



GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

24 FOR NOVAK

COCO'S MAIDEN US OPEN

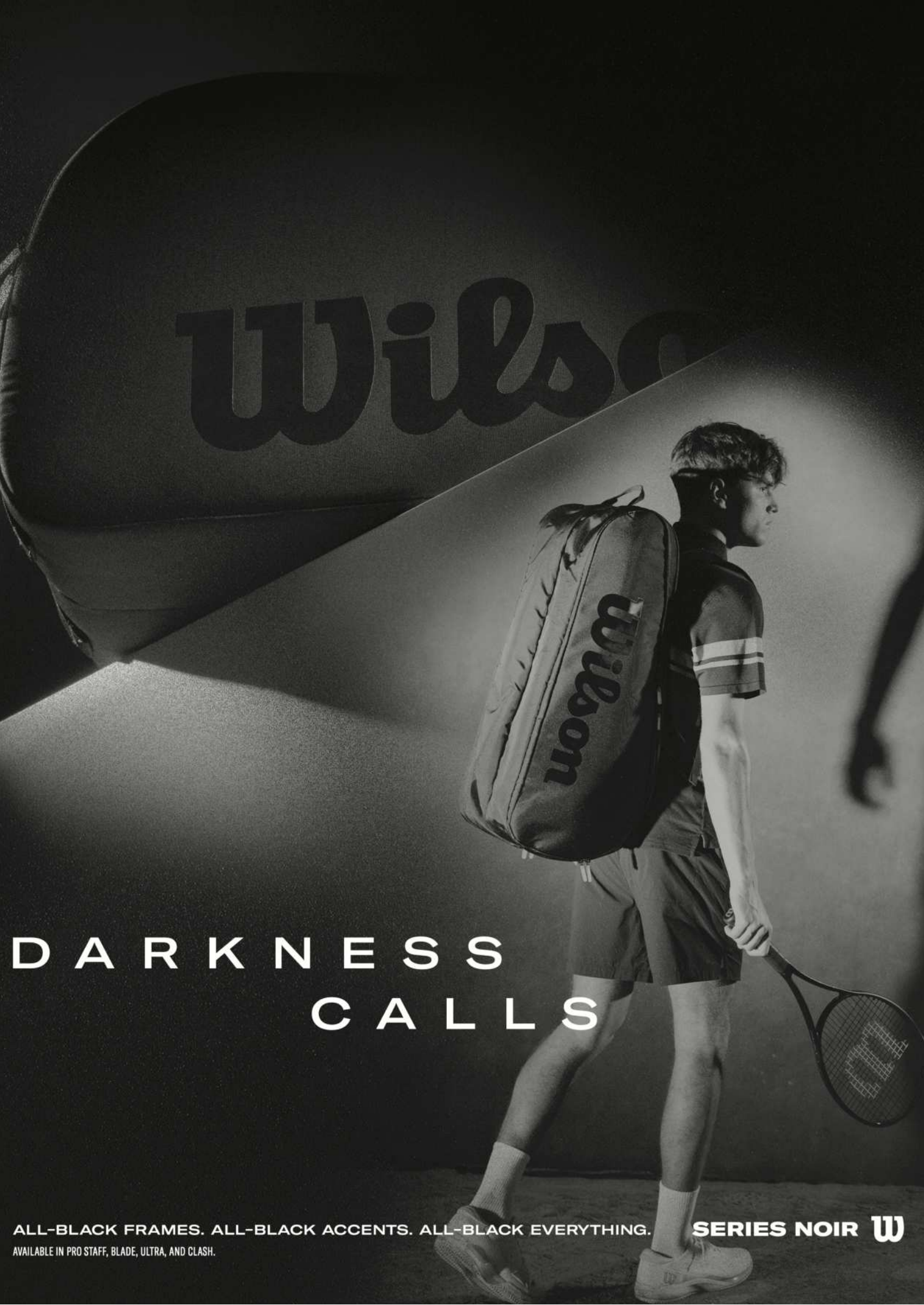


EXTREME



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Wilson



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ALL-BLACK FRAMES. ALL-BLACK ACCENTS. ALL-BLACK EVERYTHING.
AVAILABLE IN PRO STAFF, BLADE, ULTRA, AND CLASH.

SERIES NOIR **W**

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GRSA *members have a number of benefits, some appear here in the magazine and online, check out our community.*

Novak Djokovic Clinches Historic 24th Grand Slam Title at US Open: A Dream Realized and a Future Open.

Novak Djokovic's journey to tennis greatness began with a childhood dream. At just seven years old, he aspired to win Wimbledon, a dream that would set the course for an extraordinary career. Little did that young boy know that he would accomplish much more than that.

As Djokovic's professional career unfolded, the shadows of tennis legends like Pete Sampras, Roger Federer, and Rafael Nadal loomed large. Sampras's record of 14 major titles seemed like a distant pinnacle, but Djokovic's determination knew no bounds.

After securing his fourth US Open trophy with a straight-set victory over Daniil Medvedev, Djokovic now boasts an awe-inspiring 24 Grand Slam crowns. His relentless pursuit of tennis history shows no signs of slowing down. Djokovic's reign as the world No. 1, with a record-extending 390th week atop the Pepperstone ATP Rankings, underscores his enduring dominance.



Novak Djokovic Ends Ben Shelton's Run, Reaches Record-Equalling 10th US Open Final

Reflecting on his remarkable journey, Djokovic revealed, "To be honest with you, I was probably not thinking so intensely and concretely about the history of the weeks at No. 1 or most Slams until maybe three years ago." He acknowledged that the path to surpassing Sampras and his contemporaries became clearer as time passed. Djokovic, however, refuses to set a specific number for his career Grand Slam goals, preferring to keep his ambitions limitless.

What makes Djokovic's achievements even more remarkable is his ability to win majors after turning 30. He has claimed a record 12 Grand Slam titles in this phase of his career, and he's emerged victorious in seven of the last 10 major tournaments he's participated in. For a player who once viewed winning a single Wimbledon title as a lofty goal, placing a limit on his aspirations would seem counterintuitive.

One of the few stumbles in Djokovic's recent tennis odyssey came at the US Open final two years ago, facing the same opponent he vanquished on this historic Sunday. In 2021, Djokovic aimed to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to achieve a calendar-year Grand Slam but faltered and lost in straight sets. "I learned my lesson," Djokovic admitted. His team and family knew to shield him from the weight of history in the lead-up to this year's final, allowing him to focus on the task at hand.



The 2023 US Open final was a closely contested battle, with Djokovic displaying signs of fatigue halfway through the second set. In his own words, he felt like he was "losing air" and his legs were heavy during lengthy rallies. However, Djokovic's unwavering resolve and unmatched mental strength propelled him to victory. The final score of 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 does not do justice to the intensity and drama witnessed on the court.



Djokovic's personal motivation reached new heights as he spotted his six-year-old daughter, Tara, in the crowd during the pivotal second set. Her innocent smile and encouragement provided him with the energy and lightness he needed during stressful moments. Djokovic's son, Stefan, also shared in the moment, making it a family affair that added to the significance of his victory.



Coco Gauff Makes History with US Open Win as Aryna Sabalenka Clinches World No. 1 Ranking

New York City bore witness to a tennis spectacle on Saturday night as Coco Gauff and Aryna Sabalenka battled it out in the women's US Open final, capping off a thrilling fortnight of tennis that included captivating semifinal clashes.

The road to the historic final had its own share of drama and excitement. In the first semifinal, Aryna Sabalenka faced off against the powerful Madison Keys, producing a match that left fans on the edge of their seats. Sabalenka, who was on the verge of defeat, displayed remarkable resilience to overcome the odds.

Facing a set and a break deficit, Sabalenka found herself three points away from defeat. However, she refused to surrender, clawing her way back to win the second set in a tiebreak and then triumphing in a dramatic third-set tiebreak. Sabalenka's rollercoaster journey to the final was a testament to her unwavering determination and mental fortitude.

The second semifinal featured the young American sensation Coco Gauff and the talented Karolina Muchova. Gauff raced out to a commanding 5-1 lead in the opening set, showcasing her impressive court coverage and shot-making ability. While Muchova fought back to challenge Gauff in the second set, the 19-year-old American ultimately secured a hard-fought victory.

With these semifinal victories, Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff set the stage for a historic US Open final showdown.

The women's US Open final lived up to its billing as one of the most thrilling contests in recent memory. After 2 hours and 6 minutes of heart-pounding tennis, 19-year-old Gauff emerged victorious, securing her first Grand Slam title and etching her name in the history books as the youngest American US Open champion since Serena Williams.





In a match that saw momentum swing back and forth, Gauff's remarkable defence and relentless determination proved to be the difference-maker. Sabalenka, the reigning Australian Open champion, dominated the first set but had to contend with Gauff's impressive comeback in the subsequent sets. Gauff's win not only solidified her status as a rising star in tennis but also made her the first American teenager to win a Grand Slam singles title this century.

The victory was a culmination of Gauff's exceptional summer, during which she achieved a perfect 16-0 record in the United States. Her journey included winning her first WTA 500 title in Washington D.C. and her first WTA 1000 title in Cincinnati. Gauff's remarkable run is set to elevate her to a new career-high ranking of World No. 3 in the upcoming singles rankings.

Aryna Sabalenka, despite her valiant efforts, fell short of securing her second Grand Slam title of the season. Nevertheless, her incredible season and performances at the majors this year propelled her to the World No. 1 ranking, a remarkable achievement in her career.

As the dust settles on this historic US Open, Coco Gauff's journey to greatness continues. With her family, fans, and supporters by her side, she is poised to build on her recent successes and make an indelible mark on the world of tennis. The echoes of her historic victory at the 2023 US Open will resonate for generations to come, reminding us all that dreams do come true in the world of tennis.



