

Schedule

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|------------------------|--|
| 13. - 29. of August | Olympic Games, Athens (Table tennis: 14. - 23. of August) |
| 27. - 29. of August | Children's Olympics Borussia Düsseldorf |
| 01. - 05. of September | World Student Championships in Győr (Hun) |
| 09.-12. of September | Pro Tour: China Open |
| 16.-19. of September | Pro Tour: Volkswagen Open in Shanghai (CHN) |
| 23.-26. of September | Pro Tour: Volkswagen Open in Kobe (JPN) |

- Portrait Gönnern
- VDTT Training Tip
- Butterfly Worldwide

- News
- World's Ranking List Men/Women
- Products of the month

- Expert talk:
Modern offence play
- and much, much more...!

The new one is in!

It was about time for the new product catalogue 2004/05 to come in. Besides the usual quality products you'll find many new items. Order your copy and look around at home without haste. Of course all articles are as well to be found on our website at www.butterfly-world.com



2004/05

Werner Schlager
Weltmeister 2003

Timo Boll
Europameister 2002,
Mannschafts-Vize
Weltmeister 2004

Michael Maze
Europe Top 12-Sieger 2004

Butterfly
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ITTF World's Ranking List, Women (Extract, 06 - 2004)

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | ZHANG Yining CHN | 16 | STEFF Mihaela ROU |
| 2 | WANG Nan CHN | 17 | UMEMURA Aya JPN |
| 3 | NIU Jianfeng CHN | 18 | FAN Ying CHN |
| 4 | GUO Yue CHN | 19 | ZHANG Rui HKG |
| 5 | GUO Yan CHN | 20 | JIANG Huajun CHN |
| 6 | KIM Kyung Ah KOR | 21 | LEE Eun Sil KOR |
| 7 | BOROS Tamara HRV | 22 | SONG Ah Sim HKG |
| 8 | LI Jia Wei SIN | 23 | LI Xiaoxia CHN |
| 9 | LI Ju CHN | 24 | KIM Hyon Hui PRK |
| 10 | TIE Yana HKG | 25 | PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR |
| 11 | LIU Jia AUT | 26 | TOTH Krisztina HUN |
| 12 | LI Nan CHN | 27 | FUKUHARA Ai JPN |
| 13 | LIN Ling CHN | 28 | LI Jia CHN |
| 14 | LAU Sui Fei HKG | 29 | CAO Zhen CHN |
| 14 | GAO Jun USA | 30 | STRUSE Nicole GER |
| | | 30 | WANG Chen USA |

ITTF World's Ranking List, Men (Extract, 06 - 2004)

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

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

Great events are coming up!

In the year 2006 there are even two World Championships held in Germany. The German Federation and the City of Bremen were awarded the Team World Championships Men and Women from 24th of April to 1st of May as well as the Veteran WCC from the 15th to 20th of May. Both top events are held in the Town Hall of Bremen.



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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.

Playing too much backhand is like sitting in an armchair

In today's expert talk Mario Amizic, Sports Director of Butterfly and one of the most prestigious coaches worldwide, explains the development of modern offence play. Let it be offensive nature, balanced game or speed glueing – to all aspects Mario Amizic has a clear position. But read for yourself. And if you have further questions to Mario Amizic, mail them to us. We won't leave you without an answer.

Mr. Amizic, at our last talk we have discussed the modern defence play, today we want to take a closer look at the offence. No easy task. On the one hand more than 90% of all players have a so called offensive system, on the other hand one can't simply talk about „the“ offensive system. This counts especially for players of lower or medium level training maybe once or twice a week. Who is suitable for an offensive play?

First of all one thing is of major importance: The player has to have the nature for an offensive play. This comes from inside. If there is no inner urge for offence it won't work out. And the physical requirements have to be met. The offensive play is rather fast. No matter which league. Any player should go for what he wants and not what he has seen at other players or what the coach wants. The offensive nature has to be there, it can't be implemented. That's the first point. Second is: One should be very cautious if a player says he'll now get a faster blade, but they don't like moving. The material does not make the offensive player. And without moving it will be hard. One should be aware: It's not what I like but what I'm able to. Many players are not realistic and not honest to themselves!

