GRSA-INTERNATIONAL.COM / NOVEMBER 2022



GRSA INTERNATIONAL **ATW MAGAZINE**

Competitiveness, Passion, Resilience & Loss





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November was a great month for tennis, we take a particular interest in the WTA Finals in Fort Worth, A very interesting Q&A with Ron Rocchi from Wilson, In the Room with Richard Parnell and a look at knots plus much more

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HEAD are leading the way, what's new? What's happening? Take a look and see for yourself





The 2022 WTA Finals Fort Worth marks the 51st edition of the season-ending championships. The history of the tournament has some interesting facts we wonder how many you knew about.

- Fort Worth happens to be the 12th city to host in WTA Finals history. The first two editions, in 1972 and 1973, were in Boca Raton. It then travelled to Los Angeles in 1974-76, returning in 2002-05. Between 1977-2000, it was located in New York, aside from a one-year stop in Oakland in 1978.
- Have the finals always been played on the same surface? The answer to that is no, the first two editions in Boca Raton were on clay, after that and between 1974-2000 it was played on indoor carpet, (yup, that's right, carpet). From 2001 onwards, the tournament has been played on indoor hard courts, the only exceptions being in Doha 2008-10 and Guadalajara 2021, which were on outdoor hard courts. Fort Worth will be played on indoor hard courts.
- There have been 24 different WTA Finals singles champions in the 50 editions. Ten of them have been multiple champions: Martina Navratilova (8), Stefanie Graf (5), Serena Williams (5), Chris Evert (4), Monica Seles (3), Kim Clijsters (3), Evonne Goolagong Cawley (2), Gabriela Sabatini (2), Martina Hingis (2) and Justine Henin (2).

Who's going to be adding their name to the winners' listing?

Well there have been some strong starts to the season ender, Jabeur seemed to be in great form on day one, but was over powered by Sabalenka. The number 2 seed took the first set 6-3 but was taken to a tiebreak in the second set as they exchanged some brilliant baseline power shots, with Aryna really trying to use the net and catch Ons out. Aryna took the second set 7-6 and went on to win the match in the 3rd set with an impressive performance, the set ended 7-5 to Sabalenka and an emphatic smile.

The second match of the day was an absolute corker (extremely good), the in form 5th seed Maria Sakkari was up against 3rd seed Jessica Pegula. We already knew this match was going to be entertaining but it was much more. Only two sets but what a great show for women's tennis, there was a bit of everything and when you take into consideration that this match, only two sets, took 2:11 when the 3 setter between Jabeur and Sabalenka lasted just 17 minutes longer. This match didn't disappoint, with end to end action and stunning rallies.

Anyone doubting if Sakkari is hungry enough and if the relationship with her trainer is going through a rough spot, it sure doesn't look like there is anything wrong.

In the doubles, Coco and Jessica put on a good show for the home crowd but it was the Chinese pairing of Yifan Xu and Zhauxuan Yang that dug deep pulled of the first of the upsets. The match went to 3 sets with Xu and Yang taking the final set 10-7, and what a set, it's was rapid and engaging, but the deciding factor was for sure the 1st serve points won, 66.7% against 37.5% and a very similar 1st return points won percentage, 62.5% to 33.3%.

The second match in the doubles on day one saw Krejcikova & Siniakova face Krawczyk & Schuurs, this match took the same amount of time as the previous match but was much shorter in games, with the Czech's taking the first set 6-4, it's looked like the top seed and her partner were setting themselves for a walkover, it was indeed that, 6-3 in the second set and game over, onto the next match against China's Xu & Yang.

DAY 2

No.1 Iga Swiatek clashed with Daria Kasatkina, it was the fifth time this year but before that happened, Coco had a case of deja vu as she met Caroline Garcia to repeat their quarterfinal match from the US Open. Garcia was the more in-tune of the pairing as Coco didn't seem to really get into the stride of things, she had some good opportunities but couldn't answer Caroline's determination. Final score for the match 6-4. 6-3. Kasatkina had the same lack of form when facing N°1 seed Iga Swiatek, or was it simply a case of Iga being in total control, not giving up as much an inch of the court and showing exactly why she's in the top spot?

Most of the matches are around the hour and a half mark, but there are are some exceptions on the way.

DAY 3

There have been some exceptional games so far with some interesting results, it's an entertaining format as it's not knock-out, Sabalenka who beat Ons Jabeur on day 1, had a tough match against Sakkari, she looked like there would be a comeback in the second set after losing the first but it wasn't to be, Maria took the match 6-2, 6-4. Unlike the previous match, this 3 setter between Ons and Jessica took just one minute more, the first set making us think this was going to be another loss for Jabeur with Pegula racing through with a 6-1 win, but then, it was as if someone just flicked a switch and Ons was back. She took the next two sets and the match with it, dominance was an understatement, she powered through.

DAY 4

Coco Gauff looked to have gained some much needed confidence through the mini break, a day off helped her gather some concentration but unfortunately it still wasn't enough as she fell two sets to love to Daria Kasatkina. The first set going to a tie-break and you have to ask, was the loss of that tie-break what got into Coco's head and pushed her back?





Day 5

A day of surprises, we'd already seen some interesting results with top seeds falling in matches where we expected them to fly through, but if this type of format has shown us anything, it's not to expect anything as anything can happen. One Jabeur faced the in form Maria Sakkari, and most would have put this one in the One winning jar, but it was not to be.

It was as if Ons had something else on her mind, she seemed caught off guard by Maria's strength, something that isn't easy to hide from, she's a powerful hitter, and can intimidate with her baseline strength. On paper it looked like a walk through but Sakkari worked hard for the 6-2, 6-3 victory, and she sure did come out of the match smiling.

The shift in tides kept on coming, number 7 seed Sabalenka was up against Jessica Pegula, Pegula who has a 1 win 1 defeat tally at the moment. Sabalenka had only dropped one match too which set the tale, who was going to take the lead? and you kind of felt that the player to take the first set would be the one going forward. Not because this had been the case in previous matches both players are well matched and the confidence after a first set is very important.

That's pretty much the way it went, a great show of energy from both players and some interesting drop shots, net play and end to end action. 6-3 and the first set going to Aryna, but then even as some of the commentators started writing Jessica off, she really dug her heels in and put up and impressive fight. Unfortunately, it just wasn't enough with the second set finishing 7-5, Sabalenka showing brilliance, who will she meet in the semi finals?

DAY 6

Final day to get through to the semis and we had a treat of a match between Kasatkina and Garcia on the way, but first, the youngest of them all had to face top flight and N°1 seed Iga Swiatek. Swiatek having won all her games so far, dispatched the young American in two seemingly effortless sets, Coco is a young promise with a lot of weight on her shoulders but she'll bounce back from this and having learnt a lot this year. 6-3, 6-0, a walk in the park for Iga.

