

Butterfly® NEWS

2009 03

Europe Top 12 - Düsseldorf

Timo Boll triumphant for the fourth time

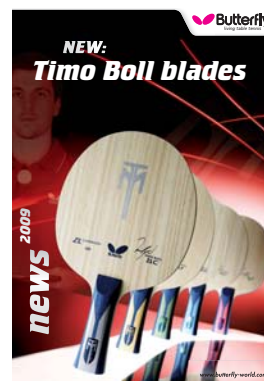
The best European players had to go to the „cave of the lion“ to challenge Timo Boll at the Continental Ranking Tournament, the Europe Top 12. In the end Boll won his fourth title but the European Champion needed all the support he could get in a tricky situation. More about this on the next page!

Butterfly in a new Internet Outfit!



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Table Tennis Friends!

Finally the time has come for our new internet appearance. While we were designing the web we paid special attention to make our internet pages dynamic, functional and individual for our customers. You are welcome to give us a feedback about our new pages. Best wishes, Hideyuki Kamizuru



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Europe Top 12 2009

Timo Boll triumphant for the fourth time



The Butterfly on his chest lends Timo Boll its wings and the necessary support of the spectators gave him the needed back wind in his home town Duesseldorf: with this unbeatable support Germany's superstar Timo Boll secured his fourth title at the European Top 12 2009 after 2002 in Rotterdam, 2003 in Saarbruecken and 2006 in Copenhagen. Altogether the success of the Butterfly men couldn't have been much better at the continental ranking tournament. Additionally to Boll, Michael Maze (Denmark) and the Greek Kalinikos Kreanga climbed onto the winning podium for third places after good performances.

The only player who could interfere in the Butterfly phalanx was Boll's permanent opponent the White Russian Vladimir Samsonov. In an exciting new edition of the final of the European Championships Boll, the favourite of the tournament could win the title despite being 3:1 down just like in St. Petersburg and is now with three EC titles, winner of the Super Cup and the Europe Top 12 the outstanding player of the old continent. Winning the title means at the same time collecting important world ranking points and the best preconditions to remain number four on the ranking list and be seeded as number four at the World Championships 2009 in Yokohama to gain a desirable medal in the singles.

Before reaching the final Boll has eliminated Michael Maze in the semi-finals easily. Maze acknowledged without envy: „I played a good tournament and am very happy to have reached the semi-final, but Timo was in a class of his own at this Europe Top 12.“ The humble European Champion Boll beat the Romanian Adrian Crisan and Butterfly player Zoran Primorac without losing a set during the preliminary round in group A on the first day. In the Quarterfinals he beat Austrian's defensive artist Chen Weixing. Boll pays respect to his opponent in the final: „That final was very even and didn't deserve a loser. After being down 3:1 I got back into the game thanks to my

6. March - 8. March 2009

**77. National German Championship,
Bielefeld**

11. March - 15. March 2009

**Pro Tour: Indian Open,
Indore**

19. March - 22. March 2009

**German Open,
Bremen**

28. April - 5. May 2009

**Single-Worldchampionship,
Yokohama (Japan)**

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Manfred Schillings

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good equipment and the support of the spectators. This victory in Duesseldorf was something special for me and I am grateful to Butterfly and the spectators.“

You were looking in vain for defending Champion Werner Schlager in the result lists. Austria's Tamasu Star did not take part on short notice because he became father of a boy during the week – one month earlier than expected.



In the women's event there was no Butterfly player on the winning podium. The Croatian Tamara Boros and Daniela Dodean (Romania) reached at least the quarterfinals where Wu Jiaduo (Germany) and the winner Li Qian (Poland) stopped their way to the medals. Tamara Boros presented herself after the losing the quarterfinal in usual fighting spirits: „That was

a missed opportunity today because I was leading so often and lost. But I will continue to work to get back to my former level.“

Tamara Boros as well as some other of the female competitors for example the Austrian Liu Jia appeared in Duesseldorf with a sticker on their shirts which expressed their support and sympathy for Sandra Paovic who was a victim in a bad traffic accident. The sticker says it all: „Sandra! Keep fighting! We are with you!“

Short – interview with Timo Boll

You left your fans waiting for three years until you finally managed to win a title again. . .

