

Butterfly® NEWS

2008 02

„When the world is changing, we have to change too in table tennis!“



1999 Mario Amizic became Sports Director of Butterfly after he has successfully gathered titles as a coach of Borussia Duesseldorf for twelve years and became the most successful club coach in the world. A year later the man from Croatia took on another task with the permission of Butterfly where many well known coaches before him failed: finding and leading Japanese Junior talents to the top internationally. We talked to the successful coach about the future of „his“ talented players. **More about this on page 8.**

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In this issue:

- News 02
- Butterfly inside
Butterfly Sommercamp 03
- News/WRL January 2008 04
- Products of the month 05
- „Tips and Tricks“
World Champion Werner Schlager 07
- Interview
Mario Amizic, Butterfly 08
- Technique Tips
Successful serving - Part 3 10

Fashion



Stunning Natalia Partyka Dazzles at Televised Spectacular

Bronze medallist in the Girls' Team event at the ITTF World Junior Championships in Palo Alto in December 2007 and gold medallist in the Class Ten Women's Singles event at the Paralympic Games in Athens in 2004. For these Results Natalia Partyka won the award for the Best Disabled Sporting Personality of 2007.

She received her award from Krzysztof Swiercz, editor of „Przegląd Sportowy“, at the Gala evening organised by the Polish Sports' magazine „Przegląd Sportowy“ in Warsaw. In front of the national television cameras of TVP1 Natalia Partyka was transformed from table tennis player to glamour girl.



Will the table tennis fashion look like this in the future? Naomi Yotsumoto (Tokyo Art), runner-up in mixed doubles at Japan National Championships 2008.



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

24. February - 02. March 2008
World Individual Championships, Guanzhou (CHN)

13. March - 16. March 2008
Pro Tour. Kuwait Open, Kuwait City

18. March - 22. March 2008
Pro Tour. Qatar Open, Doha

Our Photo-Partners



Manfred Schillings

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3rd International Butterfly Table Tennis Summercamp of the Hessian Tabletennis 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 Gönner) 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



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 (01/2008)



1	WANG Hao CHN	16	SCHLAGER Werner AUT
2	MA Lin CHN	17	KAN Yo JPN
3	WANG Liqin CHN	18	HOU Yingchao CHN
4	MA Long CHN	19	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij GER
5	BOLL Timo GER	20	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	Yang Zi SIN
7	Chen Qi CHN	22	KO Lai Chak HKG
8	RYU Seung Min KOR	23	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
9	OH Sang Eun KOR	24	MAZE Michael DEN
10	GAO Ning SIN	25	TANG Peng HKG
11	HAO Shuai CHN	26	HE Zhi Wen ESP
12	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	27	PERSSON Jörgen SWE
13	LI Ching HKG	28	SAIVE, Jean-Michel BEL
14	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	29	MITZUTANI Jun JPN
15	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	30	CHEUNG Yuk HKG

ITTF World Ranking, Women (01/2008)



1	GUO Yue CHN	16	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
2	ZHANG Yining CHN	17	LIU Jia AUT
3	LI Xiaoxia CHN	17	CAO Chen CHN
4	WANG Nan CHN	19	Li Jiao NED
5	GUO Yan CHN	20	GAO Jun USA
6	WANG Yue Gu SIN	21	PARK Mi Young KOR
7	JIANG Huajun HKG	22	FUKUOKA Haruna JPN
8	Li Jia Wei SIN	23	LIU Shiwen CHN
9	TIE Yana HKG	24	BOROS Tamara HRV
10	FUKUHARA Ai JAP	25	ZHANG Rui HKG
11	LIN Ling HKG	26	DING Ning CHN
12	NIU Jianfeng CHN	27	LI Qian POL
13	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	28	FENG Tianwei SIN
14	SUN Bei Bei SIN	29	WANG Chen USA
15	WU Jiaduo GER	30	TOTH Kriztina HUN

Butterfly-players are marked!

