



Butterfly[®]

NEWS

03 2007

Thanks for your help

In the last two issues of the Butterfly Newsletter we asked for your help and asked you some questions about our monthly news. Many participated and gave us the possibility to improve the Newsletter further.

You will find an exact overview about the results on the next page.

The winners of the rubbers will be informed during the next days.

Thanks again for your support!

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In this issue:

Results of our questionnaire 02

Timo Boll's Column 03

News/WRL March 2007 04

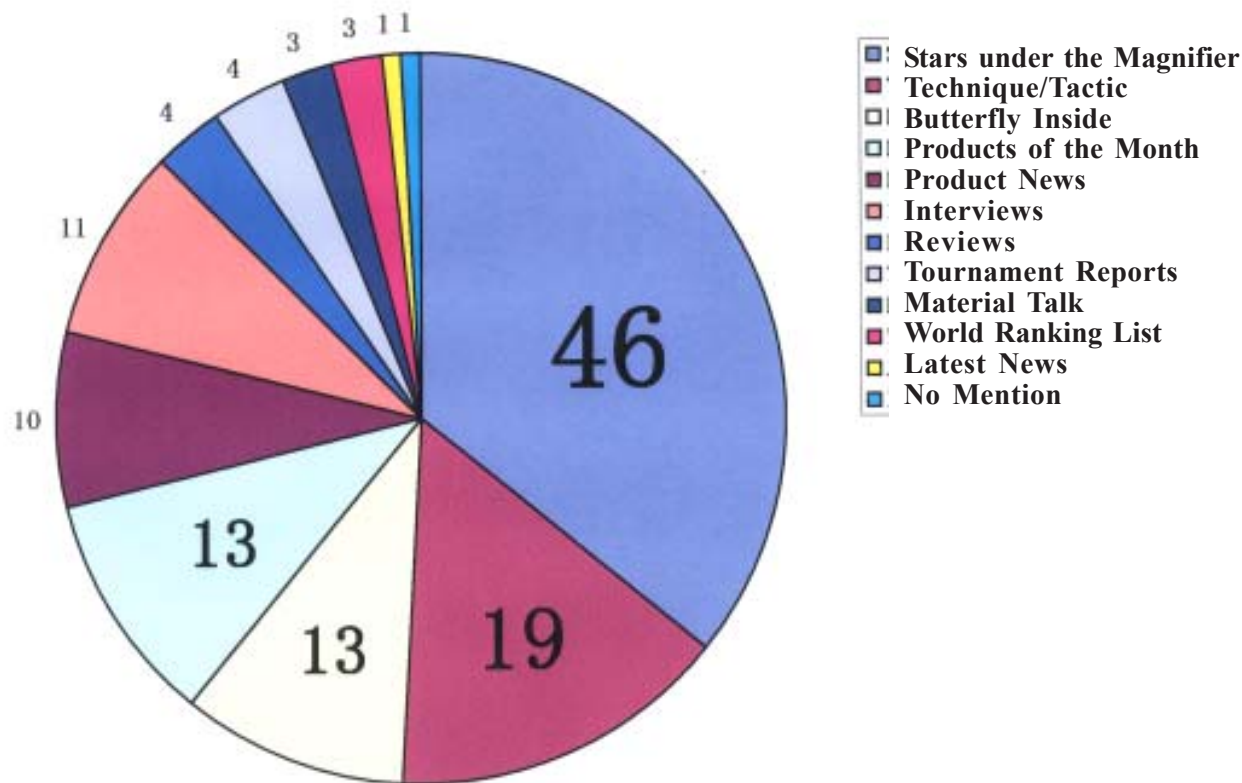
Stars under the magnifier 05
Timo Boll's racket grip

Products of the month 09

Butterfly Inside: 11
Interview: Jean-rené Mounie



Favourite categories



25. March - 01. April 2007

**Liebherr European Championships
Belgrad (SCG)**

12. April - 15. April 2007

Pro Tour: Brazilian Open

19. April - 22. April 2007

Pro Tour: Chile Open



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Timo Boll's Column

It would be unfair to forbid fresh gluing before the Olympic Games



Hello, dear fans and readers of the Butterfly News!

