

Butterfly[®] NEWS

12 2007



At this place the Butterfly – Team would like to wish you a quiet and peaceful Christmastime.

Perhaps the festive season will give you apart from moments of reflection some opportunity to regenerate, so that you can meet all the future challenges with fresh energy.

All the best, especially good health and success for the New Year!

www.butterfly-world.com

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42. German Open 2007 in Bremen

Doubles Title for Guo Yue and Timo Boll once against the best European

Twice the Butterfly representatives were in the lime light during the 42nd German Open in Bremen. Timo Boll won the bronze medal in the men's single and Guo Yue won the title in the women's double.

Four and a half week before the start of the Grand Finals in Peking (13.-16. December) the medals table showed that China was the clear winner as expected. All four titles in the main events went to China which is setting course for the Olympic Games 2008 in Peking. For the Europeans this competition with world class participants was not crowned with a lot of success. The German Champion Timo Boll was the only athlete of the old continent who managed to climb onto the podium.

Boll had to fight hard against the European aces Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium) and Vladimir Samsonov (White Russia) and he underlined again his position as the European number one but when he attacked the Chinese wall this time in form of the 19 year old Ma Long the player from Duesseldorf was on the losing end. Similar to the week before during the French Open the number four of the world ranking list didn't win a set against Ma Long who is still ranked two places below him but this time he lost three of four sets only with two points difference. Timo Boll praised his opponent after the match: „I could perhaps have won one or two sets today if I had used my chances but I didn't have a chance to win. Ma Long plays with a lot of pressure and his forehand is very good. He plays with extreme angles and a lot of spin and a high quality.“ Boll continues: „It doesn't matter that I didn't win. I



13. Dezember - 16. Dezember 2007
Pro Tour: Volkswagen Grand Finals, Peking

21. Dezember - 22. Dezember 2007
Tournament of Champions, Changsha (China)

16. Januar - 20. Januar 2008
Pro Tour: Slovenian Open, Velenje

02. Februar - 03. Februar 2008
Europe Top 12, Frankfurt

Our Photo-Partners



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have still to consider my momentary form which is still not 100 percent after my back injury in autumn. It is far more important that I reach my top form at the Olympics.“

Butterfly Guo Yue, as the reigning World Champion and in absence of the Olympic Champion Zhang Yining in Bremen she was the top favourite in the singles and was the big surprise of the tournament but not in such a positive manner. The 19 year old left handed player had to congratulate her young team mate Liu Shiwen very surprisingly after losing in seven sets in the round of the last sixteen. Guo said afterwards: „That was not a particularly good match from my side but my opponent was very strong. We know each other very well from training and matches like that are always open.“ In the doubles Guo was unbeatable and won the title together with the Hong-Kong Chinese Li Xiaoxia. With the Hong-Kong Chinese Tie Yana another Butterfly failed at the German Open. The number nine of the world ranking list Tie Yana who is thinking of perhaps playing for the Bundesliga club Busenbach next year lost to her former club mate Elke Wosik 3:4.

The third of the WC in the doubles, Chiang Peng-Lung, nearly managed a sensation in the round of the last sixteen. Taiwan's Butterfly star was leading 3:0 in sets against the number two of the world ranking list Ma Lin and didn't use a match ball in the sixth set so he lost afterwards 11:4 in the final set. Chiang Peng-Lung: „That was really annoying. I should have used my chances. You don't get a chance to beat Ma Lin so often.“

Boll receives fair-play price

The German Minister of the Interior, Dr. Wolfgang Schaeuble and Rosi Mittermaier will hand out a price for tolerance and fair-play from the German Home Office during a banquet of the German „Sporthilfe“.

In Voelklingen/Saar Timo Boll, who was just successfully serving at the German Open, was honoured together with the handicapped table tennis player Rainer Schmidt and the wrestler Georges Pappaspyratos from the German Olympic Committee, the German Handicap Association and the German Olympic Society.



Timo Boll

„The price winner of the fair play trophy distinguishes himself by exemplary behaviour and many years of engagement for the sport“, says the German Minister for the Interior

Dr. Wolfgang Schaeuble. „Tolerance and fairness are the most important factors of sports. Timo Boll is an active athlete and an example for fair play and clean sport correcting an umpire's decision to his own disadvantage at the Table Tennis World Championships 2005. Consequently he lost the match but he gained a lot of prestige for himself and his country from the Chinese hosts.“

Text to present picture series, analysis and practical help – Table Tennis 3

The LuNo publisher presents in irregular succession a paper series „Picture Series, Analysis and Practical Help – Table Tennis“ with contributions about higher level and variable table tennis training. On the basis of high quality picture series from the Japanese magazine „The Table Tennis Report“ which is published by Tamasu Butterfly Europe in Moers the contributions contain precise technical and tactical analysis with recommendations for training sessions which can easily be used.

