

## Nominations

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

President:	Mr. H.B. Weatherill
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. J.R. Cooper
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. P. Siviter
Hon. Independent Examiner:	Mrs. B. Gabriel

The following members of the Committee retire by rotation in accordance with Rule 8 and being eligible offer themselves for re-election: Messrs E.A. Cooper, Gordon-Smith, Jenkins and Tatum.

In accordance with Rule 9, Mr. Brad Keenes (Bloxham School) and Mr. Robert Searle (The Leys School) are proposed for election to the Committee for the first time, thus filling the vacancies created as a result of Mr. Weatherill's nomination for President and Mr. Coventry's retirement from the Committee. The Committee would like to thank Mr. Coventry for his time on the Committee.

## Finances

The Committee is pleased to report that the Association is in good financial health. The Association's balance sheet at 30 November 2015 reported net assets of £10,630 (30 November 2014: £9,143). A full set of accounts will be available at the 2016 AGM.

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.15pm on 23rd March 2016)**

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

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 29th April 2015 and consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2015.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Independent Examiner for the upcoming year.
4. Any other business.

## ***THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS'***

### ***LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION***



### **ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

## Officers and Committee Members

<b>President:</b>	G.B. Brown (UCS)
<b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>	P. Siviter (Bromsgrove School)
<b>Hon. Secretary:</b>	J.R. Cooper (Colston's School)
<b>Committee:</b>	A.J.K. Tatum (KCS Wimbledon) - Chairman J.H. Barr (Stewart's Melville College) C.P. Billington (Bradfield College) A.J. Blackman (Reed's School) C.P. Boden (St. George's College) J. Compton-Dando (Framlingham College) E.A. Cooper (Bristol Grammar School) A. Coventry (George Watson's College) B. Gordon-Smith (Bromsgrove School) C.M. Jenkins (St. Paul's School) C.M. King (Stowe School) H.B. Weatherill (Malvern College)

## Contact Details

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.psoblta.co.uk">www.psoblta.co.uk</a>
<b>Association Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:psoblta@live.co.uk">psoblta@live.co.uk</a>
<b>Fixtures Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com">psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com</a>
<b>Twitter:</b>	@PSOBLTA

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30th November 2015.

### 2015 AGM and Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club on 29th April 2015. Messrs Brown, J.R. Cooper and Siviter were elected as President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mrs B. Gabriel was re-elected as Hon. Independent Examiner.

Messrs Barr, Billington, Blackman, Boden, Compton-Dando and King were all re elected to the Committee and Mr. Jenkins was elected to the Committee for the first time. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th November 2014 were presented at the AGM and unanimously adopted. At the meeting of the Committee immediately following the AGM, Mr. Tatum was re-elected as the Chairman of the Committee.

Following the AGM, the Annual Dinner was also held at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club. It was a pleasure to see a record number of attendees (over 115) for the evening, a true testament that the Association is thriving.

Our guest speaker was Will Greenwood, MBE (2003 Rugby World Cup winner). Mr. Greenwood recounted entertaining stories of his rugby career along with a fascinating insight into his views on world rugby ahead of the Rugby World Cup 2015 (*little did we know what was in store for England!*). This was followed by a Q&A including a run-down of who would be in his starting XV. Overall, an entertaining evening was had by all.

## Geoff Brown



As many of you will be aware, 2015 saw the very sad news that the PSOBLTA President, Geoff Brown, had passed away. Geoff had been a member of the Pubs since 1960, joining the Committee in 1961, serving as Chairman from 1990 to 1994 and then becoming President in 2012. He was also a stalwart of UCS Old Boys' tennis, captaining the side to a record 23 victories in the annual D'Abernon Cup competition.

As well as his deep involvement in Public Schools Old Boys' tennis, Geoff also served the wider game in the UK playing an active role in Middlesex County LTA and as

President of the Lawn Tennis Association during the 1980s.

Geoff's commitment to organising tennis for others was truly remarkable. His enthusiasm for UCS Old Boys, the PSOBLTA and the game as a whole was completely undiminished by the length of time he committed to the sport. There will be many, many people swinging a racket today and getting enjoyment from the game we love as a result of Geoff's hard work over the last six plus decades.

We shall greatly miss his counsel, his challenge, his support and his friendship. Your Committee are giving due consideration as to how we can achieve a lasting memory of Geoff and his contribution to the Pubs and an update will follow in due course.

*Ashley Tatum - PSOBLTA Chairman*

## Fixtures Report 2015

It was a highly successful season for the Pubs, though unfortunately not quite enough of that success was seen in our overall results! The 2014 season had set some new records by boasting an impressive expansion of the fixtures list and involving more players than in recent records. However, the 2015 year was also able to build on this success and set some new records.

The usual round up of the season is set out below.

