

Racquet Technic Racket & Strings Newsletter

News 2007 Issue #2 May

Welcome to the second edition of the Racket and String news for 2007. There are always new products being introduced and others that are continued. I hope you find something of interest in this newsletter.

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Badminton Rackets

There is no new information for this issue. I suppose it is worth repeating the warning about Yonex rackets. There are lots of cheap offers on the internet, but the quality appears to be poor, with frames breaking being a common occurrence. You should be very careful before you buy one of these models.

Tennis Rackets

There are new rackets available this year, which could be of interest. The Babolat Pure Drive 107 and Yonex URQ Speed 8 look to be interesting models for average club players. More advanced players could be interested in the Head Radical Team, or the Yonex RQ S11 which is the model used by Martina Hingis. All these rackets received good reviews in recent tests in the German Tennis Magazin.

Amelie Mauresmo is now sponsored by HEAD to use their rackets. Observant readers will probably have noticed this for themselves. It is not known how much she receives for transferring to this brand, but I expect it will be a substantial amount.

String News

There are some new strings that could be of interest from Kirschbaum and Wilson. The first is Kirschbaum Pro Line II which is a monofilament string. This is a lower cost string which should

appeal to string breakers, and is available in several gauges. It is also red, so you will have to use a different colour if you use the red Kirschbaum Cherry logo on your strings.

Wilson have two strings under the [K] Gut name which are multifilament strings. This type of string is usually expensive, and these are no exception. If you are looking for a responsive string one of these could be worth considering. Also from Wilson is Super Spin which is a Hexagonal shape that is supposed to grip the ball better. I tried some hexagonal strings a few years ago, and they seemed to be quite good, but did not prove to be popular with many players. Perhaps the Wilson name will help to promote this string, and possibly make it a popular choice with some players

Product Reviews

This section contains more details about products than is included under the news items. The news item normally shows only general information about a new product.

Squash

There is no new information for this edition.

Tennis

This is the most popular section, and there is a larger choice of products.

Rackets

I recently purchased a Prince O3 Hybrid Spectrum racket for testing. The balance and weight of this model meet my requirements. The initial impression is quite good, and further comments will be in the next edition of the newsletter.

Strings

I am currently testing the Kirschbaum Pro Line II (red) string. This seems fine for the target group of players, and I think this string will be a good alternative to the P2 which has not been that popular.

Another string to be tested soon is the Head Fibregel which is a multi-filament string. This should be suitable for anyone who wants a more responsive string. There are two gauges, and further details will be in the next newsletter.

Grips & Accessories

Almost every racket and string brand has their own range of grips and accessories. It is obviously a valuable source of income for these companies. Many players have their favourite grip which shows most people like to have a choice. Some of these products including any new ones will be featured in the newsletter.

There is no new information available for this issue, although Kirschbaum have introduced a new Soft Feeling replacement grip. I have not yet tested this product.

Tension Tester ERT 300

Players and racket stringers need to know the tension of strings in rackets. They should have some method of checking the tension to help them decide when a restring is needed. The best method is to use a tester called the Tensometer which measures the tension electronically. The latest model is the ERT 300 and is now available.

There has been more interest in the ERT 300 than in previous years. This means that both players and stringers are becoming aware of the advantages of better quality stringing. There are many low quality racket stringers around, and the better quality stringers will normally use good quality equipment.

Kirschbaum News

This section will include any interesting notes about the Kirschbaum range of strings and grips, which are available from Racquet Technic.

The new Pro Line strings are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. These are mainly aimed at string breakers who want a low cost string with good durability. This obviously is a specialist product that will be ideal for a number of players. I find the red string to be attractive, but others may not.

There is now a good range of monofilament strings from this company. The main competition is from the Luxilon range of Big Banger strings, which are more expensive. These are used by many professional players who will be sponsored by the company. Players will select a brand of strings for many reasons, and you will have to decide which one you prefer.

Clothing

This year there is a greater range of clothing available. This includes brands for cycling and running. All the clothing features advanced fabrics that help to keep you comfortable during your sporting activities.