This column is my prize from the Butterfly News. After many interviews with the team of my sponsor I thought that this is a brilliant idea of the editor, so that you can regularly be part of my personal contributions and opinions about topics in the table tennis world or other current affairs.

In March the European Championship in Belgrade is clearly the topic for all players. My team mates and I were waiting anxiously for the draw of the team competition, after we could bury our hopes for the first team title for a German team already in the Quarter – Finals in Aarhus two years ago.

In Belgrade we are meeting France straight away in the first round and if we win, we meet either Belgium or White Russia in the Quarter-Finals. France is surely no easy opponent, but I think that it is not bad to play against a strong opponent at once. My experience tells me that it is better most of the time, if you have to go out hard to reach the following rounds. I didn't wish for any particular opponent and I was prepared for everything, because you can't change it anyway.

What will the result be in Belgrade? We learnt in the German team from the experience in Aarhus and will try, despite belonging to the favourites, to concentrate first on one match after the other without thinking about the title. Apart from that is Austria, with my Butterfly colleague Werner Schlager, according to their positions on the World Ranking List stronger than us, although we can be dangerous for every team with our relatively young team.

We must simply wait and see, but I must admit, that I wouldn't be satisfied, if we don't win. That is closely connected to the fact that I always want to win at tournaments, and not that I think that our team is the big top-favourite beforehand. So much is clear: If we want to become European Champion, we have to beat the strongest opponents – it doesn't matter if it is in the first round or the Final.

In the meantime we managed to win a few more rounds with TTV Goennern. After our 2:3 defeat at home in the Semi-Final against Royal Vilette Charleroi, our starting position is clearly worse than it could have been. If I could only have used one of my six match balls in the fourth set against Vladimir Samsonov to win the whole team match 3:1 our position would be much better.

I can't remember ever having lost after leading by so many points. This defeat against „Vladi“ was getting to me for quite a while, even during the Pro Tour tournaments in Qatar and Kuwait, where my form was back to normal after my two breaks with stomach problems in January. I was satisfied with reaching the Semi-Finals twice but each time I had a good lead I had to think of Charleroi.





Just before the EC, we will play the return match against Charleroi. I think, that we have a chance to turn round the result again like in the Finals of the last two years, because Charleroi suits us, although they are the slight favourites from my point of view. Also Charleroi will remember during the return match that they twice in the Finals lost their lead from the first match.

Finally something about a completely different topic: There are rumours that the ITTF is planning to forbid fresh gluing from the first of September this year and not after the Olympic Games 2008 in Peking. If that is true, I think it is rather unfair, because we players should have got adjusted to this prohibition a long time ago, so that we are used to the changed conditions a year before the Games. If they would forbid it now, it wouldn't be correct, because you don't take such a step one year before the most important tournament in our sport, and we can't prepare ourselves properly. From my point of view they are welcome to change the rule straight after the last match ball in Peking is played – but not before.

That's it from me.

Good bye for now, until April

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



1	MA Lin CHN	16	CHEN Weixing AUT
2	WANG Liqin CHN	17	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE
3	WANG Hao CHN	18	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
4	BOLL Timo GER	19	KONG Linghui CHN
5	OH Sang Eun KOR	20	KORBEL Petr CZE
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	LIU Guozheng CHN
7	Chen Qi CHN	22	LEE Jung Woo KOR
8	MA Long CHN	23	KO Lai Chak HKG
9	RYU Seung Min KOR	23	MAZE Michael DEN
10	HAO Shuai CHN	25	CRISAN Adrian ROU
11	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	26	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
12	LI Ching HKG	27	GAO Ning SIN
13	HOU Yingchao CHN	28	CHEUNG Yuk HKG
14	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	29	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL
15	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	30	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE

