

# Butterfly® NEWS

2008 05

## New contract

### Borussia and Butterfly partners until 2014 Contract prolonged already



The German record champion Borussia Duesseldorf and the world wide leading table tennis company Tamasu Butterfly have prolonged their partnership until 2014.

For four years now the Japanese company and Borussia Duesseldorf have worked together successfully. During this time Borussia won with Butterfly shirts, tables and balls the European Cup (2006/7), the German Cup (2007/8) and they were three times in a row in the semi-finals of the German Championship.

The partnership between the company Butterfly and Borussia Duesseldorf includes apart from equipment also economic support. Together with Borussia's main sponsors ARAG AG, METRO and the sports city Duesseldorf the Japanese, whose European basis is in Moers, belong to the main economic partners of the German record champion.

„In 2004 we made a contract for five years which we now already prolonged for further five years“, says the Borussia manager Andreas Preuss. „We are very happy to have Butterfly on our side as our partner. We have become very close through our business agreements. We are especially grateful to Yuki Kamizuru, Butterfly's managing director for Europe.“

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[www.butterfly-world.com](http://www.butterfly-world.com)

## No National record but the „Olympic knee“ passed the test

The European Champion, Timo Boll, was finally ready for action again during the 76<sup>th</sup> National German Championships in Hamburg on the last weekend in March. This was going to be the first hard competition test after his three month long break because of his knee injury.

No final this time but Timo managed to win a Bronze Medal and was not too disappointed.

„I got through the whole weekend without any pain in my knee and I am very relieved about that,“ commented a satisfied Butterfly star after the event. The last competition for the top player from Borussia Düsseldorf was the European Top 12 in Frankfurt two months ago. After that he went through a carefully designed development programme to become fit again. The National German Championships in Hamburg was the first competition test. The German number 1 was not too disappointed to lose against Lei Yang in the Semi Finals:“ This is not the end of the world even if I didn’t manage to draw level with the record of the German table tennis legends Conny Freundorfer and Eberhard Schöler who won nine German Singles titles. I knew that my form was not too good after the last training sessions before the Championships. Each training session and each tournament is directed towards the Olympic Games. Everything is still possible. My main target wasn’t the National German Championships but is and still will be the Olympic Games in Peking.“

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April Timo Boll was leaving for Qatar to take part in an intensive training camp for a week. Amongst other top players the Danish Butterfly star Michael Maze will also be there to prepare for Peking 2008.

Timo Boll’s physical and sporting trend is moving upwards again. The same can be said about Lars Hielscher, another Butterfly partner who did really well in Hamburg. In the Quarterfinals the player from Bremen beat Germany’s number 2, Dimitrij Ochtarov, who later won the title in the men’s doubles. Lars Hielscher was also troubled with injuries for some time and was happy to win a Bronze Medal after losing to Torben Wosik (Angers) in the Semi Finals.



The German Cadet Champion 2007 Patrick Franziska who participated in the Senior Championships for the first time won a Bronze Medal in the men’s doubles!

**17. April - 20. April 2008**

**Pro Tour. Brazil Open, Belo Horizonte**

**23. April - 27. April 2008**

**Pro Tour. Chile Open, Santiago de Chile**

**08. May - 11. May 2008**

**Olympia Worldqualifikation, Budapest**

**15. May - 18. May 2008**

**Pro Tour. Volkswagen China Open, Chang Chun**

**21. May - 25. May 2008**

**Pro Tour. Volkswagen Japan Open, Yokohama**

Our Photo-Partners



Manfred Schillings

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**All prices are recommended retail prices.**

Rüdiger Berg, Butterfly

**The ball is catapulted like from a spring**

*The Butterfly member of staff Ruediger von Berg informs BUTTERFLY NEWS about the new rubber TENERGY 05*

Mr von Berg TENERGY is a completely new rubber from Butterfly. Where would you place it within the Butterfly range?

**TENERGY is a completely new rubber generation which is planned to become a family group like the SRIVER family.**

What is new about the TENERGY 05?

**The new innovative sponge technology SPRING SPONGE and a very good grip of the surface cause an enormous rotation and catapult effect.**

So it is an offensive rubber of a new dimension?

**Indeed. With the new SPRING SPONGE technology the sponge has a completely new catapult effect. The ball is kept for a split of a second longer and then accelerated like from a spring. Combined with the successful High Tension technology ( for example Bryce) the TENERGY 05 is a catapult rubber – and that is something which was important to us – it has very good control. Service and return of serve, the change of spin at the table and half-distance are its biggest strengths. The flight path of the ball is clearly higher in comparison to rubbers of the new generation and that with excellent speed results.**



If you compare the TENERGY 05 to another top class product like the BRYCE SPEED / FX what is the difference?



