

## CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

### ANNUAL REPORT 1991-92

#### INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the nineteenth season of Cippenham Table Tennis Club, and its eighth since moving to the present multi-table headquarters at Haymill Centre in October 1984.

The highlights of the year were the success of our junior players and the continued flourishing of our coaching scheme, together with the decision in January to appraise the possibility of building our own venue.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Over the past twelve months a total of sixty-two players have represented the club in match play, and all but three of these currently hold full membership. With non-members regularly attending club practice and coaching sessions, there are now nearly eighty players associated with the club in one way or another. Cippenham Table Tennis Club remains one of the largest and most successful sporting organizations in Slough.

Twenty-two teams were run in various leagues during the past season, exactly the same as the record set in the previous season. This number is now constrained by the amount of time available at Haymill. Fifteen teams operated in the Slough League, ten in the senior divisions and five in the Youth, while four more played in the Maidenhead League. Three teams were once again entered into the Southern Region League, one in each of its three divisions.

During the past year Graham Trimming celebrated his 900th appearance for the club, Peter Hillier made it past 600, George Appleby and Steve Dorrell both reached 200, while Armando Borges, Jonathan Phillips and Mike Rhodes all raised their totals above 100. The all time leading appearance list now reads: Graham Trimming 919, Peter Hillier 616, Frank Earis 548, Ken Phillips 398, Jackie Thomas 343, Frank Cowley 314, Rodney Potts 308, Alec Watson 269, Dave Pountney 269, Neil Bird 269, Gareth Lovell 249, George Appleby 214 and Steve Dorrell 200. The busiest players over the past year were Neil Bird and Steve Crow with 52 and 45 appearances respectively.

Injury caused the end of a remarkable record for Club Secretary Graham Trimming, who, in December, missed his first match in the Slough League since first appearing in 1972.

#### ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting last May, met seven times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance at meeting	
Alec Watson	Chairman	4		
Graham Trimming	Secretary	7	7th July	7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	6	13th August	7
Ken Phillips	Deputy Chairman /	6	18th September	7
	Coaching Administrator		13th November	7
Jacquie Lovell	Venue Liaison Administrator	3	22nd January	7
Neil Bird	Press Secretary	6	4th March	7
Frank Earis	Committee member	5	29th April	6
Steve Joel	- do -	2		
Mike Rhodes	- do -	6		
Phil Woodhouse	- do -	3		

The position of Venue Liaison Administrator was not filled at the AGM and Jacquie Lovell was co-opted at the meeting on 7th July.

Thanks are due to the above and also the teams captains who have organised their sides in an efficient and responsible manner.

A selection committee for the Southern Region League teams consisted of the three team captains - Neil Bird, Frank Earis and Jacquie Lovell.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a large Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his eleventh year as Chairman and seventeenth as Fixtures Secretary, while Gareth Lovell now has seven years as Press Secretary and Closed Championships Secretary, while his wife Jacquie completed her fourth year in this spell, this season as General Secretary and Slough Closed Organizer. Mike Rhodes, was in his third year on the Committee, and his second as Inter-League Secretary and Hard Bat Tournament Secretary. For his services to the sport in Slough over many years, Frank Earis was awarded the Coral Racing trophy last May.

Peter Hillier has now completed more than five years as Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, a very busy office, and has been returned unopposed for a sixth term. Graham Trimming has for the fourth season been the main organizer of the Southern Region leagues in his position as Match Secretary. For the County, Ken Phillips has continued his roles for the Buckinghamshire Association as Coaching Secretary, Treasurer, and representative on the Southern Region.

Ken Phillips' activities in the sphere of coaching extend beyond Cippenham, as he plays a major role at the Maidenhead Association's weekly class, plus the venture at Knowl Hill. Last summer he was also involved in the week long Bucks School of Sport, and has recently accepted the post of Assistant Coach for the ETTA Southern Region.

Frank Earis has once again represented the club on the Haymill Centre Management Committee, elected to serve all users, and enables a dialogue to be maintained with the "landlord".

Much coverage of the club's activities has been enjoyed in the local press, with the Slough Express, Slough Observer, Maidenhead Advertiser and their sister newspapers reporting all major events including matches in the Southern Region leagues. In addition, of course, the club's exploits in the local leagues attracted extensive coverage, as did the success of our players in local tournaments.

## VENUE AND EQUIPMENT

The £5500 investment made over the period between the end of 1984 and early 1986 continues to meet our requirements. The club justifiably boasts having the finest playing conditions, an opinion shared by many visitors including those in the Southern Region leagues. For match and tournament play four Butterfly Nippon Rollaway tables are used, each court individually enclosed and lit by four 500W tungsten halogen lamps permanently attached to the ceiling at a height of eighteen feet. For practice and coaching five or six tables are erected.