Daria Kasatkina so far has shown exactly why she's in the top 10 of the WTA, after losing her first match, she composed herself and came back with a dominant performance against Coco. This match was going to test her to the limit as Caroline had lost 2, won 1 and was on the hunt for more. We mentioned that it was a treat of a match and it was. Close fought with Daria taking the first set 6-4, she looked comfortable, in control and ready for battle. Caroline felt the pinch of that first set loss and came out with a clear task, win!

Where was Daria in the second set, it's like she needed a break, what had worked in the first set now had an answer from Caroline, and an answer with some bite on it. 6-1 the second set and you just saw the hunger in Garcia's eyes. So, we were into the 3rd set of this cracker of a match, and welcome back Kasatkina, this set went from strength to strength, phenomenal down the line shots, and both ladies pushing limits to get that last spot in the semis. It was that close that we went to a tie-break and it was all to play for, 2 hours and 27 minutes to see who had more in the gas tank, who could find the edge and take the match, and that was Caroline. What a match!

DAY 7

Time for the semi finals and we're sure most would have already picked their favourites, but could those favourites hang on or would there be a further twist to the already entertaining plot?

Enter Aryna Sabalenka (7) and Iga Swiatek (1), Swiatek unbeaten so far, confident, fully charged and ready for action, but Sabalenka had a day's rest in between, could this prove to be the one match Iga couldn't control? There's little you can do in a match when your opponent is showing signs of superior strength and control. 5 aces to none in favour of Aryna in the first set, and even though she had more double faults, 5 to 2, her percentage of 1st service points won was a clear sign of things to come, 82.4% against 45% of Iga. Swiatek looked sluggish but was serving well.

The Second set was very even on stats but the dominant part was Iga's 1st service points success rate. Having lost the first set 6-2, she looked to push Aryna towards the back hoping to catch her out and then close in on her, and it worked. There was a clear advantage in the breakpoints won, and on the wining returns, so Iga returned the gesture and won the set 6-2. The third set is something of a mystery, Aryna powered her way to a 6-1 win and left the crowd and Iga stunned. Did Swiatek simply gas out or was Sabalenka just more rested and more match ready?



The final pairing in the semis was due to be an even matched event on paper, but it was rather one sided. Sakkari hadn't lost a match and was more rested but Caroline was coming from a convincing, albeit testing win over Daria.

Maria fought hard and had opportunities to break on several occasions but just couldn't convert them, she lacked vision in heading off Garcia and keeping those long forehands to a minimum. Unfortunately for Maria, Caroline just seemed the hungrier of the two and took the match 6-3, 6-3, just goes to show, even though you rest slightly more, it doesn't mean it gives you the advantage.



Maria Sakkari / Caroline Garcia

Time for the finale!

The stage was set, the name on the board and the crowd ready to go, it's the final and fireworks are ready too!

Sabalenka fell one match short of capturing her 11th career title. She was so close to pulling it off, as she faced (and lost) only one break point all match. But on this occasion, she just happened to be against Garcia, who had faced none.

Aryna had an excellent week, 3 wins, 1 loss and she also became only the third player since 2000 to conquer the Top 3 players in a single tournament after Serena Williams at 2002 Miami and Venus Williams at the 2008 WTA Finals. Unfortunately, Garcia had other plans, a different energy and showed her determination in her service, her returns and her stance. An electric atmosphere as these ladies put on a fantastic show, just like they had all week. Caroline simply had all the answers, she used all the tools in her game to seal victory over a worthy adversary.

The first set going to tiebreak, 7-6 to Caroline with no sign of weakening from Aryna but it just wasn't going to be her day. 6-4 the final set to Garcia and after the match she said: "I was really focused on my intentions, what I need to do technically to serve the best I can," she continued with "And today was definitely the best service games I did through the whole tournament."

What a week for women's tennis, what a week for Caroline, what a win, you earned it!





Caroline Garcia



Born: Saint Germain-en Laye, France

Height: 5'10" (177.8cm) Age: 29, Oct 16 - 1993

Current ranking: 4

Prize Money (YTD): \$3,729,317

Singles Titles (YTD): 4

H2H vs Sabalenka: 3 / 2

H2H vs Ons Jabeur 0 / 3

H2H vs Jessica Pegula 2 / 2

H2H vs Iga Swiatek 1 / 2

H2H vs Maria Sakkari 3 / 0

H2H vs Coco Gauff 2 / 2

H2H vs Daria Kasatkina 2 / 1

2022











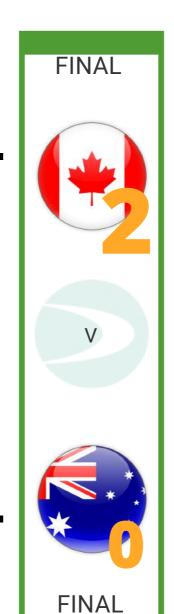
DAVIS CUP

by Rakuten

THE FINAL STANDINGS FOR THE DAVIS CUP





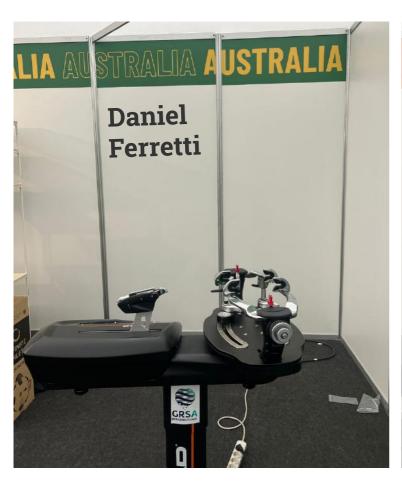








GRSA @ DAVIS CUP









Stringers at the Finals: Netherlands - Richard Parnell, Australia - Daniel Ferretti, Canada - Tomas Stilwell, Italy - Jambo Melis, Germany - Gunther Strähle, Spain - Nikki Roenn, USA - Dimas Mendez.



Ron Rocchi

Sports Marketing Manager Global Tour & Player Insights

Q&A about the Baiardo Tune & Tune Pro



Q. Why did Wilson decide to produce diagnostic machines, and how long was the development process?

A. The idea for diagnostic machines had been considered since the launch of the Baiardo stringing machine more than a decade ago. The global success and ergonomic functions of the Baiardo, set new standards for racquet stringing. The diagnostic machines were a completely different set of challenges, we set out to make a better, more modern, and user friendly tool. As we looked at the overall racquet sports industry and how we could improve the diagnostic measurement system, we felt the need to re-think how racquets are analyzed. For the last 5 years we have been developing the Bairdo Tune Pro and Baiardo Tune machines.

Q. Why two different machines?

A. After extensive market research with retailers and stringers, it became clear that diagnostic machines are not "one size fits all". We started with the Baiardo Tune Pro, which has more measuring capabilities than any other machine in the market. But not everyone needs all the functions, and there is a significant need for a simpler and lower cost version, the Baiardo Tune.

