



GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

MIAMI OPEN

Petra Kvitová
Rules Miami

Daniil & Andrey
2 big names,
2 big tournaments



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BIRTHDAY**



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The Miami Open took place at the end of March into the beginning of April, Mo Thomson takes a look at the action. The Monte Carlo Open, as always, turned out to be quite the spectacle but there was a lot more going on.

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With work happening in Shanghai, we introduce you to Rafael Madrid, GRSA Manager for China, We'll be in the room and there are some special Stringer Solutions plus more!

Section 3 - Squash

In the world of squash, the Power Fan pattern is the topic Nick Down's knowledge base pick this month.

Section 4 - Badminton

The all England was another great event, Ken Williams takes a look at what went on, plus some interesting hints and hacks! Mark Goodman introduces himself as our Global Director for Badminton.

Section 5 - PickleBall

Which of the celebs are taking to the pickleball courts?

If you're not already a member of GRSA, make sure you are soon, because you don't want to miss what's coming!

GRSA-INTERNATIONAL.COM



The 2023 Miami tennis open was an exhilarating tournament that featured some of the world's top tennis players competing for the prestigious title. Held from March 20th to April 2nd, the tournament showcased some of the most exciting matches of the year, leaving tennis fans around the world on the edge of their seats uncertain as to who would eventually lift the Finals trophies.

With the absence of top-ranking players such as Djokovic, Nadal, and Swiatek, as well as the early elimination of others – Ons Jabeur, Aryna Sabalenka, Taylor Fritz, and Auger-Aliassime – the tournament was thrown wide open and up for grabs by any and all of the hungry and talented “New Era” superstars.

One of the most highly anticipated matches of the tournament was the Men's Singles Final between Daniil Medvedev seeded #4 and #10 Italian Jannik Sinner. Both players had been in great form throughout the tournament, and the final promised to be a battle of the Titans.

In the end, the match disappointed somewhat, lacking the thrill that it had promised and it was Medvedev who emerged victorious, defeating Sinner in a two-set match that lasted 1 hour and 35 mins. The 2nd set saw Sinner lose intensity – needing to see the doctor on court – and having his serve broken in the 4th game, which left his opponent to just hold his own serve to win. It must be acknowledged that Medvedev's victory was a testament to his skill and tenacity on the court, and he was rightfully crowned the champion of the 2023 Miami tennis open thus earning his 5th Masters 1000 tournament and 19th career trophy. He now leads the ATP in terms of title wins this season.



The Women's Singles Final proved to be a more challenging and gripping match than the Men's – featuring two of the most talented and resilient players in the sport – 23 year old, #10 Elena Rybakina who came head to head with veteran 33 year old, #15 Petra Kvitova.

After her impressive victory at Indian Wells a mere few weeks previously, all eyes were on Rybakina to see if she could smash the double crown. Both players had been playing at the top of their game throughout the tournament, with each one defeating higher-ranking players on their way to the final.

However, it was Kvitova who took early control of the match and who emerged victorious, winning in straight sets 7-6, 6-2 to claim her first Miami tennis open title and securing her 9th WTA 1000 as well as becoming the oldest Miami champion since Serena Williams in 2015. Kvitova will rightly now take her place in the top #10 World rankings.



The Men's Doubles Final featured the Mexican/ French duo of Santiago Gonzalez and Edouard Roger-Vasselin facing off against the US/French new pairing of Austin Krajicek and Nicolas Mahut. The veterans – Gonzalez is 40 and Roger-Vasselin 39 – defeated their opponents in 2 sets 7-6, 7-5 in a closely contested match. This was their 2nd trophy this season having won in Marseille earlier this year and who were also runners-up in Indian Wells last month.

In the Women's Doubles Final, World #2 pairing, Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff secured their Miami Open victory defeating opponents Taylor Townsend and Leylah Fernandez 7-6, 6-2. The first set was a tight affair, with both teams trading blows and Pegula's serve being broken at 6-5. But the #2 seeds fought back demonstrating their superiority and experience, taking it to – and winning – the tiebreak. The second set was a more comfortable win and with their strong victory some consolation for their earlier elimination from the Women's Singles title.

With the Miami Open now over, how is the year shaping up?

With some outstanding tournaments scheduled, April is looking very exciting. April 9th – 16th will see the Monte Carlo ATP Masters 1000 – the 1st of 3 ATP Masters 1000 played on clay. Following straight on there is the Madrid Open to look forward to and which will take place April 26th – May 7th.

What has become patently evident in the first few months of the 2023 season is that the jockeying for top ranking position among both ATP and WTA players will be a constantly changing and fluid affair. Each and every player in the top 15 Men's and Women's tennis has the capacity to win any tournament. Every event should offer top performances. Such an abundance of ability and determination is a rare and precious commodity. These predominantly young pretenders will guarantee the constant evolution of tennis and be a treasure-trove of talent for many years to come.

Monte Carlo welcomed players to the 1st of 3 ATP Masters 1000 played on clay but **Rafael Nadal**, one of the most popular and enduring competitors of all time, was sorely missed. An 11 time champion at the tournament including an Open Era record of 8 successive titles between 2005-2012, **Nadal** is still suffering an on-going hip injury. He has already pulled out of the **Barcelona Open** and is likely to miss **Roland Garros** next month as well, in order to be match-fit for his home tournament, the **Madrid Open** in May. This means **Nadal** will be seriously lacking in clay court competition this season which could impact badly on the Spaniard.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, seeded # 2 and the 2nd time defending champion, returned to Monte Carlo in the strong hopes of securing a 3rd title at the 116th edition of this popular outdoor clay-court tournament.

Number 2 seeds and Doubles duo defending champions, **Rajeev Ram** and **Joe Salisbury** also aspired to a 2nd title at the Monaco venue.

Despite the withdrawal of several high ranked players – **Alcaraz**, **Auger - Aliassime**, **Carreno Busta**, **Korda**, **Monfils**, **Nadal**, **Paul**, **Shapalov** and **Tiafoe** – there was, nevertheless, a strong representation from other high-profile players.

Sadly, veteran and wild-card entrant, **Andy Murray** was put out in the 1st round, beaten by Australian #14, **A.de Minaur**. Also eliminated was fellow Brit and #11 **Cameron Norrie**. By the next round, all British hopes had been defeated. **De Minaur**, himself, was then put out in the following round by qualifier and world ranked #100, **Struff**.

Round of 32.

There were no shocks – with all top 10 seeds safely through. Whilst **Daniil Medvedev** won his first clay-court victory of the year, comfortably beating wild-card **Sonego**, 6-3, 6-2 – he later commented, “I always struggle on clay, every match is a struggle...”

There’s no rhythm on clay, every bounce is a bad bounce and even when it’s good you’re expecting a bad bounce.”

Round of 16.

This round’s shock results were;-
#16 **Lorenzo Musetti** putting out world #1 **Novak Djokovic** in a hard fought battle which he won, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Qualifier **Struff** convincingly defeating #4 seed **Casper Ruud** 6-1, 7-6 and #5 **Rublev** getting a walk-over against #9 **Khachanov**.

Top 10 Seeds.

1. Novak Djokovic
2. Stefanos Tsitsipas
3. Daniil Medvedev
4. Casper Ruud
5. Andrey Rublev
6. Holger Rune
7. Jannik Sinner
8. Taylor Fritz
9. Karen Khachanov
10. Hubert Hurkacz.



Quarter Finals.

#2 **Stefanos Tsitsipas**' dream of a hat-trick at Monte Carlo was quashed by #8 **Taylor Fritz** who won comfortably 6-2, 6-4. #5 **Rublev** put an end to qualifier **Struff**'s reign of glory with a closely fought 6-1, 7-6 win.

In the Semis, the battles for supremacy were hard and long fought. Nobody wanted to lose - but finally,

#5 **Rublev** defeated #8 **Fritz** 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.

#6 **Rune** defeated #7 **Sinner** 1-6, 7-5, 7-5.

The Final was a thrilling face-off between two great young gladiators and heaviest of baseline hitters in the game - both chasing their first victory of the season - 25-year-old **Andrey Rublev** against 19-year-old **Holger Rune**. Rune is only the 2nd teenager, since 19-year-old Nadal in 2006, to reach the Final.

However, it was **Rublev** who claimed his first Masters 1000 title by defeating the teenager, **Rune** 5-7, 6-2, 7-5.