Due to the demands placed upon storage capacity at Haymill over the past year, some equipment has deteriorated faster than expected. An acceptable storage method for our screens has yet to be found, and these will all require replacement in the near future. Also, considerable strain has been placed upon our tables, by other organizations laying their equipment on top of them.

On a positive note, the curtains which were originally financed by the club in 1985 have been replaced at Haymill's cost.

The club received grants of £100 from the ETTA Development Fund and £50 from Slough Sports Council towards the cost of the ball feeding machine purchased in 1991. Grateful thanks are extended to these two bodies.

The Haymill gymnasium has been used each Thursday throughout the year, and Tuesdays during the winter and summer league seasons. Eight Slough League teams have utilised Tuesday, with the remaining two Slough League teams and the four Maidenhead League sides playing on Thursdays. On all occasions space has been allocated for at least one practice table on Thursday evenings throughout the winter. Two hours each Sunday afternoon have been reserved for coaching, and occasional use has been made at the weekend for matches in the Southern Region leagues, with the club's three tournaments being played on Saturdays.

The Slough League has made use of Haymill on six Saturday afternoons for its Youth Division, and on another occasion for its Hard Bat Tournament. In addition the Mens Division A of the Buckinghamshire Inter-League Championship was staged on three Saturdays at the club, while the Slough League has made occasional use of the venue for matches in other Inter-League competitions.

The club has found it increasingly difficult to obtain the time at Haymill that it requires, especially at week-ends. This has disrupted the optimal timetable, especially with regard to matches in the Southern Region leagues, many of which had to be re-arranged with opponents after the final fixture list had been issued.

The club still has a few shirts with the name of the club printed on the back. These are available for purchase by members.

## BUILDING PROJECT

During the past year the Foundation for Sports and the Arts has been established with a budget of forty million pounds annually to grant to sporting organizations. With Table Tennis classified by the Sports Council as a "Focus Sport" at present, it appears that a unique opportunity exists to apply for funding for purpose built table tennis facilities. As the club is presently unable to expand its activities at Haymill, and given the many other advantages of owning our own premises, a Building Sub-Committee was formed at the January Management Committee meeting. This committee comprises Alec Watson, Graham Trimming, Frank Earis, Steve Crow and John Raemers.

Optimally, the club would like to acquire a piece of land and build its own premises large enough for six tables in excellent match conditions, with spectator seating, through a range of other possible configurations, to sixteen for coaching. Allied facilities would include changing and shower facilities, a lounge bar and a kitchen/cafeteria.

This project is still in its infancy, and contacts have been made with local government and schools in the search for a suitable site. As yet, no detailed plans for the building can be drawn, but the expected cost is in the region of a quarter of a million pounds. Everyone we have yet talked to has been enthusiastic and encouraging, but we are well aware of the enormity of the task of maintaining the premises once built, both in operational and financial terms.

## FINANCE

The Treasurer has reported another financially successful year, with a cash surplus of £605, a seasonally adjusted surplus of £369, and cash balances of £3611. The surpluses are, for the second time, more than the amount of £323 deemed necessary to cover depreciation of the club's equipment, thus generating a reserve for its eventual replacement. The club remains well managed financially, a feature of its nineteen year history.

With membership at capacity levels, the year's financial results represent an optimal situation, and are before the effect arises of Haymill's massive rent increases introduced in Summer 1991. The club was immune to this increase over the past year only because it had pre-booked dates through to April 1992. Subscription fee increases will now be necessary to absorb the effect from May 1992.

£50 sponsorship receipts were received from Slough Social Fund during the year.

Members this season paid an annual fee of £13 plus match fees of £2.50. Practice fees were £2 for non-members and £1.50 for members. All fees are halved for juniors and OAPs. These were unchanged from the previous year.

## TEAM COMPETITIONS

### **National Competitions**

As champions of the Slough League, the club was entered into the Ormesby Cup, the national club championship. After gaining a walk-over in the first round, we unfortunately had to concede our second round match owing to a lack of available players on the specified date.

A team representing the club did however play in the Leach Cup, a new national championship for cadet (under 14) boys teams. The lads gave a tremendous performance to just lose out to a strong Reading League side, headed by the England number six ranked player.

### **Southern Region leagues**

After the euphoria of winning both mens' and ladies' titles in 1991, we came down to earth with a bump this season. Alec Watson decided to retire from representative matches, and losing our best player had obvious effects on our "A" team's performance, and through promotions of players, the "B" team's also. At the end of the season both mens' teams finished in sixth place in seven team divisions, and face the potential of relegation if the league is expanded by a further division.