Celebrating Longevity: The Lifesaving Benefits of Racket Sports for Older Adults

A recent study, featured online by the British Journal of Sports Medicine, delved into the relationship between various forms of exercise and the risk of early mortality among older individuals. The research focused on racket sports, swimming, aerobics, cycling, running, and soccer, involving a diverse group of 80,306 participants spanning ages 30 to 98. Over the nine-year study duration, it was revealed that those who regularly engaged in racket sports experienced a remarkable 47% reduction in the likelihood of death from any cause and an even more impressive 56% decrease in the risk of cardiovascular disease-related mortality.

Vijay A. Daryanani, a distinguished physical therapist and personal trainer affiliated with Harvard's Spaulding Outpatient Center, highlights the unique appeal of racket sports for older adults. Racket sports encompass a spectrum of activities, including tennis, squash, badminton, racquetball, and Ping-Pong, offering a holistic cardiovascular workout while concurrently enhancing both upper and lower body strength. Their adaptability to various age groups and fitness levels, coupled with minimal equipment requirements, make them a versatile fitness option.

One distinctive advantage of racket sports is their incorporation of lateral movement, a dimension often absent from other fitness pursuits. Daryanani underscores the importance of lateral movement, which challenges individuals to move not only forward and backward but also from side to side. This multifaceted movement pattern significantly contributes to improved balance and weight shifting, effectively reducing the risk of falls, a critical concern for older adults.



Additionally, racket sports offer a cognitive boost. Engaging in these activities sharpens planning and decision-making skills as participants must continually anticipate and execute their next shot, fostering mental agility and resilience.

The social aspect of racket sports sets them apart from other solitary exercises such as running, swimming, or cycling. Whether played as singles or doubles, they facilitate regular social interaction—a key ingredient for promoting longevity and overall well-being. Loneliness, as revealed in a 2012 study in the Archives of Internal Medicine, is associated with functional decline and an increased risk of death among individuals aged 60 and older.

While an array of racket sports is available, "pickleball" has gained rapid popularity among older adults. This hybrid sport combines elements of tennis, table tennis, and the nostalgic backyard game of Wiffle® ball. The pickleball paddle falls in size between a table tennis paddle and a tennis racket, constructed from lightweight materials like aluminum or graphite to minimize fatigue. The plastic pickleball, resembling an oversized Wiffle® ball, travels at about one-third the speed of a tennis ball, making it easier to track and hit.

Pickleball can be enjoyed both indoors and outdoors, with a court size roughly equivalent to that of a double badminton court. The net is shorter than a tennis net, simplifying play. The sport's growing popularity has made it a fixture at numerous YMCAs and senior community centers, providing older adults with a fun and engaging way to reap the myriad benefits of racket sports.





Andy Murray's Milestone

Andy Murray achieved a historic milestone at the 2023 US Open, securing his 200th Grand Slam singles win. In a thrilling opening-round encounter against Corentin Moutet, the former World No. 1 demonstrated his resilience and determination, prevailing with a scoreline of 6-2, 7-5, 6-3.

This remarkable achievement came during Murray's 17th year competing at the tournament, further solidifying his status as a tennis legend. The 36-year-old, currently ranked world No. 37, became the first British player and the eighth male in the Open Era to reach 200 Grand Slam victories. It was fitting that this milestone was reached at the same venue where he claimed his first Grand Slam title in 2012.

Throughout his illustrious career, Murray's Grand Slam victories have resulted in three major titles, including his historic Wimbledon triumphs in 2013 and 2016, which made him the first British man in 77 years to win the prestigious event. Additionally, Murray reached eight Grand Slam finals and secured 21 semi-final appearances on the biggest stages in tennis.

Despite battling injuries, including a challenging recovery from hip surgery in 2018, Murray has consistently demonstrated his competitive spirit and ability to overcome adversity. His 200 Grand Slam wins are a testament to his enduring commitment to the sport.

While Murray may have experienced disappointment with his early exit from the 2023 US Open, his 200th Grand Slam win stands as a remarkable achievement, highlighting his enduring impact on the world of tennis. As he faces new challenges and opponents, fans can look forward to many more memorable moments from this tennis legend.



Current Rank: 41
Highest Rank: 1 (2016)
Career Wins & Losses: 731-245

Total prize money won:
€64,123,366

Grand Slams
Wimbledon titles x 2
US Open titles x 1



Celebrating 50 Years of Tennis Excellence

The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) proudly marks its golden 50th anniversary in 2023, a remarkable half-century that has witnessed remarkable moments and tremendous progress in women's tennis.

In 1970, the 'Original Nine,' including iconic figures like Billie Jean King and Rosie Casals, took a groundbreaking step by signing \$1 contracts to launch women's professional tennis through the Virginia Slims Series. This courageous move laid the foundation for the future of women's tennis.

Three years later, in 1973, Billie Jean King and her fellow pioneers founded the Women's Tennis Association, a historic moment that championed gender equality in tennis. The WTA became the driving force behind women's professional tennis, ensuring recognition and opportunities for women athletes.



The 1980s marked a period of tremendous growth for women's tennis. By 1980, the tour featured over 250 women in 47 global events with a combined prize pool of \$7.2 million, reflecting the sport's growing popularity and talent pool.

In 1982, Martina Navratilova achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first woman to earn over \$1 million in a single season, setting new standards for excellence.

In 1984, the Australian Open joined the US Open in offering equal prize money for the women's event, a significant stride towards gender parity in sports.

The late 1980s witnessed Steffi Graf's emergence as a tennis legend. In 1988, she became only the second woman in the Open Era, after Margaret Court, to complete a calendar-year Grand Slam, with an additional Olympic gold medal, achieving a 'Golden Grand Slam.'

The 1990s brought new opportunities and milestones to women's tennis. By 1990, with a new sponsor, Kraft General Foods, the tour's prize purse reached \$23 million. Martina Navratilova continued making history by winning a record ninth Wimbledon singles title in 1990.



In 1995, the WTA Players Association merged with the Women's Tennis Council to form the WTA Tour, further elevating women's tennis and expanding its global reach.

The late 1990s witnessed the rapid rise of Martina Hingis, who became the youngest-ever world No.1 at just 16 years and 3 months, showcasing the incredible talent nurtured in women's tennis.



The 21st century brought new heights to women's tennis. In 2001, the tour's prize money reached a staggering \$50 million across 63 events, reflecting the sport's global appeal and financial support.

In 2002, both Venus and Serena Williams achieved the world No.1 ranking, underlining their exceptional talents and dedication to the sport. Serena, in particular, emerged as an iconic figure in tennis history.

2005 saw Sony Ericsson's \$88 million, six-year sponsorship become the largest and most comprehensive deal in the history of tennis and women's professional sport, affirming the global recognition of women's tennis.

In 2007, all four Grand Slam tournaments offered equal prize money for the first time, a historic achievement after a 30-year campaign for gender equality in sports.

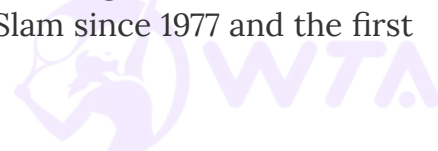
The 2010s witnessed continued evolution and growth in women's tennis, with prize money soaring to an astonishing \$85 million, showcasing the sport's popularity and the achievements of its stars.

In 2012, Maria Sharapova achieved a career Grand Slam, demonstrating her exceptional skills and determination. Serena Williams secured her 23rd Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in 2017, setting a new record for the Open Era.

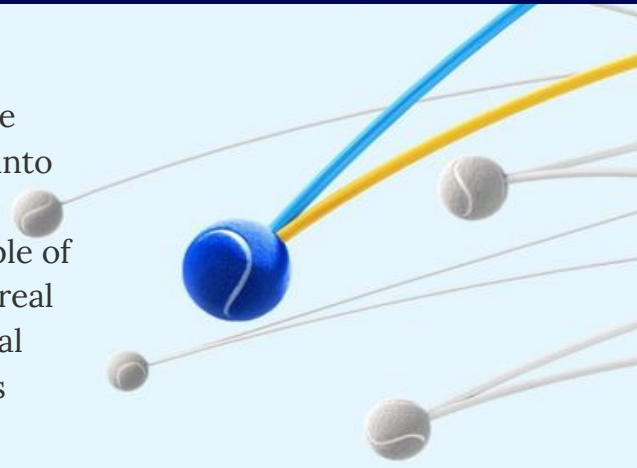
The year 2018 brought diversity in Grand Slam winners, with four different players capturing Grand Slam singles titles, including three first-time winners. Prize money exceeded \$139 million, and a record six players earned over \$5 million, highlighting the depth of talent in women's tennis.

The 2020s began with the emergence of a new generation of stars. Despite a five-month pandemic-induced hiatus in 2020, young talents like Sofia Kenin and Iga Swiatek rose to prominence, winning Grand Slam titles and exciting fans worldwide.

In 2021, Emma Raducanu's historic victory at the US Open marked a significant moment in tennis history. She became the first British woman to win a Grand Slam since 1977 and the first qualifier to win a major, inspiring a new generation of players.



With 254 singles matches and simultaneous play on 17 different courts, the USTA needed a better way to create highlights with commentary. To do it, the team tapped into the power of generative AI, using the full capabilities of watsonx to build a powerful large language model capable of translating the action on the court into commentary in real time. Now they are scaling the expertise of their editorial team to generate more engaging content for tennis fans around the world.



Each summer, Flushing Meadows welcomes tennis enthusiasts to the US Open Tennis Championships, drawing over 700,000 fans, while a staggering 10 million engage digitally via the US Open app and website. To keep these fans captivated, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) has partnered with IBM Consulting™ for over three decades, consistently elevating the digital experience.

IBM Consulting and the USTA have pioneered generative AI models powered by IBM® watsonx to convert tennis data into insightful content, enhancing the US Open app and website. This includes the revolutionary AI Commentary, an innovation driven by the Sandstone AI model, providing spoken commentary for non-televised matches.

Utilising watsonx.data, the USTA ensured data compliance and curated trusted sources, while AI Commentary translated metadata into engaging sentences, narrated using text-to-speech technology. IBM Watson® fuels Match Insights, offering fans the IBM Power Index and player predictions, with over seven million data points collected during the tournament. Streamlined efficiency comes from automated workflows and containerised apps running on Red Hat® OpenShift®, monitored by IBM Instana™ Observability for seamless performance.

