

# THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

<b>President:</b>	P. Jackson CBE (Uppingham)	
<b>Committee:</b>	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)
<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 2009

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30 November 2009.

### **2009 AGM & Annual Dinner**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The Queen's Club on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009. 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. At the meeting of the Committee, immediately following the AGM, Mr Boden was elected as the Chairman of the Committee for the seventh year. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 November 2008 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 Mr. Ian Ritchie, Chief Executive of The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club. In a highly entertaining speech, Ian talked about his career to date, progress on the Centre Court roof and future developments for The Championships. Ian was kind enough to bring along a few interesting artefacts from the Wimbledon Museum to show and to finish the evening with a lively Q&A session.

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

2009, and what a fine year to end the first decade of the new millennium. Over the course of the season, 23 matches plus the members' celebration tournament were played. Results consisted of 15 wins, 4 draws and 4 losses. This is the highest number of wins and draws since at least 1994! Well done to all the players.

The season began with a trip to Dublin to play the Fitzwilliam Club. As always, this was a most enjoyable fixture, despite the extremely early start on the Saturday morning to catch the flight! I am very pleased to report that the Pubs must thrive on early mornings as they came through victorious in a 5-4 win. As in 2008, the fixture was very evenly matched throughout the rubbers. After eight rubbers the match was finely poised at 4-4 and was decided on a thrilling champions' tie-break. The Courtney Salver was retained and as this year's match is in late February, we'll find out at the annual dinner whether we have made it three in a row. Energised by their success, the Pubs continued their theme of thriving on early morning exploits by exploring Dublin's fine establishments at the other end of the day!

A new fixture for the year was a very enjoyable match on grass against Wimbledon LTC. The Pubs are, of course, always gentlemen on court but, as this was the first time we had played this opposition, we were exceptionally polite and the fixture resulted in an honourable draw!

The Avory Shield was retained by the ISLTA as the fixture ended in a 2-2 draw. Rest assured, the Pubs will be out to reclaim the trophy in 2010.

Other victories in the year included the double over Oxbridge teams (Oxford Penguins and Cambridge Grasshoppers), St Georges College, Surbiton LTC, Ealing LTC and Eton College. An entertaining match was

held in the glamorous surroundings of Stoke Park Club against the Club, where in a strange twist, the result of the fixture (a Pubs win by 5-4) was only decided two days after the match! For those of you wondering why, as Hertford King had organised both teams, but was playing for the PSOB team, it wasn't immediately clear who should be penalised when a member of the home team didn't arrive and one of the first round matches couldn't be played! As in previous years we would like to thank the King family for their support of the PSOBLTA which is greatly appreciated.

Two of our losses in the year were against the All England Club and The International Club: both were too strong for the PSOBLTA and we lost both matches 6-3. However, given the calibre of these clubs, it is not a statistic we should be ashamed of!

Overall, including the members' tournament, we had an impressive 33 players representing the Pubs in the season, with eleven players playing five times or more. Particular mention should be made of Kristian Hunter, Ben Gordon-Smith, Malcolm Smith, George Brind & Johnny Barr, who made their debuts this season. Once again, for the umpteenth year running, Brad Keenes was the most capped player with a remarkable 17 appearances *[and in case anyone is wondering, each of his appearances was remarkable, not just the number of them! (Hon. Sec)]*.

Many thanks go to all match managers for all their efforts in arranging teams. Particular thanks to two managers who have emigrated and stepped down this year, Edward Cooper and Tom Knapp.

## 2010 Fixtures

The 2010 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 ([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 themselves unable to play, should find a suitable replacement for themselves and notify the relevant Match Manager.*

## D'Abernon Cup

Once again, teams were grouped into two pools for the first round of the D'Abernon Cup, with all matches held at an indoor venue (St. George's College or Stoke Park Club) on a set day. As pool winners and runners-up, Old Bromsgrovians, Old Edwardians, Old Paulines and Old Georgians, then joined the previous year's competing semi-finalists in the quarter-final draw.

