



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2008-09

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the thirty-sixth season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the thirteenth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- Gavin Evans becoming European Cadet Boys' Singles champion and winning the World Cadet Challenge with Europe;
- Gavin also becoming triple champion at the English National Junior Championships;
- The Slough League double won by the Outlaws team;
- the appointment of the first Community Coach for Slough and Wexham working in local schools and the Club;
- the ETTA Volunteer of the Year awards presented to Sue Hayes, Stephanie Mitchell and Graham Trimming;
- the increased membership of the Club and increased attendances, again, at the Club's weekly practice evenings;
- the massive entries received once again for the Young Players' Summer and New Year Festivals and the Cadet and Under-13 Open;
- the continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for its prestigious events including the National Cadet Masters and the County Championships Senior and Junior Premier divisions;
- the hosting of all other seven days' programme of the British League;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- the fantastic financial result, again, due to the enormous effort put in to the day-to-day running of the Club by its hard working management team and volunteer force.

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 is a joint project with The Westgate School and is used by the School during school hours for a variety of sporting activities. Outside of schools hours, in the evenings, weekends and holidays 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 seven Club members and representatives of the School.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery, extended in 2004, 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. There is a disabled washroom and changing and toilet facilities completed in 2004 as part of a substantial upgrade of facilities undertaken by the School. In the opinion of many the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

The Centre owns nine Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables purchased in 2007 and 11 Donic Waldner Sinus tables retained from a previous lot. The latter remain the first to be used on Club evenings while the newer tables are used for weekend events. Net and post sets are regularly replaced in order to maintain standards. Twelve scoring machines have been refurbished with numbers produced on the Club's own laminating machine. Since 2003 the Centre has benefited from 80 court surrounds in blue with the name of the Club printed in yellow. This has helped create a striking brand identity at the home venue. Many of these are stored on a purpose-made trolley but are now showing signs of wear from being moved on and off its frame. There are also about 90 quality spectator chairs. During the season a replacement for the robot was purchased and this features a much-improved design.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events and there are markings for these on the skirting thereby easing the tournament set-up process. These configurations cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and twelve courts for lesser events. The main criteria for selection of these configurations were implications for health and safety.

Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2008 AGM met eleven times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Graham Trimming	Chairman/General Secretary	11	May 25	8
Peter Hillier	Treasurer/Bookings Officer	9	June 25	5
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	7	July 30	8
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	9	September 1	8
Steve Smith	Events Officer	6	October 10	7
Amar Abid-Ali	General Committee member	4	November 5	7
Martin Adams	General Committee member	5	December 10	5
Neil Bird	General Committee member	6	January 19	8
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	9	February 18	7
Gemma Chapman	General Committee member	2	March 29	5
John Lloyd	General Committee member	7	May 3	7

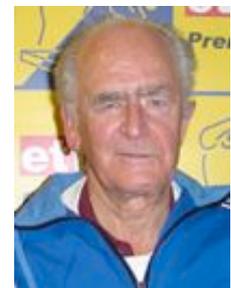
Amar Abid-Ali resigned from the Committee on 1 June 2009.

Some of the meetings were held, as an experiment, midweek rather than on Sundays as had been the case for the past several years. It was hoped that attendances would improve but this turned out not to be the case. No meeting attracted more than eight of the eleven members and overall attendance levels were a disappointing 62%. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find times suitable for members who all have busy domestic, work and table tennis calendars.

For the fourth year the Management Committee drew up an Organization Chart. This had two purposes: it formalised the structure of responsibility with Officers shown the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identified gaps in the management hierarchy. Some gaps remain unfilled.

As a result the following additional appointments were made:

Development Coordinator:	Graham Trimming
Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Ken Phillips
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips
Slough Schools Coaching Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Neil Bird
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming
PremierClub Contact:	Graham Trimming
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming
Supply Members' Agent:	Roy Linz
Marketing Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Calendar Coordinator:	Peter Hillier
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes
Weekday Duty Manager:	Sue Hayes
Grand Prix Administrator:	Steve Smith
Series Administrator:	Steve Smith
Umpires' Coordinator:	Terry Boxall
Servery Manager:	Jacquie Lovell
Facilities Manager:	Terry Boxall
Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Health and Safety Advisor:	Terry Boxall
Maintenance Manager:	Terry Boxall
Supply Club Agent:	Peter Hillier
Auditor:	Filippo Rotunno.



Also, secretaries and captains were appointed for all teams and organizers and referees appointed for all major events.

