

Butterfly® NEWS

2008

01



Yes, we won the cup, hurray!

European Champion Timo Boll has targets for this season

Yes, we did it. Timo Boll, the 26 year old new Borussia player showed some emotions, when he stretched his fist in the air and jumped up after beating the sensationally good Japanese, Seiya Kishikawa from the opponents SV Werder Bremen in the final match. That was the signal for the 50 fans from Borussia to start celebrating. Yes, we won the German Club Cup, hurray! For the 18th time.

Congratulations to the successful Butterfly – Team!

www.butterfly-world.com

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Good Luck Beijing Pro Tour Grand Finals

Olympic Test: Gold, Silver and Bronze for China's Butterflies Guo and Zhang

The final rehearsal was successful considering the colours of the medals! About eight months before the start of the Olympic Games the two Butterfly players Guo Yue and Zhang Yining won Gold, Silver and Bronze at the „Good Luck Beijing“ Pro Tour Grand Finals 2007 in Peking. The World Champion Guo Yue could climb up the pedestal twice winning a Gold medal in the doubles but lost a bit surprisingly in six sets against her doubles partner Li Xiaoxia in the singles final. The Olympic Champion Zhang Yining won a Bronze Medal in the singles for the house Tamasu.



Against successful: Guo Yue

China's Butterflies Guo and Zhang both had to give way to their fellow countryman Li Xiaoxia, who won both matches in six sets. It was a high class final and Guo won all her previous matches without major problems. She beat the Japanese media star Ai Fukuhara in her first single, losing only one set. Afterwards she won 4:0 against the Hong Kong Chinese Jiang Huajun. Before her defeat against Li, Zhang Yining didn't have any problems in beating Li Jia Wei from Singapore in the quarterfinals. One round earlier though against another Butterfly player, Hong Kong's number one Tie Yana, she came close to losing the match when Tie could not turn a 3:1 lead in sets into a victory.

The best male Butterfly could take a sigh of relief. After injury problems during the summer and a few painful losses against China's top stars in autumn the number five of the World Ranking List, Timo Boll, made his presence known again just in time for announcing his medal claims for the Olympic Games. This time it wasn't quite enough for a medal but the German top player from the Butterfly Club Borussia Duesseldorf pressed the number one seed, Ma Lin hard when he lost 4:2 in close sets at the Grand Finals. The European Champion who beat his club mate Dimitrij Ochtarov in the first round commented on his Olympic rehearsal: „In autumn I

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

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



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Impressum:
Editor + Kontakt
Yuki Kamizuru, 02841/90532-0

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didn't win a set against the top Chinese players. Now you could see that the Chinese may also get into tricky situations at home. You could notice that this was an important game for Ma Lin. Nearly all Chinese coaches were watching very carefully what was happening. The pressure on the Chinese is now already very high and that will be even more so during the Olympics.“

Despite his good performance against the new title holder Boll was not so happy about his missed chances in the first, fourth and sixth set: „My performance was o.k. but the result could have been better. It is very important for me to get the feeling here in the Olympic Hall that I have a chance against the Chinese.



Even more so if I can manage to reach my top form until the Olympic Games in August.

The important thing though is that the direction is right.“

Boll knows as well that his chances increase not only if his form keeps improving but also through the limited number of participants

**Splendid achievement against the new title holder:
Timo Boll**

through the IOC. Every nation is only allowed three players maximum which means that Boll will normally be top seeded and not meet one of the top Chinese before the semi finals.

Chuan Chih-Yuan did not reach the quarterfinals in opposite to Boll. The Butterfly player from Taiwan looked a lot better than the 0:4 result against

China's climbing star Ma Long shows and lost very closely in two of the sets.

The Chinese host was well prepared in all aspects for this rehearsal; there were only little details in organisation which are worth improving up to the Olympic Games. From the sports point of view the high expectations were fulfilled by 100% in all four main categories especially as Chinese sportsmen – and women did not lose to any opponent from a foreign nation. Not ready for Olympia at the Peking University Gymnasium were the number of spectators. There is room for 8000 spectators in the table tennis arena and this event was far from being sold out. During the Olympic Summer Games the hall is supposed to be sold out.

Good Luck Beijing!