Rublev was 4-1 down in the final set but saved 2 break points thus levelling the match. A double fault followed from Rune, giving Rublev a 6-5 lead - Rublev then served out for his 13th ATP title and 1st of the year. Despite his defeat, the 2022 Paris champion, Rune will rise to #7 in ATP ranking and will now head off to the ATP 250 event in Munich where he is the defending champion.



Men's Doubles Quarter Finals.

Wild card duo Romain Arneodo/Sam Weissborn defeated #6 seeds Lloyd Glasspool/ Harri Heliövaara 6-2, 7-6, unseeded Krawietz/Puetz defeated #3 seeds Arevalo/Rojer 6-2, 7-6. Martin/Mies defeated #1 Koolhof/Supski 5-7, 6-3, 10-7. #5 seeds Dodig/ Krajicek had a walk-over against Fritz/ Rune

Men's Doubles Semi Finals.

Wild cards Arneodo/ Weissborn defeated Krawietz/ Puetz 7-6, 4-6, 10-7. Dodig/ Krajicek defeated Martin/Miles 7-6, 6-4.

The reign of glory for wild cards Monagasque and home favourite, Romain Arneodo with partner Sam Weissborn came to an honourable end when they were beaten in three sets by #5 seeds Ivan Dodig/ Austin Krajicek 6-0, 4-6, 14-12.

The wild cards came so close to victory, with their opponents having to save 2 match points in the Match Tie Break at 9/10 and 11/12 but it was not to be.

They had previously eliminated the current title holders Rajeev Ram / Joe Salisbury in the round of 16 with a convincing win 6-2, 6-3. Dodig/Krajicek, the ecstatic winning duo claim their first ATP Masters 1000 crown.



RACKET SPORT PLAYERS: CHANGES IN NUTRITION & ITS EFFECT ON PERFORMANCE

Racket sports require a combination of strength, speed, endurance, and agility. As such, nutrition plays a vital role in the performance of players. Over the years, the importance of nutrition for athletes has been increasingly recognized, and the dietary requirements of racket sports players have changed significantly.

In the early days of racket sports, players often did not pay much attention to their diets. They would rely on simple foods such as bread, cheese, and fruit to provide them with the energy they needed. However, as the sport became more competitive, players began to realize that they needed to pay more attention to their nutrition if they wanted to perform at their best.

One of the key changes that has taken place in the diets of racket sports players is the emphasis on carbohydrates. Carbohydrates are the primary fuel source for the body, and they are essential for providing the energy needed to sustain high-intensity exercise. In the past, players would often rely on simple carbohydrates such as sugar, but today's players tend to favor complex carbohydrates such as whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. These provide a steady source of energy and help players maintain their performance over longer periods.

Another significant change has been the emphasis on protein. Protein is essential for repairing and building muscle tissue, which is crucial for players who need to maintain their strength and power. In the past, players would often rely on meat and dairy products for their protein, but today's players tend to favor plant-based sources such as beans, legumes, and nuts.



The importance of hydration has also been increasingly recognized in the world of racket sports. Dehydration can have a significant impact on performance, and players need to ensure that they are drinking enough water before, during, and after matches. Sports drinks can also be useful for replacing electrolytes lost through sweat.

Finally, the role of supplements has become more prominent in the diets of racket sports players. Supplements such as creatine, beta-alanine, and caffeine have been shown to improve performance in certain circumstances. However, players need to be careful when using supplements, as some may have side effects or interactions with other medications.

It's evident that the changes in the diets of racket sports players have had a significant impact on their performance. The emphasis on carbohydrates, protein, and hydration has helped players maintain their energy levels and perform at their best over longer periods. As the sport continues to evolve, it is likely that new dietary trends and innovations will emerge to help players stay at the top of their game.

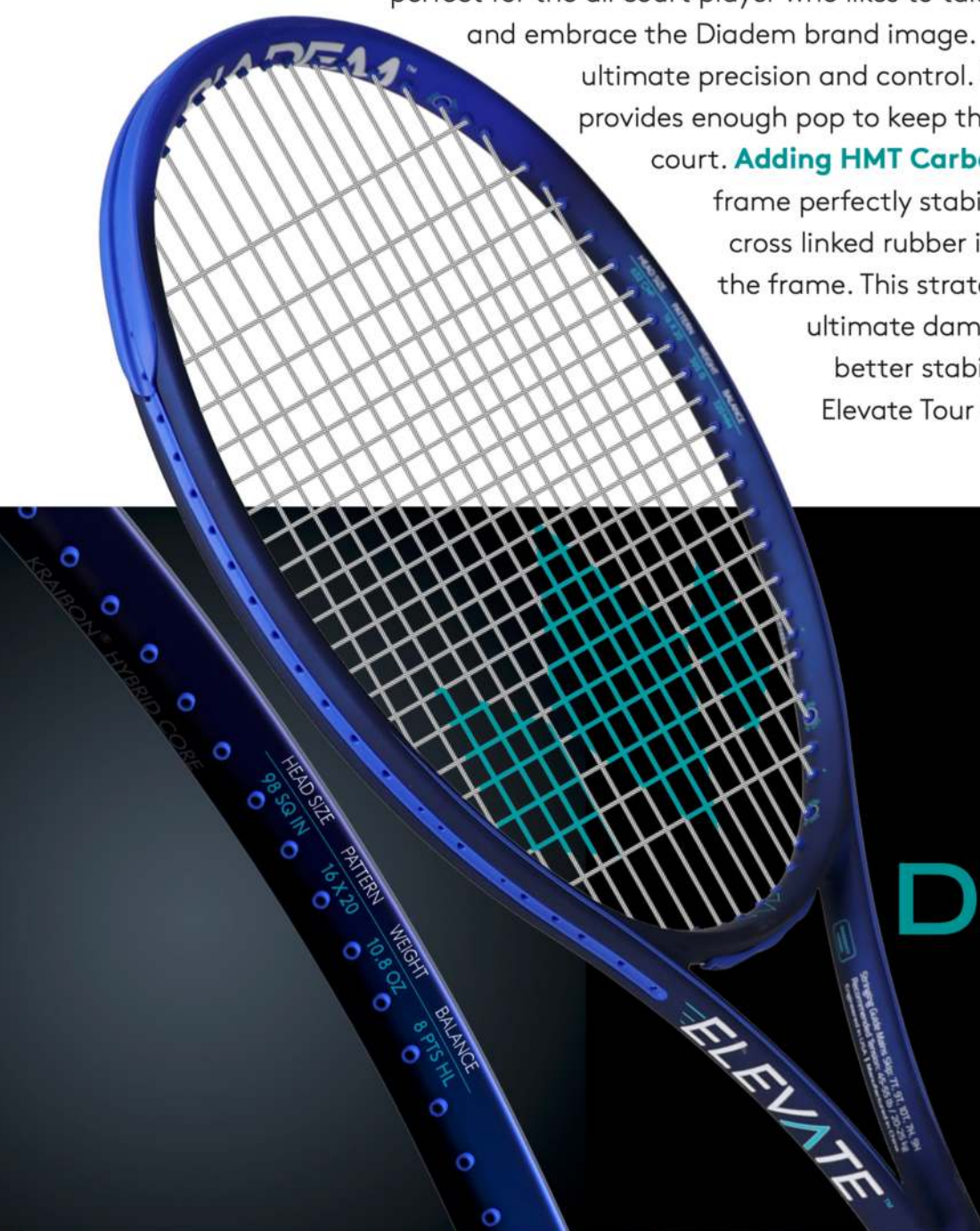


Laura Siegemund
2020 - Fench Open

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Barcelona Open ATP 500 - ATP 250 Munich Open. Belgrade ATP 250, Bosnia-Herzegovina

No sooner is the Monte Carlo Open over than the Men players have been hot-footing it all over Europe - to either Barcelona, Munich or Bosnia-Herzegovina - all events taking place between 15-23 April.

This month the Men players have their choice of venues on clay, which should guarantee some interesting results as the top world-ranked players are spread over three venues.

Srpska Open.

This is the first edition that Banja Luka has held this ATP 250 Challenger Tour which is an outdoor clay event. It replaces the Serbian Open for one year while the Djokovic family is preparing to apply for the Serbian venue to be granted ATP 500 status at the Novak Tennis Centre. Andrey Rublev is the 2022 Singles Champion of that event, and Ariel Behar/Gonzalo Escobar are the Doubles Champions.

Home boy and top favourite Novak Djokovic was dramatically eliminated in a straight sets defeat by fellow Serb and #70 ranked, Dusan Lajovic 6-7, 7-6, who enjoyed the biggest win of his career.