The ladies' team still flew the Cippenham flag with some gusto, finishing as runners-up to a very strong Generation II team, and ahead of local rivals OLOP. Jackie Thomas and Jacquie Lovell finished sixth and seventh in the averages respectively.

### **Slough League**

After being champions of the Slough League for nine of the previous fourteen seasons, we this year took a back seat and the premier team, Outlaws, finished runners-up to Burnham. Pirates finished fourth and Rogues sixth, so Cippenham can still boast three of the top six sides in Slough, retaining our position as the overall strongest club in the area.

The other seven teams in the senior divisions all finished mid table, with probably the best performance coming from Vagabonds in Division Two. Their third place finish belies a strong second half performance, with special credit to the results from Terry Young, in his first season out of the Youth Division.

Two of the club's five sides in the Slough youth divisions filled the top two places, emphasising the growing stature of our younger players, especially Gareth Herbert who is destined to be a very good player indeed.

In Division One Frank Earis played superbly to finish top of the averages, followed by Dave Pountney and Mike Rhodes in eighth and ninth places respectively. Ken Phillips, Richard Hyde and Mark Dozell were third, fifth and sixth in Division Two, while Mick Bradfield was second in Division Four. Cippenham players filled the first five places in the Youth Division One averages, being Tom Fray, Gareth Herbert (in his first season), Andrew Munnoch, Colin Digby and Ben Donovan.

No Cippenham team this year got past the third round of the Dilger Cup, the handicap knock-out competition, but Urchins did reach the final of the Tunes Cup, the equivalent for the youth divisions.

### **Maidenhead League**

For the second year, no attempt was made to win the Maidenhead League, and the third place finish of Spartans in the Premier Division was more than was expected. The two First Division sides finished mid table, but Cippenham were not to be denied one championship, as Saxons ran away with the Division Four title.

Alec Watson and Frank Earis are listed fourth and eighth in the League's averages, while Ken Phillips was sixth in Division One, and John Raemers, Ping Lee and Praveen Reddy second, sixth and eighth in Division Four.

In the Knock-Out Handicap Competition, Roundheads survived to the fourth round.

### **Summer Leagues**

Six teams were run in the Slough Summer League and one in Maidenhead. The most successful was the Maidenhead side which won Division Three, and Epsilon which came second in Slough Division Three.

For 1992, seven teams have been entered in Slough, and two in Maidenhead.

## TOURNAMENTS

### **Club Championship**

Held in late April, this annual event attracted a poor entry of only twenty-six participants, twelve less than last year. However many of the club's premier players were present, and the day provided much competitive play. The day was enjoyed by all, with plenty of table tennis for everyone. The mens, ladies, boys and girls singles were run initially in groups, with all other events being played on the knock-out principle. For the first time an Under-12 Singles event was added to the day's agenda. Four tables were kept busy from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. when the finals were staged on two tables.

The most successful player was Gareth Herbert whose three titles included the Boys Singles, Under-12 Singles and Junior Doubles. Mike Rhodes won the premier event, the Mens Singles together with the Tweenie Singles (for those between junior and veteran status), while Wendy Barlow won both the Ladies and Girls singles, for which the entry was very weak. Frank Earis won the Veterans Single and Championship Doubles, while Terry Young was successful in the Cadet Singles and Junior Doubles.

### **Handicap Tournament**

This year, owing to fixture congestion in the Autumn, the Handicap Tournament was delayed until March. The entry was about thirty, slightly up on last year. Again, the day provided participants with plenty of table tennis, including the highly innovative and popular Top 'n' Tail Doubles where the best and the weakest players are partnered.

There were two titles each for Gareth Herbert and Phil Woodhouse, with Frank Earis winning the premier title, the Handicap Singles, despite being the most severely handicapped player in the event.

### **Invitation Tournament**

The fifth Cippenham Invitation Tournament was played in September with, for the third year, a maximum entry of eight teams. Invitations were accepted by AHW (Milton Keynes), Castle Hill (Maidenhead), Kingfisher (Reading), Pyestock (Aldershot), St. Albion (Sheffield), while TTV Amsterdam '78 added an international flavour, plus two teams from the host club.

The tournament was played in two groups of four, then cross-over semi-finals and finals to establish all positions one to eight. Thus each team played five matches of six sets, under the experimental scoring system of thirteen-up.

The event attracted very good quality players and was won by St. Albion whose three players all appear in the top 140 placings in the England ranking list. Runners-up were AHW. The two Cippenham teams finished sixth and seventh. Very good pre-season practice was thus provided for all participants who clearly enjoyed and benefitted from the occasion.