In addition the following sub-committees were elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund:	Jacquie Lovell; Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
Slough League Selection:	John Lloyd; Amar Abid-Ali; Steve Smith; Graham Trimming
Calendar:	Peter Hillier; Sue Hayes; Ken Phillips; Steve Smith; Graham Trimming.

Necessarily, all the 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.

Other appointments included:

Graham Trimming: Fixtures Secretary, Handbook Secretary, acting Chairman and acting Treasurer for the Slough League and Auditor for the Maidenhead Association
Steve Smith: Organizer for the ETTA National Junior and Cadet Masters
Terry Boxall: Umpires' Secretary for the Bucks Association
Ken Phillips: Junior Selector for the Bucks Association and Referee for the Bucks Closed Championships
Jan Chapman: Chair of the Maidenhead Association
Elroy Hull: Competitions Secretary and Inter-League Secretary for the Slough League
Nick Hansell: Treasurer for the Bucks Association
Charlie Childs: Vice-Chairman National Coaching for the ETTA
Geoff Ware: Publicity Officer for the ETTA Grand Prix

Volunteer Investment

The Club has, for several years now, placed great emphasis on volunteer investment management – the recruitment, retention and reward of the Club's volunteer work force. Although there are never enough people to do all the things we would like to do the Club does have a more able, better focussed and more highly motivated volunteer force than most other organizations of its type. This is recognized by the ETTA which continues to place faith in the Club to host events on its behalf.

Until last summer, Jacquie Lovell was the Club's Volunteer Champion and it has been her dedication in this and her many other tasks, leading by superb example, that has kept many others engaged in their work load, giving up their time to the benefit of the Club willingly and enthusiastically. No formal replacement was found for Jacquie in this role although she has continued to play a part especially the continuation of training programmes that she had started. Also, the valuable Volunteer Reference Manual contains a collection of written resource materials and continues to be updated.



Critical to the success of volunteer management is reward. The volunteer has to feel that he or she has made a worthwhile contribution and gain satisfaction from having assisted the Club. Ever since 1997 the Club has presented the Outstanding Contribution Award at its annual Anniversary Party. The 2008 award was made to Roy Linz for his assistance over many years with coaching, chaperoning teams in the Junior British League and acting as Club members' agent with the supply of their equipment and kit from Bribar. Opportunity is also taken at the party to recognise

in a smaller way many other members for their continued loyal support to the Club. Since 2003 the Club has also made awards to players and in 2008 the Senior Player of the Year award went to Steve Munson and the counterpart Junior Player of the Year award to Angela Oetiker.



Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Club is fortunate to have had the services of Steph Mitchell, who took over from Catherine Hayes in September, and the success of these sessions has a lot to do with the manner in which they have gone about their duties. More recently, Catherine and latterly Ricky Hardcastle have performed the same role at the newly introduced Friday sessions.

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. This work is managed by Jim Hayes and is largely undertaken by members of the Hayes family with help more recently from whoever is present at the Friday practice sessions. Another aspect that goes largely unnoticed is maintenance. Terry Boxall undertakes much of this work and uses his many skills for the benefit of the club.

The Club would like to place on record its grateful thanks to the many people that assist in a great variety of ways. The Management Committee members work very hard but are assisted by a great many more in such tasks as catering, captaining of teams, coaching, umpiring, chauffeuring youngsters, setting up for weekend events, general maintenance, etc. The Club can count on about thirty-five volunteers for various roles, a huge number in comparison to other organizations. Not all of our valuable volunteers are even members of the Club, some are parents. Particular thanks are also due to Mick Strode who has acted as referee for five of the six Series events this season. The country's best and most active referee is a more frequent visitor to Cippenham than many of our members!

Development

Phase 5, year 4, of the Club's Action Plan was mostly a follow-up to the recruitment, marketing, and training aspects from the previous year. New sections concentrated on the Club's open tournaments and lighting improvements.

Objective: to recruit and retain more new players in order to build membership

In January the Club introduced a third weekly practice session on Friday evenings. This was deliberately early and short, covering two hours from 7 to 9 pm and, although anyone is welcome, was targeted at families. The idea is that, without the necessity for the completion of homework, children can attend with their parents as a family activity. The session got off to a slow start but attendances have improved. Financially, this is a loss leader with attendance being free of charge for members but this fact has resulted in new memberships being taken out.

A women and girls' evening was held in September but this was poorly attended, proved unsuccessful in attracting new members and has not been repeated.