The main topic of the third publication are picture series with own serves and the following opening of the game. After a short theoretical introduction the basic tactic of Seiya Kishikawa to open the game with the first loop is demonstrated with pictures. Additionally there are many exercises which can be trained to learn these rallies. For practicing these stroke series many combined and irregular exercises follow and end in free play.

The second part deals shortly with the return situation. The main stress is on tactical solutions. You can find exemplary pages and the content on the homepage: www.luno-tt.de

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ITTF World Ranking, Mens (11/2007)



1	WANG Hao CHN	16	HOU Yingchao CHN
2	MA Lin CHN	17	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE
3	WANG Liqin CHN	18	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
4	BOLL Timo GER	19	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij GER
5	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	20	KORBEL Petr CZE
6	Chen Qi CHN	21	KO Lai Chak HKG
7	MA Long CHN	22	TANG Peng HKG
8	OH Sang Eun KOR	23	KAN Yo JPN
8	RYU Seung Min KOR	24	CHEN Weixing AUT
10	HAO Shuai CHN	25	MAZE Michael DEN
11	GAO Ning SIN	26	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
12	LI Ching HKG	26	HE Zhi Wen ESP
13	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	28	SAIVE, Jean-Michel BEL
14	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	29	STEGER Bastian GER
15	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	30	CHEUNG Yuk HKG

ITTF World Ranking, Women (11/2007)



1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	SUN Bei Bei SIN
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	GAO Jun USA
3	WANG Nan CHN	18	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
4	GUO Yan CHN	19	WU Jiaduo GER
5	LI Xiaoxia CHN	20	FUKUOKA Haruna JPN
6	Li Jia Wei SIN	21	ZHANG Rui HKG
7	JIANG Huajun HKG	22	SHEN Yanfei PRK
8	WANG Yue Gu SIN	23	WANG Chen USA
9	TIE Yana HKG	24	BOROS Tamara HRV
10	FUKUHARA Ai JAP	25	PENG Luyang CHN
11	LIN Ling HKG	26	CHANG Chenchen CHN
12	NIU Jianfeng CHN	27	PARK Mi Young KOR
13	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	27	LI nan CHN
14	Li Jiao NED	29	KANAZAWA Saki JPN
15	LIU Jia AUT	30	LAU Sui Fei HKG

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

TTC Neuhausen and Butterfly TT School Switzerland



The TTC Neuhausen is looking back on a long successful table tennis history and is one of the leading clubs in Switzerland since 27 years.

Additionally to three Championship titles with the men in 1996, 1998 and 2000 they are now current Champion with the women and won the title in 2005, 2006 and 2007. The club won the Swiss Cup in 2005.

Since many years the players of the TTC Neuhausen appear in the several National Teams of the Swiss Table Tennis Association on junior as well as on senior level. The players of the TTC Neuhausen are regularly taking part in international competitions.

On the international club level this is the ETTU – Cup. At the moment there are 12 club members involved in international duties for Switzerland which includes European and World Championships. Altogether 11 teams from TTC Neuhausen take part in regular league matches.

Since 2001 the club has its own table tennis hall where 11 boards can be used day and night. Coaching sessions are available on all levels for juniors, hobby, senior and top players.

Two top qualified coaches, who are working full-time, are in charge of the training sessions. Apart from their work in the club they are also engaged as National Coaches for Switzerland.

This was the basic situation when in 2001 the 1st Table Tennis School was founded. Since then regular table tennis camps take place throughout the year for everybody who is interested and for all levels of ability.

If you are a new beginner or a top class player everybody is welcome at the Butterfly Table Tennis School in Schaffhausen.

Since 2007 Butterfly is the partner of the club and the Table Tennis School so that the school is now officially called Butterfly Table Tennis School.

A survey over the next dates and events, booking possibilities for the TT – School and further information is available on page: www.tischtennisschule.ch. If you have further questions Pavel Rehorek, the leader of the camps, is always available under this e-mail address: pavel.rehorek@ttc-neuhausen.ch.



