



Annual Report 2018

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Officers and Committee Members

President	H.B. Weatherill (Malvern College)
Hon. Secretary	J.R. Cooper (Colston's School)
Hon. Treasurer	P. Siviter (Bromsgrove 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)
	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

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Annual Report 2018

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30th November 2018.

2018 AGM and Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The All England Lawn Tennis Club on 15th March 2018. Messrs Weatherill, J. Cooper and Siviter were elected as President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mrs B. Gabriel was re-elected as Hon. Independent Examiner.

Messrs E. Cooper, B. Gordon-Smith, C. Jenkins, B. Keenes, R. Searle and A. Tatum were all re-elected to the Committee. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th November 2017 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 88 members and guests enjoyed a brilliant evening at The Terrace Restaurant at The All England Lawn Tennis Club.

Our 2018 Annual Dinner speaker was Graeme LeSaux (former footballer). It was a fantastic evening and Graeme entertained us all with excellent stories from his time as a club player and also when on international duty.



*Graeme Le Saux with
PSOBLTA member,
Scott Clayton*

Fixtures Report 2018

One of the hottest Summers on UK record led to some hotly contested matches on the parched-dry brown grass courts around the country. Overall a very successful season with 31 matches being played and with the Pubs winning just under half of them.

Hot shots

The season ended with the Pubs winning 14 (45%) matches, drawing seven (23%) of them and only losing ten (32%) times. This was a significant improvement on 2017 where we managed to lose over half of the matches we played!

After some tantalisingly close matches in recent years against the International Club – the Pubs were finally able to overcome our longest standing opponents with a 7-2 victory on the excellent grass courts of Stoke Park. Well done to Ben Draper, Dom Hemy, Matt Kirby, Rob Searle, Sean Thornley and Rich Wire for the well-deserved victory and Johnny Barr for the expert captaining.



PSOBLTA v IC of GB

A return of the fixture against Campden Hill (many thanks to Jon Basell for arranging) was also a success both on and off the court with the Pubs recording a 4-0 victory.

We were also able to build on the success of new fixtures which were introduced in 2017 (Beckenham, The Leys School and Cambridge Blues) which hopefully are now embedded in the calendar for further years. In the Cambridge Blues match this year, we came back stronger being able to manage a draw after a heavy defeat in 2017. Next year we will hopefully go one better!



PSOBLTA v Edgbaston Priory Club

Notable other victories include those over Bromsgrove School, Bradfield College, Stowe School and KCS for the school fixtures and Surbiton, Malahide, Stoke Park, Rye and Roehampton against the clubs.



PSOBLTA v St. George's Hill

Too hot to handle

It was, however, a slow start for the Pubs engine to get fully running with only one win in the first couple of months of the season. Amongst those matches was a clinical defeat by longstanding opposition, the Fitzwilliam Club, on home soil on the same weekend where the Irish rugby team also beat England in the Six Nations.



PSOBLTA v Fitzwilliam LTC

Similarly, our annual fixture against the All England LTC, where it is always difficult to get a win, resulted in a 3-1 loss against an in-form opposition.



PSOBLTA v AELTC

Some like it hot...

Brad Keenes, most capped player since most of us can remember, was on court for the Pubs the most amount once again - though not as many as the dizzy heights of over-20 fixtures a season as we have seen in the past. Brad cited his lower commitment due to things 'hotting-up' over the Summer although we are led to believe this reference was nothing to do with the weather!

As ever, we have a huge amount of gratitude to those that make the season happen – having 31 matches being played takes a big group effort – many thanks to the opposition for their hospitality, the match managers for their organisation and the players for getting involved.

Special thanks also to Philip Hutley for his years of services as match manager for the Felsted School fixture following his decision to step down this year. It is a match which was always played in great spirit and enjoyed by all.

Turning to 2019, the fixtures list is available with new ones being added all the time – so please check the website for more details. Also we strongly encourage anyone interested in playing to get in contact with the captains – new members and new players are always welcome to the teams. Even better if you would like to sign up as a pair to a fixture with another member. Full details of all the matches can be found at <http://www.psoblta.co.uk> together with the match reports throughout the year.

Hopefully see you all on court and at the Annual Dinner in 2019.

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

D'Abernon Cup 2018

Each year the D'Abernon Cup goes from strength to strength and 2018 was no different with 21 entrants in the tournament. 19 one-pair teams played in the three qualifying groups. Our thanks go to St. George's College, Stoke Park and David Lloyd Raynes Park for allowing us to use their indoor courts.

The first qualifying event was at St. George's College and all matches were played in great spirit, to a high standard and were closely fought. The Old Salopians qualified in first place, winning all of their matches, with three of their wins being on tiebreaks. The Old Wellingtonians and Old Paulines were both in contention going into the last round of matches, with the Old Wellingtonians winning through.

