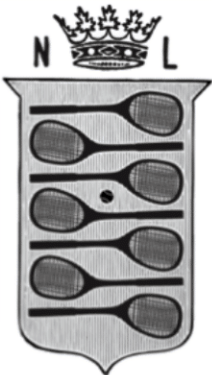
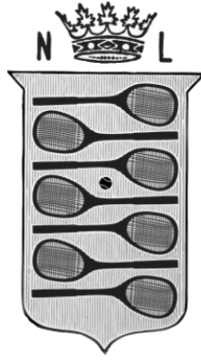


# USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE 2018-19





January 2019

Dear National League Fans,

On behalf of the USCTA National League, we welcome you with pleasure to the 2018-19 season. This year's play will feature a host of the world's top players, competing at clubs across the country. Amongst the competitors, seven hold Open titles, including World No.1 Camden Riviere who returns to the league this year.

The National League brings professional court tennis to each participating club, allowing members and their guests to watch the game played at the very highest level. It also affords professionals the opportunity to play competitive matches, sharpening their skills against each other as they prepare for their next Open tournament.

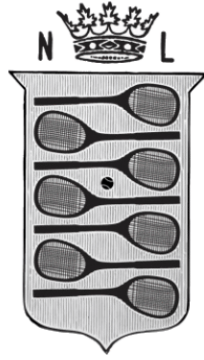
We thank the USCTA for its continued support of the National League and its U.S.-based professionals. We also rely upon the continued support of The Jesters Club, Eastham Capital, and Harrow, amongst others.

We look forward to another National League season of fierce and exhilarating competition. We hope that 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



December 2018

Dear National League Fans,

On behalf of the United States Court Tennis Association, welcome to the 2018-19 USCTA National League. This season marks our thirteenth season of gathering together to watch the best players in the world compete.

Congratulations to Nicky Howell and John Lumley of New England / Philadelphia who triumphed last season. The National League Final, held at the Racquet Club of Philadelphia, will go down as one of the most dramatic so far. With the tie poised at one-game-all, the season came down to a deciding doubles match. New England / Philadelphia overcame Tuxedo in nail-biting fashion 8/7.

The National League is a major showcase of our professional game. We are privileged to have such world-class talent out on the court, including eight of the top fifteen ranked players in the world. World no.1 Camden Riviere re-joins the League this season, and we are excited to see him back in action. Matches will also see current and former World Champions and Open winners, including Steve Virgona, Tim Chisholm, and James Stout, do battle with some of the brightest talents in the game, including Nick Howell, John Lumley, and Conor Medlow.

Many thanks to the three leaders of the USCTA National League, commissioners Marc Lewinstein, Josh Dodgson and Adrian Kemp. Many thanks also to our loyal, long-time supporters, especially U.S. Jesters Club and Eastham Capital.

Sincerely,

Jim Zug

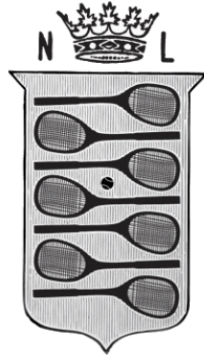
USCTA President

EASTHAM CAPITAL IS DELIGHTED TO  
CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF THE  
USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE



EASTHAM CAPITAL

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL THE PROS!



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

New York vs Tuxedo  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
@ New York

Chicago vs New England  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
@ Chicago

New England vs New York  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
@ Newport

New England vs Tuxedo  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
@ Boston

New York vs Chicago  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
@ Philadelphia

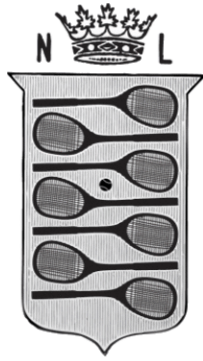
Tuxedo vs Chicago  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
@ Tuxedo

THE USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE IS  
GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF THE U.S. JESTERS CLUB

## THE JESTERS CLUB







## USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIOUS WINNERS

‘05/06 – New York

‘11/12 – Philadelphia

‘06/07 – Newport

‘12/13 – New England

‘07/08 – New York

‘13/14 – New England

‘08/09 – New York

‘14/15 – Boston / Washington

‘09/10 – New York

‘15/16 – Chicago / Philadelphia

‘10/11 – Philadelphia

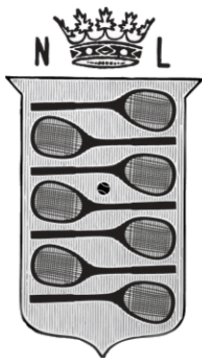
‘16/17 – Chicago / Philadelphia

‘17/18 – New England / Philadelphia

---

THE USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE WISHES TO  
THANK HARROW SPORTS FOR THEIR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT





