



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 1997-8

Introduction

This report summarises the twenty-fifth and most successful season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- the generous praise shown by most visitors to the Centre for the way in which the Centre operates and the quality of the activity programme devised by the Club;
- the European Women's League match between England and Germany staged at the Centre;
- the use of the Centre for the prestigious National Junior and Cadet Masters;
- the highly successful range of open tournaments organised by the Club at the Centre;
- the international honours bestowed upon Gareth Herbert and Gemma Chapman;
- Slough's victory last summer in the Carter Cup and the Leach Cup and the continued success of local teams in national competitions this season;
- the Club's success in winning both British League Division 3 and the Women's British League Division 2;
- the success of Club members in national and open competitions, including winning six national titles in one weekend;
- the success of the Club's teams and players in Slough League competitions, winning nearly everything entered;
- the fantastic success of the Club's coaching activities and the more professional direction this is now taking;
- the deserved praise given to the Club's catering at tournaments and other events;
- the tremendous energy shown by the Club's management in the day to day operation of the Centre;
- the great financial result for the year that will secure the viability of the Centre in the future;
- the Club's nomination for the second year running as the ETTA Club of the Year;
- the award to the Club of the Slough Borough Junior Club of the Year.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1st 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 ten Club members and two representatives of the School staff and governors.



The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area which includes a 69 sq.m. lounge bar area with kitchen which has a full width glazed screen providing great views over the playing area. This facet of the design has been very favourably received by visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office which doubles as a control point for tournaments. Men's and ladies' toilets are supplemented by a disabled toilet and shower facility, while a link is established to the

School's changing rooms which have had their shower areas completely renovated. In the opinion of many visitors the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

Building works were completed during the season with the tarmacadamming of the car park and reseeding of the grass areas. Most of the snaggings which remained when the builders left the site have now been remedied.

Some problems have been experienced as a result of allowing the School to use the Club's equipment for their own purposes but these have reduced since Christmas. Some months ago Alan Farral made a wonderful lockable storage unit for the Club's nets, posts and scoring machines which benefits from Alan's unique design and is the envy of all visitors who see it.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 177, up from 153 a year ago and 60 two years ago. Some of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless this represents a huge increase since the opening of the Centre and must make the Club one of the largest in the country. If all of the children attending coaching had joined the Club then membership would be approaching 200.

Annual fees are £10 for adults and £5 for students and OAPs with any number of the same family at the same address being granted membership for just £17.50. The principal of the fee structure at the Club remains on the basis of "pay as you play".

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 and young players such as Gareth Herbert and Martin Rule who have been granted special rights to practice facilities as elite performers.

Over the past twelve months a total of 85 players have represented the club in match play, two less than in the previous season. A record thirty-one teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, five more than in the previous season. Six of these were in British leagues and a further two in the newly formed National Junior League. Twenty-one teams operated in the Slough League, eleven in the senior divisions and ten in the Woolwich Junior League, while two teams were also entered in the Maidenhead League. A further team was entered into the National Junior League girls' section, but this league never materialised. Also, the Southern Region League and the Southern Region Ladies' League, which the Club had supported since their inception in 1987, did not take place this season.

Graham Trimming celebrated his 1200th appearance for the Club in the past year, while Jackie Thomas made it past 400, Mike Rhodes 300, Steve Joel 200 and Gareth Herbert completed his first century. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1202	George Appleby	372	Dave Pountney	276
Peter Hillier	698	Gareth Lovell	366	Steve Crow	268
Frank Earis	669	Frank Cowley	363	Jacquie Lovell	267
Ken Phillips	536	Mike Rhodes	345	Wendy Barlow	242
Jackie Thomas	403	Rodney Potts	315	Steve Joel	225
Neil Bird	374	Alec Watson	301	Anna Watton	204

Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 1997 AGM met ten times. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Ken Phillips	Chairman & Coaching Officer	9	May 28 th 6
Graham Trimming	General Secretary	9	July 13 th 6
Peter Hillier	Treasurer	8	August 18 th 7
Rhys Evans	Deputy Chairman	10	September 17 th 7
Mike Rhodes	Bookings Officer	9	October 15 th 6
Steve Joel	Public Relations Officer	5	November 19 th 7
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	10	December 17 th 8
Frank Earis	General Committee member	5	February 4 th 5
			March 18 th 6
			May 20 th 7



Due to pressure of work Steve Joel has been largely inactive in his role as Public Relations Officer.

