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Schedule

19.-25.05.03	World Championships (Paris) The fight for the throne in the City of Love
26.-29.06.03	ITTF Pro Tour: Brazilian Open Rio de Janeiro expects the world's elite
09.-11.10.03	World Cup Men Defending champion as of ECC and Europe Top 12: Boll and Butterfly.
06.-11.11.03	ITTF Pro Tour: German Open The City Hall of Bremen wants to give it's recommendation for the WCC 2006
11.-14.12.03	Grand Finals ITTF Pro Tour The last duel Europe vs. Asia in 2003

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- EM-Summary: Triple gold,
four-times Silver and
ten times Bronze for Butterfly

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- Material-talk: the blade -
the racket's soul

-
- and much, much more.....!

A personal note!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Table Tennis friends,

now here it is – the first Newsletter. For users of the Newsletter this means: to know more, to experience more, to always be close to the ball. Here you will be informed directly in terms of news and trends regarding Butterfly and interesting information about Butterfly-players like Timo Boll. In addition there will be tips about tactics and technique. Experience the fascinating world of Butterfly at home – every month.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or critics simply mail them to us:

info@butterfly-world.com

For more fun in Table tennis – your Butterfly-team!

www.butterfly-world.com





Timo Boll: In and at the net!

Timo Boll belonging to the World's absolute elite at the net is no secret anymore. But „in the net“ Timo Boll is active as well and present at www.timo-boll.de. Everything you want to know about the popular celluloid-artist. On his pages under „Kolumne“ the World's No.1 gives his personal impressions of his recent experiences. What else is to be found? Timo's tips, photos, autographs for download and much more! You can communicate with Timo or other fans in forum or chat or look for materials and clothing in Timo's online-shop! There fans will find anything their heart desires!



Im Online-Shop finden Timo-Fans alles was das Herz begehrt!

Warning of substandard imitations

Dear Butterfly-customer,

According to some of our distributors abroad substandard imitations of the following Butterfly-products are available in large quantities:

Sriver L, Sriver FX, Ekrips, Tackiness D, Tackifire, Flextra, Butterfly 3 Star Balls

For your own protection we ask you to purchase only original „Butterfly“-products either at specialised dealers or at Table Tennis distributors. We would like to emphasize the fact that we do not offer any guarantees for Butterfly-products purchased of players, coaches etc. If you believe to have bought an imitation please send the article(s) to us:

Tamasu Co., Ltd., Attn. Mr. Hamano, Asagaya-Minami 1-7-1, Suginami-Ku, 166-0004 Tokyo, Japan (Tel. +81-3-3314-2111), Email: tamasu@butterfly.co.jp

Schnuppermobil

The table-tennis „Schnuppermobil“ is a mobile event program of the German Table Tennis Federation in cooperation with Butterfly. A car filled with Table Tennis has been travelling through the different regions of Germany for over a year now. Teamer Alexander Murek, responsible for bookings, coordination, realisation, schedule und calculations is carrying a large package of fun: two competition-tables, one school-table, a midi- and three mini-tables. Oversized-, competition-, midi-, and mini-rackets. Elephant-, XXL-, competition-balls. A tt-robot, a speaker-system for the newest chart-hits.



Schedule of May

- 10.5.: Table Tennis day in Heilbronn of VfL Neckargartach
- 18.5.: International Youth-Meeting in Ettlingen
- 25.5.: TT-Regional-Kids- und Youth-Games in Wesenitztal of the SV Wesenitztal
- 29.5.-1.6.: You in Essen (WTTV)

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ECC – accounting: Triple-gold, four times silver and ten times bronze for Butterfly

The last part of the 24th European Championships in the Italian City of Courmayeur once more belonged to the contract-players of Butterfly. In a pure “Tamasu-final” defending champions Tamara Boros (Croatia) and Mihaela Steff (Rumania) secured gold in the last match of the nine days if competition against Hungarian Csilla Batorfi and Krisztina Toth.

On the whole Butterfly-players won 17 medals including three times gold, four times silver and ten times bronze. The highlight, the men’s single, was won by the Belarus Vladimir Samsonov on the final day by a 4:0 victory over the sensational finalist Torben Wosik from Germany.