The most exciting initiative has been to appoint a Community Coach. This is a salaried position, employed by the English Table Tennis Association and funded by PESSCL and the Slough and Wexham School Sport Partnership. Jan Chapman, after having impressed the interviewing panel, was appointed and commenced work in April. Her role includes coaching in several local schools and running a new beginners' session at Cippenham on Tuesday evenings to which her pupils will be encouraged to attend. This, it is hoped, will provide a flow of new recruits into the Club's coaching scheme and, in time, elevate the coaching here to the successful level of a few years ago when it was almost certainly the best in the country.

Objective: to improve the marketing of the Club

In September, a monitor was installed in the lounge and this is used at weekend events to publicise events, especially the Cippenham Series and the Club in general. It is also used to provide up to date league tables during British League weekends. Thanks are due to Martin Adams who set this up while he and Steve Smith have been chiefly responsible for the content of the PowerPoint presentations.

Objective: to enhance the available skill sets available to the Club

External courses have been used to train members in Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Emergency Life Support, supplementing those run in-house the previous year.

An umpires' training course last June at Cippenham attracted eight members and nine non-members. All present passed their written examination. 15 people, including eight Club members subsequently passed their assessments and thereby qualified as County Umpires. Congratulations to: David Akehurst; Paul Baker; David Hayes; Sue Hayes; Alex Lovell; Jacquie Lovell, Steve Smith and Geoff Ware. Thanks are due to Mick Strode and David Edwards for running the course and marking the written papers and to Terry Boxall, Malcolm Makarian and others for their practical assessments of the candidates. The feedback from delegates was fantastic and Jacquie Lovell was congratulated for making it so enjoyable.

Also last summer, an ability-training course was hosted by the Club that was attended by seven Club members. During this course, delegates were trained in special coaching techniques for players with disabilities.

Objective: to enhance the format and revenue generation of the Club's open tournaments

The Club took up an idea from Steve Smith to extend and re-invigorate its open tournaments. The two Young Players' Festivals and the Team Open were retained from the previous schedule while the Group to Group Open was dropped. The existing senior, junior and veterans' events were extended and repackaged as the Cippenham Series. The Series covered six weekends and included five senior, three junior and three veterans' events. The existing successful Cadet and Under-13 Open was also added into the schedule alongside one of the junior events. Points were awarded during each of the tournaments with the top two or three players in each category sharing a generous prize fund of £1,580 at the end of the season. Even though participation levels have not reached the heights expected and, in fact, have fallen from the 2007-8 levels, the principles have been retained and the Cippenham Series will operate again next season.

Another initiative is the creation of a centralized database to assist with tournament management. Steve Smith has undertaken this work and one section, the mailing list, has been completed. The remainder is work in progress.

Objective: to improve the lighting in the playing hall

This represents an objective for this summer. To date, experiments have taken place with a half-height curtain separating the two halves of the hall. The presence of such a curtain appears to eliminate some of the glare that originates from lights in the opposite half of the hall and it is planned to install a curtain shortly. When the effect of this is known then further improvements, which may include the provision of a secondary lighting source, will be considered.

Accreditation

For some years now the Club has been seeking accreditation by entering itself and its players and volunteers for awards and has been very successful in gaining recognition in this way on a number of occasions. The autumn of 2008 brought yet another batch of awards from the ETTA. These came at the Annual Volunteer and Coaching presentations. Graham Trimming followed up his *PremierClub* Volunteer of the Year award in 2007 with the Press Officer of the Year. Steph Mitchell, likewise, made it two in a row when her Young Coach of the Year award followed last year's Young Volunteer of the Year. Sue Hayes also completed a double although her Female Coach of the Year award replicated that of seven years earlier. Seven awards to Cippenham personnel in two seasons have lifted the total tally at this particular event to fourteen in total, a remarkable achievement for one club.



For Graham, it was the second time in a few months he had been honoured by the ETTA. In June, at the ETTA's Annual General Meeting, he was the recipient of a Vice-President's badge.

The Club retained its status as an ETTA *PremierClub* at the highest Excellence level and with it the Sport England ClubMark accreditation. Also, of course, we continue to feature in the Official Guide for Pre-Games Training Camps for the London 2012 Olympics.

In February the Club received a visit from J. Sainsbury personnel, accompanied by ETTA Director of Development Diccon Gray. The purpose of the visit was to impress Sainsbury's, who are a partner in an ETTA initiative, how a top club is organized.

