

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

President:	P. Jackson (Uppingham)	
Committee:	C.P. Boden (St. George's) Chairman C.P. Billington (Bradfield) A.J. Blackman (Reeds) J. Booth (King Edward's) G.B. Brown (UCS) R. Cake (Millfield)	J.R. Cooper (Colston's) C.M. King (Stowe) P. Siviter (Bromsgrove) J.B.M. Seddon (St. Paul's) H.B. Weatherill (Malvern) J. Yuill (Wellingborough)
Hon. Treasurer:	Hon. Secretary:	Hon. Match Secretary:
B. Rusling (Malvern)	A.J.K. Tatum (KCS Wimbledon)	J.R. Cooper (Colston's)

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30 November 2007.

2007 AGM & Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The Queen's Club on 29th March 2007. Messrs Jackson, Tatum & Rusling were re-elected as President, Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mrs B. Gabriel was re-elected as Hon. Auditor.

Messrs Blackman, Boden, Booth, Billington, Cake & King were all re-elected to the Committee, and Mr. Siviter was elected to the Committee for the first time. At the meeting of the Committee, immediately following the AGM, Mr Boden was elected as the Chairman of the Committee for the sixth year. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 November 2006 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. Our guest speaker was fellow member and recently retired Chief Executive of the All England Club, Chris Gorringer. After an astonishing 27 years of service, overseeing many significant developments improving the Wimbledon experience for visitors and players alike, Chris was able to entertain those present with many an interesting anecdote about his time in SW19.

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

The Pubs season for 2007 was eventful. With the "summer" rain at the start of the season, we were left wondering how many matches would actually be played. However, it is to the great credit of our players and match managers that a total of 21 matches were completed including some that had to be rearranged more than once. Final results were: 9 wins, 7 draws and 5 losses. And for those who enjoy statistics, losses were the lowest since 2002!

The first match of the season, we might have wished for rain...the Pubs team ventured to Dublin to play our friends at the Fitzwilliam Club and defend the Courtney Salver. To be honest, I'm not quite sure how to write up this report, as Fitz dismantled the Pubs side 9-0. I would like to say the score does not reflect the match as a whole, but that would not be entirely true! Despite the tennis result (& the rugby result), a great weekend was had by all of the team. As we write, we are plotting our revenge!

New fixtures for the season included matches against the Old Wellingtonians, played at Hurlingham, and Campden Hill. Both of which I am pleased to report as victories and matches we are continuing for the 2008 season.

As always, the ISTA match was a tightly fought contest with a draw being recorded and thus the Association retaining the Avory Shield. The All England Club was once again too strong for the Pubs, much to our Honorary Secretary's pleasure as he represented the AELTC.

Other highlights in the year included wins against Oxford Penguins, the Veterans Club of Great Britain and Eton. The Pubs can be excused for losing against Stoke Park Club, in the match which was kindly hosted by the King family. Unbeknown to the Pubs, Chester had recruited Lee Childs (at the time, the British number 9 & world number 441). It was certainly an education on doubles play! [For the avoidance of any doubt, I think it only fair to be clear that it was the Pubs receiving the education!].

Many thanks go to all 33 players who represented the Pubs in the season and particular mention to Chris Clarke and Graeme Olsen who made their debuts. With 13 matches under his belt, Brad Keenes, was once again the most capped player.

As always, many thanks go to all the match managers for their efforts in arranging teams.

2008 Fixtures

The 2007 Fixture Card is enclosed with this report. As always there are fixtures for every standard. If you would like to play in any of the fixtures listed, please contact the relevant Match Manager directly, or via our web site (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 or Stoke Park Club) on a set day. As pool winners and runners-up, Old Westminster's, Old Bromsgrovians, UCS Old Boys & Old Chigwellians, then joined the previous year's competing semi-finalists in the quarter-final draw.

The quarter-finals saw what can only be described as the biggest shock in recent memory. In a real clash of the Titans, 21-time winners, UCS Old Boys defeated 17-time winners, Old Paulines who had contested the final in each of the last seven years.

In the remaining quarter-finals, KCS Old Boys, Old Carthusians & Old Bromsgrovians were victorious. In the semi-finals, UCS Old Boys advanced past Old Carthusians and KCS Old Boys won through on a games countback in the tightest of matches against the Old Bromsgrovians. The final at the All England Club was played on the grass courts in beautiful sunshine. In a competitive match, KCS Old Boys retained the cup by a margin of 6-3. Our grateful thanks go to Stoke Park Club, 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 (1) Old Westminster's	} KCS Old Boys (3-1)	} KCS Old Boys (2-2; on games countback)	} KCS Old Boys (6 - 3)
Old Bromsgrovians			
Old Wellingtonians (3)	} Old Bromsgrovians (3-1)	} UCS (2 ½ - 0)	
Old Carthusians (3) Old Chigwellians	} Old Carthusians (3-1)		
UCS Old Boys	} UCS Old Boys (3-1)		
Old Paulines (2)			

This year's competition is already underway. The qualifying round robin days will take place on Saturday, 5th April (St. George's College, Weybridge) & Saturday 19th April (Stoke Park Club).

New Members

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

Honorary Membership:

Martin Guntrip	AELTC	John O'Brien	Fitzwilliam LTC
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Life Membership:

Mr. Rupert Beecroft	Eton	Mr. Christopher Penny	St. George's College
Mr. Henry Drysdale	Eton	Mr. Jay Roan	Wellingborough
Mr. Ben Gordon-Smith	Bromsgrove	Mr. John Seabrook	Eton
Mr. George MacDonald	Eton	Mr. Mark Scrivener	St. George's College

Conversion from Annual to Life Membership:

Mr. George Georgiou	St. John's, Leatherhead	Mr. David Copp	Bradfield
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In addition, by virtue of being selected to represent the Independent Schools v. The All England Club, the Association was delighted to offer a 5 Year free membership to the following:

Mr. Rob Lowe	Millfiled	Mr. James Penn	Repton
Mr. Tim Matthewson	RGS Newcastle	Mr. Dan Shiner	Cheltenham

Recruitment

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

www.PSOBLTA.co.uk

The Pubs website continues to be the place to visit to catch up on the latest results and gossip during the season. We registered over 400 "hits" for the third year running. The website is proving a great resource for volunteering to play in matches, checking results and even getting maps & directions to our fixtures.

The site is updated at the start of every month & 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 (downloadable)

Association Merchandise

The following Association merchandise is available from the Hon. Secretary. Visit the website to view pictures:

- 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 Brown, Cooper, Seddon, Siviter, Weatherill and Yuill.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (29th April 2008): AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 29th March 2007 & consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2007.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Auditor for the year 2008.
4. Any other business