**The BRYCE SPEED / FX and the TENERGY 05 are quite similar concerning speed; they only address different types of players. The TENERGY 05 provides more rotation ability and is amazingly dynamic especially when playing a top spin.**

A rubber only for top players?

**Not at all. Like our classic, the SRIVER, which was successfully used by everybody from World Champions down to the bottom league players. We believe that the TENERGY 05 too will be addressing a wide range of offensive players.**

The construction of the TENERGY 05 is surely aimed at having the effect of a fresh glued rubber. In how far did you succeed?

**Extensive tests of players, coaches and a feedback from many distributors have shown that there is no difference between the formerly glued rubbers and the TENERGY 05, equipped with Spring Sponge and High Tension and an enormous effect concerning the rotation ability and the catapult effect. That is simply fantastic.**

46,90 Euros is quite a steep price for the TENERGY 05.

**The TENERGY 05 is well worth its money and will give you a lot of joy when playing table tennis. Not only when you are attacking but also in precision: return of serve, top spin duels, short – short play and placement.**



## 3<sup>rd</sup> International Butterfly Table Tennis Summercamp of the Hessian Tabletennis Association

### TRAIN LIKE THE PROS

**2008 MORE INTENSIVE**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:geschaeftsstelle@httv.de) or at [www.httv.de](http://www.httv.de)



## ITTF World Ranking, Mens (04/2008)

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

## ITTF World Ranking, Women (04/2008)

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	KIM Kyung Ah KOR
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	SUN Bei Bei SIN
3	LI Xiaoxia CHN	18	LIU Jia AUT
4	WANG Nan CHN	19	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
5	GUO Yan CHN	20	WU Jiaduo GER
6	WANG Yue Gu SIN	21	CAO Chen CHN
7	JIANG Huajun HKG	22	BOROS Tamara HRV
8	Li Jia Wei SIN	23	PARK Mi Young KOR
9	TIE Yana HKG	24	GAO Jun USA
10	LIN Ling HKG	25	FUKUOKA Haruna JPN
11	FUKUHARA Ai JAP	26	WANG Chen USA
12	FENG Tianwei SIN	27	LI Qian POL
13	Li Jiao NED	28	DANG Ye Seo KOR
14	LIU Shiwen CHN	29	DING Ning CHN
15	NIU Jianfeng CHN	30	PENG Luyang CHN

Butterfly-players are marked!



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

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](http://www.luno-tt.de)



## Holger Nikelis is German Champion 2008!

*Winning back his title without losing a set*

What a day for Holger Nikelis from RSC Cologne! Five players were waiting for him and five times the result was 3:0 to the man from Cologne. The reigning World Champion won the German Title for the fifth time after 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2005!

Nikelis was hungry for the title and could hardly wait for the start of the 32<sup>nd</sup> German Wheelchair Championships from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of April in Bad Blankenburg: „I had a successful start to the season and I feel fit and highly motivated. The National Title was an important step on the way to Peking“, commented the Vice Champion from last year about his form and targets shortly before he left.

In the Final he met the momentary number three in the world, Walter Kilger from RSC Plattling who beat him last year 3:2. „Playing against Walter is always difficult and it is impossible to predict the result. We know each others strengths and weaknesses inside and out because of our numerous caps in the National Team. This year I was determined to learn from my mistakes during the last German Championships“, describes Nikelis the situation before the match. Holger Nikelis, the Paralympics Winner from 2004 won the exciting final 11:7, 11:8 and 11:8.



**Successful again: Holger Nikelis (left) became German champion for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. Here together with Selcuk Cetin, who won the German Team Championship together with Sven Schulz (both from RSG Koblenz).**

## New on the net: [www.tt-total.tv](http://www.tt-total.tv)

Now it is there: [www.tt-total.tv](http://www.tt-total.tv) is on the net. This interesting table tennis page has everything on offer what you could ask for. You will find information about all the leagues, from the juniors up to the table tennis Bundesliga. At the beginning there is a little surprise from Butterfly: a TV spot with world star Timo Boll. So get going, it's worth it.



## Defending his title at the German Championships

Daniel Arnold defended his title again at the German Championships in Neuenstein. The European Champion from 2007 was 2:0 down in a brilliant final against Rainer Schmidt when he managed to turn the match round and won 14:12 in the fifth set. His next targets are clear: the 29 year old wants to defend both his Paralympic Gold Medals (Single, Team) from 2004 at the Paralympics 2008 in China.