The results of the final day for Butterfly players

Women Single

Final

Li Xiaoxia CHN - **Guo Yue** CHN 4:2 (5,6,-7,-7,6,9)

Semi-Final

Guo Yue - Guo Yan CHN 4:0 (8,4,8,4)

Li Xiaoxia - **Zhang Yining** CHN 4:2 (7,7,7,-3,-10,13)

Women Doubles

Final

Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia CHN - Park Mi Young/Kim Kyung Ah KOR 4:2 (3,7,-8,3,-7,13)

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 (12/2007)



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

ITTF World Ranking, Women (12/2007)



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

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

„High Tune“ – The substitute for fresh glueing

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- maximum fun

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BRYCE SPEED FX

- Softer sponge
- Offers additional feeling
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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



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 Schager 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-topsin, Flip, smash, ballon defence, backspin defence, block.



This time our technique is the service. Some love it, some hate it. The stroke which opens the game; how important is the serve generally for the game? Can you give us a percentage for that?

The service is without doubt the most important stroke in table tennis. At the same time it is also the visiting card of each player, because the possibilities of variation are endless. A bad serve is very often followed by a loss of a point in the same way as a clever and varied serve often leads to winning a point. The importance of a serve cannot be expressed by percentage.

There are good servers and not so good servers. On top level there are surely differences but not as obvious as with amateurs. How important is the serve for your game.

For me the service is a very important tactical tool.

You prefer serving with your forehand but I think I have also seen you serving with your backhand. What are the advantages of a forehand serve and when is it worth using the backhand variety?

I practice the forehand serve much more and therefore I use the backhand variety very seldom.

Have you got one secret serve which you keep for important match situations to surprise your opponent?

I have got some service varieties which I use very consciously. I would not call it a secret serve though.

There are only a few players like Samsonov, Primorac, Saive and now Ochtarov who serve frequently with their backhand. Is that because of their aptitude, their former coaches or just coincidence?

I would call it preference. A preference which is connected with their aptitude. Not so much in the case of Samsonov (more a tactical variety) than with other players.

Would you tell younger players to practice forehand and backhand serve equally much?

Yes, of course. Personal preferences should be supported.

You played in Magdeburg against the young German Dimitrij Ochtarov. When I saw him a year ago for the first time I noticed straight away his unconventional serves. Side spin serves with the forehand from a low down position like you could see them during the 60ies and 70ies and backhand side spin serves which remind me of Stellan Bengtson or Peter Stellwag. Wang Liqin had big problems with these during the German Open in Bremen. Does this mean that everything is possible with serves?

It shows that serve varieties can be very effective every now and again. The more attention is drawn to a special technique the more it is going to be analysed and loses its effectiveness. Therefore all top players must permanently think of new varieties. That is the only way to survive several years as a world class player.

The serve is connected closely to nerves and self-confidence. You have got to be very relaxed and feel free. Many become too tense when serving and produce direct faults or hand over the advantage to the opponent. Are you familiar with these situations? If yes, what can you do?

Naturally I know these situations. I hope that I have learnt by now to handle them.

In order to stay relaxed does it help to shake your forearm every now and again?

Physiologically: yes. Psychologically: no. The basis for each serve, not counting the technical ability, is the mental constitution. In my experience the tenseness in your hand is rarely a result of too demanding physiological stress on the muscles in your hand.

Which players have the best serves from your point of view at the moment? What is special about them?

Chen Qi or Vladimir Samsonov to name two of many. Naturally it is first of all their technical ability but the best servers are also mentally the strongest.

You are playing against an opponent whose serves cause you great problems. What do you do to improve your returns?

I prove to learn from my mistakes.

Have you won matches because of your own good serves?

Yes, there are some players who have got big problems to return my serves. It is only against weak players that this is the only reason for winning a game.



Are there some matches, which you lost because of the good serves of your opponent?

Yes, a good serve can be a deciding factor for a game.

Do you think precisely about each serve and which variety you want to use or does it happen automatically?

I always think about which variety I am going to use. The execution should happen automatically.

If you look at your service repertoire, how many varieties do you have?

About eight main serves and uncountable varieties.

Some experts maintain that it is better to be in command of less service varieties but to execute these perfectly in point of view of placement, speed and spin. What do you think about this?

It's all a question of style. Is it better to play a few varieties better or have many not quite so good varieties? Both are legitimate and successful strategies.

Can you explain to our readers what an „empty“ serve is and how you play it?

If you want to play a serve without any spin, you should not put any rotation on it when making contact.

How do you practice the serve? Is it part of every session?

I play competition related exercises in each session. So services are always included. Sometimes I practice just serves.

Do you always practice serves in combination with a return or do also take 100 balls out of a box?

Both ways of training are important.

What is the secret about the Chinese serves? Their serves are concerning the movement not the most spectacular but very efficient in games. Is their service practice more extensive and of a better quality?

