

# ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

An oft quoted line written by English playwright Noel Coward.

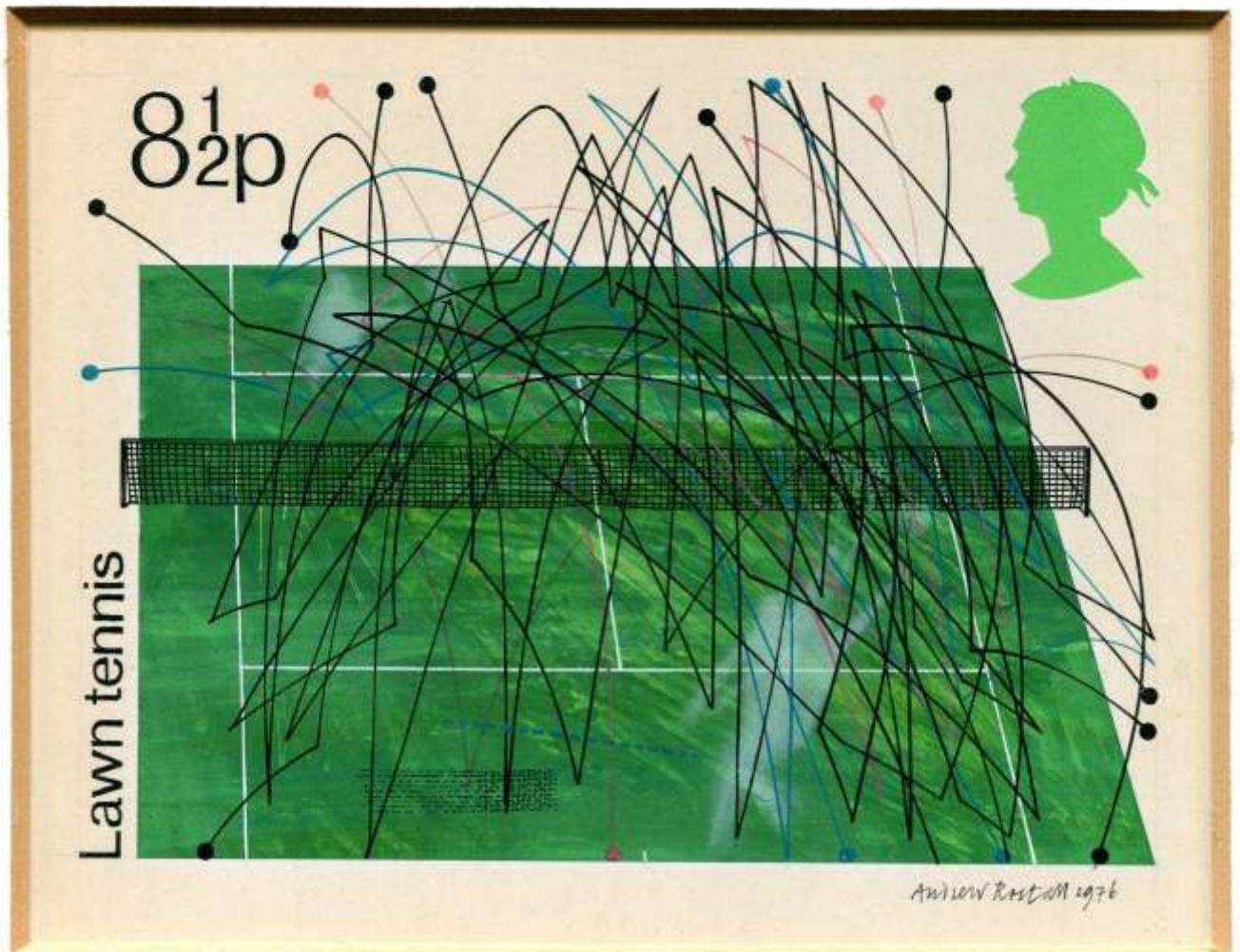
This worldwide popular recreational pastime has a fascinating history. The issue of professionalism plagued its development as a sport. Today, its stars reap huge rewards and the game has become a big commercial business.



The stamp was issued in 1977.



Andrew Restall's trial designs made in 1976. Certificates of authenticity over.



