

# THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

|                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <b>President:</b>      | P. Jackson (Uppingham)  |  |
| <b>Committee:</b>      | C.P. Boden (St. George's) Chairman<br>C.P. Billington (Bradfield)<br>A.J. Blackman (Reeds)<br>J. Booth (King Edward's)<br>G.B. Brown (UCS)<br>R. Cake (Millfield) | J.R. Cooper (Colston's)<br>N. Cummings (Lancing)<br>C.M. King (Stowe)<br>J.B.M. Seddon (St. Paul's)<br>H.B. Weatherill (Malvern) |
| <b>Hon. Treasurer:</b> | <b>Hon. Secretary:</b>  | <b>Hon. Match Secretary:</b>   |
| B. Rusling (Malvern)   | A.J.K. Tatum (KCS Wimbledon)  | J.R. Cooper (Colston's)  |

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2004

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30 November 2004.

### **2004 AGM & Annual Dinner**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The Queen's Club on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2004. Messrs Jackson, Tatum & Rusling were re-elected as President, Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mrs B. Gabriel was re-elected as Hon. Auditor.

Messrs G.B. Brown, J.R. Cooper, N. Cummings, J.H.R. Pool, J.B.M. Seddon & H.B. Weatherill were all re-elected to the Committee. At the meeting of the Committee which immediately followed the AGM, Mr Boden was elected as the Chairman of the Committee for the third year. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 November 2003 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 most enjoyable occasion. Over 50 Members and guests were entertained by an extremely amusing & captivating speech by The Rt. Hon. Lord Monro, the former Sports Minister and President of the Scottish Rugby Football Union.

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

The showpiece of our celebratory year was the Anniversary Tournament held over the weekend of 18/19<sup>th</sup> September. We invited four teams from the clubs and associations with whom we have had the strongest relationship over the last decades, the 2003 D'Abernon Cup Finalists, and fielded two "Pubs" teams.

The tournament was made possible by the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club who agreed to host us and our guests for the weekend, providing courts, changing facilities and the Debenture Holders' Lounge for the dinner dance on the Saturday night. Needless to say we thank them most profusely for their generosity and in particular Roger Ambrose and his team for all their assistance both in advance and over the weekend.

Teams were split into two round-robin groups of four, with each team fielding an "open pair" and an age-restricted pair whose combined age must exceed 75 years (excluding the Independent Schools team!). Each match consisted of two sets with the open pairs playing each other and the age-restricted pairs playing each other.

#### Day 1 – Round Robin Group Matches

In the first group, both the IC of GB and Pubs1 got off to winning starts against the Independent Schools LTA (ISTA) & the Old Paulines. The next round saw ISTA draw with Pubs1 and the IC of GB defeat the Old Paulines. In the next match, ISTA claimed the points against the Old Paulines to secure 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the group. This left the IC of GB & Pubs1 (Mark & Paul Siviter, Ashley Tatum & Mike Dawe) to fight out first and second place in the group. There was all to play for going into the final set of the final match, with whoever winning it, topping the group and avoiding the mighty-looking Fitzwilliam team in the semi-finals. With breakpoint chances heroically saved by both sides, the IC team of Philip Siviter & Nick Koehli and the Pubs1 team of Ashley Tatum & Mike Dawe headed inexorably into a tie-break. Pubs1 got the early break, but the IC clawed it back & looked likely winners.

In a real seesaw battle, multiple set points were earned and saved by both sides until, with the players and crowd becoming increasingly worried that pre-dinner drinks were in danger of being missed, Pubs1 snatched victory by a margin of 13-11 to win the group.

In Group B, Fitzwilliam (Nicholas Malone & James Pringle, Declan Heavey & Tom Hamilton) were sweeping all before them with victories over the AELTC, KCS Old Boys & Pubs2 for the loss of only one set. Pubs2 (Jonathan & Edward Cooper, Bernard Weatherill & Adrian Blackman) drew with the KCS Old Boys and managed a 1½ to a ½ victory over the AELTC which proved enough to secure 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the group, whilst KCS Old Boys held on to 3<sup>rd</sup> place by virtue of their draw against Pubs2 and another draw with the AELTC.

