

Butterfly®

NEWS

04 2007

Succesful European-Championships!



Bronze for Italy



Gold for Hungary



Silver for Croatia

The results of the Butterflies at the European Championships in Belgrade
4 x gold, 2 x silver, 7 x bronze

Triple Triumph for Timo Boll

Timo Boll won the „Triple“ at the European Championships. In the singles final he beat the three times EC title holder Vladimir Samsonov from White Russia in five sets. Before that he won already gold in the team event and the doubles.



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Superb Timo Boll leads Butterflies to altogether thirteen medals

At the 50-year-jubilee of the European Championships a Butterfly star advanced to the most successful player of the title fights in Belgrade, where the organizational achievements were far behind those of the athletes. Timo Boll could secure three triumphs for himself, with the team, in the singles and in the doubles, three gold medals. Altogether athletes with Butterfly material won thirteen medals – four times gold, twice silver and seven times bronze.

Eight weeks before the World Championships in Zagreb (21st – 27th of May) Timo Boll passed the final rehearsal at the EC 2007 with flying colours. The number 4 of the World Ranking List took four gold medals home with him to Hoechst. Additionally to the historic title for Germany with the team Boll won the title in the singles and doubles (with his partner Christian Suess). Boll impressed with the manner in which he beat the defending Champion Vladimir Samsonov 4:1 in the final and the White Russian didn't have a chance over long stretches of the game. Boll: „I played very well in the final. I am happy to have won the European title for the second time.“ The second singles medal came from the Dane Michael Maze, who won bronze. Just before reaching the semi – final with Butterfly material was also Kalinikos Kreaga, but Greek's Europe Top 12 Finalist had to give up in the round of the last eight because of a painful shoulder injury and had to leave the medal to the only 18 – year – old Dimitrij Ochtarov (Germany) involuntarily without a fight. Butterflies, who managed a surprise, were Germany's Bastian Steger (Frickenhäusen), who beat the Romanian Adrian Crisan as well as Greek's Panagiotis Gionis, who won the duel of defenders against the seeded Austrian Chen Weixing. In the doubles Butterfly had, apart from the gold medal of Timo Boll and partner Suess, twice a share in third places: once through Austria's Ex-World Champion Werner Schlager (together with the French Patrick Chila) and the second through Dimitrij Mazunov, who played with the Russian Alexei Smirnov.



12. April - 15. April 2007

Pro Tour: Brazilian Open

19. April - 22. April 2007

Pro Tour: Chile Open

21. May - 27. May 2007

LIEBHERR World Table Tennis Championships, Zagreb

14. June - 17. June 2007

Pro Tour: Volkswagen Korea Open

21. June - 24. June 2007

Pro Tour: Volkswagen Japan Open



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No player enjoys her successes so much and so emotionally like Viktoria Pavlovic, who in Belgrade had twice reason for tears of happiness in the singles and doubles. White Russia's defence queen reached the semi-finals and managed her greatest success in her career in so far. The Ex European Champion from Luxembourg, Ni Xia Lian, with her reputation of being unbeatable by defenders, beat the defending Champion Liu Jia before and stopped Pavlovic's winning series, who remained the only Butterfly representative among the best four. With Nicole Struse, who tore her cornea during the Championships, and the Romanian Daniela Dodean, two further Tamasu representatives managed to reach the round of the last eight. Especially Dodean impressed by victories over the strong Swede Matilda Eckholm as well as over Butterfly colleague Krisztina Toth, who could still be satisfied with the results of the tournament. For the first time in the women event Li Jiao, who wears the Butterfly dress of the Netherlands, is the title holder. The Croatian Tamara Boros could finally play again after her month long break because of sickness, but was far away from her best form and lost to Elizabeta Samaran from Romania in the last sixteen. Boros: „It is getting a little bit better from game to game. But I still need a bit more time and patience after such a long break.“



