

Butterfly® October 2005 NEWS

World Cup victory for Timo Boll

With an impressive triumph march over World Champion Wang Liqin, defending Champion Ma Lin and in the final against Olympic second Wang Hao, Timo Boll secured the title of the LIEBHERR Men's World Cup 2005 in front of 4.000 spectators in the Belgium City of Liège. More on pages 2 and 3.



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02 Review World Cup

LIEBHERR Men's World Cup in Liège (21st – 23rd of October)

Timo Boll triumphs over China's superstars and wins the World Cup for the second time

A single Butterfly has busted a respectable hole into the Chinese Table Tennis Wall on the recent October weekend. At the Men's World Cup the Butterfly contract player Timo Boll secured the prize cheque of 44.000 Dollar by triumphing over the superstars from China.



The 24-year old Boll won one of the most important singles title of the Globe for the second time after Jinan in 2002 and considered this victory as the most important success of his career so far: „To beat World Champion Wang Liqin, defending Champion Ma Lin and Olympic second Wang Hao in a row – so the Numbers one, three and four in the World – this is something really special.“

As the Austrian Werner Schlager did at the World Championships in Paris, so this time again it was a Butterfly player that jerked into the phalanx of the Chinese aces. As at the Japan Open in this year Boll again improved from match to match. Boll: „At my defeat against Samsonov in the groups I was lacking concentration, but then it got better and better.“

At the end it went so well, that Ball beat brand leader Wang Liqin and afterwards ended his six years series of defeats against feared opponent Ma Lin. In the high class final the European Champion of 2002 then turned a 2:3 in games and 4:8 in the sixth go into a victory.

„Winning such an important tournament gives me even more confidence and the knowledge, that I can beat any Chinese even at the Olympics or the World Championships“, Boll rejoiced afterwards.

The German National Champion yet stayed the only Tamasu player that ended the World Cup with a medal. WCC-third Michael Maze survived a tough group with World Champion Wang Liqin and South Korea's WCC-Bronze medallist Oh Sang Eun, a member of the Butterfly quintet in Liège as well. He only lost to Wang

 **Butterfly**
NEWS®
October
2005

6th of November

Pro Tour: Russian Open, St. Petersburg

13th of November

Pro Tour: Liebherr German Open, Magdeburg

9th of December to 11th of December 2005

Pro Tour: Volkswagen Grand Finals, Fuzhou (CHN)



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Liqin, but was stopped by European Champion Vladimir Samsonov in the quarter final. Maze: „Samsonov is hard to play for me. And I was not in perfect shape at this tournament.“

The World Cup 2005 ended in the groups not only for Oh, but for two other Butterfly stars, too. Taiwanese Chuan Chih-Yuan got stuck in the tough B-group with later winner Boll and Samsonov, while Greece's WCC-third Kalinikos Kreanga suffered two defeats against Ma Lin and Belgium's idol Jean-Michel Saive in group C. Both weren't happy with the tournament. Kreanga: „In almost all of the lost games I wasted a good lead. I should have won.“ Chuan Chih-Yuan was unlucky to arrive only at the tournament day from Taiwan, for he stepped in for the injured Werner Schlager (Austria) at short notice. Chuan: „Clearly it's hard to play your best Table Tennis after such a journey.“

The results of the Butterfly-starters at the World Cup in Liège

Gold: BOLL Timo GER (World's Nr. 2)
quarter-final: MAZE Michael DEN (World's Nr. 17)
Group's third: OH Sang Eun KOR (World's Nr. 6)
Group's third: KREANGA Kalinikos GRE (World's Nr. 9)
Group's third: CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE (World's Nr. 12)



Chuan



Kreanga



Maze

Interview with World-Cup-winner Timo Boll

“Winning the World Cup is my greatest success“

Mr. Boll, what does this success in Liège mean to you personally?
“Winning the World Cup is my greatest success ever so far. To beat the three best Chinese at such an important tournament gives me the confidence and the assurance, to be able to do this at the Olympic Games and the World Championships as well.“

Did you expect this before?

“I knew I had a good chance and play well at the moment. Yet I arrived a little tired. For this the concentration lacked at the beginning, especially in the match against Samsonov. But then I was able to improve from match to match.“

After many years you have beaten your feared opponent Ma Lin and World Champion Wang Liqin after the recent defeats as well. What's the cause of this improvement?

“I have worked hard and improved continuously in the last year, worked on my weaknesses and got better at the little points, for example above the table and in service and return. For the Chinese I have become much harder to beat.“

Against Wang Hao there was a crucial moment in the sixth game, where you were close to defeat...