## Butterfly equipment for school teams for the table tennis WC

The Table Tennis World Championships for schools took place in Malta from the 28<sup>th</sup> of March to the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 08. Organizer of this event was the International School Federation ISF. Germany was represented by a Gymnasium from Loehne in the girls' event and a Gymnasium from Boenen in the boys' event. Butterfly equipped both teams with shirts and track suits so that the German delegation with Bodo Bernhardt as their coach could participate in the same outfit.



**Butterfly**  
NEWS

## World Champion Werner Schlager - part 13 tactic in table tennis

In 2003 Werner Schlager became sensationally World Champion in the Men Singles in Paris and was the number 1 in June on the World Ranking List. Momentarily he is ranked number 16. In the beginning of February he was in top form and won the EUROPE TOP 12 in Frankfurt. The 35 year old Austrian lives and lived table tennis like nobody else. Since years he trusts Butterfly Material and is an excellent counsellor of the company. In his book: „Matchball – Dreams and Triumphs“, which was published in 2006, 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. The Butterfly team and Werner Schlager wish you, dear reader, good entertainment and joy.

Previous articles: push, counter hit, forehand – topspin, backhand topspin, flip, smash, balloon defence, backspin defence, block, service return, technical training, playing systems

### „Big Points“ can't be planned

In the last Newsletter we discussed different playing systems in modern table tennis. Now we are dealing with tactics. A term, which is used permanently but is understood quite differently. With some people tactics start already when preparing for a competition, for others tactics mean a special succession of strokes. What is tactics in table tennis?

My understanding of tactics is the adaptation of your own playing system to that of your opponent. Some also stress that it is the „psychological warfare“ with which you try to make your opponent insecure, often already before the match. Generally on basic level these behaviour patterns are often successful. Among world class players it is considered to be unfair and rarely successful.



How do you prepare yourself tactically before a match?

- a) if you know your opponent:  
**Before the match the tactics are discussed with your coach. During the match they are adapted according to your form on the day.**
- b) if you have never played against that opponent before:  
**You try to get as much information about your opponent before the match and then discuss the tactics with your coach. During the match the tactic is adapted according to your form on the day.**
- c) if you have played against your opponent many times before and you know each other very well:  
**During the match the tactic is adapted according to your form on the day.**

How important is the role of the coach when deciding about the tactics? How much should the player decide about this or even make the decisions alone? Is that depending on the age?

**You can't answer this question in general. First of all the characteristics and the ability to communicate of the player and the coach are deciding and from that the basis of information from which you conclude the tactics. If you take it as a fact that older people can communicate better then you could consider the influence of the player is depending on his age.**

**A main point to the question of tactics is the ability of the player to put it into practice. A winning tactic which you can talk about but which you can't use is worthless. That is the real strength of a good coach.**

If you are playing a match nowadays how much do you communicate with your coach Ferenc Karsai and what do you expect of him during the match concerning tactics?

**I look at my coach as a supplier of information. The more information I get the more profound my tactical decisions will be.**

Let's assume you are playing a match and recognize that your tactics are wrong. How quickly do you change your tactics and how important is the role of the coach in such a situation?

**You react straight away of course. The coach can use the time until the next break to prepare an alternative tactic.**

During the World Championships 2003 when you became sensationally World Champion you had to get through some tricky situations in the

quarterfinals against Wang Liqin or Kong Linghui in the semi-finals when you were close to defeat. Were the Big Points planned or was it more intuition or a mixture of both?

**So called „Big Points“ can't be planned. They happen or don't happen.**

Which players do you think are tactical geniuses and what are their characteristics?

**Those players who make the right decisions at the right time – consciously or unconsciously- are tactical geniuses.**

A well-known coach told me once that there are even players at op level who play tactically undisciplined. How do you understand tactically „undisciplined“?

**You don't stick to the tactics you agreed to with your coach. From the point of view of the coach another winning tactical variation of the player can also be called undisciplined. The final result should be the main point here.**

Nowadays the game is so fast that the margin between offensive players is so small that the tactical intuition becomes more and more important. What does tactical intuition mean to you and how can it be developed?

**The faster you play the more important subconscious tactical decisions become. The intuition is always a deciding factor. The brain is soon overcharged with the processing of information and can and should only define the borderlines where you react automatically. Sport psychology is recommendable for the development of the necessary self-confidence.**

Too much tactics can prevent a player especially when he is you from developing his own game. How far can tactics go so that they are not too strangulating?