Amicus 3000^{Plus}



Some Highlights Amicus 3000^{Plus}

- Topspin backspin, side spin, balls with no spin
- Independantly selectable spin, speed and ball length
- Positioning of balls on different spots of the table, including long and short balls
- Output of upto 100 balls per minute
- Simulation of rallies with the above mentioned ball types
- 99 rallies can be stored individually and retrieved at any time
- Play/Pause setting (play up to 10 minutes, than a maximum of a 2 minute break)
- Our Amicus 3000Plus re-uses automatically those balls that are collected in the big net and transported back to the ball bucket
- „Serve & play“-Mode: The Amicus 3000Plus first makes a serve and then a complete rally
- Wheels under the robot to ease transport
- The „Automatic Frequency Control“ (AFC) makes rallies even more realistic. For example: the ball following after a backspin ball becomes slower resp. is delivered with delay

The height adjustable tube allows a variation of the angel in 4 phases (with a height difference of totally 16 cms)

World Champion Werner Schlager – Part 10: The Return of Service

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, block, service.



Last time we talked about the service and its special meaning. Almost equally important is the return of the serve. The service return is not one particular technique but a whole series of strokes which can be used to play back the ball. What determines a good return?

A good return can force the server into a passive role.

Looking at your returns, where are your strengths and where are your weaknesses?

My strength is the variety my weakness is the varying quality of the returns.

The advantages of the server against the returning player might be great at lower level but among top players it can't be so great. Two different researches show that the advantages for the server were 53% to 47% or 51% to 49%. Another research even showed an advantage of 51% to 49%

for the returning player. If you compare your serves with your returns, where do you think you are stronger?

I think that the majority of players consider serving as an advantage. It could be interesting to find out if that is the truth. I also think that my serves are better than my returns although I sometimes feel differently during matches.

What characterizes a good return player?

Some players can anticipate very well, others react better and others again have a good feeling for the ball.

One of the main conditions for an optimal return is the early judgement about the coming serve concerning rotation, placement and speed. In this context we talk about being able to read the serve. That is exactly what many young inexperienced players are lacking. How can you learn that and improve it?

Only by a lot of competition experience. Every player has their own technique and tactic when serving. The possibilities of variations are endless.

Experience plays an important role when reading a serve. Do you have an advantage returning the serve when you have played more often against a player?

Yes, of course. The more often you have played against a player the better you should be able to return the serve.

Are there top players whose serves despite intensive analysis still cause you problems?

Yes, there are some players whose serves I simply can't read. I don't want to say who they are. Either the quality of the serves is extremely high or the variation takes me by surprise again and again.

In which way does a bad return influence your self – confidence? Often players lose their head when they can't return the serves. How can you still try to stay in the game?

A bad return increases the pressure to win the point when you are serving. Many players can't manage the extra pressure. You should try to concentrate on your strength not on your weaknesses.

When watching top players you can see that they perform certain rituals before they take up their returning position to achieve the highest possible concentration level. What do you do?

I am not aware of any rituals. I mainly concentrate on my breathing to slow down my pulse rate.

Some players bend down a lot for their returning position (e.g. Boll) others less (e.g. Ma Lin or Wang Liqin). Some are close to the table, some further away. Which position would you recommend?

I don't like extremes but principally everything is allowed. Everybody should find their own position and the fitting tension.

The position is depending on the opponent and changes accordingly from the far backhand side to the middle of the table with offensive players. What is your position against right – and left handed players? Are there other factors for changing the returning position?

Against players different from yourself you should move further to the middle to be able to read the service better. It is also important if you return with your forehand or backhand.

How can you improve your return apart from reading the ball?

Only by experience, meaning training.

There are still players on the lower levels trying to hide their forehand serves. There are no neutral umpires so there are often arguments. You are known as a very fair player. Are there still players among the professionals who come close to the limit and how do you deal with it?

Of course there are still players who behave unfairly. According to personal estimation of the intentions of my opponent I react differently. It is a pity that sometimes enthusiasm defeats fairness. Everybody with a little bit of experience should know though that nature pays things back eye for an eye.

*When I must return the ball I must be prepared for everything.
If I don't return two serves in a row I get angry.*

Before I take up my returning position I breathe deeply.

If the serve of my opponent is hidden I complain.

Long serves are often dangerous.

Without short serves you can't manage.

When the world is changing, we have to change too in table tennis



1999 Mario Amizic became Sports Director of Butterfly after he has successfully gathered titles as a coach of Borussia Duesseldorf for twelve years and became the most successful club coach in the world. A year later the man from Croatia took on another task with the permission of Butterfly where many well known coaches before him failed: finding and leading Japanese Junior talents to the top internationally. By now the Japanese children of the 53 year old table tennis expert have left the nest. This interview tells you about their future perspective but also about where European table tennis is standing now.

