



Butterfly®

NEWS

02 2007

In our own interest!

As you might have noticed we have implemented a few changes: in the future we are going to issue our Newsletter in numerical order instead of quoting the months and each issue is published on the first day of each month, so that you can prepare yourself for the latest up-to-date news from the world of the „Butterflies“. Accordingly the next Butterfly News will be available on the 1st of March.

Furthermore we will start with a personal column about Germany's number 1 Timo Boll in the next issue and that will be continued every Month!

www.butterfly-world.com

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With *Timo Boll*



Europe Top 12 in Arezzo: Four Medals for the „Butterflies“

Nikoleta Stefanova and Kalinikos Kreanga are happy about silver medals

The two „Butterflies“ Nikoleta Stefanova and Kalinikos Kreanga set their mark on the Europe Top 12 in Arezzo. The Italian reached the final in the most important continental competition after the European Championships for the first time. The only 22 year old bronze medal winner of the EC in 2003 and the experienced Kalinikos Kreanga were the most successful Butterfly players. Altogether exactly half of the eight medals were won with Butterfly material: apart from Stefanova and Kreanga, the European Champion Liu Jia (Austria) and the former World Cup Winner Zoran Primorac (Croatia) were happy with their bronze medals.



The surprise of the tournament was Nikoleta Stefanova. The Italian was especially convincing in the Quarter – and Semi-Finals. After winning against her German Tamasu colleague Nicole Struse, she beat the winner of 2005, a further Butterfly representative, the European Champion Liu Jia. Stefanova lost two matches in Arezzo, one in the Group and one in the Final and both against her opponent Li Jiao. Stefanova, who was just as happy about second place a few minutes after the Final, took the defeat easy: „I am very happy about this success, I didn't really expect that. The Dutch Li Jiao doesn't suit me. At least I played a lot better in the Final than in the group match. If I win the second and third set, where I was a bit unlucky with some net and edge balls against me, the match might have gone differently.“

19. February - 22. February 2007

Pro Tour: Kuwait Open

25. March - 01. April 2007

**Liebherr European Championships
Belgrad (SCG)**

12. April - 15. April 2007

Pro Tour: Brazilian Open

19. April - 22. April 2007

Pro Tour: Chile Open



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The best Butterfly player in the men competition was Kalinikos Kreanga. The WC Bronze Medalist of 2004 presented himself in top form in Italy and lost only one match against the White Russian Vladimir Samsonov, who could climb up on the Europe Top 12 throne for the fourth time after 1998, 1999 and 2001. Kreanga won in Group D against the winner with 4:2 but the speedy Greek lost in the Final in five sets. The crucial points in the second duel were sets 3 and 4, which Kreanga lost 9:11 and 11:13 after being in front.

Bronze medal winner Zoran Primorac didn't get further than the Semi – Finals in his thirteenth Europe Top 12 participation. The end came against Kalin Krenga, who knocked out another Butterfly colleague, Ex-World Champion Werner Schlager (Austria) in the round before. In the Quarter – Finals Primorac beat the Czech Petr Korbel in the Tamasu company duel.

In 2007 the fans were looking in vain for the names of the defending Champions Timo Boll and Tamara Boros on the list of placements. The Croatian is permanently sick after an ear infection last summer and had to cancel her start on short notice, when her fitness test at the Slovenian Open failed completely. The German number 4 of the World Ranking List, Timo Boll started as the top favourite, but he wasn't back to full power after suffering twice from stomach problems and a cold in January. In the Quarter – Finals the player from Goennern couldn't keep up the pace over seven sets to defeat the final winner Samsonov. Boll didn't look for excuses: „My opponent was better today. I am basically satisfied with my achievement. My game was okay, but I must build up my strength and endurance again. I think it was obvious, that I am on my way again.“

Seen as a whole the Europe Top 12 in Arezzo was a successful event, for which the Italian organizers were rewarded with more than 3000 spectators during two tournament days. It was again obvious that with the exception of Stefanova's second place the wait for a younger male and female player for a break through continuous. New generations are simply not yet in sight. This has to change soon, if Asia shall be challenged in intercontinental tournaments.