“...yes, at 4:8 I myself did not believe in winning anymore. But I simply tried to focus on one point after the other. As my hunt was successful, he became nervous. In addition the audience helped with it's great support. And of course it's important that one can rely on the material 100% in such critical moments!“

Will you celebrate extensively after this triumph?

(Boll laughing) „No, we will travel home today. But next week I will take some days off, no matter what my coach says....““



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!

Returns

Part 7 – variable

In this last part regarding returns it's about using flexibly, what we have learned so far. The fact, that one's opponent has several options to return one's services, causes stress and is a tactical disadvantage.

The service player once again plays short services all over the table and brings in a long and surprising one once in a while. On his side of the table a gymnastic ring is placed. By this the service becomes a bit more difficult, for one has to make sure not to hit the ring with the first bounce of the ball on the own side.

The return player now has the task to play his returns on different positions every time – but not inside the ring. He can drop short, play over the sidelines or aggressively to the baseline. All this variations have been presented in the recent issues. Every service player has a certain numbers of services. For every successful return – outside of the ring – the return player gets a point. For any wrong return the service player gets a point. Wrong services are counted for the return player. After a certain number of services positions are swapped.



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NEW!



Radial GS5

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49,90 Euro



Deel

Designed for the worldwide use of our top players. 100 % MICRO Polyester and a newly, double-stitched V-neck offer a relaxed wear. Sizes: xxs-xxxl Colours: turquoise, red

34,90 Euro



Cooley

Functional tricot made of 100% MICRO polyester. Contrast stripes at the arm combined with a top quality material provide a simple, but functional elegance at the table. Notches on the sides of the hips, equipped with contrast stripes as well, cause an easy fit over the shorts. Sizes xxs-xxxl, colours: black, red, royal blue.

36,90 Euro



Kerry

This classical tricot, made of mixed fabric (60 % cotton, 40 % polyester) in modern blue with a horizontal contrast strip, makes many combinations possible and offers much comfort by it's light cut. Absolutely convincing in price! Sizes: xxs-xxxl, Colours: marine, royal blue.

27,90 Euro



Table Tennis is a bacillus

Mr. Hampl, more and more top players are at the advanced age from 35 to 40 still world's top. Let it be Jan-Ove Waldner, who now reaches his fortieth birthday, or Jean Michel Saive or others. What are the reasons for this tendency?

In Table Tennis experience in competition is a major element. And a certain maturity of the player. Of this the older players profit, if they stay fit and healthy.

Talking about health. Jörg Roskopf accounts for one of the older semesters with his 35 years and has to struggle with many injuries. There are voices claiming, he should better stop and focus on a possible career as a coach.

That's nuisance! (firm!). At the moment Rossi is being pushed into a direction by some people, which he has not deserved. Looking closer at him and knowing him one has to say, that he still plays well. That he loses some matches in spite of a major lead has other reasons. It's not about play or sport, but rather mental. He has to go through this. And if he does, he will really come back for sure. For he trains very well. In the World's Ranking list he still is

Without doubt: Helmut Hampl is one of the greatest in the branch. He turned his hobby into his profession at the age of 28. Outstanding success, which was not possible for him as a player in the Bundesliga, happened to him as a coach. In Germany the now 52-years old was elected Coach of the Year in 1997 and 2002 by the Members of the Federation of German Table Tennis Coaches (VDTT). And if measured objectively he might have won the election even more often. He is not only discoverer and supporter of Jörg Roßkopf and Timo Boll, the two greatest Table Tennis players since the era of Eberhard Schöler. For 25 years he now is Head Coach of the Hessian Table Tennis Federation and together with his coaches team has developed and improved a system of sighting and promotion, which can be considered most successful in Germany. The model of the TTV RE-BAU Gönner as well is unique in the country, for it is based on the initial idea of the cooperation of the Hessian Federation with a Hessian club to play 1. Bundesliga with as many Hessian players as possible to prevent them from leaving to other federations. One of them was and is Timo Boll. Not only he has profited from this model, but the club as well, which has sensationally won the European Champions League.

In this series of interviews Helmut Hampl, advisor for Butterfly since 1997, will give a deeper insight into his life in Table Tennis. Part 3.

the second best German behind Timo. This says everything. And one should not forget that the game has changed. Rossi's play bases on high risk. But because a game ends at eleven and the service changes every second point, one can not play at high risk all the time. There have to be phases, where you stay passive and make points out of a passive-active situation. On this Jörg works and in training he has achieved considerable progress. Only in competition when under stress it's hard to bring it in. He needs patience. As long as he is willing to learn and highly motivated he will carry on. The other young German are very good, no doubt. But if it's about the National Team, it's always about performance. When the young German player overtake him, they have to play ahead of him. But as long as he has the position in the World's Ranking list on can not skip him.

