



GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

2023

IT'S A
BRAND
NEW YEAR



**UNITED
CUP**

Brisbane
Perth
Sydney

**New
Badminton
Feature**

with Ken Williams



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The inaugural United Cup in Brisbane, Perth & Sydney started the year off and what a great format. An introduction to Ashaway, In the room, and more...

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Section 4 - Padel

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Introducing Ken Williams - GRSA Badminton specialist from Border Rackets

If you're not already a member of GRSA, check out our website to find out why you should be!

GRSA-INTERNATIONAL.COM



**Brisbane
Perth
Sydney**

**20
23**

The inaugural United Cup placed the best ATP Tour and Hologic WTA Tour players together in this 18-country teams' event which was played over 11 days and across three Australian cities, Perth and Sydney. The 2023 tournament, which had a hefty US\$15 million in prize money, also included rankings points, with the inaugural competition being won by Team United States.

The USA team dropped only 3 sets in the whole tournament showing just how strong they are. The final was against Italy, they had dropped 6 sets on the way but they still made it to the final beating Greece 4-1 overall. The USA however, have shown pure domination in the group stages and all the way through with a 5-0 overall win on the Friday and Saturday against Poland at the Ken Rosewell Arena.

Team GB lost 7 sets in total but still had some good matches, beating hosts Australia in their first two matches, which went down well....obviously. Joking aside this format provides a great combination of women's and men's tennis. Team GB also managed to beat Spain 4-1, which was really unexpected.



Katie Swan from Team GB took an important win over Nuria Parrizas-Dias while Cameron Norrie shook the Spanish team by beating Rafael Nadal. Dan Evans was the hero for the Brits after sealing an unassailable 3-1 advantage with a grinding win over Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

With only the top team in each of the six groups progressing to the next round, Spain joined Australia on the sidelines after the first phase.

Both Switzerland and France had great starts against Kazakhstan and Argentina respectively.

The Czech team didn't have the start they wanted but they were drawn against what turned out to be the strongest team in the tournament. Losing 4-1, they went on to get their first wins against Germany, but dropping that many sets at the start really didn't help them.



Pictured above, Jiri Lehecka who stunned Alexander Zverev as the Czech Republic took a 2-0 lead against Germany. The 21-year-old, ranked in the top 100, broke four times in the Group C to bounce back from an opening singles loss to Taylor Fritz of the United States on the Thursday. World No. 16 Petra Kvitová once again came through for Team Czech Republic, dismissing Laura Siegemund 6-4, 6-2 for her second win at the United Cup on the Sunday



Some of the stand-out players in the opening games of the United Cup were Madison Keys who along with Taylor Fritz opened with wins for the US. We mentioned the name Katie Swan and Cameron Norrie, all of these players made a huge mark on the tournament and showed some amazing skills.



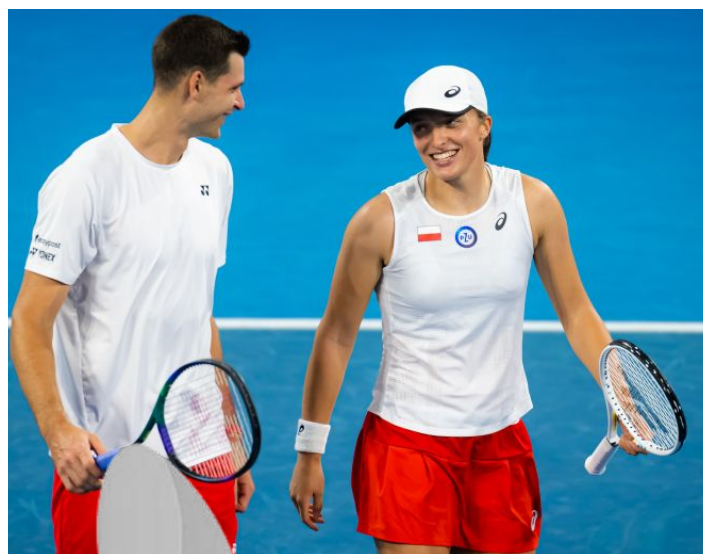
Croatia & Poland were victors in the next phase of the competition, as they faced Argentina and Kazakhstan respectively. 5-0 for the two days to Croatia in a show of total domination, while Poland breezed through the Kazakhstan encounter with a 4-1 victory over those two days.



Firstly, Donna Vekic fought through two contrasting sets to overcome Maria Lourdes Carle 6-0, 6-4 in Perth, getting Team Croatia off to a flying start. Coric then took centre stage in a tough fought match against Francisco Cerundolo, 7-5, 6-4 being the final score in a brilliant contest.

It was then Poland's turn as No.48 Magda Linette secured the winning point for them after she beat Kazakhstan's Zhibek Kulambayeva 6-2, 6-1 in Brisbane.

The victory gave Poland an un-revivable lead over Kazakhstan, then it was Iga Swiatek and Hubert Hurkacz who teamed up to process Kulambayeva and Grigoriy Lomakin in straight sets handing Poland the 4-1 win.



Belgium lost to Bulgaria in the opening phase, they then lost to Greece 4-1, an unfortunate result for them but they didn't look like they were playing at anywhere near their best.

Brazil didn't do badly in their campaign, losing to Italy in the first matches, it was a close call but Italy had the edge. The second phase, however, showed a different sign of encouraging tennis, they beat the Norwegians 4-1 but having given away those 3 opening sets, there was no going through.

It's an interesting scoring format, total score over the 2 days and depending on your wins and losses, you either go on or not.

All of these matches so far led us to the Wednesday and next phase of the competition, the format now changes and it's the top teams from each group that face each other. USA took on Team GB in Sydney, and, as they'd shown right from the start, they meant business. 4-1 Knocking Team GB out. Next up, Brisbane and Poland take on Italy, remember that only 4 teams can go through to the next round and that the total number of sets won in previous rounds also helps decide. In this case both Poland and Italy go through even though Italy lost, because Croatia had lost more matches previously and had lost to Greece. It was Greece, Italy, USA and Poland heading into the next round.

There is one day of rest and then it's back to the 2 day format, four teams, two days and a push to make the final. Poland didn't have the answers for team USA's game, they really were just over powered, Jessica Pegula made light work of Iga, 6-2, 6-2, then Frances pushed past Kacper Zuk, 6-3, 6-3... It just felt like it was written from the start, they were just too dominant. It was a two day, 5-0 walk over and even though we kind of guessed that Greece would fall to Italy, we already knew who would be waiting.

Stefanos Sakellaridis really didn't seem to know how to handle Lorenzo Musetti, on this first match, his speed made it very hard for Stefanos to find his feet. Maria Sakkari had a different kind of match, she's always putting up a fight and this 3 set match included a tie-break, a full on slog and even though she put up a stellar fight, Martina Trevisan out-witted her and set the way for Italy to take the win and head to the final.





WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT ASHAWAY LINE & TWINE?

DID YOU KNOW ASHAWAY WAS FOUNDED 200 YEARS AGO?

Ashaway Line & Twine Manufacturing Company was founded in 1824 in Rhode Island, USA along the banks of the Ashaway River by Captain Lester Crandall. Since its founding in 1824, Ashaway has been managed by the Crandall Family, currently with the 7th generation of the family, Julian Crandall, leading the way.



Ashaway company photo circa 1930 –
More than 100 years of manufacturing
Ashaway Fishing Lines.

Ashaway's first products were twisted fishing lines for commercial use in New England ocean waters. In the early 1900's the company evolved into a broader range of fishing lines, ultimately expanding into thinner lines that were used by sport fishermen worldwide.

DID YOU KNOW ASHAWAY MANUFACTURED THE WORLD'S FIRST NYLON SPORTS PRODUCT?