Let's have a closer look at the modern offence play and compare, let's say, Timo Boll to Vladimir Samsonov. Both are so called offence players. Yet they are very different.

Of course both belong to the category of offence players, but that's a wide range. Let's get back to the aspect of nature: Timo is a very calm personality, but at the table he's very aggressive. Vladi in the meantime plays like a University professor. He always thinks and looks for means to make the point other than putting pressure on his opponent. With other words: Vladi likes to play with his opponent, Timo wants to „kill“ him, to wipe him off the table. So two totally different natures of offence.

At the base it seems similar. There are „Bolls“ and „Samsonovs“ and many more. But many times all of them train the same. How can you improve your individual offensive system?

Of course, at the beginning of their schooling the players train almost the same. But then there's a point where the individual differences show up. One prefers to block in a specific situation, the other one likes to attack himself. The good coach sees this and recognizes the players nature and tries to consider it within the training. Of course this is a matter of time and of experience as well. Yet it should always be our aim to develop the individual nature of our player.

Do coaches make mistakes at this?

Table Tennis is an individual sports. But at the beginning there's always group training and one is tempted to make a standard training. An example. You start with a group of 20 players. After one year five of them have developed so quickly that they have to train different as the other 15. And another year later there are two which again have to train different than the other three. What I want to say is that me as a coach I have to consider the individual natures and skills of the kids if I want to teach them and bring them ahead to success. Who only wants to keep the kids busy does not have to bother with this question, then it's only about fun. This is an alibi, for many basic coaches claim it impossible. I consider it a question of willingness.

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In the top the backhand topspin is standard amongst the players. Still one can often view the players moving around and playing forehand in their backhand side. Is the balanced play mandatory today or is it a question of level?

One thing is for sure: Without an opening topspin from both sides for example on semi-long or long services it's very difficult to persist in today's competitive Table Tennis. This starts in upper Junior leagues. The play has become too fast to be able to withstand with only the forehand. One needs a backhand topspin. And then the question is: When do you need your backhand and when your forehand? In my opinion the backhand spin is for preparation, the forehand for finishing off. Of course there are quite a few players at top level, who are able to „kill“ with their backhand, but still they built up their game on their forehand. Who plays too much backhand loses drive, speed and rhythm, for the dynamics of the game is developed by the forehand strokes. Playing too much backhand is like sitting in an armchair. And here's another issue: footwork! Top players have an excellent footwork, of course. With amateur players this is often different. The decision between backhand and forehand often causes mistakes for the feet being too slow.

Have there been any essential changes in the offence play recently?

Yes, at the backhand. This is a development of the last years, not only of the last WCC. There isn't hardly any backhand block at the top anymore. Everyone „kicks“ the ball.

Do we now play soccer? But seriously: what does „kick“ mean?

To play backhand counter spin. That's a minimal topspin movement out of the wrist hardly to be seen by the spectator. Timo Boll is perfect at this ball. With this backhand counter spin one has the option to take over the active part out of a passive blocking situation and to lead the game.

Talking about this kick-technique we automatically have to talk about speed glueing. At top level or higher amateur classes speed glueing is a must. What about speed glueing by junior players?

Of course children and kids are influenced very much by commercials and by their idols, who are known to be glueing. The problem is that speed glueing brings a major disadvantage with little training or instable technique: you distinctly lose control! And this is more relevant than the gain of speed and spin by glueing. Speed glueing is fashion. Here the responsible coach has to step in and make a statement for their players: Now it makes sense or it doesn't.

Where is the offence play heading to in Table Tennis. Do you have ideas, visions?

There have been many changes in the recent years. I think we should leave it as it is. The current Table Tennis – not matter if offensive or defensive- is very attractive and very individual.