When a development plan was written in 2004-5 the chosen mission statement was "to be the pre-eminent table tennis club in England". Pre-eminence suggests an important "presence" in national table tennis activities. An unofficial ranking of clubs in the British leagues, based on a statistical analysis carried out by the Club, shows that Cippenham has retained third place overall out of over 100 despite running fewer teams in those leagues.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 217, 25 up on the same stage last year. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2008 was 211, 38 up on the previous year. To put this into context, the total membership in 1996 prior to the move into our purpose-built centre was 60. A small number of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless the Club must be one of the largest in the country and the increases over the past two years reflect the success of some of the Club's development initiatives.

Members are only permitted to use the Centre when it is officially open. The only exceptions to this are key-holding Privileged Members. These are 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. In 1999 the Club introduced another 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 years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for matches, coaching and practice.

Over the past twelve months a total of 61 players (not including "guests" in the National Junior League) have represented the club in match play, two more than in the previous year. Seventeen of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to only eight the previous year. Only 15 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, one less than in the previous season and the lowest number for very many years. Six teams were entered into British leagues, four in the National Junior League and four in the Slough League while, on the credit side, a team was entered into the Maidenhead League after an absence of several seasons. It appears that even a club with the size of membership and success rate of Cippenham is finding it difficult to enthuse players of the virtues of local league table tennis, which for more than seventy years has been the core competitive product offered by the sport.

The Club is now 36 years old and during that time a total of 680 players have played in our teams. The Club's Founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club with over 1,400 while Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 800. During the season, Neil Bird became the seventh player to pass the 400 appearances mark for the Club and Eddie Mitchell, Rob Lemon, Mark Butler and John Lloyd all reached their first century. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1448	David Hayes	339	Steve Crow	268
Peter Hillier	813	Georgia Veneer	333	Robert Hansell	259
Frank Earis	669	Rodney Potts	316	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	597	Armando Borges	313	Sue Hayes	237
Ken Phillips	549	Alec Watson	301	Jane Dickens	235
Neil Bird	406	Jacquie Lovell	282	James Milton	205
Jackie Wood	403	Gemma Chapman	282	Anna Watton	204
Gareth Lovell	381	Wendy Barlow	279	Andrew Dickens	203
George Appleby	372	Steve Joel	278	Steve Dorrell	202
Frank Cowley	363	Dave Pountney	276	Catherine Hayes	200
Paul Baker	349				

The busiest players during the year were Eddie Mitchell (32), Steve Smith (28) and Paul Baker (26).

Finance

The progress that the Club has made financially over the past four years is staggering! Four years ago the Club had made deficits for two consecutive years, since then surpluses have been built up each season to a position where the Treasurer can report an amazing surplus of over £12,500. This, of course, does not just happen. It is the result of an enormous amount of hard work by a dedicated volunteer work force and a great deal of management focus and attention.

The top slice of the surplus (about £2,400) is due to interest on cash invested, leaving an operating surplus of over £10,000. Compared to four years ago, the big ticket winners are: (1) an increase in practice fee revenue through much better attendances at Tuesday and Thursday sessions £3,600; (2) a reduction in cleaning expense by doing the work ourselves (actually, Jacquie) £3,500; (3) increased net catering income £1,600; (4) increased net fee income from open tournaments, partly through fee increments and partly through higher levels of participation £1,200; and (5) a temporary Service Agreement income from Slough Borough Council of £1,000.

Further analysis of the consolidated financial results of the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Ltd reveals that revenue generated from non-members, external income, exceeded revenue generated from members by 75%, up from 66% last year. The shows how much the enormous effort at weekends maintains the low cost to members by leveraging finance from outside of the Club's membership. Another healthy financial yardstick is that the margin of safety stands at 40%, up from 35% last year.

At the end of the financial year in April, cash balances stood at about £65,300 (2008: £48,500) and net assets at £85,700 (2008: £73,000). That is good in anybody's terms. These balances and ongoing confidence in the operating results of the Club means that, should another worthwhile project be identified, funds could be made available for capital expenditure.

No new increases in fees were introduced this season and none are proposed for next season. The rate at which we hire our premises to third parties remained £20 per hour although a 20% discount is available to hirers that meet a certain threshold. Annual membership fees remained £15, practice and match fees £3.50 and coaching fees £5. 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 £25.00 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Players in the National Junior League continued to pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses and for the third year players in the British leagues were asked to contribute the cost of their individual registration fees with the Club continuing to bear the remainder of the cost.



A structured approach to reimbursing expenses for teams in the British leagues continued this season. This is available for all teams playing away from Cippenham.