Mr Amizic, the last time we talked about two years ago. At that time we had a conversation about your „Japanese children“. They have grown up now and the youngest one must be about 18 years old. They have all developed tremendously. They achieved the second place with the team at the Asian Championships. How do you see their development during the last two years?

They have moved a great deal forward and have a lot of potential but because of their young age they are still not consistent enough. We just need to be patient. But in two years, I am sure, that they will be playing for a medal with the team in Asia as well as in the world.

I can remember well that you said two years ago that one player could come through even at the Olympic Games in Peking this summer. Are the games at the right time or still a bit too early?

For me the Olympic Games in London 2012 are the right time to excel. But deep inside I have hoped of course that they might already play in Peking and cause a surprise. That is still possible. Jun Mizutani can still qualify directly by the World Ranking position (Jun did not qualify directly and must play the qualification, editor's note) then a second player is allowed to play the Asian qualification. We are qualified with the team and that is already a success. Independently of sporting success a participation in Peking would be a valuable learning experience for them. They don't have anything to lose. The main target for me though is London.

Jun is ranked number 29 on the World Ranking List and is the star of your team. How far can he get?

He is an extremely talented player. His potential is „no limit“. What he is going to do with that is entirely up to him. I am hoping for him, I am hoping for table tennis and I hope for Japan that he will not lose his way to the top. He is still young just 18 years old and his talent is unlimited. Table tennis needs players like him who don't only work but play table tennis.

The one who knows Mario Amezic knows that he always tries new ideas. One of these ideas was to take the Japanese youngsters to Germany, to train them here and then travel around the world with them. Was this idea right, Mr Amizic?

Considering the selection of players from the sporting point of view this decision was right. Considering their private life it was not easy for them here in Germany, away from home and permanently travelling. That was an enormous experience for the children but for me too. Seen altogether it was the right thing to do at the right time. In the future there will perhaps be a different way because the Japanese Olympic Committee wants to establish a national training centre following international scales and establish the professional presupposition to promote top sport in Japan.

You said the world is changing. Do you mean the fact that there are now many reasonable players coming from the so called poorer table tennis areas?



Even if table tennis is in a deep valley in Europe we don't have to worry about table tennis globally. Table tennis was never bigger than today. Considering table tennis in general the ITTF has done a good job during the last years. From Oceania to South – America there was never so much table tennis as there is today. Considering the level though the distance

between Europe and Asia is noticeable. Even worse, it is still increasing.

What is the reason for the negative development of table tennis in Europe?

We don't have enough coaches and not enough investment in good work of the coaches. The players are earning a lot of money but the coaches hardly get anything. Without good coaching and training work the players can't get to the top. Apart from that there is a lack of communication between trainers and nations. Everybody is making their own broth. There is much to do in Europe if we want to get closer to Asia. Additionally there are new powers in Asia. Formerly China and Korea were the excellent table tennis nations; now Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan have joined them. It was like that in Europe some time ago with Sweden, France, Germany, Poland and so on. Now there is only Germany with an excellent National Team.

If you could wish for something in table tennis what would that be?

Visions have always made people active. I miss that in table tennis. Many are satisfied, moan or complain. Without dreams and visions there would not be any cars or planes. We are lacking that in table tennis.

Successful serving - Part31

Timo Boll's forehand – serves with dangerous side-spin

In part 1 of this service series we basically looked at the tactical meaning of the serve and reflected critically why the service is often neglected concerning training and concentration. Then we looked more closely at the start of the serve – the preparation and gathering of concentration – and now we are looking precisely at Timo Boll and one of his dangerous forehand side-spin varieties.

Phase 1 Preparation

1. Mental preparation (anticipation)
2. Service position

Phase 2 Concentration

3. Taking up service position and gathering concentration

Phase 3 Execution

4. Throwing up the ball
5. Contact with the ball
6. Starting play

„Service Boll!“

One of the presuppositions of Timo's dangerous forehand side-spin serves is the special way in which he holds the bat which is quite different from the normal grip (pictures A+B). Timo holds the bat only with his index finger and thumb. The other fingers are on the backhand side stabilizing the grip. All fingers are bent and the tendons are relaxed so that a lot more wrist movement is possible. A relaxed wrist can be moved very fast and can create a lot of rotation in both directions. In the first instance this grip looks very easy but it needs a lot of practice because you must come back to the „normal“ grip as quickly as possible. Young players learn this easily whereas older players might have a bit more problems with that.



