

# Butterfly®

## NEWS

### March 2005

#### South Korea new contract partner

Kimihiko Tamasu, President of Tamasu Butterfly (left), the world wide equipment company, and the President of the South Korean Table Tennis Federation have agreed to cooperate for the next two years.



The South Korean National team became third at the World Team Championships 2004 in Qatar (Doha) with the men and four with women. At the Olympics in Athens in 2004 Korea's top-player Ryu Seung Min won Gold in the men's singles.

Tamasu: „We're looking forward to the new cooperation of two successful teams and wish much luck to the South Korean Federation at the World's Singles Championships in Shanghai next month.



**Table Tennis in „everyone's mouth“ again – this could have been the slogan of the photo above. The winner of the bet of the last „Wetten Dass?“ TV-show has managed to „spit“ a Table Tennis ball against a wall and catch it again for 100 times within 2 minutes.**

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## Holger Nikelis in the limelight again

Holger Nikelis is rewarded the Silver Bay Leaf and wins the Hungarian Open.

The Cologne wheelchair Table Tennis player Holger Nikelis was awarded the Silver Bay Leaf by the German Bundespräsident Horst Köhler on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> of March in Berlin. It is the most reputable award in sports in Germany. Present as well was the Minister of Internal Affairs, Otto Schily, the President of the National Olympic Committee, Klaus Steinbach and the President of the German Sports Federation, Manfred von Richthofen. Besides Holger Nikelis other medal winners of the Olympics and Paralympics were honoured.



A short time after that Nikelis provided furore again at the table: Loosing only two games, the wheelchair Table Tennis player won Gold in the singles of the Hungarian Open (Competition class 1) on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2005. After a 3:1 against host Janos Kaiser and against the Austrian Andreas Vevera the final was held amongst two Germans in the duel Walter Kilger against Holger Nikelis, which ended 3:0 for the men from Cologne.

„This raises hopes for the German Championships in Trier“, the winner stated, who played his first international tournament with his new blade and new rubbers. „The new material from Butterfly has proved itself, I get along very well“, the Paralympics winner is pleased.

With the result of the Hungarian Open Holger Nikelis has confirmed his leadership in the World's Ranking List, which lasts for two years now. Next goal are the German Individual Championships on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April in the Arena Trier, at which he wants to take Walter Kilger's title back again and continue his series from 2001 to 2003.

Before there is a Euro Champ Table Tennis Tournament in Emmen/Netherlands (30<sup>th</sup> of March to 4<sup>th</sup> of April. To defend his title in the singles is Nikelis' goal on the 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of April at the Irish Open in Dublin as well.

## Schedule

**27th of March to 3th of April**  
**European Championships Men and Women, Aarhus (DEN)**



**30th of April to 6th of May**  
**Volkswagen World Championships in the singles, Shanghai (CHN)**

### Impressum:

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## European Championships in Aarhus Many Butterflies with ambitions for Gold

Aarhus. Seven Gold medals are to be given away, when the elite of the Old Continent are seeking their new champions in the European Team- and Individual Championships in the Danish city of Aarhus from the 27<sup>th</sup> of March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. In all competitions athletes with the Butterfly on their breast take the role of favourites. At the beginning of the tournament in Denmark two of the collection pieces of international interests are given away: the cups for the European Champion of the teams.

Within the most important teams with hopes for medals Butterfly actors take the role of the leading players. At the men World's No. 4 Timo Boll dreams of the first title for Germany since the establishment of the tournament in 1958. Supported is Boll, who lost the last three finals with the German team, by another Tamasu player in the National tricot: Lars Hielscher. A possible opponent in the semi-final could be Denmark, which has it's main power in Europe Top-12 winner Michael Maze. Austria provides the most highly noted team by ITTF ranking with Butterfly star and World Champion Werner Schlager, but can only meet the Boll & Co. in the final. Outsider chances to gain a medal has Croatia with Zoran Primorac and the Czech Republic with Petr Korbel.