3rd International Butterfly Table Tennis Summercamp of the Hessian Table Tennis Association

TRAIN LIKE THE PROS

2008 MORE INTENSIVE

5TH TO 13TH OF JULI 2008

SPORT SCHOOL OF LSB IN FRANKFURT/M.

A story of succes will be continued in 2008. The Hessian Table Tennis Federation with its partner Tamasu Butterfly offer any Table Tennis player the opportunity to train under **HTTV-head coach Helmut Hampf** (Coach of the Champions League winner in 2006 – TTV Gönnern) and his team professionally.

Costs and Logis in EUR	Full board 3-bedded room	Full board 2-bedded room	Full board Single room	Training only
5.7.-13.7.2008 8 Overnight Stays	680,-	740,-	820,-	380,-
5.7.-9.7.2008 or 9.7.-13.7.2008 4 Overnight Stays	340,-	370,-	410,-	190,-

Program: Arrival at 5th or 9th of July 2008 until 14:00 h. Departure on 9th or 13th of July 2008, from 14:00 h. Daily 2 trainings units of 2 to 2-1/2 hours and on the day of departure 1 unit are scheduled. From Sunday to Saturday evening physical training or swimming and sauna are possible. Bookings for 9 training days (8 overnight stays, full board) have a higher priority.

- Training groups for all ages and levels
- Video-Analysis
- Many-Balls Training
- Material Consultation
- Service Schooling
- And much, much more ...

Registration latest until 1st of May 2008 at the main office of the HTTV. The registration is only confirmed after the fee has ben transferred to the HTTV-account. The number of participants is limited to 40.



Information and Registration at the Hessian Table Tennis Federation, Post Box 1140,
35411 Pohlheim, Germany, e-mail: geschaeftsstelle@httv.de or at www.httv.de



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OVERGRIP 3er &
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World Champion Werner Schlager – Part 9: Block

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, forehand - topspin, Backhand-topspin, Flip, smash, ballon defence, backspin defence



Without a block you are nothing said Mario Amizic (Butterfly Sports Director) once. How important is a block really for an attacking player?

I agree entirely. The block from the backhand side is an important stroke variety. Hardly anybody blocks now with the forehand. You try to loop against a loop straight away.

Table tennis literature differentiates between the following varieties: the passive block, the active counter block, the active spin-block with the use of the forearm and wrist, the backspin block and the stop block against high balls or heavy topspin balls. Could you describe the differences between these varieties? Do you have to be able to play all of them?

Generally those varieties which a player is using very often should be more important. The backspin block is very efficient but also very difficult and therefore very risky. It is very suitable for those players who are prepared to take risks like for example Damien Eloi. The passive holding block should not be played too often because you hand over the initiative to your opponent. The active spin or counter block is far more suitable for modern table tennis because it enables you much more to put your opponent under pressure. Everybody should be in command of the stop block.

Which block variety is most important for your game and when do you use it?

I use the active spin or counter block regularly.

For a little while the passive holding block seemed to be completely out but recently also the Chinese seem to block sometimes passively by just holding their bat. What do think about this block?

In this case it could only have been used because the opponent was far away from the table. As a tactical variety it might still be useful.

From the tactical point of view many players get mixed up when they think: the one who blocks plays too passive. Especially on top level you can observe that a blocking situation can turn into a very active and aggressive situation. Are you familiar with such situations and can you describe them?

On top level you are very conscious about the possible effects of the block varieties. I like to use the block against much weaker players to save some energy. That way I can win a match with relatively little physical effort.

13 Tips and Tricks

Very often you can hear players cursing: "I can't block one ball!" or "I have no feeling at all, I am blocking everything off the table!" In reality it is often the case that good offensive players fail because of their weakness in blocking the ball and not because of their attacking game. Which role does the blocking game play from a psycho tactical point of view play?

That happens quite often for different reasons (for example when you are very nervous in a close game situation) when you completely forget about your own strength (for example the offensive game). That means that you try to win points with your weaknesses. Obviously that doesn't happen very often. To avoid this you should be very conscious of your strengths and weaknesses.

Perhaps it is only my imagination but you can often see that players who are a bit afraid and nervous don't get one ball on the table especially when blocking. Is the block such a fine technique that you have to be very relaxed to play it?

The problem is a lack of self-confidence and the fear of making a mistake: especially now you don't want to make a mistake. This fear works like a blockade. That way the active block turns into a passive block very quickly.