„You can't plan titles. But the early losses in the preliminary round of the previous year because of my injury didn't suit me at all. Therefore I am very happy now that I finally won that tournament again.“

You played a final of which you thought it didn't deserve a loser. . .

Yes, that match was so even and on such a high level that it was a pity that one of us had to lose. As there is no draw in table tennis I am glad that the winner's name was Timo Boll in the end. . .

The final was very close indeed especially considering that you were 0:2 and 1:3 down in sets. . .

„That is true but I always believed in my chances because I lost the fourth set very close. In fact it is not easy to win three sets in a row against a player like Vladi.“

What is helpful in such a tight situation like against Samsonov?

Well, the quality of your own game, mental strength and self – confidence are important. Apart from that it is very important that I can rely on the quality of my material such as it is the case with Butterfly. Additionally the support of the spectators helped me a lot. A very big thank you for that.“



44th German Open in Bremen

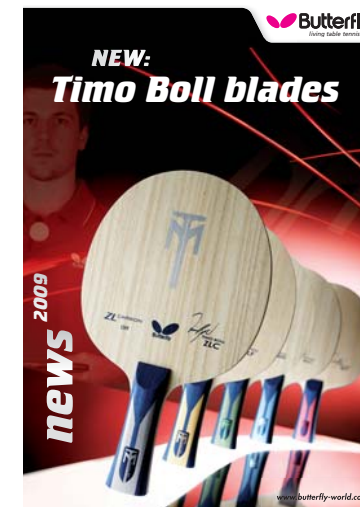
Last year's winner Timo Boll is the title aspirant number one in absences of China's aces

Timo Boll is the reigning triple European Champion, the winner of the German, Austrian, Polish and Kuwait Open as well as the European Super Cup and the Europe Top 12 – and all that during the last five months. When you dish out the roles of the favourites at tournaments around the world there are only three who could be placed ahead of their most dangerous European opponent: the number one of the World Ranking List Wang Hao, the Olympic Champion Ma Lin and the Grand Final winner Ma Long. China's aces will not take part in the German Open in Bremen from the 19th – 22nd of March so that they can prepare themselves for the World Championships at the end of April in Yokohama. Enough small talk: At the 44th International championships of Germany Timo Boll is again the hottest favourite for the title.

Boll is as usual humble about his role as a favourite: „Naturally I am one of the candidates for a medal but there are a few of those in Bremen, for example the number six of the World Ranking List Vladimir Samsonov from White Russia who is always a candidate for the title.“ Germany's world star is seeded number one in Bremen before Samsonov but after Boll the finalist of the 43rd Championship from last November in Berlin, Chuan Chuh-Yuan (Taiwan), the semi-finalist Cheung Yuk (Hong Kong) and Denmark's WC third Michael Maze three further Butterfly Aces are seeded among the top eight. Additionally some more players with the Butterfly on their chest must be considered for possible medals: the EC third Robert Gardos (Austria), Japan's further improved talent Jun Mizutani as well as the routine players Zoran Primorac (Croatia) and Petr Korbel (Czech). In opposite to those the Austrian Werner

Schlager leaves everybody waiting for his return to the international tournament scene. The World Champion from 2003 is still taking a break after the birth of his son at the beginning of February.

In the women's event China's superstars are also not represented among the seeded players because of their preparation for the WC so that the top positions go to three players of the Olympic Silver Medallist Singapore and Butterfly partner Tie Yana from Hong Kong. From the European point of view Krisztina Toth (Hungary), Tamara Boros (Croatia), Daniela Dosean (Romania), Viktoria Pavlovic (White Russia), Wenling Tan-Monfardini (Italy) and the surprising semi-finalist of the German Open 2008, the Italian Nikoleta Stefanova may have the biggest hopes to get close to the medal ranks.