I think that apart from their technical ability they also achieve above average rotation by their rubbers („China Rubbers“ with a lot of grip) which cause problems for many Europeans.

Especially with the serves we could observe a lot of changes during the last decades. In which direction is the trend going to go from your point of view?

Everything which hasn't been seen for a while will become a trend again for a short while. That happens automatically. I would like to know myself what is coming next.....

When I am serving, I *am very concentrated.*
When it's 10:10 I *serve as if it is 5:5.*
When I serve an ace, I *am really happy.*
When I miss a serve I think: „*Don't lose your nerves now!*“
My serve is *my weapon!*
Service training is boring but *very important.*

Joo Se Hyuk, South Korea

„I would like to play as long as possible“

The South Korean Joo Se Hyuk, 27, is the best defender in the world for years. He won the Silver Medal at the Single World Championships in Paris 2003. At the moment he is ranked number 13 on the World Ranking List. Altogether his best ranking position was 11 in June 2007. The father of two children is a Butterfly player and plays with TACKIFIRE D 2,1mm on his forehand and FEINT LONG II 1,5mm on his backhand. Joo is famous for his extremely good forehand topspins following his own serves and from half distance. His backspin balls played with long pimples are feared by everyone. The spectators love him because of his unbelievable speedy and elegant footwork. But he also knows his limits.

Joo, when did you start playing table tennis?

I was about 10 years old. I didn't enjoy school and learning. My mother and brother took me to table tennis and supported me. Then school was also easier.

Starting at the age of ten you don't know in which direction you will develop. When did it occur to you that you wanted to become a table tennis professional?

After two years aged twelve it became clear to me that table tennis could become my profession. I had made great progress and my prognosis for the future was good.

Who discovered your talents, your coach?

No, my teacher at primary school. We played a lot of table tennis there like in many Korean schools. He told my parents about my talent.

How did your career continue?

I was accepted at a middle school where table tennis was offered as top sport. A former national player was a professional coach there and we sometimes played four to five hours a day.



Weltklasespieler Joo Se Hyuk (li.) mit Butterfly-News-Redaktionsmitglied Bernd-Ulrich Gross

When did you get interested in playing in defence?

During the first year I went through the basic training like everybody else. Then the school coach suggested that I should concentrate on defence.

Why, were you standing too far behind the table?

No, not at all. To speak the truth I didn't know at the time why I should become a defensive player but my coach finally convinced me with the argument that I would later on be more successful with this than with another playing system.

Does South Korea have a tradition with defence?

Not really. Before me there was only Park Lee as an internationally known player. So I am standing a bit out with my Silver Medal from the World championships in Paris in 2003.

When did you have your first great success so that you knew that you were moving further ahead again?

It wasn't one particular success but I played well in the highest national school league and created attention through my results so that I was offered a professional contract by the multi concern DAEWOO when I finished school at the age of 18. That was the break through.

Let's talk about your greatest success up to now, the Vice World Champion in the men's single in Paris in 2003. You were known before from international events and were ranked between 50 and 70 on the World Ranking List. You could not expect a success like that before yourself. How did you feel during this tournament?

Everything went just brilliantly. I felt better from match to match and played my best table tennis ever. And in the final against Werner Schlager I wasn't without chances but he played very clever and consistently.

At the moment you are number 13 of the World Ranking List and the highest ranked defender. The Chinese Hou on rank 16 and the Austrian Chen on place 24 are the only other defenders among the top 50. Is the defence dying?

No, I don't think so. But at the moment the top Chinese like Ma Lin, Wang Liqin and Wang Hao are simply too strong against defence. They don't make many mistakes.

How can defenders probably also win against players of this format?

They have to be absolutely consistent long behind the table and must be attacking even more. All defenders must work on that. Just returning the ball is not enough.

How many hours do you practice on average every day?

Four times a day for one hour. Our practice sessions always last only one hour to achieve higher concentration and intensity. In between there is always at least a break of one hour.

This season you have also played in Europe for the Croatian Champions League representative Zagreb apart from your commitments in South Korea. How do you like Europe?

It is completely different and very interesting for me. I am learning a lot of new things.

Is there a defender who was your idol?

Yes of course: the Japanese Koji Matsushita, who is still playing (no. 58 of the WRL) and the Chinese Ding Song.

Which particular abilities must a defender have to become successful?

Extremely good stamina is very necessary to become a good defender.

After the Olympic Games in 2008 gluing will be finally prohibited. Are the defenders looking forward to that and will it become easier for them in the future?

I don't believe in that.

You are now 27 years old. Your greatest success was the Silver Medal at the World Championship in 2003. What future targets do you have?