# Plan of Exhibit

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# 1. THE GAME EVOLVED

## 1.1 Jeu de Paume - An ancient game of handball

12th Century. The origins of tennis are obscure. It is thought that monks in France, feeling the need for exercise, began bouncing a ball around in the seclusion of their cloisters. The game became called Jeu de Paume (handball).

12th Century  
Monks played in the cloisters.



The cloisters' slanting roofs, pillars and arcades were used.

The Jeu de Paume room at the Palace of Versailles was built in 1686.



13th Century. Jeu de Paume.



A ball made of felt was struck with the palm of the hand.

The game was taken up by the French aristocracy. David's painting shows the meeting of the people's representatives in the Jeu de Paume room on the June 20th, 1789 where they took an oath to change the constitution but the Bastille fell 24 days later.



*Seen and approved*  
18/5/89  
A. J. [Signature]

The original artwork, water-colour on posterboard with acetate overlay carrying surround lettering with 'Seen and approved' signatures dated 18th May 1989, together with a monochrome proof of the stamp. The stamp, exhibited above, was issued 1989.



1.1 **Jeu de Paume** - In the 14th Century the game was taken up by the French aristocracy.

Jean le Bon (1319 - 1364)



1355 he lost 144 crowns playing.

Charles D'Orleans



It was Charles D'Orleans who, after his capture at Agincourt in 1415, introduced Jeu de Paume to England. His captor, Henry V, also played.

Henry V



Philippe le Bon (1396 - 1467)



He built a court at Coudenburg.

Edward III (1327 - 1377)



People ordered to practise their bows not play tennis.

Charles V of France (1338 - 1380) had a court built in the Louvre.



In 1505 a racket was used in a game played at Windsor Castle.



Henry VII (1485 - 1509)



Royal accounts for 1490s record his tennis losses.



ND 1549 MUSÉE DE VERSAILLES. — DAVID (Jacques-Louis) 1748-1825, Serment du Jeu de Paume (Salle du Jeu de Paume)

Note the racket and balls in the bottom left corner of this maxi card postmarked on the first day of issue June 20th, 1939.



## 1.2 Jeu de Paume - A curious system of scoring was devised during the 14th century.

The scoring has its origins in medieval France and harks back to royal tennis where a clock face was used on court to keep the score. The hands were moved a quarter way around the face for each point. The winner of four points wins the game.

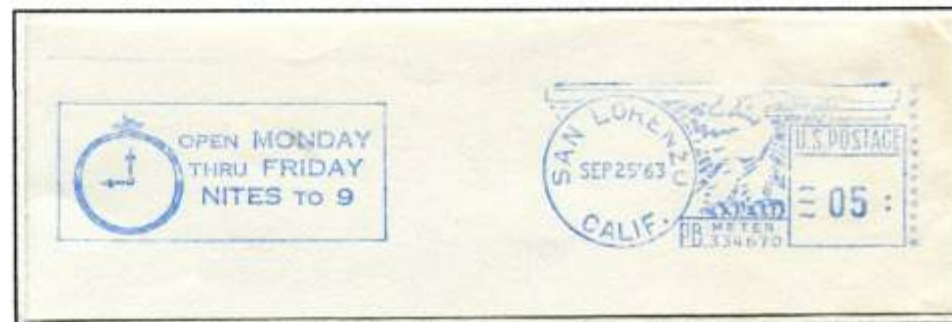
When the hand had travelled the 60 minutes it signified the completion of the game.



The present system for scoring was adopted for the first Wimbledon Championships held in 1877.



The third quarter 45 has become shortened to 40.



**Jeu de Paume** - As the nobility of the 14th century gambled on matches a method of scoring was needed.

'Love' means that no points have been scored. It is thought to have come the French *l'oeuf* or egg, it being shaped like a zero.

*Love All* or All for love i.e. All for nothing.

Egg - L'oeuf : Zero



Egg : L'oeuf : Love



'Advantage' was anglicised in the 14th Century from the French '*avantage*'. When at least three points have been scored by each side and a player has one more point than the opponent, the score of the game is "advantage" for the player in the lead.



*In 2011 India Post at Agrico Post Office, Jamshedpur, issued registration receipts reading "HAVE A NICE DAY" which could be replaced with another short phrase.*

Egalité meaning Equal



Deuce or Two to play (deux a jouer)

A tie-break is used to separate the winner. Wimbledon first used the system in 1971. It was sanctioned by the I.L.T.F. in 1975.



