

Racket News 2009 - Issue #1 April

It is the beginning of Spring here, which is usually the start of the tennis season. Easter also seems to be a signal for more players to think of playing tennis.

I hope you find something of interest in this latest edition of the newsletter.

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Tennis Rackets

I have been testing one model which I find to be good in that it meets my requirements for a racket. This obviously does not mean that everyone will like it, but it is worth a look.

Yonex RDS 003

It is the slightly longer length of 692 mm or 27.25 inches. The string area is quoted at 645 centimetres or 100 inches and has a weight of 315 grams including the strings. There are no problems with vibration, and it has medium power. This should make it suitable for players with a medium length swing. The typical price here in the UK is £88.00 from dealers compared to the full price of £110.

The reviews seen mainly in magazines can sometimes be a useful source of information. These can identify certain rackets that could be interesting that would not normally be discovered.

Boris Becker Pro

This racket was reviewed in the German Tennis Magazin (March 2009) and could be of interest to some people. It is 645 cms or 100 inches and has an average weight of 315 grams. The price is around £105 in the UK which should be acceptable to most players. It should be worth a look.

Badminton Rackets

The Victor brand of badminton rackets was seen at a recent exhibition. These are available in the U.K. from several mail order dealers. There is also a website <www.victor-sport.co.uk>. These should be worth looking at if you are thinking of buying a new badminton racket.

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Tennis Strings

Many players know that there are two main types of strings which are traditional synthetics and Mono-Filament (solid) strings. More information about these string types can be found on the website.

Hybrid Strings

This type of string is a mixture of two different types of string. A Mono-Filament string is used for the longer (Main) strings for durability, and a synthetic (or gut) string for the shorter (Cross) strings. This provides good durability combined with better response than a Mono-Filament string. They are also more arm-friendly as there should be less shock with this type of string.

I believe that this type of string will become more popular during 2009. These strings provide the advantages of extra durability combined with improved comfort.

Popular Strings

The most popular strings used locally in 2008 were Kirschbaum Competition, closely followed by Kirschbaum Pro Line II. This demonstrates the increasing popularity of Mono-Filament strings. One reason besides the durability is the thinner gauges which provide better control.

New Strings

Two strings that have been tested recently are from the Klip (Klipspringer) brand from Australia. The first was Optic Nerve a Mono-Filament, and the other Excellerator which is a Multi-Filament.

The Optic Nerve is bright yellow and has good playing performance. The Excellerator has good performance combined with a solid feel. The price is lower than many similar strings sold in the UK. These strings can be ordered directly from the Klip Europe website as they are not generally available in the UK. I intend to use these products during 2009 in the UK for local restring customers.

Another new string from the Klip range is Detonator which is a hybrid string. This is currently being tested, and further information should be in the next newsletter.

Grips

There are two main types which are Replacement Grips and Overgrips. Each type has advantages and disadvantages, and most players have their own favourite brand and type.

Overgrips

Some players use a thin type, and others who want more durability select a thicker type. One example of a thinner type is the white Wilson Pro Grip. There is hardly any increase in the size of the handle, but these grips need replacing more often.

Head XTREMESOFT

This grip was tested recently and found to have good performance. It is extremely tacky and is thin to medium thickness. If you like these features, this grip should be worth trying.

Replacement Grips

There are lots of different brands and types, which feature various combinations of surface patterns and perforations.

One type liked by some players has a raised central portion. This can help to prevent the racket twisting in your hand. They often have the word Profile or Contour in the name.

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 Multi-Filament type of string can sometimes be a problem when selecting the tension to use. The reason is that some of them lose a large amount of tension in use. To correct this problem, you would need to increase the string tension that you normally use.

There is no guide to help you decide the correct tension. You will need to mainly rely on the person stringing your racket. This means that the racket stringer needs to have some method of measuring string tension.

Tennis Racket Length

The standard length of tennis rackets is twenty-seven inches or 686 mm. Several years ago the manufacturers experimented with different lengths. The first change was one inch longer to twenty-eight inches (710 mm). These seemed to be too long, and there are very few now produced in this length. The next series was twenty-seven and a half inches (698 mm) which were more popular. There are a reasonable number of rackets still produced in this length.

Are there any advantage? There is no simple answer as some people prefer the longer length, but most of the rackets produced are still a standard length. The main advantage should be a little extra power, but this also provides less control.

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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. There are also European and U.K. Organisations, and each one should have advantages and disadvantages.

Each one has a website where you can find out more about what they can offer you. Take a look at <www.ukrsa.com> for the U.K. Site, and see what they have to offer.

Stringing Courses

There are some one and two-day courses for anyone who wants to learn about stringing rackets. The courses are organised by Liam Nolan from the UKRSA, who is a Wimbledon stringer. If this is of interest, please ask for further information. Your request will be forwarded to Liam, and you could soon be a racket stringer.

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New Product Information

There are always some interesting products being introduced. Many of these are generally available, which obviously means you can obtain them from many sources. Sometimes products are not well known, and these are the types that can be obtained from Racquet Technic.

Sports Orthotics

Many sports people have problems with their feet and knees. This can often be helped by using a Sports Orthotic. I have tested various types over the past two years, and have now found one that I consider to be effective. The name is Formthotics and is probably not well known, but this probably also applies to other brands.

I have tested this product for racket sports and running, and it works very well. Correct fitting is essential which is one reason that the testing has taken a long time. There is further information on the Racquet Technic website under "Foot-Care". Please take a look if you suffer from any foot or leg related problem.

Sports Socks

There are many types at various prices. I have recently been testing some types of better quality socks. This is continuing and will be updated in the next newsletter.

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Your Views

This section invites readers comments. It should be suitable if you have a comment about any items in the newsletter, or a general question about racket sports products.

Please send in your request, and I will try to include some mention of it in the next newsletter.

Note: Although many people download the newsletter, very few questions are received. This means that your question is almost certain to be answered.

Website

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

Future Changes

The section on tennis strings should be updated. This will include details of new strings, which are currently being tested. This could help you when selecting new type of string.

The main website is <<http://www.racquet-technic.co.uk>> and there are links to each section.

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Newsletter Information

This newsletter 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>

The next issue of the newsletter is planned to be issued in October 2009.

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Clothing Range

A selection of clothing is also available from Racquet Technic. The brands are imported from European manufacturers, and they offer an alternative to the larger brand names. There is a separate newsletter, which can either be downloaded, or sent to you by e-mail.

To be included on the circulation list, please send a request to <info@racquet-technic.co.uk>

Website

There is a separate section on the website for clothing. You simply follow the links from the home page.

Spring/Summer Ranges

These products will be available in May. There are new styles from Gonso and Maier-Sports. They feature materials with breathable properties, including the new Cocona Fibres.

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Contact Racquet Technic

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

Contact Points

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E-mail: info@racquet-technic.co.uk
Website: www.racquet-technic.co.uk
www.your-racquet.co.uk

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