Gold medal aspirant No. 1 at the women is Rumania with European Champion Otilia Badescu, which seems to have the most balanced team, yet faces a serious obstacle in the quarter final against Germany (with Nicole Struse). Belarus counts on the exceptional class of Viktoria Pavlovich, which wants to cause fear with her Butterfly material. Expectedly Belarus will fight with Austria, that counts on Europe Top-12 winner Liu Jia, for a medal.

In the second half of the field of sixteen Tamara Boros is supposed to lead Croatia's selection to the first and long desired team title. Besides defending champion Italy with Nicoleta Stefanova Hungary (with Krisztina Toth and Csilla Batorfi) and Russia (with Svetlana Ganina) have ambitions on a medal.

No player looks further than the team competition at the moment. „To much depends in the seeding“, Timo Boll talks for all other stars. The seeding is held on site in Aarhus. Yet the circle of favourites is clear: As No. 4 behind three Chinese Timo Boll is currently the best ranked European in the World before his Tamasu colleague Werner Schlager (9), Greece's WCC-third Kalinikos Kreanga (10) and Denmark's local hero Michael Maze. All of them want to hinder the White Russian Vladimir Samsonov from defending his title. He has competition not only by the Butterfly stars, but by Russia's Europe Top-12 winner Alexei Smirnov (Russia).

At the Women the circle of Gold medal candidates with the Butterfly tricot isn't much smaller. Rumania's defending Champion Otilia Badescu has to fear mainly the all-time favourite Tamara Boros, whose first Gold medal in the singles is more than due. Highly held is the new Europe Top-12 winner Liu Jia (Austria) as well, who worked herself up the ranking list to position ten in the World, yet does not see herself under pressure in Aarhus: „I don't build up any pressure. I'm one of a few medal candidates. I can, but don't have to win this tournament“. The Hungarian Krisztina Toth as well as defence specialist Viktoria Pavlovitch and Italian Stefanova are good for entering the pedestal as well. Outsider chances can be given to five times European Champion Nicole Struse, who could book her ticket to the WCC in Shanghai by winning a medal.

## Sixth title for Boll and historical triumph for Struse

Nicole Struse (Kroppach) and Timo Boll (Gönnern) are the names of the singles Champions at the 73<sup>rd</sup> National German Championships in Stadtallendorf. While Boll was the outstanding player of the title fights in the singles and in the doubles on the side of mixed winner Christian Süß, Struse impressed with an historic victory: By winning a hard 4:3 fight in the final against team mate Christina Fischer, the five times European Champion set herself on the top of the hall of fame. Her eight singles title let her pass Hilde Bussmann and Trude Pritzi, the stars of the thirties and forties.

„I did not think about the record; one starts to deal with this afterwards, if at all. Yet now I'm quite moved. The last week I was in bed with a heavy influenza“, Struse commented her success in Stadtallendorf tired, but visibly relaxed. The 4:3 of the Europe Top-12 winner of 2004 against the strong Fischer was a mental success after being behind 0:2 and leaving much power in a hard semi-final against defender Irene Invanca (Schwarza). Fischer had stopped the march of Betzingen's Gaby Rohr, who surprised with unexpected victories against the ambitious national payers Elke Wosik (Busenbach) and Jessica Göbel (Kroppach). The women's doubles were won by Nadine Bollmeier and Alexandra Scheld from Uerdingen as before in 2003 in Bielefeld.

While Struse wrote her chapter in the history of German Table Tennis by her eight titles in the singles, men's champion Timo Boll impressed by his class of play. The victory of 23-year old darling of the spectators seemed like an effortless show-fight in spite of loosing games to Lars Hielscher in the semi-final and Bastian Steger in the final. Boll afterwards let the journalists note, that his victory was more work than it seemed from the outside: „The German Championships have a high level and there are many very good players in Germany. Winning a title can't be taken for granted and does not go by itself.“