*In 2006 Universal Mail UK Ltd. was licensed by Royal Mail to produce stamps promoting tourism. Strips of five self-adhesive stamps were sold in shops.*

Umpires officiate from a high chair placed at the net and call the score.



When the match is finished the umpire calls 'GAME, SET and MATCH'.



## 1.2 Royal Tennis – Rackets were introduced in the 16th Century.

When rackets began to be used the game became called *Tennis* (various spellings), it being derived from the French *Tenir* = To Hold (a racket). As the game was mainly played by the aristocracy it became known as Court or Royal Tennis. Like 'Paume', it was played with walls, pillars and roofs all part of the court but mainly indoors.

16th Century



A player using two rackets.



Tennis - Tennez - Tenir = To Hold (a racket).

17th Century Long Paume



Paddles were brought into use.

The game became very popular with royalty. Kings could afford to build courts.

Henry VIII  
(1491 – 1547)



The undisputed  
Champion of England!



In 1529 Henry VIII had a court built in Hampton Court Palace. Legend has it that news of Anne Boleyn's execution was brought to him there as he played tennis. In 1660 Charles II had the court completely refitted.

King Philip IV of Spain  
(1621 - 1665)



In 1641 he was beaten by Louis XIII of France in a match that was refereed by Cardinal Richelieu.

Eric XIV of Sweden  
(1560 – 1568)



He enjoyed the game and brought tennis to Sweden and built its first court.

James I  
(1603 - 1625)



He recommended the game to his son Henry.

Louis XIV of Fr.  
(1638 - 1715)



He made extravagant wagers on players.

King Henry IV of Fr.  
(1589 - 1610)



His real tennis court has been preserved at Fontainebleau Palace.

## 1.2 Royal Tennis – It became known as the ‘Game of Kings’.

By the 14th century the game had become popular with the French and English royalty and other nobility.

The term *Real Tennis* only came into use in the 1870s to differentiate it from the new game that had moved outside onto grass.

Gustav Adolphus II of Sweden  
(1611-1632)

16th Cent. Fontainebleau Palace



The Jeu de Paume rooms were used to play Royal (Real) tennis. The room is now a music salon.



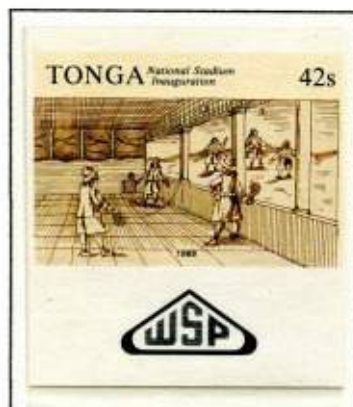
He was a very keen tennis player. After his capture of Munich in 1632 he played tennis there with his officers.

Charles II  
(1630 – 1685)



He liked to play before breakfast. Geo. V, when Duke of York, was President of Wimbledon 1907-09.

Royal Tennis being played in 1659. Note a game of hand ball is being played outside.



*Imperforated Proof*



*A monochrome proof used for checking.*

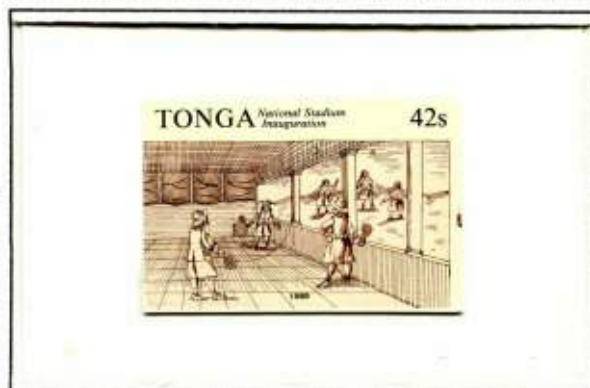


*Specimen*

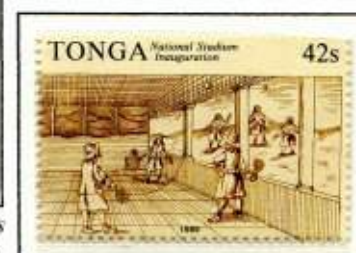
The stamp was designed and printed by Walsall Security Printers, London. Proofs were released from archives in about 1999.