After much endeavour by Treasurer Peter Hillier and a couple of Special General Meetings to alter the Rules of the Club, we gained Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status in January. This means that the Club will no longer be subject to Corporation Tax on its investment income, saving hundreds of pounds each year.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of our friend who passed away in 2000. The Fund was started 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 by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well in the three local newspapers: Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. 25 reports have been submitted during the year covering 30 stories. These achieved over 600 column inches together with 13 photographs. All these statistics are a little below the previous year. Reports of the Club's open tournaments and other news have also appeared in "Table Tennis News", on the ETTA web site and in the VETTS Newsletter. An edition of the Club Newsletter has also been published eleven (including June 2009) times during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. These and the notice boards at the Centre are an important source of information for everyone. A Membership Pack was introduced several years ago and this has proved to be a useful document to give to potential members on the occasion of their first visit.

The Club also has its own web site (www.cippenhamttc.co.uk). This was completely re-designed by Graham in December 2008 using much improved software and is now hosted by Square Brothers in India rather than on Graham's home pages. The new hosting arrangement has resulted in much more space being available and this has meant that far more photographs have been able to be accommodated. The navigation around the website is also much improved and many more sections added. For example, it is now possible to view photographs of all of the Club's winners at ETTA awards evenings, all the Club's Outstanding Contribution Awards presentations over the years and a photographic record of the building of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The site 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 monthly Newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club table tennis web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits are now available and the average number (viewed traffic only) per month from January to May has been: 566 unique visitors; 915 visits; 2821 pages; 40,665 hits. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

Extensive use of photographs, mostly taken against the backdrop purchased in September 2007, has been made to illustrate press reports and items on the Club's website. All winners and runners-up of open tournaments have been photographed and these have all appeared on the Club's website.

Then Club has enjoyed a good working relationship with Bribar since signing up with them as the Club's official suppliers in 2006 and has welcomed Barry and Sue Chapman at a number of our events. A striking combination of yellow shirt, blue shorts and blue tracksuit is used as the Club's kit and this was supplied at the Club's expense to members of the teams in the British leagues and to some of the coaching staff. These kits carry the Club's professionally designed logo on the back of the shirt and tracksuit and are therefore an important part in the establishment of the Club's corporate identity. Some Club members have taken advantage of the special terms arranged with Bribar for the supply of Club kit and playing equipment. The Club is thankful to Roy Linz who has managed the service to members and to Peter Hillier who has acted as agent for the Club's own requirements.

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 100 or so competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004. The success of the Club's catering is due totally to the skill and hard work of the Club's Social Officer Jacquie Lovell and her staff, especially, Haley Allen, Terry Boxall, Frankie Butterworth, Jan Chapman, Catherine Hayes, Sue Hayes, Maggie Kirby, Maggie Lemon, Alexander Lovell, Eddie Mitchell, Stephanie Mitchell, Phil Prady, Steve Smith, Gill Tucker and Tina Winn.

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, VCR and, more recently the streaming monitor, are also popular attractions. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue.



The twelfth annual party, organized by Jacquie Lovell, 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. Eddie Mitchell took up the mantle of running the Christmas Party and did a superb job in managing an entertaining and well-attended event. Jacquie also organized a New Year lunchtime meal for members at a pub in January.

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
	7:40 to 10:15 pm	Grand Prix
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Squad 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
Friday	7:00 to 9:00 pm	General practice (since January)

The Grand Prix is now a popular event during the week and has been played on Tuesday evenings. In addition, the Club Championships used some of the hall on three Tuesday evenings in April. A new beginners' coaching session, arranged to assist with integrating pupils from the Slough Schools Coaching Project, commenced on 2 June 2009.

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 the security of the Centre.

Outside Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for outside events. Extensive use has been made by the ETTA, ETTA Southern Region, Bucks and Berks county associations and the Maidenhead and Reading Leagues.

The ETTA events included the National Cadet Masters for the twelfth time. The Premier Division of the Junior County Championships was also staged for the ninth time and the Premier Division of the Senior County Championships for the seventh time. For the Masters the venue is given free of charge to the national association. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips, Steve Smith, Jacque Lovell and their teams for their involvement in this.

The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League Division 1 South and Midlands, three weekends of Division 1 South and one weekend of Division 2 South. We were not able to accommodate the Division One Play-offs this season as the date clashed with the Cippenham Series 6 event. The British League weekends were organized by Graham Trimming while Ken Phillips acted as Referee for most of them. As has been the case since its inception, the Club, acting in conjunction with Mike Atkinson and Chesham High School, hosted the four days of the National Junior League, this year, again, just the girls' division, and with Sue Hayes and Chris Tucker doing the organization and administration.