The tournament of surprises, at which for example eight of six top-seeded women had dropped out before the quarter-final, again offered high class table-tennis-sports on the final day, not only because of the world-class performance of both Butterfly-doubles Boros/Steff and Batorfi/Toth in the final. Tamara Boros and Mihaela Steff won the third gold-medal for Butterfly after the mixed double of Werner Schlager / Krisztina Toth and the single of Otilia Badescu.

The 17 Butterfly-Medal-winners in Courmayeur:

Women’s single:

Gold: Otilia Badescu ROM
Bronze: Silvija Erdelji YUG
Bronze: Nikoleta Stefanovo ITA

Mixed:

Gold: Werner Schlager AUT/Crisztina Toth HUN
Silver: Viktoria Pavlovich BLR (with Chen Weixing AUT)
Bronze: Otilia Badescu ROM (with Lucjan Blaszczyk POL)

Men’s single:

Bronze: Timo Boll GER

Women’s team:

Silver: Croatia
Bronze: Hungary
Bronze: Rumania



Men’s team:

Bronze: Czech Republic



Women’s doubles:

Gold: Tamara Boros CRO/Mihaela Steff ROM
Silver: Csilla Batorfi/Krisztina Toth HUN
Bronze: Silvija Erdelji YUG (with Anamarija Erdelji YUG)

Men’s doubles:

Silver: Dimitrij Mazunov RUS (with Alexei Smirnov RUS)
Bronze: Werner Schlager/Karl Jindrak AUT
Bronze: Slobodan Grujic YUG (with Aleksandar Karakasevic)

Table Tennis World Championships in Paris: The highlight of the year!

The Individual World Championships in Paris promise to become the highlight of the year 2003 in every regard. Not only because every player of reputation in the World's fastest rally-game starts at the tournament at the river of Seine. Location and ambitions of hosting continent promise thrill as hardly ever before: In the Palais Omnisports in Bercy Europe wants to break into the phalanx of Asia and prevent the total victory of China, which won all available titles in Osaka 2001.

Butterfly-stars again are amongst the inner circle of favourites for the title at this WCC regardless the seeding on the 17th of May in Paris. For the first time Germany will provide the top-seeded player at the Men's with Timo Boll leading the World's Ranking.

Still the 22-year old Butterfly-star isn't the undisputed favourite anymore after his two clear defeats against Vladimir Samsonov at the European Championships in Courmayeur. The burden of expectations are now carried especially by the White-Russian and by the second-seeded player Ma Lin, this year's German Open winner from China. Boll considered his role in the circle of medal-candidates even before the ECC with his typical relaxed and realistic point of view: "There is a certain circle of players in for medals in Paris. I'm in it, but only because I'm No.1 of the World's Ranking List I do not consider myself as being top-favourite. Much will depend on the daily form and a little on the seeding as well, which is yet unknown." One thing is clear after the publication of the new Ranking List on the 1st of May: Boll can't meet neither European Champion Samsonov, who climbed up on position three in the World by his triumph, nor defending champion Wang Liqin (China) before the semi-final. Two other Tamasu-players could be potential opponents of Boll in the quarter-final: Werner Schlager (Austria) and Olympic-Champion Kong Linghui (China), which will be seeded five to eight together with the Chinese Wang Hao and the Taiwanese Chih-Yuan. Of eight athletes seeded nine to 16 four play with materials from Butterfly as well: Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece), the Croatian Zoran Primorac, the WCC's third of 2001 Chiang Peng-Lung (Taiwan) as well as the South-Korean Oh Sang-Eun, who in 2001 won Bronze in the doubles, Mixed doubles and with the team.