Mr. Hampl, let's talk about today's play. With Jörg Roskopf as an example you have named two major changes: counting to eleven and the new service. And the ball has become larger. Has Table Tennis become more attractive?

In terms of counting, yes. There are much more crucial situations than before. The game has become much more interesting to the audience. If it has become more interesting by the 40mm ball I can not say. What the new ball has changed is, that the players now have to play one or two passive balls. You can't play some balls as aggressive as you might want to. And the game has changed giving those players an advantage, that have their racket above the table and are able to play the balls passive and active, as for example Timo, who is able to play any variation above the table.

You just spoke about Timo's strengths in the active-passive play. Are there actually any weaknesses in Timo's play?

The one-year injury plight of the season 04/05 has left traces. He still must make up time physically this year. He can improve in terms of springiness and freshness. There always are opponents against whom one can play two games at 100% and two at 70%, slightly exaggerated. If one, however, plays against Chinese, one must play always at 100% and be 100% fit. One may not have any concentration weakness and also must be able to make the final stroke even harder. In addition, one permanently must work on his service and return to bring new variations and always cause uncertainty for the opponent in competition. Definitely, the Chinese study Timo's game quite precisely and if they have played against him three, four times, and then they have an answer to his game. A player who goes to a top event must have two, three new variations in service and return in stock to confuse the opponents and have an advantage. So one must always try to be a step ahead of the others.

However, this presupposes that one analyses his opponents exactly himself.

Yes sure, but one also can provide something new, something of his own. And this has to be presented at a top event as a surprise moment.

Who brings in these creative elements, then? You or Timo?

This comes of both of us. One can only reach something at this level, if one cooperates. The player as a loner or the coach, who does not appreciate, what comes from the player, can't achieve anything. Common analyses, common conversations, this is the right way. And both, coaches and players, must fully stand behind corresponding decisions.

You said to the beginning of our conversation that the World's top had gotten broader. Can this be explained by the games to eleven?

With games to eleven, of course the weaker players have a better chance to win a game than at 21. Because of this the Chinese want to go back to 21. However, this would be a step backward. Yes, I already said that the new way of counting has made the game more attractive. It is no longer so programmable, more surprises are possible. For the spectators it is better in any case. For the players I do not know; for some yes, for others not.

Mr Hampl, you have played in the national league and belonged to the extended German top years for a long time, but a title at a German championship was not granted to you.

Not even a medal was granted to me. I have been in some quarter finals in singles, doubles and mixed doubles at German championships, but I have never made the move in the semi-final and with that no medal. Good, okay (laugh), one must live with that.

You were regarded as a passionate player. Would you strive for a professional player career today?

At first let me say, that what we in the past have earned in the National League was actually no more than our expenses. One could just live on it or finance his studies. Earning money one can't talk of. We were amateurs in the best sense. Who plays on our standard today can earn very good money, absolutely put a little at side and live on it later. But I do not want to complain at all. I have found my profession through my playing activity and I enjoy the coach job very much.

As is well known, Table Tennis is your life – first as a player, then as a coach. What is it that actually fascinates you about Table Tennis?

Table tennis is like a bacillus. No one, who has never played Table Tennis can understand this. I have invited a friend, who has never seen a National League or Champions League Match before, to a home match of us (TTV RE-BAU Gönnern). Now they come back regularly. The game is so fast, so thrillingly, they are simply fascinated, also by the atmosphere in the hall. The Table Tennis bacillus can be very contagious.

Your wife and son also are close to the Table Tennis sports as well?

Yes, in the past my wife used to play in the National League. And my son plays in the 2nd league currently. He has played on a national level in his youth very well, but then has decided himself for school, made his Abitur and now studies Sports and Geography. If one, however, wants to become a professional, then one must be straight and exercise twice a day etc. and he did not want this. Everything is yet about Table Tennis in our family. That is okay in my opinion.

Do you take the racket into your hand once in awhile, then?

Only when doing many balls training.

ITTF-Präsident Adham Sharara: Europe causes me worries



Mr President, the World Cup of the Men has taken place in Europe after many years again. How does your balance sheet come out for Liège?