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



1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	PARK Mi Young KOR
2	WANG Nan CHN	17	CAO Zhen CHN
3	GUO Yan CHN	18	SHEN Yanfei PRK
4	GUO Yue CHN	19	Li Jiao NED
5	LI Xiaoxia CHN	20	BOROS Tamara HRV
6	Li Jia Wei SIN	21	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
7	TIE Yana HKG	22	LI nan CHN
8	WANG Yue Gu SIN	23	ZHANG Rui HKG
9	NIU Jianfeng CHN	24	FUKUOKA Haruna JAP
10	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	25	LI Qian POL
11	FUKUHARA Ai JAP	26	TAN MONFARDINI Wenling ITA
12	GAO Jun USA	27	STEFF Mihaela ROU
13	JIANG Huajun HKG	28	DING Ning CHN
14	LIU Jia AUT	29	LAU Sui Fei HKG
15	LIN Ling HKG	30	STEFANOVA Nikoleta ITA

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

What we can learn from Timo's racket grip

The most important thing in table tennis is the racket grip. A wrong grip is the main cause for a bad technique. Some players are troubled with this during their whole table tennis life without even knowing it.

Let's have a look at Timo Boll, whose grip is exemplary. That doesn't mean that everybody must hold the bat like Timo, but we should definitely pay attention to the basic features. Everybody has a slightly different grip, because of the size of hand and the length of the fingers. There are also a number of individual differences, which are tolerable and don't influence the performance of the techniques negatively. The deciding features should be noticed, because they are the reason for poor technique.

Every coach, who is working with children knows how difficult, sometimes even impossible, it is to get rid of a wrong grip with children, who have played a lot at school or youth clubs before joining a table tennis club. It is just as difficult to change the grip with better players to improve their game. If you want to introduce the change of grip from forehand to backhand or the service grip, you are dealing with very little details and a lot of willpower and endurance of player and coach is necessary.

Picture 1: Timo prefers the classical European shake hand grip, which also becomes more and more important in the leading table tennis nations of Asia (China, Korea, Japan). Let's look at the backhand side first. The index finger is lying flat at the bottom part of the bat. That way he has got full contact with the blade with the interaction of thumb and index finger. Here some players make the mistake that they only touch the blade with the top of the index finger. The outcome is an instable movement of the bat. The position of the wrist is very important. Looking at Timo, we see that it is in a very relaxed basic position (yellow line), neither bent down too much in the direction of the index finger (mistake F1), nor too much upwards (mistake F''). Both mistakes occur often and result in the following mistakes:

- a cramped grip
- a strong limitation of the wrist using different techniques
- and technical mistakes (for example a wrong bat angle)

The basic rule is not to hold the bat too hard – apart from the moment of contact with the ball- because this will lead to a cramped and disharmonic movement.