Timo's service from the side and the front

These pictures show clearly the degree of difficulty; from the side 1-7 green and from the front 1-7 pink.

1. Timo is standing beside the table in a sideways stance. The bodyweight seems to be slightly more on the front leg. He throws the ball up to the height of his eyes and watches it carefully.



2. The ball is now falling down. Timo straightens up a bit and takes his playing arm which is bent almost completely up to his chest.



3. Now Timo pulls the bat slightly away from the body. He bends the arm even more at the elbow.

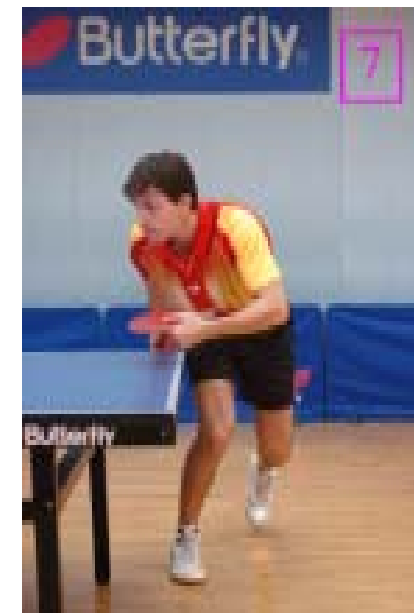
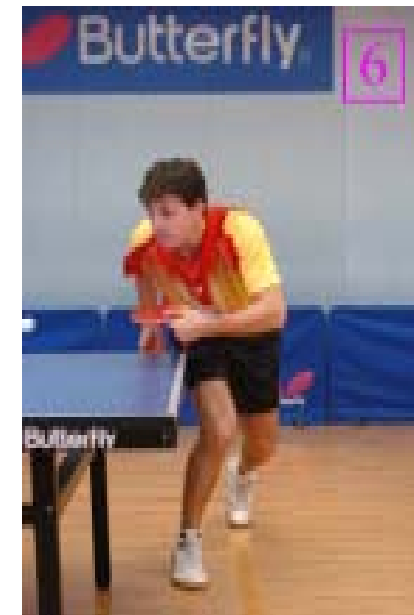
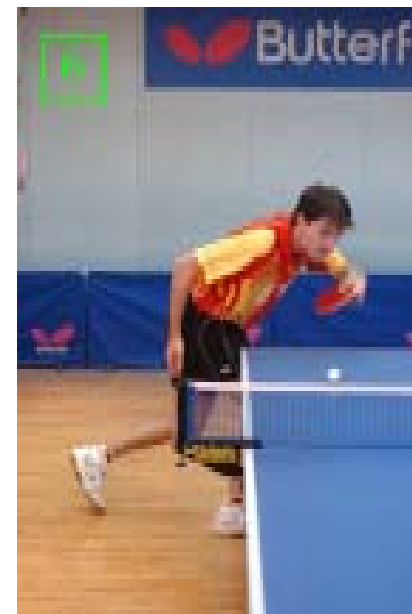


4. Now Timo lowers his body and takes the bat simultaneously backwards and down. He also takes his wrist backwards to apply maximum rotation when making contact with the ball. It is important that the elbow is remaining high so that the forearm can be moved easily.