Women

Final

Li Jiao NED – **Nikoleta Stefanova ITA** 4:1 (7,9,12,-5,4)

Semi - Final

Nikoleta Stefanova ITA – Liu Jia AUT 4:2 (8,-3,8,-8,8,9)

Li Jao NED – Mihaela Steff ROU 4:0 (7,8,6,3)

Men

Final

Vladimir Samsonov BLR – **Kalinikos Kreanga GRE** 4:1 (5,-8,9,11,8)

Semi - Final

Vladimir Samsonov BLR – Aleixei Smirnov RUS 4:2 (9,-11,8,-8,6,6)

Kalinikos Kreanga GRE – Zoran Primorac HRV 4:0 (7,7,7,9)

German chancellor welcomes Holger Nikelis



Holger Nikelis and other sports personalities were welcomed by the German chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel in her office for the start of a new project „Europe('s) Champions“. Holger Nikelis is one of 16 European Champions, who represent their region and present exemplary topics in sports. Some of these topics are for example, integration, health, regional promotion of economy, or education and employment.

„We want to show that sport does not only bring forward European Champions, but that

important European topics are also raised in sport“, says the President of the German Olympic Sports Association (DOSB), President Dr. Thomas Bach. With this project the DOSB wants to support the German EU Presidency, which comes to an end in July. As patron of this project the Chancellor informed herself personally about the planned activities. Accompanied by DOSB President Thomas Bach and DOSB General Manager Michael Vesper, the sportsmen Ebru Shikh Ahmad (Karate), Holger Nikelis (Wheelchair Table Tennis) and Sebastian Biederlack (Hockey) went to Berlin to present their projects. (picture, copyright:DOSB).

„I am happy to represent my region, especially because I am the only disabled sportsman involved in this project and there are many European Champions in North-Rhine Westphalia, who could have fulfilled this task“, says Holger Nikelis after his visit to Berlin.

Minis were the greatest

Traditionally the PSV Kamp-Lintfort organized the regional qualification of the Mini Championships at the end of January. Only children aged under 12, who don't take part in league games, were allowed to participate. Nearly 50 children were supported by the neighbouring town Moers. Butterfly handed out a T-Shirt to all participants.



ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (02/2007)



1	WANG Liqin CHN	16	MA Long CHN
2	MA Lin CHN	17	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE
3	WANG Hao CHN	18	KONG Linghui CHN
4	BOLL Timo GER	19	LIU Guozheng CHN
5	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	20	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
6	OH Sang Eun KOR	21	KORBEL Petr CZE
7	Chen Qi CHN	22	KO Lai Chak HKG
8	HAO Shuai CHN	23	MAZE Michael DEN
9	RYU Seung Min KOR	24	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
10	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	25	CRISAN Adrian ROU
11	LI Ching HKG	26	CHEUNG Yuk HKG
12	HOU Yingchao CHN	27	LEE Jung Woo KOR
13	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	28	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL
14	CHEN Weixing AUT	29	SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL
15	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	30	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (02/2007)



1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	CAO Zhen CHN
2	WANG Nan CHN	17	Li Jiao NED
3	GUO Yan CHN	17	BOROS Tamara HRV
4	GUO Yue CHN	19	SHEN Yanfei PRK
5	Li Jia Wei SIN	20	PARK Mi Young KOR
6	LI Xiaoxia CHN	21	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
7	TIE Yana HKG	22	TAN MONFARDINI Wenling ITA
8	WANG Yue Gu SIN	23	STEFF Mihaela ROU
9	GAO Jun USA	24	LI nan CHN
10	JIANG Huajun HKG	25	ZHANG Rui HKG
11	NIU Jianfeng CHN	26	LI Qian POL
12	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	27	LAU Sui Fei HKG
13	LIU Jia AUT	28	STEFANOVA Nikoleta ITA
14	LIN Ling HKG	29	STRUSE Nicole GER
15	FUKUHARA Ai JAP	30	DING Ning CHN

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

Forehand backspin defence in high of the table

Hiroshi Shibutani's Forehand backspin defence

Preliminary remarks

Defence is dead, long live the attack. At first sight you could really believe, that the defensive game is dead. If you look again, you must come to a different conclusion: long live the defence. Obviously it hasn't quite got the same status compared to 40 or 50 years ago. Just think about the legendary German defender Eberhard Schoeler, the Vice World Champion from 1969. Latest since then, defenders became nearly „exotic“ among world class players. But they appeared and appear again and again. Didn't the South Korean Butterfly player Joo Se Hyuk sensationally become Vice World Champion in Paris? Isn't he number 13 of the World Ranking List at the moment, followed by defenders like Chen Weixin (Austria/no. 14), Hou Yingchao (China/ no.16) and Koji Matsushita (Japan/no.39)? So if someone maintains, that the modern defensive player has no chance to become a top world class player, he doesn't consider these facts. By the way, in Asia, especially China, the defensive game is practiced much more than in Europe. Therefore do have the courage to play defence, not every young player is suited for the aggressive offensive game. That is one of the reasons why we will look at the special defending techniques in this and further Newsletters.