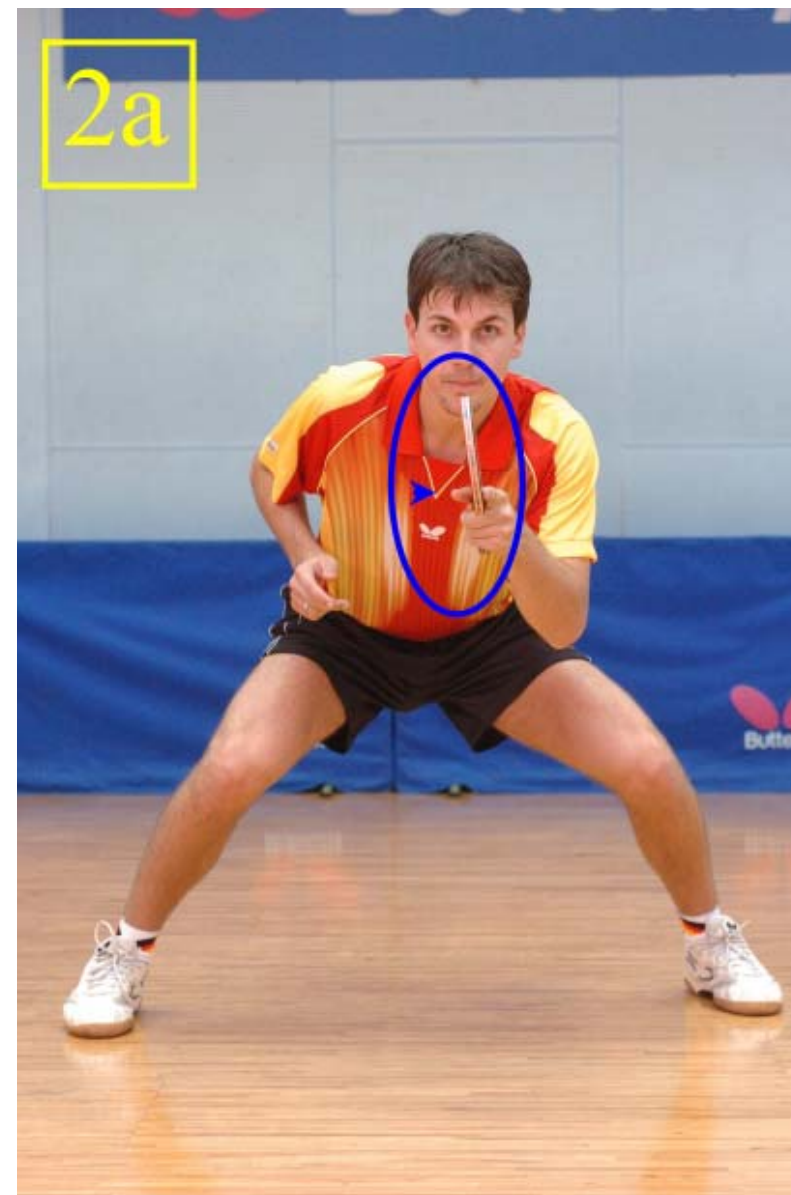
Picture 1a: Here we see Timo in his typical basic position when he receives a serve, which we are dealing with in our next Newsletter. Again you can perfectly see the natural, relaxed basic position of the wrist (yellow line). But the picture also shows clearly Timo's individual feature. The index finger is moving a little bit upwards when he is expecting the serve. Here we only need to compare picture 1 with picture 1a. Why? Because Timo often returns the serve of his opponent with his forehand and his forehand grip is slightly different from his backhand grip. When the index finger moves up a bit the bat can be opened more easily for the forehand. With backhand strokes it is directly the opposite. The index finger remains down (picture 1) and the bat is slightly moved inside. This bat angle is better for backhand strokes (push, counter hit, topspin).

The Swedish table tennis legend, Jan-Ove Waldner was the first player, who mastered the forehand – backhand grip change perfectly, which was hardly noticeable for the amateur. You need an enormous amount of feeling and perfect finger co-ordination for this, especially when you think about the speed of the modern game. Among the world class players there is nearly no shake hand player, who doesn't adjust the grip to their forehand or backhand.



07 Stars under the magnifier

Picture 2: looking at the forehand side we see again the naturally relaxed position of the wrist. Middle-, ring- and little finger are relaxed around the grip, otherwise we would see the tensed tendons around the wrist. Interesting though is the position of the thumb, because it is not on the blade itself as we can see on picture **2a**. Especially for the position and the change of position of the thumb we find many individual variations. Some have the thumb a bit further up the blade, others have it on the grip, others again, like Timo take it up only a little bit. In any case Timo's grip and thumb position support a slight forehand grip and stress his relaxed grip, which is ready for permanent little changes during the rallies.