13 Technique Tips

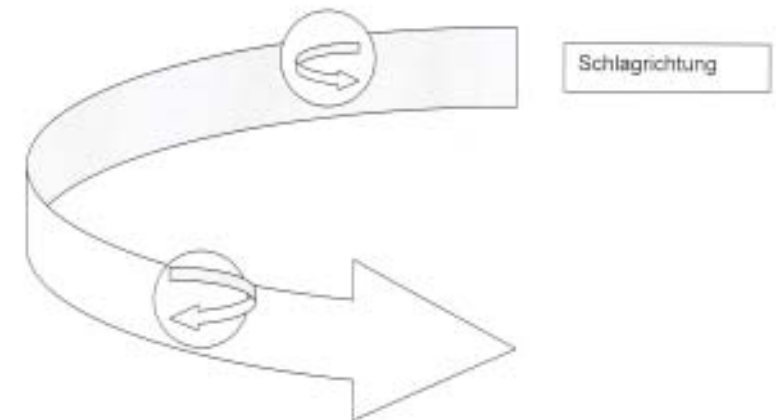
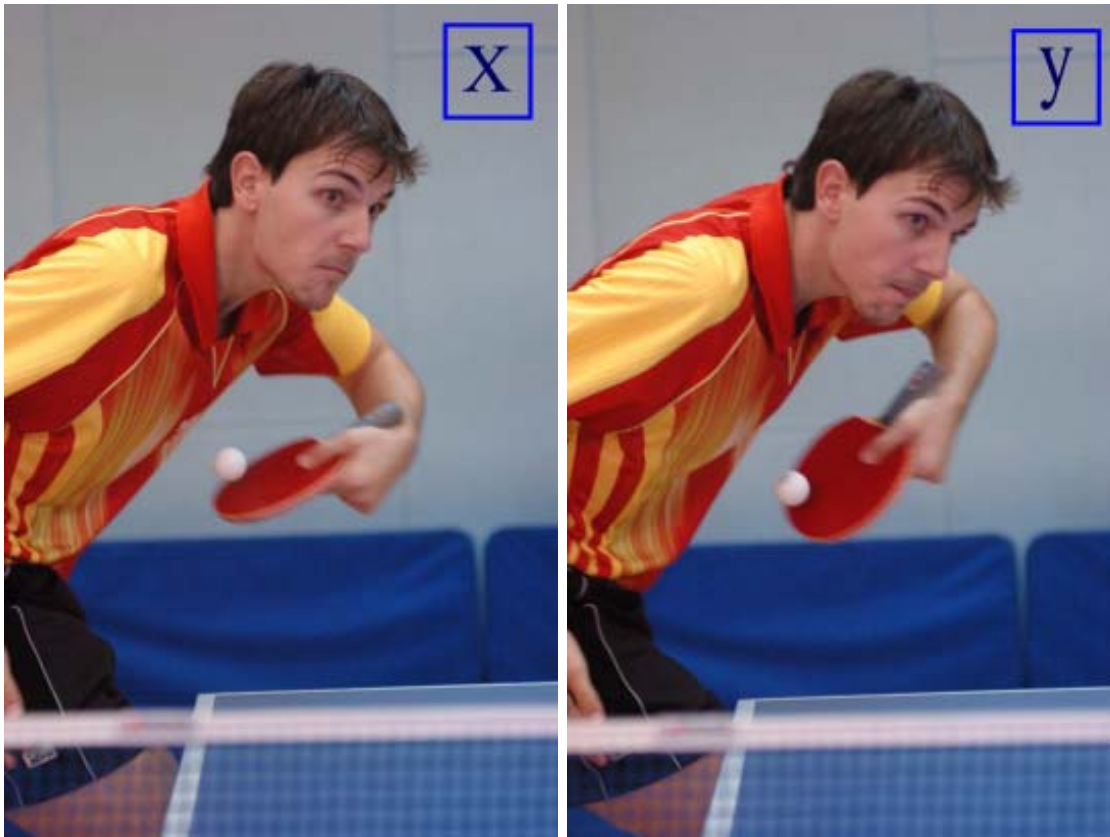
5. Now he takes the bat forward. The wrist supports this movement. Simultaneously the upper body is lowered even more above the front leg.



6/7. Pictures 6 and 7 show how much the whole body is involved in the serve after making contact with the ball. Timo virtually follows the ball to get back into his playing position speedily.

The reverse principle

The ball is hit from the right to the left so that it receives a right to left rotation. Normally not many players are in command of this variety. They (left handed players) hit the ball much more from the left to the right which is a lot easier because there is no reverse movement during the stroke. (The right handed player must think vice versa.) In this context we talk about a reverse principle of the serve: an apparently easy serve is executed from different directions (see ill.). The one who is able to play both varieties has endless possibilities of variation. Furthermore you can achieve very different spin through different angles of the bat at the moment of contact with the ball. **Picture X** shows a wide open bat which hints at a lot of side-back-spin whereas **picture Y** hints at pure side-spin.



III. Reverse principle during the service