The company's major **breakthrough** came with the introduction of the polyamide polymer (nylon) in both monofilament and multifilament yarn extrusions by the DuPont Company in the 1930's. In 1939 Ashaway produced a fishing line from braided multifilament nylon. This revolutionary, new synthetic material then lead Ashaway into non-fishing markets and drove the company to develop new braiding, heat stretching and coating technology that revolutionized the industries into which Ashaway sold its products.

One of the most significant technology developments at Ashaway was in successfully processing nylon and polyester filaments into thin, compact medical "suture" threads that became the gold standard for cardiovascular, orthopedic and microscopic surgery around the world. Ashaway now produces approximately 150 million yards of suture threads annually, which is roughly 50-60% of Ashaway's annual factory output. Being a critical supplier to the medical industry has also helped Ashaway develop a world class quality system that has been implemented for use with all production shipped from their Rhode Island facility.



Ashaway company photo circa 1990,
It takes a village to manufacture
Ashaway Racket Strings.

DID YOU KNOW ASHAWAY BECAME THE WORLD LEADER IN RACKET STRING INNOVATION?



Ashaway is responsible for 75 years of tennis string innovation – from Dura-Ply® multifilament nylon to Crossfire® hybrid to MonoGut® ZX PEEK monofilament.

After its multifilament string technology was patented for tennis string designs, Ashaway addressed the other racket sports and ultimately developed ZyMax® strings for badminton, SuperNick® strings for squash and SuperKill® strings for racquetball. These strings came to be some of the most recognized strings in their respective sports.

The tennis string product line expanded to the famous Multi-Ply®, Profected® and Vantage® designs in the 50's, 60's and 70's.

In the early 1980's Ashaway introduced the first hybrid tennis strings with its Crossfire® family of products. Hybrid string combinations are now used regularly by many professional and amateur tennis champions.

In the mid-1980's Ashaway also became known for its experimentation with a special synthetic polymer that is closest in performance characteristics to natural gut. That material is PEEK and it is integrated into Ashaway's multifilament string designs to maximize their dynamic response, tension stability and durability in very demanding string applications. Some of the strings most well known for their use of PEEK in their design are MonoGut® ZX and Dynamite® tennis strings, UltraNick®/PowerNick® squash strings and UltraKill®/PowerKill® racquetball strings.

DID YOU KNOW ASHAWAY IS STILL THE ONLY USA MANUFACTURER OF ALL TYPES OF RACKET STRING?

The company's factory is still located on the banks of the Ashaway River at 24 Laurel Street, Ashaway, Rhode Island 02804, USA. All multifilament string products are manufactured in the USA at Ashaway's facility and distributed around the world through an international distributor network. For more information on Ashaway, its products and its global distributor network, please visit the company's website at www.ashawayusa.com.

In addition to producing a complete range of top quality racket strings, Ashaway has continually sponsored many professional and amateur racket sport champions over the many years with all types of strings to support them in their competitive activities. As the premier USA manufacturer of racket strings, Ashaway has developed a reputation through the decades as the worldwide leader in racket string technology and innovation.

UK's Sian Kelly is European University Champion in Ladies and Mixed Doubles and is sponsored by Ashaway with ZyMax® 68 TX badminton string.



Andre Agassi's sticks were always strung with Ashaway's Crossfire® main strings and VS Gut cross strings during the 1990's.



USA's Amanda Sobhy is ranked in the World Top 5 professional squash players and uses PEEK-based UltraNick® 18 in her frame.

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Manage restring details

Racket: Artengo TR 990 Stringer/Machine: Bloggs Joe On M1 - Babolat Racket Station Perf

Mains String: Adidas Feather - 15 g Cross String: Adidas Feather - 15 g

Mains: 22.00 Cross: 22.00 Units: Kg

Mains Pre-stretch: 15% Cross Pre-stretch: Manual

Submitted: 28/11/2021 Required: 27/11/2021 Time: 09:30

Rackets: 4 Knots: 4 Stencil: Black When To String: am

Price: 160 Paid: ☐ Completed: ☒

Comments: Take to court 1

[Save](#) [Print Label](#) [Accessories](#) [Cancel](#)

Job and throat labels

Last Name: **Acadiz Carlito**
Type: **Male**
Racket: **Pure Aero Lite**
Mains: **23.00Kg PS 15%**
Cross: **23.00Kg PS 10%**
Mains: **Ashaway Power Nick 18**

Cross: **Ashaway Power Nick 18**
Required: **30/07/2022**
When: **N/A**
Stringer: **Bloggs Joe**
Machine: **M1 - Babolat Racket Station Perf**
Stencil: **Green**
Knots: **4**

GRSA INTERNATIONAL

Your racket stringing service
Name: **Carlito Acadiz**
Mains: **23.00Kg** < Cross: **23.00Kg**

GRSA

Created by the developers of the PC version used at a Grand Slam tournament since 2011 and previously by Tecnifibre at The French Open.

Manage list of players

Search: [+/-](#) [Show](#) [all](#) [entries](#)

Last Name	First Name	Category	Actions
Alampio	Francisco	Female	X + - i d
Alpoge	Thiago	Female	X + - i d
Ashang	Wade	Wheelchair	X + - i d

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Manage player restringings

Search: [+/-](#) [Show](#) [all](#) [entries](#)

Racket Name	Required	Completed	Paid	Actions
TR 990	20/11/2021	☒	☐	X + - i d
TR 990	20/11/2021	☐	☐	X + - i d
TR 990	20/11/2021	☐	☐	X + - i d

Maintain accessories (grips etc)

Category:

Search: [+/-](#) [Show](#) [all](#) [entries](#)

Category Name	Name	Description	Price	Actions
Grip	Torneo Grip Original XL	Overgrip (Blue) 15 Red	7.00	X + - i d
Grip	Wilson Pro Overgrip	Overgrip pack of 12	4.75	X + - i d
Rackets	Babolat AeroProDrive	Babolat AeroProDrive	12.00	X + - i d
String	Ashaway Power Nick 17 - 12 g	Set	15.00	X + - i d

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

Maintain player categories

Category:

Search: [+/-](#) [Show](#) [all](#) [entries](#)

Category	Restring cost price	Actions
Female	22.00	X + - i d
Junior	15.00	X + - i d
Men	22.00	X + - i d
Wheelchair	22.00	X + - i d

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People that can collaborate with me. These People can perform all Stringer actions for the specified venue

Search: Show All 1 entries

Person/Email	When	Actions
person2@stringer.com	Subscribe 21/07/2022	

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

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Printer: OR

Label Dimensions in MM

Height: Width: Left Margin: Top Margin: Landscape: ☐

Image to display on label (not required)

Height: Width: Left Margin: Top Margin: [Select Image](#)

[Save](#) [Cancel](#)

Label Row Content

Label Row	Action	Label Preview
Last Name <Lastname> <Firstname>	Edit Insert After Delete	Last Name: Michael Gifford First: John Address: 22 Downing St, 10th Fl City: 22 Downing St, 10th Fl Country: United States of America Date: Wednesday, 20th July 2022 When: 14:14 Where: Orange Ave What: GRSA - Global Risk Assessment Workshop Email: grsa@grsa.org Social: grsa
Top <PhoneCategory>	Edit Insert After Delete	
Event Location	Edit Insert After Delete	
Event Name <EventName> <EventID> <EventCategory>	Edit Insert After Delete	
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Hints on all icons