Despite the early failure in the singles Toth won just like Timo Boll three medals. Apart from the gold in the team competition the Hungarian won silver and bronze in the doubles and mixed doubles. In the doubles Toth, with her partner Georgina Pota by her side, could be happy about the miracle to reach the final after being 0:3 down against the Germans Elke Wosik and Wu Jiaduo. In the final they drew the shorter end of the straw in

the duel of the Butterflies against the White Russian Viktoria Pavlovitch and the Russian Svetlana Ganina. Surprisingly the defensive pair succeeded in seven sets. Viktoria Pavlovitch: „We are happy, that we won this final. We were the outsiders, even if we had a chance. It is really nice, that it worked out like this.“

In the end there was a medal too in the mixed doubles for the ever present Butterflies. Hungary's Tamasu protagonist number one, Krisztina Toth, didn't manage to take her second gold after winning the team title, but secured a bronze medal on the side of her country man Ferenc Pazsy, while Serbia for the third time after 2000 and 2005 won the title through Aleksandar Karakasevic together with his Latvian partner Ruta Paskauskiene, formerly Budiene-Garkauskaite.

Conclusively we can say that the competition in Serbia didn't suffice a European Championship. The Beogradska hall, suitable for 20000 spectators, was far too big so that the 1000 spectators (inclusively accredited people and helpers) got lost on the best days. The view, they had was even more appalling, because the organizers didn't set up a centre court before the last day, so that all previous games at Europe's most important tournament had an atmosphere like regional competitions. That definitely wasn't successful publicity work – with such a presentation you throw away all the credit of table tennis, which we were working for so hard through the years – for the spectators and the media.

The results of the Butterflies at the European Championships in Belgrade

4 x gold
2 x silver
7 x bronze

The results of the European Championships

Men Singles

Gold: Timo Boll GER

Silver: Vladimir Samsonov BLR

Bronze: Michael Maze DEN

Bronze: Dimitrij Ochtarov GER



Women Singles

Gold: Li Jiao NED

Silver: Ni Xia Lian LUX

Bronze: Viktoria Pavlovich BLR

Bronze: Irina Kotikhina RUS

Men Doubles

Gold: Timo Boll GER/Christian Süss GER

Silver: Lucjan Błaszczyk POL/Tan Ruiwu HRV

Bronze: Werner Schlager A/Patrick Chila FRA

Bronze: Dimitrij Mazunov RUS/Alexei Smirnov RUS

Women Doubles

Gold: Viktoria Pavlovich BLR/Svetlana Ganina RUS

Silver: Krisztina Toth HUN/Georgina Pota HUN

Bronze: Nikoleta Stefanova ITA/Wenling Tan-Monfardini ITA

Bronze: Elke Wosik GER/Wu Jiaduo GER

Mixed Doubles

Gold: Ruta Paskauskiene LTU/Aleksandar Karakasevic SRB

Silver: Oksana Fadeeva RUS/Fedor Kuzmin RUS

Bronze: Krisztina Toth HUN/Alexei Smirnov RUS

Bronze: Georgina Pota HUN/Ferenc Pazsy HUN

Team Men

Gold: Germany

Silver: Croatia

Bronze: Poland

Bronze: Romania

Team Women

Gold: Hungary

Silver: Russia

Bronze: Italy

Bronze: Germany



ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (03/2007)



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 (03/2007)



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!)

Johan Axelqvist and Matilda Ekholm -
Butterfly-Juniors brilliant at the Swedish Championships

Johan Axelqvist stormed after a brilliant achievement with victories over his National team colleagues Fredrik Hakansson and Jan-Ove Waldner to the Final. There he met the routine player Jørgen Persson and lead with 2:0, had a set ball in the 3rd and two more in the 4th set to extend his lead to 3:1 but couldn't use these. In the end and despite a 4:3 loss he could still be very satisfied with the

2nd place, because this result is his biggest success up to now and will give him a lot of self confidence on his early way up to the Swedish top.

With Robert Svensson on his side he took successfully revenge with 3:2 over Persson and his partner Hakansson in the doubles final and got his first Gold at a Swedish Senior Single Championship.