# TEAM NEW ENGLAND



## NICK HOWELL

CLUB: NEWPORT

NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN

HEIGHT: 5'10" / 1.78M

D.O.B: 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1986

BEST HANDICAP: +6.0

2018 BRITISH OPEN DOUBLES WINNER

2019 AUSTRALIAN OPEN FINALIST

## MIKE GOODING

CLUB: NEWPORT

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 6'1" / 1.85M

D.O.B: 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 1965

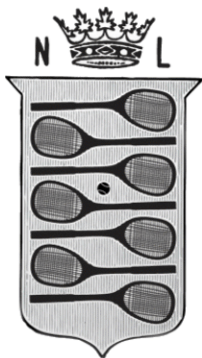
BEST HANDICAP: +9.6

3-TIME OPEN SINGLES WINNER

FORMER #1 RANKED DOUBLES PLAYER







# TEAM NEW ENGLAND



## LEON SMART

CLUB: BOSTON

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 5'9" / 1.75M

D.O.B: 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 1992

BEST HANDICAP: 2.6

2018 PELL CUP FINALIST

2018 SPRING INVITAIONAL FINALIST

## TONY HOLLINS

CLUB: BOSTON

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 6'0" / 1.83M

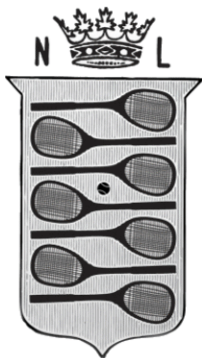
D.O.B: 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 1986

BEST HANDICAP: 4.2

3-TIME USCTA NATIONAL LEAGUE WINNER

2012 SEACOURT SILVER RACKET FINALIST





# TEAM CHICAGO



## STEVE VIRGONA

CLUB: CHICAGO

NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN

HEIGHT: 6'1" / 1.85M

D.O.B: 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1978

BEST HANDICAP: +13.3

7-TIME OPEN SINGLES WINNER

6-TIME WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION

---

## CONOR MEDLOW

CLUB: CHICAGO

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 6'2" / 1.88M

D.O.B: 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1991

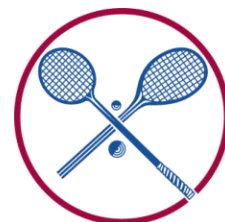
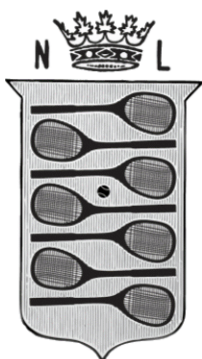
BEST HANDICAP: +1.8