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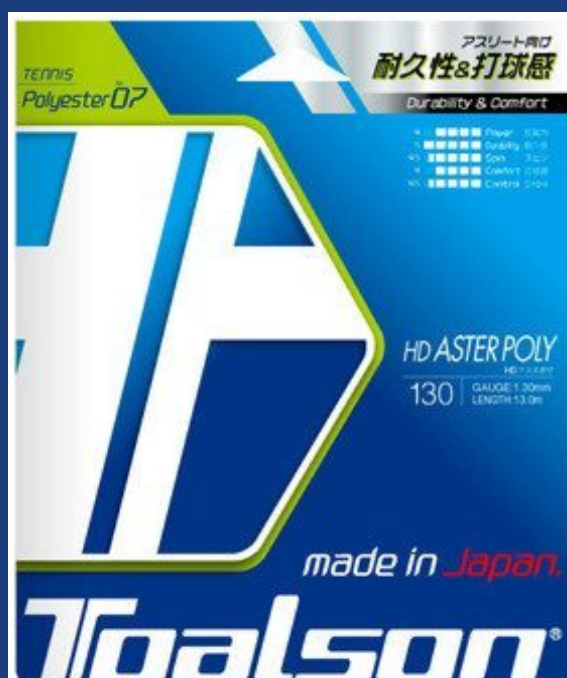
- ✓ Promote your resume on our online coach database;
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TOALSON is a tennis equipment brand that has provided products to the world for over 60 years, with reliable engineering and craftsmanship. Chief among these products are our high-end strings.

TOALSON takes manufacturing seriously. They have long used strings mainly produced in their factory in Oita, Japan, to deliver high quality products to tennis players around the world. With over 60 years of experience in manufacturing, sales and marketing of sports products, Toalson is a reliable world player in the sports market.

Due to our partnership with GRSA, we are pleased to offer all GRSA members a 30% discount on all TOALSON products, all you have to do is enter the promotional code: GRSA when purchasing on our website. [CLICK HERE](#)



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In the Room

With Richard Parnell

Stringing Machine Maintenance 101

As a stringer, we have certain priorities concerning equipment maintenance and none are higher than the stringing machine itself.

The normal rule of thumb is to clean the machine every 20, 25 or 30 restrings. By using these numbers, we can work out the timeline on machine cleaning depending on the amount of use our machine is getting.

If you string with a lot of multi-filaments, these numbers may need to be adjusted slightly due to the surfacing on that type of string and residue left on the clamps.

In a tournament setting, where it is normal to string between 20 and 30 rackets in a day, it is normal to clean the machine every day.

When we mention cleaning the machine, what exactly are we talking about?

The parts to be concentrated on are:

- Machine Calibration
- General machine cleanliness – Dusting to make it spick and span
- Turntable
- Clamp rails
- Clamps

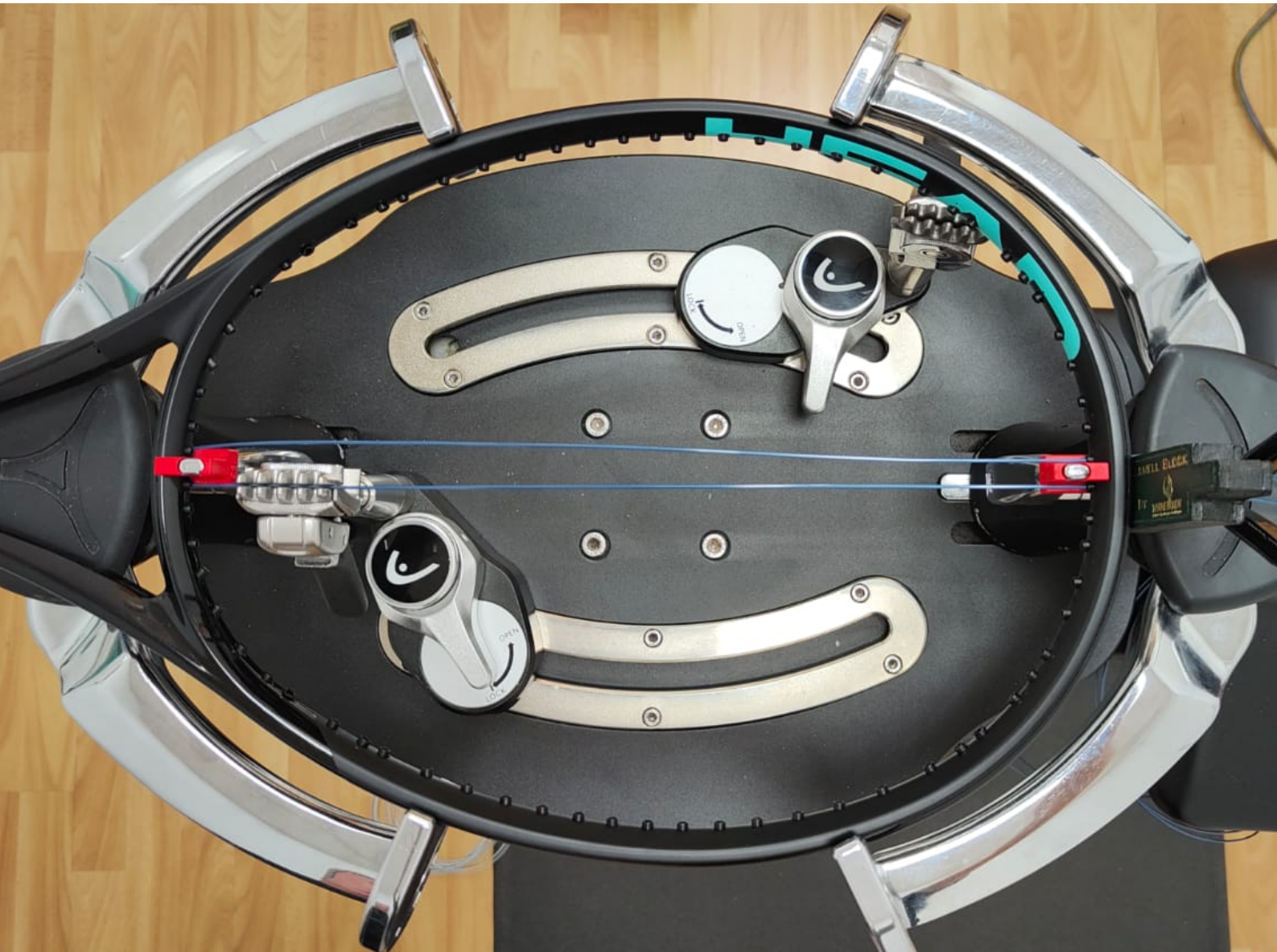
By having a clean workspace, you are helping create the desired image of professional craftsmen or women at work in a professional environment.

Machine Calibration – Most brands will have instructions on how to calibrate their machines. An electronic tensiometer can check the machine & can be purchased from as little as 10€ or up to and over 1,000€ for a professional unit.

General Machine cleanliness – A cloth with some rubbing alcohol will clean the surfaces without leaving any residue.

Turntable – Generally cleaned using rubbing alcohol, a can of compressed air (or compressor) can be used to remove clay or dust from grooves or clamp rail gaps.

Clamp Rails – The best way to clean the rails is to remove them, spray with disk brake cleaner and then wipe off with a cloth. If disk brake cleaner is not available, then rubbing alcohol will do the job.



Clamps – There are three parts to be cleaned when dealing with the clamps.

- Clean the clamp holder (Clamp base) depending on whether it is a sleeve or an inserted pin with a cloth & rubbing alcohol. With this I mean whether the clamp slides over a pin connected to the base or slips into a hole in the clamp base.
- The clamp's pin or sleeve with a cloth and rubbing alcohol.
- The clamp's jaws need to be cleaned using either a wire brush or an old toothbrush and rubbing alcohol to remove residue left over from string surfacing. The best way to get the brush bristles into the jaws, to clean the clamp properly, is to open the jaws out as far as possible and get a deep clean. Clamps can be undone and cleaned in pieces, however, please make sure that you are good with puzzles and will know how to put them back together. A machine doesn't work too well without clamps.