Matilda Ekholm won the title in the women single for the first time. The 24 year old left handed player, who will probably play in the German 1st Bundesliga next year, could turn a 0:2 in sets into a 4:2 victory against Marie Olsson.

After being in the semi finals twice before in the past years, she could now prove her dominance in Swedish women table tennis with a victory in the singles.

In the doubles Ekholm could only get to the semi finals (with her partner Carolina Wersäll), whereas her Butterfly colleague Linda Nordenberg and her partner Anna Benson got to the final and lost there 3:1 to Carina Jonsson and Kajsa Andersson.

All three of them, Axelqvist, Ekholm and Nordenberg will also represent the Swedish colours at the EC in Belgrade and probably also at the WC in Zagreb.

Timo Bolls Kolumn

Hello, Dear Fans and Readers,

I hope that you had just as much fun at the EC in Belgrade as I did. I will definitely have a good memory about these title fights – makes sense, doesn't it? You don't win three titles at an EC every day, to be precise: only very few manage that and that is why I am so proud of these successes. I looked through the internet to see which players have managed that – only five and ahead of everyone else Jan-Ove Waldner. I think it's great to be on a similar level with such names, really.

After my victory in the final against Vladimir Samsonov I was asked very often, which of the titles means most. I can only say once again, that I didn't have any priorities in Belgrade, because I always want to win, when I play. Naturally it was very important to me, that we finally won the title with the German team. Sharing the feeling of success with the other players is something special, especially because I know for how many people in German table tennis; a dream of a victory in the so called king's discipline has come true.



More important than the often quoted waiting time of 49 years is, what we can achieve with this team in the future ahead of us: in my opinion we can really win one or more gold medals with this team.

There is a simple reason that the ball kept rolling after the team event: my fitness. I could keep up my concentration and tension during the whole tournament and never fell into a hole. In the final against 'Vladi', when it could have become tight for me, I could still add that little extra and keep playing very concentrated and find back to my game of the first three sets, and because I was always that little bit faster despite our probably equal level.

In a certain way my title in the singles also belongs to the players of my team. If we hadn't won, thanks to their successes, so clearly most of the time, I surely would have had to use much more power. To prevent using too much power I tried hard in the singles and the doubles with Christian Süss to play as few sets as possible to win the games, in which we succeeded pretty well.

Looking back, my sickness break in at the beginning of the year paradoxically helped me. After three weeks of rest I was fresh and concentrated instead of being totally worn out as I usually am at this time of the year. Even in the final I was mentally very good and not at all tired.

I might well say that fitness is the key to success. That applies as well for a comparison with the Chinese, because playingwise, they are not better than I.

Therefore I will use this „strategy“, which I was forced to use in January, again for the single WC in Zagreb in about six weeks. After



Belgrade I ordered myself to four or five days rest, but then all my focus is on the WC: I won in Europe everything there is to win, so that my targets now are intercontinental titles.

No way will I be satisfied with my achievements. Before I probably tended to be lazy after a tournament like that in Belgrade, but by now I have learned that you never should be satisfied. That is the experience you have gained through the years and therefore everything starts from the beginning again after my little break up to Zagreb.

I am looking forward to it, because we succeeded with the DTTB to win some brilliant training partners like my Butterfly friends Werner Schlager, Michael Maze and Kalinikos Kreanga as well as the Japanese top players of Mario Amezic, for common exercises at my home training base in Hoechst.

Belgrade has proved to me again that the effort is worth it. I definitely know that everything is possible for me in Zagreb, if I play like I did at the EC.

Apart from that Zagreb is not only because of my two EC titles 2002 in Croatia a good omen: In Belgrade it was obvious that the whole Balkan is a good place for me.

Bye until May

Yours



Timos own Homepage: <http://www.timo-boll.de>

20th Victory in 20 Years!



It is an amazing achievement: Toshihiko Oka, 2nd from the left on the picture, won the 27th Japan –Trophy in handicap table tennis for the twentieth time and that during the last 20 years. Oka, whom Butterfly supported and sponsored for the last

10 years, wants to concentrate this year on the qualification for the Paralympics in Peking and is planning to take part in five other international championships.