In the quarter-finals, KCS Old Boys, Old Bromsgrovians, Old Carthusians and UCS Old Boys were victorious. The latter progressed after a closely fought match against the Old Edwardians, which had to be decided by a games countback. The semi-finals saw the Old Bromsgrovians advance against the Old Carthusians and KCS Old Boys beat UCS Old Boys to reach their ninth final in a row. The final at the All England Club was played on the grass courts. After two rounds, the match was locked at three rubbers each with the "opposites" round to play. Despite the overall result being in the balance right until the end, Old Bromsgrovians managed to win all three matches in the last round to lift the trophy for the first time. Congratulations to Paul Siviter and his team. 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
<b>Old Reodonians (1)</b>	} Old Bromsgrovians (w/o)	} Old Bromsgrovians (4-0)	} Old Bromsgrovians (6-3)
Old Bromsgrovians			
Old Paulines	} <b>Old Carthusians</b> (w/o)	} <b>KCS Old Boys</b> (3-0)	
<b>Old Carthusians (3)</b>			
<b>UCS Old Boys (3)</b>	} <b>UCS Old Boys</b> (2-2; on games)	} <b>KCS Old Boys</b> (3-0)	
Old Edwardians			
Old Georgians	} <b>KCS Old Boys</b> (2.5-1)		
<b>KCS Old Boys (2)</b>			

Entry forms for this year's competition are due out shortly. If you do not normally receive an entry form, please visit the D'Abernon Cup section at [www.PSOBLTA.co.uk](http://www.PSOBLTA.co.uk). The qualifying round robin days will take place on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> April (St. George's College, Weybridge) & Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April (Stoke Park Club).

### **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

You may recall that your Committee decided that in order to celebrate the Association's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we should focus on what we do best – play tennis and have fun! Therefore, on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, sixteen members assembled in glorious sunshine to compete in a celebration doubles tournament on the lawns of Stoke Park Club. A very enjoyable afternoon's tennis concluded in a well-deserved victory for Paul Siviter and Charlie Billington. This was followed by a fantastic barbeque for competitors and their many supporters. Such was the euphoria, that our new Head of Merchandising, Ellen Tatum (daughter of your Hon. Secretary), seized the moment to sell more PSOB tennis shirts in one day, than we had sold in the previous two years! Thanks go to all the participants, to Paul Siviter and James Yuill for organising and especially to the King family for allowing the event to be hosted at Stoke Park Club.

### **New Members**

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

#### Life Membership:

Mr. James Bray	Wellington	Mr. Sancho Simmonds	Repton
Mr. Nicolas Burdett	Harrow	Mr. Philip Siviter	King's, Worcester
Mr. Tom Greenland	Abingdon	Mr. Robbie Trimble	Old Rugbeians
Mr. Charlie Hutchinson	St. Paul's	Mr. George Trip	Emanuel
Mr. Julian Liban	St. Paul's	Mr. Henry Wells	St. Paul's

#### Annual Membership:

Mr. Daniel Altneu	KCS, Wimbledon	Mr. George Brind	Radley
Mr. Johnny Barr	Stewart's Melville College	Mr. Adam Fonfe	St. George's College

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. Joshua Tingle	KCS, Wimbledon	Mr. Matt Lugg	Whitgift
Mr. Chris Anguelov	Westminster	Mr. James McKie	Merchiston

Mr. Ed Jones (Millfield) & Mr. Andrew Brigham (Repton) played for the second year running and therefore were awarded their membership the previous year.

### **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](http://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 fifth year running. The website is a great resource for volunteering to play in matches, checking results and even getting maps & directions to our fixtures.

The site is updated regularly throughout the season & includes:

- Fixture lists & latest results
- Facility to register to play in matches
- Directions to matches
- 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 CBE	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 & Yuill.

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.45pm on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010): AGENDA**

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 & consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Auditor for the year 2010.
4. Any other business.