

# Butterfly® NEWS

## October 2006



### In the media

The „Stiftung Deutsche Sporthilfe“ (organisation to support German athletes), is going to start a communication and advertising campaign with the leading idea of „achievement, fair-play, togetherness“ for the first time in their 40 year old history. Simultaneously this institution presents a new initiative where the 3800 German athletes, who are supported, have to swear an oath on the values of sport and the fight against doping and manipulation. „We defend the principles of sport, because the principles also strengthen our country and simplify living together in our society“, says the „Sportshilfe“ leader Hans Wilhelm Gaeb when he presented the new marketing campaign in Frankfurt.

The new campaign shows authentic events from the world of top sports where Timo Boll, Franziska von Almsick (swimming), Dirk Nowitzki (basketball), Anni Friesinger (speed skating), Bettina Hoy (riding), Oliver Kahn and Jens Lehmann (both football) are connected directly through their behaviour with the new motto „achievement, fair-play, togetherness.“ The communication initiative deals also directly with the topic unfairness and manipulation of achievement and calls doping the „murderer of sportspeople and the meaning of sport.“



### In this issue:

News 02

News/WRL October 04

Stars under the Magnifier: Petr Korbel 06

Products of the month 12



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## Fixture dates face reforms

The world federation ITTF is planning reforms for the international competition calendar. During the summer break ITTF president Adham Sharara presented a new concept to the national associations of changes in the table tennis year. The key points are – considering the annual European Championships in autumn – an upgrading of several Pro-Tour-Tournaments, the permanent admission of the match „China versus the world“ and the reinstitution of the World Team Cup.

In detail the plans of the ITTF suggest already from 2007 an upgrading for the China Open, the Japan Open, the German Open and the returning French Open. The marketing of these four events is supposed to start already next year separately from the other Pro-Tour events.

On top of that higher prize money and a higher evaluation for world ranking points than for other ITTF tournaments are planned. From 2009 onwards the ITTF will see that these four tournaments receive an official status which is comparable to the Grand-Slam tournaments in tennis (Australian Open in Melbourne, French Open in Paris, Wimbledon and the US Open in New York).

The return of the World Team Cup is already planned for next year. The last time the competition with the best teams from the world, a kind of Mini-Team-World-Championships, took place 1995 in the USA. „China versus the world“, for which there were world ranking points available for the first time last September in Malaysia, will probably celebrate its premier in Europe.

The target of these thoughts is the creation of more highlights during the table tennis year. For 2008 the ITTF President Sharara is aiming for a breakthrough with the sport through the Olympic Games in Peking, and in case of success the ITTF would like to give attractive offers to the sponsors and the media. The ITTF wants to achieve through the World Team Cup and „China versus the world“ in 2007 that the new playing modus for the Olympic Games is tested more seriously under competitive conditions and that everyone becomes familiar with it.



**27. October - 29. October 2006**

**Men's World Cup, Paris**

**01. November - 05. November 2006**

**Pro Tour: Eurosib Russian Open,  
St. Petersburg**



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## „King“ Kong Linghui is resigning

The „Era Kong Linghui“ in world table tennis is history. The Olympic Champion from Sidney 2000 declared his retirement as an active player middle of October after the Chinese Championships and changes over to the coaching staff of Chinas' ladies team.



„The main reason for the end of my career as a player is, that I can not keep up with my technique with the absolute top“ explains the 31 year-old Butterfly player from the eastern empire his decision.

„King“ Kong set his mark in table tennis for several years. His first big triumph was in 1995 when he won the men world championship singles title being 19 years old. 15 months later Kong won a gold medal in the doubles together with Liu Guoliang at the Olympic Games in Atlanta and during the following summer Games 2000 in Sydney the perfect technician stood at the top in the Singles. As one of only three players apart from Liu and the Swede Jan-Ove Waldner the favourite of the audience managed to win the Olympic Championships, the World Championships and the World Cup.

On the last World Ranking List Kong was on position 19. In November 2004 Kong was in the top 10 for the last time. Up to December 2003 he was among the top ten for several years. Seven times he was the number one: for the first time in January 1996 and last in December 2001. During this period the Tamasu Professional was leading the list altogether for 24 months.

Tamasu Butterfly wishes Kong Linghui good luck and success for his new task.

