



National League 2016 – 17



On behalf of the USCTA National League, we welcome you with pleasure to the 2016-17 season. This year's play will feature many of the world's top players among the U.S.-based professionals, including newly crowned Real Tennis World Champion Camden Riviere, perennial Court Tennis World Championship challenger Steve Virgona, Court Tennis World Championship finalist Tim Chisholm and Racquets World Champion James Stout.

The National League brings the game at its highest level to each participating club. It also affords professionals the opportunity to face opponents with whom they may not regularly compete in other tournaments, sharpening their skills against each other.

We thank the USCTA for its continued support of the National League and U.S.-based professionals. We also thank The Jesters Club, Eastham Capital, Real Tennis Magazine, Abbott Capital and Harrow for their generous support of the event.

We look forward to another National League season of fierce and exhilarating competition. We hope you enjoy these matches and find inspiration for your own game. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
The National League Commission
Marc Lewinstein, Adrian Kemp & Josh Dodgson

***Thank you to the professionals, club organizing committees,
the U.S. Jesters, and the USCTA for your support of National
League.***

Better than half!

- National League Fan





October 2016

Dear National League Fans,

On behalf of the United States Court Tennis Association, welcome and thank you for your support of the USCTA National League. This season marks our eleventh year of this competition between U.S. clubs and professionals.

Congratulations go to Steve Virgona and John Lumley for winning the 2015-2016 National League Title. They defeated New England in the season final at the Tennis & Racquet Club in Boston. Mike Noll and Will Hopton also joined Steve and John for a match during the season.

The National League supports and showcases our professional game. Almost all active U.S. professionals compete in the league, which features two singles matches followed by a shortened doubles contest. The USCTA started the league as a way of supporting professionals and its format provides competitive matches for players of different levels. The top players in the world compete in it including World Champion Camden Riviere, World #3 Steve Virgona, Tim Chisholm, and James Stout, among others.

Appreciation goes out to the National League Committee of Marc Lewinstein, Adrian Kemp, and Josh Dodgson. Thank you for your organizational efforts throughout the season.

Thank you to the host clubs and tennis committees for their support of National League. Many thanks also go to the U.S. Jesters for their continued financial support.

Good luck to all the teams and players. We look forward to another great season of National League tennis. Play well and may the best team win!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy R. Wintersteen".

Jeremy Wintersteen

USCTA President

Real Tennis Magazine

**We are pleased to support the
USCTA National League for the
2016 -2017 Season**

www.realtennismagazine.com

***A Digital Magazine Dedicated Solely to
Real Tennis Worldwide***

Contact: bob@realtennismagazine.com



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NEW ENGLAND VS NEW YORK

THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2016

@ BOSTON

CHICAGO / PHILADELPHIA VS TUXEDO

THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2016

@ PHILADELPHIA

TUXEDO VS NEW ENGLAND

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2016

@ TUXEDO

CHICAGO / PHILADELPHIA VS NEW YORK

THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2017

@ CHICAGO

NEW YORK VS TUXEDO

WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2017

@ NEW YORK

NEW ENGLAND VS CHICAGO / PHILADELPHIA

WEDNESDAY 22ND MARCH 2017

@ NEWPORT

USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE FINAL

WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2017

@ WASHINGTON

**WE WISH ALL THE TEAMS
GREAT LUCK IN THE
2016-17 NATIONAL LEAGUE**

ABBOTT CAPITAL



USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIOUS WINNERS

2005/06 - New York

2010/11 - Philadelphia

2006/07 - Newport

2011/12 - Philadelphia

2007/08 - New York

2012/13 - New England

2008/09 - New York

2013/14 - New England

2009/10 - New York

2014/15 - Boston / Washington

2015/16 - Chicago / Philadelphia

**THE BOSTON TENNIS AND RACQUET CLUB WISHES THE
BEST OF LUCK TO ALL THE PROS INVOLVED IN THE
USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE**