The former Japanese national player and double partner of Koji Matsushita Hiroshi Shibutani was one of the best defence artists on the international scene. He was last mentioned on the World Ranking List in 2001. Today he works in the teaching and coaching department of Butterfly. Let's have a look at his forehand push, which he plays without pimples. On his backhand he uses long pimples like many defenders.

Picture 1: at the beginning of the stroke Hiroshi is standing square at an angle of about 45 degrees at the table. The legs are shoulder wide apart and his knees are slightly bent. The body weight is more on the back leg. He has taken his bat upwards and back. The playing arm is bent at a right angle (see also picture 5).



06 Stars under the magnifier

Picture 2 shows us the moment of contact with the ball. Five characteristic movement features become clear:

Contact with the ball is made in height of the table (red dotted line).

Contact with the ball is made above the right knee in height of the hip (purple dotted line).

The body weight is clearly on the right leg.

The player moves towards the ball and the central body weight goes down.

The bat is slightly open.

Depending on the amount of spin of the coming ball and the amount of spin I want to play the bat is opened more or less.



Pictures 3/4: After making contact with the ball, the arm keeps going down, but it is not completely stretched out at the end of the movement. The main body weight is now on the front left foot.

The demonstration of Hiroshi's forehand defence could be described as the basic forehand defence stroke. The main point here is, that contact with the ball is made in height of the table. We differentiate between the early and the late defence, where the ball is hit above the table (=early) or below the table (=late).



07 Stars under the magnifier

Picture 5: At the beginning of the stroke the playing arm is bent at a right angle. The bat is in height of the head.

Picture 6: The player moves his right foot backwards and is standing square to the table.





Common mistakes

Picture F1: The position of the player is too upright, the legs are too close together and the playing arm is bent too much.

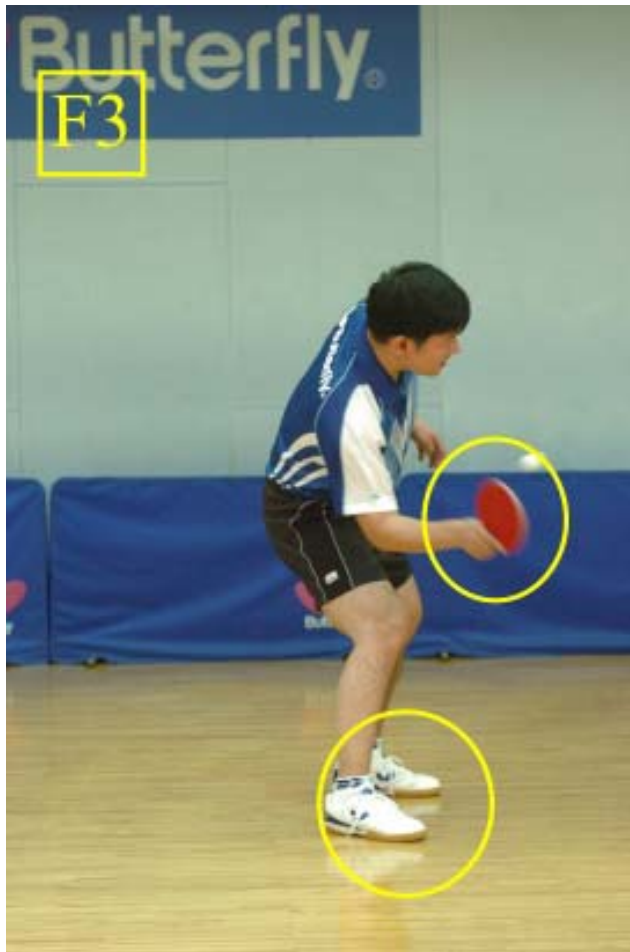
Picture F2: Instead of moving his right leg backwards the player has moved it forward at the beginning of the movement. Now he can't perform an effective arm movement.