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FUN FACTS



Badminton is like ballet dancing. It requires a lot of control, strength, mind play and measured movement.



Aamir Khan

1

Contrary to public belief, squash wasn't developed from the sport of tennis. It was perceived to have been originated from tennis because of the use of rackets in the sport.

Rather, it was developed from a similar game in England that was commonly referred to as "racquets."

2

If it was developed from racquets, you're probably wondering how the name "squash" came about? As you're aware, rubber balls are used in the game of squash. Because of the nature of the material, when hit, these balls are squashed against the wall. That's where the name came from.

3

Do you remember the famous Titanic that sank in the Atlantic Ocean in 1912? How is that tied to squash? A fun squash fact is that there was a squash court on the Titanic. Professional tennis player Fred Wright, who played squash in the offseason, unfortunately, died when the ship sank.

4

A squash court located at the University of Chicago was used for more than just the sport. It was secretly used as a hub for engineering weapons of mass destruction by Enrico Fermi alongside his colleagues.

In 1942 they designed the world's first nuclear reactor on this squash court. It was later on used in the construction of the first atomic weapon which was commonly referred to as the Manhattan project.



At GAMMA you can count on a personal experience every time. Lifelong tennis player, Ewan Malenfant is our GAMMA Sports Stringing Machine Technician as well as a USRSA Certified Master Racquet Technician and GRSA Pro Master Stringer. He knows GAMMA machines inside and out and can answer questions regarding operation and maintenance of your stringing equipment.

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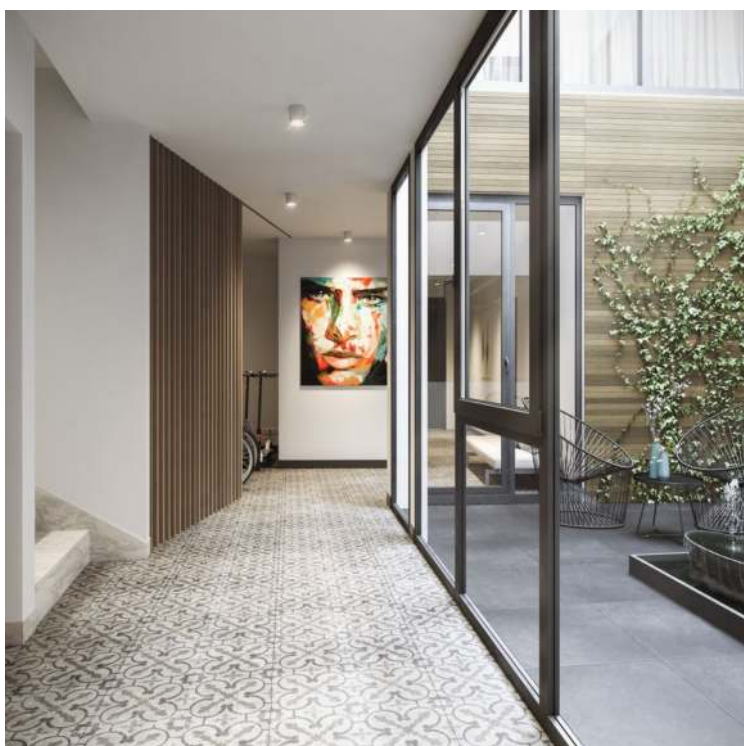
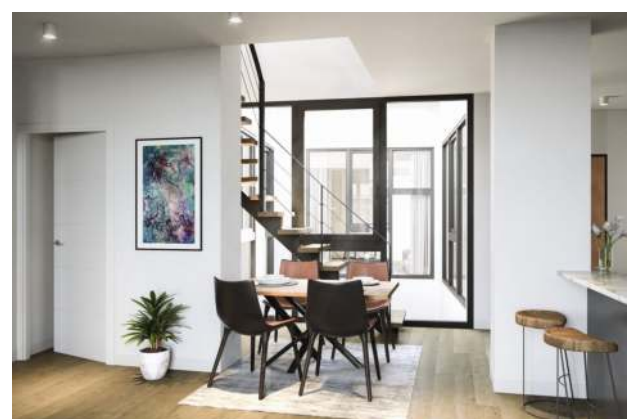


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REAL ESTATE GROUP

New build project being built to the highest quality specifications in the best location of Malaga City Center (Southern Spain). Consisting of 6 modern apartments with state-of-the-art installations. The façade and patio reflect the soul of the century old building when past elegance meets modern, state-of-the-art architecture. All six apartments in the property have large windows facing the patio, giving them a lovely natural light all year around. The fountain in the patio brings us back to the origin of the wells that provided Catholic monasteries in the area with fresh water during the 15th century.





This apartment features underfloor heating and an aerothermal system throughout both are controlled via smartphone. The construction will start October 2022 and completion and delivery will be in March 2024. Disclaimer Some of the elements shown on the images may be listed as optional to an additional cost such as the displayed furnitures. Unforeseen issues during construction might lead to changes in measurements and plans.

 2
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 95.22^{m2}
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 2
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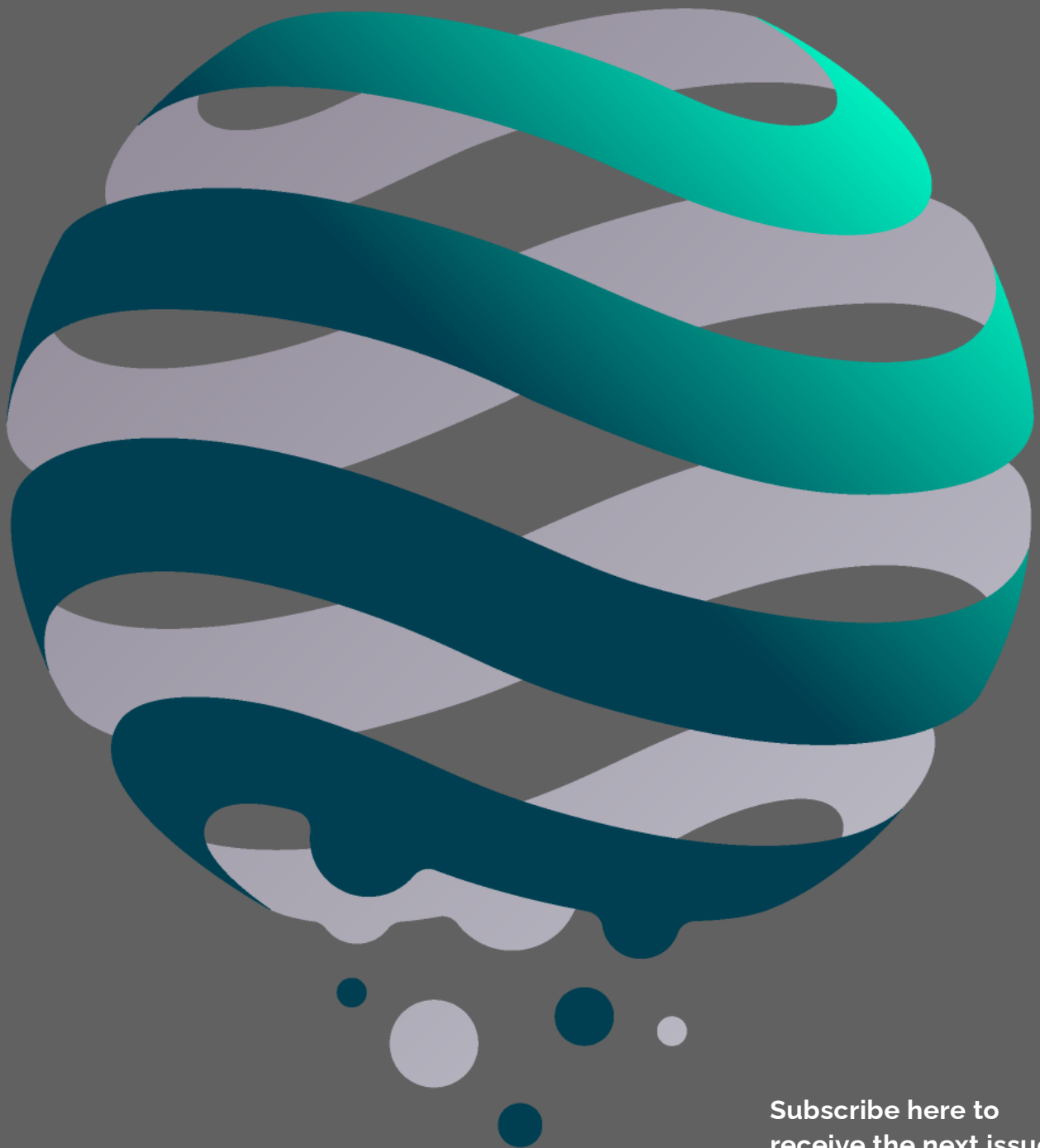
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ADOPTAS.ORG