TEAM NEW ENGLAND



CAMDEN RIVIERE

CLUB: NEWPORT

NATIONALITY: AMERICAN

HEIGHT: 5'8" / 1.73M

D.O.B: 20TH MAY 1987

BEST HANDICAP: +16.0

WORLD SINGLES CHAMPION

WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION

NICK HOWELL

CLUB: NEWPORT

NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN

HEIGHT: 5'10" / 1.78M

D.O.B: 10TH SEPTEMBER 1986

BEST HANDICAP: +2.9

2016 SPRING INVITATIONAL WINNER

2016 TASMANIAN OPEN WINNER





TEAM NEW ENGLAND



LEON SMART

CLUB: BOSTON

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 5'9" / 1.75M

D.O.B: 23RD APRIL 1992

BEST HANDICAP: 2.6

2016 BRITISH UNDER-24 WINNER

2015 FRENCH OPEN QUARTER-FINALIST

TONY HOLLINS

CLUB: BOSTON

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 6'0" / 1.83M

D.O.B: 23RD APRIL 1986

BEST HANDICAP: 4.2

3-TIME USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE WINNER

2012 SEACOURT SILVER RACKET FINALIST





TEAM CHICAGO/ PHILADELPHIA



STEVE VIRGONA

CLUB: CHICAGO

NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN

HEIGHT: 6'1" / 1.85M

D.O.B: 25TH SEPTEMBER 1978

BEST HANDICAP: +13.3

7-TIME OPEN SINGLES WINNER

6-TIME WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION

JOHN LUMLEY

CLUB: PHILADELPHIA

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 5'9" / 1.75M

D.O.B: 7TH AUGUST 1992

BEST HANDICAP: +2.3

2015 US NATIONAL OPEN WINNER

2016 FRENCH OPEN DOUBLES WINNER



CONOR MEDLOW

CLUB: CHICAGO

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 6'2" / 1.88M

D.O.B: 4TH JULY 1991

BEST HANDICAP: +1.3

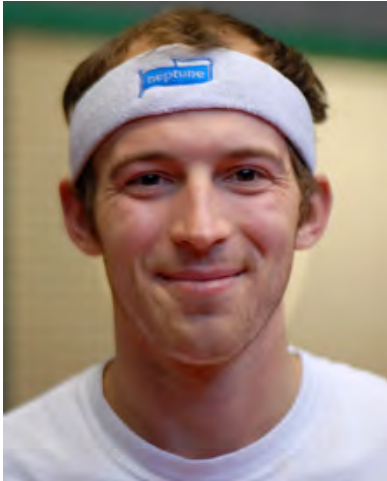
3-TIME BRITISH AMATEUR SINGLES WINNER

2014 MCC GOLD RACQUET WINNER





TEAM NEW YORK



JAMES STOUT

CLUB: R&TC

NATIONALITY: BERMUDIAN

HEIGHT: 6'0" / 1.83M

D.O.B: 16TH AUGUST 1984

BEST HANDICAP: +9.2

2010 US OPEN SINGLES WINNER

2014 US OPEN SINGLES & DOUBLES FINALIST

BARNEY TANFIELD

CLUB: R&TC

NATIONALITY: AMERICAN

HEIGHT: 6'3" / 1.90M

D.O.B: 23RD DECEMBER 1981

BEST HANDICAP: 1.5

2015 & 2016 SPRING INVITATIONAL FINALIST

6-TIME JIMMY DUNN DOUBLES WINNER



ADRIAN KEMP

CLUB: R&TC

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 6'2" / 1.88M

D.O.B: 21ST JUNE 1985

BEST HANDICAP: 4.9

6-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPION OF FRANCE

2014 SEACOURT SILVER RACKET WINNER





TEAM TUXEDO



TIM CHISHOLM

CLUB: TUXEDO
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN
HEIGHT: 5'11" / 1.80M
D.O.B: 31ST OCTOBER 1969
BEST HANDICAP: +12.5
WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION
5-TIME OPEN SINGLES WINNER

JOSH DODGSON

CLUB: TUXEDO
NATIONALITY: BRITISH
HEIGHT: 6'0" / 1.83M
D.O.B: 19TH OCTOBER 1990
BEST HANDICAP: 3.9
2012 SEACOURT SILVER RACKET WINNER
2012 TAYLOR CUP WINNER