Lajovic then faced, and defeated in 3 sets, another fellow Serb, #4 Miomar Kecmanovic in the Semi-Finals to come head to head with Andrey Rublev in the Final.

Men's Singles Final.

Lajovic saved 3 break points in the 1st game and kept his resolve to take the set 6-3. But Rublev did not give up without a fight and won the 2nd set 6-4. It all seemed over with Lajovic up 5-1 but, once again, Rublev clawed his way back.

However, the Serbian held his nerve and won the final set 6-4 claiming his 1st ATP title since 2019. He will rise 30 places in the ATP rankings and will now enter the top 40.

Men's Doubles Final.

Top seeds Jamie Murray and Michael Venus defeated the new pairing of Francisco Cabral and Aleksandr Nedovyesov to claim the doubles crown and their 2nd ATP win as a team, winning 7-5, 6-2. The delighted pair hope they can keep the momentum going, and are now #10 In the ATP rankings.



Who are the top seeds?

- #1 Djokovic.
- #2 Rublev.
- #3 Coric.
- #4 Kecmanovic
- #5 Griekspoor.
- #6 Lehecka.
- #7 Gasquet.
- #8 Barrere.



Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell

Trofeo Conde de Godó

Barcelona Open.

Once again Rafael Nadal was absent with an on-going hip injury and will not appear at Roland Garros nor the Madrid Open. Daniil Medvedev was also out – perhaps satisfied with his performance in Monte Carlo and giving himself plenty of time to rest up before the Madrid Open.

#4 Sinner too was out, saying he was not feeling well, rather than being injured and giving a walk over to #9 Lorenzo Musetti in the quarter finals.

Top seed and tournament favourite, Carlos Alcaraz, was hoping to reprise his 2022 victory at the event.

British #2, Dan Evans faced #1 seed Carlos Alcaraz in the semi final but was comfortably defeated.

Men's Singles Final.

Despite on-going injury- of hand and back problems – which kept him away from Monte Carlo last week, Alcaraz breezed past Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4 without dropping a set to secure his third title of the season following on from Buenos Aires and Indian Wells.

With Nadal out since January and Djokovic suffering from a recurrent elbow injury, the 19 year old Spaniard is looking to be favourite at the French Open in May.

Men's Doubles Final.

British player Neal Skupski and Dutch partner Wesley Koolhof were defeated in an incredibly close fought competition by Argentinian duo Maximo Gonzalez/Andres Molteni 4-6,7-6 (10-8) 10-4. The Argentinians claimed their third title of the year after Cordoba and Rio de Janeiro.

Who are the top seeds?

- #1 Alcaraz.
- #2 Tsitsipas.
- #3 Ruud.
- #4 Sinner.
- #5 Tiafoe.
- #6 Khachanov.
- #7 Norrie.
- #8 de Minaur.
- #9 Musetti.
- #10 Fokina.



Munich Open.

Munich is the first of 4 ATP tour calendar tournaments. It was first held in Bavaria in 1900 but the latest version was staged in 1974.

Last year Holger Rune came out victorious after being a wild card entry and will be hoping to secure a 2nd victory. He defeated #8 seed van de Zandschulp who retired during the final.

Who are the top seeds?

#1 Holger Rune and 2022 champion.

#2 Taylor Fritz.

#3 Alexander Zverev.

#4 Botic van de Zandschulp.

#5 Sebastian Baez.

#6 Lorenzo Sonego.

#7 Roberto Carballes Baena.

#8 Marc-Andrea Huesler.



Men's Singles Final.

The final was a reprise of the players from the 2022 Final.

19 year old, Holger Rune produced an amazing comeback to defeat Botic van de Zandschulp and secure his second Open title. He was 2-5 down and suffering with an arm injury, which was followed by a twisted ankle in the tenth game, but he forced the tie-break and sealed a 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3) victory.

This was Rune's 4th ATP title.

Men's Doubles Final.

#1 seeds Krawietz/Puetz were convincingly beaten in two sets by unseeded Austrians Erler/Miedler 6-3, 6-4 who secured an unlikely but thrilling victory.



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In the Room

With Richard Parnell

The Natural Order of Actions

We often talk about certain actions that aren't pre-defined and can be chosen by the stringer, don't affect the outcome and are a matter of choice rather than a hard and fast rule. The actions pertaining to stringing rackets with different tensions for the same player are not included in these.

When a player gives you multiple frames at different tensions, the order of stringing is always the same, lowest tension first and so on working upwards.

By stringing in this order, we are maintaining the difference of tension between the rackets. The first racket strung will start losing tension, the next racket will do the same and so on, until the rackets are finished.

If we were to string the highest tension first, it would start losing tension and when we finish the racket that is slightly lower, the tensions would be closer together. When we get to the lower tension this smaller difference would also be felt.

This is not to say that when all the tensions have settled, the difference would not be felt if you did this differently, but to guarantee the difference always start with the lowest.

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Mains: 22.00 Cross: 22.00 Units: Kg

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

Submitted: 26/11/2021 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

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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**
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Knots: **4**

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Manage list of players

Search: Show: All entries

Last Name	First Name	Category	Actions
Abingde	Francoise	Female	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Adigua	Thingo	Female	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Ahang	krina	Wheelchair	✕ 👤 👤 👤

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Manage player restringings

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Racket Name	Required	Completed	Paid	Actions
18 999	27/11/2021	☒	☐	✕ 👤 👤 👤
18 999	26/12/2021	☐	☐	✕ 👤 👤 👤
18 999	26/12/2021	☐	☐	✕ 👤 👤 👤

Maintain accessories (grips etc)

Category: Show: all entries

Category Name	Name	Description	Price	Actions
Grip	Thorne Grip Original RL	Grip (Short) 18 Roll	7.00	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Grip	Wilson Pro Overgrip	Overgrip pack of 12	4.75	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Racket	Babolat AeroProDrive	Babolat AeroProDrive	13.00	✕ 👤 👤 👤
String	Ashaway Power 18 17 - 17 g	Set	15.00	✕ 👤 👤 👤

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

Maintain player categories

Search: Show: all entries

Category	Restring unit price	Actions
Pro	22.00	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Junior	15.00	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Nov	20.00	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Wheelchair	20.00	✕ 👤 👤 👤

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[100] LabelPrinter 400 (Large) 100

Label Dimensions in MM

Height 10 Width 100 Left Margin 5 Top Margin 5 Landscape ☒

Image to display on label in MM (not required)

Height 30 Width 30 Left Margin 75 Top Margin 15 Select Image

Save Cancel

Label Row Content

Label Row	Action	Label Content
1st Name <LastName> <FirstName>	Edit Insert After Delete	
Type <PageCategory>	Edit Insert After Delete	
Facsim <Phone>	Edit Insert After Delete	
Name <NameSecondary> <Primary> <NameSecondary> <Primary>	Edit Insert After Delete	
Class <ClassSecondary> <Primary> <ClassSecondary> <Primary>	Edit Insert After Delete	
Name <NameSingle>	Edit Insert After Delete	

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FUN FACTS



"A missed opportunity isn't a lost point". "Three C's of platform tennis are being calm, controlled and confident when playing." 💧💧

Cynthia Dardis

- 1** Padel is more popular than tennis in Spain and other parts of the world! In Spain now, there are over 4 million players and the only sport that is bigger is football.
- 2** There are a lot of celebrities that LOVE padel. Footballers, influencers and actors all enjoy the sport. Jurgen Klopp, Neymar, David Beckham, and Messi have been spotted playing it. A lot of them promote it on their social media showing how good it is!
- 3** The Olympics need a certain amount of countries to have players and active clubs in order to enter the nations, this means that there still might be some wait for that and to be honest, it would be boring to watch, Spain and Argentina would win absolutely EVERY single game, surely?
- 4** If you think that Padel is mainly a male-dominated game, you'd be right, but the numbers show that it's more female influenced than, for example, tennis. Tennis is 15% female and this is related to worldwide federated players and tournaments, Padel is twice as much at 30%, it might have something to do with the condensed amount of countries included and that have registered players but you'll easily see that the growth of this sport will prove it's still on the top spot of the growth list!



MINT

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There are two words that perfectly evoke the innovative concept of this exclusive development: light and views. Around them revolves the design of the 4 heights in which the 39 apartments and duplex penthouses with solarium of this exclusive residential area are distributed. Thanks to its exceptional location, in the upper area of Los Monteros, just 10 minutes from Marbella city centre, you will find the tranquillity and resort life you have always dreamed of having.