Q. What makes the Baiardo Tune Pro unique?

A. The Baiardo Tune Pro is the first machine capable of measuring eight (8) different aspects of racquets for seven (7) different types of racquet sports. This is extremely useful in a retail/speciality shop environment where many different types of racquets are being sold. For example, you could measure the weight/balance/sw/flex of a tennis racquet, measure the shaft stiffness of a badminton racquet, and face deflection of a pickleball paddle. Additionally, the Tune Pro measures not only horizontal bending, but also vertical bending.

Q. What is vertical bending and why is it important?

A. Vertical bending is fairly new to racquet sports, but is a significant aspect of how a racquet will perform on court. We all think of stiffness/flex in the horizontal mode, a bending measure at the tip of the frame, which is directly related to overall stiffness and power. But, in the modern swing which has become more vertical in nature, the racquet also flexes in a vertical axis at impact. Racquets with increased vertical bending typically provide longer dwell time, increased spin and accuracy. As the industry moves forward, vertical bending will become a more common form of measurement.

Q. What are the differences between Baiardo Tune Pro and Baiardo Tune?

A. Baiardo Tune Pro can accurately measure eight (8) different attributes of any racquet; Simultaneous weight & balance, Swing Weight, String bed stiffness, Horizontal & vertical bending Shaft stiffness & Face deflection (string bed or solid face).

The Baiardo Tune is a more compact device measuring three (3) attributes of any racquet; Simultaneous weight, balance, Swing Weight.

Q. I have heard there is unique racquet tuning feature, can you elaborate?

A. Yes, both machines have an intergrated built in tuning feature we call the Tuning Mode. This mode is a predictive software which gives the user the abiltiy to customize racquets with the machine solving the question of how much weight to add to the proper location. Simply measure the weight/balance/SW and enter what final specs you desire, the machine will predict how much weight to put where, and shows you exactly where to add. If you currently perorm a lot of customization, this feature reduces the time spent solving the question. If you are not prolific in racquet customization, Tuning Mode gives you a roadmap to accurately do the job. These machines allow anyone to perfom accurate and repeatable racquet customization!

Q. Can these machines be calibrated, and how difficult is that process?

A. Calibration was a big problem to solve, most diagnostic machines are incredibly difficult to calibrate. We had to re-think this and make is super user friendly. Both machines come with all the tools to simply calibrate weight/balance/sw without having to open or take apart the machine.

Q. How did Wilson test and validate the new machines?

A. Both the prototypes and first production units were used in a parallel path in the Wilson Pro Lab since mid 2021. Hundreds of pro player orders were measured and built using both the Baiardo Tune Pro and Baiardo Tune to the exacting standards of top professional players. Additionally, we used the machines on site during Roland Garros and US Open in 2021 and 2022 to measure player racquets and string bed deflections.

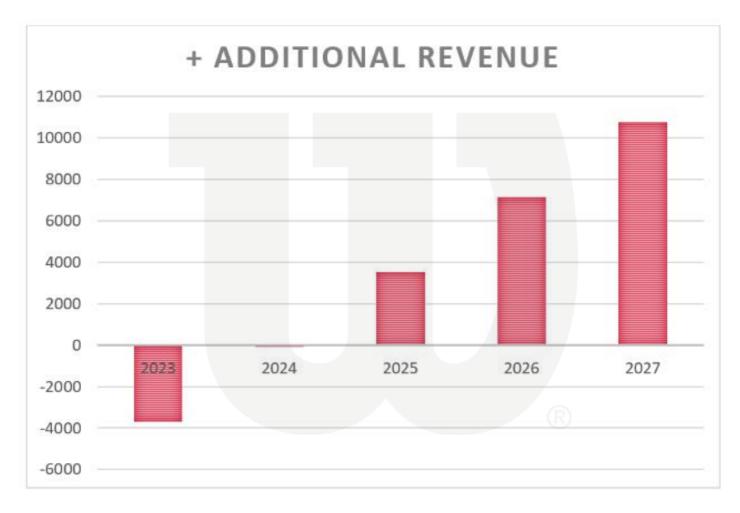
Q. What is the cost to purchase these machines?

A. With inventory available in late 2022, the price for Baiardo Tune Pro is \$7500 / €7500. The Baiardo Tune costs \$4000 / €4000. While this may seem expensive, there is a ROI calculation to better understand the value of this unique and profitable tool. A typical costs analysis per annual basis for increased revenue, if the Baiardo Tune is used to increase the following;

- +52 additional string sales per year
- +6 increased racquet sales per year
- +52 additional racquet customizations







You can see this is one of the best investments an individual or retail store can make, while adding a level of expertise!

Q. Any final thoughts about the Baiardo Tune Pro or Baiardo Tune?

A. Both of these new machines, Baiardo Tune Pro and Baiardo Tune are incredible tools for a business or individual to increase revenue. With the unique Tuning Mode function, racquet customization is made super easy and user-friendly. The Tune Pro is the most advanced diagnostic machine available, capable of accurately measuring all seven (7) types of racquets, tennis, squash, badminton, racquetball, padel and pickleball.

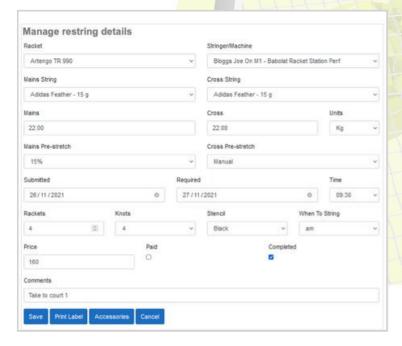




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JVCSTRINGER

JVCStringer.com manages stringing records providing an efficient and professional service to your customers. Running on most devices (PC, Mac, mobile, tablet etc) it can be used wherever you are and by individual stringers through to Grand Slam tournaments, it is ideal for shops and clubs too!





Created by the developers of the PC version used at a Grand Slam tournament since 2011 and previously by Tecnifibre at The French Open. A complete system that is designed to make your job much easier, helping you keep track of every little detail, this enables you to dedicate even more time to the job at hand.









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OrangeCoach is the premier online coach recruitment platform in the international tennis industry, proudly connecting coaches and employers of all levels, across the globe. We also provide user benefits and discounts that are specifically tailored to the global tennis coaching market.

The OrangeCoach automated jobs platform is unique to the tennis industry and has contributed to the professionalisation of recruitment of tennis coaches across the world. The sophisticated atomisation allows coaches to be immediately matched with suitable vacancies that meet the criteria they selected at the time of registration. Employers equally have the peace of mind that they only receive suitably qualified candidate applications for their adverts. Some might say, the perfect match!



You can register for free. GRSA Coaches can benefit from a credit discount of 20% with the code: $G^*20\% OrngC$

Are you looking for your first tennis coaching job, or maybe you are looking for your next coaching challenge?

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- Promote your resume on our online coach database;
- Gain access to unique & useful tennis career benefits and content;
- Receive the latest tennis jobs by email and social media.

SECTION 1 - TENNIS - P16



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



Aster Poly string

The tennis string Aster Poly is a very fast tournament tennis string with extremely long durability and best playability with incredible acceleration, control, and enormous spin.