### **Form is temporary...**

The season started with a very enjoyable trip to Dublin to compete for the Courtney Salver in our match against the Association's good friends at the Fitzwilliam LTC. Although the merriment and socialising after the match could be called a draw, the Fitzwilliam LTC was able to overcome a strong team of Johnny Barr, Rob Blythe, Jonathan Cooper, Ben Gordon-Smith, Chris Jenkins and Rob Searle. A great occasion all round and one in which we look forward to the chance to recover the salver when the rematch takes place in February 2016.

Unfortunately, similar results continued for the other fixtures in which silverware was at stake. The Independent Schools Tennis Association showed its strength by beating the Pubs in June for the Avory Shield. Then in August, the AELTC exacted its revenge by claiming back the Peter Jackson Cup after its defeat to the Pubs in 2014.



*PSOBLTA and AELTC teams*

Consistency was the Pubs downfall this year and it was not until late June when the Pubs was able to string together back to back victories. Though conversely, aside from the opening two matches, the Pubs were not beaten in consecutive matches for the rest of the season.



*PSOBLTA and Eton College teams*



*PSOBLTA and St. George's Hill LTC teams*

Overall, the results for 2015 stand at eleven wins, seven draws and thirteen losses. Not quite at the standard which the Pubs likes to achieve, however, perhaps not quite as disappointing as England's efforts in the Rugby World Cup nor at a level to warrant a mid-season talk with Roman Abramovich!

#### **...class is permanent**

2014 saw the greatest number of wins in the season (15), the greatest number of fixtures being played (26) as well as the most number of players competing for the Pubs over the season (49) each in recent records. Although we couldn't quite topple the first record the other two fell as an incredible 31 matches were played in 2015 with 52 members representing the Pubs.

There were some fantastic fixtures added to the list with Stowe, Roehampton LTC, Ashmanworth, The Harbour Club, Dulwich College and the much anticipated Rye LTC fixture. Incidentally the new fixtures accounted for four wins and two draws; thereby, hopefully earning us a repeat match with each club in 2016.

Huge congratulations to the Pubs talisman, Brad Keenes, who managed to ease to 23 caps accounting for nearly 75% of the Pubs fixtures played and achieving a long-held ambition of playing in 20 or more fixtures in a season. Congratulations Brad – 25 this year perhaps? A notable number of matches were also played by Ed Fry (eight), Jon Basell (six), Chris Jenkins (six) and James Hodges (five) – many thanks to them as well as all the other players for getting involved and competing for the Pubs.

Of course a great deal of thanks is offered to our hosts and our match managers for their hard work in making sure the matches come together and are played in such good spirit.

Full details of the results and selected match reports are included on the Pubs website.

#### **Fixtures for 2016**

The fixtures list for 2016 has been compiled with 34 matches confirmed. We are looking to expand further and to get more players involved in competitive and friendly fixtures. There are also a number of additional fixtures in the pipeline which unfortunately were not confirmed at the time of going to print. These are expected to be added over the season, so please keep an eye on the Pubs website, Twitter, Facebook or through the periodic emailed newsletter for any updates.

It would be great to involve even more members overall and welcome new members on court, so please contact the relevant match manager or myself should you be keen and available to play in any fixture this season.

All the best for 2016 and I hope to see as many of you as possible on court over the coming year!

*Edward Cooper - Hon. Fixtures Secretary (psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com)*

## D'Abernon Cup 2015

The 2015 D'Abernon Cup had one of the highest number of entrants in recent history, with 22 schools entered; of which 18 were involved in the qualifying events. The first qualifying day was held indoors at Stoke Park where the Old Novocastrians and Old Shirburnians qualified. Two weeks later, at St. George's College, the KCS Old Boys and Old Westminster teams also qualified. Once again, it was a pleasure to see some new teams in the draw for the quarter-finals taking on the previous year's semi-finalists (who qualified for the knock out rounds automatically).

The quarter-finals saw the 2014 winners, the Old Reptonians, beating Old Westminster; with a bye being given to UCS Old Boys in their quarter-final against the Old Shirburnians. The bottom half of the draw, saw the Old Paulines beat the Old Novocastrians but the last match was the closest of all the quarter-finals with the Old Reptonians beating KCS Old Boys by one game!

The semi-finals consisted of more comprehensive victories with the Old Reptonians and Old Reptonians both winning their semi-finals 4-0. This lined up a repeat of the 2014 final with the Old Reptonians securing the opportunity to avenge their prior year defeat.

The final was played on the grass courts at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club where the Old Reptonians team of Adrian Blackman, Alex Bull, Harry Burley, Ben Haran, Evan Hoyt and Christian Throm-Jones played the Old Reptonians team of Phil Brindley, Phil Cooper, Dan Cottier, Alex Grocott, Richard Harrison and Jamie Muirhead.

