

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 J. Barr, C. Billington, A. Blackman, C. Boden, J. Compton-Dando and C. King.

Finances

The Committee is pleased to report that the Association is in good financial health. The Association's balance sheet at 30 November 2016 reported net assets of £11,702 (30 November 2015: £10,630). A full set of accounts will be available at the 2017 AGM.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.45pm on 9th March 2017) **The Courtside Restaurant, The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club** **AGENDA**

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 23rd March 2016 and consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 2016.
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 2016

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
Association Email:	psoblta@live.co.uk
Fixtures Email:	psoblta.fixtures@gmail.com
Twitter:	@PSOBLTA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30th November 2016.

2016 AGM and Annual Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club on 23rd March 2016. 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 E.A. Cooper, Gordon-Smith, Jenkins and Tatum were all re elected to the Committee and Messrs Keenes and Searle were elected to the Committee for the first time. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th November 2015 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 82 members and guests enjoyed a superb evening at The Courtside Restaurant at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club.

Our 2016 speaker was Sir Matthew Pinsent, CBE (winner of ten world championship gold medals and four Olympic gold medals). Sir Matthew gave an excellent speech on life as an Olympian, the Olympic village and even brought along his four gold medals for the audience to look at. As always a great evening was had by all.



Olympic medals

Fixtures Report 2016

If you build it...they will come

Another year passes in the Pubs calendar with us achieving a very solid performance on the tennis court and a huge success in reaching out to a greater number of players in our membership.

Overall our 2016 season ended with 28 matches being played (a record only topped by last year's fixtures list in recent years) of which the Pubs won 14 (50%), lost seven (25%) and drew seven (25%).

Our increased fixtures list enabled us to get more of our members on court and as a result we have once again set a new record for the number of active members in the year. 64 members took part in matches in 2016 beating the records that have been set the last two years (2015 - 52 players; 2014 - 49 players). Quite an accomplishment, particularly considering Brad Keenes (most capped player with 15 matches) is more often than not filling one of the spots on the team! It is great to see that the Association is being used by so many and, all joking aside, fantastic that we have players like Brad that are so keen to support and get the most from their membership of the Association.

The see-saw season

The season started very well with a home win in February against the Fitzwilliam Club in a tight fixture where Johnny Barr, Rob Blythe, Chris Clark, Jonathan Cooper, Chris Jenkins and Rory Pullinger saw off the opposition 5-4 to win the Courtney Salver.



PSOBLTA and Fitzwilliam LTC teams

The season continued in similar fashion with the Pubs remaining unbeaten until May, only subsequently to fall into a low patch with four back to back loses against St George's College, Felsted School, Imperial College and Eton College. However, the Pubs Army was soon back to winning ways and went on to win the next six matches. A great accomplishment in itself.



PSOBLTA and International Club teams

Unfortunately the next trophy match, the Avory Shield which is competed against the Independent Schools LTA, had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Although the heavens also opened for the Peter Jackson Cup against The All England Club we were able to complete the fixture indoors which ended a sporting 2-2 draw. Overall meaning that the Pubs were not beaten in a match where silverware was at stake!



*Sean Thornley, Edward Cooper
Jamie Muirhead, Mike Llewelyn*



*James Pringle (AELTC captain)
and Edward Cooper*

PSOBLTA team vs AELTC

The fixture list has some fantastic quality matches being played – amongst many others to choose from, the International Club of GB fixture is one of note as it was incredibly closely fought and was a superb standard. It was also great to introduce new fixtures against Malahide LTC, Dublin (special mention to David Culshaw for making that possible), Bromsgrove School (thanks to Paul Siviter) and Moor Park LTC and Gerards Cross LTC (thanks to Ben Gordon-Smith). All excellent additions and ones we hope will be regular fixtures for many years to come.

Onwards

Again, we have a large number of fixtures scheduled for 2017 with 37 in contemplation. Details of these fixtures can be found in the Fixtures List (included with this Annual Report and also available on our website). We have had a lot of new members over the last couple of years and it would be a fantastic achievement to grow the number of players getting involved in matches for a fourth year in a row. Please do contact the match managers if you are interested in any particular fixture.

Finally, many thanks again to all the match managers for their efforts over the year in arranging teams and keeping the fixtures running smoothly and competitively.