In the Room

With Richard Parnell

The Path to Joining an ATP/WTA Tour Stringing Team

I often get told that you can only become a part of a tour stringing team by knowing someone and using that influence. I would wholeheartedly disagree.

I believe that it is achieved by hard work, investing in yourself to be the best stringer you can be, some luck, a positive attitude, having a flexible character and working towards an achievable goal.

The brand or company that has paid or has been chosen to be the official stringer for an event needs a team and will chose that team on past experience and by knowing the potential team members who will represent the brand well.

Here is the first most important step to be taken.

Create a relationship with the brands and offer your services at the small local events.

Joining a tour level team will not happen overnight, some people have been fortunate to have that happen, but they are the lucky few. Put the work in at club events, Futures, ITF tours, senior tours, whatever is available in your area, or if you need to travel, then make that decision and work towards that goal.

By being a certified stringer by a recognized stringing association, you are showing that you have invested in yourself, take stringing seriously with a view to improving and becoming more professional. Using your stringing certification as a business card to get your foot in the door is invaluable and might be all the difference between you and another stringer. By being a member of an association also means you can network with other tour stringers.

The local tournament scene will give you a taste of what is expected of a tour stringer, long hours, sometimes low pay, stressful but rewarding moments. If you can manage to do 50 rackets in a week then a Futures tournament will normally need about 100 rackets in a week. This will stand you in good stead for Challenger tournaments which are now hitting close to 300 rackets (depending on surface). ATP/WTA tournaments can go from 3 or 4 hundred rackets up to 2 to 3 thousand and then Grand Slams upwards of 4 thousand rackets.

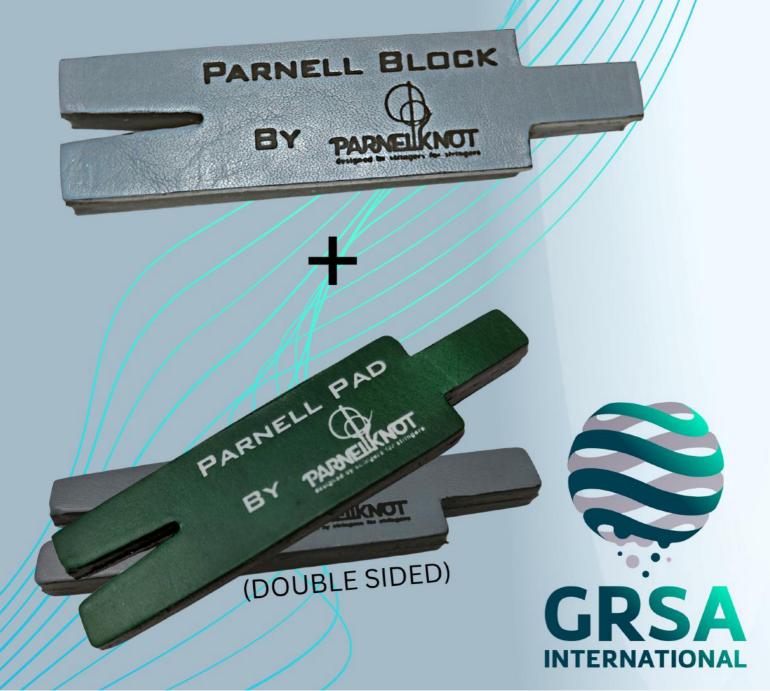


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I don't move around as well as I used to, but I saw my friend Amanda Peet talking about pickleball on a talk show and I was like, 'I have to try this.

Matthew Perry

- Pickleball players are better known as "picklers" among those who know the sport.
- The city of Naples, Fl. is the Pickle capital of the world. Every year, It hosts the US Pickleball Open Championships.
- Unlike tennis, in pickleball, you can only serve using an underhand stroke.
- In 2018. the first historical book about pickleball was published. It was written by former USAPA members: Jennifer Lucore and Beverly Youngren.
- The equipment used to play pickleball comes from different items that were lying around the homes of the creators. The equipment evolves year after year.



GRSA INTERNATIONAL

Would like to thank Gamma Sports for being present at the very first GRSA Beginner's Workshop in Ireland. MORE INFO p36



REAL ESTATE GROUP

Boasting the majestic backdrop of the Mijas mountains and the glistening Mediterranean below, the breathtaking views from this stunning and unique property are unrivalled. Whether you want to enjoy a favourite tipple from your very own wine cellar on the 360° panoramic roof terrace or a tea fusion, using the integral Quooker tap, one thing is clear, this contemporary villa offers quality, impeccable style and effortless technology in one of the coast's most desirable locations.



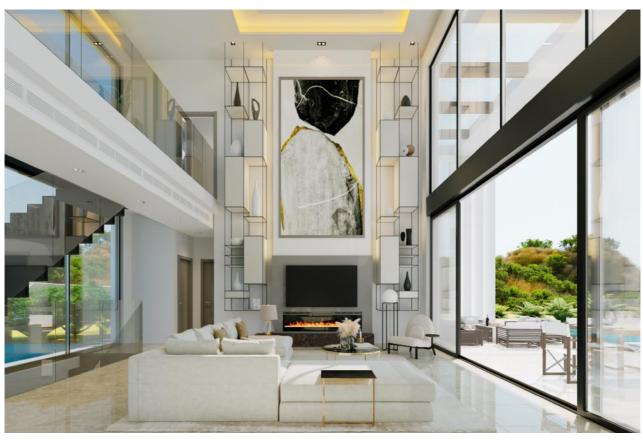






This villa exudes star quality at every turn, and the roof terrace presents a pagoda, a bar area and cutting edge design. Finished and furnished to the most exacting standards, with an interior styled by a top French designer, everything about this impressive and inviting villa is naturally luxurious. That's evidenced by the designer Italian marble flooring throughout, and marble staircase and stone walls in the basement and bathrooms. Even the stunning façade has a solid wood finish. And with all this style comes the "smart" – an array of digital features that allow for effortless remote control of vision, sound, LED strip lighting, blinds, and the temperature, via hot and cold air conditioning in every room.









It's impossible not to be impressed by this masterpiece of design. Subtly exuding the finest quality materials, impeccable attention to detail and style, whilst being effortlessly serviced by the latest in-home technology, you'll feel safe and secure in the knowledge this is a residence afforded by only the most discerning of buyers.









PRICE

€1,685.000

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO



GRSA INTERNATIONAL

Featured Shop



Kininelaantje 12, 1216BZ Hilversum

+35-6225894



Rojo Racketsports





Rojo Racketsports Hilversum was opened in 2009 on one of the biggest tennis facilities in the Netherlands counting 22 clay courts and 9 indoor courts. The shop started with stringing and some racquet sales. The development in the shop was enormous. After 5-6 years there were 2 stringing machines and they were stringing up to 4000 rackets a year.

Most brands are available in rackets and strings but there was something that had to stand out, it all came down to quality! The shop is in an area with multiple shops and a number of stringers that work from home, to make a difference it was about how to get the customer to feel good in the shop and on the court.