As IBM's Chief Digital Officer, Bryson Koehler, aptly puts it, "We do this by using powerful artificial intelligence to transform US Open data into meaningful insight, engaging fans and scaling the productivity of the USTA editorial team." In 2023, IBM introduces two groundbreaking experiences: AI Commentary and AI Draw Analysis, powered by enterprise-grade AI through IBM watsonx.

While AI Commentary uses generative AI capabilities to add spoken commentary to match highlights, AI Draw Analysis explores the relative difficulty of each single player's draw. These innovations run on the US Open's open hybrid cloud platform, showcasing the synergy of technology from numerous partners, automating key processes, and securing the US Open's world-class digital experience.

IBM's enduring partnership with the USTA, spanning over 30 years, has propelled the US Open into the digital age, captivating millions globally. This collaboration fosters continuous innovation, epitomising the fusion of sports and technology, setting new standards for global tennis engagement.

US Open 2023: Leading the Way in Sustainable Sporting Events

The US Open, one of the world's premier tennis tournaments, is once again taking center stage not only for its thrilling on-court action but also for its steadfast commitment to sustainability. In 2023, the US Open is setting new standards by implementing innovative measures that underline its dedication to minimizing its environmental footprint.

Carbon Offset Program: Making a Global Impact

One of the headline initiatives returning this year is the US Open's carbon offset program. This program goes beyond merely acknowledging the event's carbon emissions; it takes concrete steps to offset them. The US Open will offset carbon emissions generated during the event, player travel, employee commuting, and fan travel, amounting to an estimated 10 million miles traveled by various means. The impact of this program is significant, as it not only reduces carbon emissions but also contributes to emission reductions and decreased deforestation in Africa, where improved cookstoves are provided.

Reforestation with Every Player: A Greener Future

Another notable sustainability initiative is the collaboration with reforestation non-profit One Tree Planted. This initiative involves planting a tree for every player competing in the US Open, totaling approximately 650 trees. These trees will support reforestation efforts in California, helping to rejuvenate U.S. National Forests affected by recent forest fires.

Sustainable Partnerships: Making a Difference Together

The US Open's sustainability efforts extend beyond its own initiatives to include its sponsors and partners. Polo Ralph Lauren, for instance, has taken strides by crafting ball crew Polos from recycled plastic bottles. These polos not only embody sustainability but also feature performance-enhancing properties for active play. In addition, the tournament has transitioned to a four-ball tennis can design with no label and Wilson's Eco Overcap, effectively reducing plastic use.

Evian, a valued partner, has set a goal to produce all its bottles from 100 percent recycled plastic by 2025, excluding caps and labels, further contributing to the event's eco-friendly ethos.



Green Building Certification: Leading by Example

The US Open takes pride in its LEED Silver certified Louis Armstrong Stadium, a testament to sustainable design and construction. This state-of-the-art stadium incorporates water-saving fixtures, eco-conscious landscaping, low-emitting paints, and an impressive 95% waste recycling rate during its construction.

Waste Reduction and Recycling: A Winning Strategy

The US Open continues to demonstrate its commitment to waste reduction and recycling. More than seven tons of plastic are recycled during the event, diverting a remarkable 97% of waste from landfills. New for 2023, clean plastic wrap used by vendors throughout the site will be recycled.

Notably, metal lids from tennis ball cans will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Valhalla, N.Y., benefiting the Pull Tab Collection Program. Wilson tennis balls used during the event find new life in USTA tennis programs and community organisations, thanks to Wilson's Recycle balls initiative.

Food Waste and Water Conservation: Sustainable Choices

The US Open leads by example in handling food waste, processing over 70 tons through anaerobic digestion to generate renewable electricity. Ballpersons are provided with reusable water bottles to reduce single-use plastic consumption.

Going Digital and Giving Back

The US Open has embraced digital ticketing, eliminating paper tickets, and providing digital event cards, significantly reducing plastic usage. This year, the event expects to donate nearly 22 tons of food to the local community.

Overall, the US Open's sustainability efforts have been monumental, diverting thousands of tons of waste from landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting a circular economy through recycling and reusing materials.

New Water Refill Stations: A Refreshing Approach

For 2023, the US Open has introduced additional water refill stations across the site, estimated to save around 500,000 plastic bottles during the tournament, further underlining the event's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The US Open's dedication to sustainability in 2023 sets a shining example for sporting events worldwide, proving that a commitment to the environment can coexist seamlessly with world-class athletic competition. As the tournament unfolds, it's clear that the US Open is not only about showcasing incredible tennis talent but also championing a sustainable future for all.

PROUD PARTNER/PLAYER MOMENT

Sachia Vickery, a rising star and proud Diadem-sponsored tennis player, has set the tennis world abuzz with her remarkable achievements. Recently, she showcased her unwavering determination by storming through the qualifiers and securing a stunning victory in the first round against the formidable Donna Vekic. This triumph is a testament to her incredible talent and unyielding spirit.

With a current WTA ranking of 168, Sachia Vickery has steadily climbed the ranks since her professional debut. In 2018, she broke into the top 100 and achieved a career-high ranking of No. 73 in the world. Her breakthrough moments on the WTA Tour came at the 2018 Auckland Open and the 2018 Monterrey Open, where she reached the semifinals, showcasing her exceptional prowess on the court.

Vickery, a former USTA junior national champion, has notched up an impressive record, securing three singles and three doubles titles on the ITF Circuit. Her journey has been marked by significant milestones, from her debut at a \$10k ITF tournament in Evansville to her major debut at the 2013 US Open, where she reached the second round.

Throughout her career, Vickery has consistently demonstrated her potential, including her remarkable quarter-final run at the 2014 Stanford tournament. Her performances in 2015, with quarter-finals in Nottingham and two \$25k ITF titles, further highlighted her growing presence in the tennis world.

In 2017, Vickery achieved her career-best year-end finish at No. 116, and she continued to impress with a quarter-final appearance at the Québec City tournament and a strong showing at the US Open, where she reached the second round as a qualifier. Her dedication paid off as she clinched an ITF Circuit title at the \$60k tournament in Templeton in 2017.

Sachia Vickery's journey, from her early days as the 2013 USTA junior national champion, to her recent triumph over Donna Vekic is a testament to her dedication, commitment and remarkable talent. Diadem is immensely proud of her achievements and eagerly anticipates her continued growth and ascent to stardom in the world of tennis.





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Preserving Quality and Sustainability: The Science Behind HEAD Pressurizers for Tennis and Padel Balls

For seasoned tennis and padel players, the familiar struggle unfolds – the initial excitement of fresh, high-quality balls wanes as they inevitably lose pressure, impacting bounce and overall performance. This challenge not only affects the wallet but also contributes to environmental concerns with discarded balls accumulating. However, the landscape is poised for transformation with the introduction of the HEAD PRESSURIZERS collection – a revolutionary stride toward sustainability in the domain of tennis and padel.

An Environmentally-Friendly Solution to Ball Quality

The HEAD PRESSURIZERS collection surpasses mere product offerings; it represents a steadfast commitment to prolonging the lifespan and quality of tennis and padel balls, all while minimising environmental impact. Conventional wisdom asserts that once a can of balls is unsealed, their quality diminishes rapidly due to pressure loss. Herein lies the innovative essence of the HEAD PRESSURIZERS collection.



At the heart of this groundbreaking assemblage resides a clever O-ring technology that redefines the art of preserving ball pressure. This O-ring functions as a seal, preserving the precious air within the pressurizer and preventing the balls from succumbing to internal pressure loss. Essentially, the balls retain the liveliness and responsiveness they possessed on the day they left the factory. This solution not only elevates gameplay but also significantly reduces the need for frequent ball replacements, thereby conserving both financial resources and environmental impact.

Diverse Selection to Cater to Varied Needs

The HEAD PRESSURIZERS collection is tailored to accommodate diverse player requirements, featuring four distinct models. The introductory model, the HEAD X3 BLACK, upholds ball pressure through its patented hermetic closure system, maintaining pressure within the range of 14-16 PSI. For those seeking to both maintain and restore ball pressure, the HEAD X3 PUMP and HEAD X4 PUMP offer the solution. These pressurizers, equipped with the same hermetic closure system, offer an advanced air injection system via a high-end valve, allowing players to boost internal pressure up to 22-34 PSI.



A noteworthy highlight within the collection is the HEAD X100 BASKET – a remarkable exemplar of innovation and sustainability. Through its air injection system, it not only conserves but elevates the pressure to 21 PSI, rendering it suitable even for the most intense matches. The distinctive feature of the HEAD X100 BASKET is its ability to accommodate up to 103 balls, making it an optimal choice for clubs, schools, and instructors.

Tailored for Casual Players

It's crucial to acknowledge that not all players share the same frequency or intensity on the court. For those who engage in tennis or padel occasionally or pursue a more casual practice, the primary concern often revolves around maintaining ball pressure. The **HEAD PRESSURIZERS** collection directly addresses this specific challenge, making it an ideal companion for players who don't engage daily. If one finds oneself picking up the racket after a few days or even weeks, the struggle of deflated balls impacting gameplay is all too familiar.

Understanding Playing Style

It's essential to recognize that the **HEAD PRESSURIZERS** collection doesn't adopt a one-size-fits-all approach. Players who frequently participate in matches or favor aggressive spin shots might not find the same level of necessity in maintaining pressure, as their focus often revolves around the wear and tear of the felt rather than internal pressure.