**That is the job of a coach to avoid this from happening.**

When did your father start to study and learn tactics with you consciously?

**The understanding of tactics is developed permanently through a lot of competition.**

How long did it take you to become a tactically „clever“ player?

**That is difficult to answer because it is all a question of your personal estimation and therefore relative. You definitely need a lot of experience to become a tactically clever player.**

Your coach gives you the tactical advice of a certain serve during a time out. Do you follow it, ignore it or are you even angry?

**That depends on the situation. If I am convinced that the advice is good then I will do it.**

Which tactical advice can you give against a left handed offensive player?

**None. There are no tips which apply in general. It is for example always depending on my own abilities.**

*Tactical understanding... is often early visible.*

*To learn tactics... is not difficult but playing it is very difficult.*

*Tactical tips... can't be given by everybody.*

*You can make the biggest tactical mistake and win despite of it!*

*The greatest tactical achievement is often gained subconsciously!*

*In table tennis tactics are essential!*



Werner Schlager





## FEINT AG

High Tension Long-Pimped Rubber for Aggressive Offensive Play  
Table tennis today continues to develop in an aggressive manner. Those who play with a long-pimped rubber need also be able to attack. In order to enable a no spin stroke and an aggressive fast attack to be played, another BUTTERFLY High Tension rubber has been developed, FEINT AG.

FEINT AG helps a player produce a wide variety of spins and its High Tension technology enables a player to attack with power to win the point. It is a long-pimped offensive rubber for aggressive all-rounder players.

Available in 1.3 / 1.7 red and black

**U.V.P. 36,90 €**

## TENERGY - FEEL THE POWER OF SPRING SPONGE

TENERGY is a revolutionary reversed rubber with in built power, created by a new sponge called *Spring Sponge*, which combined with the unique *High Tension Technology*, developed by BUTTERFLY, provides a totally new sensation when striking the ball.

*Spring Sponge* is a totally new sponge created by BUTTERFLY, being very different to existing rubbers.

The most notable feature is a sense of being able to hold the ball on the racket; this has been made possible by the innovative composition of the material used, which produces a spring loaded effect when contact is made with the ball. The result is that a player can control spin, speed and direction as required; the sponge will make you feel you are in total control.

TENERGY series reversed rubbers are produced by combining new generation *Spring Sponge* and *High Tension* technology. The name of *TENERGY 05* arose from the development code No. 05 that was found to be the most effective for imparting spin on a ball in a series of mechanical trials and tests carried out by players.

The rubber enables a player to impart a great deal of spin on a ball when serving and when executing topspin strokes. *TENERGY 05* is a combination of a High Tension rubber and a tacky surface. The rubber enables high performance play based mainly on spin to be realized.



## KORBEL SK7 OFF

The insider's tip

This KORBEL **SK7** is a 7 ply attacking blade that offers a relatively soft and controlled feeling even at high speed; it is the ideal answer for playing without the need to use fresh gluing.

In comparison with harder blade in this speed range, the KORBEL SK7 enables the player to exercise control whilst not sacrificing spin..

Weight approx. 90 gr. / available in AN/FL/ST

**U.V.P. 59, 90 €**



## SENKOH 90 OFF+

For the dynamic attacking player

This exclusive „Japan style“ blade consists of just one 9mm thick Hinoki ply sheet. The blade possesses a unique momentum thus enabling fast powerful play to be imparted. The famous „Hinoki Feeling“ gives precision and eliminates vibration.

Weight approx. 90g / available in AN/FL/ST

**U.V.P. 69, 90 €**

Peter Engel, Germany

**„Table tennis has become a completely different sport“**



Table tennis has dominated the life of Peter Engel for 42 years. The 54 year old former German national player started to play table tennis when he was twelve years old. He became a professional and played actively until 1990 before he became the coach of the Bundesliga teams ATSV Saarbruecken and then Spvvg Steinhagen, two clubs which worked very professional and had a lot of successes at the time. 1994 Engel went to the Netherlands as a national coach until 1999. Since 1999 he is the chief coach of the Catalanian

Table Tennis Centre CAR in Barcelona which is simultaneously the centre of the ITTF. His best players are the 20 year old Sara Ramirez (WR 124) and the 21 year old Marc Duran (WR 191). Sara was 11 and Marc 12 years old when he took over. He also coaches these players for the Spanish Association. The table tennis mad expert from Duisburg is married to the Hungarian Judith Margos who was European Champion twice during the seventies. Together they have got an 18 year old daughter.