With the experience Dustin had from stringing his own rackets, plus always searching for new feel and information on strings and rackets, he tested all the strings and rackets he sold in the shop. Only that way was he sure he could correctly provide the customer the right insight into feel, comfort, power or control.

When he heard about stringing courses he was interested, information about passion and sports are always valuable. The more we share, the more we know, right? No one knows best but we can share and co-oporate to make it work. Knowing that a player is confident with his racket, strings or the string job is, in his opinion, a very, very important factor.









With this growing interest he got asked to string for national and international tournaments and players (Ana Ivanovic, Nicolas Jarry, Gacia Lopez, Diego Schwartzman, Alexander Bublik, Robin Haase, Teun Rozenberg and Eva Vedder). The shop and name are now known also by the Dutch Nationals, juniors and seniors. A lot of players put trust in his skills and are comfortable with him handing their rackets.

The shop is now known for stringing, tuning (not only wood classics) and of course padel at the moment. Wherever there is space for improvement, he is always interested. Tuning is also a big part of his interest, making racquets equal or even carrying out some testing with players with several different specs on racquets. Especially the youth players that are coming by on a daily basis to find improvement with rackets or specs. Working with the youngsters is always fun and to see them improve on the court even more so.

Dustin is always thinking about the player and makes sure that every racket is always exactly the same. "Consistency will always put you slightly above the rest, do a good job and be consistent with it and your reputation will only grow".



grsa-international.com



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- ATP/WTA Professional Tournament Stringer
- Davis Cup Stringer
- Babolat Stringing Team / Dunlop Stringing Team
- 20+ years experience
- All rackets are strung on a Babolat Sensor Dual or Wilson Baiardo electronic machines
- Full racket customisation and matching service available have provided these services for Grand Slam Champions
- Services provided for Tennis, Squash, Badminton & Racquetball
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Since the beginning of GRSA we have outlined that our objective is to help the 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 ream 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.

Kirschbaum

kirschbaum-strings.de

Comfort

This string brings limited comfort as it is part of the monofilament line that always absorbs less shocks than multifilaments.



Power Vs Control

The Max Power can give big hitters maximum power in their shots, but keeping their ball in the court. The 1.25mm gauge gives fast ball speed and no loss of control. Meanwhile, the 1.30mm gauge improves control.

Tension Maintenance

Monofilament strings are known to lose more tension than a multifilament string. The Kirschbaum brand pre-stretch this string to help the string's ability to maintain tension.

Life Span

The Kirschbaum Max power will please the bigger hitters due to the increased resistance.

Topspin

If you prefer to hit topspin on your shots, this monofilament string with a rough profile is ideal for your game.

Kirschbaum

Tension Maintenance

The monofilament strings are known to not keep tension as well as multifilament strings. The Kirschbaum brand pre-stretch the string to help reduce the loss of tension.

Topspin

If you normally like to put topspin on the ball, this rough textured monofilament will definitely be suitable.

Life Span

The increased resistance of Kirschbaum Max power string makes it ideal for players who tend to frequently break their strings.

Power VS Control

The Max Power Rough will allow the heavy hitters to put maximum power on the ball, yet keep the ball within the court. The 1.25mm gauge will allow you to have quick racquet head speed without losing control.



Comfort

This string offers limited comfort as it is part of the monofilament range, which absorbs less shocks than multifilaments.

Stringer Solutions To Be or Knot to Be

TOA

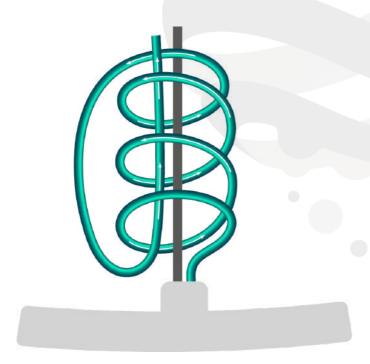
Richard Parnell

During the stringing process there are certain actions that are personal choices, where one isn't better than the other, just different. The knot is one of these.

Firstly, we need to differentiate between a starting knot and a finishing knot. Each should be used accordingly and not mixed, both knots have one thing in common, protecting the anchor string.

Firstly let's look at the Starting Knot

GRSA recommends using a starting clamp to start the crosses as opposed to using a starting knot, however every good stringer should be able to tie a starting knot if needed.

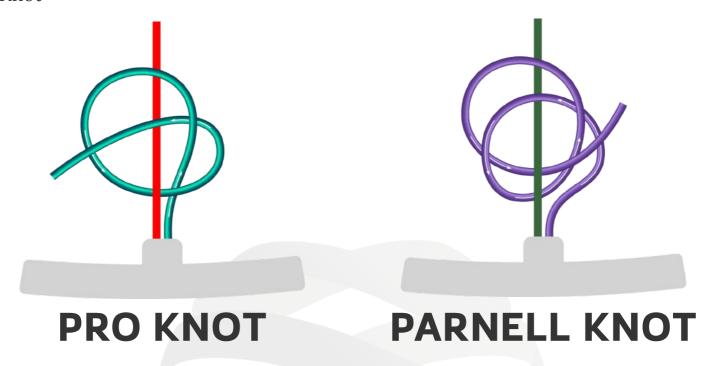


This is the recommended

GRSA STARTING KNOT

The finishing knot is the most important as it is used in every restring. The double half hitch (DHH) is probably the finishing knot that has been around the longest. This doesn't mean that it is the best and in my humble opinion there are plenty of other knots available that make using a DHH a wrong choice. The DHH isn't a recommended knot because it doesn't protect the anchor string.

The two finishing knots recommended by GRSA are the Pro Knot and Parnell Knot



Both knots protect the anchor string and for this reason, they are the most used knots on the tour and around the world.

The Pro Knot tends to be more compact and suits tighter spaces where there is not a lot of room to tie off.

The Parnell Knot is slightly bulkier, so ideal for large grommets that you don't want the knot to sink into.

I am obviously partial to the Parnell knot as I can make sure that the tag end is always in line with the anchor string, meaning that all rackets I do will have the knots facing the same way and be symmetrical. However, if my tie off space is limited then I will always use a Pro Knot.

I have seen a player refuse collection of rackets because the knots were untidy, DHH's and all facing different ways.

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

GRSA International - Ireland

Beginners Stringing Workshop



Roger Henry (GRSA International – Ireland manager) organized the first GRSA workshop in Ireland, and Dublin was the chosen place to kick it all off with the Rathgar Tennis and Bowling Club, a perfect setting and backdrop to introduce some new stringers to the art of stringing. Roger Henry invited me, Richard Parnell, to help him during the workshop but a big shout out goes to Jamie, Head coach at the club, for making it all possible.

Saturday morning started off day 1 at 09:30 with a coffee and an introduction to GRSA International, its ethos, certification levels and ways of helping with stringer education around the world. We then moved swiftly on to string types and constructions so that there was a basic knowledge of what we would be putting in the rackets.