## ITTF World 's Ranking lists, men (02/2005)

1	WANG Liqin CHN	16	MAZE Michael DEN
2	MA Lin CHN	17	LIU Guozheng CHN
3	WANG Hao CHN	18	KARLSSON Peter SWE
4	<b>BOLL Timo GER</b>	18	LEUNG Chu Yan HKG
5	<b>RYU Seung Min KOR</b>	20	<b>KORBEL Petr CZE</b>
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	<b>JOO Se Hyuk KOR</b>
7	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	22	WALDNER Jan-Ove SWE
8	Chen Qi CHN	23	KEEN Trinko NED
9	<b>SCHLAGER Werner AUT</b>	24	<b>OH Sang Eun KOR</b>
10	<b>KREANGA Kalinikos GRE</b>	25	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
11	<b>KONG Linghui CHN</b>	26	KO Lai Chak HKG
12	SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL	27	HAO Shuai CHN
13	CHEN Weixing AUT	28	<b>PRIMORAC Zoran CRO</b>
14	<b>CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE</b>	28	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL
15	CRISAN Adrian ROU	30	ROSSKOPF Jörg GER

## ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (02/2005)

1	<b>ZHANG Yining CHN</b>	16	LIN Ling HKG
2	WANG Nan CHN	17	LI Xiaoxia CHN
3	NIU Jianfeng CHN	18	<b>GAO Jun USA</b>
4	GUO Yue CHN	19	SONG Ah Sim HKG
5	<b>BOROS Tamara HRV</b>	20	STEFF Mihaela ROU
6	LI Jia Wei SIN	21	<b>TOTH Krisztina HUN</b>
7	GUO Yan CHN	22	<b>KIM Hyang Mi PRK</b>
8	<b>KIM Kyung Ah KOR</b>	23	FAN Ying CHN
9	TIE Yana HKG	23	<b>UMEMURA Aya JPN</b>
10	LI Ju CHN	25	LI Nan CHN
11	CAO Zhen CHN	26	<b>KIM Hyon Hui PRK</b>
12	LAU Sui Fei HKG	27	Li Jiao NED
13	<b>PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR</b>	28	BAI Yang CHN
14	<b>LIU Jia AUT</b>	29	LEE Eun Sil KOR
15	ZHANG Rui HKG	30	PENG Luyang CHN

(Butterfly-players are marked!)



Dear Table Tennis friends,

In cooperation with the Federation of German Table Tennis Coaches (VDTT) Butterfly presents to you practical exercises for your play. Enjoy them!

## Part 8 – Service Biathlon

This exercise is about controlling the state, in which you play your service, and about getting into the open play.

Many times one can recognize, that players go for the ball after loosing a point and play the next service without any phase of concentration. And many players freeze after their service and watch, what's happening with the ball. This loss of the flow of movement often prevents the next stroke from becoming a good one. At the so called „Service-Biathlon“ several targets are positioned on the other half of the table. Again two combined Butterfly catalogues are perfect. The goal for the player is now, to gain 10 hits in a certain row (first target field 1, then 2...). Several player on different tables compete each other, the fastest wins. After each service (no matter if hit or not) every player has to make sidesteps around the table. This simulates the stress in competition and forces the player, to regain focus before each new service and to calm down a little after the sidesteps, to be relaxed enough for the service. Yet on the other hand he can't take too much time- regulations of Table Tennis Game as well as the goal of the exercise prevent this. Because of this hurry the phase of service and movement by sidesteps is fluent.



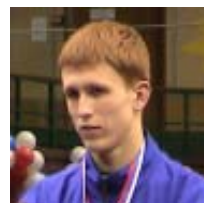
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## „Mario´s Children“ - Japan´s talent project in Düsseldorf Today: Jun Mizutani

### Jun Mizutani – the Japanese Samsonov

In the history books of Table Tennis there is place reserved for him: Jun Mizutani from the training group of Butterfly Sports Director Mario Amizic at Borussia Düsseldorf is currently the youngest player who can call himself World Champion. Besides Amizic many other experts predict a great future for the 15-year old, who has won the title in the junior's doubles with his partner Seiya Kishikawa in the hometown of Kobe at the World Junior Championships. When characterizing the natural talent Amizic almost starts to swarm: „Jun is an exceptional boy in many terms. Most likely my greatest talent since Vladimir Samsonov“, the successful coach of the Nippon-youngsters states and draws further comparisons to the European Champion from Belarus: „He plays similar to Vladi, has much feeling and can predict, what his opponent is about to do and where the ball is going to go.“