World Champion Werner Schlager - part 24: Career

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. In the current ranking of the World Ranking List of January he is number 13. In September he won a bronze medal in the singles and a Silver medal in the doubles with the Dutch Trinko Keen at the European Championships in St. Petersburg. 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, endurance 1, endurance 2, strength, power, coordination, psychology 1, psychology 2, Training

With many top players the parents were the basis for success. It is well known that your father taught you to play table tennis. He was also your first coach. Which part does your father have in your career?

A great deal of my success is down to my father. Although he was only a hobby player himself, he was technically far ahead of his time. His courage to go unconventional ways made it possible for me to become one of the best players in the world.

The combination of parents and children is not always working in top sports. What should parents take care of that this doesn't fail?



They should respect the opinion of the child. The main problems arise when the parents are too dominating. The true art is to find the right individual balance for their child between control and freedom.

When did you leave your father and why was that good?

When I was 16 years old. My father and I had more and more different opinions concerning technique. After a little while a separation couldn't be avoided.

Who was your first club coach and what made him special?

There was no typical club coach for me. After the separation of my father I went my own (technical) way. He accompanied me for a few more years until I joined the army.

What do you expect of a good coach?

a) at junior level:

He should help to develop the individually correct technique

b) young professional age:

He should teach him the general understanding of the game and help at the basis to develop the individual correct playing concept.

c) during further professional years:

He should take part in the work to improve and adjust this individual playing concept.

Looking at your career, one can notice that it wasn't heading straight up to your great success and that you have shown extreme endurance and persistence to celebrate your greatest success in 2003 by winning the Single World Championships. What were deciding mile stones in your career which were eventually leading up to it?

At the beginning the correct technical basis was deciding. Later on probably my own efforts were my most important talent. Even now my courage to be open for something new is very important.

Each career is different. Every player is a different person. Still there are some things they have in common. Which factors are necessary to become a great player?

It is not enough to fulfil certain factors (talent and effort). You must also be lucky that other people make the right decisions.

Talent alone is not enough, neither is training. Do you have to be born to be a champion?

No. The individual right mixture from the well known factors and surrounding circumstances are deciding.

Are there any abilities children or youngsters have where you can see that they might become a great one?

I can see if somebody has the potential for that. If he will manage to go all the way I can't tell.

When do you have to start nowadays with intensive table tennis training if you want to make it to the top?

The earlier, the better. I hardly know any top player who started to train table tennis after being 10 years old.

Table tennis has developed to an attractive professional sport. The best European and Asian players are earning sums which should range between 500.000 and 1.000.000€. But that only applies to the top stars. Many players in the first national leagues (Germany, France, Spain a.s.o.) manage quite well. Would you advise your child to play table tennis as a professional sport and promote it accordingly?

Of course. The financially possible income should not decide the support of the parents. It should be much more important to learn a profession which you enjoy.

If you are looking back to your career did you notice some mistakes which might have hindered your development for a while?

Of course. Most of the mistakes I made I wouldn't like to have missed.

Your career is still not finished. You are still playing on a very high level and you are number 3 in Europe. How would you summarize your career in table tennis and where are you going the next years?

I think that I will slowly bring my career to an end now. Soon I will give my collected knowledge to the Werner Schlager Academy. I am really looking forward to that.



Without my parents ... *I can't and don't want to imagine that.*

Great talents... *often remain undiscovered.*

A great career in table tennis... *means a lot of work.*

Who starts at the age of 15, ... *is too late.*

The job of a table tennis professional ... *is not always easy but well worth it.*

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red/black

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€ 46⁹⁰

TENERGY 25
1,7/1,9/2,1,
red/black,
product available
from May 2009



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TENERGY 64
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red/black

blades



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AN/FL/ST, Hinoki + 5ply



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KEYSHOT-LIGHT OFF
AN/FL/ST, Arylate + 3ply

