



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2019-20

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the forty-seventh season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the twenty-fourth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. We have now played in our purpose-built premises for longer than we did in our two previous venues. This has been another successful year, the highlights of which were:

- Our men's first team in the Veterans' British League winning their division and our teams in the Women's British League and Junior British League both finishing second in their divisions
- Winning the National Junior League Southern Region for the first time since 2004
- Retaining the Maidenhead League title and being in pole position to win both the other divisions before the season was curtailed
- The hosting of an umpires' training course and qualification of six new umpires associated with the Club
- An increase in the overall number of teams operated
- The huge increase in the number of players attending the beginners' coaching sessions
- The continued success of the Club's programme of open tournaments with entry levels at or near capacity

Unfortunately, the season ended early and abruptly with the cessation of all activities after March 17th due to the restrictions on society imposed during the Coronavirus pandemic. Activities restarted on a restricted basis in August..

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1 October 1996 as a result of the hard work and enterprise of the Club's Management Committee. It was a joint project with The Westgate School and is used by the School during school hours for a variety of sporting activities. Outside of school hours it is used exclusively by the Club for table tennis. The Centre is managed by Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited, a company formed by the management of the Club for the sole purpose of managing the facility. The Board of Directors includes three Club members while the School is also entitled to nominate two representatives although these positions are currently vacant.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design attracts many compliments from visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office that doubles as a control point for tournaments. In the opinion of many, the Centre remains one of the finest table tennis facilities in the country. The Club has access to adjoining changing and shower facilities but this access is used only during weekend events.

The floor of the playing hall was renewed in January 2016 and was initially a little troublesome with reports from players of slipperiness. To combat this, in January 2017, £1,500 was invested in a cleaning machine and the regular use of this has relieved much of the problem and the condition of the floor is improving all the time.

The Centre owns 20 Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway 25 green tables. A selection of net and posts sets services those tables with the most recently purchased being retained for weekend events. There are also 12 Butterfly scoring machines plus some older ones that remain in service for local league matches. Still giving service are the 80 Butterfly surrounds in blue with "Butterfly" printed on one side and "Cippenham" on the other in light blue that were purchased in 2012. Many of these surrounds are stacked on a specially design wheeled trolley.

There are also about 75 quality spectator chairs which are stored on a purpose-designed trolley. The Club also owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events. These configurations cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and eleven courts for lesser events. The National Junior and Cadet leagues make use of a 12-table configuration although this configuration prevents access to the main amenities block.

The playing hall is lit by 180 high-frequency fluorescent tubes in 45 installations. In order to maintain the lux level at or near its original rating of 600, these tubes are replaced every three years or so and this was last done in August 2018.

During the summer of 2019, the lounge area benefitted from a complete revamp. The existing tables were all replaced and additional chairs purchased. A group of easy chairs and a coffee table were added and these provide a comfortable seating area within the alcove. The carpet was deep cleaned, the curtains replaced and blinds added, while the linoleum floor in front of the servery was also replaced. In addition, the drinking water dispensary was replaced with a more modern and cleaner piece of equipment.

Cleaning of the premises has been performed internally for several years, saving the Club a considerable amount of money, and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips and Emma Human who have taken on much of this process.

Administration and Management

The 2019 Annual General Meeting was attended by nine members and elected the following Management Committee which met five times. Meeting have not been possible during the Coronavirus lockdown but an online Zoom meeting was held on June 5 to discuss potential requirements for return after lockdown. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Ken Phillips	Chairman/Coaching Officer	5	June 4	7
Graham Trimming	General Secretary/Treasurer	5	July 2	7
Elena Tant	Deputy Chairman/Bookings Officer	5	October 31	7
Julia Piercey	Events Officer	4	January 7	6
Keith Hall	General Committee member	5	February 11	6
Elroy Hull	General Committee member	3		
Bassam Mocharrafi	General Committee member	2		
Dave Tant	General Committee member	4		

No nominations were made for the positions of Club Captain, Social Officer and Public Relations Officer.

