

# Letters to the Editor...

## More on Racket Stringing

*This time, Israel Gefen joins the debate on stringing with useful advice on natural gut.*

Without doubt, the best string available is natural gut! Made from the intestines of either Cattle (beef) or Sheep, the latter type of gut gives the better performance because it is softer and less stiff.

Non-weatherproofed gut gives a better performance than weatherproofed as the polyurethane coating restricts the natural characteristics of gut.

**Playing Characteristics.** Thin gauge gives more power and more control, although it is less durable than thicker gauged gut.

Natural gut will give more power in the cold of winter than synthetics though in summer there is nothing to choose between them in this respect.

For the average player, it is true that the type of string used will make little difference. For the better player, however, choice of string and tension is crucial. A game with a lot of slice requires a higher tension that will help the strings bite the ball. (Sprays can even be bought to increase the stickiness of the string to increase this effect!) A power game with little use of slice however requires a lower tension to allow the trampoline effect — the opposite effect that most people expect from low tension! (Tight strings don't give way to the ball and force the ball to flatten against them, thereby making more of the ball come into contact with them and allowing the strings to have more bite on the ball; Bjorn Borg had his racket strung with a very high tension precisely to get more top-spin!)

**Looking after the strings in your racket.** The life of your strings depends on how well you maintain them. The most important factor nowadays with the advent of graphite rackets is to keep an eye on the protective grommet strip. If this gets worn or damaged, you are very likely to get a premature string failure.

Keep your racket in moderate temperature conditions away from extremes of heat or cold, dry or humid air. Remove it from a sweaty squash bag when you get home and don't leave it by a radiator or in the car boot for long spells. Use a head cover or thermal bag to protect the strings from the damp inside your bag — moisture will destroy gut.

If your racket is strung with natural gut, periodically oil the strings with gut-oil or baby-oil.

Israel Gefen  
Gefen Sports

## Player Grading

Dear Sir,

Since taking up the banner of Graded Squash in Middlesex, we have spoken to many players who, without exception, have expounded the potential and value of grading in the future of squash in this country.

As Bob Morris of the SRA said at the National Graded Championships at the OASIS Club last month, "Go back to your clubs and tell them of the benefits of Graded Tournaments". Graded squash allows players at all levels to compete and win in graded tournaments.

Now we are also able to PROVE to potential sponsors the advertising power of graded squash!

Thank you to the 100 or so entrants to the Cloisters Wood tournament. Apart from the advertised events, there will be more tournaments in the new year.

Keep on Grading!

Andy Mattock  
"Squash in Action"  
63 Northolt Road  
South Harrow  
Middlesex

## Guaranteed to Produce Pangs of Jealousy!

*Stephen Nardelli of Cloisters Wood, featured in the last issue of Middlesex Squash wrote to tell me that he now manages England International player Martin Bodimeade. He goes on to say that Cloisters' No. 1, Paul Carter, easily the best player outside Division 1 in the Middlesex League, has been given an Escort XR3i by his sponsor PRO-AC.*

*Anyone who would like to sponsor my Middlesex Squash travels by giving me an XR3i definitely won't be involved in a lot of paperwork — I accept!*

*Both Martin and Paul have also now been signed to endorse the SIMOD range of Squash gear, especially the brand-new Simod Red squash shoe (on test with Middlesex Squash and doing very nicely!)*

Editor

Paul Carter receiving the keys to his new XR3i from sponsor Stuart Tyler, Managing Director of PRO-AC.



# MIDDLESEX SQUASH Calendar

## October

- 3-5 ALLWEATHER Middlesex Closed Championships 1986 — Heathfield SC
- 10-12 Graded Tournament — Princes SC
- 18-19 Graded Tournament — Portsmouth SC
- 20 Middlesex Summer League AGM and Presentation Evening — Guinness Club
- 24-26 BA-LAM GUT Middlesex Junior Closed Championships 1986 — Herga SC
- 22-26 West of London Championships — Western Ave SC
- 25-26 Graded Tournament — OASIS SC, Marlow
- 26 Middlesex Ladies II & III Inter-County League matches

## November

- 1-2 Middlesex Ladies I - Stage 1 Inter-County Championships — Warwickshire
- 7-9 Part I Coaching Course — Muswell Hill SC (enquiries to WSRA on 876 6219)
- 8-9 Graded Tournament — Runnymede SC
- 9 Middlesex Ladies II & III Inter-County League Matches
- 15-16 Middlesex Boys U-19 Inter-County Weekend Stage 1 — Gloucester
- 16 Middlesex Ladies Veterans Middlesex Girls U-19 Inter-County matches
- 15-16 Graded Tournament — Twickenham SC
- 22-23 Graded Tournament — Wildern SC (nr Eastleigh)
- 23 Middlesex Ladies II & III Inter-County League matches
- 29-30 Graded Tournament — Regent SC, Oxon
- 30 Middlesex Girls U-19 Inter-County match

## December

- 3-7 DEXTERS Middlesex Open Championships 1986 — The Club at Hendon
- 7 Middlesex Ladies Veterans Inter-County match
- 13-14 South East Area Junior Championships
- 14 Middlesex Girls U-19 Inter-County match
- 25 Day Off!