

Nominations

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

President:	Mr. G.B. Brown
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. J.R. Cooper
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. B. Rusling
Hon. Independent Examiner:	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 E. Cooper, Coventry, Gordon-Smith, Siviter, Tatum and Weatherill.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.15pm on 6th March 2014)

The Champions Room, The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 13th March 2013 and consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2013.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Accountant for the year 2014.
4. Any other business.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS'

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Officers and committee members

President:	G.B. Brown (UCS)
Chairman:	A.J.K. Tatum (KCS Wimbledon)
Hon. Treasurer:	B. Rusling (Malvern College)
Hon. Secretary:	J.R. Cooper (Colston's School)
Hon. Fixtures Secretary:	E.A. Cooper (Bristol Grammar School)
Committee:	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 (Framlington College) E.A. Cooper (Bristol Grammar School) A. Coventry (George Watson's College) B. Gordon-Smith (Bromsgrove School) C.M. King (Stowe School) P. Siviter (Bromsgrove School) H.B. Weatherill (Malvern College)

Contact details

Website:	www.psoblta.co.uk
Email:	psoblta@live.co.uk

Aims and future funds of the Association

The aims of the Association are:

1. to assist the development of lawn tennis at Independent Schools and other educational establishments; and
2. to encourage the game amongst old boys by arranging matches, tournaments and other fixtures.

The Committee is generally able to ensure the continued pursuit of these aims through judicious use of funds emanating from membership subscriptions, match and entry fees and the occasional donation and Premium Bond win. However, our ambitions are inevitably limited by the funds at our disposal. If any member would like to make a donation or leave a legacy to the Association, please notify the Hon. Secretary, Jonathan Cooper, who will follow up accordingly.

Any funds raised would be put towards the further pursuit of the above aims, particularly as they pertain, for example, to:

- raising awareness of the Association among school-leavers;
- increased participation in the Association by our younger members; and
- greater involvement with and support of lawn tennis at Independent Schools themselves.

www.psoblta.co.uk

The PSOBLTA website has been revamped over the last few months and provides all the information about the Association from fixtures (including directions) and results to D'Abernon Cup draws and results.

We would also like to add more photos of matches to the website and match reports, so please feel send Jonathan Cooper anything you would like published.

PSOBLTA merchandise

As you might be aware, the Association introduced new merchandise in the year. The new Nike branded PSOBLTA tennis shirts are available to purchase either online (www.lesterbowden.co.uk/psoblta) or from the Hon. Secretary. The new tennis shirts have been sported by a number of Pubs teams over the season from Dublin to La Manga.

The following Association merchandise is available:

Association ties (silk)	£15 available from the Hon. Secretary
PSOBLTA Nike Dri-Fit Tennis Shirt	£35 excluding delivery
PSOBLTA Nike Cotton Tennis Shirt	£25 excluding delivery



PSOBLTA affiliates

The Association is delighted to announce partnerships with the following:

- Stoke Park
- La Manga
- Prince
- Fila
- Wigmore Sports

Please see the enclosed brochure for further details.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30th November 2013.

2013 AGM and annual dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club on 13th March 2013. Messrs Brown, Cooper & Rusling were elected as President, Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mrs B. Gabriel was re-elected as Hon. Accountant.

Messrs Barr, Billington, Blackman, Boden, Compton-Dando and King were all re-elected to the Committee and Messrs Coventry and Gordon-Smith were elected to the Committee for the first time. At the meeting of the Committee immediately following the AGM, Mr. Tatum was elected as the Chairman of the Committee for the first time. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th November 2012 were presented at the AGM and unanimously adopted.

The AGM was followed by the annual dinner, which was also held at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club. The evening was hugely enjoyable and our guest speaker, Paul Hutchins, provided a very interesting insight into his experiences as Davis Cup captain, Head of Men's Tennis at the LTA as well as his time as team leader for the London 2012 Olympics.

