



## Annual Report 2020

# 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)
	J. Basell (Royal Grammar School Worcester)
	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)
	J. Muirhead (Repton School)

## Contact Details

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Email	<a href="mailto:psoblta@live.co.uk">psoblta@live.co.uk</a>
Fixtures email	<a href="mailto:psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com">psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com</a>
Twitter	@PSOBLTA

## Annual Report 2020

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### 2020 AGM and Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The All England Lawn Tennis Club on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. 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.A Cooper, Gordon-Smith, Jenkins, Keenes and Tatum were all re-elected to the Committee and Mr Muirhead was elected to the Committee for the first time. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 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 over 90 members and guests enjoyed a thoroughly enjoyable evening at The Courtside at The All England Lawn Tennis Club.

Our 2020 Annual Dinner speaker was Philip Brook (recently retired as Chairman of The All England Lawn Tennis Club). Once again, it was a fantastic evening showing the camaraderie of the Association. Philip was interviewed by PSOBLTA Committee member, Conor Boden, and asked excellent and interesting questions which Philip spoke openly and honestly about including his achievements at AELTC and his involvement in the Tennis Integrity Unit.



## Fixtures Report 2020

There will be no surprises that the 2020 report this year is a little light. 28 matches were cancelled in total but, in such a difficult year, we have been very lucky to have been able to complete five of the fixtures this year.

The five matches played were against Fitzwilliam LTC (when the concept of a year-long 'lockdown' and total suspension of tennis seemed ludicrous), the All England Club, Beckenham LTC, Edgbaston Priory LTC and the Ashmansworth Invitational.

The end results were two wins, two losses and one gentlemanly draw – incidentally a fairly standard W:L:D ratio for us compared to previous years despite the unusual circumstances of 2020.

Focusing on the two matches where trophies were at stake – the spoils were split evenly. The first of these was the match against Fitzwilliam LTC for the Courtney Salver. In a match of extremely high standard, a strong Pubs team of Jon Basell, Jamie Boden, Dom Hemy, Matt Kirby, Tim Matthewson, and Ben Rogers narrowly went down 5-4 to an impressive Fitzwilliam squad. As ever, this was a match played in great spirit and with great commitment to the social element over the rest of the weekend!



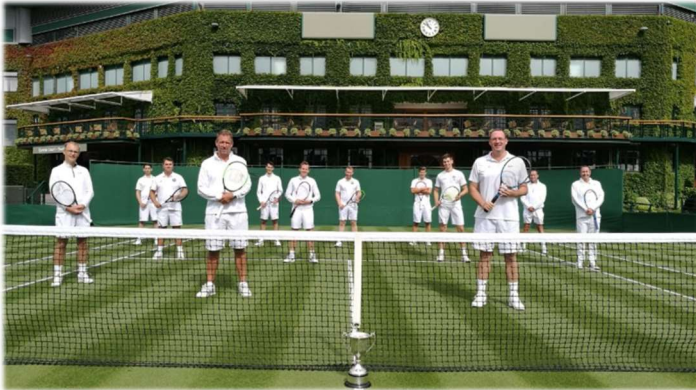
*Fitzwilliam LTC team photo*



*PSOBLTA team photo v Fitzwilliam LTC*



*Trophy presentation at The Queen's Club*



PSOBLTA v AELTC

The second match for silverware was the match against the All England LTC for the Peter Jackson Cup. In this match, we were able to keep the trophy cabinet populated by recording a quite remarkable 5-1 victory. Our wins against the All England are quite sparse and unheard of in recent years to do so with a game or two spare. However, the team of Adrian Blackman, George Donnelly, Ed Kandell, Davor Pavlovic, Ben Rogers and Casper Scheible are to be congratulated for such a rare achievement. As ever, the team were the recipients of exceptional hospitality even with government restrictions in play – the socially distanced team photo on the Pubs website is reminiscent of a billboard for an action movie or a 1990s boy band album cover!



PSOBLTA v AELTC

Another hugely enjoyable match was held at Ashmansworth, where a great amount of gratitude goes to Sebastian Lyon for hosting this match again. A closely fought match resulted in a win for the Association.



PSOBLTA v Ashmansworth

As always, our thanks go to all the members who represent the Association, especially so in 2020 given the *annus horribilis* it was and managing to get on court was a welcome reprieve, along with the generous and welcoming hospitality of our opposition.

### 2021 season

At the time of writing this, the 2021 Pubs season is still looking uncertain, but we will do our best to provide as much opportunity to play within the remit of the guidelines. In a year starved of the usual social interactions and the ability to play tennis we hope that the Pubs can provide a welcome change to Netflix and Zoom quizzes! Of course, all subject to acting in a socially responsible manner and ensuring we do our bit too to help.

Please keep an eye on the Pubs' website for any updates and when we can get back on court please get involved where you can.

**Edward Cooper - Hon. Fixtures Secretary**  
[psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com](mailto:psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com)



## D'Abernon Cup

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to cancel the 2020 D'Abernon Cup. Our thanks go to all the teams that had entered the 2020 tournament, and all entrance fees will be transferred to the 2021 D'Abernon Cup.

Given the current conditions and restrictions with regards the pandemic, the Committee is looking at alternative options for the 2021 D'Abernon Cup and once a decision has been made on how the tournament can be played safely for all players and adhering to any restrictions in place, all entrants will be notified.

## New Members

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

### Life Membership:

Peter Barrand	<i>Clifton College</i>
Angus Creighton	<i>Bradfield College</i>
Boon-Teik Lim	<i>St Paul's School</i>

## Recruitment

In recent years, we have had a good number of new members, both 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](http://www.psoblta.co.uk)) or are available directly from the Hon. Secretary.

## Website and Social Media

The PSOBLTA website ([www.psoblta.co.uk](http://www.psoblta.co.uk)) is the place to find all the latest news from the Association including any new fixtures added during the year, D'Abernon Cup draws and match results.

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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 reported net assets of £14,153 (30<sup>th</sup> November 2019: £14,426).

A full set of accounts will be presented at the 2021 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, Basell, Blackman, Billington, Boden and King.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (7.30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021) Held virtually via Microsoft Teams**

#### **AGENDA**

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Independent Examiner for the upcoming year.
4. Any other business.