*Specimen*



*A cromalin proof produced from colour separations prior to the final production of the printing plates. As only 3 or 4 were made such proofs are very scarce.*



*Stamp Issued*



### 1.3 Lawn Tennis - The game moved outdoors on to grass courts.

1830. The lawn-mower was invented which enabled croquet and lawn tennis to develop.  
 1850. Rubber balls that bounced on grass became available which made lawn tennis possible.

The lawn-mower was invented by Edwin Budding of Stroud, Gloucestershire.



In 1839 Charles Goodyear of Mass., USA discovered the vulcanisation process.



Croquet had become popular however the younger Victorian gentry wanted a more energetic game. Tennis soon moved outdoors onto the croquet lawns.

*The only philatelic item showing both games together.*



Cards were privately printed to promote an exhibition of German sports goods held in Munich in 1899. They were then passed to the postal authority to be imprinted with the official postage.

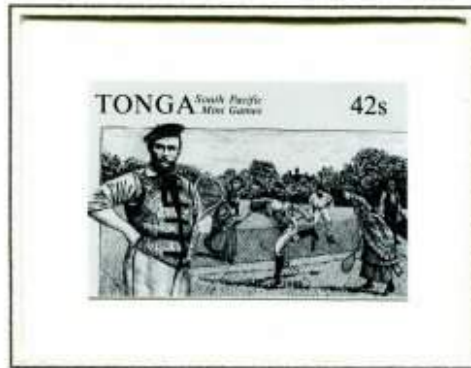
Allgemeine Deutsche Sport-  
Ausstellung München 1899.

*G. v. G. v. G.  
Leitung Sportdrucken  
Kastner, Mainz*



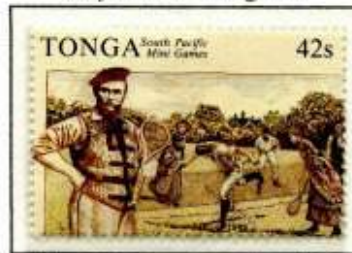
**1.3 Lawn Tennis** - In the late 1800s many croquet lawns were adapted for tennis and grass became the norm.

1873. Outdoor play was encouraged when Major W. C. Wingfield patented a boxed tennis kit for use on lawns which he marketed under the name 'Sphairistike' (strike a sphere).

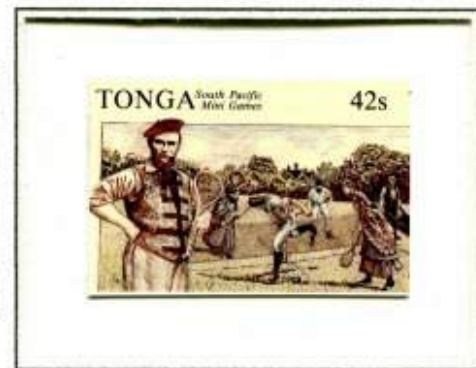


*A proof mounted on card which was used for checking by Walsall Security Printers, London. The proofs were sent to Tonga and were not released from their archives until about 1999.*

Major W. C. Wingfield



*The stamp was issued in 1989.*



*A cromalin proof made by each colour being layered on top of the next building up to the full colour design prior to the production of the final plate for printing. Only 3 or 4 exist.*

A view of the grass courts in the Botanic Gardens, Brisbane in 1898 across from Parliament House.



*Cards with different views were printed in sheets of 18. The separation of the cards resulted in small differences in sizes and some cards having either square or round corners.*

*Different printings had marked variations in colours.*

*Purple appeared in 1907*

*Orange-Brown in 1908  
N. B. The Botanic Gardens card of this printing has the tops of the letters F, Ph of "From Photo" missing which is a catalogued variety.*



*From 1906 to 1910 there appeared 1c postal cards (with a four line heading) showing different views of Queensland.*



### 1.3 Lawn Tennis - Its popularity spread.

- 1872. The world's first tennis club was formed.
- 1873. W C Wingfield claimed to have invented lawn tennis.
- 1873. The game began to spread throughout the Br. Empire.
- 1874. Tennis was first introduced to the USA from Bermuda.

1858

Lawn tennis was first played on a croquet lawn at Edgbaston.



The first exclusively lawn tennis club was founded at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.



