



### Schedule

26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2004:

National German Championships Men and Women in Cottbus



27<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of April:

International Championships for School Teams in Saarbrücken

2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2004:

Olympic Qualification Tournament for Doubles in Ludwigshafen



- Review Team WCC
- ITTF World's Ranking Lists
- Product of the month

- Expert-talk: Mario Amizic
- And much more.....!

## Simply top!

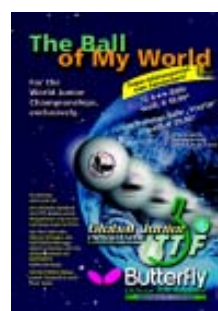
## WCC Silver for Boll & Co

And the World Team Championships in Doha/Katar have showed it again - success has a name: Butterfly! At the awarding of the medals there have always been athletes trusting in the brand Butterfly!

**Gold**      **Kong Linghui (CHN)**  
**Zhang Yining (CHN)**

**Silver**      **Timo Boll (GER)**

**Bronze**      **Yoo Se Hyuk (KOR)**  
**Oh Sang Eun (KOR)**  
**Ryu Seung-Min (KOR)**  
**Kim Teak Soo (KOR)**  
**Kim Kyung Ah (KOR)**  
**Aya Umemura (JAP)**



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## Team WCC in Doha

### Triumph for China / six of eight medals go to Asia

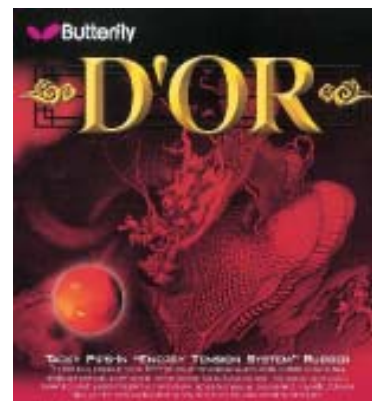
Doha. China impressively underlined its dominant position in Table Tennis. At the World Team Championships in Qatar with 140 teams (80 men and 60 women) they won the Gold medals at the men and the women as expected. At the men Germany with Butterfly star Timo Boll surprisingly won Silver before South Korea and Sweden. At the women the ranking behind China, which was led to Gold by Tamasu-ace Zhang Yining, was Hongkong, Japan and South Korea.

„I'm overwhelmed by the Silver medal. China is the best team at the moment and we have to accept this. For Germany it's a great success“, Timo Boll stated happily after entering the final. Germany only lost twice to new World Champion China after they had stayed unbeaten in the groups and won against South Korea. They won Bronze with a team of four Butterfly contract players: Oh Sang Eun, WCC-second Yoo Se Hyuk, Ryu Seung-Min and Kim Taek Soo.

Germany beat South Korea in an excellent match 3:1. Before they had already won against Taiwan as only Butterfly team in the Champions Division. The team with Chuan Chih-Yuan and Chiang Peng-Lung started as a candidate for a medal but had to content themselves with position 7 in the end.

At the men Europe had at least Sweden and Germany amongst the best four; at the women Asia was amongst itself. For Butterfly Kim Kyung Ah and Lee Eun Sil won Bronze with South Korea, so did Aya Umemura with Japan. The total of three Butterfly teams fought for the titles in the Champions Division. Best European team was Rumania with European Champion Otilia Badescu as fifth, Hungary as eight. Taiwan ranked 12.





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## The new one

### D'Or – if you're afraid you shouldn't play it

Butterfly presents D'Or, an innovative High-Tension rubber for uncompromised attack! The extremely grippy surface as known from Chinese rubbers provides lots of spin, as well when playing topspin and or pushing with much feeling. For the surface being designed very hard the rubber at the same time produces much pressure and speed. This dynamics is supported by the hard sponge in Japanese style. The ENERGY TENSION SYSTEM puts high pressure into the rubber providing even more power. Of course the rubber is suitable for glueing.

What special qualities can one expect of D'Or?

The new combination of extreme grip, solid strength and explosive high tension make D'Or the perfect rubber for a fearless offensive player,

- playing close to the table with continuous aggressive counter-spins,
- seeking spin-offence over or close to the table,
- emphasizing exact placed returns with extreme rotation,
- wanting to give maximum rotation to their own services.

You shouldn't fall back with the D'Or! It's qualities are best close to the table.

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## Just step in....

Keen on information about Timo Boll? Simply click into the net. For example on [www.timo-boll.de](http://www.timo-boll.de). There you'll find his very personal story about the success at the World's Team Championships.

Hello fans, a great team WCC lie behind me. The days in Doha did me very well. I wasn't sure where I was standing and had provided my own expectations with a great question mark after a ten day flu right before the start of the tournament. Any position has been possible in a group with Vice World Champion Belgium, Sweden, Russia, Taiwan as second in the World's Ranking List and Hongkong. But the series of success gave us much confidence...



