

Butterfly®

February 2006

NEWS

New series

A close look at Butterfly Stars

Timo Boll's super-spin on backspin

With the new series „A close look at Butterfly stars“ we would like to take you into the World of perfect Table Tennis technique.

Read more about it on the pages 8 and 9

Successful again



Impressed at the Europe Top-12 in Copenhagen.
The extensive review with the complete success and interviews with both winners (women and men) on the next pages.

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Europe Top 12 in Copenhagen

**Boll's triumphant title and
Boros' impressive will to win**

6 out of 8 semi-finalists wore a Butterfly dress

Copenhagen. The winners of the Europe Top 12 in 2006 are Timo Boll and Tamara Boros. The duo from Germany and Croatia as well as four other Butterfly actors provided an impressive dominance of the brand. With Boll and Boros as well as the runner-ups Werner Schlager and Liu Jia (both Austria) Butterfly not only accounted for the four finalists. At the Men's the two semi-finalists Michael Maze from Denmark and Zoran Primorac from Croatia use material and clothing from the house of Tamasu.

It was not the fact that Timo Boll and Tamara Boros were on the top of the pedestal at the end of the Europe Top 12 in Copenhagen alike in 2002. Surprising was rather the manner, in which the two demonstrated, why they are best Europeans in the World's Ranking List.

Rarely ever has an athlete dominated the field as Boll did in Denmark. In five matches the World Cup winner only gave away three games to his competitors, which included European Champion and World's No.3, Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus). By this he emphasized his ambitions to gain back the pole position in the World's Ranking List. Peter Sartz, Swedish coach of European Team Champion Denmark, was clearly impressed by the triumph of the German: „In this form Boll is a class of his own in Europe.“ Most obvious was this against Butterfly colleague Werner Schlager. The former World Champion of Paris, who proved his excellent shape by kicking out the Butterflies Petr Korbel (Czech Republic) and Michael Maze in the quarter- and the semi-final, did not win a single game in group match nor final. Boll was pleased with his gala-performance in Copenhagen: „I'm in a good shape, but I did not expect such a clear victory. Just a week ago I had been in bed with fever and a cold. But I hope I can still improve my form up to the World Championships.“

21st of February to 24th of February 2006

Pro Tour: LIEBHERR Kuwait Open, Kuwait City

24th of April to 01st of May 2006

LIEBHERR Team World-Championship,
Bremen



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In Copenhagen Tamara Boros once again impressed by her overwhelming will to win. In the group matches she suffered a defeat against Dutch Li Jiao, who later lost to Butterfly-European Champion Liu Jia in the semi-final. But the Croatian fought her way back into the tournament. In a dramatic semi-final against Rumanian Mihaela Steff, Boros had to go through a difficult situation when being behind 2:3, afterwards securing the match by 12:10 in the crucial game. In spite of loosing the final, Liu Jia had much reason to be happy. For the first time for months the graceful Austrian found back to her form, which brought her the titles of the Europe Top 12 and the European Championships in 2005. Liu Jia: „I hope, now finally I’m back!“ With Nicole Struse (Germany), Viktoria Pavlovich (Belarus) and Top-12 debutant Nicolette Stefanova three more Butterfly players reached the quarter-final. Only Butterfly failing in the groups was last year’s finalist Krisztina Toth (Hungary).

Butterfly-Medal-winners at the Europe Top 12 2006 in Copenhagen:

Men’s

Gold: Timo Boll (Germany)

Silver: Werner Schlager (Austria)

Bronze: Michael Maze (Denmark) und Zoran Primorac (Croatia)

Women’s

Gold: Tamara Boros (Croatia)

Silver: Liu Jia (Austria)

Interview with Europe-Top-12-winner Timo Boll

“I want to improve further until the WCCs“

Butterfly: Your third title after Rotterdam in 2002 and Saarbrücken in 2003 was your clearest. Did you expect such a victory?

Timo Boll: No. I knew I was in a good form and I wanted to win. But such a clear success, after I had been lying in bed only a week ago with fewer - this was surprising even for me.