For blocking you need good anticipation. On the one hand a special placement is expected and on the other hand the power or the amount of spin is anticipated. Can you train that?

Of course. The most important factor in table tennis is and will be training. The more often I play against or with a player the easier it is to anticipate his strokes.

Are there some players who you would rank as particularly good block players?

Vladimir Samsonov is among other things a gifted block player.

During training blocking is not necessary one of the most favourite exercises. Everybody wants to loop but blocking seems to be boring for most of them. How can I motivate such players to concentrate more on the blocking part?

If I have to play the passive part during exercises I look at it as my duty to make as little mistakes as possible. I expect the same from my partner

when I play the active part. When I was young that wasn't easy for me either.

What about you personally, do you like blocking?

I like blocking but I prefer to counter loop.

Where is the optimal point of contact with the ball for a block: above the table when the ball is still going up, at the highest point or even behind the table?

I have got most control in the second quarter of the rising phase.

About how many points in top table tennis are gained by block balls?

The statistics may have an answer to this question, probably not that many. But cleverly placed block balls are very often the preparation for a final stroke.

What is the percentage in your case?

I think I prepare many final points with a block ball.

If a young player asks you how they may improve their block game what would you answer?

Only by a lot of training.

If you can block it's an easy match.

When blocking even the best ones fail often.

If I block badly I am better off with a counter loop.

If I win a point by blocking I should continue.

To train the block is not exhausting.

Blocking is an important part of my game.

Hiroshi Shibutani

Balance is important for defence

The former Japanese National player Hiroshi Shibutani belonged to the best defensive artists on international level. Together with Koji Matsushita they were a doubles everybody respected. For years he belongs to the Butterfly teaching team and is writing as an author for the monthly magazine „Table tennis Report“ published by Butterfly.

You are an expert of the defensive game. The defenders were always in the minority. At the moment there are only a few who can keep up with world class level. The Korean Joo Se Hyuk was the last one to win a silver medal at the World Championships in Paris 2003. Before that a long period went by without medals for defenders. Where are the perspectives for the defensive game?

Nowadays a good attacking ability is part of the defending game. Formerly the defenders put too much attention on the backspin in defence. If you want to win today you need spin, speed and placement. The modern defending game must include these three components.

If we take Joo Se Hyuk for example. He is in command of a very strong forehand spin attack and very consistent with his long pimples in defence on the backhand side. Are there some more elements which could be used for modern defence?

Surely there are possibilities of development on the backhand side especially when the opponent plays slow spins towards the backhand. Here the defenders have to think of more aggressive ways to reply.

What special abilities does a defender need to keep up with world class standard?

First of all the physical and fitness components must be right because footwork is essential, especially when switching from defence to attack or vice versa. From that point of view the attacking game is much easier. Another important factor is the feeling for the ball concerning spin variations while defending. With or without backspin or with side-spin is not enough. You need more backspin nuances to irritate the attacker. Here the defender has to work with permanently in the same way as the attacker works with topspin variations. The same is valid for the defender because just a hard counter spin is not enough.

That means that a defender needs a lot more techniques than the attacker.

Yes, of course, the modern defending game is technically very demanding and needs a lot more variation. That is a fact.

What about the psycho tactical part of the defending game? Isn't the defender under constant pressure to decide whether to attack or allow the attacker to play?

The defender must have a balance between attacking and defending elements. Attacking must be a conscious process and must not result from a pressure or emergency situation. The modern defensive game, which is offensive and active, demands this balance. All defenders have to find their own balance. That makes up their game.

You were talking about intensive practising of this balance. In what relation must a modern defender practice defensive and offensive techniques?

A defender must practice 50% attacking and 50% defending techniques. That has changed drastically. At my time the relation was 90:10.

Are there any special features where I can see if a young player has the talent to become a successful defender?

At first there are physical features like long arms and long legs so that he can reach far out. A defender needs that. Then there is another feature: the natural basic position of a defender. His feet are slightly turned inside and he has the tendency to O-Legs (see picture 1). In the basic position the knees are bent slightly inside too which provides the player with an enormous take off ability for sideways movement. For me these are natural physical features which favour the defending game and a coach may draw his conclusions from that.

How did you become a defender?

That was tradition. My father was a defender and belonged to the best Japanese. So it was only normal that I became a defender too. I did not pick this system myself but when I was young there were a lot more defenders so it wasn't anything special.

What is the situation in Japan now? In Germany there are hardly any young players who are interested in defence.