COURT TENNIS RULES

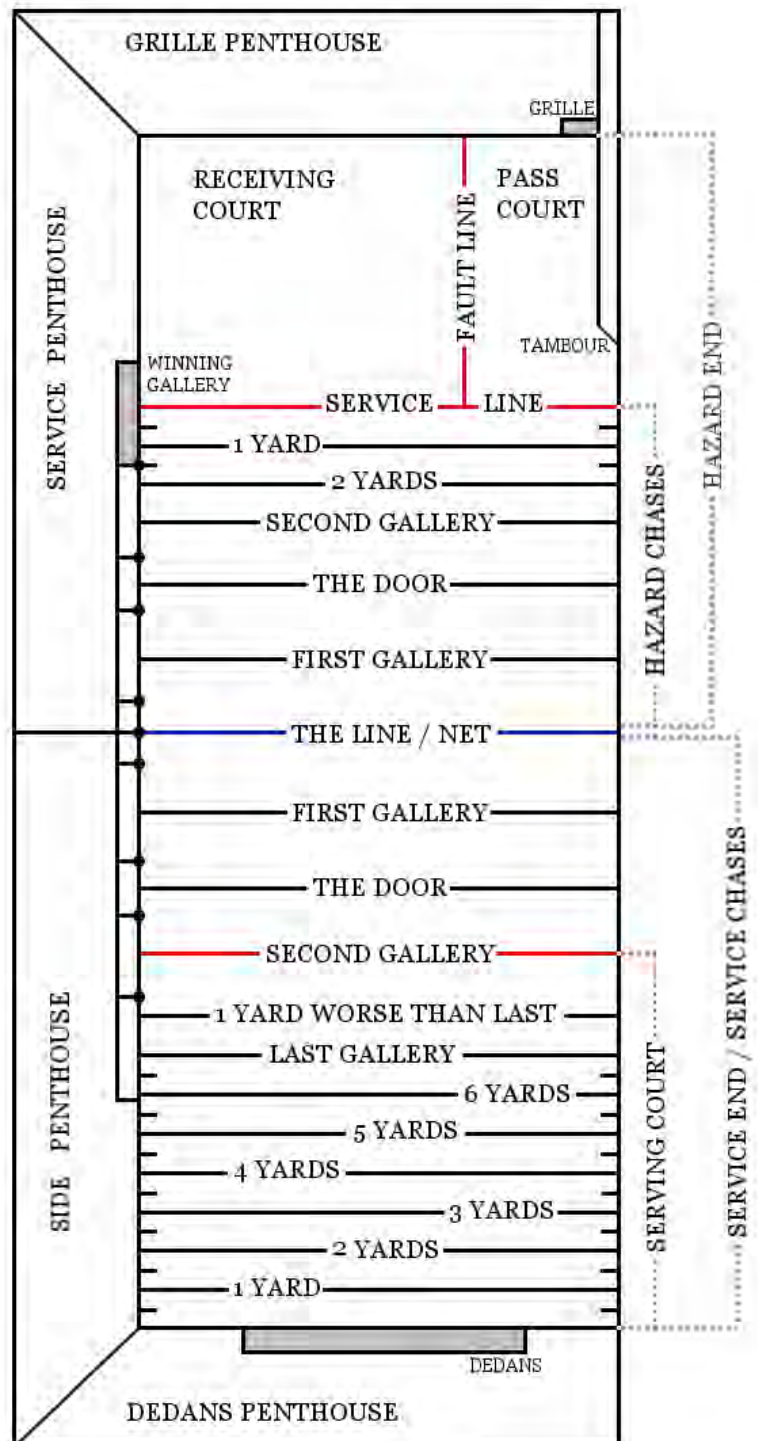
The rules of tennis have remained virtually unchanged for centuries. Play is across a net, with players able to use any of the walls or penthouses to propel the ball into their opponent's side of the court. Players score points by hitting winning openings in the court, or by forcing errors.

The serve is always hit from the Service End, and must touch the Service Penthouse on its way into the opponent's service box. The court configuration gives the server a significant advantage. Attaining the Service Side is possible only once a 'chase' has been set! The most common way to set a chase is by getting the ball to bounce twice on the Service Side floor before the server touches it. With this, the receiver reclaims the Service End.

All courts differ slightly and their peculiarities afford home players a significant advantage!

Though the rules can seem complicated at the outset, newcomers are quickly able to master them.

If you are new to the game, take a lesson with a Pro who will be able to take you on court, explain the rules, and provide instruction on technique and strategy.





