

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

President:	P. Jackson CBE (Uppingham)	
Committee:	C.P. Boden (St. George's) Chairman J. Barr (Stewart's Melville College) C.P. Billington (Bradfield) A.J. Blackman (Reeds) J. Booth (King Edward's) G.B. Brown (UCS)	J. Compton-Dando (Framlingham) J.R. Cooper (Colston's) C.M. King (Stowe) P. Siviter (Bromsgrove) J.B.M. Seddon (St. Paul's) 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)

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30 November 2011.

2011 AGM & Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The Queen's Club on 18th March 2011. 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 & King were all re-elected to the Committee and Mr. Compton-Dando 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 tenth year. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 November 2010 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. We were treated to an excellent speech from our guest speaker, Mr. John Inverdale, the much respected television & radio sports presenter & journalist. John entertained those present with a variety of tales about his travails as a public schools tennis player as well as his broadcasting experience, particularly his memories of starting out on radio and his coverage of The Championships on radio and television.

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

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...a Charles Dickens quote which could quite easily be used to describe the Pubs season! The Pubs season was not epic with regards to wins but was hugely successful in the number of matches played. The season ended with an admirable 11 wins, 4 draws and 11 losses.

The season started with the Pubs team heading to Dublin to play the Fitzwilliam Club. After losing the fixture in 2010, the team were out to make amends; unfortunately despite the team "playing to the best of their abilities" *ask Ben Gordon-Smith or Gary Thomson at the dinner about this comment!*, the team lost the final champions tie-break to go down 5-4. With the 50th anniversary of this fixture taking place the day after the annual dinner, we will have to ensure that the 2012 team are on an alcohol free night...

Silverware was retained in the Pubs' trophy cabinet with a draw against the Independent Schools. The match against the All England Club in August was as always a thoroughly enjoyable day, and one of the closest matches we have had in its history. With the Pubs seeming to have a near unassailable 4-2 lead going into the last round, history was not quite made...the AELTC using all their might to secure three wins and snatch a 5-4 victory from the Pubs' grasp!

Other victories in the year included wins against Eton College, Old Wellingtonians, Bristol University and Kings College School. A new addition to the Pubs' calendar was a fixture against the British Police which was played on the clay in La Manga. The tennis on the "dirt" was highly enjoyable but it showed that the Pubs' tennis was more suited to the faster grass courts as the team was defeated 8-1.

Once again particular thanks must go to the King family for their support of the PSOBLTA and allowing us to use the grand setting of Stoke Park for some of our fixtures.

This season we had an impressive 44 players turning out in their whites to represent the club. A big thank you to everyone that played with particular thanks to those who made their debuts in 2011: Austin Coventry, Tom Greenland, Michael Lavey, Mark McGrath, Jonathan Nicholson and Robert Trimble. The award for the most-capped player yet again went to Brad Keenes with an impressive 15 appearances.

2012 Fixtures

The 2012 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) – 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, are expected to find a suitable replacement for themselves and notify the relevant Match Manager.

Many thanks go to the match managers for all their efforts in arranging teams.

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 Paulines, Old Carthusians, Old Cranleighans & Old Etonians then joined the previous year's competing semi-finalists in the quarter-final draw.

The quarter-finals saw UCS Old Boys, Old Paulines, Old Bromsgrovians & KCS Old Boys advance at the expense of Old Cranleighans, Old Westminster's, Old Carthusians & Old Etonians, all by a score of 3-1. In the semi-finals the Old Paulines defeated UCS Old Boys also by a score of 3-1, and the Old Bromsgrovians came out second to KCS Old Boys in an astonishingly close match, which after ending at two rubbers each, was decided on games with KCS edging through 42-40 games.

Due to rain, the final was played on the indoor courts at The All England Club. In another extremely closely fought match, KCS Old Boys secured a 5-4 victory over the Old Paulines by virtue of winning the champions' tie break of the final match on court. Congratulations to captain, Chris Diacon, 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
UCS Old Boys (1)	} UCS Old Boys (3-1)	} Old Paulines (3-1)	} KCS Old Boys (5-4)
Old Cranleighans			
Old Paulines	} Old Paulines (3-1)	} KCS Old Boys (2-2; 42-40 on games)	
Old Westminster's (3)			
Old Bromsgrovians (3)	} Old Bromsgrovians (3-1)	} KCS Old Boys (2-2; 42-40 on games)	
Old Carthusians			
Old Etonians	} KCS Old Boys (3-1)		
KCS Old Boys (2)			

The qualifying round robin days for this year's competition will take place on Saturday 1st April (Stoke Park Club) & Saturday, 14th April (St. George's College, Weybridge).

New Members

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

Life Membership:

Mr. Austin Coventry	George Watson's College	Mr. Simon Lyster	Radley
Mr. Myles Harding	Felsted	Mr. Mark Magrath	Royal Belfast AI
Mr. Philip Hodges	Warwick	Mr. John Taylor	Millfield
Mr. Alfie Jones	KCS, Wimbledon	Mr. Andy Warry	Lord Wandsworth

Upgrade to Life Membership:

Mr. Gary Thomson Glasgow Academy	Mr. Stephen Debenham Haberdasher Askes
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Annual Membership:

Mr. Chris Hart Hutchesons Grammar

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. 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

Message from the Chairman – Conor Boden

As signified by the Notice of Nominations on the next page, next month's AGM will no doubt prove to be a poignant occasion for the PSOBLTA. While we very much look forward to welcoming Geoff Brown as our new President, we shall also be very sorry to see Peter Jackson finally bring his formal involvement with the Pubs to an end after over 60 years' service. Having joined the Pubs in 1946, Peter was first elected to the Committee in 1949 and since then has served the Association with enormous distinction and commitment as Hon. Match Secretary, Hon. Secretary, Committee Chairman and most recently President. Peter really has been the driving force behind the Pubs for the last 60 years and we are all hugely indebted to him for his uniquely magnificent and generous contribution to all aspects of the running of the Association over that period. Thank you Peter!

In writing, I should also like to thank Ashley Tatum for all his excellent work as first Hon. Match Secretary and then Hon. Secretary over the past 18 years. Ashley too has contributed very considerably to the success of the Pubs in recent times and we are all most grateful to him for his thoroughly efficient and good-natured administration of first our fixtures and then the Association as a whole. We look forward to Ashley assuming other roles with the Pubs in due course and, in the meantime, to welcoming Jonathan Cooper as our new Hon. Secretary. Jonathan has already served the Association most effectively as our Hon. Match Secretary for the last 6 years so he is well used to stepping into Ashley's shoes!

Nominations

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

President:	Mr. G.B. Brown	Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. B. Rusling
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. J.R. Cooper	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 Compton-Dando, Seddon, Siviter & Weatherill.

In addition Mr. Johnny Barr (Stewart's Melville College), Mr. Ed Cooper (Bristol Grammar) & Mr. Ashley Tatum (KCS, Wimbledon) (currently Ex Officio) are proposed for election to the Committee under Rule 9.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.45pm on 15th March 2012)

The Courtside Restaurant, The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 26th April 2011 & consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2011.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Auditor for the year 2012 with effect from 19th March 2012.
4. Any other business.