by Alejandro Davidovich Fokina



Since the beginning of **GRSA** we have outlined that our objective is to help not just our own community, but others too. We continue to look for ways to help educate, support and promote worthy organisations!

The amazing work **Alejandro Davidovich** has been doing over the last few years is a project that sees him promote this charity whenever and wherever possible, and why not, after all, it's a non-profit organisation that has the sole purpose of saving abandoned pets throughout the whole of Spain, finding them their forever home and giving them that second chance they deserve.

Shelters across the country benefit from the help as they are given a platform to promote themselves, this is made easier with a pet finder platform, it makes sure people are in direct contact with each shelter individually.

Thanks to the amazing team at the shelter, abandoned pets get to have a cozy place to live while the team try and find a family to take them home.

Adoptas.org was created to facilitate the process shelters and at the same time to raise much needed funds for the welfare of the animals that live there.

Their aim is to home these pets as quickly as possible thus reducing their stay in shelters. Animal welfare comes first, A swifter process in finding them a home allows them to reduce the risk of diseases in their animals. Some shelters offer transportation services abroad, so even though all animals are from Spain, after a careful process, you may also be able to adopt depending on where you are in the world.

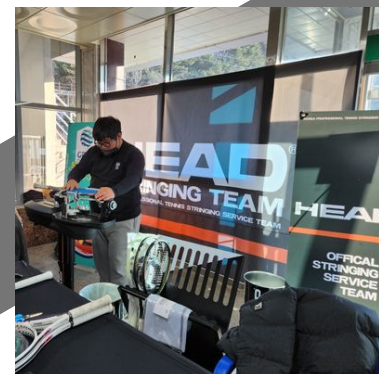


If you'd like to help this amazing cause then follow the instructions on their website, you really will be helping animals all across Spain.



Starting with the Head Cup, Korea's most prestigious junior tournament to mark the start of the new year in 2023, GRSA Korea and **Head Korea** created the special Stringing Team through a special collaboration.

GRSA Korea Manager Jay Choi and Korea's top stringers are working together for the upcoming official tournaments in Korea, and will provide the best stringing service.



Stringer Solutions

Logo up or down or who cares?

TOP
TIP

In Stringer Solutions we have often spoken about the fact that during the stringing process there are certain actions that are personal choices, where one isn't better than the other, just different. The choice concerning racket mounting is technically one of these.

Why does it make a difference? Because, if we are stringing multiple frames for the same player, all the string runs will be identical, the knots will be in the same place and facing the same way, the stenciled logo will always be the same and when the rackets are placed side by side, they will be identical.

So... the who cares?? Argument is out the window!



Technically you can mount the racket with the logo facing down if you wish, you would be doing the opposite of every tournament stringer on the Tour, but would it be wrong? No, not really, as long as you are consistent, and all of the above features are respected.

To be clear, GRSA recommends mounting the racket in the machine with the racket logo facing up. This way, if the racket has had certain grommets enlarged, for knots, then they will be in the right place.

The disadvantage of always mounting the frame the same way is that the grommets will always be worn in the same place. If the racket was mounted one way and then the other, the wear on the grommets would be evened out. So.... Technically, if a player has only one racket, the placement of the frame could be alternated.

Is this something that I would do? No, but that is a personal choice of mine.

Remember – The difference is in the small details

Any personal tips to help your fellow stringers? Let us know and get them published in the Stringer Solutions part of the GRSA ATW Magazine.



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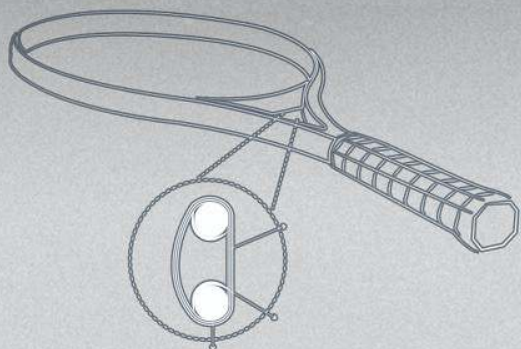
7 PTS HL



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64



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Pro Master Stringer
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Don't miss the opportunity to appear in the ATW Magazine, send us your picture with your certificate and we'll share it with the GRSA community

MOTIVATION QUOTE

When you realise you have made a mistake, don't try and hide it, owning up to having made a mistake, rectifying the mistake and learning from it shows great character, professionalism and maturity.

Daniel Efford

GRSA International - Operations Manager

GRSA EDUCATION

YOUR NEXT STEP?

**THE
POWER**
OF LEARNING
IS IN YOUR HANDS



- **ARE YOU LOOKING TO FINE TUNE YOUR SKILLS?**

- **DO YOU WANT TO MAKE MORE OF YOUR ABILITIES?**

IF YOU ALREADY STRING AND WANT TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP, THIS IS FOR YOU!



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NOEL DODDS

December 2022 and January 2023 bought a new tournament to Australia in the form of the United Cup.

We have hosted the ATP Cup over the past few years here down under but the WTA decided they wanted to get into the success of the ATP Cup and hence was formed the collaboration between the ATP and WTA to form the United Cup. The prize pool was \$15 million with a large stake of ATP and WTA points on offer

The pool stages of the event was hosted by three separate cities in Australia, Perth, Brisbane and Sydney which would eventually host the semi finals and the finals.



Nations that were represented were;



Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany
Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Kazakhstan, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, USA.

Each city hosted 2 pools of 3 teams.

Each team consisted of 3 women and 3 men and the format was 2 women's singles, 2 men's singles and a mixed doubles split over 2 days with an evening session and a men's session.

The winner of each group played off in a city final with the winner advancing to the finals series in Sydney. The fourth team to advance was the team with the best win loss ratios across the host cities.

The 4 teams to make the finals were Greece, Italy, Poland (the lucky loser) and USA.

The USA with 2 women and 2 men inside the 20 dominated the event coming out on top.