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€ 69⁹⁰
TROLLEY
 Jacquard Polyester
 Color: black/dark silver/red
 Size: 45x32x18 cm

bags
STYLE
€ 24⁹⁰
SHOULDER BAG
 Jacquard Polyester
 Color: black/dark silver/red
 Size: 35x32x13 cm

MAXI BAG
 Jacquard Polyester
 Color: black/dark silver/red
 Size: 80x44x34 cm

BACKPACK **€ 24⁹⁰**
 Jacquard Polyester
 Color: black/dark silver/red
 Size: 40x28x12 cm

€ 79⁹⁰

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10 Products of the month

men

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ARION

100% Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: navy/royal/light silver,
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Size: 3XS - 4XL

Products available
from May 2009



€ 39⁹⁰

TENGU

100% Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: black/white/magenta
Size: 3XS - 4XL

€ 19⁹⁰

INO

100% Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: black/lime, navy/royal,
red/black/silver/black
Size: 3XS - 4XL



ladies

€ 36⁹⁰

STYX

100% Micro Polyester
Color: black/silver/orange,
green/yellow/navy
Size: 3XS - 3XL



€ 39⁹⁰

TENGU LADY

100% Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: black/white/magenta,
magenta/white/black
Size: XS - XL

€ 24⁹⁰

BELIA

100% Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: black, royal
Size: XS - XL



€ 39⁹⁰

CUPIDO

100% Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: red/white/silver
Size: 3XS - 4XL

€ 19⁹⁰

BIG LOGO

100% Cotton
Color: dark red/silver
Size: 1,40 x 0,70 m



tracksuits

€ 99⁹⁰

ARION

100% japanese elasticated
Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: navy/royal/light silver
Size: 3XS - 4XL



€ 99⁹⁰

TENGU

100% japanese elasticated
Micro Dryfit Polyester
Color: black/white/magenta
Size: 3XS - 4XL



€ 89⁹⁰

CUPIDO

100% plain Micro Polyester
Color: nine iron/opal/red/white
Size: 3XS - 4XL



jackets

€ 44⁹⁰

SPIRIS RED

Micro Fleece/Solstihell
Color: red/silver
Size: 3XS - 4XL



€ 129⁹⁰

RUBI

Outside: Polyester, Inside: Polyamid,
Inner jacket: Micro Fleece
Color: dark red/red/black
Size: 3XS - 4XL



Inner jacket

Products available
from May 2009

€ 29⁹⁰

WARM UP FLEECE

100% Micro Fleece
Color: grey
Size: 3XS - 4XL



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DTTL live in China

The well-known media SMG – Shanghai media Group is going to send a weekly highlight summary of the top games of the German Table Tennis League (DTTL). Apart from China Central Television (CCTV) the Shanghai Media Group is one of the leading media conglomerates of the peoples Republic of China with their 13 analogue TV stations, more than 90 digital TV stations, 11 radio stations and numerous mobile and internet portals. Altogether four stations will send the highlights of the DTTL, which can be received by more than 100million people. All 45 minute lasting highlight formats will be produced from the contenthouse GmbH in Ismaning in close cooperation with Plazamedia and Creation Club. Benno Neumueller, managing director of contenthouse GmbH: „It is our target to spread the news from the DTTL in Germany but also around the world via the classical mass medium TV as well as via the new media internet and mobile. No other sport connects the two world powers Germany and China more than table tennis. With the rapidly increasing spreading of the DTTL we establish the preconditions for optimal marketing of advertising spaces which starts at the barriers close to the center court and goes all the way to the Naming right of the whole League.“

Butterfly now also in Korea



With the foundation of Tamasu Butterfly Korea Inc. in Seoul the trademark Butterfly strengthens its service in Korean table tennis circles. The opening ceremony of the new office was celebrated among others with the former Butterfly player Yoo Nam Kyu (Olympic Champion 1988) and Kim Taek Soo (Winner of the Asian Games 1998) on the 20th of February. The team of Tamasu Butterfly Korea (TBK) takes over all marketing to guarantee the success of the trademark Butterfly in Korea. Picture (from left to right) Hideko Konishi (export department, Japan), Jin Ho Cha (CEO, TBK), Shunsaku Yamada (President, Japan), Kenzo Yamamatsu (Sales leader, Japan), jai Louk Park (Finances, TBK)

Proud Father

At the Europe Top 12 tournament the Ex-World Champion Werner Schlager was not present. His absence had a good reason: Schlager's partner Bettina Mueller gave birth to a boy: Nick, 3.2.2009, 46cm, 2970g. The picture shows the proud dad.



