



Butterfly® NEWS

08 2007

www.timo-boll.de now also in Chinese writing



The development of his career and a request from China, the mother country of the table tennis sport lead Timo Boll to a complete revision of his internet appearance on www.timo-boll.de. Major parts of the contents are now on offer in Chinese writing. The technical realisation is in the hands of kaliber5 GmbH, Hamburg. Bernhard

Schmittenebecher who is responsible for the media work for Timo Boll produces the content. This re-launch is the result of the increasing interest in Timo Boll in China.

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Interview Shunsaku Yamada Butterfly World

Shunsaku Yamada, 54, married and father of two daughters has been working for Tamasu Butterfly Co. Ltd for 30 years. Before he was elected president of the Tamasu Company in December 2005 he was chief of production and leader of the factory of the well-known Japanese company. In the 57 year old history of the company he is only the 3rd president whose name is not Tamasu. During the World Championships 2007 in Zagreb he told us more about Butterfly's future plans and about himself. One thing became clear very quickly: Mr Yamada puts his bets on his Butterfly – Team. Team spirit is an absolute priority for him. He was neither a great player nor a great coach nor a table tennis politician. He is a technician and as such interested in perfection and quality.



Mr Yamada, in January 2006 you became president of Tamasu Butterfly. How long have you been working for Butterfly?

For 30 years I have been with Butterfly.

What did you do before your presidency?

I was in charge of the production in our factory. I was chief of production.

So you come from the technical department. What is being produced in your factory?

Rubbers and blades.

President of Butterfly, that is something special. The name Tamasu has a great tradition and is known and valued in table tennis circles around the world. How are you handling your position?

At first I tried to gather the strength of the whole company and its workers. Both my predecessors names were Tamasu: Mr Tamasu sen. And Mr Tamasu jun, who took over the company from his father.



23. August - 26. August 2007

Pro Tour: Chinese Taipei Open

30. August - 02. September 2007

Pro Tour: Panasonic China Open

5. Oktober - 07. Oktober 2007

World Team Cup, Magdeburg

17. Oktober - 21. Oktober 2007

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

24. Oktober - 28. Oktober 2007

**Pro Tour: Liebherr Austrian Open,
Wels**

Our Photo-Partners



Manfred Schillings

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Seen like this I am the first president whose name isn't Tamasu. Therefore it was very important to me at first to win the confidence of all the staff for the new way in this new situation.

You come from the technical department of the company, from the development and production. The ITTF has just announced the official law against gluing, even if it is not properly valid before the Olympic Games are finished. How is Butterfly dealing with this new challenge?

It is our target to develop rubbers, which have a similar feeling of fresh gluing like the freshly glued rubbers now. Apart from that we are preparing a rubber which is supposed to be even faster than the BRYCE.

How many employees are working with the development of products?

At the moment there are nine who process the development of rubbers and blades.

Especially in the near future with the prohibition of gluing only those companies and its products will be able to compete which can react quickly to the new situation with products similar to fresh gluing.

That is true. Last year we built a new research centre in the north of Tokio, the Butterfly technical centre. There we are only occupied with the further development of rubbers.

In connection with the Japanese Open Butterfly has invited many of its players to extensive tests of products. That is unique in this manner.

Indeed, we will give many rubber and blade prototypes to our players for testing and analyse their opinion precisely. We will continue to work intensely on those prototypes which our players judged positively. (In the meantime these tests in Tokio have been carried out with great success, editors remark, see also butterfly-world.com)

The main business area of Butterfly is Japan. Without doubt Butterfly is the best known global table tennis trade mark. What role does increasing globalisation play for your future marketing strategies and where are your future markets?

China is clearly number one. I am sure that our growth there will be above average during the next five years.

As president of Butterfly, the world leading table tennis trade mark, you surely have some targets and also visions for the future of this traditional company. What are they?

I would like to stabilize and extend our position on the world market. We would like to be the number one in the area of shoes and textiles too like we are undoubtedly with rubbers and blades.

Is the new cooperation with the well-known world wide sports shoes producer Asics the first step in this direction?

I do know that we can't produce the worlds best table tennis shoe ourselves alone, so I tried to start a cooperation with Asics. With success.

As an active player you were a defensive player.

Yes, that is true.

What do think about the game of the Butterfly defender Joo Se Hyuk?

In the past as a Butterfly production chief I didn't get many opportunities to visit World Championships or other international events. But we have so many experts in the company who can comment about this much better. I rely on their judgement.

Do you pick up a racket now and again?

About twice a year (he laughs).