Butterfly: You lost the total of three games and beaten all of the continental top players. Are you running out of opponents in Europe?

Timo Boll: I will certainly loose to one or the other at certain times. But in total my performance on higher level has become much more stable.

Butterfly: Your performance in Copenhagen allows only one question: When will you try to regain the pole position in the World’s Ranking List?

Timo Boll: There would have been a certain Chance at the Croatian Open, for Wang Liqin has not started there. But unfortunately I became ill. Maybe at the Pro-Tour Tournaments in Qatar and Kuwait there is the chance to catch up a few points. And of course there are the WCCs in Bremen.

Butterfly: Up to the WCCs there are only two and a half months left. Do you and the German team want to attack the Chinese in front of home audience?

Timo Boll: Yes, at least we’re planning to. If things go well at least we want to endanger them with the fans backing us up. But there are other teams we have to watch out for. I personally hope, that I can improve my form even more up to the WCCs. Who wants to be on top there, has to be in an absolute top form.



Interview with Europe-Top-12-winner Tamara Boros**“It was about time to win a tournament again“**

Butterfly: Congratulations for you winning the Europe Top 12. How important is this victory for you?

Tamara Boros: This is very important for me personally, for it has been the first title for quite a while. I played well recently, but a big title like the Europe Top 12 is not won often and therefore such a victory is something special for me.

Butterfly: In the groups you lost to Li Jiao and in the semi-final you had a hard time against Miheala Steff. Have you been more stable in mental terms, other than your reputation says?

Tamara Boros: Loosing a match at a tournament, this can happen. One has to carry on. I tried to think from match to match and from point to point, as I always do. Today it worked out a bit better.

Butterfly: The outcome of the final was clearer than many have expected...

Tamara Boros: I did not think about the possible result before the match, I only wanted to win. And for God's sake I found my rhythm quickly and kept it. Maybe Liu Jia was a bit tired of her hard semi-final.

Butterfly: What are the next goals for this year?

Tamara Boros: I want to improve in the World's Ranking List from position nine further up. And I will try to play a good WCC with Croatia.

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (02/2006)

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

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (02/2006)

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	FUKUHARA Ai JAP
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	STEFF Mihaela ROU
3	Li Jia Wei SIN	18	MOON Hyun Jung KOR
3	GUO Yan CHN	19	LIU Jia AUT
5	TIE Yana HKG	20	FAN Ying CHN
6	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	21	TOTH Krisztina HUN
7	BOROS Tamara HRV	22	STRUSE Nicole GER
8	NIU Jianfeng CHN	23	ZHANG Rui HKG
9	WANG Nan CHN	24	Li Jiao NED
9	LIN Ling HKG	25	WANG Yue Gu SIN
11	GAO Jun USA	26	KIM Hyang Mi PRK
12	CAO Zhen CHN	27	SONG Ah Sim HKG
13	LI Xiaoxia CHN	28	WOSIK Elke GER
14	LAU Sui Fei HKG	29	CHANG Chenchen CHN
15	PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR	30	SHEN Yanfei ESP

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

Werner Schlager: It's good to be able to perform well again

Werner Schlager, congratulations for your entry of the final of the Europe Top-12 in Copenhagen. What are your feelings? More joy about the entry of the final or disappointment about failing the title?

Without doubt joy about entering the final. I'm only able to train – at least almost – fully since end of December and so this was a bit surprising.

On your way to the final you beat defending champion Alexej Smirnov, former Olympic fourth Petr Korbel and in the pre-final round WCC's third Michael Maze in front of his home audience. What does this success mean to you?

Especially against Korbel and Maze I was surprised about myself, for I lost most of the recent meetings.

After Copenhagen you claimed to have achieved much improvement since last December. What did you mean by this?

Since December last year my quantity of training is back to usual again. This specifically means I can train twice a day for a longer period with pain written in my face.

At the Europe Top-12 only one player stood in your way of winning for the second time since 2000: Timo Boll. You had to congratulate World's No.2 twice for his 4:0 – in the groups and in the final. What were the reasons for such clear defeats?