This is the earliest lawn tennis event recorded in philately.

1873



In the 1870s the game was played by the British garrison in Bermuda.

1873



Major W. C. Wingfield marketed a tennis kit he called 'Sphairistike'.

1874



The game was first played in the USA at Staten Island, New York.



Tennis was first played in the USA at the Staten Is., Cricket and Baseball Club, using a Sphairistike kit brought from Bermuda.

### 1.3 Lawn Tennis - There was a need to standardize the rules.

Rules were agreed in 1875 and it was not long before tournaments were being organized across the world.

The Marylebone Cricket Club was asked to draw up some rules for tennis. In 1875, in a meeting at its Lords cricket ground, its proposals were accepted.



A booklet marking the bicentenary of the founding of the M.C.C. in 1787.

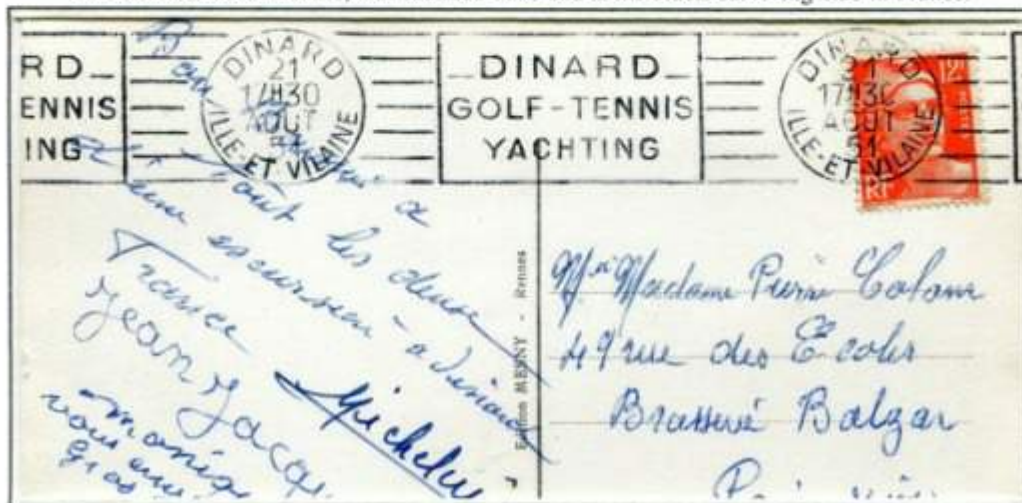
In 1877 the world's first open championship (for men) was staged at the All England L. T. C., Wimbledon.

The Canadian Championships began with a tournament for men in 1881. Only Wimbledon and the US Championships are older.



The tournament was played according to the ratified rules. This is the very first machine cancellation that refers to tennis.

In 1878 Englishmen on holiday formed a tennis club in Dinard and organized tournaments. The Tennis-Club de Dinard, was founded 1878 and is the oldest surviving club in France.



Before the second world war five French towns used a continuous roller cancellation to advertise that they offered tennis among their attractions but after the war only Dinard and Le Pouliguen did so.



1.3 Lawn Tennis - In the early 1900s grass was the traditional surface but other surfaces began to be used. When the game moved out-of-doors on to grass it became called lawn tennis to distinguish it from the indoor game. Initially, it continued to be called lawn tennis even when it began to be played on a variety of different surfaces.

Stone Paved



16th Century, a 'Tennis Courte'

The clay courts of Monte Carlo.



Clay courts are popular on the Continent and in South America.

From 1913 to 1923 the Wimbledon Championships, by edict of the I. L. T. F., carried the title 'The World Championships on Grass'.



Generally, the canceller in the mobile office was to be used for registered mail and the slug showing the time of day above the date was omitted. Also missing is a stop at the end of the post code S.W. 19 which identifies it from a second canceller that does have the stop which, in 1963, was used in the Croydon office to where ordinary mail was sent.

Grass courts are subject to the vagaries of the weather and need a lot of maintenance.



All-Weather Hard courts are easier to maintain. Messrs. Gaze's advertised their courts in GB booklets 1919 to 1924.





1.3 **Lawn Tennis** - In the early 1900s the game began to be played on artificial surfaces.

Clay was the first artificial surface to be introduced. It became popular in the early 1900s as it was faster drying and was less prone to wear than grass and it did not need continuous mowing.