ITTF World Ranking, Mens (02/2009)



1	WANG Hao CHN	16	SCHLAGER Werner AUT
2	MA Lin CHN	17	MAZE Michael DEN
3	MA Long CHN	18	LI Ching HKG
4	BOLL Timo GER	19	JIANG Tianyi HKG
5	WANG Liqin CHN	20	PERSSON Jörgen, SWE
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	KAN Yo JPN
7	Chen Qi CHN	22	GAO Ning SIN
8	HAO Shuai CHN	23	KO Lai Chak HKG
9	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	24	CRISAN Adrian ROU
10	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	25	CHEN Weixing, AUT
11	RYU Seung Min KOR	26	HOU Yingchao CHN
12	OH Sang Eun KOR	27	YOON Jae Young KOR
13	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	28	PRIMORAC Zoran, HRV
14	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij GER	29	MITZUTANI Jun JPN
15	CHEUNG Yuk HKG	30	LEE Jung Woo KOR

Butterfly-players are marked!

ITTF World Ranking, Women (02/2009)



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

João Pedro Monteiro, Portugal

„You can improve on everything in the game“



Joao Pedro Monteiro is the number one of his home country Portugal. Together with Marcos Freitas (23) and Tiago Apolonia (20) the 25 year old builds the Portuguese National Team of which quite a few experts think that they have got great potential. Four years ago the Butterfly player left his home country to become a table tennis professional first in Germany and now in Italy to develop his game

further. It is not possible to do this in Portugal. The main target for the ambitious attacking player is to become one of the top 20 on the World Ranking List.

Joao, you are the number 1 in Portugal and number 55 on the World Ranking List. You, Marcos Freitas and Tiago Apolonia are part of a young dynamic and hopeful team considering the sporting outlook in Europe. How did Portuguese table tennis manage to achieve that?

We really have a good team with Marcos and Tiago. We work together as long as we play table tennis. Table tennis is still a little sport in Portugal. As long as we played in the junior classes we had very good results in Europe. It became more of a problem when we became seniors. In Portugal there is no professional table tennis. So I had to make a decision and went to Germany. That way I took an important step forward and Marco and Tiago followed me otherwise we wouldn't be there where we are.

Didn't the results which you and your team mates achieved have some positive effects on Portuguese table tennis?

We are very good at the basis. We have got a good structure in top sport with the cadets and juniors. The problem is the transition to the seniors. In Portugal there is no money for professional table tennis. That is the same for all the other sports. Apart from football, they find money everywhere. So we must go abroad: Germany, France, Italy and Denmark. There we have strong training partners and can earn enough money by playing table tennis.

When did you start playing table tennis and how did you get there?

Right, when I was 9 years old. Before I always played ping pong with my cousins in the summer holidays in Switzerland. The former coach Philippe Meral came to my school in Lisbon, saw me, and told me that I had good presuppositions to become a good table tennis player and invited me to training. I was fascinated and since then I have a great passion for table tennis.

Why? What is so attractive about table tennis?

I really enjoy watching long spectacular rallies in table tennis. Even my friends were surprised how attractive and fast table tennis can be when they watched me the first time.

How long did you play in Germany?

I played three years for TTF Liebherr Ochsenhausen and then joined Sterilgarda TT Castelgoffredo in Italy at the beginning of this season. With Mihai Bobocica and Guo Jinhao we have a young team which is coached by

Yang Min. He is still a good player and good sparring and he has a lot of experience. Apart from that we have a lot of young Chinese training partners so that our training is on a high level. We want to become Italian Champion and play good matches in the Champions League.