Only positive. The World Cup took place in a very beautiful hall, the audience was very enthusiastic, informed and has provided a fantastic atmosphere in Belgium particularly at Jean-Michel Saive's games. In addition, the performances of the players were the best advertising for the Table Tennis sports.

How does it go on with the World Cup?

The tournament takes place in Paris in 2006 and in Liège we have signed the contract for 2007 with Barcelona. However, we consider extending the three-year phase of the World Cup in Europe by a year.

What is the reason for it?

The German association at first had interest in the the World Cup in 2007 after the contract completion with Barcelona also for 2008. In Liège Belgium has announced it's application for the same year. With the DTTB we will talk at the German Open in November in Magdeburg about this. Yes, if Europe and if, whether Germany or Belgium, we will decide well by the end of 2005.

The moving of the change rotation between Europe and Asia appears as a marginal change in comparison with other problems. What is the current status in terms of speed gluing?

As announced, we are proceeding in two steps at this issue. As of September 2006 speed gluing is forbidden in closed rooms and as of September 2007 all adhesives with organic substances are forbidden.

However, there are votes which regard the general ban as exaggerated. What do you think of it?

We want the ban on the speed gluing for the protection of the active. No physical damages enter at short notice, but in the long run and we can not exclude a risk. Because of this we decide for the health protection in doubt. Table Tennis shall be a clean sport.

The decision nevertheless is highly controversial furthermore...

The missing alternatives and the possibilities for control are the fundamental problem. In terms of controls we made a step ahead shortly, because the responsible working group at present is testing a new machine which announces forbidden substances. A single controlling device will cost about 6000 €, though. Because of this we consider to use this machine merely at the great tournaments. For smaller tournaments, on the other hand, smaller equipment shall be developed, which costs only about 200 Euros and would be affordable for the clubs. The controls, a kind of anti doping test for the racket, are necessary, for many players do decline the ban and might come into temptation to go back to her previous adhesives.

Does the temptation not arise from the lack of alternatives?

Exactly. Many complain that the game would be changed considerably, but this however had happened at the introduction of the 40 mm ball so at first, too, and everyone then had himself adapted after two to three months so that Table Tennis has got more athletic and with that as fast as with the 38 mm ball again.

But can the actives be confronted with such a serious change only a year before the Olympic Games in Beijing?

At first there should not be a health risk for the actives. The manufacturers are asked for here.

What do you expect concrete?

09 Interview

You always speak and lament over the adhesives and that there are no alternatives to it. But the racket also consists of the wood and the rubbers. In my opinion the manufacturers should give these areas more attention. Maybe it is the fear of financial losses at the adhesives which lets the manufacturers insist on their point of view. Yet these losses could be made up for by new products.

Regarding the ITTF the ban of gluing will not be the only change for the Olympics 2008 in Beijing. In the Olympic programme team competitions shall replace the doubles. Do you already know whether the International Olympic Committee will accept the ITTF suggestion?

No, the decision is most likely made at the end of 2005. But we had several positive conversations with the responsible committees the IOC. For this would be a large step ahead for Table Tennis with only a little change of the programme of the Olympic Games. It finally remains the same: the number of the actives and the number of competitions at the Olympics.

What does the ITTF expect to achieve with the change in the Olympic programme?

Our competitions would get more attractive for the spectators in the hall and at the screens. Even China's association would be happy about it, because for their fans those competitions are much more interesting, in which their actives – let it be singles or team – are competing against foreign teams.

The Olympia final 2004 in Athens in China was watched by over 100 Million people on television only because Wang Hao played against the South Korean Ryu Seung Min and not against one of his team mates and they wanted to see him win.

One level beneath the Olympics the World Championships are established. For the Team WCC 2006 in Germany the ITTF has recently published the system of play, which again includes changes. Is the system for Bremen now the system of the future?

I would wish that we'd stick with a system, but I do not know whether this can be realized. Because after every WCC someone is actually somehow dissatisfied with the system and wishes changes. For Bremen the

Europeans have made pressure. The reason stated was, that the system of Qatar protected the Chinese, yet in my opinion they want to protect their own chances. In Bremen 18 teams qualify for the first Division at the WCC in 2008 in Guangzhou, for the Europeans don't want to become World Champion as the Chinese, but rather stay in Division one.

At the World Cup in Liège one was able to see, how attractive a compact tournament can be. Does a team WCC with the best 16 teams of the World must stay a vision?

I also would want a smaller field, but this is a democratic decision of the AGM, and because of this a team WCC with only 16 teams is politically very difficult. Yet for the future we intend to carry out a WCC only with teams of the first three divisions, while the teams below play their own tournament.