## Boll is the leader of the Butterfly – Stars at the World Cup

Defending Cup Champion Timo Boll is leading the row of Butterfly players at the Liebherr World Cup of the men in Paris (27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of October). Apart from the number two of the World ranking List and Champions League Winner with TTV Goennern the other „Butterflies“ like the former World Champion Werner Schlager (Austria), the WC Third Oh Sang Eun and former Vice World Champion Joo Se Hyuk (both from South-Korea) as well as the two times World Cup finalist Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece) and the Latin American Champion Liu Song (Argentina) take part in the French metropolis. Six of the 16 participants play with and for Butterfly.

One year after his brilliant triumph in Luetlich Boll belongs to the close favourites. His biggest opponents at this with 135.000 dollar endowed tournament should normally be the World Champion Wang Liquin as well as the World Cup record winner Ma Lin and the Silver Medallist Wang Hao (all from China). On his way to his second World Cup success in Belgium Boll beat one after the other Wang Liquin, Ma and finally Wang Hao from the Quarter Finals onwards.

If Boll can under favourable circumstances defend his title, he could also get back the top position of the World Ranking List. He is only 34 points behind of the leading Wang Liquin after the coup at the „China Open“ and the Semi-Final place at the Japan Open. If Boll would again receive bonus points for a success at an important tournament outside the Olympic Games, the World and Continental Championships and Wang Liquin would lose relatively early, it would be possible for the former European Champion to return to the number one position.

## Following in the Footsteps of the Great Ones

During the so called „EURO MINI CHAMPS“ which took place from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2006 in Schiltigheim near Strassbourg the Butterfly juniors Hampus Soederlund (Sweden) and Yana Noskova (Russia) could win the single events of the 12 year olds. Although this so called „Mini-EC“ took place only for the second time it gives many coaches an important indication about the state of development of the European junior generation.

As Yana Noskova lost in the last sixteen to the Butterfly player and final winner Sofia Polcanova (Moldavia) last year, both met in the final this year. In an exciting final Noskova won the title in the end after deuce in the 5<sup>th</sup> set. Born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1994 and living in Moscow, the daughter of a successful Russian Coach was allowed to take part in the European Cadet Championships for her country already this year, thanks to an excellent development and that with three more years to come in the cadet class.

Hampus Soederlund, born in 1994 too, is the youngest member of a strong Swedish cadet team, which won recently the European Championships with the team in Sarajevo. He did not play this year but should with help from his surroundings and good training conditions be able to be one of the best in Europe in the years to come. At the Mini-EC in Schiltigheim Soederlund beat his opponents clearly and won 3-1 in the final against the number one seed Simon Gauzy from France.



## ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (10/2006)



1	WANG Liqin CHN	16	MA Long CHN
2	BOLL Timo GER	17	SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL
3	MA Lin CHN	18	LIU Guozheng CHN
4	WANG Hao CHN	19	KONG Linghui CHN
5	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	20	CRISAN Adrian ROU
6	Chen Qi CHN	21	CHEUNG Yuk HKG
7	OH Sang Eun KOR	22	MAZE Michael DEN
8	RYU Seung Min KOR	23	KORBEL Petr CZE
9	CHEN Weixing AUT	24	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
10	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	25	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
11	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	26	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL
12	HAO Shuai CHN	27	KO Lai Chak HKG
13	LI Ching HKG	28	LEE Jung Woo KOR
14	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	29	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE
15	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	30	HOU Yingchao CHN

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

## ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (10/2006)



1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	FUKUHARA Ai JAP
2	GUO Yan CHN	17	LIU Jia AUT
3	WANG Nan CHN	18	STEFF Mihaela ROU
4	GUO Yue CHN	19	LI nan CHN
5	TIE Yana HKG	20	PARK Mi Young KOR
6	Li Jia Wei SIN	21	PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR
7	LI Xiaoxia CHN	22	ZHANG Rui HKG
8	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	23	STRUSE Nicole GER
9	NIU Jianfeng CHN	24	LAU Sui Fei HKG
10	WANG Yue Gu SIN	25	FAN Ying CHN
11	BOROS Tamara HRV	26	DING Ning CHN
12	CAO Zhen CHN	27	Li Jiao NED
13	GAO Jun USA	28	TOTH Krisztina HUN
14	JIANG Huajun HKG	29	SHEN Yanfei PRK
15	LIN Ling HKG	30	MOON Hyun Jung KOR



## Butterfly Club CD Sao Roque, a Table Tennis Motor for Madeira



Table tennis on the Portuguese island Madeira is closely connected with the name of Clube Desportivo Sao Roque. The Butterfly club has developed to a motor of the sport for the whole region in recent years and thus attributed to the enormous popularity of table tennis on Madeira.

