

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. Cooper, B. Gordon-Smith, C. Jenkins, B. Keenes, R. Searle and A. Tatum.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.45pm on 15th March 2018)
The Terrace Restaurant, The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 9th March 2017 and consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2017.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Independent Examiner for the upcoming year.
4. Proposal to amend the Association Rule 13:
"SUBSCRIPTIONS – The rates of subscription shall be £10.00 per annum, £50.00 for Life Membership, or £30.00 for Life Membership for School leavers whose applications are received within one year of leaving school" to:
"SUBSCRIPTIONS – The rates of subscription shall be £10.00 per annum, £60.00 for Life Membership, or £30.00 for Life Membership for School leavers whose applications are received within one year of leaving school. With a rate of £99 for members that wish to purchase life membership, PSOBLTA shirt and a PSOBLTA tie".
5. Any other business

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS'

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Officers and Committee Members

President:	H.B. Weatherill (Malvern College)
Hon. Treasurer:	P. Siviter (Bromsgrove School)
Hon. Secretary:	J.R. Cooper (Colston's School)
Committee:	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)
	B. Gordon-Smith (Bromsgrove School)
	C.M. Jenkins (St. Paul's School)
	B. Keenes (Bloxham School)
	C.M. King (Stowe School)
	R. Searle (The Leys School)

Contact Details

Website:	www.psoblta.co.uk
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ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30th November 2017.

2017 AGM and Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club on 9th March 2017. Messrs Weatherill, 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 J. Barr, C. Billington, A. Blackman, C. Boden, J. Compton-Dando and C. King were all re-elected to the Committee. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th November 2016 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.

The Annual Dinner followed the AGM where 77 members and guests enjoyed a superb evening at The Courtside Restaurant at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club.

Our 2017 Annual Dinner speaker was Jamie Baker (former British No. 2 tennis player and now regular commentator on the BBC and Eurosport). Jamie was ably and entertainingly questioned by Dan Bloxham (AELTC Head Coach) and gave his perspective on starting to play tennis in Scotland and the future of British Tennis amongst other topics. Once again, it was a highly enjoyable evening and thanks to all that attended.



D'Abernon Cup presented at Annual Dinner

Fixtures Report 2017

Depending on your allegiances, many will view 2017 as a year of troubles – uncertainty over what a post-Brexit Britain looks like; Mr Trump causing global unrest through twitter; and England coming second best in the Ashes. It was no different for the Pubs as our win:loss record was a bit down compared to recent years. Although, in sport, one can rarely be judged by any metric other than on victory - there have been many positives too throughout the year.

Glass half full

Once again, we set a new record of proposed fixtures for the year, with 39 matches being arranged. This included new fixtures against Cambridge University Blues, The Leys and Beckenham LTC. All fantastic additions where our opposition extended excellent hospitality and the matches were all played with sportsmanship and good humour. I am also pleased to report that in these three new fixtures we were able to record wins in two with the Cambridge University Blues team being just a little bit too strong for us this year.

It was also great to see so many different members getting on court too. We had 60 different players turn out for the Pubs this year, which, other than the 2016 season, was our highest number in recent years. Of those players it is good to see that many new members are getting involved. Scott Creed, Dom Hemy, Alex Wilton, Ed Kandel, Rich Wire and Chris Anguelov, all reasonably recent additions to the Pubs fraternity, getting involved a number of matches each in 2017. The increase in the number of fixtures, the constant addition of new members and the breadth of the pool of players involved really highlight the growth of the Pubs and the enthusiasm of our members to get involved.



PSOBTLA v Fitzwilliam LTC

Glass half empty

It was however, not a champagne moment on court all the time – overall, we reported a win percentage of only 36% which, although has not been our lowest percentage in recent years, was not quite up to the usual high standard that we set. Overall, we came second in 52% of the fixtures and had a gentlemanly draw in the remaining 12%. Certainly room for improvement in 2018!

Once again, the International Club (IC) saw a close tie going narrowly to the IC as they won 5-4. It wasn't the only tight match where we were just edged out – St George's Hill LTC, Ashmansworth, Ealing LTC and Felsted School were extremely close ties where we just fell short of securing a result.



PSOBTLA v IC

Full details of all the matches can be found at www.psoblta.co.uk together with the match reports. If you have a spare moment then I would recommend paying the website a visit – particularly for Brad Keenes' entertaining report on our loss at Eton College captained by Glen Pierce who has done a fantastic job developing the Eton College team into one of the best in the country.



PSOBTLA v AELTC

Glass overflowing

Anyway with 2017 behind us, all eyes are now on 2018 and it looks to be a cracking year. We currently have a record 38 matches in contention, creating a schedule that would make it look like the ATP Tour players were part-timers! With exciting new fixtures against Uppingham School and LSE arranged. The year starts and ends at the fantastic Stoke Park Country Club, with the final match of the season aligning with Stoke Park's impressive firework display.

We also are welcoming a further 24 new members and it would be great to have them all on court over this coming season.

Raise a glass

Anyway, all this does not take place without a lot of hard work both on and off the court as well as the welcoming receptions that we have from our opponents. Many thanks to the match managers and of course to those players on the day on both sides of the net. Once again Brad was the most capped player with 13 fixtures, but also strongly supported by Tim Thomas, Tom Knapp, Chris Jenkins and Adrian Blackman who also took part in many matches too.

Huge thanks to all the clubs, schools and universities that we visit. At times where tennis is so popular and where court time can be a premium it is great that we are able to continue these fixtures.