Sue Hayes retired from the Management Committee, due to family reasons, at the 2019 AGM and the Club thanks her for her very valuable service over twenty years and looks forward to welcoming her back when her circumstances allow.

The Club benefits from having the services of people that have amassed a wealth of experience between them. Graham Trimming has been General Secretary ever since the Club was founded in 1973. Ken Phillips re-joined the Committee in 2012 after a few years absence but had been a foremost member for a great many years prior to that, including several as Chairman. Elena Tant joined the Committee in 2014 having previously served more than twenty years as League Secretary for the Maidenhead & District Association while Elroy Hull served many seasons on the Slough & District League committee as Inter-League Secretary.

The Management Committee again drew up an organization chart. This has two purposes: it formalises the structure of responsibility with officers showing the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identifies gaps in the management hierarchy. Some positions remained unfilled.

The following appointments were made:

Welfare Officer:	Ken Phillips	Weekday Duty Manager:	Ken Phillips
Volunteer Champion:	Ken Phillips	Club Championships Organizer:	Elena Tant
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips	Grand Prix Administrator:	Emma Human
Committee Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Catering Liaison:	Elena Tant
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Facilities Manager:	Ken Phillips
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming	Westgate School Liaison:	Elena Tant
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming	Health & Safety Advisor:	Dave Tant
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming	Anniversary Party Organiser:	Charles Mitchell
Calendar Coordinator:	Elena Tant	Club Supply Agent:	Julia Piercey
Members' Supply Agent:	Julia Piercey	Catering Stock Buyer:	Elena Tant

In addition, secretaries and captains were appointed for all teams and organizers and referees appointed for all major events. These are noted later in this report.

The following sub-committees were also elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund:	Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
Calendar:	Elena Tant; Julia Piercey; Graham Trimming

Necessarily, the more active Committee members do far more than might be supposed from their job titles. Thanks are due to all who have contributed to the administration of the Club, including all the team captains and event organisers.

External appointments included:

Ken Phillips:	Coaching Officer, Selector and Minutes Secretary for the Buckinghamshire Association; Referee for Maidenhead Closed Championships
Sue Hayes:	General Secretary and National Councillor for Buckinghamshire Association
Graham Trimming:	Auditor for the Maidenhead Association
Steve Smith:	Referee for Senior National Championships Qualifier and various other national events
Denise Weller:	General Secretary of the Newbury League
Jan Chapman:	Management Committee member of Maidenhead Association
Ricky Hardcastle:	Publicity Officer of Maidenhead Association
Mark Banks:	Divisional Fixtures Secretary for Reading & District League

Many of those listed above have held their positions for many years and given great service to those organisations.

For more than eighteen years the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and this role was performed extremely well by Emma Human until the end of January at which time she stood down. The Club began the search for a new Duty Officer and ultimately two were appointed: Zoe Mizel for Tuesday evenings and Shae Thakker for Thursdays. Both enjoy the support of their fathers in order to carry out their duties but, unfortunately, the cessation of all activities arrived soon after these appointments were made.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Since the start of 2018 the set-up teams have been arranged individually for each event and usually comprise members of the Club's Management Committee to whom we express our thanks. Ken Phillips, Keith Hall, Dave and Elena Tant, Steve Piercey and Graham Trimming are the mainstays of these teams.

In the autumn of 2019, the old photocopier was replaced with a much smaller and more modern piece of equipment.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

For their immense service over a great many years, four individuals are honoured with Life Membership of the Club. These are: Peter Hillier; Jacque Lovell; Ken Phillips; Graham Trimming.

The Club has a Privileged Membership scheme. This is awarded to Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year and a few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. There is also a higher tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two, but usually many more, years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for local league matches, coaching and practice. During the past year there have been nine Gold Privileged Members and two ordinary Privileged Members. A practice voucher scheme is in place, but rarely used, whereby volunteers are incentivised to assist the Club and are rewarded with a voucher that they can use to pay practice fees at a Tuesday or Thursday session.



her great improvement and her performances on the international para stage. Small gifts of chocolate are also made to all the Club's many and varied volunteers as a mark of thanks for their service to the Club.