09 Stars under the magnifier

Picture F3: The feet of the player are parallel while hitting the ball. He hits the ball too far in front of the body and not in extension of the right knee.

Picture F4: The player doesn't shift his weight to the front left leg at the end of the stroke and still stands on his right leg. Therefore he loses his balance and takes the left foot off the ground.



NUBAG Bag collection
black-blue, Polyester 1680 D / 840 D

1 Maxi, 80 x 34 x 34 cm, wheels	74,90 €
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3 Midi, 60 x 30 x 30 cm	39,90 €
4 Rucksack-Trolley	59,90 €
5 Rucksack	29,90 €
6 Shoulder bag	26,90 €
7 Double Case	15,90 €
8 Single Case	12,90 €
9 Waist bag	9,90 €

NUBAG Bag collection
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1 Maxi, 80 x 34 x 34 cm, wheels	74,90 €
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8 Single Case	12,90 €
9 Waist bag	9,90 €

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available from May

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11 Products of the month

INDICA Shirt
black-light grey or navy-blue, 3XS-4XL, 100 % Micro Polyester 37,90 €

TELIOUS Tracksuit
anthracite-liquid grey-white, 3XS-4XL, Diamond Cool Dry Polyester, Mesh 89,90 €

LADY

RADIAL TB
blue, 22.0-30.0 cm 81,90 €

FARINOSA Shirt
blue-light grey or black-red, 3XS-4XL, Lady: XS-XL, 100 % Micro Polyester, printed 39,90 €

AQUILIO Shorts
black, 3XS-4XL, 2-way Stretch + Cool Dry Lycra 29,90 €

NEW LOGO T-Shirt
navy, 3XS-4XL, 100 % Dry Fit Polyester 14,90 €

NEW LOGO Sweatshirt
creme or navy, 3XS-4XL, 45 % Cotton / 55 % Polyester 29,90 €

KISO HINOKI VII OFF
AN/FL/ST 49,90 €

KISO HINOKI V OFF-
(not pict.) AN/FL/ST 44,90 €

TAGIS Shirt
navy, 3XS-4XL, 60 % Cotton / 40 % Polyester 29,90 €

TIMO BOLL SPARK OFF-
AN/FL/ST 79,90 €

SOLCION
red/black, 1.7-max, High Tension 42,90 €

ARCTIC Tracksuit
blue-navy-white, 3XS-4XL, Diamond Cool Dry Polyester, Mesh 99,90 €

DAMON Shorts
black, half long, 3XS-4XL, Diamond Cool Dry Polyester + Micro Dry Fit 34,90 €

PHOTINO OFF
AN/FL/ST 129,00 €

TACKINESS CHOP II
red/black, 1.1-1.9 34,90 €

COLIAS Tracksuit
red-black-white, 3XS-4XL, Tactel, Mesh 79,90 €

SOLCION

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The margin is very close among the best



Last October Timo Boll gave an interview in Paris. The reigning defending champion had just surprisingly dropped out of the World Cup after losing to his Butterfly colleague Kalinikos Kreanga and Vladimir Samsonov. Only some weeks ago he was the hero in China, when he beat the number 1 in the world, Wang Liqin, at the Chinese Open on home ground. But such is life as a professional. It has its ups and downs. But read for yourself, how Timo deals with his defeats and what he thinks about a lot of other things. Open words of a sympathetic great sportsman.

About his drop out of the World Cup 2006 in Paris in the preliminary round...

Of course, my expectations were a lot higher, but things don't always go as well like as in China at the Chinese Open (Timo beat Wang Liqin in the Final), especially not after such a hard season. During the summer I played for two months in the Chinese league. I came back very exhausted. That was physically extremely hard. I was surprised myself how well I played afterwards in the league matches and then during the Pro Tour-Tournaments in Asia. I thought, that would be extremely difficult, but then everything went surprisingly well. Therefore it is not such a big surprise, that things didn't go quite my way. I was prepared for that and it is not the end of the world for me. Of course I wanted to play better, I played quite well during the training sessions, but it was hard, probably too hard. For this highlight I could have done with a little bit more rest.

What he learned of the defeats against Kreanga and Samsonov...