Metro Cash & Carry new Sponsor for Boll and Borussia Düsseldorf

Butterfly partners Timo Boll and Borussia Duesseldorf had a great marketing success. The world-wide active wholesale trade concern Metro Cash & Carry is functioning since a short while in order of a largely spread table tennis engagement as a main sponsor of Timo Boll as well as the German record holder. The company with their base in Duesseldorf, which had a turnover of 30 milliard Euros in over 580 markets in 28 countries, is relying on the international popularity of table tennis in general and especially on the popularity of the European Champion, who is playing for Borussia in the next season. The contracts, which Boll's adviser and Duesseldorf's administrative council chairman Hans Wilhelm Gaeb initiated, are running for three years. The target of the company, also in view of the Olympic Games 2008 in Peking, is an international strengthening of the brand. The name of the company beneath the firm-logo on the shirts printed in Chinese cares for a high degree of attention.

Like a goalkeeper during a penalty

Timo Boll demonstrates the optimal basic position when receiving a serve

The basic position is very important in table tennis. It is a position to return the serve, because the player is waiting for the opponent's serve in a very special manner, so that he can return the ball in the best possible way. From this basic position a coach or expert can identify very quickly on which level the player is playing. You will never see it with new beginners or hobby players. Also in the lower and middle classes there are only a few players, who are standing in the correct basic position. It starts in the higher amateur classes that the players are standing correctly. On top level nearly all players are standing in the optimal starting position. About 80, if not 90% of all table tennis players in the world don't have a good basic position and deny themselves possible success for their game, because a bad basic position reduces the performance at least by 40%. The most important moment during a rally is the serve and serve return and if you are not starting optimally, you have lost already. The returning player reacts too slowly, plays too passively, many mistakes are the result and the following stroke is also influenced negatively.

Why is it that so many players on the lower and middle levels make such a big mistake by not starting in the right basic position? Four of the most important reasons are:

1. Many players on this level didn't have a coach or a coach with poor qualifications, who couldn't teach them the correct position. Very often they have never seen table tennis on top level so that they could copy from the professionals.
2. They are simply not accustomed to a low basic position, like Timo Boll is demonstrating. Especially children and youngsters feel embarrassed taking up this position. That is a psychological component. The same applies for grown ups, who are not so sporty.

3. They don't see a meaning in this position. What is it for?
4. The physical component may also prevent the low position, if for example the leg-and stomach muscles and the balance are not sufficient.

All four reasons are irrelevant.

1. An optimal position can be copied from top players.
2. They can learn to get used to low basic position by practicing a lot – even without a game situation. The unusual feeling can become normal and even lead to a ritual.
3. The meaning of the basic position becomes very clear if you take the example of a goalkeeper trying to save a penalty. The question of how a goalkeeper is standing when the penalty scorer runs up to the ball can be answered by every child. If they should demonstrate the goalkeeper's stance they know at once what the basic position for returning a serve is and why it is so important. A goalkeeper is standing in the same position for a penalty as Timo Boll.
4. A lack of necessary strength or balance can be improved by especially designed exercises.

Let's have a look at Timo Boll's basic position.