The stringing room in Sydney was manned by the team from Strung Out headed up by Philip Colin. Phil has been stringing as the official stringer for all international events in Sydney for over 37 years now. Phil also runs a very successful tennis shop in Sydney called Strung Out. The team consisted of 3 stringers - Phil Colin, Noel Dodds - the Australian manager for **GRSA** and Jim Downes, a veteran of many years experience at Grand Slams, 1000 series events, etc. Lachlan Colin did a great job of being front desk, having the opportunity to meet Rafa and Frances Tiafoe, ticking off a couple of bucket list items.



The team strung on 3 Yonex PT 8 deluxe machines as did each of the other host cities which was an initiative of Yonex and Tennis Australia this year to try to make machines uniform across all tournaments, including the Aus Open.

For the first time we used John Vinnell's booking software called JVC Stringer. The software was faultless and made check in and passing info to stringers a breeze. With over 20 years of experience at ATP, WTA and ITF tournaments and using lots of booking software I cannot recommend this software highly enough. Reports that could be extracted from the program were amazing and it is all cloud based. John does offer a 10% off for **GRSA members** and I suggest you check out his software www.jvcstringer.com

Tennis Australia offered each player in the event 3 free restrings per day but unfortunately this was not picked up by all players. Each host city stated that their "regular" stringing numbers were down, to the point where Sydney recorded nearly 40% less racquets than we would normally receive for the same period.

The numbers below are just for the Sydney site

Total rackets strung - 603

Most amount of rackets strung by country - USA with 138, followed by Spain with 95 and Great Britain with 85

Most rackets strung by a player - Frances Tiafoe - 34, second was Jess Pegula - 32 and Alexander Zverev with 28

Busiest day - 80 racquets

Luxilon Alu Power was the majority of string used with quite a few Hybrids of Babolat VS Touch. **HEAD Hawk Touch and Lynx Tour** were notable strings on the increase

Highest tension 35kg/77lbs

Lowest tension 19kg/42lbs

Notable the ladies stringing much tighter than the men.

The event was really well received and with some tweaking it will be even better next year.

The players either headed off to Adelaide or to Melbourne early for the Aus Open.

I now get 2 weeks off and go back to my day job before heading off to Burnie in Tasmania for some back to back ATP Challenger (\$80K) and Womens ITF Futures (\$60k) along with another week of both men's and women's ITF Futures (\$25K)



The Guru & The O3 Speedport by Prince

Very similar to last month's Prince O3 pattern this month I am going to look at the Prince O3 Speedport Pattern; it has been around for years and recently got used again. There are several models that use this pattern, and I regularly see them. For the purpose of this article I have used the Prince Speedport Tour, it is similar to last month's Prince O3 Black (which is silver). It also is the same as the O3 Speedport Black (which is Black this time)

There are similarities in that the throat still has a powering and there are 16 mains and 16 crosses. This time the racket has Speedports (rectangles) not O-Ports (ovals).

There are no double-barrelled grommets on each side of the head, but with this pattern there are 2 shared holes on each side. (They are in the same position as last month's double-barrelled grommets).

It is still necessary to finish up with a hard weave around on the ring and the bottom cross.

You need to be careful that you don't crossover on the outside of the frame, especially near the shared holes.



Prince O3 Speedport
O3 Series launched
2005
Speedport Launched
2006



Nick's Nugget

Use your thumb on the string, outside the frame, to assist getting a hard weave at the throat on all generic fan patterns.

(2 Piece)

Mains:-

LH1 (Speedport LH1-right side) to below ring

above ring to LH2 (Speedport LH1-left side)

RH1 (Speedport RH1 left side) to above ring

below ring to RH 2 (Speedport RH1 right side)

RH2 (Speedport RH1 right side) to RH3 (Speedport RH2 left side)

RH3 (Speedport RH2 left side) to above ring,

below ring to RH4 (Speedport RH2 right side)

LH2 (Speedport LH1 left side) to LH3 (Speedport LH2 right side),

LH3 (Speedport LH2 right side) to below ring

above ring to LH4 (Speedport LH2 left side)

LH4 (Speedport LH2 left side) to LH6, LH6 to below ring

above ring to LH7 (Shared hole)

RH4 (Speedport RH2 left side) to RH6, RH6 above ring

below ring to RH7 (Shared hole), RH7 (Shared hole) to RH9

RH9 above ring Below ring to RH12 (Shared hole)

tie off at RH9, LH7 (Shared hole) to LH9,

LH9 to below ring, above ring to LH12 (Shared hole)

tie off at LH9.

Crosses:-

Start at LH5(tie off is LH6) (soft weave to ensure a hard weave at the bottom cross).

Then weave all crosses (16 in Total) ensuring that you finish with a hard-weave at the bottom, then tie off at LT2.

There should be alternating mains at the powering and a hard-weave at the bottom cross and no crossovers!

If the Speedports don't line up correctly, you didn't start on the correct side, as instructed above.



Prince 03 Speedport
BLACK

Launched 2008

prince
Squash



SuperNick®



PRECISE
TOUCH



SUPERIOR
RESILIENCE



Four-seed Paquito Navarro & Juan Tello clawed back to beat Argentinians Luciano Capra & Maxi Sanchez, 4-6 6-3 6-4 in quarter finals of the Estrella Damm in Barcelona Master Final 2022.

Navarro and Tello, who won the last regular season tournament in Mexico three weeks prior to the event, were close to elimination at the Palau Sant Jordi but then started their comeback in front of over 9000 avid fans.

Capra and Sanchez made an announcement before the Master Final, the news was that this would be their final tournament together, so their defeat in the quarter finals was their final appearance together.



Another partnership that has ended at this tournament was that of Sanyo Gutierrez and Agustin Tapia, a partnership that lasted just 15 months. That might not seem long but when you're playing so many tournaments, the timeframe seems a lot longer. They came up against Federico Chingotto and Martin Di Nenno in the quarter finals, a temporary partnership of two drive players that initially wouldn't have stood out as a threat to 2 seeds Gutierrez and Tapia but took the match 6-3 1-6 6-1 giving them a shock win over a top seed team and a pass into the semi-final, Chingotto's first as he's failed to get this far in 3 previous attempts.

Alejandra Salazar and Gemma Triay were crowned champions of the Estrella Damm Barcelona Master Final 2022 and the number ones of the world.

The Spaniards overcame the test of Paula Josemaria and Ariana Sanchez on the final day by beating them 3-6 6-4 6-4 taking the number-one spot from them too.

Not seen to until this final, the number one spot hasn't been at stake heading into a Master Final. Salazar & Triay had a mammoth task of having to win five titles in a row to re-take top spot, finishing 2022 with a record-breaking 12 titles.



Josemaria and Sanchez became the number-ones after winning the Madrid Masters back in September but, hadn't won a title since. They finish the season with a record 18 finals, seven of them converted into titles.



We know that we've gone through from quarters to finals, a little unauthodox jump through, but we wanted to take in the achievements and the important changes on the padel circuit. This brings us to the three-time reigning number ones, Juan Lebron and Alejandro Galan who yet again claimed another title by winnind the Estrella Damm Barcelona Master Final 2022 when they beat Martin Di Nenno and Fede Chingotto by 6-4 6-7 6-2.

Another record attendance meant that they were playing In front of over ten thousand fans at the Palau Sant Jordi on the final day, Lebron and Galan won their tenth title of the World Padel Tour season, a remarkable journey and end to the year.

It is the first time since Pablo Lima and Fernando Belasteguin in 2016 that a male duo have racked up ten or more titles in one single season.

It signs off another all-conquering season for the pair, who have successfully held on to the throne for three seasons now.

Marta Marrero

Marta has temporarily gone into retirement from the World Padel Tour. The former world N°1 has made the decision to take time to focus on her family. She's had an excellent career in both tennis and padel, some say more successful in padel but, the time has come for her to take a break and enjoy her family, we hope she's back soon!