08 Stars under the magnifier

Picture 3: Timo Boll is one of the best and most dangerous servers among the professionals. He has a very individual grip especially for his forehand serve. His index finger moves almost to the edge of the bat and is almost stretched, but **without tension**, because that would prevent the mobility of the wrist. The other three fingers are lying like a fan on top of each other almost like in the Chinese penholder grip, with the middle finger having contact with the bat. On picture **3a** we can see that the thumb is slightly bent on top of the grip and presses on the bat. The three pressing points thumb, index- and middle finger provide an ideal grip of the bat and allow the wrist optimal mobility like in the Chinese penholder grip. Moving from this service grip back to the normal one takes only a split of a second and demands a high degree of skill and can't be learnt just like that. Naturally there are many varieties of such forehand service grips. Timo's is certainly one of the best, because it allows the wrist a lot of mobility and speed. That again produces a lot of spin, unbelievable much spin, which many players can witness.





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black-blue, Polyester 1680 D / 840 D

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3 Midi, 60 x 30 x 30 cm	39,90 €
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5 Rucksack	29,90 €
6 Shoulder bag	26,90 €
7 Double Case	15,90 €
8 Single Case	12,90 €
9 Waist bag	9,90 €



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LADY

RADIAL TB
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FARINOSA Shirt
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AQUILIO Shorts
black, 3XS-4XL, 2-way Stretch + Cool Dry Lycra 29,90 €

NEW LOGO T-Shirt
navy, 3XS-4XL, 100 % Dry Fit Polyester 14,90 €

NEW LOGO Sweatshirt
creme or navy, 3XS-4XL, 45 % Cotton / 55 % Polyester 29,90 €

KISO HINOKI VII OFF
AN/FL/ST 49,90 €

KISO HINOKI V OFF
(not pict.) AN/FL/ST 44,90 €

TAGIS Shirt
navy, 3XS-4XL, 60 % Cotton / 40 % Polyester 29,90 €

TIMO BOLL SPARK OFF
AN/FL/ST 79,90 €

SOLCION
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DAMON Shorts
black, half long, 3XS-4XL, Diamond Cool Dry Polyester + Micro Dry Fit 34,90 €

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TACKINESS CHOP II
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ARCTIC Tracksuit
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red-black-white, 3XS-4XL, Tactel, Mesh 79,90 €

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03 2007

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I am still a young coach and can learn a lot here



Jean-rene Mounier is a coach, who is only 33 years old and has come a long way already. He is the chief coach of the French top division team Levallois SC TT, which plays with Butterfly equipment now for six years. This year the most successful French team started with a very strong team and is leading in the French Pro-A-Series at the moment. Butterfly player Michael Maze changed at the beginning of the season from the German Butterfly Club Borussia Duesseldorf to the Club just outside of Paris and made the headlines in France. Read about interesting aspects of Jean-rene Mounier's work, his philosophy and why the French Pro-A-Series becomes stronger and stronger in Europe.

Mr Mounier, you have been working for the French top club Levallois SC for four years and you are their chief coach. A remarkable career, isn't it?

I wouldn't say remarkable. I simply had the interesting opportunity to come to Levallois and found brilliant working conditions. For me it is an ambitious project to work here. I am a young coach and can learn a lot here. Especially working together with top players is something which you don't learn from one day to the next. That is a long term process and I am very happy that it went very well up to now.

Levallois is not just any table tennis club but the most successful one in France, comparable to Borussia Duesseldorf in Germany. It is not only because of the many national and international titles but also because of its size. How many teams are entered this season from Levallois?

On regional and national level alone there are ten teams. In fact the club is not only hunting titles but Levallois also works a lot with children and youngsters in general. We have a solid club structure from management down to the organisation of training and competitions. Our club has a long history and many people are connected with it. In the future we want to continue going in the direction of combining top- and general sport.

This season you have got a very strong team with Michael Maze, Peter Karlson, Damien Eloi, Christophe Bertin and Rodolphe Despres. What are your targets?

Indeed, this is a very strong team. Therefore our target can only be at least one title on national or international level. But that will be difficult enough, because our top players are not always available.