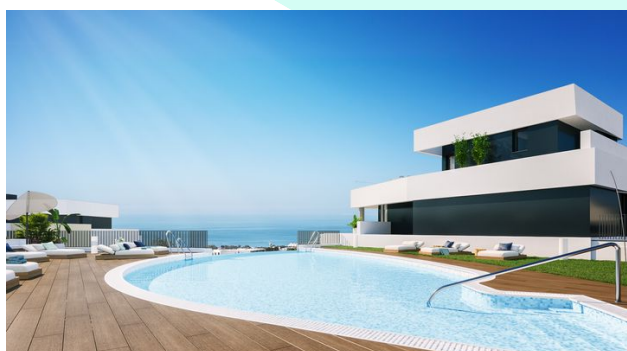
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When it comes to your home, space is the most important thing. The open-plan lay-out of these spacious homes creates one living space by seamlessly merging together the fully equipped kitchen, living and dining areas. Large terraces, facing south-west and south-east, deliver great views of the Mediterranean Sea. The feeling of spaciousness in the rooms is accentuated by the continuity between the terrace and the living room, which you can customize to your liking if you wish.



BEDROOMS

2/3/4

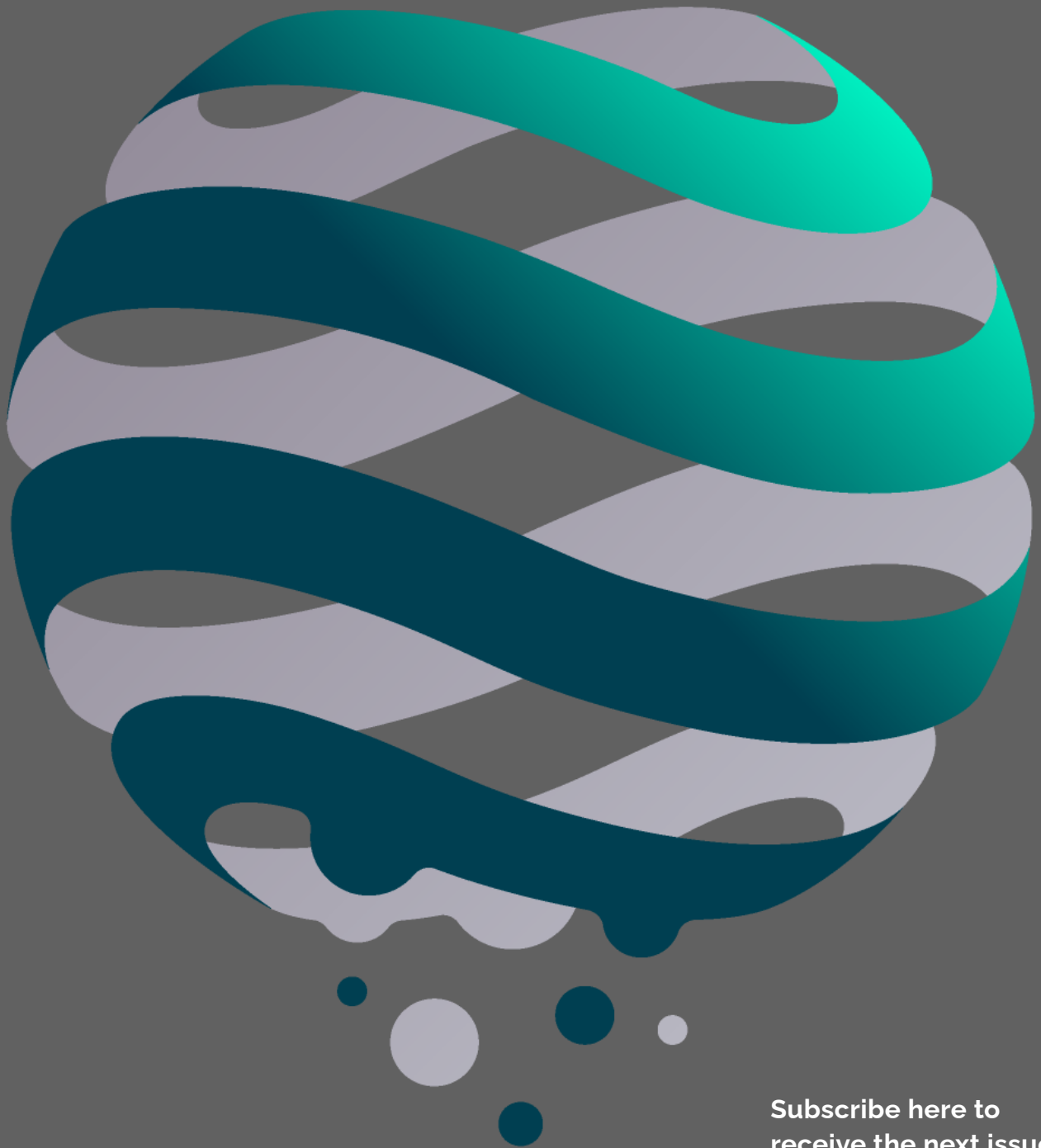
PROPERTY FEATURES

- Apartment
- Co working space
- Communal Swimming Pool
- Gym
- Indoor pool
- Panoramic Views
- Private Gardens
- Solariums
- Spa



The project has everything for a comfortable living experience. Communal areas include heated indoor and outdoor swimming pools, spa, a fully equipped gym and a co-working space. Each property comes with a parking space and a storage room included in the price.

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ADOPTAS.ORG

by Alejandro Davidovich Fokina



At **GRSA**, we believe that it is essential to give back to the community and support initiatives that have a positive impact on society. One of the organizations that we are privileged to support is Adoptas.org, an amazing group of people dedicated to saving the lives of animals in need, founded by none other than **Alejandro Davidovich Fokina**.

Adoptas.org is committed to providing a safe haven for animals that have been abandoned, neglected, or abused. They work tirelessly to rescue animals from dangerous situations, provide them with medical attention, and find loving homes for them. Their tireless efforts have saved countless lives, and their impact on the animal welfare community cannot be overstated.

What sets Adoptas.org apart is its dedication to the welfare of each animal they rescue. Their team of experts provides medical treatment and rehabilitation to animals, ensuring that they are ready for adoption when the time comes. They work hard to match each animal with the perfect family, ensuring the animal's new home is the best fit. This level of care and attention is unmatched in the animal welfare community, and it's what makes Adoptas.org truly special.

Adoptas.org's commitment to the welfare of animals extends beyond just rescuing and rehoming them. They are also dedicated to educating the community about responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying and neutering animals. Through their outreach programs, they work to prevent animals from ending up in shelters in the first place. Their efforts to promote responsible pet ownership, have had a profound impact on the community.

GRSA INTERNATIONAL are honoured to be able to support Adoptas.org. Their commitment to the welfare of animals is truly inspiring, and we are continually amazed by their tireless dedication to saving lives. We believe that every animal deserves a loving home, and we are glad to share the same belief as these wonderful people.



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.

THE GRSA INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE



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The tournament experience is an initiative **GRSA** really believes in, it's designed for stringers looking to gain more experience, more knowledge and be part of the wonderful world of tournament stringing.

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Meeting Rafael Madrid (Rafa)

LISTEN TO MY GRSA PLAYLIST



Rafael Madrid is the GRSA Country Manager for China and lives in Shanghai, quite a way away from his native town of Madrid, in Spain.

After many years playing tennis in China, he figured out that the service and knowledge of the tennis shops were not covering his demands and expectations, therefore he started studying tennis equipment technology and stringing. However, due to the variety of information out there, different sources using quite different methodologies, structures and sometimes results, meant he was quite confused about what was actually right.

“All this lead me to look for a professional institution that could answer my questions and curiosity on technical issues, hence finding GRSA and Mr Parnell. All of a sudden, everything made sense, and since then I have been stringing and learning about the art of stringing.”

Many of you may be surprised to find out that, prior to becoming a full-time stringer, Rafa worked in management positions for finance, purchasing and corporate corporations for multinational companies in the electric sector for over 17 years in China. Nowadays, he strings full-time for clubs, coaches and several tennis leagues.

“I do believe that being in touch with the players makes everything make sense in this fascinating job, you listen, you learn, you deliver a good result and more referrals”.