Such a step would a tribute to the large differences in performance between the different nations. How does the global development of Table Tennis present itself in general?

Much progress is obtained in Asia. Particularly in Japan within only few years very much good has been done. The numbers of players is increasing, there are magazines and the National Team is successful again with a young generation of players. Europe however makes to me worry.

To what extent?

Young talents, that might me able to reach the World's top, hardly grow up in Europe. Even those that made it and were accounted for facing the Chinese are now considered the older generation. Of course there's a Timo Boll or Michael Maze, but behind them there's a great gap. But when there are no young players coming up in Europe the danger of becoming a regional sports like Badminton, only played in Asia, is very high.

Mr President, many thanks for the conversation.

Handicapped ECC in Italy 15th to 26th of September 2005, Jesolo, Italy

Gold for Daniel Arnold

Out of Germany's point of view the highlights at the Handicapped-ECC in the Italian City of Jesolo were set once again by Daniel Arnold. On his way to the final the 26-year old had to meet several challenges. With a 3:1 he beat World's No.7 Vadim Buzin from Russia and met the Dutch Nico Blok in the quarter final. Arnold: „Against Nico I have always lost in the recent years.“ But under the slogan „Every series has an end“ he turned his fate and won in a sovereign manner by 3:1. Only 30 minutes later Daniel Arnold kicked aside top-ranked leader of the World's Ranking List, Peter Rosenmaier from Denmark. Once started Mirosław Kowalski couldn't stop the triumph march of the owner of the Silver Leaf Award. The Pole had to admit defeat in a clear 0:3. Arnold: „I'm simply happy!“ Nothing can be added to this.



TT Bundesliga News

Bremen achieves first victory of the season

Only one day after the unlucky 2:3 defeat in the DTTB-cup against Grenzau the Table Tennis World of the Butterfly team Werder Bremen was back to order: with a 6:2 at the duel of the newcomers against TTC RhönSprudel Fulda-Maberzell the team of coach Vasile Tamas celebrated their first and important victory of the season.



„Now we are back in business for keeping the league“, Werder Bremen's team boss Sascha Greber rejoiced after the success against the direct competitor. And not only with the first two points of the season, but with the performance of the

team as well Bremen can be satisfied. Already in the doubles they were like new compared to the previous matches. After an almost devastating 1:11 balance sheet, the double Bentsen/Cioti and Molin/Sörensen claimed their first 2:0 lead – this without giving away a game. Greber had an explanation for this change: „It paid off that the complete team was able to train together for a week. And we did not get nervous for the previous results, especially the defeat against Tündern, but continued working concentrated.“ In the singles Bremen performed as a unit as well. Lead by an excellent Cioti, who obviously got along well with a spoiled match ball of last weeks cup match against Keen and beat Jan-Ove Waldner as well as Feng Zhe, Alan Bentsen and Magnus Molin (3:1 against Dziubanski) as well had their share in the victory. And Mats Sörensen did not disappoint at the 3:1 against Jörg Schlichter as well. Greber: „The success was deserved in any case, for we had won the seventh single – Molin led against Schlichter 2:0 and 8:3 – as well.“

The matches:

22.10. 19:00 Uhr TTC RhönSprudel Fulda Maberzell - SV Werder Bremen 2:6

23.10. 15:00 Uhr TTC Zugbrücke Grenzau - Borussia Düsseldorf 6:2

23.10. 15:00 Uhr Müller Würzburger Hofbräu - TSV Schwalbe Tündern 6:1

23.10. 17:00 Uhr SIG Combibloc Jülich/Hoengen - TTF LIEBHERR Ochsenhausen 3:6

The Table:

Pos.	Team M	W	D	L	Sets	Games	Points	
1.	Düsseldorf	7	5	1	1	135:110	37:26	11:3
2.	Frickenhausen	5	5	0	0	97:44	30:6	10:0
3.	Gönnern	7	5	0	2	136:116	36:25	10:4
4.	Ochsenhausen	5	4	1	0	99:59	29:12	9:1
5.	Grenzau	6	3	1	2	118:102	30:24	7:5
6.	Würzburg	7	3	1	3	116:116	30:30	7:7
7.	Fulda-Maberzell	6	2	0	4	99:104	21:27	4:8
8.	Tündern	6	1	0	5	53:106	10:31	2:10
9.	Bremen	7	1	0	6	87:132	16:38	2:12
10.	Jülich/Hoengen	6	0	0	6	73:124	16:36	0:12