At the 1997 Annual General Meeting, an inscribed tankard was presented to Alec Watson in recognition of his ten years of service as Chairman of the Club.

There were no officially appointed sub-committees during the year, although other meetings were held by the Coaching Group and the Calendar Working Group.

Thanks are due to all who have contributed to the administration of the club, including all the team captains.

As always the Management Committee of the Slough League had a significant Cippenham contingent. Graham Trimming completed his seventeenth year as Chairman and twenty-third as Fixtures Secretary, while Mike Rhodes has completed his eighth as Inter-League Secretary. Ken Phillips (Coaching Co-ordinator) and Armando Borges (Trophies Secretary) also served on the Committee.

Steve Joel has been Chairman of the ETTA Membership Committee which also comprises Graham Trimming and Colin Wilson. Steve has put in a lot of effort for the ETTA on the subject of the reorganisation of the membership structure. Paul Baker is employed full time by the ETTA as Facilities Officer. For the Buckinghamshire County Association Ken Phillips has continued in his role of Coaching Officer but will retire from this post at the forthcoming county AGM.

As part of the training programme being undertaken by the Club Ken Phillips became a Tournament Referee during the season, the first Club member to achieve this qualification.

During the year two boards were erected in the lounge at the Centre. The largest of these displays the names of the Officers of the Club since the opening of the Centre in 1996 and the other honours the person given the Outstanding Contribution Award. The latter has been specially initiated to acknowledge each year the contribution of someone who is not a member of the Management Committee. It is to be awarded at the party celebrating the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and in 1997 the first recipient was Alan Farral for his efforts each Tuesday evening in organising the beginners' coaching session and then running the bar in the evening. Both boards are wonderful to look at and the Club is indebted to Bob Plumridge for their manufacture and for the donation of the Outstanding Contribution Award board.

Jacquie Lovell surprised all the recipients at the Anniversary Party by making awards to all the members of the Club's former Building Committee - the people responsible for the creation of the Centre. Jacquie, herself, was the recipient of the Coral Racing Trophy for services to the sport at the 1997 Slough League AGM.

For the second year running The Club was nominated by the ETTA as its representative against all other sports in a Club of the Year competition organised by the CCPR. We did not win the £10,000 first prize but nevertheless to be considered as England's leading club for the second time was very encouraging. One award we did obtain was Slough Borough Council's Junior Club of the Year, a just reward for the success of our young players and the tremendous energy shown by the coaching staff at the Club.

Finance

The financial success of the Club and the Centre has surpassed all expectations. The Club is far ahead of its financial plan drawn up when the facility was being considered. Income is higher than expected through the success of our tournaments, hiring arrangements with other table tennis bodies, and the funds generated through coaching and catering activities. Coupled with this, the Centre is costing much less to run than was first anticipated. The strategy of the Club remains to keep fees at their present levels, with minor alterations only, and build up a fund to secure the future financial viability of the Centre. As more facilities are opened in the country it may become more difficult to compete for all of the events currently being staged at Cippenham.

The surplus for the year shown in the Club's accounts is £11,338 and the balance sheet reveals a net worth of £17,310. Expenditure on gas heating is still estimated in the accounts as the School has been unable to provide realistic data so far. It is likely that the accrual is far in excess of the ultimate liability and, if this proves to be the case, a further surplus will arise in next year's accounts.

At the date of the balance sheet there are loans outstanding to members from the Centre totalling £5,000. These were repaid on 20th May. Cash balances aggregate £20,820 in the two sets of accounts while creditors and accruals utilise £11,167, leaving a unallocated cash balance of £9,653. Some of this will be earmarked for the replacement of equipment over the next few months.

Members this season paid an annual fee of £10 plus Slough League fees of £10 and Maidenhead League fees of £15. Match fees, practice fees and coaching fees were all £3. All these are halved for juniors and OAPs. Practice fees for non-members carry a 50p (25p) surcharge.

A deal has been negotiated with Jarvis Sports who are the official suppliers of kit and equipment to the Club. All purchases this year will produce a 5% sponsorship next year. Part of the current year income has been utilised to provide voucher prizes at the Junior and Cadet Open tournaments.

Public Relations

The Club's activities and successes have continued to be reported well in the three local newspapers - Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser. Most press reports from the Club have been written by Graham Trimming. Coverage of matches in the British League has been the responsibility of Steve Joel and this has been poor.

Nine Club Newsletters have been produced in folded A3 format during the past year. These have become monthly publications during the season and have all been produced by Graham Trimming. These have been well received by members and visitors and provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. These and the well maintained notice boards at the Centre are an important source of information for everyone.