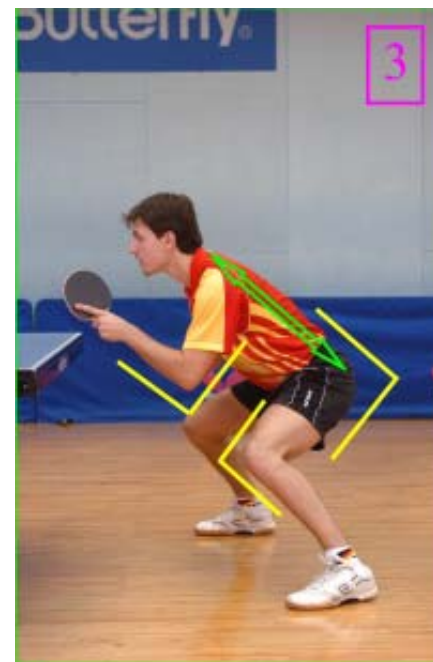
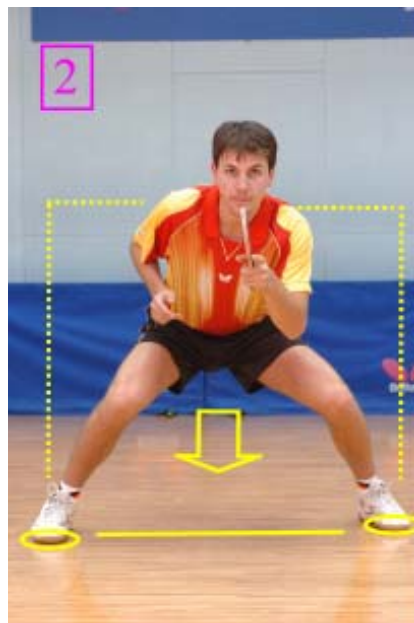
Timo Boll is standing in the middle of his backhand side (picture 1)



09 Stars under the magnifier

- He has taken his body very low down (pictures 1-4). His bodyweight is on the front of his feet so that he has a perfect balance but also an extreme tension in his feet-and leg muscles, which he needs to react explosively and very fast on his opponent's serve.
- His legs are shoulder wide apart (pictures 1,2,4).
- His racket is vertical and the top of his racket in height of his nose (pictures 1,2,3), as if he is taking aim at his opponent, like with a shotgun.
- Timo is holding the racket in the neutral position, exactly in the middle of his body, from where he can react equally quickly with his backhand and forehand (pictures 2,4).
- Timo applies the typical three angle position (picture 3), where in fact all three angles are the optimal angles of 90 degrees: knee joints (foreleg/upper leg), hip joint (upper leg/body), and elbow joint (forearm/upper arm).
- Timo's back is exemplary straight (picture 3). Instead of bending down at the hips, many players bend their back and the spinal cord in breast height, which will lead in the long term to a round back and problems with the vertebra.

Timo's look expresses the whole tension and concentration of the player for the opening of the game, meaning the return of the serve. Taking up this basic position is like a ritual for many players, which helps the players to concentrate. Additionally it shows the opponent – like a cat before jumping- your own willingness to fight. This psychological component of this position should not be underestimated, when two players meet. Its not only through looks, gestures but as well through taking an aggressive position (body language) that you demonstrate your own strength and self-confidence and that can make your opponent feel insecure.



10 Products of the month

At well assorted distributors!

Link www.butterfly-world.com

The nes Collection is now available!

COLIAS

red-black-white, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 79,90 €**
Extra light tracksuit in athletic design from 100% Tactel. Mesh lining in jacket and trousers. Straight cut jacket with elastic band for width regulation. Trousers with straight leg, extra long vertical zip and hidden elastic band. Excellent price-performance ratio!



ARCTIC

blue-navy-white, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 99,90 €**
Functional tracksuit from 100% Cool Dry Polyester, offering an attractive design and eye catching colours. Mesh lining in both trousers and jacket. Straight-cut jacket with elastic band for width regulation. Trousers with straight leg, extra long vertical zip and hidden elastic band.

TELIUS

anthracite-liquid grey-white, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 89,90 €**
Casual and sporty tracksuit with modern cut and fashionable look with decent contrasting stripes from 100% Diamond Dry Polyester. Mesh lining in trousers and pants. Straight cut jacket with elastic band for width regulation. Trousers with straight leg, extra long vertical zip and hidden elastic band



11 Products of the month



FARINOSA & FARINOSA Lady

blue-light grey / black-red, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 39,90 €**

Functional shirt from 100% Micro Polyester. Its printed design provides a most attractive look, whereas the relaxed and athletic fit make it a must-have for all table tennis players. The matching lady version of Farinosa shirt; attractive look with waisted cut and shorter length and arms



TAGIS

navy, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 29,90 €**

This ageless and classic polo shirts from mixed fabric (60% Cotton / 40% Polyester) stands up with a casual fit and a breeze of elegancy.