Butterfly Team TTV Re-Bau Gönnern: World class team with Hessian roots



from left to right:
Coach Helmut Hampl,
Timo Boll,
Jörg Roßkopf,
Nico Stehle,
assistant-coach Tobias Beck,
Slobodan Grujic, physiotherapist
Nadine Wetz

The glorious past, the successful present and a promising future of the men's Table Tennis in Germany can be summarized in one club name: TTV Re-Bau Gönnern. Within this Butterfly-team the top-player Timo Boll, „Mr. Table Tennis“ Jörg Roßkopf and since this season hopeful youngster Patrick Baum are united as three generations. Together with the Serb Slobodan Grujic, German Student Champion Nico Stehle and returning Japanese Toshio Tasaki they form a powerful team.

For the upcoming season the Hessians have high expectations. „In the Champions League we want to trick defending Champion RV Charleroi in the pre-round and count on entering the semi-final“, successful coach Helmut Hampl describes the goals of last year's semi-finalist on European level. Treasurer Norbert Mai sets the aims for the Bundesliga lower: „In general this team can achieve anything. But we're not one of the hottest favourites, rather lurking in the background and maybe the surprise guest in the Play-Off semi-finals.“

Hampl reviews the last season, where Gönnern reached the final of the National Cup, the Bundesliga- Play-Offs and as a newcomer the semi-final of the Champions League, with mixed feelings: „This was our best year ever, but without any title it's not perfect. I was a little sad for not being able to achieve this success, especially because we haven't disappointed in any competition.“

Regarding the future prospects of his club the experienced coach hopes for a little more luck this season: „For securing a long term financial base and the future of the complete concept, which was set up within the last ten years and more, a title would be important.“



**Without doubt
the No.1:
Timo Boll**

Yet it's not existential. „Of course we would not reject a title. But for our partner titles are less important than a long term identification with our club and our players in the Region“, Mai says.

Especially under this regard Gönner is a kind of a role model. All players train in Höchst in Hesse and live close. The very familiar atmosphere within the team is a nice contrast to most of the other legionary teams, where players fly in for matches and literally float off home or to the next tournament right after the last ball is played.

Further more: The Butterfly team is truly rooted in Hesse, for Boll, Roßkopf, Stehle and Baum come from there.

Almost ten years after the Bosman ruling, tearing down all borders, Gönner willingly counts on local players. „This has allways been our politics“, Mai states and Hampl, at the same time Hessian Head coach, adds: „It might be easier and cheaper to form a team with more foreign players, but the development and promotion of local talents is part of our philosophy.“

The perfect example is Timo Boll himself. To provide the perfect development for he Butterfly star without interference in his personal life Gönner centred the team's training in Boll's home town Höchst, though the little town is about an hour away from the actual playing hall. This paid off: „Without these circumstances offered by Gönner as a youngster my career never would have gone that well.“

And Gönner took care of the World class player Boll as well. To offer enough regeneration in the bursting Table Tennis schedule of the European Champion of 2002, Toshio Tasaki was contracted for another season by the double DTTB-cup winner. Everyone was happy with this deal: „We were still in contact with Toshio after he had left Gönner. And for he fell behind a little in the World's Ranking List since then it was his wish and the one of our partner Butterfly to return. We know his qualities, and now Timo and Jörg can have a break and the young players Stehle and Baum will have their matches as promised“, Mai describes the advantages of a cadre of six.

To cut down the practice of their young talents for Tasaki was never an issue for Mai and Manager Torsten Märte. The TTV tries to set up the surroundings for German Junior Champion Baum in a similar way as formerly for Boll. „Patrick is a rough diamond“, Helmut Hampl states, „he will be able to train under professional circumstances first for a year and we hope he can learn from Rossi and Timo“.

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!