Fixtures report 2013

Another season finished and another exciting one to look forward to. For the superstitious amongst us, the number 13 does not tend to have the best omens around it and the 2013 Pubs season proved to be an unlucky year for squeezing through results in favour of the Pubs. That said, there were some notable victories and, as ever, some excellent fixtures notwithstanding the results.

"If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster..."

Focusing first on the matches for which silverware was at stake - it was the Fitzwilliam Club's turn to host the fixture playing for the Courtney Salver. A typically early start for our team of six to travel to Dublin in February with one passport-less player testing the boundaries of what document you can use to enter Ireland! It was also the first outing of the new Pubs team shirts, which certainly made the team look very professional (at least at the change of ends when no tennis was being played)! Not to say that the Pubs team was not lacking in strength merely that we were facing a particularly strong Fitz team with the Fitzwilliam Club recording an 8-1 victory overall. Congratulations to James Acheson-Gray and Jonathan Cooper for saving our blushes and notching up a very impressive win against a very strong pair. Unfortunately (because of the result) it was also the first year that a journalist attended to report on the match – his full article can be found on the Pubs website.

Later in the season the Pubs took on the AELTC in the hope of winning the Peter Jackson Cup, which has been named after the sterling efforts to the Association over many years of our preceding President, Peter Jackson. Once again the Pubs team was bettered by an ever impressive AELTC team. Our Chairman, Ashley Tatum, managed to record a very credible three out of three victories in the fixture. The only downside being that he was playing for the AELTC and helped contribute to the Pubs losing 8-1 overall!

New members

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

Life membership:

Mr. Nick Ames	Millfield
Mr. Greg Caterer	Malborough College
Mr. Alex Cole	Repton School
Mr. Peter Dacombe	Bristol Grammar School
Mr. George Donnelly	Millfield
Mr. Jacob Esser	Eton College
Mr. James Feaver	Reeds School
Mr. Charles Foster	Malborough College
Mr. Alex Gummer	Bromsgrove School
Mr. Graham Neill	The Glasgow Academy
Mr. Jamie Muirhead	Repton School
Mr. Dominic Smith	Malborough College
Mr. Jonathan Sumner	UCS
Mr. Kit Spencer	City of London
Mr. Alexander Wilton	Reed's School
Mr. Jorge Wilton	Reed's School

Annual membership:

Mr. Rupert Welchman Sherborne School

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.

Our gratitude to Stoke Park, St. George's College for kindly hosting the qualifying rounds; and to the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club for their fantastic hospitality in allowing us to have the D'Abernon Cup final at such a prestigious venue. A further thank you to the dedicated supporters of both KCS and UCS old boys for making it a great atmosphere for a final played in the true spirit of the event.

Quarter-final	Semi-final	Final	Winner
KCS Old Boys (1) Old Georgians (Home)	KCS Old Boys (3-1)	KCS Old Boys (3-1)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> KCS Old Boys 6-0 (last round not played) </div>
Old Bromsgrovians Old Cranleighans (3) (Home)			
Old Westminster's (3) (Home) UCS Old Boys	UCS Old Boys (3-1)	UCS Old Boys (3-1)	
Old Bradfieldians (Home) Old Paulines (2)	Old Paulines (2) (w/o)		



D'Abernon Cup finalists

The qualifying round robin days for this year's competition will take place on Saturday, 5th April (Stoke Park) and Saturday, 12th April (St. George's College).

If you would like to enter a team for the 2014 D'Abernon Cup please contact Jonathan Cooper for an entrance form (email: psoblta@live.co.uk).

The Independent Schools LTA proved that youth was stronger than experience with the school boys winning the Avory Shield by three rubbers to one. Hopefully some of their team will be signing up as members of the Pubs in due course!

Despite travelling 2,000km to La Manga, the Pubs match against the British Police was staged in wet conditions, with the Pubs coming through with an impressive 5-4 victory. Once again, one passport-less player tested passport control but this time with little success. An entertaining and complete report of the trip to La Manga can also be found on the Pubs website. Many congratulations to Johnny Barr, Austin Coventry, Ben Gordon-Smith, Chris Hart, Chris Jenkins and Gary Thompson for helping record the first win of the 2013 season.



