-10 in the fifth.

Rachael Iles replaced Anna Piercey for the Sunday matches and the team's fortunes took a turn for the better. Bristol Associates were the first to suffer. This was another closely-fought match in which six sets again required a decider but this time Cippenham triumphed in all six. Jamie lost to Svilen Andreev and Jaiden lost to Daniel Petit and at one time the scoreline read 2-2. However, Rachael Iles was near her best and her two wins, earning her the first of two player of the match awards, inspired Cippenham to a 7-2 victory. The final match of the weekend brought Cippenham a 9-0 win over the luckless Generation 2 side that prop up the division even though this match was a lot closer than the result suggests.

CIPPENHAM NEWS

Key Club Contacts

Chairman, Head Coach & Coaching Officer
Ken Phillips : 07951 781151

General Secretary & Treasurer
Graham Trimming : 07903 335367

Deputy Chairman, Bookings Officer & Maidenhead League Captain
Elena Tant: 07946 227098

Welfare Officer
Sue Hayes: 07716 821171

Weekend Diary

Nov 5	National Cadet League (1)
Nov 18	National Junior League (2)
Nov 19	Level 1 coaching course
Nov 25/26	Senior British League (2)
Dec 2/3	Cippenham Junior 4-Star Open
Dec 9	Senior British League (3)
Dec 10	National Cadet League (2)
Dec 16	County Championships
Jan 6	Cippenham Team 1-Star Open
Jan 7	National Cadet League (3)
Jan 14	Reading Individual Handicap Competition
Jan 20	National Junior League (3)
Jan 21	Berkshire Inter-Town Competition
Jan 27	County Championships
Jan 28	Cippenham Women & Girls 1-Star Open
Feb 3/4	County Championships
Feb 11	Level 1 coaching course
Feb 24	National Junior League (4)
Mar 10	National Cadet League (4)
Mar 17	Reading Closed Championships
Mar 23	Maidenhead Closed Championships
Apr 6/7	Senior British League (4)
Apr 13	County Championships
Apr 27	Cippenham 5x2 Senior/Vets' 1* Open
Jun 29/30	Cippenham Young Players' Summer Fest

Weekday Timetable

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

Fees Season 2023-24

	Full	Conc'n
Annual Membership (1/9 to 31/8)	£18.00	£9.00
Family Membership (1/9 to 31/8)	£30.00	n/a
National Junior League registration	n/a	£12.00
National Cadet League registration	n/a	£12.00
Practice Fees	£4.00	£2.00
British League match fees	£5.00	
Maidenhead League Match Fees	£4.00	£2.00
Coaching Fees (Monday) (per term)		£25.00
Coaching Fees (Wednesday) (per term)		£35.00

Cippenham Team 1-Star Open

Saturday 6 January 2023

Teams of 2 players

Preliminary round in groups of 3 teams

Then progressive knock-out

Maximum of 24 teams

[Download your entry form](#)

Due to lack of space, reports from day one of the National Junior League and progress so far in the Maidenhead League has been held over until the next edition.



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Cippenham Table Tennis Club

**Cippenham Table Tennis Centre,
The Westgate School,
Cippenham Lane, Cippenham,
Slough, Berks, SL1 5AH
www.cippenhamttc.co.uk**

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