As it turned out Pubs2 had played a tactical masterstroke by finishing as runners-up in the group, resulting in the two Pubs teams facing each other in the semi-finals & ensuring a Pubs team in the final – the only question was which team would prevail.

Players, their partners, supporters, Pubs Members and guests then repaired to the Debenture Holders’ Lounge for dinner and dancing. Pubs President, Peter Jackson formally welcomed the guests and Fitzwilliam President, Peter Gilligan responded on their behalf, presenting us with a wonderful framed photograph of the trophy that, much to everyone’s shock, the Pubs had won at Fitzwilliam’s Centenary weekend in 1977. Pubs Chairman, Conor Boden then completed the speeches by giving Peter Jackson an engraved salver on behalf of the Committee to thank him for all his hard work over many years as President. Formalities complete, it was left to the Pubs teams to lead the dancing until well past midnight. Other notable performances from Messrs Staniszewski (Old Paulines) & O’Brien (Fitzwilliam) should also not go unmentioned.

Day 2 – the Semi-finals & Finals

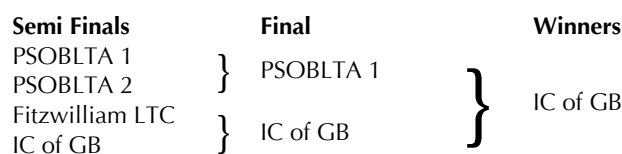
Everyone expected Fitz with all their training in late night drinking to come out firing on all cylinders, and so it proved as their 1<sup>st</sup> pair raced to a 4-0 lead in the opening set. Miraculously, the IC pairing of Mark George (substituting for the injured Venki Sundaram) & Richard Stoakes managed to regroup, only losing the first set 6-4. In the second set their improvement continued and they sneaked it 7-6. The IC second pair of Philip Siviter & Nick Koehli then triumphed (6-4, 6-4) over their opposite numbers from Fitzwilliam to take the IC into the final.

In the second semi-final, Pubs 1 & Pubs 2 were locked in battle. The Cooper brothers stormed into the lead winning the first set and going a break up in the second set before the Siviters had even realised they were off the dance floor. However, somehow the Siviters recovered to win four games in a row and take the second set by a score of 6-3. In the second pair match Pubs1 secured their place in the final with Ashley Tatum & Mike Dawe beating Adrian Blackman & Roger Ambrose in a tight match by 6-4, 6-4. How fitting it was that in our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the final would be contested by a Pubs team and the association that we had played our very first match against in 1929.

To add to the excitement, having played the tournament so far on hard courts and indoor courts, the sun was now shining and the teams were allowed onto the hallowed grass courts for the final matches. The Pubs team were quietly confident. “Easy” they thought – for they had beaten the IC in the round robin stages. How right they were, it was easy but for the IC rather than the Pubs! The IC 1<sup>st</sup> pair (Mark George & Richard Stoakes) raced through the Pubs 1<sup>st</sup> pair 6-1, 6-2 before the second pairs were barely halfway through their first set. IC second pair, Philip Siviter & Nick Koehli, then completed the victory by winning 6-1, 6-4 in their match against Ashley Tatum & Mike Dawe. Pubs President, Peter Jackson then presented the winners with their commemorative awards and the IC in turn presented the Pubs with an engraved crystal bowl to commemorate our anniversary.

| Group A |              | Matches Won | Matches Drawn |
|---------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1       | PSOBLTA 1    | 2           | 1             |
| 2       | IC of GB     | 2           | 0             |
| 3       | ISTA         | 1           | 0             |
| 4       | Old Paulines | 0           | 0             |

| Group B |                 | Matches Won | Matches Drawn |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1       | Fitzwilliam LTC | 3           | 0             |
| 2       | PSOBLTA 2       | 1           | 1             |
| 3       | KCSOB           | 0           | 2             |
| 4       | AELTC           | 0           | 1             |



It was left to Fitzwilliam President, Peter Gilligan, to sum the weekend up by adding: “A great tournament and a great weekend, we couldn’t have asked for any more. Congratulations – no doubt you will have a similar success on the centenary.”

## Match Results - Jonathan Cooper (Hon. Fixtures Secretary) writes:

Despite being 75 years old, the Association was still acting as sprightly as it was in its younger days! It was another season of success - 20 matches played with 11 wins, 3 draws and 6 losses.