The Club also hosted, in conjunction with Table Tennis England, a two-day training course for umpires. Seven Club members attended and six became qualified. Congratulations to Joseph Caldeira, Jan Chapman, Keith Hall, Jonny Iles, Steve Piercey and Sunjay Thakker. The course was organised by Ken Phillips and tutored by renowned international umpire Harry Jutle who also acted as assessor for each student.

Congratulations to Club Chairman Ken Phillips who successfully upgraded his Tournament Organiser qualification from Level 2 to Level 3 during the year and is consequently now qualified to organise 4-star open tournaments, making the Club less reliant on non-members.

One of the annual highlights is the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went to Steve Piercey for his all-round contribution to the Club including assistance with set-up, assistance at National Junior League and National Cadet League sessions and other events. The Player of the Year awards are also presented at this event. The Junior Player of the Year award perpetuates the names of Alan Farral and Terry Boxall in its title and was presented to Rachael Iles who finished second in the Under-12 National Cup the previous season. The Senior Player of the Year award went to Lucie Bouron in recognition of



Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 140, 1 more than from the same stage last year. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2019 was 145, 23 up on the previous year. It is gratifying that membership numbers have increased in recent years but they are still only about 60% of what they were two decades ago. However, the premises remained busy during the twice weekly practice sessions and that is the true indication of the healthy state of the Club.

Over the past twelve months a total of 71 players have represented the club in match play, seven more than in the previous year. 21 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year, two more than in the previous year. 20 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, also two more than in the previous season. 6 teams were operated in British leagues, 8 in National leagues and 6 in the Maidenhead League.

The Club is now 47 years old and during that time a total of 862 players have played in our teams. The Club's founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances with over 1,600. During the season Paul Baker became the fifth player to pass 600 appearances, Ricky Hardcastle passed 200 while Elena Tant, Albert Cheung and Pranav Gudipati all completed their first century. The all-time leading appearance list now reads:



Graham Trimming	1632	Frank Cowley	363	Steve Crow	268
Peter Hillier	858	Martin Adams	359	Denise Weller	263
Mike Rhodes	694	David Hayes	350	Roland Clapton	257
Frank Earis	669	Robert Hansell	347	Jane Dickens	235
Paul Baker	606	Georgia Veneer	336	Ashley Shaw	234
Ken Phillips	549	Rodney Potts	316	Ricky Hardcastle	215
Sue Hayes	528	Alec Watson	301	James Milton	205
Neil Bird	435	Gemma Chapman	282	Anna Watton	204
Armando Borges	429	Jacquie Lovell	282	Andrew Dickens	203
Jackie Wood	403	Wendy Barlow	279	Steve Dorrell	202
Gareth Lovell	381	Steve Joel	278	Catherine Hayes	200
George Appleby	372	Dave Pountney	276		

The busiest players during the past season were the juniors who played in both the National Junior and Cadet leagues, headed by William Saint and Edward Meacock with 30 and 28 appearances respectively.

Finance

Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited together, the consolidated results of the year are an operating surplus of £3,091 and a net surplus, after having added in investment income, of £3,492. This represents an increase of £1,232 from the previous year.

Revenues increased when compared to the previous year by about £4,500. This can all be accounted for by holding two Junior 4-Star Open tournaments during the financial year as compared to none the previous year. Coaching fees were up by over £2,000 but this was offset by other factors, notably a decrease of £1,300 in letting fees, mostly due to Bucks not hosting as many sessions of the County Championships but also partly caused by the cancellation of events due to Coronavirus.

Direct expenditure was significantly higher, by £2,800 over the previous year, and the majority of this is associated with the Junior 4-Star Open tournaments. Another factor was the upgrading of equipment and furniture in the lounge area.

The Club has substantial cash reserves that as at 30 April 2020 stood at £77,794, marginally down on the figure one year earlier but after significant investment during the year especially in the lounge area. £52,974 cash is invested at Cater Allen on a term deposit paying interest at 0.7% p.a. Another £16,612 is currently in a deposit account with Barclays paying negligible interest, while the remainder is in a current account with NatWest, a small amount remains in the PayPal account while about £1,800 was awaiting deposit into the bank during the Coronavirus lockdown. The net assets of the Club and limited company together stand at £99,202.