He's in top form. In the groups I had a chance to win two games. In the final he had me under control.



Has Boll become a feared opponent for you?

In this shape Boll is a feared opponent for anyone.

Boll plays in an outstanding form for months and was nearly overwhelmingly dominant in Copenhagen. What causes his superiority?

Any player underlies fluctuations. I would wish for him he could keep this form up for a longer period of time. But my experience tells me it's very unlikely.

Back to you. Due to your injury of your toe you had to pause or at least cut down. What was the problem in the healing process?

In July last year I had a standard operation. After the normal healing phase the problem lies primarily in finding the right shoe lift making the changes of forces bearable. I changed the orthopaedist for the third time and am still not 100% percent happy.

The time waiting for an improvement has surely not been nice. How did you deal with the situation?

Because of the pain in training the general motivation was really low. Other projects naturally got more attention then. These days my autobiography „Matchball“ is published in Austria and end of February in Germany as well. The more the pain decreased, the more my attention shifted towards my sports again.

Now you're back. What are your goals for 2006?

It's good to be able to perform again. I will try to give my best, no matter at which event. Then let's see.

At the EEC in Aarhus you tightly failed the title with the team. What are the goals for the Team-WCC in Bremen?

We want to be amongst the best eight teams. A place on the pedestal would be a dream.

In Bremen it will be decided, whether the Individual WCC in 2009 will be given to Linz. What would be the consequence for your country?

The WCC in Austria would do much good for our sports. Therefore I support the application as good as I can.

The ITTF has set up the new mode for the team tournament of the Olympics in 2008 in Beijing during the World Junior Championships last December in Linz. What do you think about this?

I think that the doubles have their thrill in a team competition. Therefore kicking out the doubles themselves is sad, but unavoidable.

The ProTour calendar has been extended for 2006. Is this development – especially at the background of an extended schedule – good or bad for you?

Both. It's positive, for one has more options, but negative for the increased stress.

Additional Info: Werner's partner in doubles, Karl Jindrak, has become one of the ITTF tournament directors with the Europe Top-12 as his debut. He as well is „Marketing Representative for Europe“ of the TMS International, the marketing department of the ITTF.