A full list of outside events, totalling 40 days, was as follows:

ETTA:	National Cadet Masters (2 days)
	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	County Championships Junior Premier Division (2)
	British League (7)
	National Junior League (4)
	Coach education course (2)
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Training/Assessment (4)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (4)
	Junior & Veterans' Trials
Berks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (2)
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Gareth Herbert:	Weekend coaching sessions (6)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

Ten open tournaments, covering eighteen days of play, were staged by the Club at the Centre:

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 08	Young Players' Summer Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	294
Jul 08	Veterans' Summer 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Peter Hillier	51
Aug 08	Series 1: Senior/Junior 2-Star	Catherine Hayes	Mick Strode	134
Oct 08	Series 2: Senior/Veteran 2-Star	Malcolm Makarian	Mick Strode	94
Nov 08	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	25 pairs
J/F 09	Young Players' New Year Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	291
Feb 09	Series 3: Senior/Veteran 2-Star	Sue Hayes	Mick Strode	85
Mar 09	Series 4: Senior/Junior 2-Star	Terry Boxall	Mick Strode	118
May 09	Series 5: Junior/Cadet/U13 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Mick Strode	131
May 09	Series 6: Senior/Veteran 2-Star	Paul Baker	Ken Phillips	88

This was the most ambitious schedule of tournaments yet staged by the Club. The old format of individual events gave way to the Cippenham Series. The senior, junior and veterans' events were re-packaged into a season-long series of events covering both days of a weekend. There were five senior, three junior and three veterans' events included in the Series and the existing Cadet and Under-13 Open was included as the twelfth day. A large prize fund of £1,580 was



offered and a paid advertisement was placed in *Table Tennis News*. Unfortunately, participation levels did not match either expectations or historical levels. Possibly, this was because entry forms for the tournaments early in the season were sent out late, possibly because the dates were not set early enough to feature in the ETTA diary, or possibly because more email than postal distribution of entry forms was utilized. For whatever reason, it is hoped that better results be achieved for the Series in its second season. Whilst it lacked numbers, the Series did attract a better quality field than the old style tournaments, probably because of the prize money on offer. The first Series winners were Abdul Wuraola (senior men and veteran men), Jurate Brazaityte (senior women), Sue Hayes (veteran women), James Ward (junior boys) and Jasmin Ould (junior girls).



While the majority of our events run on eight (sometimes nine) tables, the Festivals take seventeen with the last five being accommodated in the school gymnasium. These festivals are brilliantly successful, attract huge entries and make a meaningful contribution to the Club's financial result. These events require an enormous amount of work and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman for their management of this and to the other volunteers who help on the day.

The Centre lends itself very well to tournaments of the kind usually run - singles only in groups of at least four with the top two (or three in some cases when larger groups can be accommodated) in each group going forward into the championship, while the remainder go into a consolation event.



The Club used to supply a good number of winners of our own tournaments. This is not so anymore and reflects the falling standard in the general ability of the Club's junior players. Sue Hayes averted this trend by winning all three Series veterans' events and therefore the Series title while Eddie Mitchell won the U18 Boys' Singles at the New Year Festival, Charleigh Kirby the Cadet Girls' Singles at the Cadet/U13 Open and Matt Ware and Mark Butler paired up to win the fully subscribed Team Open.



Many thanks are due to Steve Smith and the organizers, their unsung helpers, especially Malcolm Makarian, and referees, especially Mick Strode. It is a testament to their abilities that so many pleasant messages are received from happy participants at the end of the day's play.

Club Championships

The Club Championships was staged the same way as the past two seasons, during practice evenings in a less formal setting. Three events were staged with the Open Singles and Open Doubles events both attracting a good turnout. The number of entries was less good for the Veterans' Singles.

Colin Wilson, once ranked ten in England but without having played competitively for about fifteen years, became the Club's Open Singles champion while two juniors, Eddie Mitchell and Liam McTiernan, won the Open Doubles and Terry Osborne came out top in the Veterans' Singles.

Grand Prix

This is a very real success story for the Club. The Grand Prix has now run nineteen times, in series of six weeks each, with its popularity sustained. The Grand Prix has succeeded on many fronts. It has pepped up practice sessions and given them a structure for those players who wish that rather than to play on an ad hoc basis. It has also made it much easier for new members to integrate and has introduced new players to competitive table tennis in readiness for possible involvement in the local leagues. Currently the Grand Prix is run on Tuesday evenings, freeing up Thursdays for league matches.