There were 4 people attending this beginner's workshop with 3 having strung one racket before and Anika who had never strung. We had 4 machines thanks to our partners, a Prince, a Baiardo and 2 Gamma machines, all electronic and nice machines to learn on. Adrian, Anika, Sam and Tom were all eager to get started.

















I strung a racket so that everyone could see the steps needed to finish the job. Then the fun part started and we got everyone on the machines. Both Roger and I had a great time sharing our knowledge and correcting where needed. All the attendees showed real aptitude and everyone managed to finish a racket on their own, not a bad start for day 1.

Sunday, day 2 started off at 09:30 again with a coffee, a recap of the first day's information and then the giving out of string samples from our partners, HEAD, Gamma & Kirschbaum. We then moved on to regripping a racket as a basic racket repair and everyone managed that perfectly.

Back to stringing for the rest of the day with everyone working on their weak points and I must say, the effort put in by everyone was exemplary and they will all make good stringers with practice.

We ended the course with some more banter, laughs and exchange of contact details so that any questions that might arise can be answered by either Roger or myself.

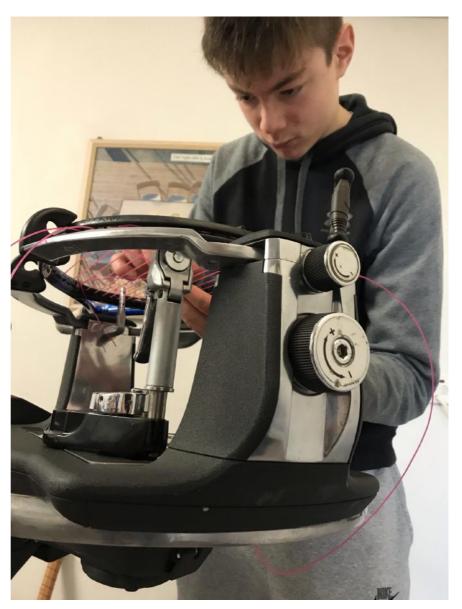
A thoroughly enjoyable flying trip to Ireland and an excellent way to start GRSA – Ireland on its way to helping Irish stringers be the best they can.

Another workshop is being organized for the new year, so if you want to take your stringing to the next level, contact Roger on **team.ie@grsa-international.com**

















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GRSA CERTIFICATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS on your RECENT CERTIFICATIONS



Andrea Colombo GRSA Online Certified Pro Master Stringer Italy



Tom DefuscoGRSA Online Certified
Pro Stringer **USA**



Christina Weisinger GRSA Certified Pro Master Stringer Germany



Marco Schoeppers
GRSA Certified
Pro Master Stringer
Germany

IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP

for more information grsa-international.com

GRSA EDUCATION



Mark Jan Greebe

Congratulations on passing your GRSA Certified Tour Stringer certification exam, Mark visited the GRSA Headquarters for a Master Class and to take the exam passing with flying colours, on towards Tour Master!

Netherlands





Rafa Madrid

Rafa also visited the GRSA headquarters and took part in a one to one Master Class with Richard Parnell. Already an Online Pro Stringer and Online Pro Master Stringer, Rafa wanted that extra attentive one on one time to fine tune his technique, one that keeps him very busy in Shanghai which is where he is based most of the time even though he's from Spain. Well done Rafa, a true example that there is always more to learn if you really want to and have the right mindset.

Spain

Have you already taken one of the **GRSA** online or presential workshops but want to take your stringing education one step further?

Then why not book a one day Master Class with Richard Parnell - GRSA Grand Master?

Your 8 hour day can be tailored to suit your needs. Need help with customizing? Like to find ways of improving speed while maintaining quality? No problem, we've got you covered. By using the "Aggregation of Marginal Gains" approach, Richard gets amazing results in just a few hours.

If you want to take your stringing to the next level, contact **GRSA International HQ** via email **info@grsa-international.com**.

MOTIVATION QUOTE

Sharing information shows you've learnt one of the most important lessons in life. We don't own information, it belongs to everyone, so don't hang on to it thinking it benefits you and you alone, share it and show others just how capable they are of learning something new every day.

Daniel Efford

GRSA International - Operations Manager



TIME TO MEET JON

Jon Sharpe (AKA String Doctor), is the **GRSA UK Squash Manager**. He began his stringing journey in 1997, aged 18, whilst at university in Cardiff, Wales, studying Sports Development & Coaching. He was a decent all round racket sports player and county/national level in squash and county level in Tennis until his mid teens but at that point mainly focused on squash, though he was, and always will be, a HUGE fan of tennis. His wife was also a national junior badminton player when they met! A friend of Jon's had a stringing machine which he let him use in exchange for giving him lifts in the car to the pub! As a frequent string breaker, his friend essentially had his very own taxi service! At this point Jon was only stringing his own rackets. From leaving university he was fortunate to have a stringer at his club who he trusted with his rackets and always did a good job at a reasonable rate and with his favourite strings/tension.

In 2012 he relocated to the South West of the UK from Wales and struggled to find a stringer he gelled with so he decided to buy his own small machine and tapped into his mate, Nick Down (yes, THE Nick Down) for a few tips every now and then when he started stringing for others. Around 5 years ago Nick tested and accredited Jon as a Master Pro Stringer. He spends as much time with Nick as he can, often bumping into Nick at tournaments which his son plays in - naturally they end up sharing time on the stringing machines together and chatting for hours. Jon's used many machines but settled on the Wilson Baiardo L as his main machine as he finds it perfect for him and highly versatile.





Outside of stringing, Jon works in the airline industry for Virgin Atlantic, heading up recruitment for their operational areas. They are an amazing company who fit his personality and lifestyle perfectly. He also gets some very good perks including free flights for him and his family! Jon is a level 2 qualified squash coach and has coached for nearly 25 years, something he's really enjoyed doing. His eldest son plays for Wales (Welsh No1 and British Racketball Champion) and plays throughout Europe, and his other two kids also enjoy playing squash and tennis.

Jon's favourite racket sport is squash, though as previously mentioned he's also a big fan of tennis. He has many favourite players on the squash tour. "Currently Mohamed Elshorbagy, Paul Coll and Joel Makin, Tesni Evans and Joelle King. On the tennis tour it has to be Federer and Nadal who epitomise two things he loves in racket sports: amazing technique, sportsmanship and drive. Looking at the past though, in squash it was Jahangir Khan and more recently Ramy Ashour (the guy is a magician with the racket but sadly retired early due to injuries). Tennis, it HAS to be Andre Agassi. The clothes and how he used to launch about 3 ft off the air when hitting the ball were enough to get me into tennis in the late 80's and keep me playing."

His favourite player to string for is probably Mohamed Elshorbagy. He's been his stringer for the last couple of years or so and he truly appreciates the art of stringing and attention to detail. He is one of the most focused and professional players on the tour, and has spent the majority of the last decade at No1 in the world, or near enough to it. He looks for every angle to gain an advantage, which is why Jon feels privileged to string for him, "somebody this meticulous reaching out to me to prep his rackets! What an honour!"



