

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

President:	P. Jackson (Uppingham)	
Committee:	C.P. Boden (St. George's) Chairman C.P. Billington (Bradfield) G.B. Brown (UCS) R. Cake (Millfield) J.R. Cooper (Colston's) N. Cummings (Lancing)	S. Gent (St. George's) C.M. King (Stowe) J.H.R. Pool (Marlborough) J.B.M. Seddon (St. Paul's) N. Spink (Sherborne) H.B. Weatherill (Malvern)
Hon. Treasurer:	Hon. Secretary:	Hon. Match Secretary:
B. Rusling (Malvern)	A.J.K. Tatum (KCS Wimbledon)	J.R. Cooper (Colston's)

75 Years Young!

This year the Association celebrates its 75th Birthday. "How did it all start?" I hear you ask! Our President Peter Jackson, relates a bit of history...

Seventy-five years ago – on the 10th January 1929 to be precise – some 40 far-sighted men met together in a London hotel and "brought into existence" our Association whose objects were and still are (a) to assist the development of Lawn Tennis at Public Schools and other educational establishments, and (b) to encourage the game amongst the Old Boys by arranging matches, tournaments and other fixtures.

The man who called that meeting together and who became the first Secretary of the Association was Rex Sterry, who will be well known to many current members as a hugely respected Association President and Vice-Chairman of The All England Club.

The fact that so many schools now take part in the Youll Cup Independent Schools team tournament is a measure of the extent of development of Lawn Tennis at the Public Schools and, whilst this Association was only one of many seeking this development, its innovative policy of raising teams to play against as many schools as possible each year has undoubtedly helped.

The Association played its first match, against The International Club, on 22nd April 1929 and its first school match against Haileybury, that July. Our Past President, Ted Avory played in that first match which was lost 5-4. Seven matches were played in 1929 and whilst the number of fixtures has varied from year to year, those against schools and Universities have always been special. We have been particularly fortunate to have a regular fixture against The All England Club, and largely thanks to the Avory family again, we have also, since the mid-sixties, had a wonderful annual game with the Fitzwilliam Club of Dublin.

Encouragement of the game amongst Old Boys has taken the form of an annual knockout competition. The trophy, The D'Abernon Cup, was presented by the Association's first President, Viscount D'Abernon. In 1929, when Charterhouse were the winners, 15 schools entered and that number has gradually increased. Twelve schools have been successful, the outstanding performance being that of U.C.S. Old Boys who in 1968 won the competition for the twelfth successive year. This extraordinary run was based on outstanding play, tremendous team spirit and outstanding organisation by Geoffrey Brown, still a Committee Member of the Association.

Seconding the resolution to form the Association in 1929, Mr. R.J. McNair said "Every year a dozen or so men with the keenest eyes in the country leave the Universities and Public Schools and are never heard of again; the Association should obtain a fair share of them as it will provide the sort of friendly yet competitive Lawn Tennis for which they are looking". These words still apply, and we have been immensely fortunate to attract such people over the years not only as players but also as voluntary organisers of everything we do.

Peter Jackson
President of the Association
Association Member since 1955

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30 November 2003.

2003 AGM & Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The Queen's Club on 1st April 2003. Messrs Jackson, Tatum & Rusling were re-elected as President, Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mrs B. Gabriel was elected as Hon. Auditor.

Messrs Boden, Billington, Cake, Gent, King & Spink were all re-elected to the Committee. Mr. Billington was elected to the Committee for the first time, replacing Mr. Barrett. At the meeting of the Committee which immediately followed the AGM, Mr Boden was elected as the Chairman of the Committee for the second year.

The Committee's Report and Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 November 2002 were presented at the AGM and unanimously adopted.

The AGM was followed by the annual dinner which was also held at The Queen's Club. As usual the dinner was a highly enjoyable occasion. Members and guests were entertained by a highly interesting & entertaining speech by fellow member Tim Phillips, the Chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club.

Match Results

2003 proved to be another successful season for the Association with 12 Wins, 3 Draws and 7 Losses. Thanks to the good weather over the summer a record 22 matches were completed, the highest since 1996.

The start of the season saw the annual fixture for the Courtney Salver played at the Fitzwilliam Club in Dublin. The Pubs team were in with a chance being 4-3 down with two rubbers to go, but the Irish showed their strength in the end. However, silverware was regained later in the year, after a win against the Public Schools LTA to bring the Ivory Shield back home! Other matches include victories against Surbiton LTC, Cambridge Grasshoppers, Felsted School and St Georges College. The Association also had a good win (3.5 – 0.5) at The Queens Club after the fixture being cancelled for the last three years due to the weather.

Many thanks go to all the Match Managers for their efforts in arranging teams.

2004 Fixtures

The 2004 Fixture Card is enclosed with this report. If you would like to play in any of the fixtures listed, please contact the relevant Match Manager either direct, or via our web site – they will be delighted to hear from you !

Note: It is expected that Members who have agreed to represent the Association in a fixture and later find themselves unable to play, will find a suitable replacement for themselves and notify the relevant Match Manager.

D'Abernon Cup

Once again, the D'Abernon Cup first round grouped teams into two pools, with all matches in each pool held at an indoor venue (St. George's College) on a set day. The pool winners and runners-up then joined the previous year's competing semi-finalists in the quarter-final draw. The semi-finals consisted of the Old Reedonians, King Edward's Old Boys, KCS Old Boys, and the Old Paulines, with the latter two sides prevailing. This meant that the final, played at the All England Club, was contested by the same two teams as the previous year. However this year the KCS Old Boys managed to exact some revenge and achieved a victory over the Old Paulines to win the cup. Our grateful thanks go to both St. George's College and The All England Club for their generous support of the Association through hosting these events.

Last year's Team Captains should have recently received entry forms for the 2004 competition in the post. If any other schools would like to enter, please contact Brian Rusling as soon as possible (contact details are on the reverse of the Fixture List enclosed with this report).

New Members

The following were elected members of the Association during the year:

Mr. James Booth	KES, Birmingham	Life
Mr. Christopher Kurkjian	Charterhouse	Life
Mr. Nick Robinson	Marlborough College	Life
Mr. James Weatherill	Dulwich College	Life
Mr. Dominic Wright	Charterhouse	Life
Mr. Mark Bastin	Felsted	Annual
Mr. Graeme Olson	St. John's Leatherhead	Annual

As ever members are encouraged to be as active as possible in seeking new recruits for the Association. Application forms are available from the Hon. Secretary or via the website.

www.PSOBLTA.co.uk

Why not visit the Pubs Online? Our internet site is now in its 5th year & includes:

- Fixture Lists
- Facility to Register to play in Matches
- Latest Results & Match reports
- Aims of the Association
- D'Abernon Cup Draw & Results
- Membership Application Forms

Association Merchandise

The following Association merchandise is now available from the Hon. Secretary or via the website:

- Association Ties (Silk).....@ £15
- White Pubs Tennis Shirt with Coloured Collar.....@ £20
- White Pubs Tennis Shirt with White Collar.....@ £15

Nominations

The following nominations have been received for the offices of President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Auditor:

President:	Mr. P. Jackson	Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. B. Rusling
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. A.J.K. Tatum	Hon. Auditor:	Mrs. Barbara Gabriel

The following members of the Committee retire by rotation in accordance with Rule 8 and being eligible offer themselves for re-election: Messrs G.B. Brown, J.R. Cooper, N. Cummings, J.H.R. Pool, J.B.M. Seddon & H.B. Weatherill

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (29th April 2004): AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 1st April 2003 & consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2003.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Auditor for the year 2004.
4. Any other business