## COACHING

Now into its eighth year, the Cippenham coaching scheme has continued under the expert guidance of ETТА Coach Ken Phillips every Sunday afternoon. Attendances have been good throughout the year. Ken has now accepted a post as Assistant coach in the ETТА Southern Region which is sure to further enhance the reputation of the Cippenham set-up, already recognised as a Club Advanced Centre.

The club now has the finest Under-14 squad in the area. All seven players who represented Slough and won both divisions of the Buckinghamshire Cadet Inter-League were from this club, as were all four players who represented Bucks and Berkshire in the final of the Southern Region Cadet Championships.

The club's Boy and Girl of the Year awards were made to Gareth Herbert and Wendy Barlow. The Slough League's Leo Thompson Trophy award to the most improved junior was made to Praveen Reddy.

#### TOURNAMENT SUCSESSES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Twenty-four winners and sixteen runners-up placings were achieved by club member during the season, better than the last two years but not as good as the bumper year of 1988-9. However this collection was achieved with the club's number one player not participating in a single tournament. The statistics include only successes when the player involved is deemed to be representing the club.

In general the ladies were more successful than the men, with the Bucks Closed Championship a prime example. In what must be a unique achievement one club supplied winners in every female event. Wendy Barlow made a complete sweep of junior and cadet events, winning Junior Girls Singles, Junior Girls Doubles, Junior Mixed Doubles, Cadet Girls Singles, while Jacquie Lovell achieved similar success in the senior events, winning Ladies Singles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles. The set was completed by Jackie Thomas' triumph in the Veteran Ladies Singles and Ladies Doubles. The only female winners trophy we did not collect was Wendy's partner in the Junior Girls Doubles. For good measure Linda Evans and Jackie Thomas also took away three runners-up awards.

In the Nat West Slough Closed the honours were shared more evenly. Jacquie Lovell won the Ladies Singles, while Richard Hyde and Steve Joel were successful in the Mens Doubles. Dave Pountney won the Veterans Singles at his first attempt, while the only junior event to elude us was the Boys Singles as Wendy Barlow won the Girls Singles, Terry Young the Cadet Singles and Junior Doubles, and Gareth Herbert the Under-12 Singles.

The Slough Hard Bat Tournament was dominated by Cippenham players, with Steve Crow winning the singles event, while Frank Earis and Mike Rhodes retained their Doubles title.

#### REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

No less than seven Cippenham players have appeared in England ranking lists this season. Highest placings achieved are as follows:

Ladies:	Anna Watton (81), Jacquie Lovell (83)
Under-21 Girls:	Anna Watton (27), Wendy Barlow (103)
Junior Girls:	Wendy Barlow (70)
Veteran Women:	Jackie Thomas (15)
Cadet Boys:	Terry Young (36), Edward Donovan (88)
Cadet Girls:	Wendy Barlow (21)
Over-60 Women:	Georgia Veneer (5).

Wendy Barlow was successful in winning through the Southern Region junior trials and so qualified to attend the national trials.

Four Cippenham players represented official Buckinghamshire teams over the past year while eighteen represented Slough. Frank Earis and Jackie Thomas were regulars in the Bucks veteran team which won Division 2C while Wendy Barlow was likewise in the junior team which won Division 2D. Jacquie Lovell, meanwhile, appeared for both Bucks senior sides.

Mike Rhodes, Frank Earis and Dave Pountney were the Slough mens' team in the national Wilmott Cup, while the latter two and Alec Watson represented the town in the VETTS Competition. Thus all players representing Slough in national competitions this season were from this club.

Slough Mens' "B" team and the two cadet sides all won their divisions of the Bucks Inter-League. Neil Bird and Gareth Lovell were members of the former, while all seven players representing Slough cadets were club members. Congratulation to the "A" team of Wendy Barlow, Praveen Reddy and Edward Donovan, and the "B" team of Gareth Herbert, Andrew Munnoch, Robert Pountney and Ben Donovan.

Edward Donovan, Gareth Herbert, Andrew Munnoch and Praveen Reddy were all presented with Slough badges recently.

Congratulations to all the players who, by their team or individual successes, have made this season a memorable one in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

#### NON-TABLE TENNIS ACTIVITIES

The club entered a team of eleven runners in the MaST Relay Marathon which took place in Maidenhead last June. Despite atrocious weather the days was enjoyable and £868 was raised by our team for the charity Royal Marsden Cancer Fund. for the record, our team finished 149th out of exactly 300 in the time 3:29:12.

Graham Trimming  
May 1992