We asked Jon to share a story with his GRSA family and this is what he had to say: An interesting story... a few years ago I had a message waiting for me in my Facebook Messenger regarding stringing. When I stepped off court I read the message and it was from the leader of a folk band who were touring the UK and about to play the Devon leg of their tour. They needed some of their instruments strung, banjos, ukuleles etc and wanted to know when I could fit them in. Obviously they'd been referred to the wrong person but we had some very amusing banter about the situation and they invited me to one of their gigs. The rock n roll (well, folk) life of a stringer eh! What a story! We wonder if this has happened to other stringers...if it's happened to you send us a DM on Instagram or Facebook to tell us your experience!











You can follow Jon Sharpe, GRSA UK Squash Manager, on Instagram at @jonsharpe79 or contact him via email for information on presential courses, general squash knowledge, or to get your racket restrung by him at squash.uk@grsa-international.com





Nick Down &

Prince Squash Racket that shows the following points:-

- 1. Alternating Mains, above and below the Powering at the throat.
- 2. Three double-barrelled grommets on either side at the head.
- 3. Hard-weave all around; at all 6 of the double-barrelled grommets and on the bottom cross string from the powering.

Welcome to this series where we will take a look at stringing the more challenging rackets on the list of non-standard squash rackets. We will look at one racket per month starting with the Prince Triple Threat Pattern, which has been used for many years and is still in use today.

The main signs are that unlike most other Prince Premium patterns, there are 17 crosses, three double-barrelled grommets on each side at the head and a Powering at the throat.

When installing the mains, you must start at the head, alternate at the Powering and acheive a "hard-weave all around". This means, the bottom cross string nearest to the powering, the powering itself and all 6 of the double-barrelled grommets.

I always have used a two-piece method for Prince models to avoid long runs of string around the outside of the frame.

MAINS:-

Starting at the Head, LH1 down Below ring. Above ring to LH2, RH1 down Above ring. Below ring to RH2. RH2 to RH3, RH3 down Above ring, Below ring to RH4.

LH2 to LH3, LH3 down Below ring.

Above ring to LH4, LH4 to LH5 (upper hole of 2)

LH5 down Below ring, Above ring to LH6 (upper hole of 2).

RH4 to RH5 (lower hole of 2), RH5 down Above ring.

Below ring to RH6 (lower hole of 2), RH6 to RH8 (skip RH7)

RH8 down Above ring, Below ring to RH11 (skip RH 9 & 10, then into lower hole of 2).

LH6 to LH8 (skip LH7), LH8 down Below ring.

Above ring to LH11 (skip LH 9 & 10, then into upper hole of 2).





We all have little nuggets of wisdom that we use on a regular basis, when we share them we're helping others learn from that wisdom!

CROSSES:-

Fill in the gaps (remembering ONLY one string per hole).

Start at LH5 with knot at LH4. From the lower hole of LH5 go above the 1st Main you come to, continue to weave. Last cross is tied off at LT2, (up 1).

This pattern is quite quick and easy, once attempted a few times. When it was first produced, stringers refused to string it, quite unbelievable!

The most common mistake is not alternating the mains, above and below the powering. When putting in the 1st main in the centre on both sides, it is crucial to remember to not put them both either under or over the ring together; if you do that, it will guarantee a non-satisfactory outcome.

Next month, the Prince O3 pattern



"When cutting strings out of Eye Rackets, cut them normally, and then pull them out inside the hoop. It saves time searching in the bin for grommets!"



MULTI FOREVER

The recent history of squash strings.

by Jon Sharpe

For the last thirty or more years, multifilament strings have been the 'go to' strings in the squash community, with practically every single professional squash player in the world using multifilament strings. Whereas in tennis, natural gut and monofilaments are king and queen, in squash there have only been a handful of players using natural gut in recent times. And when I say a handful, I literally mean a handful – or about three of the five fingers on a hand to be precise. Nicol David (World No1 for nearly 10 years) being one of the most famous players to have used natural gut towards to the end of her career following some advice from our very own Nick Down for her to give it a go.

So why are multifilaments so popular in squash? Companies like Tecnifibre have made a string that is so good all round for power, feel and comfort that natural gut isn't really missed. It's also more durable, especially when you consider the humid and sweaty environment on a squash court, and more consistent. Not to mention that it's about a third of the cost!

Monofilaments isn't an option in squash, despite efforts by companies like Luxilon to make a squash version. It's too hard, doesn't offer the control or power you need when hitting a small rubber ball and is painful on the arm – when you consider the average ball in squash is hit at between 120 – 160mph, or higher, during rallies which can last between two to four minutes, the sheer volume of hitting doesn't lend itself kindly to poly. Which brings us onto the next point.

Whereas in Tennis many pros or enthusiastic tournament players can carry a reel of monofilaments with them, or a few sets of natural gut for hybrids, it would be very expensive and inefficient to fill a squash player's bag with 20 sets of natural gut and unlikely that a tournament stringer in squash will carry volumes of natural gut. One of the most common sights on the squash tour is a player with a 200m reel of multi in their bag. They are often provided with the string by sponsors.









Go to any squash club or tournament and you will notice that squash strings are very colourful, with the most popular string being the green Tecnifibre 305 along with other popular strings such as the blue Ashaway Ultranick 18 and Unsquashable's Tour Tec Pro which is bright yellow. The colours are a great way for the manufacturers to showcase their string. In fact, probably more than 50% of the mens and womens pro tour currently use Tecnifibre 305, instantantly recognisable, which then feeds back to the ordinary player at the clubs – a great marketing ploy and companies tend not to tread on each other's toes too much. For example, Tecnifibre changed it's squash version of X-One Biphase (my favourite string) from red to orange. Possible to make it stand out more, especially from Ashaway's PowerNick 18, also red.

Squash players, aside from playing with 'cut' on the ball don't tend to use much spin on the ball an when they do, it's normally in touch shots at the front of the court. This means that mutlifilaments in squash rackets can last significantly longer than in tennis rackets as the strings don't move quite as much and are certainly more predictable in the directions they move. In tennis it's very rare not to put some form of spin on the ball, especially when playing at pace – which is obviously very different to how spin is used in squash, meaning that multi will wear more severely in tennis. Not to mention the fact that a tennis is ball is far larger and more abrasive that a squash ball.

So multifilament strings are here to stay for now in squash and I don't see monofilaments or natual gut ever really challenging that. Possibly natural gut is the only alternative, but only if the price point is lowered considerably.







Pickleball is currently America's fastest growing sport. The Sports Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) reported in February 2022 that pickleball participants reached 4.8 million and play had grown in the sport by 39.3% in just two years. The SFIA tracks participation in 120 sports, recreation and fitness activities each year.

Global brand, HEAD sports SportsEdTV, a leading sports education company, partnered this past year to create an education, e-commerce, and co-promotion program within pickleball SportsEdTV's education ecosystem. Working with HEAD pros and coaches, SportsEdTV has been creating over 40 instructional pickleball videos featuring HEAD pickleball products and curated on SportsEdTV's category-leading sports educational website. The videos have been promoted on HEAD and SportsEdTV social media channels.