On the other hand, you will certainly not be surprised to discover that Rafa's favourite racket sport is tennis as he's been playing since he was nine years old. His favourite players on the tour are “the GOATS +1 (Roger, Rafa, Novak & Andy). I can't pick just one because as a tennis fan, they're all excellent in different aspects that I respect.”



Now, when it comes to who his favourite player is to string for, we loved his answer, and we have to say that we agree! “Alejandro D. Fokina. Alex is a great fighter and inspiration for me. He’s ramped up in the ranking for the last 2 years and it’s most likely that in 2023 he can win his first ATP title.” Avid GRSA ATW Magazine readers will remember Alex from his amazing organisation, Adoptas.Org, which helps find forever homes for cats and dogs all over Spain. Alex and his team’s work is really making a difference so if you want to help, please go to their page in the magazine and click the link to find out how you can contribute to making a difference!



Finally, as with every manager, we asked Rafa to share a story with our readers, and he didn't disappoint!

“Thinking back to when I bought my first stringing machine, I hadn't been stringing for more than a week, and my buddy Camilo recommended me as a stringer to none other than the tournament director of the Shanghai Rolex Master 5.0-rated is a 5.0 rated doubles player who is very demanding on everything including his strings. I had to string his Wilson Pro Staff V14 (340g) at 62lbs with a full bed of natural gut. My stringing, at that point, was not the best available on the market and his driver was waiting in the garage for 90 minutes while I was sweating and carefully weaving the crosses. If I was honest with myself, I'd probably not rank the result as my best work, but once you have the chance in life to do something different, you have to seize it. And that was the occasion. One day I'll tell him the story. Thankfully, my stringing has now improved, the result and quality of tour standard.”

If you're in China and would like to take part in a presential workshop or would like more information on anything GRSA related, don't hesitate to contact Rafa by phone on **+86 1522 10 68467** or via e-mail at **team.cn@grsa-international.com**



GRSA Around The World

Rafa Madrid at the Qi Zhong Stadium

April 8th 2023, Shanghai



Smooth event with lots of interest from the players about pro services. The satisfaction level was extremely high. We'll return in May for the next event, it will be great!



The history of the Korean tennis community in Shanghai goes all the way back to 1998 when they had only one tennis club having around 20 players in total. And after nearly 20 years since the first Korean tennis club, there are now 15 tennis clubs with 350 registered Korean tennis players in Shanghai and East China, actively playing tennis and is continuously growing fast.

SKTA - Shanghai & East China Korean Tennis Association was founded back in 2015 with 8 major tennis clubs (i.e. each club has a certain number of senior players to support junior players and is capable of organizing tennis events for the Korean community) with one single mission - foster a better Korean tennis community. Their main task is to organize "major tournaments" inviting all amateur tennis players from a beginner (UTR3) to a senior level (UTR 9) three to four times a year, two "mixed double" events to support female players and finally a become a once a year "club vs. club" event to decide which Korean tennis club is the champion of all.





On April 8th 2023, after nearly three years of no major tournament for the Korean community per the Pandemic, SKTA is back in the game and has organized the long-awaited tennis tournament for all amateur Korean Tennis Players. 160 players participated from 14 clubs; 200 guests in total; 12 outdoor tennis courts from 8 AM to 7 PM; The very first tennis tournament was successfully carried out with help from Shanghai Korean residents and GRSA.



"It was a privilege to have Rafa as the master of tennis string at our event! Rafa from Global Racket Stringing Association was invited on-site to offer a professional stringing service to our fellow Korean tennis players. Thanks to Rafa for coming and making our event extra special with your professional service!"



Stringer Solutions

TOP
TIP

Knot Tension.... Yay or Nay

By Richard Parnell & Ewan Malenfant

It has long been the standard among certified and professional stringers that increasing pulling tension on tie tie-off strings is considered best practice. Also, the fact that all tour event stringing teams insist on it, seems like a compelling argument. The consensus here centres on the fact that the strings that lead to the knot lose tension because the knot can never guarantee perfect tension. From our experience, most stringers will increase the tension on tie-off strings by anywhere from 10 to 20% to compensate for this tension loss. GRSA recommends the full 20% or 4Kgs.

Modern electronic machines also make this process simple, where you can pre-program the increase of either the percentage or number of Kgs of tension and apply this easily by just pressing a “knot” button.

We believe that of all the stringing associations that exist around the world, there is only one that still advocates no additional tension on tie-off strings. The explanation given is that as the strings are much shorter than the centre mains & for that reason alone, will feel tighter even at the same tension, so why add extra tension?

A shorter string, for example on a tie-off, will feel tighter than the longer strings in the sweet spot in the same way that you get a higher pitch as you shorten the length of a guitar string. However, as most experienced stringers will concur, the extra tension on the outer strings, in a way, is not about whether the string should be tighter or looser but more about the perceived quality of the string job. When a player receives his or her racket, the strings they will normally pull on and try and stretch to gauge the tension are the outer strings. If these are loose, then the player automatically believes that the rest are loose, and the stringer hasn't created a professional string job at the desired tension.

The real reason for adding extra tension on the outer strings that lead to the knots is to deflect these notions of a substandard restring. If the outside strings are nice and tight then this gives the impression of the rest being tight and will mean that a lengthy conversation about string length and actual tension is avoided.

One thing to take into account is that if the ball is hit on these outside strings, looser or tighter, it isn't going anywhere with any power or accuracy so it tends to be a moot point.

There are stringers who refuse to add knot tension, will this result in a substandard restring? probably not, however, they will probably still be explaining the looser outer mains to the client/player while the rest of us have already gone home.

We would suggest going the **GRSA** way and say Yay and not Nay.

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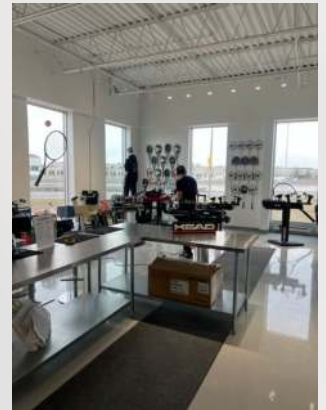
GRSA-Canada, another launch in 2023, as **GRSA International** continues to spread its wings and spread the word around the world.

After the **GRSA - USA** launch in February, March 22nd was chosen as the date to make **GRSA-Canada** a reality in Montreal.

Nico Ionesco, **GRSA Manager** in that part of the world, was at hand to pick me up from the airport and help me with all the samples I had brought courtesy of Gamma, HEAD, Kirschbaum & Toalson. The first order of the day was to organize the machines and material for the workshop to be held at the Tennis Giant Store. A productive meeting with the really dynamic team from Tennis Giant also set the ball rolling for future collaborations & workshops.

The 2 day certifying workshop was attended by Tennis Giant employees and some external stringers looking to improve their knowledge and gain recognition through the GRSA Certification program. A fun time was had by all, with laughter and anecdotes plus a lot of information being shared by both Nico and me, all well received by all the attendees.

Once we had covered the theoretical part and everyone had taken the written exam, and passed!!, it was time to move on to the customization and stringing part. Everyone passed the stringing certification, with some not quite hitting the standard for the Tour Certification level, but this will be redone at a convenient date in the near future.

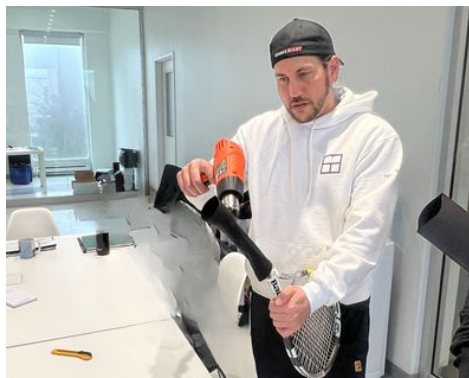




Probably the strangest part for me was that we were hit by a snowstorm on the Saturday and had to clear the car of snow before making the trek home. In Spain we don't have this problem.....

Big thank you to the brands that supported the event, HEAD, Babolat and Wilson without forgetting Gamma, Toalson and Kirschbaum for the seed samples that were gratefully received.

On the Monday morning Nico took his different Tour level exams and passed both GRSA Tour and Tour Master certified Stringer and as such becomes the first Canadian with those diplomas.



Once Nico and I had celebrated his success with a Montreal delicacy (Poutine) for lunch it was time to get to the airport and head back to GRSA HQ in Spain. It literally was a flying visit of only 4 days but one that marks the start of dynamic partnerships, well trained stringers at the best Tour events in the country and much more. Watch this space!!