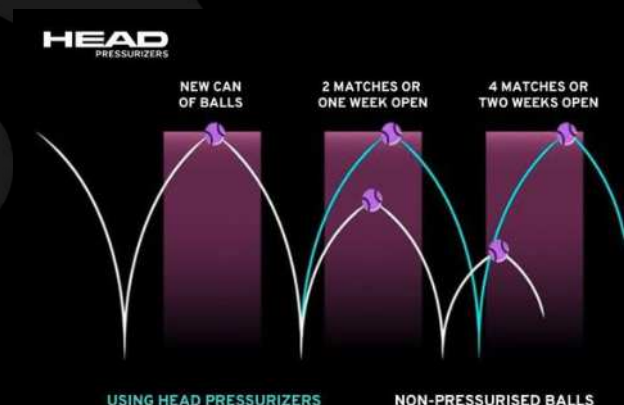
Beyond the Court: Paving the Way for a Sustainable Tomorrow

The allure of the **HEAD PRESSURIZERS** collection transcends individual player needs. With each pressurizer, players contribute to waste reduction and minimise the overall environmental impact of the sport. As balls retain their quality for extended periods, the frequency of replacements diminishes, leading to fewer discarded balls finding their way to landfills. This represents a small yet significant stride towards a greener future, where sports and sustainability harmoniously coexist.

Player's Choice, Player's Game

As one steps onto the court with the racket in hand, it's essential to remember that playing style and frequency dictate equipment needs. The **HEAD PRESSURIZERS** collection emerges as a beacon of innovation for players aspiring to extend the longevity of their balls and reduce their environmental footprint. Whether one is an occasional player cherishing the endurance of pressure or a competitive enthusiast demanding peak performance, **HEAD PRESSURIZERS** offers an array of solutions tailored to unique preferences.

Discover the future of tennis and padel ball maintenance through the collection's diverse offerings, available in the online store. Elevate the game while making a meaningful contribution to a sustainable planet – this is the power encapsulated within the **HEAD PRESSURIZERS** collection.



In the Room

With Richard Parnell

Tournament Stringing, its Place & its Recognition.

This month's thoughts in the room are to do with the recognition of the stringing community & its place at Tour Events.

No tournament can take place without stringers.... And yet the stringing service is "sold" to the brands at a premium price.

Change is needed!

The "per diem" of stringers is limited by what is left in the budget after paying for the right to string an event.

Change is needed!

The stringers are normally the first in and last out at night, but no "official transport" is normally available, unless fought for during negotiations.

Change is needed!

Access to readily available food and bathrooms, something that is time sensitive because of workloads, often has to be fought for.

Change is needed!

One of **GRSA's** core missions is to make real change within the industry. The stringing community has not had a voice for too long, this is now going to change.

Be part of that change.

Feel free to send your thoughts to: online@grsa-international.com

Promote positivity and your expertise will shine brighter.

**IT'S FINALLY
HERE**



GRSA

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

CLICK THE IMAGE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE

HEAD PRO PLAYERS MAY PLAY WITH DIFFERENT RACQUETS FROM THE MODEL SHOWN.



RIGHT ON POINT

PRESTIGE



HEAD
.COM/PRESTIGE

Did you know that GRSA offers 3 classified ads with your business membership?

These classified ads appear in the free monthly
GRSA ATW Magazine

It's a great way to promote your service, job vacancy, shop or sale of your stringing machine for example.

If you have not used your classified ads yet, contact media@grsa-international.com and we'll make sure you're in the next issue of the magazine.

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BUSINESS
MEMBERSHIP
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FUN FACTS



Your dreams are what define your individuality, they have the power to give you wings and make you fly high



PV Sindhu

1 The origin of the word “racket” comes from the Flemish word “raketsen” which came from the Middle French word “rachasser”, or “to strike the ball back”.

2 Badminton started in India and was brought to England by its military around 1870. Back then the sport was called poona, in reference to the city of Pune, where the first rules were created. It is thought that the name change was due to the country house of the Duke of Badminton, in Gloucestershire.

3 Matkot, a beach-based racket sport typically played by pairs of individuals, emerged in the 1940s along the shores of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, specifically between 1945 and 1946. Presently, this sport has found its way to numerous nations, with a notable following in Israel. In the Portuguese-speaking world, it goes by the name “frescobol,” while Italians humorously refer to it as “Racchettoni,” a moniker that may evoke thoughts of pasta shapes.

4 The adoption of rubber sheets on table tennis paddles commenced in the 1960s, enabling players to generate increased velocity and spin on their shots. Simultaneously, there was a substantial surge in the number of participants hailing from Asian nations during this era. Over the subsequent half-decade, Japanese players held the primary world championship titles before relinquishing their dominance to their Chinese counterparts. Transitioning into the late 1980s and early 1990s, European athletes took center stage, with a particular emphasis on the Swedish contingent, who successfully disrupted the Chinese stranglehold on the sport.



MINT

REAL ESTATE GROUP

What is the history of Mijas's connection to tennis?

The Costa del Sol has long been an area that's beauty has attracted a steady flow of world-renowned movie stars, musicians, bohemian artists and sporting personalities. One of Australia's most prominent tennis partnerships is among the sporting celebrities who decided to settle here in the late 1960s.

Lew Hoad's career ran from 1950-1973. He won four major single tournaments including the Australian Championships, French Championships and two Wimbledon Championship titles in addition to being a member of the Australian team that won the Davis Cup for times between 1952-1956, before turning professional in July 1957. In 1967, Lew and his wife Jenny first arrived in Malaga, where the couple came in search of a property that they could convert into a tennis club where Lew could coach following his retirement from his professional career in the mid-1960s. They found their dream location and bought a rundown farmhouse in foothills of the famous idyllic white-washed village of Mijas Pueblo, their dream was to open a tennis and padel club, the first club of its kind in Spain.

Once the transfer of the land had been finalised, the couple hired a team of local builders to start the conversion of the farmhouse and the surrounding land. They started with one main court and four other courts, surrounded by landscaped gardens planted with orchids, water lilies, palms and eucalyptus trees that Jenny brought over from Australia. With the help of a longtime friend, the couple worked from dawn to dusk to turn the old farm into the world-renowned Lew Hoad Tennis and Padel Club; once the club was completed, they began to welcome some of the world's greatest tennis stars.



The guest book, which Jenny still cherishes today, includes names such as Roy Emerson, Stan Smith, Tom Gorman, Jimmy Connors and Björn Borg...and this is by no means the exhaustive list! Many famous movie stars also frequented the now famous club, not least Peter Ustinov, Stewart Granger, Ava Gardener, Richard Burton, Sean Connery and James Hunt were among the host of stars who stayed! One world famous Royal, namely Princess Diana, also visited the club, only to be turned away by the manager, with his concerns for her security, and recommended the Hotel Byblos instead! She later sent a note thanking Jenny for her staff's efficiency and professionalism!

Avda. de la Peña 10, 29650, Mijas Pueblo
Málaga, Spain

The popularity of Mijas, its famous visitors and unsurpassed location, keep it very much in demand for the most discerning of travellers and indeed, investors alike.

An example of which can be found in the historic centrally located flagship branch of MINT REAL ESTATE GRP. Founded by local businessman with over 20 years' experience on the coast, this specialised agency has grown over the years, on the back of superb service and an extremely loyal client base. Their passion, pride and professionalism for this part of the world is clear. Founder Richard Barnett summed up his Team as ...'It's really very simple, we don't look upon ourselves as just another high street agency. The Team at MINT are more Ambassador's for Mijas and its beautiful countryside, than Agents...We love what we do and making those who wish to invest here, achieve and surpass their expectation is always our goal!'

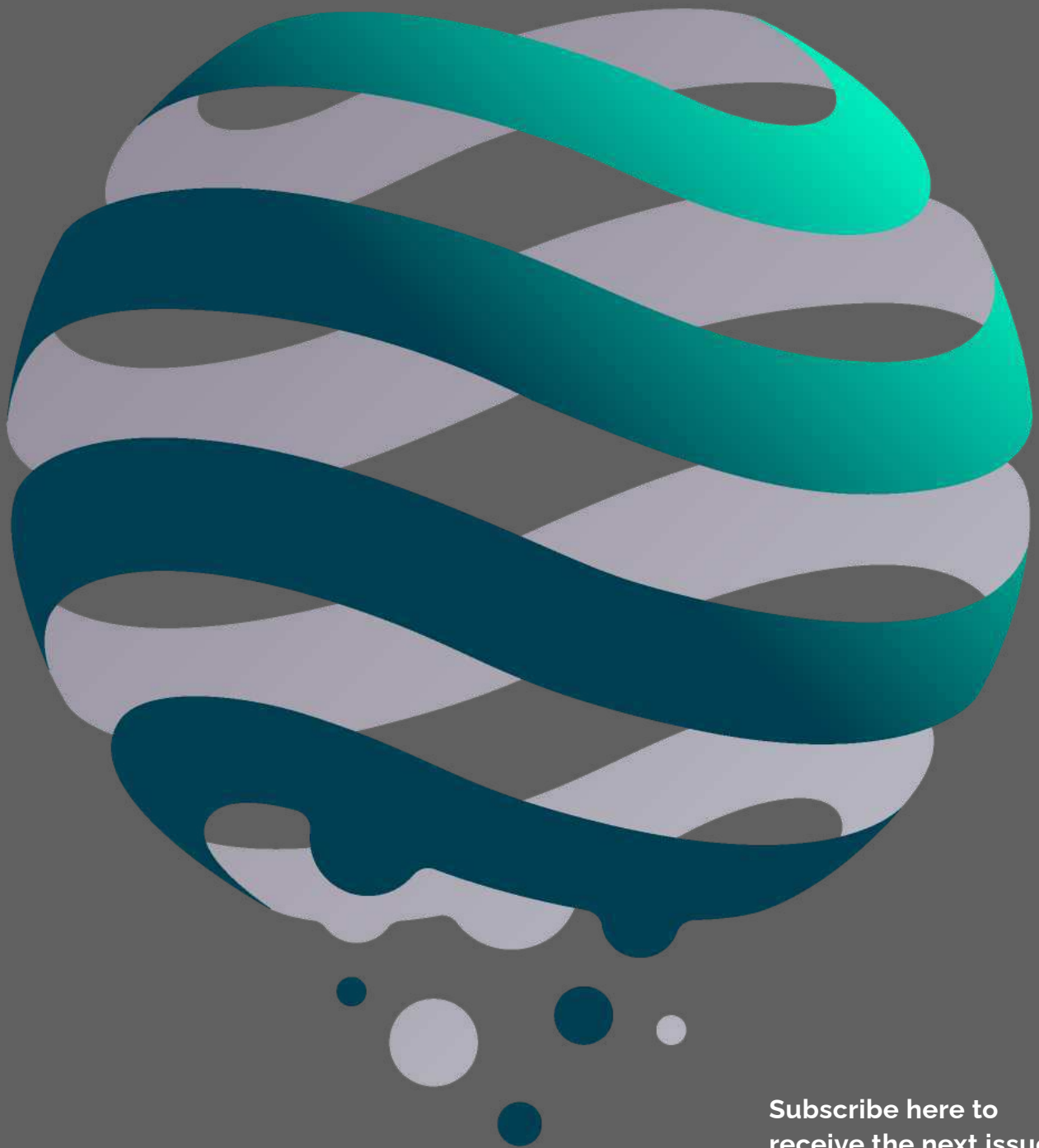
Indeed, for the savvy investor we have just taken an instruction from an English landowner, for four superbly appointed plots of land totally c. 5,000 mtrs with planning permission for a 6 bed + luxury villa on 3 of the 4, and commercial usage on the 4th! It should also be advised that a potential change of use within the four plots is also possible. Being such a rare opportunity to purchase (the plots were originally purchased by the current owner some 40 years ago and have not been available until now!) in the prestigious area literally minutes by foot to the world-renowned club.



