

QBS

SOFTWARE

DELIVERY PLATFORM

Proud sponsors of
The 49th Manchester Gold Racquet



The Manchester Tennis and Racquet Club
29th-31st October 2021

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About QBS Software

QBS operates Europe's largest software delivery platform representing over 10,000 enterprise software publishers sold via 6000 reseller partners into 200,000 enterprises across Europe. QBS has offices in London, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Vilnius, Stockholm & Cork and is rolling out a European expansion programme.

QBS is scaling quickly and has been formally recognised by London Stock Exchange, Bloomberg, The Sunday Times, D&B and several other research firms for their technology platform and rapid growth. QBS has revenues approaching USD200million, 150 colleagues and 10 offices throughout Europe.

The purpose of QBS is to create sustainable long term stakeholder value. There are five core stakeholders recognised – Employees, Customers, Suppliers, Shareholders and Society. Our commitment to society at large is multi faceted and we strongly believe that we are a good corporate citizen – evidenced by our responsible tax practices and



our support of important community initiatives such as the sponsorship of the Manchester Gold Racquet.

Our company motto is where great people work together and we realise people drive our business so investing in our people is core to our DNA from day 1. The smart colleagues who choose to invest their time in a QBS career have benefitted in many ways over and we have been consistently recognised as a great place to work in Germany in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

QBS is officially certified and independently verified as a carbon neutral company and on the verge of becoming a B Corporation.



Essential tools for software developers

Welcome

On behalf of the sponsors QBS software Ltd I am proud that our Software Delivery Platform will sponsor and support the 49th Manchester Gold Racquet.

As a player, member of the T&RA and Committed fan of the sport I realise how important commercial sponsorship is to the game. QBS are pleased to be associated with the sport, the players, community and the values associated with it.

Key to our ESG narrative is our work with the community - QBS is committed to supporting many stakeholders in our business. Not only do we have a commitment to the environment where we were the first in our industry to be independently certified and verified as carbon neutral – and then climate positive. We're also committed to social aspects supporting events and opportunities outside our core business - hence our involvement with the Manchester Gold Racquet.

Remember software is eating the world.

Dave Stevinson
Group Chief
Executive

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 49th Manchester Gold Racquet!

After a turbulent 18 months which ground the global Rackets calendar to a halt, the 2021/22 season begins with the first World Championship qualifying tournament of the cycle.

We have a high class field at Manchester this year with the 2019 winner Alex Duncliffe-Vines back to defend his title, sure to be pursued by Ben Cawston and Christian Portz. Many other young and aspiring players will be hot on their tails looking to gain ranking points with the hope of challenging World Singles Champion Tom Billings later in 2022.

Thanks to our new sponsors, QBS Software Delivery Platform, the tournament has also had a rebrand to kick off the new season of Rackets at the Manchester Tennis and Racquets Club. Thanks to everyone involved at QBS for making the tournament possible and both players and spectators shall be looking forward to a weekend of world class competition and camaraderie at the premier Rackets event outside of London.

Best of luck to everyone!
PLAY!

Robert Shenkman
Tournament Director



kaspersky Global Leader in Cyber Security

QBS selected player profiles

Name: Alexander Duncliffe Vines

School: Cheltenham College

Club: The Queens Club

Alex won the Gold Racquet in 2019. He challenged for the world title in 2019 and is ranked #3 in the world rankings.



Name: Ben Cawston

School: Peter Symonds College

Club: Radley College

Ben is the current holder of the US Open Singles title and a past winner of the Gold Racquet in 2018.



Name: Christian Portz

School: Winchester College

Club: The Queens Club

Christian has won the Gold Racquet singles title twice and is a former World Doubles champion (2016).



Name: George Loup

School: Eton College

Club: The Queens Club

George was the captain of Eton's greatest ever Rackets team and is a former British U21 Open Singles champion.



Name: Robert Shenkman

School: Altrincham Grammar

Club: Manchester

Robert is a former winner of the British u21 singles and is twice a Gold Racquet semi-finalist



Name: Oscar Butcher

School: Cheltenham College

Club: Cheltenham College

Oscar is the former captain of Rackets at Cheltenham and was also the fellow at Montreal in 2018.



Name: Theo Taylor

School: Cheltenham College

Club: Manchester

Theo is a rising star in the Rackets world and will hope to cause an upset on his new home court.