"Beautiful country and people" - Richard Parnell, GRSA International's President

NEW MANAGERS

GRSA INTERNATIONAL continues to grow as an association, new team members join us on a very special journey. The most recent professionals make up TEAM US, spearheaded by **Mike Stephens - Country Manager** for **GRSA USA**, let's know a little more about them.



Dustin Tankersley



Area Manager

dustin.us@grsa-international.com

Dustin is the US Area Manager for Florida and Texas, he lives in Pompano Beach Florida and is a **GRSA Certified Tour Master Stringer**. He is head stringer of the Wilson International Stringing Team and has worked at numerous Grand Slams, ATP and WTA events.

Dustin started playing tennis at 13 and then stringing a few years later, he has always worked in tennis, mainly starting off as a full-time coach before he attended a seminar on customization that shifted his focus from teaching people how to play better to help them play better by improving their equipment through stringing and customizing.

Dustin's love for helping others improve, his professionalism and his enthusiasm make him a great addition to the GRSA USA Team.

Stockton Morris



Area Manager

stockton.us@grsa-international.com



Stockton is the US Area Manager for Florida and New York, he is a **GRSA Certified Tour Master Stringer** and has been stringing since he was 13 years old. He lives in Florida and works for IMG Academy. Now many of you may think that Stockton must have worked in tennis his whole life, which he has, but you might be surprised to find out that he is also a welder and has worked in construction for many years!

Stockton's eye for detail and the passion he puts into everything he does makes him such a strong member of our team.

TEAM US... Continued



Mitch Case



Area Manager

mitch.us@grsa-international.com

Mitch is the US Area Manager for Connecticut, he is a **GRSA Certified Tour Stringer** and a member of the HEAD and Prince Stringing Teams. Having started stringing when he was 12, he never stopped learning and evolving, adding so many other incredible skills to his repertoire.

He has always been involved in tennis thanks to his father, an avid recreational player and home stringer. However, Mitch spends most of his time as a tennis coach and has been a Coach Developer (running coach education/development workshops) with the PTR for several years.

Mitch's passion for helping others, whether it be players, coaches and stringers, is just one of the many reasons why he fits perfectly into the **US GRSA Team**.

Mark Gonzalez



Area Manager

mark.us@grsa-international.com



Mark is the US Area Manager for Texas, he lives in Georgetown and has been working in tennis retail, manufacturing and wholesale for thirty-eight years!

He is a **CRSA Certified Pro Master Stringer** and has won various awards.

Mark started stringing in 1985 for a golf and tennis shop, but he has also sold and repaired stringing machines. Lately, Mark has been more drawn to a mentor role, passing on knowledge that he has learned from his many years stringing, which is something he loves.

Mark's experience and love for teaching is an amazing asset for the **US GRSA Team**, we couldn't be more thrilled to have him join us!

Check out their stories in the upcoming magazines!

GRSA ANNIVERSARY DRAW WINNERS

A huge thank you to all our partners for helping make this happen!

Signed: Novak Djokovic Racket - Courtesy of HEAD

Winner: Nick Peck

Signed Taylor Fritz strings and balls - Courtesy of HEAD

Winner: Jonghyeon Lee

Winner: Juan Martinez

Winner: Michael Ghazal

Signed: Alexander Zverev Racket - Courtesy of HEAD

Winner: Mark Jan Greebe



5 sets of Strings - Courtesy of Ashaway

Winners: Cesar Faria, Antonio Theodor Frunzoi, Marco Schoepers, David Hall, John Skinner, Alasdair Frongidoun, Edwin Gruijs, Konstantinos Dimitriadis, Federico Desi, Bradley Cranford, Danielle Mann, Ken Williams



Racket, Racket bag, String, Overgrips - Courtesy of Toalson

Winner: Constantin Cristian Ungureanu



Ball Hopper + 3 reels of String - Courtesy of Gamma Sports

Winner: Manuel Lopez Carmona



ERT300 - Courtesy of ERT Technic AG

Winner: Tetsu Miyajima



Bundle: 3 x T-shirts, Parnell Pad/Block Wimbledon Bundle, Keyring

Winner: Kerim Sijercic

Winner: Gavin Glider

Winner: Simon Fitzgerald

Winner: Noah Borden



Signed Roger Federer racket - Courtesy of Wilson

Winner: Nicolas Trentin



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You can register for free. GRSA Coaches can benefit from a credit discount of 20% with the code:
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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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THE GURU
Nick Down

(non-powering) Prince Powerfan Pattern

This month I'll look at the Prince Powerfan Pattern, which is one of only two Prince Patterns without a powering at the throat. It is probably the most widely used pattern by prince, in fact, there are a high number of rackets that have used this pattern for years and it is still currently used.

Whilst we have already seen double-barrelled grommets at the head, now they are at the throat (x8) instead of a throat ring (powering), they are also at the head and all of the double-barrelled grommets are involved when installing the main strings.

This pattern is very similar to the Triple Threat pattern. There are 16 mains and 17 crosses. I always string them with two pieces of string, to avoid long runs of string outside the frame. That applies whether leading to a knot or to a cross string.

Although, there is less height difference at the throat, there still must be a hard-weave at all double-barrelled grommets, at the bottom cross string at the throat and there must be no twists, at all, in any of the main strings.

I have used an older racket that uses this pattern, because it is called 'Powerfan' and might serve as a reminder to stringers when dealing with this pattern.

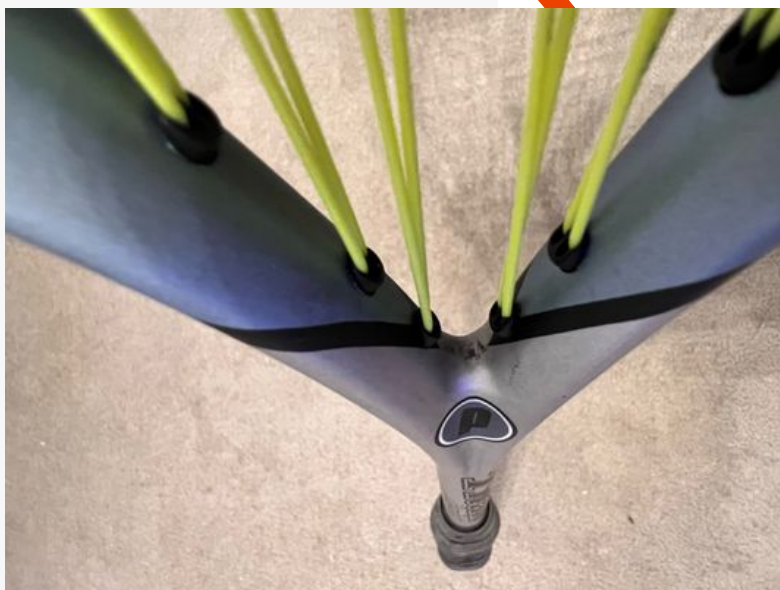


Nick's Nugget

On all rackets that Start at the throat, the 1st main that comes down from the head on the left is actually the second main, because of the direction it runs. To me, that is vital to help to remember the patterns.

Mains:-**(Start at the head).**

LH1 to LT1 (lower hole)
 RH1 to RT1 (upper hole)
 LT1 (lower hole) to LT2 (lower hole)
 LT2 (lower hole) to LH3
 LH3 to LH2
 LH2 to LT1 (upper hole)
 LT1 (upper hole) to LT2 (upper hole)
 LT2 (upper hole) to LH4.
 RT1 (upper hole) to RT2 (upper hole)
 RT2 (upper hole) to RH3
 RH3 to RH2
 RH2 to RT1 (lower hole)
 RT1 (lower hole) to RT2 (lower hole)
 RT2 (lower hole) to RH4
 RH4 to RH5
 RH5 to RT3 (upper hole)
 RT3 (upper hole) to RT4 (upper hole)
 RT4 (upper hole) to RH8
 RH8 to RH11 (lower hole)
 RH11 (lower hole) to RT4 (lower hole)
 RT4 (lower hole) to RT3 (lower hole)
 RT3 (lower hole) to RH6 (lower hole)
 RH6 (lower hole) to RH8 and tie off.
 LH4 to LH5 (upper hole)
 LH5 (upper hole) to LT3 (lower hole)
 LT3 (lower hole) to LT4 (lower hole)
 LT4 (lower hole) to LH8
 LH8 to LH11 (upper hole)
 LH11 (upper hole) to LT4 (upper hole) to LT3 (upper hole)
 LT3 (upper hole) to LH6 (upper hole)
 LH6 (upper hole) to LH8 and tie off.