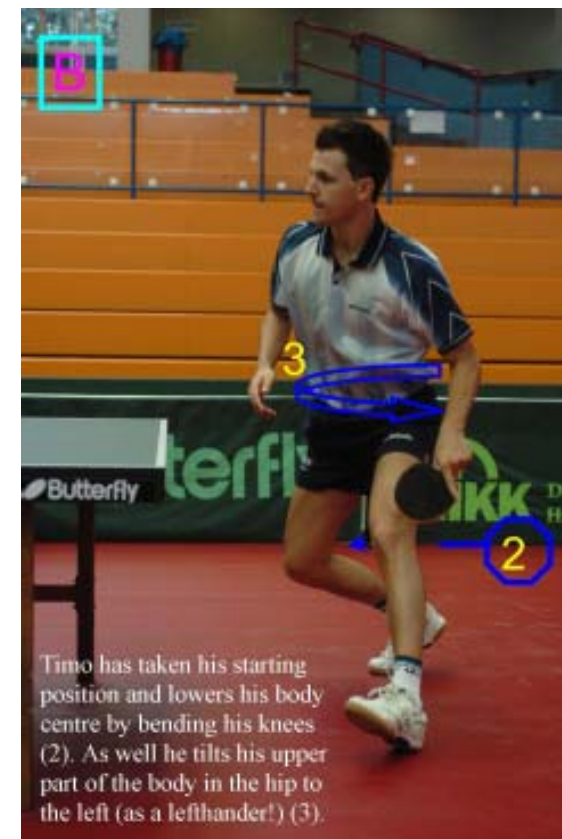


Timo Boll's super-spin on backspin

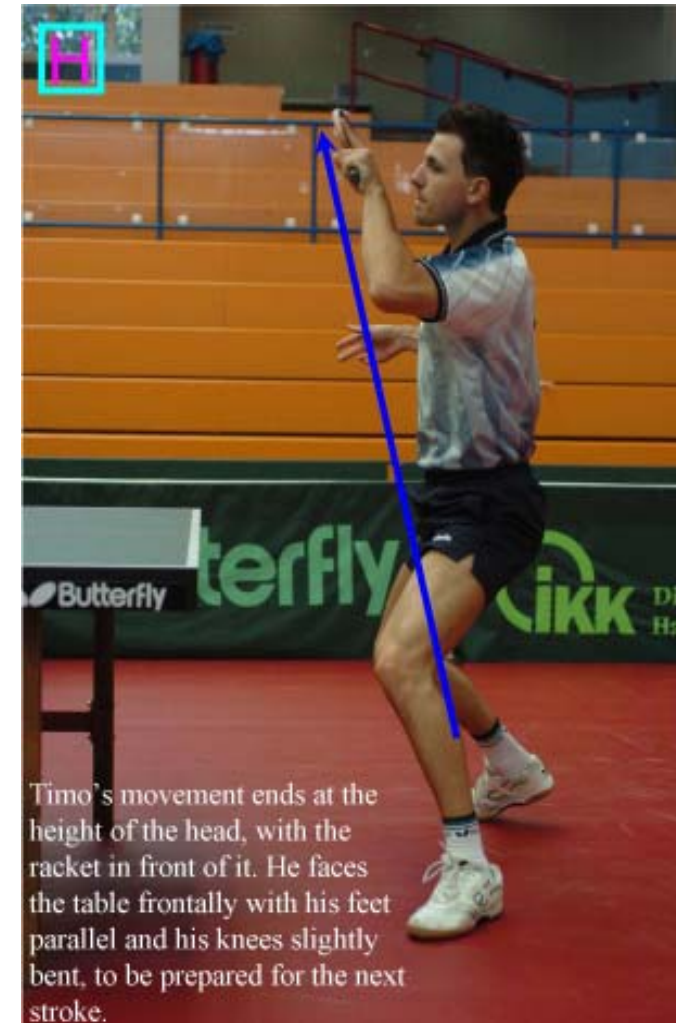
With the new series „a close look at Butterfly stars“ we would like to take you away into the world of perfect Table Tennis technique. To be able to stand up in the World's top the players have to master several techniques asleep. This asks for extended and variable training, for Table Tennis has highest demands on fine coordination at maximum speed. Taking a closer look at the photos and learning the essential qualities of the movement you will be able to improve your own technique. Of course you can't and shouldn't copy Timo Boll's forehand-topspin of backspin exactly. But you can try to transfer some essential elements into your stroke – for example going low in backswing, the straight line of the movement or the perfect point of hitting the ball. Just step in front of a mirror and try to imitate the movements. This has helped many to improve their technique.

In the first sequence of pictures we show Timo Boll, currently World's No.2, at his speciality. For Timo is not only feared for his high speed, but even more for his enormous spin in his topspins. We can see a perfect forehand topspin on backspin, which stands out by a low backswing, a straight and very long stroke path and a perfect body coordination. But look for yourself and let the pictures speak for themselves.

We wish you much pleasure and success.







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Sriver G2 FX

The new SRIVER G2 FX, powered by BUTTERFLY-High Tension Technology. Totally convinced we present to you the softer version of the SRIVER G2, the G2 FX. Compared to the SRIVER G2 the SRIVER G2 FX is slightly softer and therefore equipped with more feeling and spin. SRIVER G2 FX is the world-wide standard at the age of BUTTERFLY High Tension Technology.

Category: Power Spin

Speed: 11,0 **Spin:** 9,75

Sponge-thickness: 1,9/2,1/Max

Sponge-hardness: soft

Price: 37,40 €

New!



See for the
Expert Talk on
pages 12 and 13
as well

Viscaria

The seven-layered offensive blade combines the High-Tech materials Carbon and Arylate perfectly with high quality wooden veneers. Carbon brings high speed and extreme stability, Arylate provides an incredible feeling with relatively little weight.

For all that like to combine speed, feeling and precision in their play.