All the best for 2017 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 2016

The D'Abernon Cup appears to be gaining great momentum and once again we had over 20 schools entering our flagship old boys tournament. 19 teams took part in the qualifying events. Given the number of entrants, this year we introduced a third qualifying day 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 was held indoors at St. George's College where the Old Millfieldians and the KCS Old Boys qualified; whilst at Stoke Park a week later, the Old Bradfieldians and Old Marlburians teams qualified. Our third venue was at David Lloyd Raynes Park which saw the Old Westminster and Old Paulines teams top the group and complete the quarter final line-up.

In the knock-out rounds, the top half of the draw saw the Old Reptonians (2015 winners) and Old Paulines (serial D'Abernon Cup winners) beat the Old Marlburians and Old Millfieldians respectively. Whilst in the bottom half of the draw, Old Westminster had a win over the Old Bradfieldians and a bye was given to the Old Reptonians against KCS Old Boys.

The semi-finals contest between the Old Reptonians and Old Paulines was the closest match of the tournament, where the Old Paulines avenged last year's semi-final defeat and won, after a draw on rubbers, by six games. In contrast, the Old Reptonians beat Old Westminster 4-0. This lined up a repeat of the 1995 final with the Old Reptonians looking to capture a second win in three years and the Old Paulines looking to secure the trophy for the first time since 2004.

Due to the inclement weather, the final was played on the indoor courts at The All England Lawn Club. The Old Reptonian team of Phil Brindley, Dan Cottier, Alex Grocott, Julian Harrison, Mike Llewelyn and Jamie Muirhead played the Old Paulines team of Jamie Gibbor, Richard Ground, Jeff Hunter, Chris Jenkins, Tommy Moody and Daniel Tristao.

The final saw some excellent tennis with the Old Reptonians winning 7-2. At first glance a 7-2 score line may look convincing and perhaps in the end it was, but four of the matches were decided by match tie breaks with the Old Reptonian's winning three of the four. The match was played in an excellent spirit with plenty of supporters cheering on both sides and enjoying the tennis and great atmosphere at AELTC.

The Association appreciates the assistance and generosity of Stoke Park, St. George's College and David Lloyd Raynes Park for hosting the qualifying rounds; and once again, we would also like to thank 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 the most prestigious club in the world.

Quarter-final	Semi-final	Final	Winner
Old Reedonians (1) (home) Old Marlburians	Old Reedonians	Old Paulines	Old Reptonians
Old Paulines Old Millfieldians (home)			
Old Bradfieldians (home) Old Westminster	Old Westminster	Old Reptonians	
KCS Old Boys Old Reptonians (2) (home)	Old Reptonians		



D'Abernon Cup winners – Old Reptonians

With the success of having three qualifying events, we will continue this format for the 2017 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, 1st April (St. George's College), Sunday, 9th April (Stoke Park) and Sunday, 23rd April (David Lloyd Raynes Park).

If you would like to enter a team for the 2017 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:

Steve Batchelor	Millfield
Daniel Boden	St. George's College
Tiarnan Brady	Millfield
Archie Burgess	Eton College
Harry Burley	Reed's School
Daniel Cottier	Repton School
Scott Creed	Monkton Coombe School
Ben Haran	Reed's School
Dominic Hemy	Ipswich School
Dominic Hodgson	Reed's School
Neil Goldsby	King Edward's School
Alistair Lumsden	George Heriot's School
Nikhil Sharma	Eton College
Keith Springall	Mill Hill School
Richard Westman	Bromsgrove School
Richard Wire	The Leys School

Five year trial Membership:

Felix Beech	Stamford School
George Burgess	Stamford School
Jack Burkill	Millfield
Joe Collins	Royal Grammar School Guildford
Joseph Cook	Repton School
Ollie Duckworth	Royal Grammar School Guildford
James Finnigan	Repton School
Tom Fisher	Culford School
Piers Foley	St. George's College
James Frost	Stamford School

New Members (cont.)

Rory Giddens	Eton College
Edward Kandel	Eton College
Dominic Lea	Repton School
Miles McGibbon	Royal Grammar School Guildford
George Nixon	Eton College
Nicholas Nugent	Hampton School
Rohan Sikka	University College School

Annual Membership:

Patrick Colville	Harrow School
John Thompson	RGS Newcastle

Recruitment

In 2016, 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.

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



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 (within reason!).

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