**Crosses:-**

1st cross at either LH5 or RH5 (use unused hole) and ensure hard-weave. Tie off at RH4 or LH4. (You'll find that, because there are 17 cross strings, that the weave at the Head will be the same as the weave at the throat).

Last cross at throat will be at RT5 or LT5 tie off will be RT6 or LT6.

17 crosses, 1 string per hole, hard-weaves at all double-barrelled grommets. If it doesn't work out, you failed to follow these instructions and might need to start again.

Next month:- All brands Generic Fan Pattern.

Everything
Badminton with..

Ken Williams



Tournament Round-Up

HSBC BWF World Tour

Swiss Open, Basel

Following the conclusion of the Yonex All England in Birmingham the first of three Super 300 level events took place in Switzerland in St. Jakobshalle, Basel. The men's singles won by emerging Japanese player Koki Watanabe, preceded upsets in both semi-finals; Viktor Axelsen losing out to Chou Tien Chen for the first time in many meetings and in the opposite half of the draw Lee Zii Jia fell to the eventual champion. India's Rankireddy and Shetty took the men's doubles in a tight contest with one of China's strong new pairs, Ren and Tan. And Thailand took the women's singles in the form of Pornpawee Chochuwong who bested Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in two fairly even sets, the Dane having made her way through strong opposition on the way to reaching her first tour final since 2019.



HSBC BWF
World Tour
SUPER 300



Madrid Spain Masters, Madrid

The tour progressed to Spain with the world's top shuttlers descending on Madrid for another Super 300 event. Carolina Marin, home favourite and on the come-back trail following two serious knee injuries made it to the semis in her home tournament, only to fall in the penultimate round to a fast-improving Gregoria Ma Tunjung who swept aside India's Pusarla Venkata Sindhu without breaking sweat. Tunjung has steadily been racking up stronger performances since the start of the year and has transformed herself into a much steadier player with no shortage of creative ability. Two Japanese players contested the mens final with Kenta Nishimoto running out the winner over Kanta Tsuneyama in three sets. Chinese pairs took both the straight doubles titles and in the mixed event Danish pairing Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Boje beat the returning Praveen Jordan and Malati Oktavianti of Indonesia to record their first significant title as a double's pairing since their victory in the 2021 Orleans Masters. A notable mention also goes to Greg Mairs and Jenny Moore of England who made it to the semi-finals, their best result so far on the BWF Tour.

Orleans Masters Badminton, Orleans

The final event on the European leg of the tour culminated in France. This tournament marked a return to winning ways for Carolina Marin who beat Beiwin Zhang of the USA in three sets of high-quality badminton. The mens event marked the first big win for an exciting talent from India, Priyanshu Rajawat who at just turned 21 is one to watch with a style reminiscent of Prakash Padukone, including a fast-releasing smash that won him many points on the way to the title. Rajawat beat rising left-handed Danish player Magnus Johannesen in three highly entertaining sets. Chinese and Japanese pairs won the mens and women's doubles respectively, and all four semi-finalists in the mixed were young pairing's, highlighting the strength in depth in this category. Malaysia's Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei ran out winners against and emerging pair from Taipei, belying their world ranking of 22.



Upcoming Events

The Sudirman Cup

This May sees the return of the biennial Total Energies Sudirman Cup Finals 2023, which are the World Mixed Team Championships. This major event on the badminton calendar takes place between 14-21 May in Suzhou, China. The Sudirman Cup is a test of the all-round strength of a team. There are five matches in every tie: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

The Sudirman Cup was created in honour of Dick Sudirman who was one of the founders of PBSI (The Badminton Association of Indonesia or Persatuan Bulutangkis Seluruh Indonesia) the governing body of Badminton in Indonesia. Sudirman was its President for 22 years, earning the respect of the worldwide badminton community as an administrator with PBSI. He is most remembered for his pivotal role in helping the unification of the world governing body, the International Badminton Federation (IBF) in 1981.

The Sudirman Cup, like the other major trophies in badminton such as the Thomas Cup and the Uber Cup is an exceptional piece of workmanship; it brings together elements of badminton and the cultural heritage of Indonesia - the country that donated the trophy. It is made of 22-carat gold-plated solid silver and stands at 80 cm high.





Player Profile: Brice Leverdez (France)

The winner of 9 national championships Brice Leverdez spearheaded the current crop of emerging French badminton talent that is currently making waves on the world stage. He bowed out of his professional badminton career this month aged 37 at the Orleans Masters Badminton tournament after 15 years at the top of the crop of French talent, reaching a world highest ranking in 2018 of number 19.

Leverdez participated in three Olympic Games including London 2012, Rio de Janeiro 2016, and Tokyo 2021. He claimed his career highlight as a match versus Lee Chong Wei in the quarterfinals of the 2016 Denmark Open where he lived up to his reputation as a giant killer winning the match in three sets against a rival he had never previously beaten. Alongside this win, his silver medal in singles in the 2015 European Championships must also rank amongst his proudest achievements. Au revoir to a great competitor and entertaining player.

FEATURED

NEW
PRODUCT
2023

Victor Auraspeed 90K II Racket

The second generation Auraspeed 90K from Victor the Auraspeed 90K II badminton racket is stacked with technologies designed to enable fast offense and recovery. Efficient power transfer and cleaner down angles for offensive play make this an attack-orientated, speedy racket enabling both acceleration and strength on the court.

A built-in anti-torsion system provides a more stable hitting experience with precise controllability for fast-paced play. The combination of a revolutionised handle technology called FREE CORE improves overall handling experience, and the integrated shaft and handle technology known as POWER RING provides smoother swings and greater comfort, as well as assertive handling.



These technologies make the ARS-90K II a superb attack-orientated racket that is not only powerful, but also easy and comfortable to use.

This model contains Victors SEVEN SIX76 single pass grommet hole construction, creating less friction and reducing tension loss. Stringing tension range recommendation is 19-29 lbs.

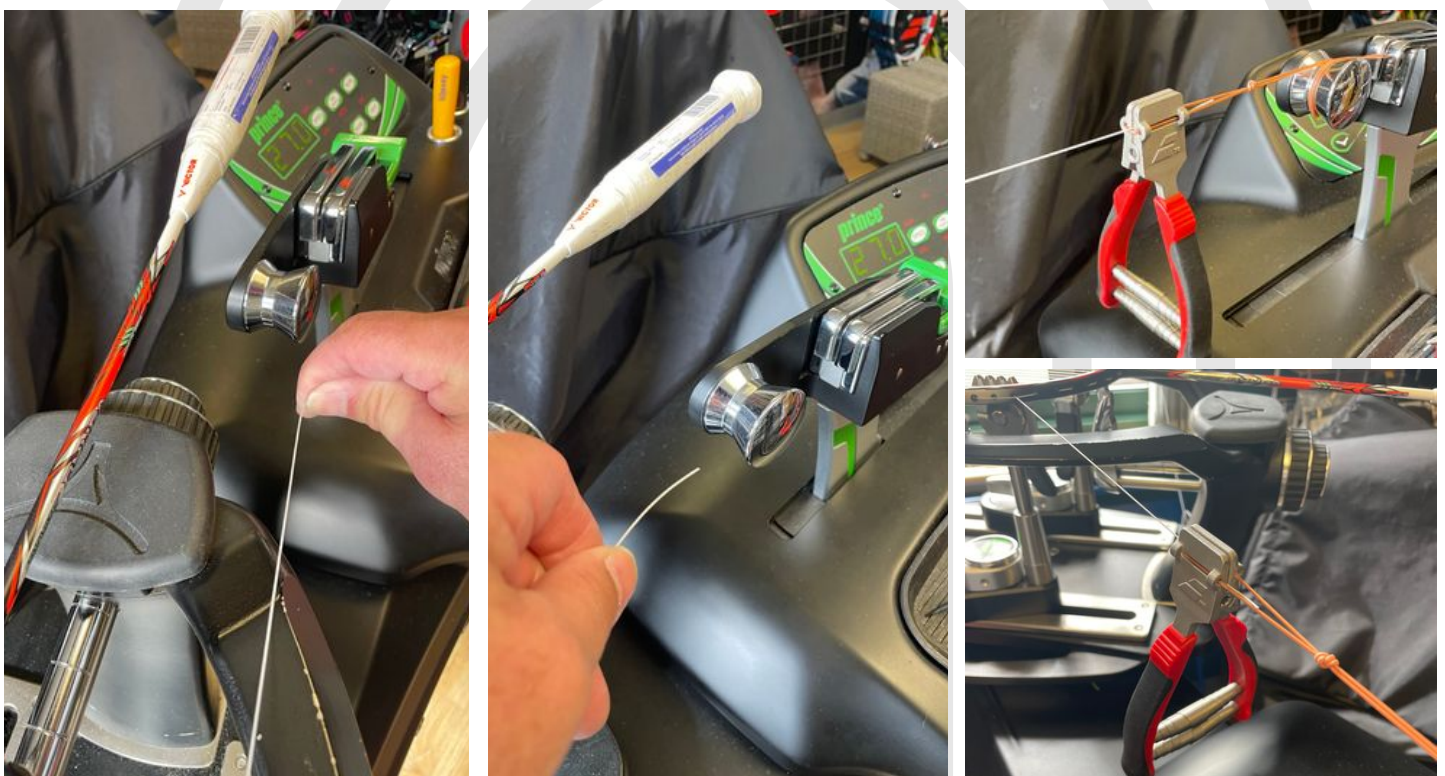
The weight of this badminton racket is only 82 grams, making it very manoeuvrable. Moreover, the racket is extra-stiff, and the balanced weight makes it a racket which is ideal for singles and doubles players looking for versatility in a model that is effective in all areas of the game.