Butterfly supports the youngsters

Tamasu Butterfly is not only at home in top class table tennis. The Japanese success concern also supports the youngsters. Yuki Kamizuru, the European President of the Butterflies: „At the ITTF we support the „Butterfly Junior Development Programme“. Each year we provide a big package with 120 competition bats, 480 new beginner rackets and 48 gross of training balls.“ During the time of the contract Butterfly was and is active on different continents: 2006 in Africa, 2007 in Latin America, 2008 in Oceania and Asia.



ITTF World Ranking, Mens (07/2007)



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

ITTF World Ranking, Women (07/2007)



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

Timo Bolls Column

After a long break I am ready for competitions

Hello dear fans and readers,

only two weeks to go until the start of the new Bundesliga season. Honestly: I am really hot now. On the one hand I am basically very happy that I can finally start playing again after my long break and on the other hand I am looking forward to the challenges with my new club Borussia Duesseldorf in the Bundesliga and the Champions League.

Logically my own fitness was on top of the list of priorities during the past weeks. My back injury is overcome and luckily I could start training again in my hometown Hoechst a short time after my holidays. As I couldn't play any more since the WC in Zagreb I had to start slowly but by now I am back to my usual quantity.

In the meantime we were on a training camp with the German National Team in Austria where we will play a friendly match against our hosts in a few days. This will be my first serious action since Zagreb. Before I travelled to Faak on Sea I took part in a top – team-Peking camp at the German table tennis centre in Duesseldorf with fitness training as the main objective. After the camp we stopped on the way to Austria in Hilpoltstein where I had an exhibition match against my team mate and doubles partner for a good cause.

The days in Duesseldorf were a little bit different this time because I could virtually go home to my new flat after the training for the first time. That does make a difference: before we always stayed at the centre but now it is more pleasant to go home to your own four walls. I actually managed now to see a little bit of Duesseldorf for the first time although I have been there for so many camps during the past years. Now it is practically my second home if I am not participating in international tournaments or visiting home in Hoechst. I must say that I like the town and that I am looking forward to my time in Duesseldorf.

Mainly I didn't move to Duesseldorf as a tourist but because I want to achieve some sporting targets. I am aware of the fact that the expectations for the team are very



high by signing me. We have the according quality in the team but I am not so arrogant to say like many supposed experts think that we will win all three titles.

In my opinion we have surely very big chances in the Bundesliga and the German Cup but our opponents are surely wide awake and despite putting themselves down very hot to beat us. That doesn't make the situation easier for us. From my point of view the outlook on the Champions league is completely different again. Teams like Royal Vilette Charleroi or SVS Niederoesterreich are definitely stronger on paper and we can't surely just march through there.

Our success depends to a high degree on how all players can handle the high load of international fixtures. My personal mile stones on the way to Peking are fixed but the planning of the details will happen during the training camp in Faak.

When we are back from Austria I will know more about fixtures and in terms of my own form. I wish, of course to be in good form for my debut for Duesseldorf against Fulda with the two great Swedes Jan Ove Waldner and Jørgen Persson. The set up for a real table tennis party should be alright because Borussia has moved the match to the much bigger Burgwaechter-Castello-Hall and is trying to break the record of 4100 spectators which Duesseldorf had on home ground against my former club TTV Goennern.

Personally I don't feel additional pressure by such measures. Just the opposite: it is good that we try to put our sport more into the limelight by targeted actions. We can only move forward in this manner. Borussia's plans are a beginning but Duesseldorf will not succeed alone. I really wish that other clubs in accordance with the general changes in the Bundesliga for the new season follow Borussia's example.

Bye for now

Yours



Timo's own Homepage:
<http://www.timo-boll.de>

 **Butterfly**
NEWS®

08 2007

Footwork studies part II

Timo Boll: Forehand with a wide sidestep

Timo Boll's wide basic position parallel to the table

In the Butterfly News issue 04/2007 we analysed Timo Boll's basic position in detail. In this report we try to point out the advantages of a low and wide basic position to reach balls which are placed far out to the forehand (pictures 1-4) or far to the backhand (illustration 1). Timo shows us in an impressive manner how sidesteps or sidejumps become superfluous by cleverly shifting the body weight and impressive attacking strokes may still be accomplished.

Play from the forehand side (pictures 1-4)

Timo takes his arm back for a forehand loop from the forehand side (picture 1). He is standing extremely wide. The body weight is on both legs perhaps a little bit more on the left one. It is interesting to see that he is standing parallel to the table and he opens up for a forehand stroke just by twisting his upper body to the left.

On picture 2 we can clearly see that the position of the legs hasn't changed at the end of the starting phase. Instead Timo has shifted his body weight clearly to the left leg, while the right leg is nearly stretched out. The left leg is bent a lot at the knee.



At the beginning of the stroke (picture 3) Timo has shifted his whole body weight to the left leg. That enables him to move his upper body even further outwards so that he can reach balls which are placed far out to the forehand easier and quicker.