You are now 25 years old and surely you have got some plans for the future...

Of course, I am sure that I can develop further with Yang Min and the young team.

Are you thinking of technique? Are there weaknesses in your game?

Basically you can improve on everything in your game. If you look at Timo Boll or Vladimir Samsonov you will see that they are making less simple mistakes than lower classed players. This means hard work but not only on your weaknesses but also on your strengths that they become even stronger.

How important is the head?

That is important in all sports. Somebody who has a good game, a good technique and a strong head is difficult to beat.

Let's talk about the future again. At the moment you are ranked 55 on the World Ranking List and after reaching the quarterfinals at the European championships in St. Petersburg you even climbed up to number 46. Where do you want to get on World Ranking List?

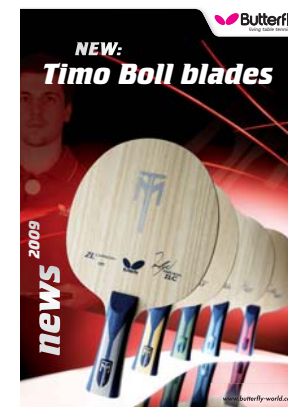
On the World Ranking List I want to get into the top 20. I would also like to win some medals at World – or European Championships in the singles, doubles or team events. I was close already in St. Petersburg.

The obligatory question at the end of our interview: What would you change in table tennis if it was up to you?

I would like more TV coverage. Obviously that has improved already during the past years but it is still not enough. We need much more to make table tennis more popular. Around the world we need more TV coverage that should be a target of the ITTF.

What is your big dream in table tennis?

When I have the feeling that I did the best in a certain situation and people say, the boy from Portugal played quite good table tennis. And perhaps some children – not only in Portugal – say: „I would like to play like that.“



Werner Schlager's forehand counter topspin at/over the table

Werner Schlager, World Champion in the men's single in 2003, is still one of the five best Europeans. The Austrian is a player who kept developing his game over the years and adjusted it successfully to the demands of the game. The following picture series shows us a forehand topspin variety which is played close to the table, only using the playing arm with parallel feet. This „economical“, because of the very short forehand topspin movement, has the advantage that it can be executed effectively despite the time pressure of the opponents attack. The forehand counter topspin enables a player to change a passive starting position suddenly into an active one.

This topspin variety might look easy but it isn't. The counter topspin demands optimal timing of your own stroke movement and the player must anticipate the ball optimally concerning rotation and placement so that he can adjust the bat angle the speed of the arm movement and the moment of making contact with the ball accurately. The execution of the movement of this relatively short forehand topspin movement looks different from player to player. Some of them play it with their playing arm bent (for example Timo Boll), others play it with their arm stretched out like Werner Schlager in this picture series. This is a different style in technique. All the top players have in common that the short counter topspin variety at the table is a part of their stroke repertoire because that gives them the chance to counter hit a topspin of the opponent, by doing that surprising the opponent and getting back into the deciding role at the table. The reason for the high risk of a mistake lies less in the execution of the movement than in the wrong analysis of the coming ball. If you estimate the spin wrong, the counter topspin will fail.

Now let's have a look at Werner Schlager's forehand counter topspin with a short stroke movement. We get a view from the side (pictures 1-6) and from the back (pictures A-C) which are not identical strokes.

Pictures 1-3 + A – Backswing: Werner is standing with his feet parallel and a little bit more than shoulder wide apart slightly square to the table. He is starting the backswing because he takes his playing arm backwards and down (picture 1).