PSOBLTA team vs. British Police

Overall, the results for 2013 stand at six wins, nine losses and three draws. A statistic which might not be sufficient to keep a Premier League manager in his job, but certainly would avoid relegation! The other 2013 victories were recorded against Stoke Park, Eton College, Imperial College, Felsted School and the Queen's Club.

It's the taking part that counts!

Although it has been a testing 2013, we are fortunate that the England cricket team has shown us that our season may not have been that bad at all! The quality of the matches have been excellent and the fixtures all competitive and highly enjoyable.

Although the weather was not necessarily in our favour with nine matches being cancelled, great success has been obtained with the expansion of an already impressive fixture list with the reinstatement of matches against the Queen's Club as well as the Vets of GB. Furthermore, there has been an increase in players getting involved in matches. 41 different players have played over the season for the Pubs, with Brad Keenes once again being the talisman of the Association notching up 11 caps despite being out of action for a large part of the Summer with a broken wrist! It is estimated that Brad's carbon footprint travelling to each of the fixtures will be akin to that of the annual output of Scandinavia! Until Greenpeace cotton onto Brad's travels and start a protest, we are very grateful for his commitment and enthusiasm.

A great deal of thanks is offered to our hosts, the match managers and of course the players on both sides of the net.

Fixtures for 2014

The 2014 season gets underway very soon with an exciting new fixture scheduled against Merchiston Castle School on 8th February 2014, which coincides with the Calcutta Cup match. The fixture list is expanding even further with some fantastic new fixtures scheduled against Club de Tennis Miraflores (in Marbella), Rye, the Cumberland Club and the Old Harrovians as well as matches which are anticipated to be arranged against, the Law Society and Putney LTC which have not quite been finalised at the time of the annual report going to print. Please take a look at your fixtures card and get involved by contacting the relevant match manager or myself.

Potential Canada trip

We have been asked if we would be interested in playing a match against the Mount Royal Tennis Club, Toronto. The suggested itinerary would involve players (and any partners) travelling out for a weekend match in early September 2014 or 2015, timed so that players could then head south to New York and catch some of the US Open if so wished. Players would be expected to pay their travel expenses but could stay with members of the hosting team in Toronto. Members are invited to contact the Chairman if they would be interested in participating.

All the best for 2014 and I hope to see as many of you as possible on court over the season!

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

D'Abernon Cup 2013

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) on a set day. As pool winners, Old Bromsgrovians and UCS Old Boys; and runners-up, Old Georgians and Old Bradfieldians, they joined the previous year's competing semi-finalists in the quarter-final draw.

The quarter-finals saw KCS Old Boys and the Old Bromsgrovians progress in the top half; whilst the bottom saw UCS Old Boys once again play the Old Paulines. The semi-finals were both 3-1 victories for the KCS Old Boys and UCS Old Boys which heralded another meeting between these two old boys teams.

The final was played at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club where a strong KCS Old Boys team featuring, Blake Hutchins, Peter Dowdeswell, Scott Lloyd, Steve Morris, James Mustoe and Chris Clarke, proved too strong for a plucky UCS Old Boys team of Jonathan Sumner, Tudor Rowe, Alex Dillon, Jonathan Dean, Anthony Hulse and Edward Haygarth, winning 6-0.

It is a testament to the strength of KCS Old Boys that they had a settled team all season, and Chris Diacon, KCS Old Boys long standing stalwart and KCS Old Boys captain commented: *"There were some super old boy schools' tennis teams in the D'Abernon Cup in 2013, as was highlighted in our royal battle in the semi-final against a strong Old Bromsgrovians team. We are delighted to have won the D'Abernon Cup for the 3rd year in a row, and are aware that quite a few of the teams will be strengthening yet again for 2014."*