A couple of years ago the Club chose the Donic World Championship Collection as its official kit and many members have purchased the tracksuit, shirt and shorts. All shirts and many tracksuit tops have also had the Club's professionally designed logo printed on the back.

Venue utilisation

Since the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre on 1st October 1996 two principles of utilisation have been established: that weekdays should be for regular events, and that weekends should be filled on an ad hoc basis with no regular weekly events impeding this. The weekday format at present is:

Monday	5.30 to 7.30 pm	Advanced coaching group
	7.30 to 9.30 pm	Excellence coaching group
Tuesday	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
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 9.30 pm	Elite coaching

The Friday evening coaching commenced on 13th March. Recently an adult coaching session has been incorporated into the Thursday practice. In addition to the thirteen teams run in the senior divisions of the local league by Cippenham, the Andfoil team in Division 2 of the Slough League also played from the Centre.

England number one Matthew Syed has a key and uses the Centre as a practice venue on occasions, and Privileged Members are allowed to play when the Centre is not in use for other activities. On two successive evenings before Christmas visitors to the Centre were able to watch five of England's top eight men and one other engaged in practise.

Many weekend dates have been sold to outside events, which will be detailed later in this report, by Club tournaments and Club matches in the British League. There were few dates during the season when the Centre remained empty.

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. Much praise is deserved by Mike Rhodes who, in his capacity of Bookings Officer, organises appointment of Duty Officers and often undertakes the work himself.

One problem that did arise was the detection of a gas leak at the Centre just prior to Christmas. This resulted in the Centre being closed for two weeks before remedial excavation work could be completed and in the postponement of the Bucks Junior and Veterans Closed Championships. A session in the Leach Cup had also to be moved to the Old Gords.

Social Activities



One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge bar area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area doubles up as a snack area at tournaments during which the kitchen copes remarkably well with the demands placed upon it. This is due in no small way to the skill and hard work of the Club's Social Officer Jacquie Lovell and her staff, especially Pam Dickens, Claire Plumridge and Alan Farral.

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 lounge benefits from a full on-licence and the bar is open Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 11 pm and at weekends when required. The licensees named are Jacquie Lovell and Ken Phillips.

All the major events at the Centre have had their catering needs satisfied and this included a reception for the teams and officials and the Deputy Mayor of Slough after the European League match with Germany.

A party was arranged in the bar to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members, their families and visitors. A similar party was held prior to Christmas and a children's party was held in the New Year. There was a farewell barbecue for the Hougaards in July.

A cold drinks vending machine and a pay telephone are also available for the benefit of members and visitors.

Outside Events

The Club has been very successful in marketing the Centre for outside events. Extensive use has been made by the ETTA, ETTA Southern Region, Buckinghamshire County Association, Royal County of Berkshire Association and the Slough League. In addition, the Club was pleased to be able to promote two prestigious ETTA events for which we granted the ETTA a free venue.

The latter included a European Women's League match between England and Germany and the National Junior and Cadet Masters. This was the second consecutive year for both of these events. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organisational work involved on these occasions and the Club is indebted to Ken Phillips for his involvement in this. Another who gets totally involved is Jacquie Lovell who arranges for the catering and accommodation needs to be fully satisfied.



A full list of outside events is as follows:

ETTA:	International match National Junior and Cadet Masters (2 days) Woolwich National Junior League (4) Veterans British League Divisions 4/5 (4) Veterans County Championships Division 1b
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Preliminary/Final Trials (2) Junior Training Days/Coaches Get-Togethers (6) Coach Education Courses (2)
Bucks County TTA:	Junior/Veterans Closed Championships Men's Inter-League (2) Junior Inter-League Cadet Inter-League Veterans Inter-League Play-offs County matches (4 dates) Junior/Cadet Trials
Berks County TTA:	Senior/Veteran Inter-Town Junior/Cadet Inter-Town
Slough League:	Slough Closed Championships (2 days) Woolwich Junior League (6) National competitions sessions (3 dates) Inter-league matches

From June 1998 the ETTA Under-12 Squad is to use the Centre for some of its weekend sessions.