The rate charged to external hirers is £23 per hour. Annual membership fees are £18, practice and local league match fees £4 and coaching fees £6. All these are halved for juniors and over-60s. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £30 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Attendees at the Monday evening advanced coaching and Wednesday evening elite coaching pay a fee of £35 each term. Players in the National Junior League and National Cadet League pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses although this has been covered by the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund for the last three years. In the British leagues a £5 match fee (50% in the Junior British League) is payable with players also contributing their individual registration fees. This fee structure has remained unchanged now for many years and the healthy state of the Club's finances means that there is no requirement for an increase.

The Club maintains the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund which was started many years ago with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees of all junior and younger age open tournaments run by the Club. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for children's activities and that includes support for children who may, for one reason or another, need help with expenses incurred in the pursuit of table tennis. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts.

Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, and much of it for a great many years by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers: Slough Express, Slough Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 16 reports have been submitted during the year and most of them found their way into at least one of the three local newspapers. A total of 488 column inches was achieved across the three publications, significantly down on the previous season, due in part to the curtailment of events due to Coronavirus. The last seven years have seen action photographs submitted along with many of the reports and this has led to increased publicity during that period of time. However, only 22 photographs appeared in the local newspapers this year compared to a record 73 in the previous season. Most of the photographs were taken by Graham Trimming. Reports of all open tournaments also appeared on the Table Tennis England website.

In May 2018 Graham Trimming revised the Club's website and the current (third) incarnation uses the Wix software and platform. It is a modern type of website, optimised also for viewing also on smart phones. The website is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The website is also used for online tournament entry forms, the online membership form and for sign-up to the Maidenhead League and the open tournament mailing database. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club web site in the country. Google Analytics reports the following statistics for the twelve months from June 2019 to May 2020: 4,138 users (2019: 3,735); 7,441 sessions (2019: 6,913); 19,604 page views (2019: 19,179). The most visitors in any single day was 123 on November 25th when the report from the Veterans' Open was published. Unsurprisingly, the number of visits to the website have been much reduced since lockdown was announced. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

The Club's Facebook page has also been used to drive readers to the website. All reports have been linked and many events have been advertised on Facebook. As at the end of May, the Club had 751 followers on Facebook, up from 721 a year ago, and 566 on Twitter, up from 550. Facebook postings are also used to drive users to the Club's Flickr account which has 63 followers. A further 8 albums of photographs have been uploaded this year, all by Graham Trimming. Together, they represent 1,948 photos and the albums have attracted over 2,700 views. These statistics, although down on the previous season due to the curtailment of activities and Graham's absence from two of the three Senior British League weekends, show that this service is appreciated by members and visitors. The photographic backdrop purchased in November 2015 is used for most of the presentations.

An edition of the Club newsletter has also been published seven times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. The articles are enhanced by many photographs.

Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge and refreshment area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area and the servery cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed as many as 80 competitors plus their coaches and parents.

Until 2010 catering at weekend events was carried out by volunteers but has since been sub-contracted on a commercial basis. Former Club member Bhanu Muralitharan and her family have been providing this valuable service, much appreciated by patrons, since September 2014.

The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television is also a popular attraction. Broadband wifi was installed six years ago and this has provided a valuable service to members and visitors and has also helped considerably with live uploading of Senior British League results onto Table Tennis England's website.



The twenty-third annual party was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. In the week before Christmas, a Festive Grand Prix was held during which mulled wine and mince pies were an additional attraction to the table tennis. This is now a popular annual event.

Venue Utilisation

Since the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre two principles of utilisation have been established: weekdays should be for regular events, and weekends should be filled on an ad hoc basis with no regular weekly events impeding this. This year the weekday format has been:

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Elite coaching
Thursday	5:15 to 7:15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice

Privileged Members are allowed to play when the Centre is not in use for other activities. Many weekend dates have been sold to outside events, detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club.