Picture 4 shows us in detail what can be observed on top class level more often because of the speed of the game. Normally a shift of the body weight from the back to the front leg should happen during a forehand loop. That is how it written down in the instruction books. And that is surely correct for the basic learning. There is often no time for that in modern fast table tennis. We can see that Timo is still standing on his left bent leg, even if it is only on the front of his foot due to his upwards direction of his movement at the end of the stroke. The upper body is still not stretched fully but slightly bent towards the left of his playing arm. The stroke was played by only using his playing arm and upper body.

If we look at all 4 pictures regarding the position of the legs we notice that the legs remain in exactly the same place equally wide and parallel to the table from the start of the movement to the end. That allows the player to move the upper body by bending the hips and knees to reach balls which are placed far out without time consuming sideways footwork. This way of footwork demands a high amount of strength, speed and flexibility. On top of that the player must have very good balance.



08 Stars under the magnifier

Play from the backhand side (pictures 5-8)

Pictures 5-8 show us similar footwork on the backhand side. At the beginning of the movement Timo is again standing parallel to the table (picture 5). The body weight is clearly lowered and rests on both legs.

At the end of the stroke (picture 6) Timo has moved his weight to the very bent right leg. By doing this he can move his upper body to the right and reach balls being placed far out without moving sideways.



09 Stars under the magnifier

When making contact with the ball (picture 7) and at the end of the stroke (picture 8) the body weight is on the right leg. A shift of bodyweight from the right to the left (left handed players) doesn't happen. Like with the forehand the backhand loop is executed



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37ml



90ml



500ml



Sets 37ml / 90ml

11 Products of the month

Notice:

- With the aid of a hairdryer, the drying period of the glue can be shortened significantly
The foam roll shall not be reutilised. Always use a new, clean roll. Never use other liquids at the same time



Take off the cap and apply the glue onto the sponge of the table tennis rubber (1)

Clip one of the foam rolls and spread the glue evenly (2)

Apply the glue to the blade surface (3)

Spread evenly in the same manner as above (4)

World Champion Werner Schlager – Part 5: Flip

In 2003 Werner Schlager became sensationally World Champion in the Men Singles in Paris. Not all experts thought this possible. The rise of the Austrian to the top of the world was not easy. With courage, strength and endurance the right handed player managed the stony way to the top. Werner Schlager lives and lived table tennis like nobody else. His professional attitude towards sport is exemplary. For Butterfly the 34 year old is an important counsellor concerning the development of products. In his book: „Matchball – Dreams and Triumphs“, which was published last year, he describes his career, his successes and disappointments, his opinions about table tennis and his very personal quite philosophical thoughts about life. A very good book, not only for table tennis players. In the new Butterfly series „Tips & Tricks from the World champion“ he answers many questions concerning all areas of competition and training: technique, tactic, psychology, endurance, organisation of training, competition, player development and culture, material, rules, coaches. Barely practical issues. The Butterfly team and Werner Schlager wish you, dear reader, good entertainment and joy. If you have further questions about a topic, send us a mail. Previous articles: push, counter hit.



Previous articles: push, counter hit, forehand – topspin, backhand topspin

The flip is the most difficult stroke in table tennis

The word flip is derived from the English language and means to snip with your fingers or turning over something for example a plate or a pancake. What has that got to do with a technical table tennis stroke? At first you think no but then perhaps yes. Just like you snip with your fingers or like a cook throws up a pancake to catch it again turned round to the other side, you move your wrist and forearm short and with lightening speed to play the flip. Werner, can you try to describe the most important points of the flip to our readers?

A flip with high quality is the most difficult stroke in table tennis. The difficulty lies in meeting the ball rotation with relatively little space for movement. The uncountable possibilities of placing the ball and the endless variables of the stroke result in a high complexity.

The flip is the most difficult special stroke which demands a lot of feeling and wrist movement. When did you learn it? Who taught you?

My father tried to teach me for weeks. I can't remember how old I was at the time. You surely need years to perfect it.

Some players on amateur level don't even know what a flip is. Can you play successful table tennis without a flip?

Surely up to a certain level. But each stroke variety you don't master sets limits.

The flip is an attacking stroke which was developed in the seventies and then improved. In which tactical situations is it used?

When returning a serve or when opening the game.

What is the difference between a flip against backspin or topspin?

If you use a flip to return the serve the flight of the ball is very short. That means that you must put most possible topspin on the ball to avoid that the ball is going out. It is easier to play against topspin because you must always take the existing rotation of the ball into account when hitting the ball and it is easier to play against topspin than against backspin. It is also more difficult to play the ball parallel, because the flight path is shorter.

In which situations would you use the flip?

When I think it's necessary.