The well deserved reward for these intensive efforts of the club- especially in the area of junior promotion- is manifold: Sao Roque climbed up continuously to the number one position of Portugal under the leadership of their coach Ricardo Faria and won the national triple, Championship, Cup and Supercup with their players Joao Monteiro, Marcos Freitas and Nuno Henriques. They also won all titles at the Portuguese National Championships. Structural improvements and the comparatively great public interest and the media can be traced back to the engagement of the club, who own their own table tennis hall in the holiday paradise.

## Hessian Sportsman of the Year: Timo Boll

Some days ago Timo Boll was elected as Hessian sportsman of the year by sports journalists and was honoured during the well-know ball night in Wiesbaden. Goennern the Champion League winner received the team of the year award the second time in a row. Goennern left again somebody like for example the football Bundesliga club Eintracht Frankfurt behind them.



Foto:  
Dr. Stephan Roscher

## Daniel Arnold – the world best table tennis player



Daniel Arnold did not only become World Champion twice during the Table Tennis World Championships in Montreux from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2006 but was also honoured for being the best table tennis player of all categories by the World Association.

Arnold didn't lose one match this year, a result which is unbeatable.

## Technique and tactical analysis Boll – Wang

### Who is reading the game best?

‘Wang Liqin against Timo Boll’, that is not only the duel between number 1 against the number 2 of the world – at the moment the Chinese is still leading with just 36 points- no it is also a match between the most perfect male offensive players in world table tennis. Also during the Team World Championships in May 2006 in Bremen those two delivered a duel which can hardly be surpassed considering excitement and athleticism. The Chinese finally won 11:6 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set after being 5:3 down when changing ends. This match sealed the defeat of a brave German team losing finally 3:1 in the semi-finals. Recently Timo could take revenge –in the cave of the lion- when he beat Wang 4:2 in the final of the Chinese Open. At the end of October we could see the big showdown of both players at the World Cup 2006 in Paris. Let’s wait and see.

In this and the next issue we are going to look at two expressive picture series from the match in Bremen and analyse the technical and tactical aspects of the rallies.

**Pictures 1-3:** Like always Timo is serving with his forehand from the backhand side. He is standing beside the table and his body weight is in the front right leg. From this perspective you can easily see,

- a) how Timo’s whole body is involved in the serve
- b) that Timo’s serves are totally according to the rules. The ball can be seen at all times from Wang. Timo pulls his right arm back early enough, at the moment when the ball reaches the highest point.

Wang is standing in his typical stance to expect the serve. The knees are only slightly bent. The position of his legs is relatively close which means only a little bit more than shoulder wide. The advantage of this position being, that it saves strength. Just before Boll makes contact with the ball, Wang lifts his right foot(3), because he guesses the placement and rotation following Timo’s serving movement. If his anticipation was correct, we will see in the following pictures.



# 07 Stars under the magnifier



**Pictures 4-7:** it looks like Timo has served with sidespin and according to the first bounce the serve is not going to be so long (4). Wang seems to think this too, because his racket is open (4) and he is preparing for a forehand push (5). His right leg has been moved forward. But now something unexpected happens. Wang changes his mind and prepares to play a forehand loop (6,7). There are two ways to interpret this situation:

- a) Wang wants to deceive Timo, pretending to play a push: pretending a push and change over to a forehand loop at the last moment.
- b) Wang estimated the length of the serve wrongly. He thought it would be shorter and decides to push the ball. Then he realizes watching the flight of the ball that it will be longer and decides for a spin attack. It doesn't matter to him that he is not standing in the right position –right leg in front-.

In this case the second interpretation seems more likely. Especially for the return of the serve the length of the ball can be misjudged. Obviously a lot of skill is needed to reprogram a forehand push to a forehand loop. But Wang demonstrates this in an impressive manner.

In the meantime Timo has moved back to his neutral position on the backhand side(7) and expects Wang's loop.







**Pictures 8-10:** Timo's serve is half long and drops down close to the baseline. This placement causes problems in anticipation for the opponent: should I loop over the table or shall I let the ball drop? Wang seems to have estimated Timo's serve correctly in the end. Despite the wrong position of his legs Wang's forehand loop is a class of its own: brilliant turning of the body, optimal movement of his playing arm and dynamical footwork. Wang is placing the loop diagonally to Timo's backhand. It doesn't seem to be so fast but with a lot of spin. By the way, this is typical for Wang, who can also play a remarkable power topspin – especially when he moves around to the backhand side- but usually opens with a lot of feeling and spin.

Timo seems to have expected Wang's diagonal 'spinny' loop (9) and prepares for a backhand counter loop over the table (10).