During the past year attendances peaked in the summer of 2008 when there are no league matches to play. The best attended Grand Prix was in September and October when 103 participated in Grand Prix 17. However, the very next running through to Christmas was the worst attended with only 52. The highest number of different players in any Grand Prix was 48 with 23 being the largest single week.

There have been six different winners in the seven series completed during the past year with only Terry Osborne having won twice. The others were won by Ricky Hardcastle, Rafique Sarhadi, Ollie Shaw, Graham Trimming and Rajan Waterman.

Team Competitions

The Club has had another successful season in league competitions. Congratulations are due to all the players and organizers who have contributed to the success that continues to secure Cippenham's position as one of the major forces in English table tennis.

British League Competitions

Six teams were run in the British league competitions, one down on the previous season caused by dropping the team in the Women's British League. Three seasons ago the Club ran ten teams and this is one rare area of the Club's activities that is in a partial and, hopefully, temporary and cyclical, decline.

In the Senior British League the first team made another slow start to their Division One South campaign and once again relied upon a strong performance in the final weekend to finish above the relegation spot in seventh place. The second team benefited from the signings of Martin Gray and Owen Clutterbuck and were able to field a more consistent side than in the past several seasons. This team finished in fifth place in Division One South and Midlands, two places higher than the first team playing at the same level. Steve Munson and Danny Baxter both won more than half of their matches. The third team finished even more strongly, winning all of their last six matches to climb from seventh to second in Division Three South. Eddie Mitchell, Tony Stead and Chris Hansell all made strong contributions. Martin Adams acted as overall Captain and Secretary and the individual teams were captained by Martin, Mark Jackson and Steve Smith.

Although not having a team in the Women's British League for season 2008-9, there was unfinished business from the previous season. In June 2008, the team of Rachel Farquhar, Caroline Linz and Sue Hayes were once more unbeaten and won the Division 3 championship. Rachel lost only one of her twenty matches during the entire season and was nominated Player of the weekend.

Eddie Mitchell gave a strong performance as the boys' team finished fourth in Division 2A of the Junior British League but the Cippenham girls' team was unsuccessful, gaining only a walkover and finishing bottom of Division 3. Sue Hayes acted as Secretary with Ken Phillips and Jan Chapman as captains and coaches. David Hayes also captained a second boys' team in the qualification event but this team was unsuccessful in gaining admittance to the League proper.

The veterans' team had a good season in Division 2 of the Veterans' British League finishing third only on sets aggregate. Roger Hookey was the most successful player, Mike Rhodes acted as Captain and Graham Trimming Secretary.

National League Competitions

Four boys' teams were entered into the National Junior League played at Chesham High School. Overall, this was the same number as in the previous year although the absence of a girls' team was made up for by an additional boys' team. Despite the best endeavours of Terry Boxall, who managed the teams, there were occasions, especially during the first session, when players failed to turn up and other occasions when guests from other clubs were utilized. Nevertheless, there were some good individual performances and the top boys' team eventually finished second in Division 2 while another topped Division 3.

Local leagues



Cippenham has regained the championship of the Slough League after a gap of two years. Cippenham Outlaws fielded a strengthened team of Paul Baker, Tony Stead, Steve Smith, Neil Bird and Graham Trimming to wrest the title back from Chalfont and give the Club its twenty-third championship. A much changed, and younger, Buccaneers team finished third in Division One while Rascals and Scoundrels were third and fifth respectively in Division Two. Outlaws did the double when they claimed the Dilger Cup handicap competition while Scoundrels utilized their start well to take the Division 2 Handicap

Competition. John Lloyd acted as Slough League Captain and captain of Rascals while the other team captains were Neil Bird, Terry Boxall and Ray Burbidge.

For the first time in several years the Club also entered a team in the Maidenhead League under Steve Smith's management. Lions finished fifth in the Premier Division with Eddie Mitchell finishing second in the averages.

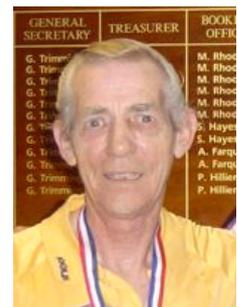
Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over many years and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. However, there are now fewer children being coached for fewer hours than at any previous time since 1996. It is hoped that the participation in the new Slough Schools Coaching Project will assist in improving this situation. Our highly accredited Head Coach Ken Phillips is assisted by many other qualified and student coaches.

Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken and an informal cluster exists comprising: Farnham Common Middle School; St. Anthony's School, Slough; Lynch Hill School, Britwell; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; and the Westgate and Cippenham Junior Schools Cluster. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away who want to take advantage of the high standard of coaching and development management available at the Club. Terry Boxall also performs curricular coaching at the host Westgate School.