INDICA

black-grey/navy-blue, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 37,90 €**

A sporty shirt from 100% Micro Polyester for all occasions. The stand up collar with zip gives emphasis to the shirt's functionality and its decent but casually elegant design.



DAMON

black, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 34,90 €**

Cool, fresh and long, these shorts from Diamond Cool Dry Polyester + Micro Dry Fit can be combined with all kind of shirts. Cuts a fine figure on all occasions and at all events.

AQUILO

black, 3XS-4XL, **RRP 29,90 €**

This pair of shorts combines comfortable and tight fit. Made from 2-way stretch + Cool Dry Lycra, it offers best flexibility for the ambitious athlete.



 **Butterfly**
NEWS®

04 2007

World Champion Werner Schlager: Pushing

In 2003 Werner Schlager became sensationally World Champion in the Men Singles in Paris. Not all experts thought this possible. The rise of the Austrian to the top of the world was not easy. With courage, strength and endurance the right handed player managed the stony way to the top. Werner Schlager lives and lived table tennis like nobody else. His professional attitude towards sport is exemplary. For Butterfly the 34 year old is an important counsellor concerning the development of products. In his book: „Matchball – Dreams and Triumphs“, which was published last year, he describes his career, his successes and disappointments, his opinions about table tennis and his very personal quite philosophical thoughts about life. A very good book, not only for table tennis players. In the new Butterfly series „Tips & Tricks from the World champion“ he answers many questions concerning all areas of competition and training: technique, tactic, psychology, endurance, organisation of training, competition, player development and culture, material, rules, coaches. Barely practical issues. The Butterfly team and Werner Schlager wish you, dear reader, good entertainment and joy. If you have further questions about a topic, send us a mail.



How important is pushing in top table tennis nowadays?

Very important, because there is a push in at least 80 % of all rallies.

In which game situations?

Mainly during the first ball after the serve.

Are you still practicing the push?

Of course, in every competition related exercise.

If yes, in which varieties and situations?

The classic push is the one, which is played short. Another variety is the aggressive push, which means the aggressively fast and long placed push. On top of that there are numerous (less important) varieties with side-spin.

Did you have to practice a lot of pushing, when you were young?

Yes, because in those times there was a lot more pushing.

For many coaches of the juniors the push doesn't play an important role any more. Right or wrong?

Wrong. I cannot believe, that many coaches think like that.

13 Tips and Tricks

What is more difficult, backhand or forehand push? Is there any good advice for the execution of a backhand or forehand push?

Forehand, our shoulder joint is not made for a special area in front of the body for a push. Tip: best use the backhand in front of the body.

Is it more difficult to play a push with a freshly glued racket?

Yes, the more sensitive a rubber reacts on rotation, the more you must compensate this by adjusting the racket angle. The faster the blade/rubber is, the more control you need when making contact with the ball. The control is suffering under a fast and spin sensitive blade/rubber combination – this is what you try to achieve by gluing – a double effect.

How can you improve the use of the wrist, the so called „hacking“, or do you know a better term for that?

I think the use of the wrist is an advantage, but not always necessary. A speedy forearm is equally important. To improve consistency and quality only one thing is important: a lot of training.

Some coaches maintain that an attacking player doesn't need a long push with the forehand, so you don't need to practice it.

That contradicts my experiences. The stronger a player becomes, the more important the technical variety becomes. There is no player among the top 100, who does not use a long forehand push.

The dangerous factor with pushing is the amount of spin, which means, a little, medium or a lot of backspin. What do you have to look out for?

The less spin I want to play, the more important it is to estimate the spin the ball has got already. The other way round: the less I know about the amount of spin the ball has got, the more spin I should play.

What are the biggest mistakes, when pushing the ball?