As their exclusive pickleball paddle partner, HEAD has been working with SportsEdTV who is continuing to sign on the best pickleball coaches and pros within the sport who can help create lessons, tips and content that will benefit the pickleball community. These pickleball experts continue to delivery monthly blog posts and weekly social media posts referencing HEAD products, coaches, and athletes.

SportsEdTV exists to help athletes, coaches and parents LEARN, WIN, and CELEBRATE. They don't expect everyone who uses their learning tools to become a world champion – but they do expect people who use their educational resources become a champion by whatever definition of success they have in their chosen sport. Some will want to make a varsity team or be on a podium and for others it may be simply gaining proficiency at a sport that offers fun and fitness. They provide FREE video and blog content to anyone in the world with an internet connection.

SportsEdTV's global online community is a place where athletes, parents, and coaches can interact, connect, chat, share content and find new friends and shop for HEAD's gear.







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- High quality poly finish



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)

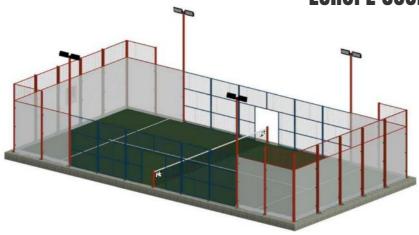
Structural system of aluminum profiles, dimensions of the pillars 150x45x1.7 (8 units), 106x232x3 (4 units), 90x45x1.7 (8 units)

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), 150x45.1.7 (8 units)

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

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

COLISEUM COURT

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

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

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

Welded mesh 50x50x4mm

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

Lighting rods integrated into the structure

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









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

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

There are many ways to personalise the courts and all options can be studied, from the grass, flooring, glass panels, beams, corner posts and more. Even if you think it's an unusual request or idea, all options will be considered and studied.



HUHEL SPORTS HEAD OFFICE

C/ de la Giralda 18,
Castdelldefells
(Barcelona)
Spain

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Using Your Voice

Be understood

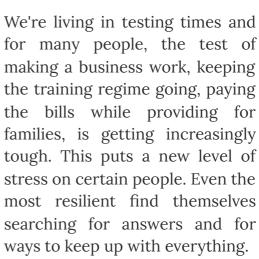
Sports personalities may look like they have the perfect lives, they work in and play their favourite sport. They have high-profile lifestyles, but there are still so many things that affect them. They still get injured, even though they can sometimes afford the best trainers and coaches. They still go through financial and personal difficulties even though we might not be privy to the information all the time.

We assume that the fact that they are doing what they want, they are in a good place, that they are happy and enjoying life, and it might be so but, in the same way that we have to deal with every day life, sports personalities are subject to a wide range of tests, and in some cases, more than your average Joe Blogs.

In every walk of life there are trials and tribulations, actors, actresses, sports personalities, Royals and so on, who deal with their own issues and being mentally prepared for them is something we all need to achieve.

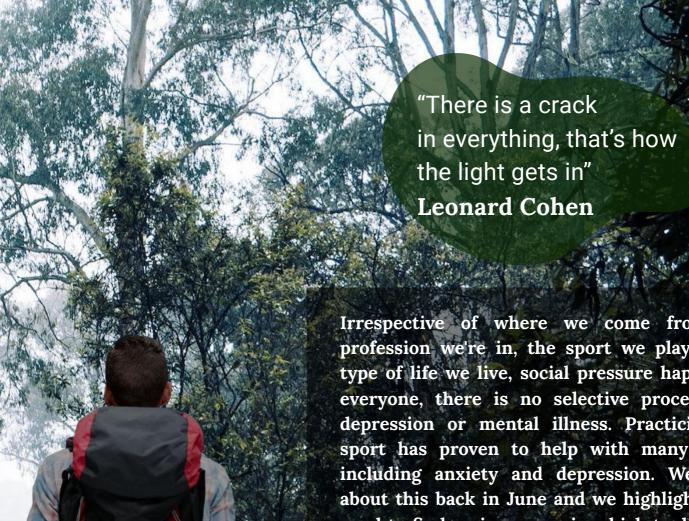
Associations around the world are more and more involved in helping professional athletes deal with mental stress, mental illness in general. We all have to play a part in helping, being part of the solution and not the problem.

But that help isn't only for the elite!



Most governments have some initiatives in place to help people, people who need to talk, who don't have the answers and don't turn to friends and family through embarrassment or just don't know how to open up and share what they are going through. We'll list some of the main numbers, please share.





If you're not in a place financially to get private help, then these numbers could help.

UK: (+44) 0300 304 7000 **IRE:** (+353) 1800 80 48 48

SCO: 111

WAL: (+44) 0800 132 737

USA: (+1) 800 985 5990 **CAN:** +1 (833) 456 4566

AUS: 13 11 14

GER: (+43) 0800 111 0 111 **NED:** (+31) 0900 0767 **FRA:** (+33) 09 72 39 40 50 **BEL:** (+32) 2 647 67 80

We can't list all of the numbers but there is information on the internet, specifics for certain areas and countries.

Irrespective of where we come from, the profession we're in, the sport we play or the type of life we live, social pressure happens to everyone, there is no selective process with depression or mental illness. Practicing any sport has proven to help with many issues, including anxiety and depression. We spoke about this back in June and we highlighted the need to find various ways in which to deal with different pressures. Speaking with relatives and friends can often provide the support we need, this combined with an active daily routine of sport and other distractions helps reduce serious illnesses. That said, sometimes we need some extra help from specialists, people that are trained and can help provide the tools we need to deal with certain aspects of our lives, the important lesson we need to learn is that there is nothing wrong with us if we ask for help, in fact, totally the opposite, it means we are aware of an issue and are prepared to find a solution.

Using your voice is the only way people will be able to help you, communication is key and no matter the issue, no matter the circumstances, finding someone to talk to really will be helpful in sharing what you're going through.

Don't feel like you can't talk, you can, but only by using your voice.



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Top Spin Tennis Website – www.topspintennis.co.uk Top Spin Tennis online provides a product library of everything you ever needed. Including a mail order demo service, customisation pricing and mail order restringing service. Why not trust your rackets with a professional racket specialist at Top Spin Tennis... GRSA members can receive 5% off their first purchase with Top Spin Tennis, simply quote 'GRSA Referral' in the comments section of the checkout. **W:** topspintennis.co.uk **E:** cambridge@topspintennis.co.uk

Tennis Land offer 25% off Babolat & Wilson products (exc. shoes and apparel), 30% off Head/Volkl/Yonex, offers on Luxilon & Solinco strings, plus Dunlop tennis balls. **T:** +302130105830 **E:** georgepahiakos@gmail.com

At **PRS** we offer all GRSA Members **15% off** customizing, **10% off** balancing and 15% off moulding, contact us to book an appointment. **Email**: info@prs-online.com **Tel**: +49 151 11551114

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