Commander Hillyard, secretary of the All England Club, had seen games being played in South Africa on surfaces made of crushed ant heaps. On his return home he asked his local brick works to make a surface from crushed bricks. In 1909 he founded a company to install his quick drying clay courts which he named En-Tout-Cas after a French all-weather parasol called En-Tout-Cas (In All Conditions). After WW 1 his courts were being installed by many leading clubs around the world.

**Asphalt** is a good surface for clubs for unlike grass it can be played on all the year round and it requires less maintenance.



A 1941 meter mark used by DAF [Dordrecht Asphalt Factory], Den Haag which laid tennis courts etc.

**Cement** has more pace and bounce than clay.

In 1978 the US Open was transferred to the newly built National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadow, New York with its new non-porous acrylic cement courts.



Jimmy Connors won the 1978 US Open to become the first champion on the new surface.





### 1.3 Lawn Tennis - Officially called Lawn Tennis whatever the surface until the 1970s.

1874. The first record of the game being called 'lawn tennis' appeared in *The Field* magazine.



In 1888 R. W. Lindhé of Gothenburg used the phrase "Lawn Tennis" when advertising that he sold articles for various sports.

A postal letter issued by the Gothenburg Private Local Post. Advertising space was sold to help finance the postal service.

Bref befordras till alla orter inom Göteborgs område för 3 öre af Göteborgs Privata Lokalpost.

**Aktiebolaget Göteborgs Frimärks-Affär**  
(The Gothenburg Stamp Co., Lm.)  
**Norra Hamngatan 2, Göteborg.**

Assorted stock of all kinds of postage stamps at lowest prices. Sörstredt lager af alla sorters frimärken till billiga priser. **Frimärks-Album** ständigt i lager; tilläggare äro i bokhandel! Allt hvad till beorchen hörer anskaffas. Briefmärken i grönter Användt till billiga säs. Prisen storo och Lager.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Söderbloms</b> <b>Flyttbara Kaminer</b></p> <p>af nyaste förklarade konstruktion säljes billigast af</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R. W. Lindhé</b> Norra Hamngatan 2 GÖTEBORG.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>F. WILH. JOHANSSON</b></p> <p>3:a Långgatan Nr 4, (Följda) Skeppsholmen No 1) Sjelmakare.</p> <p>Flagg- &amp; Kompassfabrikant i förening med <b>Skeppsfourneringsaffär.</b> Bell och Allmänna Telefon.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Alla slags <b>Sportartiklar</b></p> <p>såsom Lawn Tennis, Fotboll, Cricket, Velocipeder m. m. säljes billigast i parti och minut af</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R. W. LINDHÉ,</b> GÖTEBORG General-Agent för Sverige.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S. J. LINDSKOG</b></p> <p>2:a Långgatan 50 GÖTEBORG.</p> <p>Stort lager af Herre-, Dame- och Barnskodon. Reparationer af alla hvad till yrket hörer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adolph Meyer &amp; Co.</b> GÖTEBORG</p> <p>Lager af: Lamper Lampglas Veckor &amp; öfriga Lampstillbehör</p> <p>till extra billiga priser.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VICTOR KROOK</b> VARBERG SPEDITÖR.</p> <p>Billig och prompt expedition.</p>

Göteborg. D. F. Boushies Boktryckeri, 1888.

The International Lawn Tennis Federation was founded in 1913.



As lawn tennis came to be played on many different kinds of surfaces, in 1977 the I.L.T.F. dropped 'Lawn' from its title.

### 1.3 Lawn Tennis - Today, there are fewer tournaments played on grass, the French (since 1891) never

The U S Open was last played on grass in 1975.



From 1968 the U S Open Championships were played on grass at the West Side Club, Forest Hills, New York, when in 1975 its courts were converted to a hard surface.

Wimbledon is now the only Grand Slam tournament played on grass.



The Australian championships were first held in 1905 and were last played on grass in 1987 at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Melbourne when the Open was then moved to the new National Tennis Centre at Flinders Park (now Melbourne Park) which had hard courts and its retractable roof which meant grass would not be practical.



Kooyong Tennis Stadium, Melbourne

A interleaf from a booklet of stamps issued in 2005 marking the tournament's centenary showing the Kooyong Tennis Sta