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Name: Felix Clarke

School: Cheltenham College

Club: The Queens Club

Felix is the current holder of the British Mixed Doubles Rackets title and a former winner of the Renny Cup (2010).



Name: Joe Maiorana

School: USA

Club: Detroit

Joe Maiorana is in town from Detroit with one goal in mind: win the off-court tournament.



Name: Henry Stevinson

School: MGS

Club: Manchester

Henry is ex MGS with an obvious home court advantage. He was a fellow at Philadelphia in 2018 and a fellow at Queens Club in 2019.



Name: Rob Horn

School: Sheldon School

Club: Cheltenham College

Rob is the current rackets assistant at Cheltenham College. He is mature, honest & hard working, on court & off it.



Name: Manny Tancer

School: USA

Club: Detroit

Manny has been a regular visitor to the Gold Racquet over the years and is the winner of multiple rackets tournaments.



Name: Marcus Perez

School: USA

Club: Detroit

Marcus is making his debut on the Manchester court and comes to the tournament as one of Detroit's most exciting players.



Name: Fionnuala Dowling

School: Cheltenham College

Club: Cheltenham College

Fionnuala is also making her Gold Racquet debut. She is an impressive player and thrived under the guidance of Mark Briers.



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Sponsorship in QBS

QBS has a strong and consistent commitment to ESG. The purpose of the company is to create sustainable long-term stakeholder value. We recognise a number of stakeholders – one of those is “Society” and sponsorship is one of the ways in which we can contribute to wider society and support minority supports.

Our history in sponsorship goes back many years to the late eighties starting out in the fledgling technology business articulating the value of software through to evangelising the software industry in the early nineties. As time progressed and the company grew in size – QBS Technology Group and the legacy companies have sponsored local football, basketball, tennis and cricket teams.

QBS sponsored the GB Junior real tennis team in partnership with Microsoft in 2016 and directly in 2018. We have regularly supported various events and charities in Paris and are a minor sponsor of the Bayern Munich Basketball team in Germany.

The sponsorship of the Gold Racquet will support participant levels, the quality of entrance and promote the support across our extended QBS community.

Sponsorship is something that is core to our publishers with many sponsoring the Formula One teams; Teamviewer, Alteryx, Darktrace, Kaspersky, SAP, Acronis etc. Teamviewer this year made the strategic decision to sign a five year deal to be official primary shirt sponsor of Manchester United FC, based in the town of the Manchester Gold Racquet.



The History of the Manchester Gold Racquet

The tournament was inaugurated in the 1960s as both a Real Tennis and Rackets competition. Both sports were played on the same weekend and the Gold Racquet was one of the premier amateur events on the calendar. Many of the greatest players at both sports graced the Manchester courts over the years, with Willie Boone, Willie Surtees, Howard Angus and James Male all winning multiple titles. As both sports grew both nationally and internationally, the amount of amateur events grew and ultimately, the tournament fell into abeyance in the late 1990s, with the final Manchester Gold Racquet in its original format taking place in 1999.

In 2006, the Gold Racquet was reborn due to the initiative of Brendan Hegarty, with the tournament reinstated as an open Rackets event. The first Gold Racquet in its existing format was won by James Beaumont after Alex Titchener-Barrett succumbed to a dislocated shoulder in the final. The tournament has grown in stature over the last 15 years and the list of recent winners comprises some of the world's best players from the 21st century.

Manchester Gold Racquet Singles

2008 ATR Titchener-Barrett
2009 ATR Titchener-Barrett
2010 ATR Titchener-Barrett
2011 WEL Hopton
2012 C Portz
2013 C Portz
2014 WEL Hopton
2015 R Owen
2016 T Billings
2017 T Billings
2018 B Cawston
2019 A Duncliffe-Vines
2020 No competition (Covid-19)

Manchester Gold Racquet Doubles

2008 ATR Titchener-Barrett & D Titchener-Barrett
2009 ATR Titchener-Barrett & J Bone
2010 WEL Hopton & C Portz
2011 WEL Hopton & T Billings
2012 N James & A Coldicott
2013 N James & BEL Snell
2014 N James & BEL Snell
2015 N James & A Duncliffe-Vines
2016 ATR Titchener-Barrett & CH Portz
2017 B Bomford & B Cawston
2018 A Duncliffe-Vines & B Cawston
2019 M Bailey & N James
2020 No competition (Covid-19)

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See you next year at the

50th

Manchester Gold Racquet
28th-30th October 2022



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