On each occasion that the Centre is open a Duty Officer is nominated. The responsibilities of the Duty Officer include the collection of fees, health and safety, the proper use and storage of the Club's equipment together with security.

External Events

The Club continues to be successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has continued to be made by Table Tennis England and Buckinghamshire County Association while the Maidenhead and Reading leagues continue to hold their annual championships at Cippenham. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips who has acted as Duty Officer for a great number of bookings.

The Club was delighted that the County Championships Senior Premier Division stayed at Cippenham. We also hosted all weekends of the Senior British League playing host to National Division B-4. Normally, two divisions are hosted but, following an administrative error by Table Tennis England, the other division originally scheduled to be hosted here was enlarged and required a greater number of tables than we could accommodate. These weekends were organized by Graham Trimming with Ken Phillips in the role of Referee. We are also indebted to Steve and Julia Piercey who stepped in to cover for Graham when he was away on holiday. We also hosted all sessions of the National Junior League and National Cadet League, organised by Mike Atkinson. Cippenham had also been selected to host the prestigious National Cadet Cup in March but this was cancelled due to Coronavirus.



A full list of external events (June 2019-May 2020), totalling 26 weekend days, seven fewer than in the previous year, was as follows.

Weekend dates:

Table Tennis England:	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	Senior British League (5)
	National Junior League (4)
	National Cadet League (4)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (4)
Berks County TTA:	Berkshire Inter-Town (1)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading & DTTA:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Paul Drinkhall:	Training day (2)

Three events, Senior British League weekend 4, the Inter-Region Qualification Event and the National Cadet Cup were cancelled due to Coronavirus. The Bucks Closed Championships were cancelled due to lack of entries.

Club Events

Open Tournaments

The scheduled open tournament programme remained the same as in the previous year with a total of six open tournaments, covering eight days of play. However, two of these events were unable to be played. The completed events were:

Month	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun '19	Young Players' Summer Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips & Graham Trimming	139
Nov '19	Super 6 Veterans' 1-Star	Graham Trimming	Wendy Porter	50
Dec '19	Junior 4-Star	Mike Atkinson	Steve Smith	217
Jan '20	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	26 pairs

The Super 6 Senior 2-Star, due to be organised by Paul Baker and refereed by Sue Hayes during April 2020, was cancelled due to Coronavirus. The Five by Two Senior and Veterans' 1-Star with the same officials was not re-arranged for the same reason.

The Junior 4-star takes a great deal of organising and an army of umpires is assembled for each day. The Organiser was Mike Atkinson while Steve Smith used his National Referee qualification and Ken Phillips acted as Entries Secretary and Assistant Organiser and was responsible for much of the organisation. Graham Trimming, Dave Tant and Elena Tant together produced the Draw Sheet, while Graham also looked after the publicity and took the photographs. Julia Piercey assisted on the control desk while some of the Club's junior players helped with booking in the players. The Club is indebted to an army of qualified umpires without whom the event could not be run. The tournament ran over two days with cadet events on the Saturday and junior events on the Sunday.



The format of all scheduled tournaments remained the same as season 2018-19. Two of these were branded Cippenham Super Six 1-Star or 2-Star Opens and catered for open and veteran age groups. The number of participants is restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. Another tournament was branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Open to feature two age groups in the same day. Each event is run in groups of five and so there is a maximum permitted entry of 45 players in each event. The Young Players' Summer Festival is effectively two Five by Two's on consecutive days, under-12 and under-14 on Saturday, under-16 and under-18 on Sunday. Entry levels were generally very good with participation at or near maximum levels except for the Sunday events at the Summer Festival.

The Clubs places on record its thanks for the organisers and referees, listed above, who give their time to help the Club.

Hari Gehlot retained his title at the Super 6 Veterans' Open while Anna Piercey and Rachael Iles were runners-up in the Under-14 and Under-12 Girls' Singles respectively at the Young Players' Summer Festival.