That is still a bit different in Japan. On the basis there are still a lot of defenders especially girls. In the table tennis schools there are still former defenders coaching young defenders. But at the very top there are no more defenders.

Do you know about the situation of defenders in China? You are reading all the time that there are always defenders in Chinese training groups so that you can practice against this system.

China is always trying to produce good defenders with good reason. On the one hand these players are very important for sparring for attackers and on the other hand China has always had world class defenders during the past twenty years. Apart from that the Chinese defence is very aggressive. The player tries to take the ball as early as possible. By doing that they create a lot of spin and speed and the spin can not be recognized so easily by the opponent. The early defence also allows for easy switching from defence to attack.

Will there be a world champion in table tennis who is a defender?

Why not? The chances are 10%.



Slight O-legs and feet pointing to the inside are typical for a defender.



Also in the basic position the knees are pointing inside.

Successful serving - Part 1: Basic

Why the serve is so important

The serve is the most important technique in table tennis. Without the interference of an opponent the player has the opportunity to pick a chosen serve consciously and in peace. He decides on the placement, the speed and the rotation of the ball. The flight projection should always be low.

- The player can win a direct point with the serve. The opponent doesn't reach the ball, misses it – loops, pushes or flips it into the net or over the table.
- A good serve often leads to a bad return – too high, not placed well enough, too soft or too slow – so that the server has the possibility to win the point with the so called first stroke.
- A good serve may also force the opponent to return the ball in such a manner that it enables the server to plan an active and optimal rally.

Conclusion: the server is in the dominant and active role at the beginning of a rally. He can win a point and beat the opponent easily. Winning a point by the serve is from the physical point of view an easy point which doesn't need a great deal of effort. You save energy. On top of that points won by the serve – it doesn't matter if directly or indirectly (1. stroke)- may have a strong psychological effect on the opponent who will become more and more afraid of returning the ball, misses his rhythm and his self-confidence. Who does not know the feeling of breaking down mentally because of the opponent's serves?

Why so many player don't practice the serve enough or not at all

Despite all this knowledge and experiences many players - old and young- especially in the lower classes – and that is the majority- overlook the importance of the serve. Throw the ball in and start, that is the way how many services are executed far too fast and hectic without any tactical thought from steadily changing stroke positions and – seen technically – very insecure and imprecise.

What is the reason for that? Quite clearly a lack of knowledge. Many children who did not receive good quality training don't even know about the importance of a serve. This becomes very obvious with children who only play in their spare time. The game only gets interesting when the ball is in play. Let's come back to the club player. He does not only lack knowledge but training too. Who shows them technically good serves and how should they be practiced? Service training in the lower classes usually doesn't exist. The importance

of the serve increases with the rising level of play and serve practice. Good coaches are working



there and the training conditions are good (availability of many balls). Only at top level the service becomes really important in training and for success. When the number 4 in the world Timo Boll met the number 3 in the world recently in Bremen at the German Open it became clear that the 19 year old Chinese had obvious advantages with his serves which made Timo insecure. He didn't only win the game because of his serves but even though. It is obvious that top players permanently work with their serves, try to improve it and find new varieties. No technique in table tennis is as variable as the serve.

Now we are going to point out some basic points which should be taken into account when serving:

1. **phase 1, mental preparation**
2. **servicing position**
3. **phase 2, gather concentration**
4. **basic position and holding the ball**
5. **phase 3, throwing up the ball**
6. **contact with the ball**
7. **start the rally**

How do we differentiate between world class and lowest class with the serve?

Obviously with technique and precision but the point is even more important and that a weaker player can learn and imitate as well. The biggest difference though is the mental preparation of your own service game.

If you have ever seen a match between two world class players you see the difference straight away. The top players take a lot more time in between the rallies. The servers use this time to anticipate their service game. They mentally go through what serve, where, with how much spin and how long they want to play it and what they want to do if the ball is returned in a certain manner. Naturally some things also work automatically with these players but the total concentration on the next rally is obvious and a definite

presupposition for a successful service game. Before they take their service position many players use certain rituals which improve their concentration. Some wipe the table with their hands others bounce the ball a few times on the table or on the floor. This is all very individual and reminds of a ceremony. These proceedings which lead to an increase of concentration on the serve can be learnt by everybody. Even very young players can learn them and realize the special meaning of a serve. You only need to show them top matches live or on video.

(This series will continue in the next issue.)