16 Technique Tips

On **pictures 2/3** Werner puts his bat into an optimal starting position for the following stroke. The stroke starts relatively high at about the height of the table (**see also picture A**). Altogether Werner has lowered the weight of his body by bending his knees and hips but when we look at the feet we see that he has kept the basic position from **picture 1**. At the end of the backswing the playing arm is almost completely stretched. This becomes also clear on **picture A** from the back. The typical twist of the hips for a forehand topspin stroke towards the playing arm is not there. This means that the following stroke is played mainly with the arm and shoulder so that the whole topspin movement is very short and economical. This must be like that because otherwise the player doesn't have the time to hit the ball so early at the table.

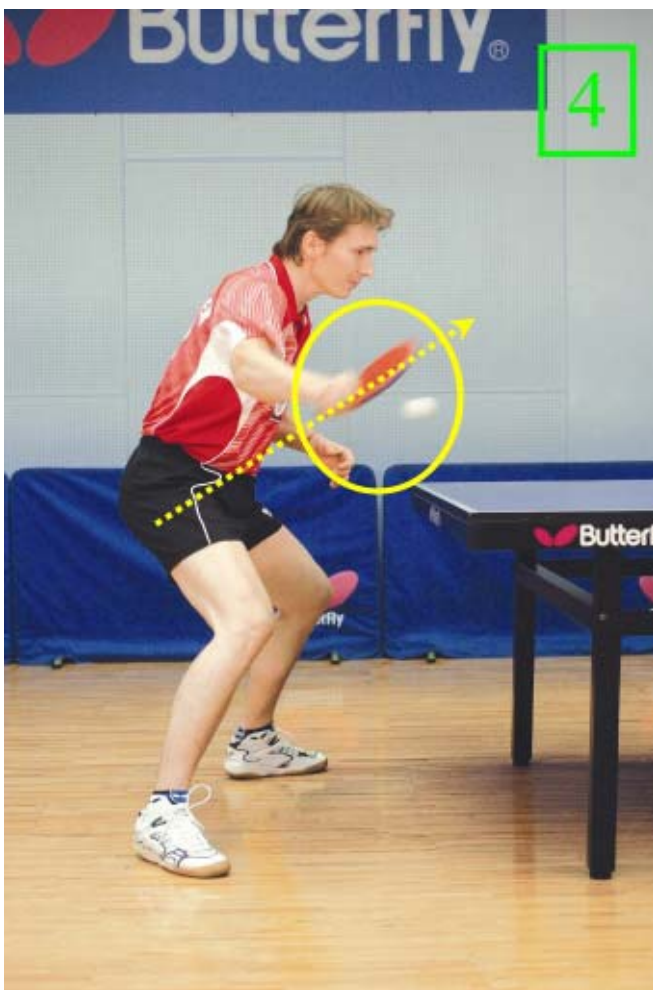


17 Technique Tips

Pictures 4-6 + B/C – Stroke and follow through: **Picture 4** shows Werner just after having made contact with the ball; **picture B** probably just when contacting the ball. Both pictures confirm,

- that Werner's arm is almost completely stretched at the moment when he makes contact with the ball
- that he hits the ball very early just behind (**picture 4**) or even above the table (**picture B**)
- that neither the upper body nor the legs are intensively involved, so that the topspin is mainly played only with the arm and the shoulder.

The bat angle is closed and the path of the bat is flat and points forwards and up.



18 Technique Tips

The follow through shows that Werner's counter topspins from the side (**pictures 5/6**) and from the back (**picture C**) are different and that it is not the same stroke. On **pictures 5/6** Werner's follow through is very short. On **picture 6** he is taking the bat back to the neutral position. Comparing **picture 3 and 5** we can see how short the stroke is with this counter topspin variety. The same accounts for the counter topspin from the back view (**picture C**). The stroke from the back view seems to be much harder than the one from the side, because the follow through ends beside the head and there is a shifting of weight from the right to the left leg.



Conclusion: Every ambitious attacking top player should be in command of a forehand topspin at/over the table. The same principle for all topspins applies here as well, which means that also with this short variety the playing arm and the timing is very important. The counter topspin is an active answer and surely the most effective stroke against topspins from the opponent.

4th International Butterfly Table Tennis Summercamp of the Hessian Tabletennis Association

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