Palau Saint Jordi

Address: Passeig Olímpic, 5-7, 08038 Barcelona

Capacity: 17,000 - Inauguration: September 21, 1990

MOST RECENT EVENT:

Estrella Damm Barcelona Master Final 2022



**WORLD
PADEL
TOUR**

The Estrella Damm Barcelona Master Final 2022 broke the attendance record in professional padel with 12.141 people filling the stadium and the stands at the Palau Sant Jordi.

2019 saw the original record being set, but it was only a matter of time and quite fitting that the biggest tournament in World Padel Tour history would take that record one step further at the Palau Sant Jordi.

Ten thousand plus people were in the stands over the 3 days, Friday, with Saturday's semi-finals showing the biggest attendance of them all.

Yet another accolade for professional padel and its exceptional growth worldwide over recent years, helped on a grand scale, by the World Padel Tour!



ALWAYS INNOVATING

From material to foam to texture and everything in between, our padel rackets are created with meticulous attention to detail and unwavering passion for ultimate performance.

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DOUBLE CARBON WALL 2.0

This evolution of Double Carbon Wall comprises a woven layer of carbon fiber on the surface along with a layer of proprietary carbon mapping underneath to create an impressive sweet spot with an enviable blend of power and control.



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A strategically woven layer of carbon fiber gives the player the ability to hit with ultimate power.



CARBON FIBERGLASS COMPOSITE

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FIBERGLASS WAVE

Fiberglass frame construction supplies nice mix of stability and paddle responsiveness.



BRAIDED GRAPHITE

Braided Graphite® provides a pure, solid and consistent feel that experienced players crave. This strong construction also dampens vibrations and enhances touch and control.

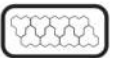
THROAT



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Bridge across the throat creates an extra dose of power and additional stability through the swing.

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OPTI GRIP

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SOFT EVA FOAM

Offering a cushioned feel with impressive shock absorption, this softer foam core produces impressive lightweight power for players seeking a blend of comfortable feel and easy pace.



FIRM EVA FOAM

This firm foam core produces solid, crisp shots for quicker ball deflection and excellent control. Ideal for intermediate to advanced players who feel comfortable operating at a quick pace with less margin for error.



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Low density foam provides stable performance while retaining a nice soft, comfortable feel.



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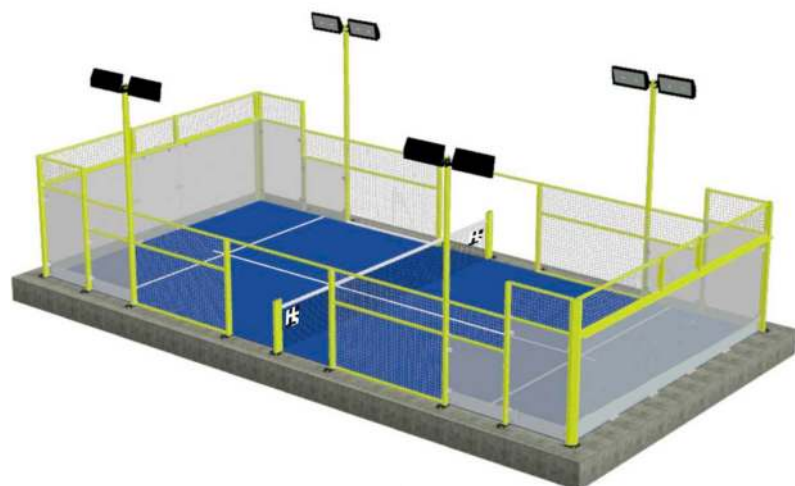
We can customize the courts to the customer's needs. We have ongoing stock and we are aluminum manufacturers with more than 50 years of experience.

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All courts have a 15 year guarantee

INDIVIDUAL PANORAMIC COURT

Anchor plates in galvanized steel for then fastening of the structure and glass, measurements of 250x200x15 (8 units), 495x250x15 (4 units) 150x120x15 (8 units)

Structural system of aluminum profiles, dimensions of the pillars 150x45x1.7 (8 units), 106x232x3 (4 units), 90x45x1.7 (8 units)

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

Lighting rods integrated into the structure

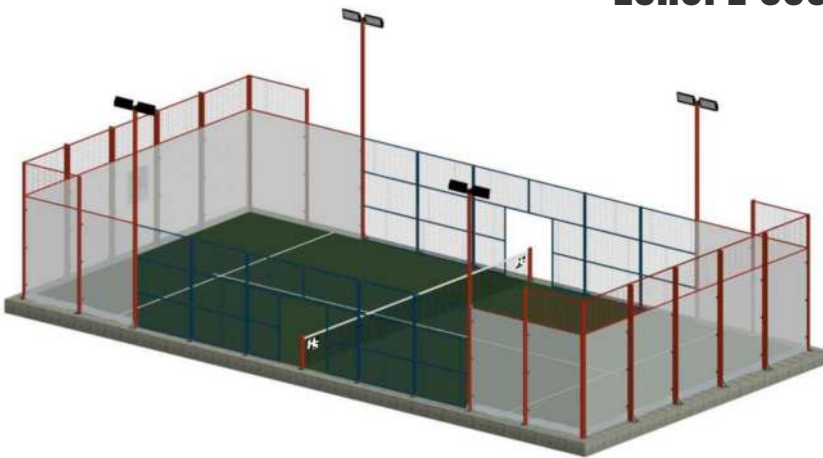


EUROPE COURT

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

plates in galvanized steel for then fastening of the structure and glass, measurements of 250x200x15 (8 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

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



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They have built padel courts all over the world and for a variety of clients, from clubs, hotels, office building grounds, to resorts and private homes, the possibilities are endless!

If you're looking to invest in an area and have considered padel, they offer a no obligation assessment and quotation. They will advise on the most suitable for the area, climate and installations. They can also brand the courts to a client's needs, be it for a hotel chain, sports brand, airline, bank or insurance companies.

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BADMINTON IS HERE

with Ken Williams



From indoor stadia to outdoor backyards the world over, Badminton participation is often underestimated. Some observers say its popularity is so wide-reaching as to make it the second most played sport worldwide with an estimated 220 million people playing it each year. Yet in comparison to tennis its star performers are relatively unknown outside of Asia, the sub-continent and Scandinavia. At the competitive level badminton has 5 disciplines: singles and doubles events for men and women and a mixed doubles event.

Badminton worldwide is overseen by the sport's governing body the Badminton World Federation (BWF). It is the BWF's responsibility to administer and grow the sport at the world level via continental federations who in turn oversee multiple country members. They organise major badminton events around the world including the World Championships at senior and junior level, team events like the Thomas & Uber Cups (the "Davis Cup" and "Fed Cup" of badminton) for the top mens and women's nations; the Surdiman Cup (international mixed team competition for the world's top badminton nations); plus a multitude of other events. And in cooperation with the IOC and IPC, they organise the Badminton events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The BWF World Tour is the BWF's series of flagship tournaments where the leading players get to play in competitions around the globe over a 12-month period, very much like the ATP and WTA tours in tennis, culminating in a year-end World Tour Finals. Depending on the size of the event they are graded as 'Super' 1000, 750, 500, 300 or 100 level with the Super 1000 and Super 750 events awarding the highest-ranking points and prize money.



FFBad
Fédération Française
de Badminton

Badminton Nations

While badminton is popular around the globe and across all continents, traditionally the strongest nations are in Asia; China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Malaysia have dominated the sport for decades. With the growth of the sport some of the best players on the world stage now originate from countries like Taiwan, India, Thailand and Singapore.