At the Women's the most interesting question is likely to be, if Butterfly-star Zhang Yining (China) as follower of World- and Olympic Champion Wang Nan at the top of the World's Ranking List will now be able to win her first singles title at a WCC. Besides Wang Nan the competition inside the Butterfly team for Zhang is provided by World's No.3 Niu Jianfeng. She and Lin Ling complete the top-seeded China-quartet. Out of Europe's point of view the biggest leaps in the women-competition of Paris are expected from the Butterfly-hopes. Besides European Champion Otilia Badescu (Rumania) Tamara Boros (Croatia) and Miheala Steff (Rumania) seem to be able to provide one or the other surprise. The European Champions in the doubles, who hadn't nearly stood up to their favourite role in the singles of Courmayeur, are willing to make up for it as outsiders seeded five to eight in Paris.

While England cancelled the Badminton WCC out of precaution, SARS is no topic as a restriction for Table Tennis. France's officials have signalled no needs for cancellations to their National Federation. And the World Federation ITTF confirmed end of April, that the performance of the WCC will be without entry-restrictions for any countries. ITTF-President Sharara: "The WCC in Paris will happen without limitations."

We will provide a daily report on our website.



Link www.butterfly-world.com „homepage -WTTC Paris“

www.butterfly-world.com

ITTF World-Ranking List (Extract, May 2003)

Five Butterfly-players in the Top-Ten

The great surprise of the European Championships, Torben Wosik (Frickenhausen), is second best German behind Timo Boll (Gönnern). The ECC-finalist of Courmayeur climbed 12 ranks to position 25. Record-National-player Jörg Roßkopf is two positions behind on 27. The lead of Timo Boll to his follower Ma Lin increased from twelve to five points. The 22-year old Boll is on the top-position of the world for the fifth month and is one of the favourites at the individual World-Championships in Paris from the 19th to the 25th of May. As well favourite is European Champion Vladimir Samsonov (White-Russia), who has climbed from position six to three.

(Butterfly-Players are marked!)

- 1 **BOLL Timo GER**
- 2 MA Lin CHN
- 3 SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR
- 4 WANG Liqin CHN
- 5 CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE
- 6 **SCHLAGER Werner AUT**
- 7 WANG Hao CHN
- 8 **KONG Linghui CHN**
- 9 **KREANGA Kalinikos GRE**
- 10 **PRIMORAC Zoran CRO**
- 11 **CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE**
- 12 SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL
- 13 KARLSSON Peter SWE
- 14 **OH Sang Eun KOR**
- 15 **RYU Seung Min KOR**



Timo Boll counts as one of favourites for Paris

- 16 LIU Guoliang CHN
- 16 LIU Guozheng CHN *
- 18 WALDNER Jan-Ove SWE
- 19 HEISTER Danny NED
- 20 **KIM Taek Soo KOR**
- 21 **MAZE Michael DEN**
- 22 PERSSON Jorgen SWE
- 23 SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
- 24 MA Wenge CHN
- 25 WOSIK Torben GER
- 26 CHILA Patrick FRA
- 27 ROSSKOPF Jörg GER
- 28 HOU Yingchao CHN
- 29 QIN Zhijian CHN
- 30 KO Lai Chak HKG



Product of the month



RADIAL CROSSCOURT

TT-shoe of top class in design and function For professionals and ambitious players. Sole with extreme grip and stabilisation of the ankle. Special inlays at the shaft provide optimised hold for the foot when moving sideways. Good damping for the back part of the foot. With approved anatomic foot-bedding. Weight: approx. 390 Gram (per piece / Size 43)

69,90 Euro

RADIAL OPTIMO

TT-shoe for players seeking optimised contact to the ground. Well-trying, improved sole with wave-profile, net-inlay for better breathing activity. Special softening by EVA-inlay-sole. Strong tilting-stability by a raised frame-sole. Weight: approx. 380 Gram (per piece / Size. 43)

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Material-Talk with Taisei Imamura

Today: the blade – the „soul“ of the racket

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 conversation with „Butterfly News“ Taisei Imamura gives many tips, informations and ideas about „Racket-Materials“

Lets start the first talk with a major issue, the blade. Don't you consider it as the crucial point in the choice of the best racket?

Truly – the blade is the soul of the racket. Of course the choice of the right rubbers is very important as well and our program of rubbers offers a wide variety of optimised individual solutions. Still the player should put his focus on the choice of the blade best for him.

