



**USPA**  
POLO NETWORK



## **TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR HISTORIC TOWNSEND CUP RIVALRY**

*USA SEEKS TO SECURE ITS NINTH TITLE OVER ENGLAND AT NEW BRIDGE POLO & COUNTRY CLUB ON OCTOBER 26*

### **For Immediate Release**

**October 18, 2024**

Keeping the historical tradition of competitive international rivalry alive, the United States and England are set to compete for one of the world's most prestigious arena polo tournaments in 2024, the Townsend Cup. Played on alternate years with the Bryan Morrison Trophy in England, the tenth edition of the Townsend Cup will be contested on Saturday, October 26, at New Bridge Polo & Country Club (New Bridge) in Aiken, South Carolina. As the official apparel supplier of the USA team, U.S. Polo Assn. is proud to outfit the American team with jerseys and provide saddle pads. Boasting an 8-1 overall record, the United States will attempt to claim their ninth John R. Townsend Challenge Cup while their English opponents battle to reclaim the title for the first time since 2013.

Over 100 years old, the Townsend Cup international arena tournament was created by the Indoor Polo Association and first played in 1923 as a result of the boom and talent of American arena players. England readily accepted the United States' invitation, and the inaugural tournament was played as a best record five game series. The Americans swept the competition claiming the first three matches. The tournament then fell into abeyance until recent years when the United States Polo Association revived the tradition. The tournament has since been played as a single game on alternate years with the Bryan Morrison Trophy, a complimentary tournament held by English invitation.

Last held in [2021](#) at New Bridge Polo & Country Club in Aiken, South Carolina, USA (Winston Painter, Geronimo Obregon, Pelon Escapite) took home the Townsend Cup, defeating England 18-15. Captaining USA in 2024, Tommy Biddle Jr. (8) is joined by two talented teammates, two-time Townsend Cup champion Pelon Escapite (8) and newcomer Andrew Scott (4).

Former arena 10-goaler, Biddle Jr. has competed in the prestigious John R. Townsend Cup Challenge five times, securing the title on four occasions, with 2013 marking his only defeat. In 2019, he celebrated victory alongside Escapite, whom he describes as one of his best friends in polo. "He is a beast in the arena and very easy to combine with, so it is a pleasure to play with him," Biddle Jr. said, highlighting the United States' strong team chemistry.

"It is a big deal every time you get to represent the USA," Biddle Jr. continued. "I always put a lot of pressure on myself to do well and represent our country. I have been fortunate to have played a lot of international matches so I hope that experience will help the team."

Frequently competing at New Bridge, Scott has notable arena achievements making him a strong addition to the American team. In the 2023, he earned MVP honors and claimed victory

in the U.S. Open Arena Handicap. That same year, Scott won the 2023 Division I Men's National Intercollegiate Championship for the University of North Texas where he received his second Connie Upchurch Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

Jack Hyde (8) will be assuming the role of captain for the English team. Hyde triumphed over Biddle Jr. in the prestigious 2023 Bryan Morrison Trophy, the sister tournament held by English invitation. Hyde will be joined by returning player Eden Omerod (6), eager for 2021 redemption. Rounding out the team is Toby Bradshaw (5), who recently showcased his talent in the 2024 International Intercollegiate Arena Challenge Cup, where he led his team to a 16-11 victory over the USA.

The Townsend Cup will be livestreamed exclusively on the USPA Polo Network at [uspolo.org](https://uspolo.org) and across USPA social media channels including YouTube, Facebook and X. Guest commentator and arena legend Tom Goodspeed joins the broadcast alongside the USPA Polo Network's Toby Wayman, providing in-depth knowledge and insights into the sport.

Goodspeed achieved an impressive 9-goal arena handicap and holds the record for seven U.S. Open Arena Polo Championships and boasts a total of 17 national USPA arena tournament titles across five different playing levels. In recognition of his significant contributions to arena polo, he received the Russ Sheldon Award in 2018 and was recently honored with the 2024 I/I Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information, please visit the Townsend Cup [Tournament Detail Page](#). The match will begin at 6:00pm ET and will be open to the public, with VIP tickets available for purchase. For more details, please visit [newbridgepolo.com](https://newbridgepolo.com).

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**The United States Polo Association®** is organized and exists for the purposes of promoting the game of polo; coordinating the activities of its member clubs and registered player members; arranging and supervising polo tournaments, competitions, and games; and providing rules, handicaps and tournament conditions for those events. Its overarching goals are improving the sport and promoting the safety and welfare of its human and equine participants. Founded in 1890, the USPA is the largest voluntary sports organization in North America for the sport of polo. The USPA is currently made up of more than 200 member clubs and over 5,000 registered player members. It annually awards and oversees roughly 50 national tournaments hosted by its member clubs. For more information, please visit [uspolo.org](https://uspolo.org).

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**USPA Polo Network** is the official livestreaming and on-demand video platform of the USPA. The USPA Polo Network strives to innovate the production experience and accessibility of the sport with matches that can be watched free of charge in several locations, including [uspolo.org](https://uspolo.org), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Twitch](https://www.twitch.tv). A library of games is available at [uspolo.org](https://uspolo.org) and on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

### **About the New Bridge Polo & Country Club**

Founded by amateur polo player Russ McCall in 2000, the club was created in partnership with Argentine professional Matias Magrini. The astounding 861-acre New Bridge development boasts five world-class polo fields in a private gated community. While that may sound intimidating, McCall points out that the gates serve less as a barrier to keep people out, but rather as a means to keep the occasional escaped horse in. The atmosphere of the club remains true to its humble beginnings, unpretentious, in a natural wooded setting, framed by southern pines and surrounded by an effortless tranquility.

The centerpiece of the club is the rustic colonial-style clubhouse. Constructed of old wood that was shipped from Argentina and assembled onsite, it brings the history and ambiance of the Argentine way of life to South Carolina. The clubhouse also conveniently houses a player's bar, restaurant and outdoor asado area for post-game parties. Spectators are invited to sit on the porch with a spectacular view of Field 1 to watch the featured Sunday matches. New Bridge offers country living without the inconveniences of country distances. Cottage-style bungalows are situated on residential lots lining Field 1, as well as larger estate houses with the option to buy or build.

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