Exercise for Service – Part 1: Side-spin

At the start of a systematic service practice the forehand side-spin service is best suitable. The last three fingers are taken away from the handle so the racket is only held with forefinger and thumb. It's important to have the tip of the blade pointing downwards, the handle upwards. To support this vertical position of the blade's face we pull up our elbow a little. If returning this is a good hint, that the opponent is likely to play a side-spin serve. Now we play the ball with a short and quick use of our wrist. For help we can try to hit our stomach slightly with the side of the blade or to take care that the back of our hand stays in front of the stomach. As at all services with rotation we have to hit the ball softly, but quickly.

The exercise shown besides is good for testing the rotation. A water bottle is placed on the sideline opposite of the player. One now has to play a regular service which hits the table and the leaves it between the bottle and the net. The closer the bottle is placed towards the net, the more difficult the exercise gets. Any service is only good when varied. Therefore every fifth or sixth service should be a short, parallel one, but with identical beginning of the service movement. Four BUTTERFLY catalogues are perfectly suited as a target field.



Next month we will continue with a side/back-spin service

www.vdtt.de

www.butterfly-world.com

Products of the month

At well assorted distributors!



Link www.butterfly-world.com

Schlager inspire

Style: off Layers: 7, wood Handle fl,an,st
Weight: (approx.) 90 g. Special: soft and hard layers for fast topspins

49,90 Eur~



Kreanga aeros

Style: off+ Layers 2 - glasfibre 5, wood: handle fl,an,st Weight (approx.) 90 g. Special: perfectly suited for offensive players close to the table playing counter spins

59,90 Euro



VSG Twist I

Style: all + Layers 5, wood Handle fl,an,st Weight (approx.) 80 g. Special: for players with an allround strategy and an distinct feeling for ball and positioning.

41,40 Euro

VSG Twist IV

Style: off+ Layers 2 - carbon 3 - wood Handle: fl,an,st Weight (approx.) 95 g. Special: Compact face of the blade makes this fast blade rather light. One Paulownia-middle layer and thicker Hinoki outer veneers.

79,90 Euro



VSG Twist II

Style: off - layers 5 - wood Handle fl,an,st Weight (approx.) 85 g. Special: for the spin-based offensive play combined with much safety in block or counter.

42,90 Euro

VSG Twist III

Style: off Layers 2 - kevlar-carbon 5 - wood Handle fl,an,st Weight (approx.) 95 g. Special: the contrast to the soft Paulownia wood gives the player the option to live out his offensive power close to the table.

79,90 Euro



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Butterfly worldwide

Afghanistan

In March this year ITTF Development Officer Steve Dainton spent 17 days in Afghanistan. What he found were the first fragile attempts of a Nation to get back to sports after 20 years of war and Taliban regime. Dainton did not only carry his competence and the best wishes of the ITTF in his luggage; this development programme as well was supported by BUTTERFLY and so in Kabul he was able to hand over equipment worth almost 25.000,- \$. This was received thankfully. The newly founded Afghanistan Table Tennis Federation lead by treasurer Ahemd Rasuli and NOC-advisor Stig Traavik had done much work and refurbished old stables into a training centre. But modern tables and competition equipment would have been impossible without the help of BUTTERFLY.



During his stay the ITTC Oceania Development Officer had time to advise not only Table Tennis, but the new Federations of Boxing, Basketball, Badminton and Buskashy. The needs were basic and the main issue was to establish an email account to communicate with the international federations – this had been essential for the Table Tennis project.

The new Afghanistan was to be recognized during the one week of coach education. 20 men and 10 women in a common course – a few years ago this had been impossible.

Steve Daintons highlight was definitely the training camp with the new National team. Set up in a sighting tournament, equipped by BUTTERFLY and backed up with a week of training camp Afghanistan's men's team participated at the South Asian Games. Dainton during the preparation: „They will not win and most likely will struggle to be even competitive but the fact that they are even competing is a tremendous achievement.“

New Caledonia

All over the „wide world“ Butterfly teams are successful: at the Oceanian Championships in Whangerei, New Zealand, the team of New Caledonia won once Silver and six times Bronze! By the way: the most successful team is sponsored by Butterfly-agent Hagen Bower.