For further details and pricing, feel free to contact Richard direct on richard@mintrealestategroup.com whereby either he or a member of his team in Mijas will be delighted to share more insight into this unique opportunity

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ADOPTAS.ORG

by Alejandro Davidovich Fokina

In a world where countless cats and dogs are abandoned and left to fend for themselves, the tireless efforts of organizations dedicated to their rescue, nurture, and re-homing are invaluable. **Adoptas.org** is one such organization, working diligently in Spain to provide a second chance for these vulnerable animals. We aim to shed light on the remarkable work carried out by **Adoptas.org**, with the involvement and support of renowned tennis player **Alejandro Davidovich Fokina**. Furthermore, it emphasizes the urgent need for public support and donations to help save the lives of these deserving animals.

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina: A Champion for Animal Welfare

Beyond his accomplishments on the tennis court, Alejandro Davidovich Fokina demonstrates a profound compassion for animals. His partnership with Adoptas.org exemplifies his commitment to making a difference in the lives of abandoned cats and dogs in Spain. Fokina's involvement serves as a powerful reminder that individuals, regardless of their field, can contribute to animal welfare and promote a more compassionate society.

Adoptas.org: Rescuing, Nurturing, and Re-homing Abandoned Animals

Adoptas.org is an organization at the forefront of animal rescue in Spain, tirelessly working to provide a lifeline to abandoned cats and dogs. Their dedicated team goes to great lengths to rescue animals from precarious situations, providing them with much-needed care, nourishment, and medical attention. Once rescued, the cats and dogs are placed into foster homes or shelters, where they receive nurturing and rehabilitation. Working diligently to find suitable forever homes, matching the animals with caring adoptive families who can provide them with the love, care, and security they deserve. **Adoptas.org**, through their efforts, have saved countless lives.

By supporting **Adoptas.org**, you become an integral part of the rescue mission. Your donations can help fund medical treatments, provide food and shelter, and support the ongoing efforts to find permanent homes for these animals. Together, we can create a compassionate community that values and protects the well-being of all living creatures.



Check out their new-look website, but more importantly, see the animals they are looking after and helping re-home, you might find the one!

Extension of Offer for PTR Members in the US

Since the launch of the partnership between **GRSA & PTR**, **HEAD** have been keeping a close eye on the list of 500 and to give everyone fair chance to be included, they have decided to extend their deadline.

If you didn't know, being in the 500 is kind of a big thing, you get a special package from **HEAD** when signing up to the business membership at GRSA, The **PTR** initiative is all about providing coaches with even more tools to better their knowledge and include in-depth and invaluable stringing & string construction knowledge to an already productive service.

The package issued by HEAD includes strings & overgrips, it's valued at over \$80 and pretty much pays for your membership to GRSA for the year..... if that wasn't enough, you get 2 online courses, **free of charge**, one of the courses also includes the exam and certification, **TOTALLY FREE!**

So, you still have a bit of time and don't worry, if you miss out on being in the 500, the value of the courses totally quantifies your investment, keep in mind than knowledge is king and adding to your already impressive knowledge base will always be of benefit to you and to your players!

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GET TO KNOW THE TEAM – JOE HEYDT

In the Spotlight:

GRSA USA Area Manager for Nebraska

As the leaves begin to change and the tennis courts transition from the scorching summer heat to the crispness of early autumn, we introduce you to Joe Heydt, the GRSA USA Area Manager for Nebraska. Joe's journey into the world of stringing and his deep-rooted passion for racket sports have made him a prominent figure in the industry.

Joe's story starts in 1992 when he found himself working in a tennis shop in Lincoln, Nebraska. His love for tennis was already flourishing, but it was the allure of the racquet shop that truly captivated him. The Racquet Corner, a local shop owned by a father and son duo, became the setting for his stringing journey. Joe was drawn to the shop's bustling atmosphere, the intriguing smell of freshly strung rackets, and the array of stringing machines and gear.

One day, as Joe contemplated asking the shop owners for a part-time job, fate intervened. Before he could pose his question, the father offered him a position. Little did he know that this opportunity would ignite his passion for stringing and educating customers about frames and string technologies. Joe was taught the art of stringing with precision and consistency, setting the foundation for his career. Joe's dedication to his craft led him to become the first certified stringer in Nebraska when the USRSA (United States Racquet Stringers Association) introduced the M.R.T. certification. He firmly believes that certification is a testament to one's commitment to their craft, "I feel that becoming certified in your craft is an important way to demonstrate to your customer base that you take your business seriously. A "stringer", and "a person who strings" are two very different things in my mind."

A Multifaceted Career

Beyond his stringing expertise, Joe's enthusiasm for teaching and nurturing talent shines brightly. He has served as the head trainer for the Wilson International Stringing Team for five years, sharing his wealth of knowledge with aspiring stringers from around the world. His 20-plus years as a tennis teacher have allowed him to introduce countless individuals to the enchanting world of racket sports.

Joe derives immense joy from witnessing the transformation of aspiring candidates who aspire to become tour stringers. He seeks out students with the potential to excel at the highest level and leaves no stone unturned in their training. Whether they make it onto the team or not, Joe's tutelage leaves them better equipped for the journey ahead.



A Love for Racket Sports

When asked about his favourite racket sport, in Joe's words "I've played many racket sports in my 53 years on this planet." Joe Heydt's journey through racket sports has been nothing short of extraordinary. He began as a racquetball player, bonding with his father over the sport. Later, he introduced friends to racquetball as opponents were needed. Joe's sporting repertoire expanded to include squash and badminton, although finding players for these games proved challenging in his region. In 1987, Joe discovered tennis, and it quickly became his sport of choice. While he may not play as frequently now, tournaments and leagues played a substantial role in his life for many years.

An Appreciation for Unique Styles

When it comes to professional players, Joe has a soft spot for those who bring a unique flair to the game. He admires players like Fabrice Santoro, Dustin Brown, Justine Henin, and Radek Stepanek for their distinctive playing styles. In a tennis world increasingly obsessed with power, Joe appreciates those who dare to approach the game differently.

Stringing for the Toughest Customers

For Joe, the players he enjoys stringing for are often the ones others might shy away from. He relishes the challenge of catering to picky players who have precise preferences or seemingly trivial demands. "I feel like it ups my focus and jogs me out of the mundane 10 racquet set. I also like the challenge of trying to give a difficult player nothing to complain about. It's an honor to be chosen for this task out of a room of world class stringers."

A Unique Stringing Experience

As with all our Meet the Team pieces, we asked Joe to share a story with our readers, and of course, he did not disappoint. One of Joe's most remarkable stringing experiences occurred at the U.S. Open about eight years ago.

"A museum curator from the USTA brought two wooden frames from his collection to our stringing room. They both needed stringing, and my wife, who was working on the front desk at the time, volunteered me for the task. Both rackets were worth hundreds of dollars and needed to be strung with natural gut. I loved the challenge. It struck me as an amazing juxtaposition of being at a modern Grand Slam event stringing two frames from the 1920's. An experience that will most likely never happen to me again."

In Joe Heydt, GRSA International has a dedicated and passionate advocate for racket sports and stringing. His journey, from the discovery of stringing in a small Nebraska shop to becoming a respected figure in the industry, serves as an inspiration to all. Joe's commitment to his craft, his love for teaching, and his appreciation for the uniqueness of the sport make him a true asset to the GRSA team and community.

If you are in Nebraska and need any help, advice or questions regarding stringing, courses or joining the GRSA family, don't hesitate to contact Joe.

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Stringer Solutions

DOUBLE HALF HITCH (DHH) – Yay or Nay

A double half hitch is probably the most used knot throughout the history of stringing. Does this mean it still has a place in professional stringing today?

As most GRSA members will know, GRSA International doesn't recommend the DHH be used in modern stringing. You might ask, why?

Does the DHH get the job done? Yes it does. Are there better knots out there? Yes, there are.

The DHH has been used without issues for years, however, when being tightened, it closes directly around the anchor string. What does this mean or what could be the result of this? The anchor string could be weakened or crimped and if a shot were hit in this area it could lead to a premature breakage. Would this premature breakage happen every time? No, but the risk is there none the less.

The DHH is often used for all knots, including as a starting knot. This is not advised as the DHH is not made to be tightened in this way.

Another negative is the knot pulling into the grommet, wearing grommets prematurely.

Why take the risk of using the DHH when there are excellent alternatives? There is no excuse for not using a type of knot that doesn't close directly around the anchor string and reduces any risk of premature breakage. For this reason GRSA recommends the Pro Knot or the Parnell Knot.

I often hear the saying "I've used a DHH for 50 years with no issues, why would I change?" I like to think that stringing has come a long way in 50 years and certain issues were not given the same importance as they are today.