Which means?

Let's take Michael Maze, a relatively young player with international ambitions. We can't expect him to play all our matches. His interests as an individual sportsman and ours as a team sport must fit together as good as possible, so that both sides can move forward. That is a global point of view. The same applies to Karlson and Eloi. The case is a little bit different with Bertin and Despres, who both come from our own junior department. We have to help them to improve and promote them.

Practically that means that Maze and Karlson more or less only turn up for the matches, whereas the three French players train in Levallois or at the French training centre, which is also in Paris. How does that work?

I don't see myself as a coach of Michael or Peter. I am the coach of the team. It is my job to prepare the team optimally and to organize it. Naturally that includes training sessions, which we can manage before. Apart from that I must have good contact to Michael's home coach Peter Sarts and communicate with him, whereas Peter Karlson works for himself, so that I can talk to him directly. Naturally this is easier, but it is also a great chance. The players worked well together during the pre-season and

enjoyed playing with each other. Now I must form a strong unit out of them exactly at the right time for the matches.

Not only Levallois has strengthened their team for this season. Altogether the highest French league become continuously stronger during the last years and should be the second strongest league in Europe after the German Bundesliga. What is the reason for that?

I think the main reason is the fixture list for competitions. There are more and more fixtures for top players, so that they can't take part in all league matches on national level for their clubs. In France the Pro-A-Series is played on Tuesday nights. That makes it a lot easier for the players to combine this with their other competitions at the weekends. Apart from that the pressure is not as big as in the German Bundesliga, because in Germany the clubs finance themselves mainly through sponsors and they want to see top results all the time. That increases the pressure on the players and they also want that the players to practice and play in the clubs all the time. That doesn't suit the players nowadays. In opposite the French clubs profit from public sport aid through towns and regions. That doesn't mean, of course, that our players are hobby players. The pressure is high here too, but different than in Germany. Many players, who played in Germany said that. Therefore steadily more top players come to the French Pro-A-Serie.



Does the strengthened Pro-A-Serie attract more attention of the French sport media?

Altogether the presence of the media concerning the league above regional level on TV and in the press is poor. That also accounts for Paris and surroundings. There are simply too many offers. In the regional media, though the clubs and table tennis is getting good coverage. That is always depending on the PR work of the clubs.

What about the spectators in the league?

In the province we sometimes play in front of a full house. The number of spectators is definitely increasing.

Who is watching Levallois?

On average games there are about 400, for top games it may be 1000. Obviously it is very difficult for our club, which has belonged to the top for many years. Therefore we must always find new ways to remain attractive. We went such a way by signing on Michael Maze, because the interest of the media in such a young player and his radiance was enormous. You have got to do something. Last year we organized the „Grand Prix“ of Levallois, a prize money tournament with many top players, which attracted 2600 spectators.

The spectators are surely not financing the Pro-A-Team. Who is the main sponsor in Levallois. The team is certainly not cheap?

Absolutely not, and we direct our thanks to the city of Levallois, who support our engagement. But – and I said that at the beginning – the town doesn't only support our first team, but also general sport. Levallois has a sport support plan, which includes sports like fencing and judo. It starts in the

schools and ends in the clubs. Behind all that stands a social political idea, to take the children away from the streets into sport.

How do you see the co-operation with Butterfly, the equipment partner of Levallois?

I can remember well, when I came to Levallois in 2000, the co-operation with Butterfly started. I worked together with Butterfly before and so I looked at the change of equipment of Levallois as pure luck. Butterfly is world wide the table tennis trademark number 1, because the products are perfect. On top of that I appreciate the seriousness and reliability of the company as well as their very personal and humanly warm co-operation.

At the end the obligatory question to you Mr Mounier. What is your greatest wish in table tennis?

I would like to bring up a player myself, who achieves a medal placing at a World Championship or the Olympic Games.

Thank you very much and good luck in the future, Mr Mounie.