Category: OFF

Veneers: 5 wooden / 2 Arylate-Carbon

Handle: FL

Weight: approx. 90 g

Price: 82,90 €



A.Grubba ALL+

This highlight in Butterfly blade technology is the Butterfly blade most sold in the recent years. By its relatively soft veneers this highly sensitive blade allows an allround play with all technical variations. No other than the former polish World class player Andrzej Grubba had developed it with us and played it himself with much success.

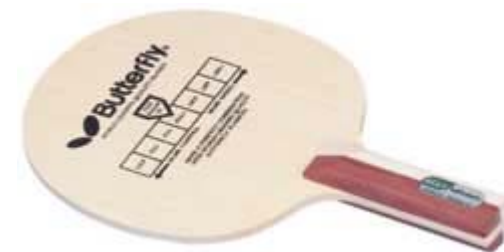
Category: ALL+

Veneers: 5

Handle: AN,FL,ST

Weight: approx. 85 g

Price: 30,90 €



11 Products of the month

Short Relax

Modern Table Tennis short made of DRY FIT Polyester with highest functionality, slightly longer cut and without inner slip. The round cut of the legs offers much freedom in movement and highest comfort.

Size: XXS – 3XL

Price: 29,90 €



Tricot Deel

Designed for the worldwide use by our top players. 100 % MICRO Polyester and a newly, double stitched V-neck bring an easy feeling.

Size: XXS – 3XL

Colour: magenta / red , white logo

Price: 34,90 €



Ekrips / Ekrips soft

Your spin-play is powerful and variable.

Above the table or out of half-distance, EKRIPS-spins are always aggressive and still controlled. This is possible due to a highly flexible sponge and an extremely elastic top layer. A rubber that not only fascinates the top players.

With the Ekrips Soft we have designed a softer version for more feeling and more spin options.

Categorie: Offensive

Speed: 10,0 **Spin:** 8,25

Sponge-thickness: 1,9/2,1/Max

Sponge-hardness: medium

Price: 32,90 €



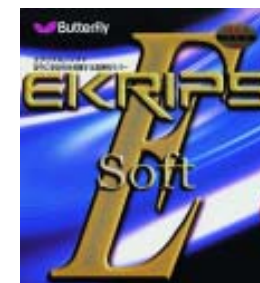
Categorie: Offensive

Speed: 9,75 **Spin:** 8,5

Sponge-thickness: 1,9/2,1/Max

Sponge-hardness: soft

Price: 32,90 €





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 today's Expert Talk Butterfly material expert Tasei Imamura presents the SRIVER G2 FX. He not only points out the differences to the „normal“ SRIVER G2, but he also explains, why Timo Boll plays the classical Sriver – the most successful rubber of all times. And you will get to know, what the new BRYCE generation is. Enjoy reading!

The new SRIVER G2 FX: slightly slower and controlled with much spin

Mr. Imamura, in the upcoming season 2006/2007 Butterfly is going to present the new rubber SRIVER G2 FX. Besides the SRIVER FX and the BRYCE FX this is now the third FX-rubber in the programme. What is the difference between the SRIVER G2 and the new SRIVER G2 FX?

This is similar to the relation between SRIVER and SRIVER FX. Shortly – the sponge is softer. When developing new rubbers we first look at our top players. The SRIVER G2 is a rubber for high performance. Of course basic players can play with it as well, but not everyone gets along with it. And that's why – in the second step – we bring an FX version on the market, which has a softer sponge and is slightly slower and more controlled.

How much softer is the sponge of the SRIVER G2 FX compared to the SRIVER G2?

Alike the SRIVER. About 10%.

Is an FX-sponge different than a normal sponge in terms of speed gluing?

It is softer and more porous and therefore takes in more glue. The speed-gluing effect is more distinct. Plainly spoken: putting on the same amount of glue on the SRIVER G2 FX and the SRIVER G2, the effect turns out greater at the SRIVER G2 FX.

The SRIVER G2 has been on the market for two years now. He's meant as a medium step between the SRIVER and the BRYCE. How did the players accept it?