You could see, that I played quite well, but there were too many gaps in my game. That must be avoided against top players. They exploited this, of course. You have always got to play close up to your limits. It is simply not good enough to play well for two and a half sets. You have got to be in the game all the time and I didn't manage that this time. I learnt, that I can still lose to a lot of players, but I know for sure, if I play really well, that I can beat everybody too.

Why he took the last, relatively meaningless group match so seriously...

These defeats don't throw me now, I am not endlessly disappointed. I was fighting and I played as good as possible (against the Australian Henzell) even if there was nothing at stake. I just wanted to show, that I can play and that my head was o.k.

Why you have to be able to lose...

You have got to accept to lose. If you don't manage that, you have a problem with such a full fixture schedule. Recently I played really well, despite the pressure. A match every weekend and that with a positive balance. Here at the World Cup are only top players against whom you can lose sometimes. I understood this, but not the people from the press didn't.

Why so humble...

In the end you can be happy, if you have played well in some of the tournaments. It is best of course during the big events. At least I try.

About his form on the day...

Last year in Luetlich I felt really down before the tournament, I thought, I couldn't play a ball and I played really poorly during the training sessions. Suddenly I beat all three Chinese players. It is the form on the day that is deciding. The margin between the best is very close. Everything can happen.

About the Chinese...

The Chinese do have a weak day too. Or you have an extremely good day. Then you can also beat the Chinese. I have always got the feeling that I can beat the Chinese, but I can't do that all the time. If I am top fit, I am confident for big tournaments.

About the highlights of the season...

You must set your targets before the season, some climaxes. The rest happens by passing through, and the training sessions are not particularly geared towards those. Naturally I want to play well there as well but the really important ones are the climaxes.



About the meaning of EC and WC...

At the next European Championships 07 in Belgrade I want to play well, but my main target is a medal at the World Championships 07 afterwards in Zagreb. The training is directed towards the WC not the EC.

Why table tennis is demanding so much power nowadays...

It is quite a lot of pressure, also because

there are a lot more good players. Ten years ago there were two to five nations, which played for the title. Then there are so many second class Chinese, who play all over the world. It has become rather difficult. During Pro Tour tournaments you start fighting from round 1 onwards. You really have to take care. That is why such tournaments demand so much power. Generally table tennis has become athletically and physically very hard. The level alone is very high. If I look at pictures from 1989, I see a completely different way of table tennis in comparison to today. A Waldner from 89 didn't have a chance nowadays, but he has adapted his game according to the developments so that he could survive until today.

About the future of the game...

There won't be the same development like in the last ten, fifteen years in the future.

About possible improvements...

Physically I can still improve. There Wang Liqin is clearly a class better than me. I have seen him without a shirt and it is unbelievable. He has got such a well trained body. I don't think it can get better than that. I can only try to catch up. Technically I must only work on little details.

About his serves...

I get into the game quite well with my serves. You can't expect to win a direct point on this level. I am satisfied already, when the return is a little bit too high or too long. That is also a successful serve.

About his football friend Philipp Lahm (German national player, with whom Timo appeared in a TV sports program and played table tennis) and professional football...

We were a lot better when we knocking up before the start of the program. But Philipp is a good player. He is very conscientious and he works very hard for his sport. During official club training they don't practice as much as we do, but the players have extra possibilities to work more. It is always depending on how serious you take your sport. Philipp is doing this and works extra sessions. Therefore I don't believe that his work load is lower than ours. I respect every sportsman, even the footballer, although they have a bad reputation sometimes.

About the salary of football players...

If the market has got so much money, why shouldn't they get it.

About the colleagues with the big rackets...

It is hard to be a Tennis professional. They don't really have a home base, where they live. They practically live out of the suitcase. They can, of course, make their plans and have a break in competition or training, but it is hard.

About the Pro Tour Series...

We are still far away from the tournament system in Tennis. The best ones can perhaps live from the Pro Tour. The players don't play the Pro Tour Tournaments because of the money but because of the world ranking points. You want to come forward, to get a good seeding position in the big tournaments. The income of Pro Tour Tournaments is like a few extra sweets. Most of the players are mainly paid by their clubs. Even I appreciate that. I like travelling to tournaments but I also like coming back home and practise in my own surroundings. I would miss my home if I were a Tennis professional.

About his travel companion Rodelia...

She likes to accompany me, but that is not always possible.