The second qualifying event was held at Stoke Park and after entertaining matches, the winners on the day were Old Westminster followed by the Old Bradfieldians as runners-up.

In a very competitive third qualifying event at David Lloyd Raynes Park a strong KCS Old Boys team, featuring the currently world ranked and fresh out of Princeton, Tom Colautti, came through qualifying, although were pushed hard by strong teams from both Old Etonians and Old Wykehamists with the latter claiming a well-deserved second qualifying spot.

The quarter-finals were all relatively one-sided matches which resulted in the Old Reptonians, Old Westminster, KCS Old Boys and the Old Reptonians progressing.

The semi-finals saw the Old Reptonians beat Old Westminster 4-0 and in the other half of the draw, the Old Reptonians were too strong for KCS Old Boys. This resulted in a rematch of 2017 between the Old Reptonians (winners in 2017 and 2016) against the Old Reptonians (2015 winners).

The sun was shining and the final was played on the grass courts at AELTC. The standard of tennis throughout the day was fantastic with the tie firmly in the balance on several occasions. But after nine rubbers, the Old Reptonians avenged their 2017 final defeat and reclaimed the D'Abernon Cup with a 5-4 victory.



D'Abernon Cup winners – Old Reptonians

Our thanks to all the teams that entered the D'Abernon Cup to make it such a success and many thanks to all the qualifying host venues and particularly, the All England Lawn Tennis Club for once again hosting the final and its excellent hospitality.

With the growing number of entrants and the ongoing success of having three qualifying events, we will continue this format for the 2019 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, 6th April (Stoke Park), Saturday, 13th April (St. George's College) and Sunday, 28th April (David Lloyd Raynes Park).

If you would like to enter a team for the 2019 D'Abernon Cup please contact Jonathan Cooper for an entrance form (email: psoblta@live.co.uk).

Quarter-final	Semi-final	Final	Winner
Old Reptonians (1) Old Wellingtonians (H)	Old Reptonians (4-0) (H)	Old Reptonians (4-0)	Old Reptonians (5-4)
Old Wykehamists Old Westminster (H)			
Old Salopians KCS Old Boys (H)	KCS Old Boys (4-0)	Old Reptonians (3-1)	
Old Bradfieldians Old Reptonians (2) (H)	Old Reptonians (4-0) (H)		



New Members

We were delighted to elect and welcome the following 27 members to the Association during the year:

Life Membership:

Jamie Boden	St. George's College
Marc Codling	Canford School
Scott Clayton	Millfield School
Jeremy Fleming	St. George's College
Henry Hall	Eton College
Ben Jones	University College School
Nick Jones	Bromsgrove School
Jack Keyes	Millfield School
Matt Leahy	Cranleigh School
Thomas McCollum	Marlborough College
Nick McDonald	Bradfield College
Alex Miotto	Sevenoaks School
Guy Negretti	Eton College
Jonny O'Mara	Merchiston Castle School
Davor Pavlovic	Ackworth School
James Sewry	Sherborne School
Jamie Singer	Tonbridge School
Tom Vernham	Bradfield College
Rupert Wiggin	Wellington College

Five-year trial Membership:

Matthew Carrall	Millfield School
Seb Harris	Millfield School
Lafote Lo	Abingdon School
Will Pearson	Abingdon School
Edward Pomeroy	Culford School
Isaac Sturgess	Millfield School
Pierce Widdecombe	Millfield School

Annual Membership:

Nicholas Grove	Bromsgrove School
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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 for recent school leavers.

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 (www.psoblta.co.uk) or are available directly from the Hon. Secretary.

Website and 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 news updates via Twitter (@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, Nike branded tennis shirts and caps. Merchandise can be purchased by contacting the Hon. Secretary (psoblta@live.co.uk). 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



PSOBLTA Nike Dri-Fit Tennis Shirt £38.95



PSOBLTA cap £15.00

Finances

The Committee is pleased to report that the Association is in good financial health. The Association's balance sheet at 30th November 2018 reported net assets of £13,772 (30th November 2017: £12,318).

A full set of accounts will be available at the 2019 AGM.

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 Barr, Billington, Blackman, Boden and King.

In accordance with Rule 9, Mr. Jonathan Basell (Royal Grammar School Worcester) is proposed for election to the Committee for the first time, thus filling the vacancy created as a result of Mr. Compton-Dando's retirement from the Committee. The Committee would like to thank Mr. Compton-Dando for his time on the Committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.45pm on 21st March 2019)

The Courtside, The All England Lawn Tennis Club

AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM of 15th March 2018 and consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2018.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Independent Examiner for the upcoming year.
4. Any other business.