As with every year I would strongly encourage players interested in playing in matches to get in contact with myself or the match manager. We would love to hear from you and even better if you would like to sign up as a pair to a fixture with another member.

Here's hoping for a successful 2018!

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

D'Abernon Cup 2017

The 2017 D'Abernon Cup had the highest number of entrants in recent history with 22 schools entering our flagship old boys' tournament. 20 of these teams played in one of the three qualifying events (which we are fortunate enough to hold indoors thanks to St. George's College, Stoke Park and David Lloyd Raynes Park) with the top two teams from each qualifying day joining the prior year finalists that automatically qualified to the knock-out round.

The first qualifying day, held at St. George's College, saw some excellent tennis with the Old Etonians and KCS Old Boys qualifying. One week later, at Stoke Park, the Old Bradfieldians and Old Chigwellians teams qualified in a closely fought pool. David Lloyd Raynes Park was our third venue which saw the Old Reedonians and Old Wykehamists come through the group and complete the quarter final line-up.

In the quarter-finals, the top half of the draw saw the Old Reptonians (2016 champions) and KCS Old Boys comfortably beat the Old Wykehamists and Old Bradfieldians respectively. Whilst in the bottom half of the draw, Old Reedonians beat the Old Etonians and a bye was given to the Old Paulines against the Old Chigwellians.

The two winning semi-finalists fielded very strong teams and the Old Reptonians and Old Reedonians beat KCS Old Boys and Old Paulines 4-0 respectively. This led to a repeat of the 2015 and 2014 finals, which had been won by the Old Reedonians and the Old Reptonians respectively.

With the rain the day before the final, the AELTC grass courts were not playable; so the final was moved to the clay courts which gave a different tempo of play but the quality was still as high as expected.

The tennis was enjoyed by all players and a large number of spectators. After three close rounds, the Old Reptonians triumphed 5-4 and were delighted to retain the D'Abernon Cup. After the match, both teams retired to a suite at the All England Club to enjoy a fine afternoon tea overlooking the courts.

The D'Abernon Cup is run throughout the year and a thanks to all teams that entered our flagship tournament of the Association. Our sincere thanks must go to the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club for once again hosting the final and its excellent hospitality. Further thanks must be offered to all our qualifying round venues, namely, Stoke Park, St. George's College and David Lloyd Raynes Park.

Quarter-final	Semi-final	Final	Winner
Old Reptonians (1) Old Wykehamists (H)	} Old Reptonians (4-0)	} Old Reptonians (4-0)	} Old Reptonians (5-4)
KCS Old Boys (H) Old Bradfieldians			
Old Reptonians (H) Old Etonians	} Old Reptonians (3-1) (H)	} Old Reptonians (4-0)	
Old Chigwellians Old Paulines (2) (H)			



D'Abernon Cup winners – Old Reptonians

With the growing number of entrants and the ongoing success of having three qualifying events, we will continue this format for the 2018 D'Abernon Cup whereby the prior year finalists will automatically qualify to the quarter-finals along with the winners and runners-up from each qualifying event. The three qualifying round robin days for this year's competition will take place on Saturday, 7th April (St. George's College), Saturday, 14th April (Stoke Park) and Sunday, 22nd April (David Lloyd Raynes Park).

If you would like to enter a team for the 2018 D'Abernon Cup please contact Jonathan Cooper for an entrance form (email: psoblta@live.co.uk).

New Members

We were delighted to elect and welcome the following 35 members to the Association during the year:

Life Membership:

Angus Bradshaw	Millfield School
Nicholas Brookes	Millfield School
Ben Draper	Reed's School
Jack Draper	Reed's School
Toby Esser	Reed's School
Florian Hagmann	Hampton School
Matthew Kirby	Woodbridge School
Mark Laurence	Bryanston School
Luke Leslie	Eton College
Sean Marren	Whitgift School
Matthew Morley-Jacob	Felsted School
Richard Morley-Jacob	Felsted School
Peter Morton	Whitgift School
Casper Scheible	King's College School (Wimbledon)
Richard Small	Epsom College
Tim Thomas	St. Paul's School
Paul Tweedale	King's School (Bruton)

Five year trial Membership:

Spencer Alderton	Tonbridge School
Salil Navapurkar	Eton College
Louis Newman	Reed's School
Julian Robinson	Reed's School
Damian Rodriguez	Reed's School

Annual Membership:

Harrison Davies	Bradfield College
Toni Sollo	Brentwood School

Recruitment

In recent years, we reached an unprecedented number of new members, both in life members and also a growing number which have taken advantage of the five year free trial membership. The aim of our five year trial membership is to provide us the opportunity to introduce many more school leavers to the Association, a significant number of which we hope will chose to apply for Life Membership before their fixed term is completed.

As we grow our fixture list each year, we are keen to continue to grow our membership in parallel so we have more members playing more matches and enjoying what the Association can offer. Please be as active as possible in recruiting members and application forms can be obtained from the website or are available directly from the Hon. Secretary.

Social media

The PSOBLTA website (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.

We are pleased to announce that the Association continues to publish via Facebook and Twitter account (@PSOBLTA), so please do join our followers to read the latest news and comments.

PSOBLTA Merchandise

A reminder that PSOBLTA merchandise is available including a tie and Nike branded tennis shirts. Merchandise can be purchased online (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



Finances

The Committee is pleased to report that the Association is in good financial health. The Association's balance sheet at 30 November 2017 reported net assets of £12,318 (30 November 2016: £11,702). A full set of accounts will be available at the 2018 AGM.