**Pictures 11-16:** Nobody else can play a backhand counter loop over the table like Timo and that including all varieties of placement. So it is very difficult for Wang to anticipate where Timo's next ball is going. In any case he moves back to the backhand side (12). Exactly at that moment Timo plays against his moving direction into his forehand. Perhaps Wang expected a parallel placement, but he still manages to reach the ball (14,15,16). In this emergency situation he can only reach the ball with the racket and the ball fails to go over the net. From Timo's point of view a perfectly timed placement, for which you need of course the technical ability to play a backhand counter loop.

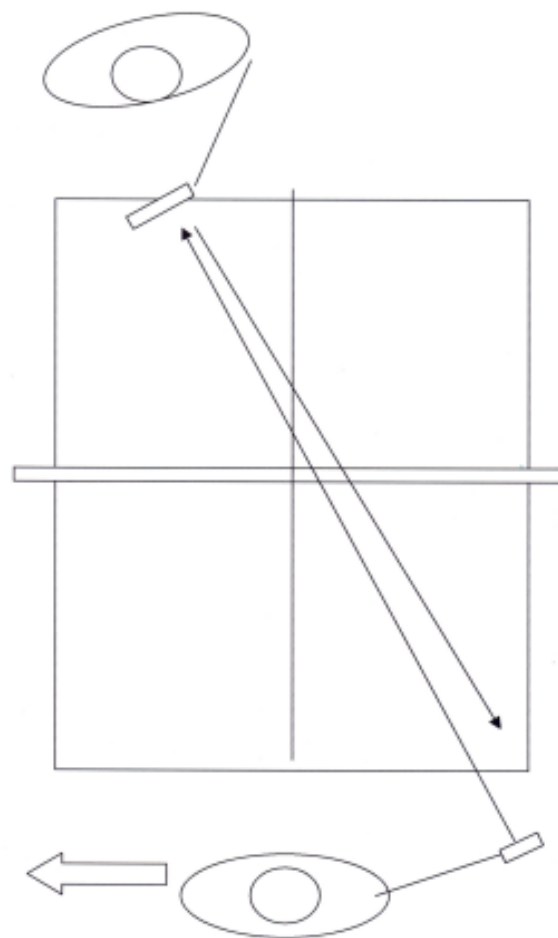
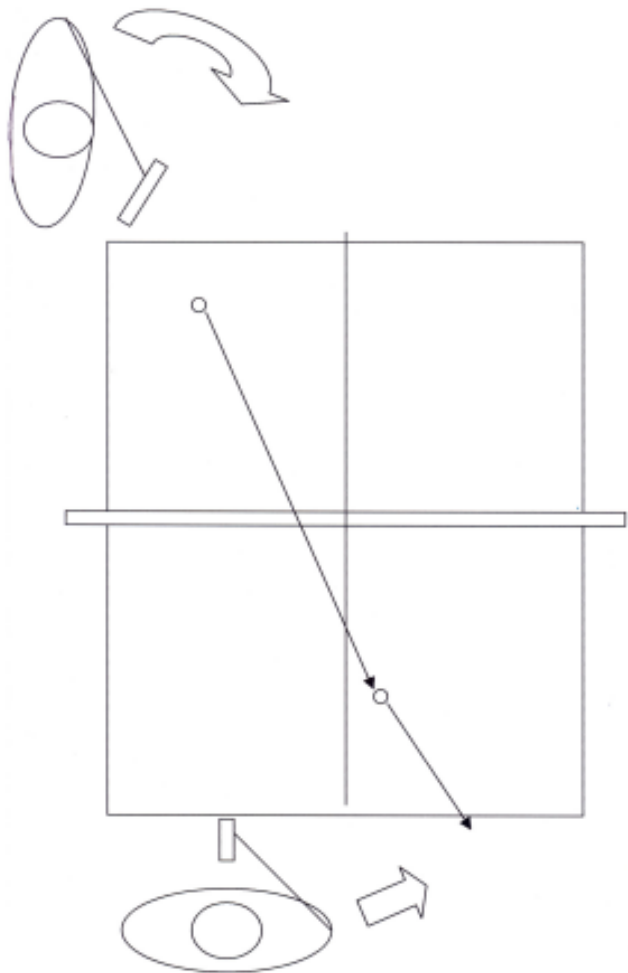


# 10 Stars under the magnifier



# 11 Stars under the magnifier

**Summary:** All in all this is not a spectacular rally. Only if you look twice the world class of these two players becomes obvious. Apart from the athleticism and the technical ability the anticipation is of special importance. That is what the expression reading the game, the serve and the opponent is about.





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