Some maintain that the flip is principally a „mini – topspin“ played with the wrist and forearm. In the meantime there is also the „Chiquita“ flip as a sidespin variable. Then there is the hitting flip which for example Ma Lin shows us sometimes. Which flip is played against which balls?

Principally every flip can be used against every ball. The more spin I can add to the ball, the more control I have over the ball. That makes it very difficult to play the hitting flip.

It is very risky to flip a short serve with a lot of backspin. Isn't it better to push such a ball?

Not necessarily. Every player must decide for himself depending on his control and the game situation (tactics).

Generally the flip seems to have lost its importance in comparison to the short return or the long aggressive push during the last years. You hardly see any slow flips any more because the opponent would attack them hard straight away and a hard flip is very risky. If that is correct why must every top player still be able to play a flip?

The continuous change of the table tennis sport concerning aggressiveness has lead to changes also with the flip. I don't think that the flip in general has lost meaning.

Some state that the backhand flip is more difficult than the forehand flip. Is that true? If yes why?

I don't think that there is a lot of difference between the backhand – and forehand flip concerning complexity.

How do you practice the flip? Describe a standard exercise.

The famous standard exercise „short forehand, long backhand“. The classic one, where my training partner returns my serves short to the forehand or long to the backhand.

Did you ever win an important match with a flip? If yes how and against whom?

I played my most important flip against Kong Linghui in the semi finals of the WC 2003. He had match ball and served a little bit too high so that I could win the point straight away with a flip.

Is there one player whose flips you fear?

Yes, to play in the mixed doubles against Aleksander Karakasevic is not great fun.

14 Butterfly inside

Interview with Zhang Mo, Canada

„I would like to play my best table tennis“

Zhang Mo is 18 years old. She has immigrated to Canada four year ago. Now she is playing for Canada. She is one of the big talents and ranked number 13 on the U-18-Junior World Ranking List. In the Women's ranking list she is number 133. The tendency is going upwards. She has got great plans and spreads an unbelievable optimism which is underlined by a beautiful smile.

Since when are you playing for Butterfly Ms Zhang?

For two years and I am very satisfied.

You were born in China. Where do you come from and when did you go to Canada?

I come from Hebei and went to Canada in 2002.

When and where did you start with table tennis?

When I was 6 years old in a training centre in Hebei.

How often did you train when you were so young?

Five times a week.

That is very professional.

(She laughs) No, no.

Taisei Imamura (Butterfly material expert and advisor of players) maintains if you were playing in Europe you would surely be number 1.

(She laughs). I don't know.

At the last Junior World Championships you reached the round of the last eight in the singles and were the best non Chinese player.

That is true.

Why exactly did you go to Canada?

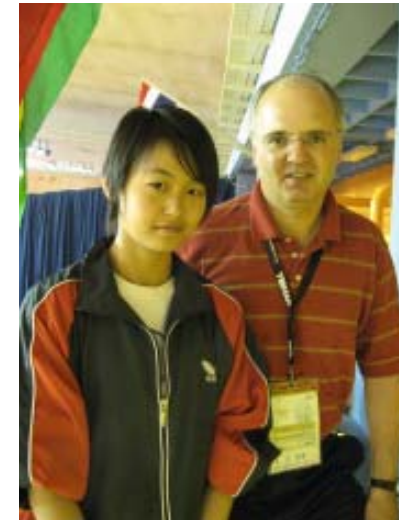
My parents wanted to go to Canada. My table tennis didn't count.

Where in Canada do you play?

In Ottawa at the Canadian National Centre.

And for which club?

None, there are no clubs and no league system in Canada. There are only tournaments.



You are now 18 years old, still very young. What plans do you have for the future?

(She laughs). That is not clear yet.

Surely you want to play professionally?

Yes, of course.

Then Canada is not necessarily the best place to be.

(She laughs). Also true.

Let's talk about your sporting ambitions. Do you think you can manage the jump up to the world class in the women?

Yes, perhaps. I will definitely try.

Which table tennis player is your idol?

Not idol but I like to see him play: Joo Se Hyuk. The South-Korean defender and Vice World Champion from 2003.

What is the difference between men and women table tennis?

That is difficult to answer but I think that men's table tennis is more powerful and played with more spin. But the women are catching up and the difference is clearly getting less.

Why are the Chinese women so dominant in world table tennis, practically unbeatable?

That is a question of training. The training methods are simply different and there are unbelievably many girls playing table tennis.

To become a good player in China you have to beat many opponents.

Of course.

Don't you think this is boring for international women table tennis, that the Chinese women are so strong?

Of course, it is always only the question which of the Chinese will win, when they participate.

If you had a wish or a dream in table tennis which could become true, what would that be?

Nothing in particular. I only want to try to play my best table tennis.