

# THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

**President:** G.B. Brown (UCS)

**Committee:**

C.P. Boden (St. George's) Chairman	E.A. Cooper (Bristol Grammar)
J.H. Barr (Stewart's Melville College)	C.M. King (Stowe)
C.P. Billington (Bradfield)	P. Siviter (Bromsgrove)
A.J. Blackman (Reeds)	J.B.M. Seddon (St. Paul's)
J. Booth (King Edward's)	A.J.K. Tatum (KCS Wimbledon)
J. Compton-Dando (Framlington)	H.B. Weatherill (Malvern)

**Hon. Treasurer:**  
B. Rusling (Malvern)

**Hon. Secretary:**  
J.R. Cooper (Colston's)

**Hon. Fixtures Secretary:**  
E.A. Cooper (Bristol Grammar)

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Committee has pleasure in presenting its annual report for the year ended 30 November 2012.

### **2012 AGM & Annual Dinner**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Messrs Brown, Cooper & Rusling were elected as President, Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer respectively. Mrs B. Gabriel was re-elected as Hon. Auditor.

Messrs Compton-Dando, Seddon, Siviter, Weatherill were all re-elected to the Committee and Messrs E. Cooper & Tatum (previously Ex-Officio) were elected to the Committee for the first time. At the meeting of the Committee immediately following the AGM, Mr. Boden was elected as the Chairman of the Committee for the eleventh year. The Committee's Report and the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 November 2011 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. We were treated to an entertaining speech from our guest speaker, Mr. John O'Brien, a former Irish Davis Cup player, a former President of the Fitzwilliam Club and noted raconteur. John recalled many entertaining stories from the friendship that has built up between the PSOBLTA and Fitzwilliam Club over the years; along with his experiences as a Davis Cup player.

*As Mr. Boden has since indicated that he will not be seeking re-election as Chairman of the Committee this coming year, the Committee would like to place on record its huge thanks for all his considerable efforts and achievements during his eleven years as Chairman.*

*Under Mr. Boden's direction, the Association has, amongst other achievements, added new fixtures, recruited in excess of 110 new members, and celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays in style. We are extremely pleased that Mr. Boden has consented to remain as a member of the Committee in order that we may continue to benefit from his guidance and encouragement.*

*The Committee will elect his successor at their meeting immediately following the AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Mr. Ashley Tatum has been nominated for the position.*

### **Match Results – Hon. Fixtures Secretary writes:**

After the slow start to the 2011 season, the Association had learnt from its mistakes and we were looking to redeem ourselves. And we did so in style, going unbeaten until mid-August (where the AELTC thwarted the Pubs)! Overall, a very commendable season which ended with 20 matches being played including 12 wins; 5 draws and 3 losses; the lowest number of losses for ten years.

As mentioned above, 2012 was a historic occasion for the Association in the playing of the 50<sup>th</sup> PSOBLTA's match against the Fitzwilliam Club. The two day extravaganza included a special "Legends" match and the playing of the Courtney Salver. For those that are unaware, the match is played for "The Courtney Salver", named after Colonel Courtney who was a past Chairman of PSOBLTA. The match is one of the highlights of the PSOBLTA year, not least due to the outstanding bond of friendship that exists and continues to develop between the two clubs. Going into the 50<sup>th</sup> match, the series was PSOBLTA: 26; Fitzwilliam LTC: 22; Draw: 1. I am pleased to report Ashley Tatum captained a fine performance and masterminded a 6-3 victory to ensure the silverware remained within the Association. Unfortunately, the Pubs "Legends" lost their match 3.5-0.5 but I understand that an investigation is still ongoing with regards checking the age of a certain member of the Fitzwilliam team!

For those at the Annual Dinner in March 2012, you will have noted that the Association's match against the All England Club was the inaugural competition for "The Peter Jackson Cup" and I am delighted to say that Mr. Peter Jackson and, his wife, Ann were able to attend the match, as was our new President Mr. Geoff Brown together with, his wife, Lilla. Due to the Olympics, this year the match was played in the magnificent grounds of Stoke Park. As was befitting this special occasion, the match went down to the wire with the AELTC ultimately triumphing by the narrowest of margins of 5-4 – again! The Association lost two matches by only 10-8 and 11-9 in the match tie-breaks though... Competition was intense (but very fair) throughout; hence, the late finish of 7.40pm after well over five hours of virtually continuous play.

Other notable victories in the year included Edgbaston Priory, Imperial College London, St. George's College, Oxford Penguins and Ealing LTC. We had a very tight match against the International Club, where the Pubs came through a hugely entertaining and tense afternoon 5-4. Special mention to Brad Keenes for some tremendous tennis in overcoming the IC first pair.

We would like to thank (once again) the King family for their support of the PSOBLTA. We are hugely appreciative of their support provided in allowing the Association to use Stoke Park for some of our fixtures and as a D'Abernon Cup qualifying venue.