The final saw one of the most thrilling D'Abernon Cup ties in recent years. Tantalisingly poised at three matches all going into the last round; the Old Reptonians saw off an incredible last stand from the Old Reptonians to seal a 5-4 victory on a fine September's day on the grass courts in SW19.

To emphasise how close the match was, while the overall score was 5-4 to the Old Reptonians, the teams were level on sets won (11-11) with the Old Reptonians actually having won more games (102-78). The match was played in an excellent spirit with supporters from both sides enjoying the highly competitive tennis on show.

Once again, the Association is extremely grateful to Stoke Park and St. George's College for kindly hosting the qualifying rounds; and we would also like to place on record our appreciation to The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club for their continued support of the Association and allowing us to host the final of the D'Abernon Cup at such a superb and iconic venue.

Quarter-final	Semi-final	Final	Winner
Old Reptonians (1) Old Westminster (home)	Old Reptonians (3-1)	Old Reptonians (4-0)	Old Reptonians (5-4)
Old Shirburnians (home) UCS Old Boys (3)			
Old Paulines (3) (home) Old Novocastrians	Old Paulines (4-0)	Old Reptonians (4-0)	
KCS Old Boys (home) Old Reptonians (2)	Old Reptonians (2-2, won by one game)	Old Reptonians (4-0)	
			<b>Old Reptonians (5-4)</b>



*D'Abernon Cup winners – Old Reptonians*

Due to an increasing number of entrants, this year there will be a change in the format of the D'Abernon Cup whereby only the prior year finalists will automatically qualify to the quarter-finals and there will be three qualifying days instead of two. The three qualifying round robin days for this year's competition will take place on Saturday, 9th April (St. George's College), Saturday, 16th April (Stoke Park) and Sunday, 24th April (David Lloyd Raynes Park).

If you would like to enter a team for the 2016 D'Abernon Cup please contact Jonathan Cooper for an entrance form (email: [psoblta@live.co.uk](mailto:psoblta@live.co.uk)).

## New Members

We were delighted to elect and welcome the following 17 members to the Association during the year:

### Life Membership:

Mr. Christopher Donald	Eton College
Mr. Peter Gillespie	Repton School
Mr. Joseph Harris	St. Paul's School
Mr. Evan Hoyt	Reeds School
Mr. Kieran Jackson	Reigate Grammar School
Mr. Shaun Leleu	Haberdashers' Aske's
Mr. John Loosemore	Monkton Coombe School
Mr. Mark Loosemore	Repton School
Mr. Aleksander Mardinian	Westminster School
Mr. Miles Novotny	Repton School
Mr. Stefan Rhodes	St. George's College
Mr. Michael Savage	Lancing College
Mr. Sebastian Simpson	KCS, Wimbledon
Mr. Sean Thornley	Monkton Coombe School
Mr. Christian Throm-Jones	Reeds School
Mr. Bo Zhao	Abingdon School

### Annual Membership:

Mr. Asad Khan	Latymer Upper School
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## Recruitment

We have had an excellent number of new members over the last few years and we are keen to keep up this momentum and spread the enjoyment of the Pubs still further, so please be as active as possible in recruiting members. Application forms can be obtained from the website or are available directly from the Hon. Secretary.

Following a new initiative in 2015, the Association offers a five year fixed term membership without payment of subscription for school leavers within one year of leaving. It is our hope, that this will provide us the opportunity to introduce many more school leavers to the Association, a significant number of which will chose to apply for Life Membership before their fixed term is completed.

## PSOBLTA Merchandise

The PSOBLTA merchandise range continues to grow and in the last few months we have added a Nike branded hooded sweatshirt to the range. Merchandise can be purchased online ([www.psoblta.co.uk](http://www.psoblta.co.uk)) or by contacting the Hon. Secretary. Given the excellent value, we encourage all members to wear a PSOBLTA tennis shirt when representing the Association and the Pubs' tie whenever possible!

The following Association merchandise is available:

Association ties (silk)	£15.00	available from Hon. Secretary
PSOBLTA Nike Dri-Fit Tennis Shirt	£38.95	including delivery
PSOBLTA Nike Cotton Tennis Shirt	£28.95	including delivery



## Social Media

The PSOBLTA website ([www.psoblta.co.uk](http://www.psoblta.co.uk)) is the place to see all the latest news from the Association including any new fixtures added during the year, D'Abernon Cup draws and match results. On the website there is also a link where you can register to receive any new articles directly into your inbox.

Also, we are always looking to add more photos and match reports, so please feel free to send Jonathan Cooper anything you would like published (within reason!).

We are pleased to announce that the Association continues to Tweet via its Twitter account (@PSOBLTA), so please do join our existing 238 followers to read the latest tweets.