3-TIME BRITISH AMATEUR SINGLES WINNER

2018 U.S. PRO SINGLES WINNER







# TEAM NEW YORK



## JAMES STOUT

CLUB: RACQUET & TENNIS CLUB

NATIONALITY: BERMUDIAN

HEIGHT: 6'0" / 1.83M

D.O.B: 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1984

BEST HANDICAP: +9.2

2010 U.S. OPEN SINGLES WINNER

2014 U.S. OPEN SINGLES & DOUBLES FINALIST

## BARNEY TANFIELD

CLUB: RACQUET & TENNIS CLUB

NATIONALITY: AMERICAN

HEIGHT: 6'3" / 1.90M

D.O.B: 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 1981

BEST HANDICAP: 1.5

3-TIME SPRING INVITATIONAL WINNER

2017 PRO SINGLES SATELLITE WINNER



## ADRIAN KEMP

CLUB: RACQUET & TENNIS CLUB

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

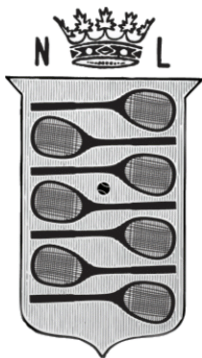
HEIGHT: 6'2" / 1.88M

D.O.B: 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 1985

BEST HANDICAP: 4.5

6-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPION OF FRANCE

2017 SPRING INVITATIONAL FINALIST



# TEAM TUXEDO



## TIM CHISHOLM

CLUB: TUXEDO

NATIONALITY: AMERICAN

HEIGHT: 5'11" / 1.80M

D.O.B: 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 1969

BEST HANDICAP: +12.5

CURRENT WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION

5-TIME OPEN SINGLES WINNER

## JOSH DODGSON

CLUB: TUXEDO

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 6'0" / 1.83M

D.O.B: 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1990

BEST HANDICAP: 3.5

2012 SEACOURT SILVER RACKET WINNER

2018 US PRO SINGLES FINALIST



## CAMDEN RIVIERE

CLUB: UNATTACHED

NATIONALITY: AMERICAN

HEIGHT: 5'8" / 1.73M

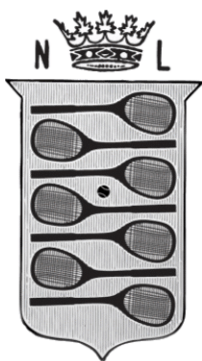
D.O.B: 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1987

BEST HANDICAP: +16.0

FORMER WORLD SINGLES CHAMPION

WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION





# UNATTACHED PLAYERS



## JOHN LUMLEY

CLUB: PHILADELPHIA

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HEIGHT: 5'9" / 1.75M

D.O.B: 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1992

BEST HANDICAP: +7.9

2018 IRTPA PRO SINGLES WINNER

2016 & 2018 FRENCH OPEN DOUBLES WINNER

## ROB WHITEHOUSE

CLUB: PHILADELPHIA

NATIONALITY: AMERICAN

HEIGHT: 5'9" / 1.75M

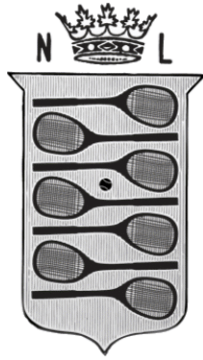
D.O.B: 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 1969

BEST HANDICAP: 1.7

USCTA HALL OF FAMER







# HISTORY & FUTURE

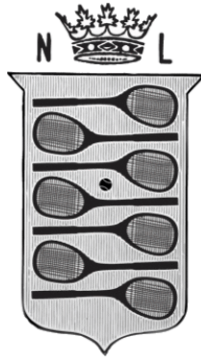
Court tennis is the ancestor of all racquet sports. Called court tennis in the U.S., real tennis in Australia and Great Britain and jeu de paume in France, the game emerged from the streets of France almost a millennium ago. It spread across Europe, becoming popular with both the masses (Paris had nearly two thousand outdoor courts in 1600) and royalty – two palace courts in Great Britain from the sixteenth century are still in use today. Many informal, outdoor courts existed in the U.S. but the first formal indoor court in America was built in Boston in 1876. Since then, eighteen more courts have appeared around the country: today, eleven of them are playable.

Court Tennis boasts the oldest World Championship (dating back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century). Australian, Rob Fahey, regained the title after defeating Camden Riviere at the Queens Club, England in April 2018.



Court Tennis has been growing in size and reach over recent years. New courts have been recently opened in both the UK and US, and the game has experienced a revival in the Basque region of France. A new court will open in Bordeaux, France later in 2019, whilst the USCTA is finishing the fundraising for a new Court Tennis facility in Charleston, South Carolina.

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 2018-19 RULES AND 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.
- 2.2. A list (the 'Floaters List') of 'floating' 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 selected a player from the Floaters List. If no such player is available, then a player from another team may be selected.

## **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 fulfil that Fixture.
- 3.4. Teams unable to fulfil 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.

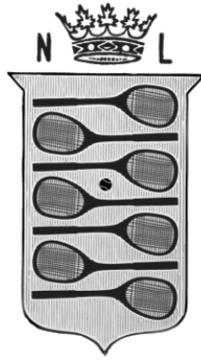
## **4. Fixture Play**

- 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 double 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. One (1) point per fixture will be awarded to any team fielding two nominated players (or a replacement agreed pre-season).
- 5.5. The two (2) teams with the highest point totals at the end of the regular season qualify for the National League Final.





# COURT TENNIS RULES

The rules of tennis have remained virtually unchanged for centuries. Play is across a net at the centre of the court, 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 from their opponent.

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. The receiver will therefore try to limit their time at the receiving end, preferring to return to the service side as quickly as possible. This 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. The receiver can also set a chase by hitting the ball into one of the Galleries on their opponents' side of the court. With a chase set, the receiver will reclaim the service end.

All courts are slightly different, and most of them have 'local' rules which can give home players a significant advantage!

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