Mr Engel, what is your job like? How many juniors participate in your training sessions?

**At the moment I have about 30 players from different age groups. Normally the minimum age is 14 but there are a few 12 year olds with special permission. The two oldest are 24 years old. We train twice a day and the younger players attend school in the centre. We work closely**

**together with the school so that there are no problems if the children take free from school. All children have private tutors who help them to catch up with the work they have missed because of training camps or tournaments and they also help them with their preparation for exams.**

Where do the players come from?

**Most of them come from the Catalanian Table Tennis Association and other regional areas from Spain. Three spaces are reserved for the Spanish Association.**

Are there other centres like this in Spain?

**There are two more but both of them are smaller. One is in Valencia. The school there is externally and not so closely connected to the centre. Another one is in Granada. They are not at all connected to a school. From that point of view our centre is unique in Spain.**

You started in Barcelona in 1999. Was the centre just opened then?

**No, the whole centre was built in connection with the Olympic Games in 1992 in Barcelona. After the games it was supposed to be used as a National Sports Centre. The Spanish Table Tennis Association reacted very quickly and succeeded in being accepted and secured their own table tennis hall.**

Who are your best players?

**Sara Ramires who also plays with Butterfly and Marc Duran but we have also guest players from all over the world. At the moment we have four Canadian players here whom I am in charge of too.**

During your career as a coach you worked in many different areas. First you were in Saarbruecken and Steinhagen two very success orientated and professional Bunn Bundesliga clubs, then the Dutch National Team with the top players Trinko Keen and Dany Heister. Now you went back to the basics, the juniors. What was the reason for this decision?

**I made that decision when I went to Barcelona for a training camp with the Dutch National Team. There I saw the two very young players Marc Duran and Sara Ramirez. They were 10 and 11 years old and their Danish coach was Steen Kryst Hansen. I told him that I would walk to Spain if I could work together with those two. A year later I was there working together with Steen. Sadly he was dismissed a short time later by the Spanish Association. I was offered the job as a National coach but I declined because I wanted to continue working in Barcelona.**

What is the difference between working with grown up professionals and young talents?

**With the grown ups the work is a lot more detailed. They are ready and there are little details you can improve on. With the juniors you work on a wider range and you see much more changes.**

Do you prefer to work with the youngsters?

**Every job has got its attractive sides. With young players you can see progress nearly on a daily basis whereas it goes really slowly with adults. To work with youngsters is a very rewarding task.**

You started relatively late to play table tennis when you were twelve years old in 1966. That means that you have been involved in table tennis for more than 40 years. What did change?

**Good question, nearly everything. Table tennis has become a completely different sport. Athleticism has become more important, the game has become a lot more complex and also more complete because you play with both sides. Then there is all the material and rules development. In table tennis something is happening all the time. Now we wait for the development of the gluing prohibition after the Olympic Games in Peking. There are always new challenges.**

And what has changed in training?

**Training did not become more in quantity but the intensity has clearly increased. I also think that the knowledge about optimal training has increased. Therefore the quality of training has improved a lot. Formerly there were a lot more experiments.**

You say the quantity of training has not increased. Are the training sessions shorter now?

**It is not as simple as that. You must look at that individually. There are some players where there is more stress on feeling, others play more physically or more athletic. There is no general rule how long you have to train, you must train sufficiently. The training must be coordinated with the tournament program optimally. The relation between work and breaks must be right.**

Some of your colleagues said if Europe doesn't watch it then Asia is soon running very far away from us. There is hardly anyone following Boll and Samsonov. How do you see this development?

**I would sign that straight away as well. We must try to work together in Europe. We must create bigger training groups with different playing systems and more coaches who work together across the borders. Some individual coaches and associations are aiming for that. I hope that will be possible in the future. The European top players are quite old on average. So we have to start with the juniors.**

Wrong training concepts and methods are not the reason for the gap between Europe and Asia?

**I can't judge about that because I don't see the work of my colleagues. I am going to China once a year with some players. The training there is not so different. I believe that the number of good players is much higher. If I have got one thousand good players the probability that I will have some very good players is much higher. If I have ten or one hundred players the chances are much lower. That for me is the biggest difference. Probably also the number of coaches because they don't think only in the direction of one playing system but work with the players much more individually and according to their special abilities. Table tennis is an individual sport and therefore you must consider the particular strength of each individual.**

Let's have a look at Spanish table tennis. 15 years ago Spain was nearly a „nobody“ in Europe. A lot has happened during the last years. Granada has a strong club representative in the Champions League. What has changed?