You should try to hit the ball as early as possible and you should push with many different varieties.

Do you know one or several exercises for young players, which improve especially the push?

Exercises, which include many pushes. The best ones are competition exercises including serves.

Is it true, that the Chinese are the best in pushing? If yes, do they practice it more than the Europeans?

Probably. The special Chinese rubbers force them to practice the push a lot more.

If you know a special saying about the push, tell us. My first junior coach always used to say: “If you can't push, you can't play table tennis.”

He was absolutely right. Only because the push is not known to be spectacular, although it very well might be, it is underestimated in its efficiency.



Butterfly material expert Taisei Imamura, 49, tells us about the new blades and rubbers for the season 2007/08. In his contribution today he describes four new blades:

PHOTINO OFF, TIMO BOLL SPARK OFF-, KISO HINOKI VII OFF AND KISO HINOKI V OFF-.

Photino OFF starts with a selling price of 129,90 Euros, which may well be called exclusive. What decides the price of the optically exceptional PHOTINO OFF? The yellow-blue design hints at a professional conclusion.

Indeed, the design of our new PHOTINO OFF is impressive for a table tennis blade. Professionals worked with it. This is of course not the most decisive factor about a top class blade. No, we have built in a new material: Zylon. That is a new element comparable with carbon and arylate. It is used for example for the production of very light gun proof vests. Zylon has two abilities: it is very light and simultaneously very hard. Our Japanese contract player, Jun Mizutani, became Japanese Single Champion with it.

So it is a blade of a new generation?

You can say so, because it is destined for the time after fresh gluing. The players need harder blades in connection with new rubbers like our new rubber SOLICION, to keep the speed.

Surely there is a lot of research work connected with it?

Of course, because we must prepare our players for the time without gluing.

Probably fresh gluing is going to be forbidden from the 1st of September this year. Is that for certain?

No, not for sure, but probable. At the WC in Zagreb the future will be decided. The ITTF wants to go back to the old date, which was postponed for a year at the last World Championships in Bremen.

Is table tennis going to be slower?

No, it is going to be faster.

Two years ago that sounded completely different.

Yes, a lot has happened and I don't want explain that further at the moment.



Let's come back to the new blades. What has a TIMO BOLL SPARK OFF- to offer?

This blade has already been sold exclusively on the

American market and is extremely popular. It has also got Arylate but in such a way that it is not too fast. Actually it has a lot of control and still gives the Arylate feeling.

Very interesting are definitely the two new KISO HINOKI Blades V and VII. What is so special about them?

It is the Hinoki – wood of the Japanese Kiso Cypress. Kiso is a Japanese region, where only this type of cypress is growing. The trees must be at least 300 years old. The Hinoki wood of this Kiso cypress is not too hard and at the same time very light. The result is the typical HINOKI feeling. The best middle layers are being used for our one layer penholder HINOKI models. The use of Hinoki veneers has a special tradition at Butterfly. Players, who are looking for light, strong blade with a lot of feeling, will be over the moon. The difference between the five layered KISO HINOKI V OFF- and the seven layered KISO HINOKI VII OFF is the speed. The model with seven layers is a bit faster.

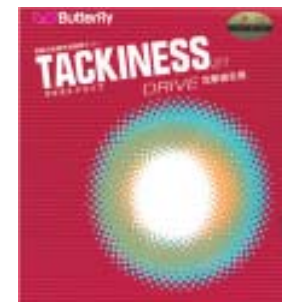
NEW: In regular intervals our Butterfly material expert Taisei Imamura informs us about all the specific terms connected with table tennis material.