The new section for clothing can now be viewed on the website. There are currently four groups of clothing. You can download either a brochure or newsletter that includes images and brief descriptions of the clothing. Some of the contents are sketches of the clothing, so it is generally better to come and see the actual products.

Stringing Notes

This section includes items about stringing that should be of interest to players and stringers. This depends to a certain extent on receiving questions.

There are a number of companies that are currently promoting thin strings, which are less than 1.20 mm in diameter. It is, of course, the more durable mono-filament string materials that allow this to be done while also having reasonable durability. The advantage should be that you get better performance from the string. This is true, but for most players it would be a better idea to use a different type of string.

Anyone who wants performance from their strings would normally select a string designed for this purpose. Players who select mono-filament strings select them mainly for durability. As with many things in life, there is no single product that provides a solution for every requirement.

You can always look at this subject on one of the websites. You will find information about rackets and strings. If you cannot find the information you want, please enquire by e-mail.

Racket Notes

Most players have some questions about their rackets, and they will almost certainly be of interest to other readers. If you have any questions about rackets or strings, please send them by e-mail.

Shock And Vibration

Many tennis players suffer from either elbow or shoulder problems. Sometimes a different racket can alleviate the painful symptoms. I have found the Yonex models with a "Shockless Grommet" system to be good, and the Prince O3 model I am currently testing is also good. The Wilson N5 Force is also believed to be very good, as it uses their TRIAD dampening system.

If you suffer with any arm problem, you will have to experiment with different rackets. This can be expensive, but so is the cost of any treatment which probably will not remove the cause of the problem.

Stringing Associations

Are you a racket stringer or thinking of becoming one? You will probably have questions or want to learn more about stringing rackets. One solution is to join one of the Stringers Associations. The best known is probably the USRSA (United States Racket Stringers Association) and has been around for a long time.

There are also European and U.K. organisations which have some advantages. If you would like details of the U.K. group, please send me an e-mail and I will forward your enquiry to them.

Local Stringers

If you have a local restringing service, you usually need to promote the service to local players. Some players who use your service will tell others, but one of the best methods to find new customers is by some form of advertising. There are several options, but one low cost method is by having an entry on the Racquet Technic website stringers section.

This section now includes details of some stringers who have purchased the ERT 300 tension tester. This should help any players who are looking for a new racket stringer, as it is an indication that they will use good quality equipment.

Website

You can find advice here about selecting strings, rackets, and a range of accessories. There is also information about the products available from Racquet Technic.

There are three sites. These are the original Racquet-Technic site plus the Your-Racquet site, which is mainly for information about tennis equipment. The third site is for Kirschbaum strings, most of which are designed for durability combined with performance.

The sites are

<<http://www.racquet-technic.co.uk>>

<<http://www.your-racquet.co.uk>>

<www.kirschbaum-strings.co.uk>

The combined number of visitors to these sites is an average of over 7,000 per month. Some of these will be from search engines indexing the site, but there is still a large interest in the topics covered. There are visitors from most countries including the U.S.A., Australia, Japan and Europe.

Change for 2007

The main change is a new section on the range of clothing. This is now completed.

There have been a few minor changes to the racket and string sections. There should not be any problems, but if you notice any difficulties please let me know.

You could have noticed that there are new ranges of clothing for cycling and running this year. If you are interested in either of these sports, please take a look at the available range. As with most of the brands from Racquet Technic, these items are not generally available in the United Kingdom.

Newsletter Information

The newsletter is now sent four times a year. It is suitable for racket sports players and stringers. There is in each issue information about strings, accessories, and equipment.

The newsletter is also available from the website. You simply follow the links and can download a copy as a pdf file. You will need Adobe Reader to view it. This is installed on most computers, or you can download a free copy from <www.adobe.com>

There is an average of over 500 downloads per month of the newsletter.

The next issue of the newsletter is planned to be issued in August 2007.

About Racquet Technic

The people who receive this newsletter are a mixture of racket stringers and players who are interested in racket sports products. The main aim is to provide information about existing and new products that are available for players of racket sports. All the main brands are covered, including some products from Racquet Technic.

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