Club Events

Open Tournaments

Six open tournaments were staged by the Club at the Centre:

Jun 97 Veterans Summer 2 Star	Apr 98 Junior 3 Star
Dec 97 Cadet 3 Star	Apr 98 Senior 2 Star (Grand Prix event)
Feb 98 Veterans 2 Star	May 98 Under-10/12 2 Star

The three junior age group events (cadet, junior, U10/12) were all organised by Ken Phillips and attracted maximum entries of 108. In fact, some entries had to be refused for the last two. The two veterans events were organised by Graham Trimming and attracted entries of 61 and 67 respectively. The Senior Open (no age restriction) was organised by Steve Joel and was included in the ETTA's Grand Prix initiative. This attracted an entry of 54. Four of the tournaments were refereed by Mick Strode, to whom the Club is indebted. The Veterans Summer Open was refereed by Mike Atkinson and the U10/12 by Ken Phillips.

The Centre lends itself very well to tournaments of this kind - singles only in groups of four with the top two in each group going forward into the championship, while the third and fourth placed go into a consolation event. If there are fewer entries than the maximum allowed, then first round groups are enlarged to either five or six players.

Club members have been very successful in these tournaments, winning several of the events. At the Cadet Open Oliver Stevens, who is a member despite living in Kent, won the Boys Singles, while Warren Brooks did likewise in the U12 and David Hayes in the U10. After reaching both previous finals, Mike Rhodes won the Mens Singles at the February Veterans Open. Gemma Chapman won the Girls Singles at both the Junior Open (playing girls up to five years her senior) and the U12 Open. In the U10 Boys Singles Cippenham had clearly the best three players in the event and the semi-final between David Hayes and Bradley Evans produced some of the best table tennis yet seen at the Centre.



Members' Tournaments

The Handicap Tournament was run in October and attracted a good entry of 38. The five main events provided a maximum eight winners to the delight of the Club's Handicapping Committee. A schedule of winners can be found in the appendix. Unfortunately, the Club Championships, scheduled for April, were cancelled due to lack of support. This is the first time in 25 years that this event has not taken place, at a time when membership is some six times its average level during that period!

Team Competitions

The Club has had a fantastically successful season in league competitions, winning many of the events entered at national, regional and local levels. Congratulations are due to all the players and organisers who have contributed to this success which is really helping to establish Cippenham as one of the major forces in English table tennis.

British League Competitions



The Club made a reappearance in the British League after an absence of twelve years. The team was boosted immeasurably by the signing of Neil Charles and Sue Collier a couple of weeks before the start of the season. These two plus Steve Joel, Martin Rule and Kimber Choda formed the backbone of the side with Mike Rhodes and Paul Baker deputising when necessary. From the outset it was evident that Cippenham were favourites for the title in Division 3 South and this feat was accomplished with a match to spare in a season when our team remained unbeaten. Congratulations to all concerned and a thank you to Peter Hillier who refereed and umpired all the team's home matches.

For the second season of its existence the Club's team remained unbeaten in the Women's British League, winning the Division 2 championship. The team was strengthened by the inclusion of Kai Milvek, who travelled from her home in Tallinn, Estonia to represent the Club in the two weekend format. With Kai supporting the team's number one Sue Collier, Cippenham had the top two players in the division's averages, and they were well supported by Claire Plumridge and Jacquie Lovell. If this success can be maintained then the Club may well be promoted to the Premier Division next summer.



The junior teams fared less well. The boys first team included the registration of Gareth Herbert but he was unavailable on international duty for three of the four days, and the inclusion of Scott Friday never materialised through health problems. What was planned to be an assault on the Premier Division title became a damage limitation exercise for our young team which, on the first weekend, included Jesper Hougaard, flown in from Denmark specially to represent his old club. A second and very young team was placed in Division 2 and after a semi-successful first weekend, their form suffered greatly second time around. By contrast, the girls team were very successful and featured in a three way tie at the top of Division 2. Unfortunately, and in controversial circumstances, our team had to settle for third place out of the running for awards and promotion.

Other National Competitions

The Club has had its most successful season yet in the Ormesby Cup, the national club championship through which entry was earned through winning the Slough League. We won the first round group and were thus exempt from the second stage. At the third stage we again won our group and have qualified for the semi-final against a team from Huddersfield at Bury St. Edmunds on 7th June. Congratulations to our squad of Gareth Herbert, Neil Charles, Kimber Choda, Martin Rule and Mike Rhodes.

Two boys teams were entered into the new ETTA Woolwich National Junior League and were placed in the Southern Region section which was run on four Saturdays at Cippenham. The Club's first team (actually the boys' third team) won this division and congratulations are due to Ben Beveridge, John Camilleri, Daniel Jacobs and Robert Hansell. A girls team was also entered but there were not enough entries received to commence that competition.