One thing that is a cert is that the DHH has no place in Tour Stringing and no stringing team on the tour will accept the DHH as an acceptable knot to be used by their stringers.

Neat knots can make the difference and show the care you have taken over the restring.

Remember – The difference is in the small details.

Any personal tips to share with stringers? Let us know and get them published in the Stringer Solutions part of the GRSA ATW Magazine

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Mike Stephens



US Open Stringer
Wilson Stringing Team



GRSA Country Manager
United States

Last month I discussed the importance of planning and setup for a large stringing event such as a Master's 1000 or a grand slam. This month, I want to share my thoughts on team dynamics and my personal perspective of being a stringer on the Wilson International Stringing Team at the US Open.

With any large stringing event, there will be front desk staff and stringers. Some teams utilise a separate team for cutting out strings as well as stencilling completed rackets. Regardless of how teams choose to divide up the work, the rackets must be taken in from the player, strings cut out, rackets re-strung and stencilled, and assembled in a holding area for the player to pick up at the requested time. It is crucial for each member of the team to know his or her role. However, everyone has a responsibility to the team to always be on the lookout for potential problems that could arise and bring up the situation to team leadership to prevent the problem from manifesting. Mistakes will happen; the goal for any team is to prevent the mistake from leaving the stringing room.



Team dynamics is paramount and team leadership is just as important to the success of the tournament. Whether the team leader is an actual stringer or someone dedicated to the role of managing a team, the need for leadership is still very much prevalent. When 20 people work in a small space for several weeks, there will be moments where tensions run high and the stress of the moment weighs heavily on the team. How well the team can rely on each other to mitigate the stress and not take it out on each other is usually overlooked when putting together a team. The ability of a team to work together in stressful situations is what makes teams successful.

I am often asked what it is like stringing at a grand slam. This is my 13th grand slam and I have learned so many lessons from each event. Normally I am on the set-up team as well as the breakdown team which means being at the venue for about a month to account for setup before qualifying rounds and the breakdown after the championship matches. I will never forget my first grand slam and when they told me this is a marathon and not a sprint. The days are long, but having a method that is efficient will help the 3 weeks of stringing.

Other than being a stringer that provides high quality, consistent stringing, I believe one of the best attributes of a stringer is knowing the tendencies and patterns of the players assigned. For example, some players want you to string the night before pick-up and some ask for us to string last before we leave. Some players want us to string in the morning, but as close to the match as possible. However, knowing how a player strings is very important.



During this year's Open, I was assigned Karolina Muchova. This wasn't my first time stringing for her, I have learned that she always drops 1 kg in the crosses. During one of her matches this year, she requested a restring during her match. This is called an "on-court" and the racket is usually taken from the court to the stringing room by a runner. On this particular day, the runner brought in the racket and told us the tension with the crosses being 2 kg higher than the mains. When this information was relayed to me, I knew this had to be a mistake. We called player services and they were able to call the chair umpire. The chair asked for the tension and as expected she wanted 1 kg less in the crosses. Without knowing the tendencies of the player, we would have strung the racket incorrectly which could definitely affect the player on court.



7000 rackets during the 3 weeks of play this year. Personally, I accounted for just over 450 of those rackets. The days were long and very demanding. Stringing is definitely not a vacation; however, it is still an incredible feeling of knowing that we had a very small part in the high level of play that millions of people were able to watch. One of the best feelings during a slam is stringing the last racket and knowing the tournament is coming to an end. After a month on the road, nothing is better than going home. It usually takes me about 3 days before I start eagerly anticipating the next tournament.



PRS - GRSA Workshop in



Martin Mann, GRSA Country Manager for Germany, Austria and Switzerland, held a workshop at the PRS Headquarters for CPS and CPMS certifications.



Congratulations to Sergej Stehle, Manuel Tolic, Benjamin Müller, Guilia Tricarico and Christina Eiwanger for attending and a special congratulations to those who passed the exams and now have their GRSA Certifications.

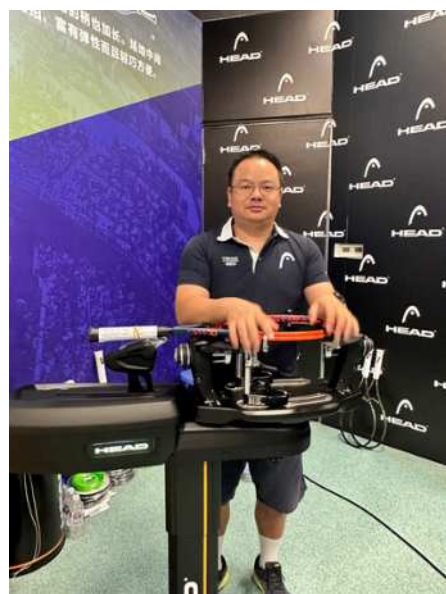


GRSA AROUND THE WORLD



HEAD OFFICIAL STRINGING TEAM Zhuhai - Sep '23

These are just some of the images from the recent event in Zhuhai - China, GRSA present in the official stringing team that HEAD have provided for the tournament. We'll tell you all about it in the next issue.



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The Wilson Power Hinge

with NICK DOWN

The Wilson Whip range of rackets have now been discontinued, however, they are on the list of Non-Standard rackets for several reasons. There are at least two types of metal ring type inserts at the throat and they are called Power Hinges by Wilson.

They are similar to the Prince Beast and Shark, in that all models have 14 mains and start at the throat, around the Hinge.

They all have 18 crosses and a long run of string around the outside of the head leading to knots or starting places. These can be minimised by following the instructions below.

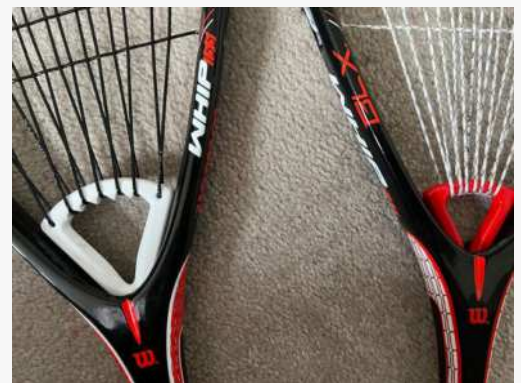
Unlike the Prince rackets, there are not enough tie-off points, to string with 2 pieces (4 knots). So, unless the stringer makes extra wide knot-holes, it must be strung in one piece with 2 knots.

As there are only 14 mains, starting at the throat, there is no need to use an around the world method.

For this article, I have used a Wilson Whip 155 which has the larger type of metal hinge. The Larger type of hinge has a hole on the outer corners as can be seen in the pictures. They are self-explanatory and strung exactly the same way.

It is very important that a hard weave is achieved at the throat as far as the bottom cross-string is concerned.

The left side will be the Short Side. The SS will need enough string to string 7 main and then the 6 top cross-strings followed by a tie off. The 6 top cross-strings must be strung up the racket. All cross-strings on the Long Side (right) must be strung down the racket.



Nick's Nugget

Always try and avoid long runs of string around the outside of the frame. Opting for 2-piece instead of 1-piece, may achieve this (sometimes).

There is only one shared hole on each side, with a main string and a cross-string in the same hole.

Mains

(When installing mains, only pull tension at the head.)

Start at T

Above hinge to LH1

Below hinge to RH1

RH1 to RH2

RH2 to above hinge

Below hinge to RH3.

LH1 to LH2

LH2 to below hinge

Above hinge to LH3

LH3 to LH4

LH4 to below hinge

Above hinge to LH6.

RH3 to RH4

RH4 to above hinge

Below hinge to RH6

RH6 to RH9

RH9 to above hinge (through hole)

Below hinge to RH14 and secure outside frame.

LH6 to LH9

LH9 to below hinge (through hole)

Above hinge to LH14.



Wilson.



(Note: both sides H14 is shared with a cross)

Crosses

(SS on the Left)

LH14 to LH12 (string top 6 crosses towards head)

First cross at LH12 must go UNDER the first main it reaches, skip LH9 and LH6, top cross at LH5

Tie off at LH9.

(LS on the right)

RH14 to RH13 (string 12 crosses towards throat)

Last cross is at T1 both sides, Tie off at RT2.

Next month:- the Tecnifibre Dynergy range with Arch Power

(AP125, AP130, AP135)



In a landmark 50th edition of the prestigious U.S. Open Squash Championship, the stage is set for an exhilarating showcase of world-class talent as the tournament returns to the Arlen Specter US Squash Center at Drexel University in Philadelphia from October 7 to 14, 2023. With record-breaking American representation and top-ranked global stars, this year's championship promises to be a memorable event.

The world's number one players, Nouran Gohar and Ali Farag, headline the field, adding prestige to an already historic competition. Gohar, aiming to etch her name in the annals of U.S. Open history, seeks to become the first-ever four-time women's champion. However, her path to victory is laden with formidable opponents, including seven-time world champion Nour El Sherbini, the 2017 champion Nour El Tayeb, and four top-twenty-ranked American women, Amanda Sobhy, Olivia Fiechter, Olivia Blatchford Clyne, and Sabrina Sobhy.

On the men's side, Ali Farag, the reigning world number one, aims to secure his third U.S. Open title. Standing in his way is Peru's Diego Elias, the defending champion, who seeks to retain his crown. The ever-competitive field also includes three-time champion Mohamed ElShorbagy, who eyes the rare distinction of becoming just the second four-time champion alongside Peter Nicol.

The 2023 U.S. Open will feature the top ten women in the world, including talents Amanda Sobhy and Olivia Fiechter, showcasing the strength of Team USA. Sobhy and Blatchford Clyne are set for an exciting All-American clash, promising a thrilling spectacle for fans. Additionally, Philadelphia native Olivia Fiechter anticipates a strong home crowd as she faces off against promising Egyptian players Amina Orfi or Fayrouz Abouelkheir and potentially Joelle King in the third round.

Sabrina Sobhy, known for her giant-killing exploits, faces a stern challenge in world No. 7 Nele Gilis. Sobhy famously defeated world No. 3 Hania El Hammamy in the previous edition and will aim to replicate her heroics.