Club Championships

The Club Championships could not be staged this year due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

Festive Grand Prix

For the ninth year a Festive Grand Prix was organised in the week before the Christmas shutdown. This was organised using the standard Grand Prix format with the added encouragement of mulled wine and mince pies. A near record twenty-two players took part and the winner was Shae Thakker as it was in 2018.

Summer Grand Prix

A pre-season Grand Prix was run over six weeks during August and September. A fantastic total of 47 players participated with an average of 20 each week. The winner was Shae Thakker who won all five of the individual weeks' events that he entered.

Team Competitions

The Club ran twenty teams in various leagues this season, two more than in the previous season.

The following managerial positions were appointed and are acknowledged with thanks for their time and energy:

Senior British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
Women's British League	Captain and Secretary:	Denise Weller
Veterans' British League	Captains and Secretaries:	Paul Baker; Denise Weller
Junior British League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
National Cadet League	Captain and Secretary:	Ken Phillips
Maidenhead League	Captain and Secretary:	Elena Tant
	Team Captains:	Ricky Hardcastle; Ashley Shaw; Harry Coles; Elena Tant; Walter Aldridge; Qasim Mohammed
	Selection Sub-Committee:	Elena Tant; Keith Hall; Dave Tant; Graham Trimming

Sign-up for teams to represent the Club in the Maidenhead League was performed the same way that was trialled the previous season using a sign-up form, in both hard copy and online versions. This again proved very successful.

British League Competitions

The Club ran six teams in the British leagues, the same number as in the previous season. However, this season a girls' team was entered into the Junior British League rather than a boys' team.

The Senior British League team was placed again in National Division B-4 with all matches being played at Cippenham. Only three weekends were played before the Coronavirus lockdown occurred and this resulted in the final weekend being cancelled. As a result, the league table was left with only ten matches out of the scheduled fourteen completed. After making a good start, results waned through Robert Hansell's unavailability and the team was eventually placed sixth when the schedule was interrupted. Team captain Martin Adams excelled, as usual, winning 80% of his matches from the number one position.



The addition of Mary Heffernan to the Women's British League team brought improved results and they eventually finished runners-up in Division 5. Congratulations to Mary, Denise Weller, Julie Dean and Sue Hayes.

The men's first team of Martin Adams, Hari Gehlot, new signing Andy Trott and Mark Banks led the way from start to finish in Division 2B of the Veterans' British League and were clearly the outstanding team in the division. Only six sets were lost throughout the season and three of these were on the final day when reserves had to be promoted from the second team. All ten matches were won and the title margin was six points. The men's B team finished fifth in Division 4A with all four players achieving a win rate of at least 50%. The women's team, with exactly the same personnel as the WBL team, did not fare so well and finished bottom of Division 1.



The new girls' team had a promising debut season in Junior British League Division 2 and finished runners-up with a draw, rather than victory, in the final match of the season being the small difference between second and first. Locals Anna Piercey and Rachael Iles were supported, at number one, by Jersey resident Hannah Silcock. Hannah was outstanding with a win ratio of 90% while Anna and Rachael also excelled also with 70% and 65% respectively.

National League Competitions

Eight teams were entered in total this season, four in each the National Junior League and in the National Cadet League. This represents an increase of one from the previous season.

The National Junior League "A" team really excelled and won the title for Cippenham for the first time since 2004. Congratulations to Pranav Gudipati, Jaiden Caldeira and the hugely improved William Saint. Pranav lost only one match, out of 35, throughout the season. The title was won by a massive 30-points margin! The other three teams occupied various positions in the other three divisions with newcomer Nick Carter enjoying the best personal record for the "C" team.

William Saint also spearheaded our top team in the National Cadet League and finished with an 83% average. However, despite his efforts, the team could finish only third overall. The B and C teams occupied mid-table positions but a good last day performance from the D team saw them head Division 4 at the final count. Once again, it was Nick Carter with the best personal performance, apart from William, with 79% for the B team.

Local League

The Club ran a record six teams in the Maidenhead League this season, one more than in the previous season and remains the club with the most teams in the league.