Slough League

Same club, different team, same result! The Club retained its championship of the Slough League and made it a record fourteen titles, beating the previous best set more than twenty years ago by Slough Centre. This was the Club's fifth championship in a row and these have been won by four completely different teams. Congratulations to the Brigands team of Neil Charles, Kimber Choda, Steve Fawssett and Dave Paterson. Such was the domination of the top division in the Slough League that Cippenham teams finished in the top four positions, the first time this has been accomplished by one club in the history of the League.

In all, eleven teams were operated in the senior divisions of the Slough League. There was a fifth team in Division One and three more in Divisions Two and Four. We did not have a presence in Division Three. The Division Four championship was also secured, by the Bandits team of Sue Hayes, Jane Dickens and Georgia Veneer.

The Dilger Cup team handicap competition was also won, by the Villains team of Jackie Thomas, Wendy Barlow and Hamid Bahader.

Slough Woolwich Junior League

The Club completely dominated the Slough Woolwich Junior League, being champions and runners-up in all three divisions. Congratulations respectively to the champions Strays (Warren Brooks, Robert Hansell), Waifs (Thomas Mitchell, Paul Zeun) and Goblins (David Hayes, James Milton). For good measure Goblins completed the league and cup double when they won the Tunes Cup handicap competition. Ten teams in total were operated in the Woolwich Junior League.

Maidenhead League

Once again two teams were operated in the Maidenhead League, one in the Premier Division, which finished third, and a team for predominantly younger players in the First Division. Robert Dawson won the prestigious Wilkinson Sword for the player with the highest average in the Premier Division who had played in the required number of matches.

Slough Summer League

Four teams were entered in the Slough Summer League in its three divisions. The Club secured its thirteenth success in this competition when the Alpha team of Samantha Marling, Steve Joel and Graham Trimming won the Division One championship.

St. Ives Inter-Club Competition

Cippenham entered teams for the third time in the junior team competition at St. Ives. Again it was a successful venture for the Club and we demonstrated once again that Cippenham is one of the major forces at the younger age range. Our U12 team of Warren Brooks, Gemma Chapman and Stuart Tweedy won their competition without losing a single set. The cadet team was only marginally less successful, winning every match 3-0 before succumbing to Peniel in the final. At U17 level we were not at full strength and did not gain such success.

Coaching

Coaching of young players is probably the most important work that is undertaken by the Club. The coaching scheme has been established for many years and has been very successful for some time. However, it continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of Club Coaching Officer Ken Phillips. Ken has assembled around him a team of dedicated coaches and the reward for their efforts is evident in the results of our players on the national circuit.

The Club is the hub of one of ten *TOP Club* schemes being piloted in the country and has formally established links with Bourne End Junior Sports Club and some local schools. However, the links to these schools are not at present producing players for the Club's coaching scheme - most of the new recruits come from other schools in which Ken coaches or through the links with Bourne End and the Maidenhead TTA coaching scheme at Altwood School.

There are currently five weekly coaching sessions for youngsters. On Tuesday and Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Alan Farral and Jacquie Lovell respectively. For much of the year the Thursday session was under the jurisdiction of Rhys Evans. The Monday evening sessions for the Advanced and Excellence performers, who are there by invitation, have been established for many years, having been introduced by Ken under the banner of the Slough and Maidenhead Advanced Coaching Centre (SMACC). Ken is still running these sessions with help from a number of other coaches and feeders. The fifth coaching session was introduced only in March with the objective of raising the levels of the elite squad of players, all of whom have been selected from the Advanced and Excellence squads for their potential and willingness to work hard. These Friday sessions focus not only on playing skills but also on physical fitness and psychology. The sessions are run by Ken Phillips, Sue Hayes and Rhys Evans.

Outside of these five main sessions, one to one coaching also takes place during the Tuesday and Thursday practice sessions and Jacquie Lovell has recently introduced an adults coaching class on Thursday evening. Ken Phillips has also organised many day sessions during the school holiday periods.

The Club owes a great debt to its coaching staff who have done more than anyone to put Cippenham TTC on the national map and are paving the way for even greater success in the future.

The Centre has also been used by the ETTA Southern Region for its Player and Coach Development Programme and recently the SR has introduced a Sports Psychology Unit at the Centre which meets every third Tuesday. The latter initiative has also resulted in the provision of an extensive library of books and videos at the Centre which are available to all coaches. In October a Level 2 Coach Education Course was held at the Centre, and recently Jacquie Lovell and Jane Dickens both attended a similar course at Milton Keynes. During the year Alan Farral obtained his Level 3 award and Rhys Evans his Level 2.