This sounds simple, but in reality the player range of different blades available not only by decide. It is impossible to test all the confusing than helpful for the perfect have when choosing a blade?



faces many problems. Considering the wide Butterfly every player is facing difficulties to blades personally and would be more choice. So which options does a player

That's a difficult question and can't be answered globally. To advise a player in a perfect way I have to know him and see him play. Crucial for me are two questions. First the matter of distance to the table: is he close to the table or further away? Second question concerns the power of his offensive strokes. Does a player for example prefer a play in a distance with variable spin and many variations in speed and rotation with little power? Or does he tend to stick close to the table, play aggressive and fast spin-strokes with much power? Or does he even go for an uncompromised attack with extreme power in his strokes? All those informations are necessary to give a perfect recommendation to the player. This is why the coach plays an important role in the choice of materials.

Many times the players are lacking coaches, who are able to give competent advise regarding materials. Where else can they seek assistance?

Regarding our own blades Butterfly developed a classification-system with seven levels: DEF, ALL-, ALL, ALL+, OFF-, OFF, OFF+. So the player has a first guidance, which blade suits his system of play. Second criteria is the weight. In the last few years there was a continuous tendency to lighter blades. This is mainly due to the fact, that thicker and therefore heavier rubbers are used in the offensive play. And speed-gluing increases the weight of the racket. Today an average blade weighs 85 Grams. Two grams more or less can make a recognisable difference. The heavier a complete racket is the higher is the speed of the ball that can be produced. But – and this is often neglected – the slower the reactions of the player in terms of movements are. And the maximum speed of the racket and so the acceleration of the racket is slow. This is no problem for top players explicitly training their muscular system, but for middle- and lower-class-players with no perfect technique a heavier racket can be of disadvantage. A third criteria not to be underestimated is the question: soft and grippy or hard blade?

You said „grippy“ blade? Isn't grip more a characteristic for rubbers?

Yes, yes, I said „grippy“ blade. By this I mean so called soft constructed woods in comparison to rather harder ones. They can easily be distinguished by sound. Like knocking on a door one can knock on the centre of the blade with the forefinger and so produces a certain sound. Grippy blades sound rather dark, damp, harder blades light. The harder a blade is, the faster and more direct it is, the softer the slower and more spin-orientated. We have several blades in our program all classified OFF but differing in grip and hardness.

Let's get back to the two criterias „distance“ and „power“ mentioned at the beginning. Which blades of the Butterfly-program can you recommend for player far and close to the table, which for players with more or less power?

It's hard to give a simple answer, but generally our classic 5-layered offensive blades - PETR KOPBEL OFF- for example - are grippy offensive blades therefore suited for a play further away from the table and with spin-variations and feeling. At the same time Carbon-blades like PRIMORAC CARBON OFF+, GERGELY CARBON OFF+ or SCHLAGER CARBON OFF+ are very hard and direct in contact with the ball. Not everyone likes this carbon-feeling. But some swear on it. Especially these hard constructions can be highly recommended for a direct counter-play close to the table. Who prefers softer and therefore slower rackets can make up for the lack of speed by using thicker rubbers speed glued.

You mentioned the Carbon-feeling. A special blade in the Butterfly-program is the TIMO BOLL SPIRIT OFF. It combines the materials Carbon and Arylate. Which special qualities does this blade have?

The TIMO BOLL SPIRIT OFF stands for the „new middle“ in the class of offensive blades. Carbon provides extreme hardness. Arylate with only 50% of the Carbon amount is softer. Compared to the CARBON OFF+ series this blade is an idea slower, therefore with better feeling while the loss of energy at the contact with the ball is minimal. And it is excellent for speed-gluing. Finally on is not to forget that the blade is ten times more stable as normal constructions. Altogether a very interesting offensive blade for modern spin-based offensive play – and if close at heart a blade for a lifetime. So the prize seeming quite high is surely worth it.

Note:



Link www.butterfly-world.com „articles - blade“

If you have personal questions to Taisei Imamura mail them to us. We will try to find answers in one of the next issues.

One of the topics of the next issue (23.KW):

Review of the WCC

**World-class-coach Mario Amizic in an expert-talk:
To train with more awareness!**