As the only South American to have won the U.S. Open, Diego Elias looks to maintain his dominance. His journey could potentially lead to a semi-final showdown with four seed Paul Coll.

On the men's side, Farag faces a formidable opening match against world No. 11 Karim Abdel Gawad. Meanwhile, Mohamed ElShorbagy, another three-time champion, joins Farag in the top half of the draw, aiming to make history.

With a total of ten Americans in action on opening day, Saturday, October 7, anticipation is high for exciting encounters. Harvard senior Marina Stefanoni seeks to replicate her previous upset against Egypt's Mariam Metwally, while Andrew Douglas, fresh off winning the U.S. national title, aims to continue his success.

In the men's draw, Shahjahan Khan and Timmy Brownell are poised to potentially set up an all-American second-round clash. Local favourite Todd Harrity is set to receive strong home crowd support against England's Adrian Waller.

With U.S. Open veterans, exciting young talents, and the backdrop of this historic 50th edition, the 2023 U.S. Open Squash Championship promises a thrilling spectacle that will captivate squash enthusiasts worldwide.

In a remarkable journey spanning a decade of determination, Scotland's squash sensation, Greg Lobban, has finally achieved his long-cherished goal of entering the top 20 of the PSA Men's World Rankings. Lobban, the Scottish No.1, first emerged on the squash scene back in July 2015 when he secured his place within the top 50. Since then, he has relentlessly pursued his dream of joining the sport's elite, and eight years later, he stands proudly at No. 19 in the world rankings.

Lobban's breakthrough moment came on the heels of a stellar performance at the QTerminals Qatar Classic, a PSA Platinum event, where he reached the quarter-finals. His impressive victory over the seventh-seeded Victor Crouin marked a significant milestone in his career. Lobban spoke about his achievement, saying, "I'm so pleased to get to the top 20. I feel like in squash, it's quite a big milestone. It's been extremely tough to get there. I've spent the best part of 10-12 years trying."

Reflecting on his performance in Qatar, Lobban acknowledged that he often found himself as the second-best player on the court but highlighted the importance of perseverance. "I've managed to turn that around recently and learn from previous mistakes," he noted, emphasising his newfound mental resilience.

As he basks in the glory of his top 20 achievement, Lobban also understands the competitive nature of the top 30 and the challenges that lie ahead. He encouraged others with similar aspirations to persevere, emphasising that he reached this milestone at 31 years old, proving that dedication pays off.

Looking ahead, Lobban aims to maintain his position in the top 20 and continue climbing the ranks. He acknowledges that the journey doesn't end with one milestone, saying, "Once you meet a milestone, you're immediately moving on to the next thing."

In becoming the first Scottish player in 15 years to break into the top 20, Lobban's success not only marks a personal triumph but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring squash players in Scotland. He hopes that his achievement will pave the way for more Scottish talent to rise through the ranks and make their mark on the international squash stage.

With his sights set on future tournaments and further accomplishments, Greg Lobban's journey continues, fueled by the passion and determination that have propelled him to the upper echelons of world squash.

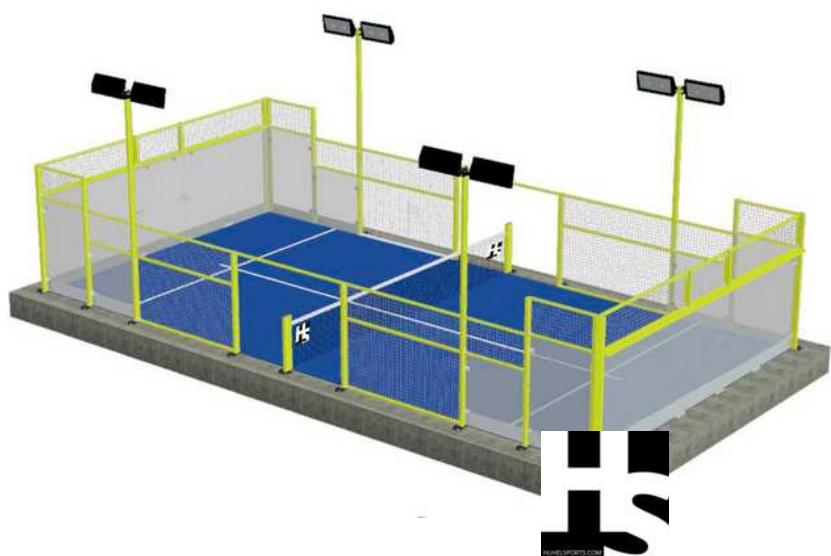
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Top horizontal beam on 281x91 glass bottoms (2 units) Welded mesh 50x50x4mm

Lighting rods integrated into the structure

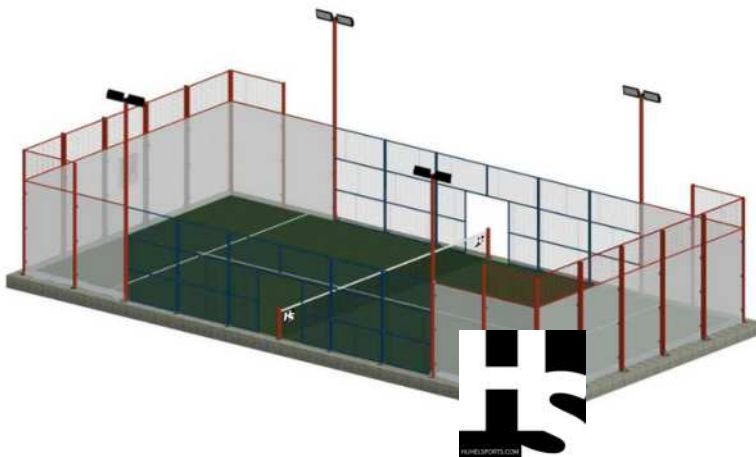


EUROPE COURT

Structural system of aluminum profiles, dimensions of the pillars 1920x45x2 (8 units), 150x45x1.7 (8 units), 115x115x1.7 (4 units), 150x45x1.7 (8 units)

Galvanized steel mounting plates for the securing of the structure and glass, measurements of 300x250x12(8 units), 250x200x12 (8 units), 200x200x12 (4 units) 200x200x12 (8 units)

Structure designed and constructed in accordance with local technical code of building standards



COLISEUM COURT

Anchor plates in galvanized steel for the fastening of the structure and glass, measurements of 450x250x25 (4 units), 200x200x12 (8 units)

Structural system of aluminum profiles, dimensions of the pillars 221x117x3 (4 units) and 150x45x1.7 (8 units)

Top horizontal beam in 281x91 glass bottoms (2 units)

Welded mesh 50x50x4mm

M8 stainless steel screws of type A2 for the fastening of glass panels and meshes

Lighting rods integrated into the structure

Structure designed and constructed in accordance with local technical code of building standards



HIGH QUALITY - PERSONALISED ALUMINIUM

Qatar Sports Investments (QSI), a prominent sports investment company, has made history by acquiring the World Padel Tour (WPT) in collaboration with the International Padel Federation (FIP) and the Professional Padel Association (PPA). This significant agreement also involves Damm, the owner of Setpoint Events, which organises the WPT. The acquisition marks a crucial milestone in the world of professional padel.

Under this agreement, Premier Padel, founded by QSI, FIP, and PPA, will merge with WPT to create a single global professional padel tour named "Premier Padel," overseen by the International Padel Federation. This achievement follows months of negotiations and aims to resolve various outstanding disputes among the involved parties, including those affecting QSI, FIP, and professional padel players who have participated in both tours. The closure of this deal is pending customary regulatory approvals.

For the remainder of the 2023 calendar year, both the separate WPT and Premier Padel tours will continue as planned. The process of unifying the competitions will be undertaken in preparation for the next calendar year, culminating in the launch of the single Premier Padel global tour in 2024, under the governance of FIP.

World Padel Tour, established in 2013, has been the premier tour in padel, featuring over 300 men's and women's tournaments across 20 countries. It boasts 17 global sponsors, television broadcasting rights spanning more than 150 countries, and a substantial social media following of over 4 million followers.

Premier Padel, the official professional padel tour governed by FIP and supported by PPA and the International Padel Players Association (IPPA), made its debut in 2022 and has rapidly become one of the fastest-growing tours in the world of sports. In its inaugural year, over 500 players from around the world competed in Premier Padel tournaments at iconic sports venues, including Stade Roland-Garros in Paris. The tour has secured multi-year broadcast agreements covering 180+ countries, reaching over 150 million households. The 2022 Premier Padel season attracted 22.7 million views on YouTube, and over 110 leading professional female players joined the tour in March of that year.

Nasser Al-Khelaifi, Chairman of Qatar Sports Investments and Premier Padel, expressed excitement about this historic moment for padel, emphasizing the unification of the two leading professional padel tours into one global Premier Padel tour under the International Padel Federation's governance, starting next year.



Demetrio Carceller Arce, Damm's Executive Chairman, anticipates a new phase for the World Padel Tour led by QSI, which will accelerate its international growth. He also commended Damm's role in developing professional padel and helping it become the world's fastest-growing sport.

Luigi Carraro, President of the International Padel Federation, praised the consolidation of two exceptional tours into a single global circuit and thanked Damm for its significant contribution to padel through the World Padel Tour. He looks forward to the continued development and growth of professional padel under Premier Padel, benefiting the entire padel community, including national federations and players.

The forthcoming global Premier Padel tour, commencing in 2024, is set to become the leading force in the world of padel, promising to be one of the most exciting ventures in the realm of global sports. Further details about this venture will be announced in due course.



As the 2023 World Padel Tour season reaches its midway point, numerous remarkable records have been shattered. Amidst the summer break, here's a recap of the standout achievements:

****Young Blood Dominates:**** Arturo Coello and Agustin Tapia, aged 20 and 23 respectively, became the youngest male pair to clinch a World Padel Tour tournament after their victory at the Modon Abu Dhabi Padel Master. The nine-year-old record for the youngest finalists was twice broken, first by Valentino Libaak, reaching the La Rioja Open final at 17 years and seven months, and then Claudia Jensen in the Chile Padel Open at 17 years and seven months. Libaak and Leandro Augsburger also made history as the youngest couple to reach a final.