For those who may remember last year's report, the Association's first ever match was against the International Club, and this year the match was re-created, held in the grand surroundings of Stoke Park Club. I am pleased to report that we reversed the result of 75 years ago, and the Pubs came through victors in a hard fought match 5.5 - 3.5. Other triumphs achieved included those against Oxford Penguins, Eton College, Civil Service and Northampton Wanderers. The luck of the Irish was in full effect at the start of the season (with an unprecedented double of both tennis and rugby!), a fantastic match vying for the Courtney Salver, with the match decided in the last rubber and the Fitzwilliam Club recording a victory. However, the Avory Shield was retained against the Independent Schools LTA with a 7 - 2 success.

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

### 2005 Fixtures

The 2005 Fixture Card is enclosed with this report. As always there are fixtures for every standard, including all our regular favourites and also some new additions with matches against Reeds School & Stoke Park Club. 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 ([www.psoblta.co.uk](http://www.psoblta.co.uk)) - 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 they are 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. As pool winners and runners-up, Old Stoics, Old Westminster's, Old Etonians & Old Carthusians, then joined the previous year's competing semi-finalists in the quarter-final draw. The quarter-finals saw KCS Old Boys, Old Reendonians, King Edward's Old Boys & Old Paulines victorious. In the semi-finals, Old Paulines advanced at the expense of King Edward's Old Boys and KCS Old Boys won an extremely tight match on a count back of games after sets were shared. This meant that the final, played at the All England Club, was contested by the same two teams for the third year in succession. With both teams determined to win, spectators were treated to one of the most compelling finals for many years. The tie came down to the final set of the final match where Old Pauline 2<sup>nd</sup> pair of James Seddon & Andrew Pisker triumphed over their KCSOB opposite pair of Chris Clarke & Mark Peterzan to regain the cup by 5 matches to 4. 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.

| Quarter Finals                         | Semi Finals              | Final          | Winners        |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| KCS Old Boys<br>Old Stoics             | } KCS Old Boys           | } KCS Old Boys | } Old Paulines |
| Old Reendonians<br>Old Westminster's   | } Old Reendonians        |                |                |
| King Edward's Old Boys<br>Old Etonians | } King Edward's Old Boys | } Old Paulines |                |
| Old Carthusians<br>Old Paulines        | } Old Paulines           |                |                |

Last year's Team Captains will shortly receive entry forms for the 2005 competition. The qualifying round robin days will take place at St. George's College, Weybridge on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April & Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April. If any other schools would like to enter, please contact James Booth 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. Frederick Bjorn     | Winchester             | Life   |
| Mr. Adrian Blackman     | Reeds                  | Life   |
| Mr. David Copp          | Bradfield              | Annual |
| Mr. George Georgiou     | St. John's Leatherhead | Annual |
| Mr. Faisal Jamal        | Taunton                | Life   |
| Mr. Nick Owen           | Millfield              | Life   |
| Mr. Alisdair Wade       | Marlborough            | Life   |
| Mr. Benjamin Weatherill | Dulwich                | Life   |

As ever members are encouraged to be as active as possible in seeking new recruits for the Association. Application forms are now printable from the website or available from the Hon. Secretary. The Committee is making membership recruitment a major focus for the coming year. James Booth has agreed to take on the role of Hon. Recruitment Secretary. If anyone has any suggestions for boosting recruitment, please contact James (contact details on the reverse of the Fixture List).

## [www.PSOBLTA.co.uk](http://www.PSOBLTA.co.uk)

Why not visit the Pubs Online? Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the website has been completely revamped this year. The site is updated at the start of every month & now includes information on how to get to fixture venues as well as the regular items:

- 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 (downloadable)

## Association Merchandise

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

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

## 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 Boden, Billington, Cake, & King. Messrs Booth & Blackman have joined the Committee since the last AGM and being eligible offer themselves for election under Rule 9. The Committee would like to place on record their grateful thanks to Messrs Gent, Pool & Spink who have stood down from the Committee after many excellent years of service to the Association.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (14<sup>th</sup> April 2005): AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2004 & consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Auditor for the year 2005.
4. Any other business