This racket will be available in Europe in a G5 size grip (extra thin) and 4U specification (average 82g weight) and is a blue colourway.

Hints & Hacks

Bridging

It makes good economic sense not to waste string by measuring just what you need for a racket, but occasionally it transpires that you come up a little short on the last main before reaching the diablo and puller. I usually try to finish with just enough string to reach the puller/gripper, but now and then I may be slightly short. In such instances when you find you are short of reaching the pulling head it's relatively straightforward to use a 'bridge' to circumvent this issue. As the images below show, it's basically a case of using a clamp with a spare piece of string attached to it that will allow you to link up with the end of the short string and reach the puller. To do this you need a spare starting clamp which you thread a length of string around and create a loop of string. Then, with your clamp, you can grip the short main string and reach the tension head with the extension string loop. Just remember to make sure the short string is securely seated in the clamp before pulling it otherwise the clamp will come flying off.



WELCOME
TO THE
TEAM



Mark Goodman

GRSA Global Director
Badminton

I'm delighted to be the **GRSA Badminton Global Director** – I know some of you will know me but for those that don't...here's a bit about me!

I started to play badminton when I was about 10 years old – and apart from a brief gap when I had a hip replacement, I have been playing ever since. I'm very proud of my 70 senior county caps, and I'm still playing masters county and played the English Nationals for the first time this season.

Back in 1982, I was one of the first UK graduates in Computer Science – I worked in IT for 22 years before starting Top Spin Tennis (racket specialists with 4 shops) with my wife Karen. Many of you will know her as she has strung at the Australian, French and Wimbledon – in fact she was the only stringer to string at all three in the same year for 2 years on the trot! Karen and I must be one of the few (only?) husband and wife team to string at the same Slam?

My hobbies are varied – I used to rally in the 80's and 90's as both driver and navigator and still am a 'petrol head'! I also play the drums – I started playing in the pubs at the age of 13 – and have just bought myself a new kit! I love music (especially Rick Wakeman) and there is always a radio on or Spotify wherever I work – my singing isn't up to much as my stringing colleagues will vouch for when I'm happy weaving with my headphones on!



I have one son and one daughter – my son is Head Mens Tennis Coach at University of the Pacific in California, and my daughter works in Wanaka, New Zealand – lots of nice holidays for us!



I'm one of a handful of people who have strung at the highest levels in both badminton and tennis and am honoured to have run many workshops for Yonex in both – my highlight must be the seminars I undertook in India, Hong Kong and Australia.

I have strung for many of the top professionals in both sports, but highlights are Lin Dan in badminton and Andy Murray in tennis at the Rio Olympics (I think he may have done quite well in that!).

My aim in the new role at GRSA is to provide a framework for badminton workshops and certifications that mirror the excellent work already in place for Tennis and Squash. Watch this space for the growth of badminton within the GRSA community!

Please feel free to contact me directly on: mark@grsa-international.com

Mark Goodman



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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!

2023 Latin America Pickleball Open Championships**EID:** 1182 **PRICE** USD 30**Organizer:** Associacao Brasileira de Pickleball**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** August 18, 2023 to August 20, 2023**City:** Governador Valadares - **State of Minas Gerais, Brazil****Home Club:** Valadares Pickleball Clube**Registration Deadline:** July 31, 2023 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 4**ITALIAN OPEN PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023****EID:** 1170 **PRICE** EUR 52**Organizer:** ITALIAN PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** August 30, 2023 to September 03, 2023**City:** 65028 Tocco Da Casauria PE, Italia**Home Club:** Pickleball Tocco**Registration Deadline:** August 20, 2023 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 3**Belgian Pickleball Open****EID:** 1175 **PRICE** EUR 35**Organizer:** Pickleball Belgium**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** July 21, 2023 to July 23, 2023**City:** 1200 Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe, België**Home Club:** Hall Sportif Mounier**Registration Deadline:** July 01, 2023 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 3

PICKLEBALL & SOME OF ITS MOST FAMOUS PLAYERS

Pickleball, the game that looks like a cross between tennis and ping pong, has been taking the world by storm in recent years. It's a game that's easy to pick up, but difficult to master, and it's no surprise that it's attracted a range of famous players over the years. Let's take a look at some of the most famous pickleball players in the game!

First up, we have the legendary actor Bill Murray. Yes, you read that right – Bill Murray is an avid pickleball player! The comedian and actor has been spotted playing pickleball at various tournaments across the country, and has even been known to show off his skills in charity games. Apparently, Murray is so passionate about the sport that he even installed a pickleball court at his home in South Carolina!



Next on the list is Simone Jardim, one of the top-ranked pickleball players in the world. Jardim is a former professional tennis player who discovered pickleball in 2015 and hasn't looked back since. She's won multiple national championships and is known for her speed, agility, and quick reflexes on the court.



Third on our list is Tyson McGuffin, who is widely considered to be the best male pickleball player in the world. McGuffin has been playing the game for over a decade and has won countless championships and titles. He's known for his powerful serve, lightning-fast reflexes, and unshakeable focus on the court.



Last but certainly not least, we have Sarah Ansboury, one of the most successful female pickleball players of all time. Ansboury is a former tennis player who made the switch to pickleball in 2014, and has since gone on to win multiple national and international championships. She's known for her precision shots and ability to read her opponents' moves on the court.



In conclusion, pickleball is a sport that's attracting more and more players every day, including some of the most famous people in the world. Whether you're playing for fun or competing at the highest level, pickleball is a game that's sure to provide endless hours of entertainment and excitement. So grab a paddle, find a court, and get ready to become the next pickleball superstar!

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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!

Top Spin Tennis, Culford School, Bury St Edmunds - situated in the picturesque main school, open to the general public with on-site parking. A state-of-the-art Babolat Racket Station machine to re-string all racket sports, GRSA members can receive 5% off their first purchase, simply quote 'GRSA Referral'! **T:** 01223 385 362 - **W:** topspintennis.co.uk **E:** cambridge@topspintennis.co.uk

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TOP SPIN TENNIS

Job Vacancy – Culford Stringer & Sales Assistant

Top Spin Tennis have an exciting opportunity for a new team member to work in its Culford Pro-Shop. This role will be approximately 24 hours per week ranging from a Tuesday to a Friday, with potential full time hours available from September 2023.

Top Spin Tennis is a Racket Sports Specialists with a number of Pro-Shops in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk & Suffolk. Our Culford store is the central hub for stringing the Culford School Tennis Academy Players as well as serving the general public, stringing over 1000 rackets a year.

We require a Stringer & Sales Assistant to help facilitate the operations of this highly successful shop. No experience is necessary as full training will be provided. It's preferred you have some prior knowledge or involvement with at least one racket sport. The full job requirements are detailed below.

Location: Top Spin Tennis, Culford School, Culford, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6TX

If you are interested in this position, please email cambridge@topspintennis.co.uk with a covering letter and attach a copy of your CV. If you have any further questions or would like to find out more, please do not hesitate to email us.

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