Petr Korbelt plays it on both sides, Zoran Primorac on one. Timo Boll has tested it, but sticks to the classical SRIVER in the L-version for now. In total the majority of our contracted players today play the BRYCE. It is our BRYCE generation. By this I don't want to say that the BRYCE is better. Those are the individual differences amongst the players. Everyone has a different feeling for the ball. And as long as such an exceptional player like Timo Boll trusts in the classical SRIVER, it is all that can be said about the quality of the SRIVER family. But to get back to the amateur section, we can observe that many SRIVER players have switched to SRIVER G2. It is faster. And with it's new FX-version we offer even more individual options.



You say faster. Can you describe it more detailed?

Clearly faster after the responses we have. It's hard to say in percentage. But when playing topspin the angle of the racket has to be altered distinctly; it has to be closed more. Besides the SRIVER G2 develops more spin as the normal SRIVER. But because for some of the SRIVER-players that tested the G2 it turned out to be too fast, we now offer the G2-FX version.

You talked about the BRYCE generation at Butterfly. The rubber was presented officially in 1998 and had a clear success story within those eight years. How did it come to this?

The rubber was tested in 1997 at the WCC in Manchester for the first time in competition by some players, amongst them Timo Boll. But our leading BRYCE-player was Werner Schlager. He played BRYCE from the beginning on. Many players followed. Who changes from SRIVER to BRYCE has difficulties in the beginning, even our top players. But you can go through it with an attitude like Werner had: „I want to master this rubber!“ In total the start in the first three years wasn't easy, for the change is very great and many considered the BYRCE as too fast. In the meantime the BYRCE is used by many, even very young players. Especially the BYRCE FX, the softer version, is well accepted. BYRCE grows and grows, a very positive development.

Back to Timo Boll. He plays the classical SRIVER in the L-version. This rubber entered the market end of the sixties – it is nearly forty years old. Of course it has been improved several times throughout the years, but the basic structure has stayed the same, hasn't it?

Yes, it has and this makes us proud. For many players and even coaches believe, the material has become much faster, but actually this is not true. Maybe a few percentage points. What has become faster are the players. Players in the World's top of the early seventies had a totally different technique than today's top players – their arm acceleration was much lower. What has changed the game enormously is speed gluing. But the increase in speed by gluing is only four or five percent. And the blades have not become faster, either. Let's take our first Carbon blade as an example. The basic construction of the TAMCA CARBON GERGELY, which has been extremely successful, is still base for the new CARBON blades SCHLAGER CARBON OFF or PRIMORAC CARBON OFF. It's the mother with the children. The same goes for the SRIVER. Timo Boll plays it for a reason. Of course his play is fast, but especially spin based. And SRIVER offers the perfect balance between spin and speed. Therefore it has become the most successful rubber of all times. And it is still up to date and played in all amateur classes.

What's the tendency in rubber development?

More tacky and fast. Yet with a great handicap: the ITTF has still not issued it's directives regarding the future of speed gluing, which should begin in 2007. This is not easy for all Table Tennis manufacturers. The future developments depend very much on the fact, whether speed gluing will be legal or not. And because nowadays there is a lot of speed gluing in the amateur section even by very young players, a ban of gluing would have a major effect. And to avoid surprises we explore in three directions, as I may tell you.

Thank you very much, Mr. Imamura.

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For the first time the Hessian Federation with its partner Butterfly offer any Table Tennis player the opportunity to train under HTTV-head coach Helmut Hampl (coach of Champions League winner TTV RE-BAU Gönnern – Timo Boll and Jörg Roßkopf) and his team professionally.



Arrival on Monday, 24th of July 2006 before 14:00 h. Departure on Friday, 28th of July 2006 from 13:00 h on. Nine training units of 2 to 2-1/2 hours each – Monday to Thursday two each, Friday one unit are scheduled. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening physical training or swimming and sauna are possible.

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Information at the Hessian Table Tennis Federation e.V., Post Box 1140, 35411 Polheim, email geschaeftsstelle@httv.de or at www.httv.de



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