In 2012, we had 38 players turning out to represent the Association. A big thank you to everyone who played with particular thanks to those who made their debuts in 2012: David Culshaw, Russell Dykes, Christopher Hart, James Hodges and Christopher Jenkins. The award for the most-capped player yet again went to Brad Keenes with an impressive 12 appearances.

### **2013 Fixtures**

The 2013 Fixture Card is enclosed with this report. If you would like to play in any of the fixtures listed, please contact the relevant Match Manager either direct, or via our web site ([www.psoblta.co.uk](http://www.psoblta.co.uk)) – they will be delighted to hear from you!

*Note: It is expected that Members who have agreed to represent the Association in a fixture and later find they are unable to play, should find a suitable replacement for themselves and notify the relevant Match Manager.*

Many thanks go to the Match Managers for all their efforts in arranging teams.

### **D'Abernon Cup**

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 and runners-up, Old Westminster's, Old Cranleighans, Old Wellingtonians & Old Carthusians then joined the previous year's competing semi-finalists in the quarter-final draw.

The quarter-finals saw the progression of KCS Old Boys, Old Westminster's, Old Cranleighans and Old Paulines, with the bottom half of the draw proving very close as both the Old Cranleighans and Old Paulines won on games. The semi-finals were both played in very good spirits with the number one and two seeds progressing to the final, once again.

Due to the All England Club being used for the Olympics, the final was played at Bradfield College. The match was another titanic tussle in the spirit of the Cup with KCS Old Boys beating Old Paulines 5-4 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, this time 11-9 in the deciding championship tie-break. Old Paulines were, however, unfortunate to have to concede the match as the 1<sup>st</sup> pair had to withdraw due to injury. Congratulations to captain, Chris Diacon, and his team.

Our grateful thanks go to Stoke Park, St. George's College and Bradfield College for their generous support of the Association through hosting these events.

Quarter Finals	Semi Finals	Final	Winners
<b>KCS Old Boys (1)</b>	} <b>KCS Old Boys</b> (3-1)	} <b>KCS Old Boys</b> (3-1)	} <b>KCS Old Boys</b> (5-4)
Old Carthusians			
Old Westminster's	} <b>Old Cranleighans</b> (2-2, on games)	} <b>Old Paulines</b> (2.5-1.5)	
<b>UCS Old Boys (3)</b>			
<b>Old Bromsgrovians (3)</b>	} <b>Old Paulines</b> (2-2, on games)		
Old Cranleighans			
Old Wellingtonians			
<b>Old Paulines (2)</b>			

The qualifying round robin days for this year's competition will take place on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April (St. George's College, Weybridge) & Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April (Stoke Park).

### New Members

The following were elected members of the Association during the year:

#### Life Membership:

Mr. Daniel Brooks	Bradfield College	Mr. Christopher Jenkins	St Paul's School
Mr. David Culshaw	Hutchesons' Grammar	Mr. Benedict Lane	Rugby School
Mr. Rob Dickson	Eastbourne College	Mr. Oliver Lane	Felsted School
Mr. Russell Dykes	St John's, Leatherhead	Mr. Alexander Maxwell-Scott	Lancing College
Mr. James Hodges	Kimbolton School	Mr. Sebastian Munns	Charterhouse

#### Upgrade to Life Membership:

Mr. Christopher Hart     Hutchesons Grammar

### 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.

### **www.PSOBLTA.co.uk**

The Pubs website continues to be the place to visit to catch up on the latest results and gossip during the season! The website is a great resource for volunteering to play in matches, checking results and even getting maps & directions to our fixtures.

The site is updated regularly throughout the season & includes:

- Fixture lists & latest results
- Facility to register to play in matches
- Directions to matches
- Aims of the Association
- D'Abernon Cup draw & results
- Membership application forms (downloadable)

### Association Merchandise

I am pleased to announce the launch of our new Nike clothing range which is available to purchase either from the Hon. Secretary or online ([www.lesterbowden.co.uk/psoblta](http://www.lesterbowden.co.uk/psoblta)). 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)

## **Appeal for donations and legacies**

As many members will be aware, 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.

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## **Nominations**

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

President:	Mr. G.B. Brown	Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. B. Rusling
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. J.R. Cooper	Hon. Accountant:	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 Barr, Billington, Blackman, Boden, Compton-Dando and King.

Messrs Booth and Seddon also retire but do not offer themselves for re-election. Mr. Booth retires from the Committee after nine years' service including latterly as recruitment secretary. Mr. Seddon retires after over 25 years' service including several years as Hon. Secretary until 1992. The Committee would like to place on record its grateful thanks to both Messrs Booth and Seddon for all their efforts as members of the Committee.

Mr. Austin Coventry (George Watsons) and Mr. Ben Gordon-Smith (Bromsgrove) are proposed for election to the Committee under Rule 9. The Committee would like to place on record its grateful thanks to both Messrs Booth and Seddon for all their efforts as members of the Committee.

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (6.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013)**

**The Courtside Restaurant, The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club**

### **AGENDA**

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 & consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the report of the Committee and Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
3. To elect the Officers, Committee and Accountant for the year 2013.
4. Any other business.