This judgement is confirmed by Mizutani frequently. In Germany's second league the lefthander impresses by a good debut season at Germania Holt-hausen playing 15:2 on position three and now on position two still positive with 8:6. Many top results at international tournaments – even at the seniors – undermine his enormous potential. Mizutani lives the freedom of youth at the table. „For him“, Amizic describes the rough diamond, who is interested in many sports, „everything is fun and joy. He does not think about what he's doing, he just plays.“ Consequence: „He's not aware of what he's capable.“ To sharpen his consciousness about his skills is regarded as main task for the future by Amizic. „Jun is very young. But if he wants to become a great player he has to start to learn to work hard for specific results.“ Turning this cognition into reality could provide a great career for Mizutani. Mario Amizic is sure in his judgement: „Generally I would say, that there's no limit for him.“



Viacheslav Burov



Julia Prokhorova



Kirill Skachkov

## Successful cooperation

In the meantime Maxim Shmyrev, former European top player, is Sports Director in Russia and soon the cooperation with Butterfly shows fruits. Three new „Butterfly-Coaches“ take care of the Russian National Team on international level: Evgenij Edel is men's coach at the ECC in Aarhus. Vladimir Endolov coaches the women's team and Arkadij Elbert takes care of the successful Table Tennis school in St.Petersburg.

The youngsters as well will go on their hunt for success with Butterfly material: Kirill Skachkov (Rank 3 WJC in Sweden, Top-12 winner Russian U-21, rank 3 EJC doubles), Julia Prokhorova (No. 6 of the Russian Ranking List, several times Top-12 winner) and the aces Sergej Martiukov and Taras Merzlikin belong to the „Butterfly family“.



Trainer Evgenij Edel



Trainer Vladimir Endolov

At well assorted distributors! 

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## Sport suit WICK

available in the sizes XXS-3XL

Fashionable and very light suit of 100% Plain Micro polyester with black mesh inner-lining in jacket and trousers. Jacket cut straight with rubber band for width regulation. Trousers with straight legs and zipper on the side; hidden rubber band.

Colour: red / black

**79,90 Euro**

## Sport suit TWEED

available in the sizes

XXS-3XL

Fashionable cut functional dress, cover material of 100% Dry Fit polyester and mesh inner lining in jacket and trousers.

Jacket cut straight with width regulation. Trousers with straight legs and zippers on the sides as well as hidden rubber band

Colours: black / grey

**89,90 Euro**

## Sport suit CREE

available in the sizes XXS-3XL.

This model in sporty design is made of 100% Tactel polyester and sticks out by it's price/performance ratio. As well with a straight cut jacket including width regulation, trousers with straight legs, high zipper and internal rubber band. A real bargain!

Colour: marine / royal blue

**69,90 Euro**



## Shorts RELAX

available in the sizes XXS-3XL

Modern Table Tennis shorts of Dry Fit polyester with highest functionality, slightly longer cut and without inner slip. The end of the legs are curved on the sides (round cut) and provide much freedom of movement and highest comfort.

Colour: black

**29,90 Euro**

At all three models trousers and jacket are available in separate sizes



Taisei Imamura (45) works for Butterfly since 1980. As service man he takes care of the Butterfly-contract-players worldwide and works intensively in the development of new products. Players consider him one of the best and experienced experts for materials. They trust his advice and – as every table tennis does – again and again ask the same question: „Which blade and which rubbers are best for my play? “. In conversation with „Butterfly News“ Taisei Imamura gives many tips, informations and ideas about „Shoes“

### Two novelties, that will cause sensation

**With CREANGA CARBON OFF+ and Balsa CARBO X5 OFF Butterfly presents two real novelties in the field of Carbon blades for the next season.**

**Mr. Imamura, Butterfly expert for materials, explains the novelties and gives information about the success of the Butterfly blades worldwide.**

Mr. Imamura, at the last World Individual Championships 2003 in Paris 52% of all participants played with Butterfly blades. This is a record and a true proof of the trust into the quality of Butterfly blades. In the recent years Butterfly was not only able to increase the number of top players using Butterfly blades, but the sales figures in general. What do you regard as the cause for this development?

