

Racket News November 2008 - Issue #1

This is the first newsletter for 2008. There does not appear to be much interest in these newsletters, so they will probably be ceased at the end of this year. That will be decided later, but I hope you find something of interest in this edition.

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Tennis Rackets

There are new models introduced each year by the racket companies hoping to persuade you to upgrade from your current racket. A selection of these models is normally reviewed in various tennis magazines. This can be a useful starting point when you are selecting a new model.

I have recently purchased a Yonex RQS 33 and a Prince Ozone 7 that I will test over the next few weeks. The results should be in the next edition of this newsletter.

Most players have different preferences for brands, weights, and sizes. This is the reason that so many models are available. You will probably select a racket similar to your current model. You could try viewing the website section on racket features for further information about rackets.

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Racket Tests

Racket models are reviewed by most magazines regularly, as already mentioned. Some of the test results are shown as they could be of interest to anyone thinking about purchasing a new racket.

Tennis Magazin (Germany)

Rackets for Tournament and Club players were tested for the March 2008 issue. This seems to be a large group of players, but it should cover many peoples requirements. They found that the following models were the best tested

Dunlop Aerogel 500 Tour
Head Radical Team
Wilson K Six One Team

There were a total of eighteen rackets tested which covers a reasonable selection of brands and models. These tests should only be considered as a starting point, as some of the features you may want are not found in the winning rackets.

String News

You may remember that a new Kirschbaum string was mentioned in the last newsletter. There are actually two types both using the Hybrix name. As the name suggests these are Hybrid strings using two types of strings. The Main (or longer

strings) are Mono-Filament for improved durability. The shorter Cross strings are a traditional synthetic string designed to provide better response.

The two strings are Hybrix Power and Spin. The Hybrix Power should be suitable for most players as it provides more comfort than a standard Mono-Filament string which should help anyone with arm/elbow problems. The Hybrix Spin has a textured surface which should help to provide improved control of the ball. It is based on another string which is Kirschbaum Spiky.

These strings are now available from Racquet Technic. The prices will be higher than the Mono-Filament strings. These strings are red, which is a theme introduced with the Pro Line strings last year.

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Tennis Strings

Most players prefer a thinner string for better performance, and they also want good durability. This usually means they use a Monofilament string, which offers these characteristics at a low to medium price.

One problem with these strings, is that you normally need to use a higher tension. This means that they are mainly suitable for either Mid or Mid-Plus size rackets. The string tension you would need to use for Oversize rackets would normally be too high, unless you ignore the manufacturer's tension recommendation.

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Tennis String Notes

Which strings are popular? This is a question of interest to many players, but there is no simple answer. The main reason for this is that players require different characteristics depending on their type of game.

There is a definite trend for players to use Mono-Filament strings. They provide greater durability for the players who break strings frequently, but they also provide better control as they are a thinner gauge. This makes this type of string popular with many club players.

The most popular string in 2007 for me was Kirschbaum Touch Turbo, but this does not mean that it would be suitable for everyone. Most players need some advice about string selection.

Which Brand?

There are many brands of Mono-Filament strings. Some players will prefer one brand, and others think that another brand is better. Many brands also use player sponsorship to promote their brands. I have found the Kirschbaum brand offers a very good combination of price and performance.

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Clothing Range

Regular readers should know that there is a range of specialist clothing available from Racquet Technic. This is another product range with special features, and is designed to provide you with comfort in use. This is achieved by using what is commonly described as breathable materials. This is combined with attractive

designs to provide a range of high quality products.

There is a separate section on the website for clothing. This includes images of the products, and brochures that can be downloaded. There is a link from the Home Page, so please take a look.

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Regular Features

String Tension

String tension is very important, and each player will have a personal preference. There is not a perfect tension that will be correct for all players. There are also many factors that influence the choice of tension. These include the string area (head size) of your racket, string gauge, and the material from which the string is made.

A good racket stringer should be able to provide advice and recommendations on suitable tensions to use. If they cannot, find another stringer.

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Tennis Racket Balance

Most professional players have their rackets customised in many ways. One of these is the balance of the racket, as it is unlikely that four, or five frames will have exactly the same measurement. When they change to a new racket in the middle of a game, they require exactly the same performance.

The balance can be modified using Lead Tape at selected points on the frame. This is self-adhesive, and easy to apply. Finding the correct position to apply the tape may be a little more difficult.

This product is now available from Racquet Technic. It is supplied in a five-metre reel. Please contact Racquet Technic for further details.

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Racket Stringers

There are always players looking for a good racket stringer. There can be many reasons, including the fact that they have moved into a new area. One source of finding a local stringer is the Racquet Technic website.

An advertisement of your service in this section could increase your local customers. This is not a free service, and further details of advertising are available from Racquet Technic.

Note: Try searching for "Racket Stringer XX" where XX is your Town/City. This should show you if players can find information about your racket stringing service.

General Information

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>

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Newsletter Information

There are two newsletters. One is for Racket Sports (which you are reading), and the other is for clothing. Most of the restring customers are automatically added to the Racket Sports Newsletter (if their address is known), and others are added by request.

Both of the newsletters are available via links on the website. Take a look at one or two and see whether they are of interest. If they are, you can subscribe by e-mail. The advantage is that you will be notified when a new version is available.

You will need Adobe Reader to view the newsletters. This is installed on most computers, or you can download a free copy from <www.adobe.com>.

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Contact Racquet Technic

A list of website locations and contact points is shown below.

Contact Points
Tel: +44 (0)113-2691563
E-mail: info@racquet-technic.co.uk
Website: www.racquet-technic.co.uk
www.your-racquet.co.uk
www.kirschbaum-strings.co.uk

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