

# Racquet Technic Racket & Strings Newsletter

## **News 2007 Issue 1**

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

## **Items**

Badminton Rackets  
Tennis Rackets  
String news

## **Product Reviews**

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## **Regular Features**

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ERT 300  
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## **Badminton Rackets**

There is one item that could be of interest, which is that HEAD is introducing a range of badminton rackets this year. This means that they will have a range of products for all the racket sports. I do not suppose there will be any features not seen with other rackets, but you never know. They will at least offer more choice which is always welcome. I expect players who use this brand of tennis rackets will probably try the badminton models.

## **Tennis Rackets**

There have been some reviews of rackets since the previous newsletter was issued. The first group was for the top players rackets. Many players may think this type of racket is suitable, but it is not the choice of most club players. There were three rackets that were selected, and they were the HEAD FXP Prestige, Volkl DNX 10, and the Wilson -Six-One. These could be worth considering, if you want this type of racket.

The next group was for Ladies rackets with two models selected as the best in the category. These were the Volkl Attiva DNX 6, and the Wilson W3 Gypsy Rose. These should also be worth looking at if you are female and looking for a new racket.

Other rackets suitable for club players should be covered in the next issue.

## **String News**

There is no new information about strings at the moment. The new brochures are usually received in January, so there could be some information in the next issue of the newsletter.

## **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 tested a Babolat NS Drive racket. This is a nice racket with many good features, and normally absorbs vibration very well. I did find, however, that on some off-centre shots there was some noticeable vibration. This does not appear to cause any problems to the arm, so it is more annoying than anything else.

## **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.

## **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 was quite a lot of interest in this item in the days before Christmas. This is probably not a large surprise, as people are looking for a slightly different present at that time of the year. It is also not a surprise that the enquiries in January have stopped.

## **Kirschbaum News**

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

There is no further news about Kirschbaum strings. This is normally a quiet time for strings, as any new products are likely to be introduced later in the year.

## **Clothing**

The range of Maier-Sports clothing is available in the U.K. from Racquet Technic. This is mainly outdoor clothing, but is also suitable for general wear. A range of ladies clothing is available under the at.one brand name. This is a division of Maier-Sports.

A new section is being prepared for the website to show the available clothing range for 2007. This includes a selection of styles using breathable fabrics, which are now becoming more popular. Two new groups of clothing have been added which are the TAO running range, and Gonso cycle clothing. Both brands will be available in limited quantities for 2007.

All the brands which include the Maier-Sports Nordic Fitness range are at present only available from Racquet Technic in the United Kingdom.

There will be brochures available that can be downloaded from the website later in the year. A separate newsletter is available for clothing, which includes a selection of images and sketches for the different styles.

## **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.

The normal guide is that you use higher tension for improved control, and a lower tension for extra power. This is correct, but the type of racket used must be taken into account. Anyone who wants more power should be using a racket with a larger profile frame, and for more control a thinner profile.

You cannot expect the strings to compensate for the wrong type of racket for your game. It is after all the combination of the frame and the strings that provide the required performance.

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 you any questions about rackets or strings, please send them by e-mail.

The YONEX Ultimium RQ Speed 8 was featured In one of the recent racket reviews. It has a string area of 102 inches/657 cms and a length of 27.5 inches/70 cms. The results were quite good in all categories, although it did not receive the highest award. The cost is shown as €130 which is around £90 but should be available for less from a mail order company. The specifications and price of the this model make it look quite an interesting racket.

## **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. Membership includes an annual stringers manual and monthly magazine.

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.

There appears to be very little demand for this service from stringers. There are, however, many searches/visits to this section of the website. Whatever the reason, it is likely that this section of the website will close later this year.

## 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. A new site <[www.kirschbaum-strings.co.uk](http://www.kirschbaum-strings.co.uk)> was added earlier this year. This is for the range of Kirschbaum strings which are mainly 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](http://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 should be completed by April. This also involves a few changes to the racket and string sections. There should not be any problems, but if you notice any difficulties please let me know.

The number of visitors is higher in the winter months, as many visitors are searching for items of Maier-Sports ski clothing. When a search is made for say "Maier Ski Jacket" the website is listed, and creates new visitors who visit the site to see the items that are available. This must be a disappointment as there are no items of ski clothing shown. Anyone who is interested in ski clothing should contact me, as it can be ordered.

## 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](http://www.adobe.com)>

There is an average of over 400 downloads per month of the newsletter.

The next issue of the newsletter is planned to be issued in May 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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