Ricky Hardcastle transferred from Saxons to Trojans and built a strong team around him that included Maciej Dlugozima, Hari Prasad and Anthony Gardner and were far too strong for anyone else. Despite the league season not having been completed when lockdown occurred, Trojans had accumulated sufficient points to confirm them in top position and were duly awarded the title. The Saxons team of brothers Oli and Ashley Shaw with Albert Cheung and Graham Trimming had also accumulated sufficient points to be awarded the runners-up position. A timely reminder to keep up to date with scheduled matches!

The same could not be said for Divisions Two and Three, both of which were headed by Cippenham teams at the point of lockdown but insufficient points had been gained to decide the final outcomes. Titans led Division Two but could have been caught by three other teams including Vikings. In Division Three, Spartans looked a sure bet to win the division and had many points in hand but not quite enough! If only they had played all their matches during the scheduled weeks!

Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club for three decades and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally.

There are three weekly coaching groups. On Mondays, it is the advanced class for invited players. Wednesday sees a smaller squad of hand-picked players in the elite group and on Thursdays there is the beginners' class to which everyone is welcome and is where young players are first introduced to the Club. Attendances at the Thursday sessions have risen strongly over the year and were at an all-time high prior to the Coronavirus lockdown.

Ken Phillips has been Head Coach at the Club for about thirty years now and he is still the mainstay of the operation, running the Monday and Wednesday groups while also engaging in one-to-one coaching with the more promising youngsters. Jan Chapman has also assisted Ken greatly with the Monday and Thursday groups while Tim Kiteley has also provided great help with the younger players.

An informal cluster exists with the other coaching classes run by Ken Phillips comprising: St. Anthony's School, Slough; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; Cox Green School, Maidenhead.

Tournament Successes for Individuals

Lucie Bouron continued to impress on the international para tour winning two team competitions and was runner-up in a third.



New VBL recruit Andy Trott, representing England, did the treble of Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and the Team event for over-50s at the Home Nations tournament.

There were not enough entrants to run the Bucks Closed this season so the Club's local successes were restricted to the Maidenhead Closed. Maciej Dlugozima was the star of the show winning both the Men's Singles and the Tweenies' Singles while Ricky Hardcastle and Lucie Bouron won the Mixed Doubles and Hari Prasad was one half of a partnership that won the Men's Doubles. Ricky also won the Division 1 Singles while Keith Hall did similarly in Division 2.

Representative Honours and Rankings

Shae Thakker and Lucie Bouron have both been selected for GB representation at an international para event abroad while Andy Trott represented England in the over-50s category at the Home Nations veterans' tournament.

Eleven Cippenham members represented Buckinghamshire during the season with Robert Hansell, Sue Hayes, Steve Munson and Shae Thakker being honoured by the first team. Pranav Gudipati, Rachael Iles, Anna Piercey, William Saint and Shae Thakker all appeared for the county junior team while Rachael, Anna and William also appeared for the cadets alongside Rudii Richards and Jamie Woodford. Steve Munson appeared also for the veterans' first team that won their division, Sue Hayes for the second team and Mary Heffernan for the over-60s.

Six players who play for Cippenham in the Maidenhead League also represented that league in the Berkshire Inter-Town Tournament.

Seventeen Club members have been included in the top 100 England rankings at various age categories. Several players appeared in more than one list. Five made it into the top twenty and these were Andy Trott and Martin Adams in Veteran Men, Julie Lawrence in Veteran Women and Rachael Iles and Mia Lakhani in the under-13 girls.

The Club has two para players ranked in the World: Lucie Bouron (Class 3) is ranked 25 while Shae Thakker (Class 10) is 46 in the seniors and 12 in the juniors (under-23). In the British rankings Lucie and Shae are joined by Jaiden Caldeira. In their respective senior lists, Lucie is top, Shae is second and Jaiden sixth. In the junior lists, Shae is top and Jaiden fourth, both in the Standing Class 6-11 category.

Please see the attached Appendix for a complete statistical review of the playing season.

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
August 2020