There have been three weekly coaching sessions this year. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Terry Boxall. This class had been run by Alan Farral since its inception in 1996 until Alan's untimely passing last year. On Monday there are classes for more advanced performers run by Ken Phillips with help from a number of other coaches and feeders including Jan Chapman. The other regular weekly session takes place on Wednesday evenings. This is for a squad of invited players and is under Sue Hayes' management with assistance from Roy Linz.

The Club's coaches also travel with the juniors many weekends to open and national events up and down the country. The children benefit greatly from these experiences and gain from them the ranking points that are the main object of desire for many of them. Some coaches also provide one-to-one coaching at the Club during other times and this specialist coaching has been one of the reasons why so many of our juniors have gone on to national and international success over the years.



The coaches and student coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall, Jan Chapman, Sue Hayes, Mary Heffernan, Muriel Hooker, Malcolm Makarian, Roy Linz, John Lloyd, Ken Phillips, Filippo Rotunno and Steve Smith. The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

Tournament Success for Individuals

This has been another successful year for the Club's members. A list of their achievements can be found in the appendix and as usual it is the Club's younger players who have achieved most success.



The most fantastic results were achieved, once more, by Gavin Evans. Gavin followed up his European Under-12 title in 2005 by winning the Cadet Boys' (U15) Singles at the European Youth Championships last summer. It was not all plain sailing, Gavin had to save four match points in his quarter-final before securing his gold medal. At the same event Gavin also won silver in the Cadet Boys' Doubles and the Cadet Boys' Team event and a bronze in the Cadet Mixed Doubles. Gavin's reward was a place in the Europe team that won the World Cadet Challenge a couple of months later with Gavin remaining unbeaten throughout the team event. This was Gavin's second success in this particular event as he was a member of the England team that won three years earlier. For good measure, Gavin also won the Boys' Doubles title. Then, in December, Gavin won a team bronze playing for England in the World Junior Championship. Also, a couple of months ago, Gavin secured his first senior international gold medal when he won the Men's Team event playing for England 2 at the Luxembourg Open.

On the national front, Gavin won every event open to him at the English National Junior Championships: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles and Junior Mixed Doubles. In two of these events Matt Ware was runner-up. Matt Ware also won several titles on the ETTA Grand Prix circuit and there were runners-up positions for Daniel McTiernan and Charleigh Kirby in the recent National U14/13/12/11 Championships.

Locally, Steve Smith excelled in winning the Slough Masters tournament and he and Eddie Mitchell won the Men's Doubles at the Bucks Closed. Eddie also won the boys' event at the Bucks trials.



Representative Honours and Rankings

Gavin Evans featured strongly in England teams at cadet, junior and senior level and, as described above, achieved more than a little success!

A Buckinghamshire team, comprising of seven Cippenham players, Danny Baxter, Gemma Chapman, Bradley Evans, Chris Hansell, David Hayes, Caroline Linz and Steve Munson played in the Premier Division of the County Championships. Bucks finished fifth out of eight and therefore retained their place for a second season. A further eight players represented other Bucks teams and that does not include five more who do not play for Cippenham but do attend coaching here. Neil Bird also made his debut for Berkshire veterans.

Gavin Evans, Bradley Evans, Matt Ware and David Hayes all have World rankings while a total of thirteen Cippenham members have featured in the truncated England ranking lists that appear on the ETTA web site.

Congratulations and thanks are given to all the organisers, coaches, helpers, players and teams that have made the past season yet another successful one for Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

Obituary



The Club suffered a very sad loss in November with the untimely and premature passing of Alan Farral. Alan succumbed to cancer at the age of just 56. Alan was held in such esteem within the Club that he had twice been honoured with the Outstanding Contribution Award: in its very first season and then five years later when he became eligible once again. About thirty Club members attended Alan's funeral and a collection at the Club raised £250 for Alan's chosen charity. Alan had led the beginners' coaching group at Cippenham since its inception in 1996. He was brilliant coach with beginners and many of his pupils, after having been passed on to the advanced coaching group, gained international honours and national championships. But Alan was much more than just a coach. He had tremendous practical skills and manufactured many of the items still seen around the Club. The inspired design for the net cabinet is a superb example of this. Alan, with help from his friend Terry Boxall, was also responsible for building the Club's new servery in 2004. Alan, we miss you.

Graham Trimming
Chairman & General Secretary
June 2009