HISTORY & FUTURE

Court Tennis is the ancestor of the game commonly known as Tennis. It began in the 13th Century as a pastime of monks and other ecclesiasts in France and evolved to become the pastime of monarchs and royalty. The game was taken up subsequently by the masses and became so popular in France that in 1397 a law was passed banning play during the working week.

During the Tudor period, court tennis became more and more in vogue in England, with royalty and gentlemen of the court devoted to it. Henry VII and Henry VIII were both keen supporters and excellent players, the latter being responsible for the building of the Tennis Court at Hampton Court Palace. In the USA, the game blossomed at the turn of the 20th century and, with the reopening of the court at Chicago there are now eleven courts in the US, and a total of nearly 50 worldwide.

Court Tennis boasts the oldest World Championship (dating back to the early 18th Century). The title was recently contested in Newport, RI, and Camden Riviere crowned the new World Champion.



Photo: Sanam Gharagozlou - sanamg.com

Court Tennis has been growing in size and reach over recent years. New courts have recently opened in both the UK and US, and the game has experienced a revival in the Basque region of France. The USCTA is leading efforts to create a new Court Tennis facility in Charleston, SC, and plans are in place to build a Court Tennis court at a new club near Providence, RI.

There is a Professional Tour with events in all four playing countries (UK, USA, France, Australia). Professionals are active in all four countries, and are looking to bring through the next generation of young players.



USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE 2016-17 RULES & FORMAT

1. Authority

- 1.1. National League matches are official United States Court Tennis Association ("USCTA") events.
- 1.2. The USCTA has final authority on all decisions pertaining to the administration of the National League.
- 1.3. The USCTA shall appoint a commissioner (the "Commissioner") who shall be deeply involved in all major decision-making and included in all material correspondence pertaining to the National League.
- 1.4. The Commissioner shall be the official, neutral arbiter of any dispute pertaining to the National League.

2. Teams

- 2.1. National League teams ("Teams") are to be defined and agreed upon at the start of the season with a roster of nominated players. Nominated players are only allowed to represent their specified Team.
- 2.2. A list (the "Floaters List") of professionals eligible to represent any Team and to substitute for any nominated member of a Team will be circulated at the start of each season.
- 2.3. In the case of a player being unavailable to play a scheduled Fixture, his Team must select another nominated player from said Team, or select a player from the Floaters List.

3. Fixture Scheduling & Publicity

- 3.1. Teams are required to agree on dates of scheduled fixtures ("Fixtures") before the start of the National League season.
- 3.2. Each participating Team club shall appoint an individual to coordinate Fixture scheduling and publicity; upcoming Fixtures shall be publicized by the participating Team clubs.
- 3.3. The Commissioner requires Fixtures to be fulfilled on their publicized date; once a Fixture has been scheduled, both Teams have a duty to ensure that they are able to fulfill that Fixture.
- 3.4. Teams unable to fulfill a Fixture will be subject to a penalty, which, at the discretion of the Commissioner, could take the form of a point(s) penalty or a reduction in allocated prize money.

4. Fixture Play

- 4.1. Each Fixture will consist of two (2) singles matches and one (1) doubles match.
- 4.2. Singles matches shall consist of best-of-three 6-game sets, with a single deuce and single advantage per game and, if necessary, a 40-all one-point conclusion except where games are 5-all in a set.
- 4.3. Doubles matches shall consist of a single 8-game set, with deuce and advantage in each game.
- 4.4. Each Fixture shall feature an amateur event to be played in between the singles matches and the doubles match. The specifics of the event may vary among Fixtures, but will award a prize to the winning amateur(s).

5. Fixture Points

- 5.1. Each singles match victory awards two (2) points to the winning Team.
- 5.2. Each doubles match victory awards one (1) point to the winning Team.
- 5.3. The Team that wins any two matches in the Fixture receives an additional two (2) points.
- 5.4. The two (2) teams with the highest point totals at the end of the regular season qualify for the National League Final.



EASTHAM CAPITAL

**EASTHAM CAPITAL IS PLEASED TO
SPONSOR THE USCTA NATIONAL
LEAGUE**

**BEST OF LUCK TO ALL THE
PARTICIPATING PLAYERS!**