Andrea Ustero entered the record books by becoming the youngest quarter-finalist ever at 16 years and one month, alongside her 17-year-old partner Alejandra Alonso.

****Historic Feats by Established Stars:**** Alejandra Salazar and Gemma Triay extended their dominance by reaching 14 consecutive finals, surpassing Pablo Lima and Fernando Belasteguín's previous record of 12. Their matchups against Paula Josemaria and Ariana Sanchez have become the most-played finals in WPT history with 24 encounters since 2021.

Arturo Coello & Agustin Tapia's outstanding season included the best start to a season in WPT history, securing nine titles in a row. Though falling short of the all-time winning streak, this achievement remains formidable at 46 victories compared to Lima and "Bela's" 53.

Martin Di Nenno & Franco Stupaczuk set an almost insurmountable record by winning the Cupra Danish Padel Open, eight years after their last title together in 2015. This accomplishment surpassed the previous record set by Delfi Brea and Bea Gonzalez, who won the Danish Padel Open almost four years after their last title in 2019.



EXTREME

ONE



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The most amazing technological revolution is here. A few days ago we presented three models from the Extreme series (Pro, Motion and Elite), and now we unveil the **EXTREME ONE**, the latest in **HEAD** padel rackets, which is a revolutionary design with a unique construction. It has a state-of-the-art 12k-carbon see-through hitting surface that is remarkably robust and durable. It is also the lightest and strongest racket in the **EXTREME** series, offering both power and consistency of feel.

Made from a new diamond-shaped mould, this racket is lightweight, as well as powerful and aerodynamic, and lets you play with consistent spin. While the innovative Auxetic technology delivers extra power and a sensational impact feel, the Soft Butt Cap technology supplies a softer playing feel and dampens vibrations. Along with high performance, the **EXTREME ONE** offers a high-end, original design with a glossy and matt finish.

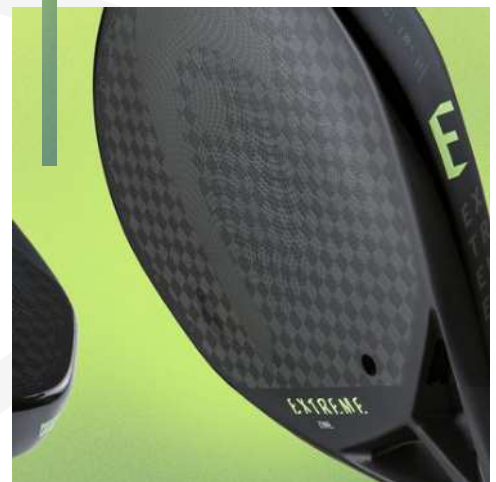


EXTREME ONE has a distinct appearance compared to conventional racquets in having only one drilled hole in the hitting surface. We hope to have a **ONE**, top of the series model in each of our silos, so-called because they will feature the very latest and best technologies in all aspects of the racket, not just the hitting surface.

Due to its well-balanced weight and mass distribution, it's actually very easy to handle, which lends players faster acceleration and a quicker swing. The balance is the highest in the Extreme silo, but subtle, thanks to its lightweight construction.

"Padel is evolving and becoming faster. We believe this offers a significant gap in the market for an advanced, pro-level racket that is lighter for the more modern, faster style of play", says Daniel Picot, Padel Rackets Product Manager at **HEAD**. "However, for the time being, we intend to target tournament and amateur players with advanced/pro-level aspirations."

The **EXTREME ONE** premium model is destined to become the top of the **EXTREME** line. Join **HEAD's** latest revolution and discover it.



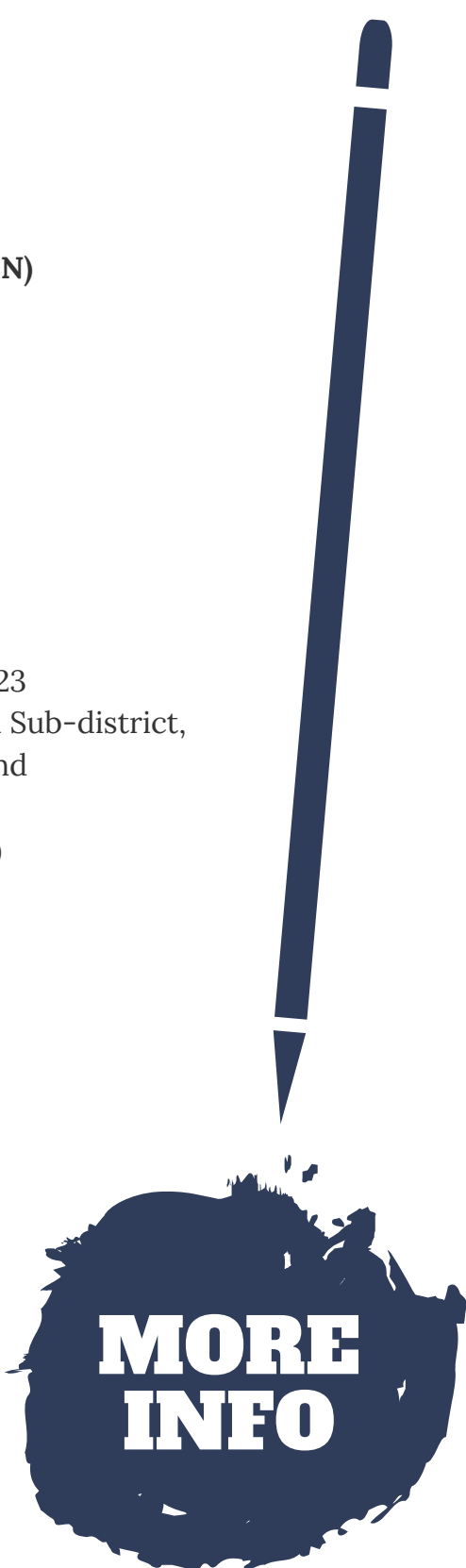


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If you're a pickleball fan, here's a list of some of the competitions you might be interested in, you never know, one might be near you!

Super 16 - Pickleball Doubles Championship**EID:** 1317 **PRICE** EUR 30**Organizer:** Kristian Hammerum**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** May 25, 2024 to May 25, 2024**City:** Odense, Denmark**Home Club:** Odense Pickleball**Registration Deadline:** May 10, 2024 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 3**Chiang Mai Pickleball Open 1st (Prize Money)****EID:** 1320 **PRICE** THB 750**Organizer:** Wassana Jamsri**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** November 11, 2023 to November 12, 2023**City:** CMI BADMINTON Wat Pa Tan Alley, Pa Tan Sub-district,
Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai, Thailand**Home Club:** Chiang Mai Pickleball Club**Registration Deadline:** October 31, 2023 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 2**Cologne Open****EID:** 1245 **PRICE** EUR 40**Organizer:** Uli Jordan**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** November 24, 2023 to November 26, 2023**City:** Neubrucker Ring 48, 51109 Köln, Deutschland**Home Club:** Pickleball-cologne**Registration Deadline:** November 01, 2023 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 1**MORE
INFO**

Every Monday, from 1 to 3 p.m., a dedicated group assembles at Atlanta's Sandy Springs Tennis Center to play pickleball. What's unique about this group is that each member battles Parkinson's disease, though their condition often goes unnoticed by those around them.

Among them is Ellen Bookman, an avid pickleball player, boxer, and competitive horsewoman. In 2018, she received a diagnosis of young-onset Parkinson's at the age of 52. While many express sympathy or pity upon discovering the group's condition, Bookman and her fellow players actively strive to change these perceptions.

Competitiveness runs deep within this group, and they make no effort to hide their Parkinson's diagnoses. "We want to be seen as capable individuals, despite the challenges of Parkinson's, a muscle-movement disorder," Bookman emphasizes.

This unique pickleball group, formed less than a year ago, has witnessed substantial improvement since its inception. "I've seen remarkable progress, and I revel in the transformation," says Bookman. Under the guidance of the same instructor, they receive lessons and then put their skills to the test in friendly matches.

"It's been a fantastic journey," Bookman says. "I've seen so many members enhance their skills on the pickleball court. While many play because they love the game, they are just as competitive as anyone else."

Exercise is vital for individuals living with Parkinson's, offering a temporary respite from the challenges they face. "It's a brief escape from Parkinson's, which otherwise impacts our daily lives," Bookman explains. "It's a moment of happiness."

The Center for Movement Challenges, an Atlanta-based nonprofit, supports over 200 members dealing with Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and veterans. For Bookman, this organization has been a lifeline. "This nonprofit gave me a new lease on life after my Parkinson's diagnosis," she acknowledges.

Pickleball plays a central role in Bookman's fitness routine, promoting both mental agility and balance while fostering social connections. "It's another building block to feeling your best. It's about socializing and making new friends," she says. For many in the group, pickleball represents a world of newfound possibilities.



Before her retirement, Bookman spent 33 years in the public relations field, contrasting her outgoing personality with the anxiety, apathy, and depression often associated with Parkinson's. She chronicles her Parkinson's journey in a blog.

"As an active member in the Parkinson's community locally and beyond," Bookman notes, "I understand the daily struggles of those living with this disease."

The Parkinson's pickleball group aimed to raise awareness and funds for the Center for Movement Challenges through their love of the sport. Bookman led the NO LIMITS Pickleball Challenge, on September 9 at Sandy Springs.

"The Center for Movement Challenges strives to improve the lives of those facing movement challenges, including Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis," Bookman explains. The Challenge featured an all-level, round-robin tournament, welcoming solo players with a tax-deductible \$50 entry fee.

Bookman exudes positivity and always looks forward to the Pickleball Challenge. "We've begun planning for the next one, and that's where we stand today," she says. She reiterates the group's shared spirit: "We have no limits. We can overcome anything."

www.pickleballfederation-americas.org/tournament/

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