**Truly there's a clear positive tendency. Taking a closer look one will recognize, that there are three sections of blades, which caused this success. I'm thinking about our wide range of Carbon-, Viscaria- and the classic five-layered natural blades. The combination of the Japanese cypress with Carbon materials is not provided by any other company. The mother of those Carbon blades is the legendary TAMCA CARBON GERGELY, which is still sold successfully, by the way. Other blades like the SCHLAGER CARBON OFF+ or the PRIMORAC CARBON OFF+ are so called „children“, which of course have gone through certain**

**modifications. And the new KREANGA CARBON OFF+ is such a child as well.**

You mentioned the new KREANGA CARBON OFF+. How is this novelty constructed?

**Generally similar to the Carbon blades mentioned before. On the outside we have used hard Hinoki veneers. Then there is a thin Carbon layer. And the inner veneer is the Japanese Kiri wood, a very light wood, but still much harder than the well known Balsa wood. That's why we talk about a 3+2 construction, for we don't consider the Carbon as a veneer. The new thing about the KREANGA CARBON OFF+ is the Carbon layer. Usually Carbon is set up like a net structure. The fibre of the Carbon layer of the CREANGA CARBON OFF+ now line up in one direction. These stripes reduce the amount of Carbon and make the blade lighter compared to the other Carbon blades. Already a while ago we were asked to construct a lighter Carbon blade, for Carbon blades are usually heavier than normal blades.**



The outfit of the KREANGA CARBON OFF+ is held in metallic grey. Why this futuristic look?

**We wanted to emphasize the High-Tech character of the blade and developed a special varnish to make this look possible.**

Didn't the construction of the handle change as well, for the veneer construction is not visible at the handle anymore?

**Yes, we have not simply added handle covers, but rather placed the handle over the veneer like a glove and so hid it. By this the handle fits the hand even better.**

Let's get back to the successful sections of blades by Butterfly mentioned at the beginning. You talked about the Viscaria group. What's characteristic for this group?

**The original- or mother-blade for this group is the VISCARIA OFF. The children are TIMO BOLL SOIRIT OFF and MICHAEL MAZE OFF. They have in common, that Carbon and Arylate are used to 50% each. The models differ a little by the used outer veneers and their balance. Especially this group grows, because with Timo Boll and Michael Maze two young and successful players use them.**

Please say something about the group of the classic five-layered blades.

**These are our traditional natural blades. We only use best veneers of different kinds of wood at those five-layered blades, where the outer veneer is mostly Limba wood. The mother of this group is the Japanese ADOLESCENT, which was not sold in Europe. The most famous child is the PETER KORBEL OFF, which is played a lot in Europe.**

Another novelty for the upcoming season is the BALSACARBO X5 OFF. Does Butterfly bring a completely new Carbon blade onto the market?

**Yes, we have headed into a new direction, because so far we have never used Balsa wood in any of our blades. Balsa is a very light wood, which is used as a central inner veneer. The outer veneers are not too hard as well. The two Carbon layers provide the hardness and the necessary power. This is the special thing about the BALSACARBO X5+ OFF: it's equipped with an enormous starting speed and much feeling. And it's very light. Therefore it's interesting for anyone seeking powerful offence close to the table.**

Which types of handles will be available at the KREANGA CARBON OFF+ and the BALSACARBO X5+?

**As usual the classical forms flare, straight and anatomic.**

Is there a tendency towards a special form recently?

**In total one can say 50% flare, 30% anatomic and 20% straight. But this differs from country to country. In France and Germany flare is played a lot. Scandinavia has a great tradition with straight handles. And in China there's a tendency towards anatomic. Most of the times the coaches are behind this and recommend a certain handle, or one looks at the great players.**

Thank you very much, Mr. Imamura