Taipei's Tai Tzu-ying as an example, has held the number one ranking in women's singles for over 4 years and is still a top 5 ranked player. Thailand has recently occupied the number one mixed double's ranking for a period and India briefly had the number one mens singles player in Srikanth Kidambi. Loh Kean Yew became Singapore's first ever badminton world champion post pandemic in the men's singles category only two years ago.

Europe's badminton powerhouse is still Denmark, led by world number one Viktor Axelsen, but ably supported by a cast of highly ranked men and women players in all disciplines. The strongest players from England, France and Germany now also regularly compete in the top 10 of the world's rankings. Spain is also represented by the 3 times former world and Olympic champion, the indomitable Carolina Marin. North America too has a significant badminton following both in the USA and Canada, with players in the top 30 and the sport continuing to grow in popularity.

GRSA & Badminton

We know there are many stringers out there who string almost exclusively for the badminton market, and it is a segment of the stringing arena we want to support with advice and topics of interest and relevance. We asked a professional, UK-based, badminton stringer to share some of his knowledge about badminton stringing each month.



KW is a professional stringer with a specialist racket sports pro-shop in England. "I have strung in the region of 10,000 badminton rackets over the last few years, including some tournament stringing as well as tutoring a few learners starting out on their stringing journey".

Ten thousand rackets may sound a lot but in comparison to some of the best and renowned stringers from the UK, and beyond, it is not that many. Several of the longest-serving members of the Yonex Stringing Team have strung upwards of 50,000 rackets!

To really get to be a proficient badminton stringer it really is about the numbers. I'm sure it applies to tennis and squash stringing, but as useful as they are to obtain, no amount of training courses or certificates can substitute for the hours you stand at your machine stringing rackets.

I believe if you have strung upwards of 5000 badminton rackets using the correct procedures, you should be well on your way to becoming an advanced level stringer - and one of quite a rare breed of stringers at that. There are dozens of tennis stringers, but far fewer badminton stringers. Once you have strung thousands of rackets it starts to become second nature and your speed, technique and attention to the smaller details inherent in badminton stringing should be instinctive.



Got to love Stringing!

At the core of every good stringer is taking pride in the job and loving what you do. Having a good understanding of the fundamentals of badminton stringing is only part of it, you must have a passion for it because standing at a machine for 12 hours or more a day takes resolve and if you don't enjoy it, maybe you shouldn't be doing it.

As a former badminton player, I am fortunate to have a good depth of knowledge about badminton that helps me better understand the types of issues and challenges that badminton players face and how valuable a racket strung to a suitable tension, in an appropriate string and correct pattern is to a player. I hope to draw on my playing and stringing experience to supply advice, guidance and tips, and to answer queries from the readership.

GRSA recognises that the badminton stringing constituency is a sizeable one and the ATW magazine will aim to supply useful content on this popular racket sport.



Are you an all-round stringer?

By comparison to tennis, badminton stringing seems to fly under the radar. It is often the case that avid tennis racket stringers avoid badminton rackets like the plague. There are of course stringers who embrace badminton along with other racket sports stringing and learn to adapt to the different demands involved in stringing a badminton racket. But most stringers will consider tennis as their mainstay. Personally, I consider myself a badminton stringer first, but I also string tennis and squash rackets.

Gaining Knowledge

To be a competent badminton stringer what is it useful to know and learn? In my opinion there are four areas to master knowledge of and these are as follows: -

1. Rackets - the diverse types of badminton frames
2. Badminton strings - their construction and application
3. Tensions - it's not all about high tension
4. Stringing - techniques, processes, machines/equipment, tools

Going forward we will address the above each month and look to invite discussion with stringers from around the world as we can all learn from one another.

Stringing Tips:

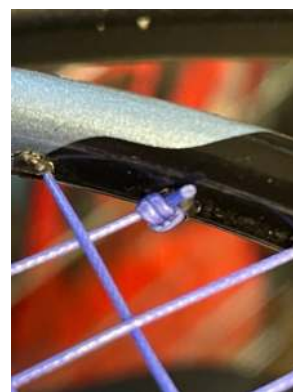
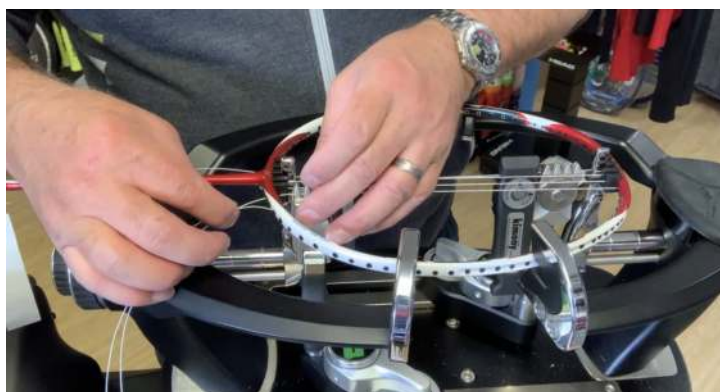
For now, we will finish this month's feature with a couple of tips to help common problems.

String Twisting and Kinking

One of my pet hates is seeing rackets strung with twisted strings. Twisting or kinking occurs particularly when pulling a cross string across the mains from a shared hole. Thinner gauge strings are usually the worst offenders, and they can start to twist as soon as you start pulling them, and in the worst cases you can end up with an unholy tangle. Untangling the string can lead to it being damaged. Most multifilament strings have a coating or outer wrap which can be broken or torn if you have to start unknotting a tangled string. That can lead to premature breakage. When you see your string start to tangle or realise that it is going to tangle, try and minimise any tension or friction on the string before you pull it through. You can do this by passing all the string through the grommet and then weaving the cross before passing it through the opposite grommet and then tensioning. If you weave first then pull it through and pass through the opposite grommet before tensioning you might still find the string starts to twist, so 'passing it through' the grommet before applying tension is usually the safest bet. And you should do this slowly and carefully as it is generally the case that pulling through at slower speed minimises the risk of twisting, plus you can compensate as you go if you start to see the string starting to kink or twist.

Protecting the anchor string when tying-off

Another common issue is tying off too tightly on an anchor string. You need to protect the anchor string which is generally one of the main strings at the top or bottom of the racket. Because a badminton string is very thin gauge - between 0.61mm to 0.72mm typically - it must be handled carefully. If you are tying off it is easy to squeeze or nip the anchor string, particularly with some knots. Half-hitches are the usual culprit. The aim is to apply a knot that doesn't tighten up (cinch) on the anchor string as that will weaken the anchor string, potentially leading to a premature break. There are specific knots that can alleviate this problem such as the Gudgeon knot where the tag end of the string wraps twice around the anchor string before tying off on itself, rather than on the anchor string itself. This creates a solid knot which doesn't impinge on the anchor string.



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If you're in the Leeds or Yorkshire area and need some stringing or customising contact **Chris Harper** on (+44) 07796267505 or Restriginleeds@gmail.com **SPECIAL 10%** discount for all active GRSA Members.

Top Spin Tennis, The Easton Tennis Centre shop, based at Norfolk's largest indoor tennis centre, features a large product assortment for all key brands, including HEAD, Babolat, Wilson and Yonex. This compact pro-shop, will offer everything you ever needed for your tennis journey. GRSA members can receive 5% off their first purchase with Top Spin Tennis, simply quote 'GRSA Referral' in the shop! **T:** 01603 731573 **E:** norwich@topspintennis.co.uk **W:** www.topspintennis.co.uk

Cambridge based **Nick Peck Tennis** is all about the game, stringing is an important part of course, we do that too! Our main focus is on Coaching so if you're looking to improve your game or fine tune your technique contact: nick@nickpecktennis.co.uk or visit: nickpecktennis.co.uk, mention GRSA!

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