Material from A - Z

Allround Rubbers

Allround rubbers are neither too fast nor too slow. They are roughly in the middle of the speed and grip scale. Therefore they are very suitable for young players, who are starting to learn the techniques properly. Let's assume a 10-year-old begins to play table tennis in a club. Normally he/she has got a racket, which he/she has bought in a sports shop before, a so called hobby racket. The child enjoys playing table tennis and the coach regards him/her as talented and motivated. Already after a short time he/she needs a new racket which is suitable for learning the techniques. The child needs a blade and rubbers, which enable him/her to learn **all** techniques. Exactly at this moment the allround range comes into play. The coach will advise the child to a racket, which is neither too fast nor too slow and has enough grip to play all the topspin and backspin techniques. Depending on talent and quantity of training the child plays with this allround material for one or two years to specialize afterwards. Naturally we must not forget all the older players in lower playing classes or the upper hobby area, who indeed play a game which includes defensive and offensive elements and values control. They too fall back on allround rubbers.

The ideal allrounders from our range of rubbers: **SOFT D13**, **EKRIPS SOFT** and also the **TACKINESS D** and the **SRIVER**, if you use a thin sponge, for example 1,3 – 1,7mm.





Since 1993 Stéphane Michel is our Butterfly representative in France. The main profession of the 44-year-old is teaching. The former successful women coach of the Parisian suburb club AC Boulogne Bilancourt, with whom he won five French titles, managed to take Butterfly up to the third position in the brand ranking. In the following interview you learn about how he judges the French situation and what perspectives he sees.

The tighter our network, the more successful we will be

Mr Michel, you are the French Mr. Butterfly. Since when did you work for Butterfly and what is your role for the company in France?

Since 1993. Didier Momessin, was supported by Butterfly at the time, and he told me that Butterfly was looking for somebody who could improve the status of the brand in France. I talked to Mr Kamizuru and it worked out fine. Step by step I tried using my knowledge about French table tennis and the table tennis market to promote the brand Butterfly right up to the top. I think that we made good progress during the last 13 years; otherwise I wouldn't still be working for Butterfly.

Before this job you were the chief women coach of AC Boulogne Bilancourt?

Yes, I was a coach there for 17 years and we won the French title five times with the women team. From that I had of course very good knowledge and connections in French top class table tennis. I was also working intensively with the youngsters at bottom level, so that I also knew a lot about the problems and needs at the basis. That was basically the presupposition to work successfully for Butterfly in France.

2001 Butterfly made a contract with the most well-known French table tennis club, Levallois SC TT. What were the effects of this sponsoring?

That was quite a sensation and pushed the brand forward. Levallois was French Champion for 14 times and won five European titles. In that case you don't just trust any brand. Butterfly could be seen more in France and what you can see, you can sell better.

Are there other top Butterfly clubs in France?

Yes, there is Montpellier TT in the south, which won many national titles with the women on national level and it is the most successful club there. Like Levallois, the women from the south can win the title this year. A double victory would be great for Butterfly. With those two clubs we are covering the south and the north optimally.

Where are the centres of French table tennis and where is table tennis played most?

In the north and the west of France and of course in the Paris region. There are most of the players and because of that we must be at present there. But that doesn't mean that we can neglect the other areas. Right from the beginning my idea was to build up a network of motivated clubs, engaged coaches and young promising players, which becomes tighter all the way. The tighter our network, the more successful we will be. And we are on the right way.

How exactly is your network planned?

Naturally I profited from all my personal contacts as a coach. The deciding factor for the election of new network members is their good reputation. I have denied a lot of requests of coaches and players, who didn't have that. The reputation is very important for a brand.

Where is the French table tennis standing now?

We obviously have a big generation gap. Three of the four legendary musketeers are still playing: Eloi, Chila and Butterfly player Christophe Legout, but their careers are coming to an end and behind them there is a big gap. That is the naked truth. The French Table Tennis must change something; otherwise we wouldn't have this gap. Naturally there are better and worse generations of players, you can observe this with all table tennis nations, but this gap is quite massive.

How does it look like at the basis?

Quite good. Table Tennis plays an important role at the schools up to 11/12 years, a good role, like never before. People have recognized in France that table tennis is very valuable for the development of motor skills of children at this age. Therefore many children come to the clubs at an early age. The work in the clubs and with the youngsters has also improved in general so that I am optimistic about the development of French table tennis concerning quantity. We must try to support this development purposefully.