During the year the Club invested in television, video camera and playback facilities to assist in coaching activities. This was part funded by a £400 grant from the ETTA Southern Region.

Five Club members have been included in the newly selected England U12 squad which is financed by the World Class Performance National Lottery grant. Congratulations to: Gemma Chapman; Joanna Parker; Francesca Parnell; Hannah Stone and Warren Brooks. It will surely not be long before other younger members of the Club receive the same invitation.

The success of the coaching scheme was largely responsible for the Club receiving the Slough Borough Council Junior Club of the Year award recently and on the same occasion Gareth Herbert received the award for the Junior Sportsman of the Year. At the Slough Closed Ben Beveridge was presented with the Leo Thompson Trophy as the most improved young player in the League.

Tournament Success for Individuals

This has been another remarkable year for the Club's members. A list of their achievements can be found in the appendix. As usual it is the Club's younger players who have achieved most success, but they have had to share the glory with the senior and veteran players on occasions.



The Club's best player is undoubtedly Gareth Herbert who has won many titles, the most prestigious being the National Junior Masters, played at Cippenham in May, and the Bernard Jeu Open in France.

The year started well with two national titles coming to the Club at the National U12 Championships last summer. Robert Wilson enjoyed his greatest triumph by winning the U12 Boys Singles title while Gemma Chapman added the U12 Girls Doubles. Both of these players were also runners-up in other events as was Warren Brooks in the U11 Boys Singles. Since then both Warren and Gemma have won other open tournaments and both are excellent prospects for the future.



In senior events Sue Collier has had a good season, culminating in her victories in the Women's Singles at the Blackpool Open and the Bangor Open in Ireland. She was also successful in Band 1 events within the ETTA Grand Prix circuit as was Neil Charles.

Kai Milvek has carried all before her in the veterans events she has entered and is unbeaten in singles in two years. Her greatest success came recently at the VETTS National Championships with a hatrick of victories in Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. In the same tournament Georgia Veneer was crowned O70 Women's Singles champion. Kai also performed well at the European Veterans Championship in Prague last summer. She reached the last 16 of the singles and the quarter-final of the doubles, losing to the eventual champions in both events.

In the Bucks Closed Championships, Sue Hayes won the Women's Singles and other players from the Club dominated the junior and veterans events. Even greater domination was evident at the Slough Closed Championships where most of the titles came to Cippenham including Chris Lusher and Samantha Marling in the Mens' and Women's Singles.

Representative Honours and Rankings

A record 49 members of the Club have appeared on England ranking lists this season. Three have made it all the way to number one: Gareth Herbert (U17); Michael Chan (U14) and Gemma Chapman (U12). In addition Warren Brooks has been as high as number two in U12 and Robert Pountney (U17) and Oliver Stevens (U14) have made it to number three. Sue Collier, Martin Rule, Paul Pountney and Joanna Parker have all reached the top ten in their respective lists while Gareth Herbert reached a pinnacle of number 8 in the men's list. Nine different players from the Club have made it into

the top 20 on the England cadet boys list.

Two players have played for England this season. Gareth Herbert has carried on where he left off last season, with caps at senior and junior level, while Gemma Chapman made her international debut for England in the Bernard Jeu Open in France. Joanna Parker has represented England Schools and in the last fortnight Martin Rule has also been selected.

15 players who represent Cippenham in the Slough League have played for Buckinghamshire this season, while 34 have represented Slough. Gareth Herbert, Martin Rule and Jesper Hougaard comprised the Slough junior boys team that won the national Carter Cup last summer and the latter two should have been in the final of the Leach Cup also. However, international representation meant that Slough had to play two reserves and it was Nicholas Wilson, Robert Wilson and Johnny Davidson that beat Hull 5-1 in the final. These two Slough teams have again qualified for the semi-final stage which will be played at Bury St. Edmunds in June. The junior side will be represented by Gareth Herbert, Martin Rule and Nicholas Wilson, while the cadet side will include Ben Beveridge and Daniel Jacobs. Also in the semi-finals are the Slough women's team comprising Samantha Marling, Claire Plumridge, Jacquie Lovell and Sue Hayes and the Maidenhead junior girls team which includes Jane Dickens. Good luck to all these teams, plus the Maidenhead cadet girls team and the High Wycombe cadet and junior boys teams which include predominantly Cippenham members.

Congratulations to all the organisers, players and teams that have made the past season such a special one for Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

Graham Trimming
General Secretary
May 1998