Maybe you're interested how Timo Boll began his career. Then a visit at his fan-club site at [www.timo-boll-club.com](http://www.timo-boll-club.com) is worth a visit.





**News**

## Product of the month

At well assorted distributors!



Link [www.butterfly-world.com](http://www.butterfly-world.com)

### Scorer Time out

Size 490 x 310 mm,  
equipped with the new time-  
out-cases.

**27,90 Euro**



### Barrier

Size 233 x 70 cm

**24,90 Euro**



### Umpire table

Size 78,5 x 70,5 x 6 cm

Foldable, very stable wooden structure

**65,40 Euro**

### Net Europa

ITTF approved

Colour black

**52,80 Euro**



### Net National League

ITTF approve

**34,50 Euro**



### Teamscorer

Size 47 x 37 cm

**21,90 Euro**



**[www.butterfly-world.com](http://www.butterfly-world.com)**



(Butterfly-players are marked!)

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	JIANG Huajun CHN
2	WANG Nan CHN	17	TOTH Krisztina HUN
3	NIU Jianfeng CHN	18	LI Jia Wei SIN
4	GUO Yan CHN	19	ZHANG Rui HKG
5	GUO Yue CHN	20	SONG Ah Sim HKG
6	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	21	LIU Jia AUT
7	TIE Yana HKG	22	GAO Jun USA
8	LI Ju CHN	23	KIM Hyon Hui PRK
9	BOROS Tamara HRV	24	STRUSE Nicole GER
10	LI Nan CHN	25	LI Jia CHN
11	UMEMURA Aya JPN	25	FUKUHARA Ai JPN
12	LIN Ling CHN	27	SCHÖPP Jie GER
13	LAU Sui Fei HKG	28	WANG Chen CHN
14	STEFF Mihaela ROU	29	CAO Zhen CHN
15	FAN Ying CHN	30	BADESCU Otilia ROU

## ITTF World's Ranking List, Men (Extract, 02 - 2004)

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

Schlager, Boll and Struse on the rise again!

1	MA Lin CHN	16	OH Sang Eun KOR
2	WANG Liqin CHN	17	SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL
3	WANG Hao CHN	18	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
4	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	19	QIU Yike CHN
5	Chen Qi CHN	20	PERSSON Jorgen SWE
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	Kim Taek Soo KOR
7	BOLL Timo GER	22	CHEN Weixing AUT
8	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	23	KORBEL Petr CZE
9	RYU Seung Min KOR	24	MAZE Michael DEN
10	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	25	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
11	KONG Linghui CHN	26	KARLSSON Peter SWE
12	LIU Guozheng CHN	27	ROSSKOPF Jörg GER
13	HAO Shuai CHN	28	WALDNER Jan-Ove SWE
14	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE	29	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL
15	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	30	LUNDQUIST Jens SWE

The Material of our players!



Name:	Blade:	Forehand	Backhand
BOLL, Timo	Boll spirit straight	Sriver L max red	Sriver L max black
SCHLAGER, Werner	Schlager Carbon flare.	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
KREANGA, Kalinkos	Primorac Carbon straight	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
KONG, Linghui	Kong Linghui Spez. anat.		Bryce 2,1 black
CHIANG, Peng-Lung	Chiang Peng-Lung (Penh.)	Bryce 2,1 red	
OH, Sang Eun	Special edition	Sriver L max red	Sriver L max black
KORBEL, Petr	P.Korbel concave	Sriver L max red	Sriver L max black
MAZE, Michael	Maze straight	Bryce 2,1 red	Sriver EL max black
PRIMORAC, Zoran	Primorac Carbon conc.	Sriver EL max red	Sriver EL max black
KEEN, Trinko	Jonyer Hinoki anatomic	Ekrips max sch	Bryce 2,1 red
MAZUNOV, Dimitri	A.Mazunov straight	Sriver EL max red	Bryce 2,1 black
LEGOUT, Christophe	Boll Spirit concave	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
MATSUSHITA, Koji	Matsushita Pro	Tackifire D 1,9 bl.	Feint Long II Kawa 0,5 red
HIELSCHER, Lars	L.Hielscher concave	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
STEGER, Bastian B.	Steger anatomic	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
TSIOKAS, Ntaniel	Matsushita Pro	Tackifire Spec. 1,9 red	Feint Long II 1,3 black
SCHLICHTER, Jörg	Boll Spirit concave	Bryce 2,1 black	Bryce 2,1 red
YOO, Seung Min	KimTaek Soo (Penh.)	Bryce 2,1 red	
JOO, Se Hyuk	Diode straight	Tackifire D 1,9 red	Feint Long II 1,3 black
ZHANG, Yining Zhang	Yining concave	Tackifire C max red	Sriver EL max black
KIM, Kyung Ah	Diode straight	Tackifire D 1,7 red	Feint long II 1,3 black
BOROS, Tamara	Viscaria concave	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
UMEMURA, Aya	Umemura flare	Ekrips Soft 2,1 red	Ekrips Soft 2,1 black
TOTH, Kisztina	Special edition	Sriver EL max. black	Sriver EL max red
LIU, Jia	Boll Spirit concave	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
GAO, Jun	Matsushita Pro	Challenger Attack	- (Penholder)
KIM, Hyong Ah	Diode straight	Tackifire D 1,7 red	Feint long II 1,3 black
STRUSE, Nicole	Power Drive concave	Sriver EL 2,1 red	Sriver EL 2,1 black
BADESCU, Otilia	SK 7 concave	Speedy P.O. 2.1 black	Challenger Attack 1.9 red
BATORFI, Csilla	Special edition	Sriver FX 2,1 red	Sriver FX 2,1 black