**Now there is more money available, also because of Granada, which becomes stronger from year to year and plays a serious role in the Champions League. Other clubs followed. Germany and France have the strongest leagues in Europe and Spain is now not far away from that. It is still weaker than the German Bundesliga but clearly better than the 2. German Bundesliga. There are many Chinese and other foreigners in Spain. The media became more interested and there is a lot table tennis on regional TV. Even the big Spanish newspapers are having a close eye on table tennis. There is still a long way ahead of us but I am very positive about the development. A lot of things are up and going.**

There must be a lot of table tennis outside because of the good weather conditions.

**Yes, of course. Especially mini ping pong is very popular, a game on smaller boards. This is also a good opportunity to get more children interested to join clubs.**

If you had a wish what should be changed or improved in table tennis, what would that be?

**At the moment I don't see any need for further changes. We had enough of that in the recent past. What I would like to see is more recognition and acknowledgement for our table tennis sport.**

## A forehand flip variation from the backhand side

In our Newsletter issues 8 and 9 from 2006 we looked at Petr Korbel's backhand „Chiquita“ flip, a flip which demands a lot of feeling and produces side spin. In this issue we are looking at a forehand side spin flip which is demonstrated by the Japanese top player Yosuke Kurashima.

**Picture 1 – Starting position:** Yosuke is standing in the classic neutral position on the backhand side to return a serve. His legs are a bit more than shoulder wide apart and the bat is in the neutral position in front of his body. The upper body is slightly bent forward and the bodyweight rests on the front of his feet.



On **picture 2** we can see that Yosuke pushes off with his left foot and the right foot is lifted off the ground first. He has recognized the serve variety and placement because otherwise he wouldn't move so early into position. Simultaneously he closes the bat slightly.

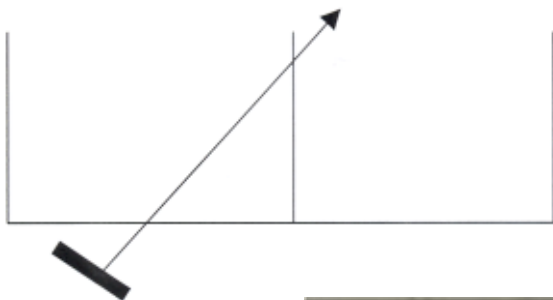
# 14 Technique Tips

A comparison between **picture 2** and **picture 3** shows the step forwards. He shifts his body weight to the right foot and he moves his arm to the forehand side with the bat angle closed. He lowers his body weight and his feet remain parallel. **Picture 4** shows us that Yosuke is anticipating the coming ball precisely concerning the flight path, the placement and spin because the bat is already at the point where he expects to hit the ball. The bat angle is closed and the Japanese has taken back his wrist to achieve an optimal angle for the flip. On **picture 5** we can see that he takes the wrist back so much to be able to play the ball back diagonally



# 15 Technique Tips

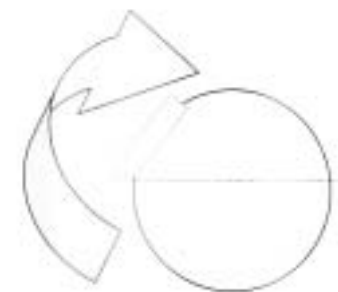
In *illustration 1* this becomes also clear.



**Picture 6** has been taken just before making contact with the ball and shows that Yosuke's body weight is lowered even more and his right leg is lifted off the ground to be set down at the moment of contact with the ball for achieving optimal balance (**picture 7**). Yosuke meets the ball. Some players stamp their foot at this moment.



Now let's have a look at the arm movement. When making contact with the ball the player wipes the bat with his forearm and wrist in a semi circle over the ball like a windscreen wiper to produce side-top spin rotation (*ill.2*). This side spin flip movement is only possible if the coming ball has side -, side-top- or top spin.



# 16 Technique Tips

**Pictures 7 – 9 – Swinging out:** When we compare picture 6 to pictures 7/8 it becomes obvious, that the Japanese turns the bat in a semi-circle with his wrist and forearm and produces side-spin that way. This short movement demands a lot of feeling for the ball. If you don't anticipate the spin of the coming ball correctly the flip is going to fail. After making contact with the ball Yosuke pushes off speedily with his right foot to come back to the neutral position.