In the new expert talk provided by Butterfly exclusively for its Newsletter-subscribers we will discuss many different issues with Mario Amizic: Training and competition, development and culture of playing, tactics and psychology, technique and fitness. Of course we would appreciate your questions to Mario. Mail them to us under the label "Mario Amizic". We will then try to consider your questions in one of the upcoming talks.

## **The return – much brain, little sweat!**

*Mr. Amizic, last time we have talked about the service. It's obvious to question you about the return now. But before allow me to ask about the recent World Team Championships in Katar. How have you experienced this WCC premiere?*

**China has proved clearly, who's No.1 in the world by winning both titles. But this was no surprise considering the enormous potential of players. Still the Chinese don't play Table Tennis from another planet like the media has reported over and over. Germany has achieved a great success with their Vice-title. And Sweden has reached the semi-final, too. The difference between Asia and Europe is not so great, it's rather fifty-fifty. Now one has to draw consequences out of the WCC and work for the future.**

*A word about the playing system of the WCC; are you happy with it?*

**One can discuss endlessly about it, but let's take the facts. First the top player is of enormous importance. Does the team have a top player it's automatically a top team. Last year White-Russia with Vladimir Samsonov became European Champion. Greece with Kreanga is as well a top team. But only as long as the top player makes his point. One can criticise this outstanding position of the top player, but on the other hand many other system simply take too long. This is bad for spectators and media.**

*And what about the strange mode with the winners of the groups meeting first, this winner then entering the final while the looser has another chance?*

**The two winners of the group are not rewarded by playing each other. I would prefer the common system of semi-final and final.**

*Let's get to today's topic – the return. How great is it's importance?*

**Even if repeating myself I have to emphasize: Table Tennis has 50% active parts of play and 50% passive like block or return. Especially young and medium level players can be seen training much more active like topspin, smash etc. than passive. It's more fun to spin or smash than to train return and block sensibly. But the return is the first chance to get into the active play. Observing the top players of any nation one can clearly see that they have improved their return play enormously and now are able to turn the former passive role of the return player into an active one by aggressive push or flips.**

*Truly the skills in return have more and more improved within the last years. Sometimes one gets the impression that service is not an advantage anymore. Is there one or the other player in the World with an especially strong return play?*

**If you had asked this question five years ago I would have named Jörgen Persson. He was excellent in return and had many surprises ready. Today there's none. The differences amongst the World class players regarding the return are so little. One who returns very variable and intelligent is Werner Schlager. The Chinese return well, but rarely flip. Timo Boll surely has to improve his return play. But generally all top players work on high level. Without a good return play nobody has a chance to enter and stay in the elite. One can see this in the lower classes where matches are often won with services, because the opponent is unable to return them.**

*Can you train returns awarely?*

**This is a laborious, long term process and it has much to do with brain and little with sweat. The problem is that many players – especially the young ones, find it boring to train their return. Many only become aware of it's importance when they come to their limit. A player risen from position 500 of the World's Ranking List to 100 and now meeting a top-20 player will suddenly realize that he is chanceless at this level with his return-play. And then he starts to work on it actively.**

*What's the secret of a successful return?*

**The player must be able to analysz the play of his opponent to find strength and weaknesses and to choose the right alternative of return. And of course he has to be able to read the returns of the opponent to see, what rotation the ball has. And he has to be able to anticipate where the ball is coming to. Then the art is to surprise the service player with a return he's not expecting. And the return player has to think about the next ball, too! If I drop short, what will my opponent do with it?**

*What can you recommend to young players to improve their return play?*

**The things going on in the heads are complex and can't be learned in a few days. It's a long term process. But a major mistake in lower and middle class leagues, which can be improved at short notice, is the position when expecting the service. Many stand too upright or have a low position but abandon it when the ball leaves the racket of the opponent. And with this upright position they don't have a chance to hit the ball perfectly afterwards. Another mistake is, that one plays the ball too early, directly after it hits my side of the table. But at this point there's the most rotation within the ball. And one can hardly estimate the curved trajectory, especially at sidespin services. I always recommend to let the ball fly and take it later. Then it looses rotation and one can observe it better.**