To play my best table tennis, then success will come automatically.

How long do you want to continue playing? Many professionals like Saive, Primorac, Roskopf, Persson a.s.o. are still playing excellent table tennis at the age of 36, 37.

As long as possible. That demands hard physical work and I am sure that these players did that very professionally.

Successful serving - Part 1: Basic

*In the first part about serving we looked at basic thoughts in connection with the tactical meaning of the serve and drew critical conclusions why the serve is often neglected in the lower classes in training and concentration. As a **first step we looked at the different phases of the serve and the mental preparation.** Step 2 is dealing with the different positions for serving. (ill.1)*

Phase 1 Preparation

1. Mental preparation (anticipation)
2. Service position

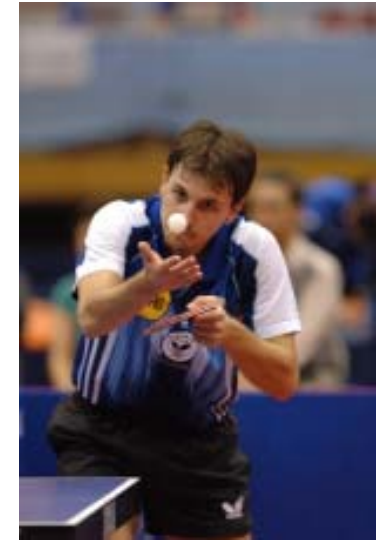
Phase 2 Concentration

3. Taking up service position

Phase 3 Execution

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

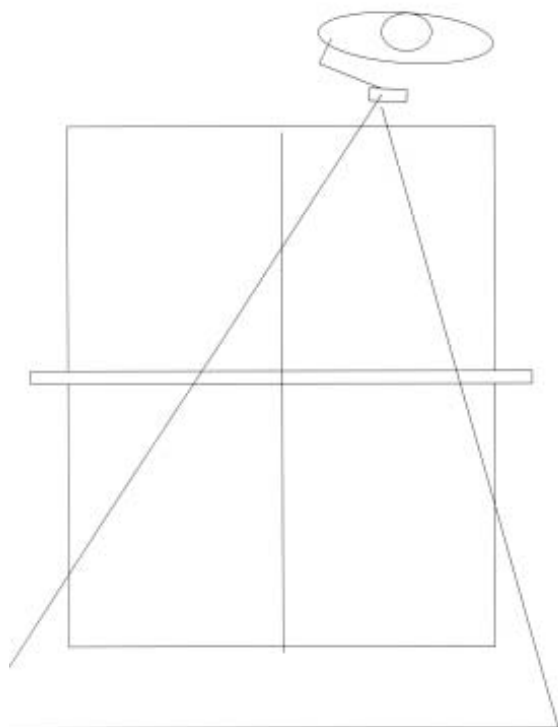
The service: also for Timo Boll an important means for successful play.



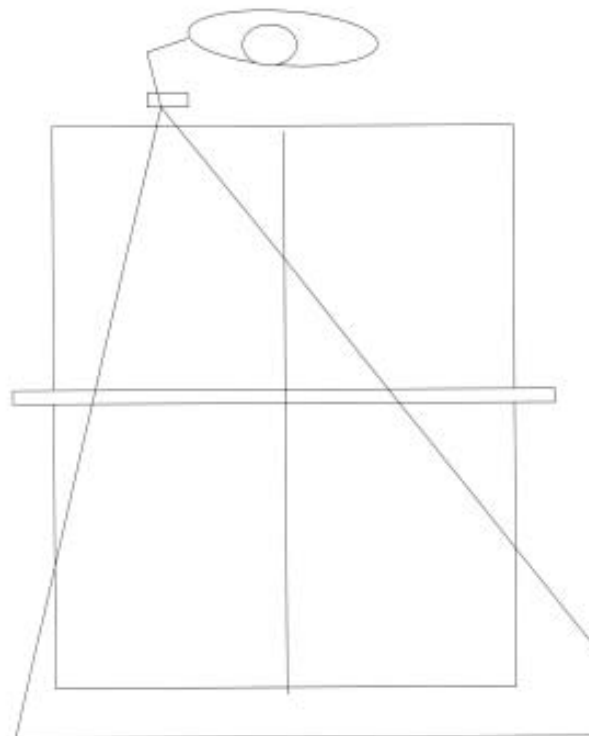
2. The Service Position

Very important for the effect of the serve is the serving position, from where the service is played. Depending on the position from where the serving player is standing the angle of possible placement of the ball can be very different. We are talking about the spreading angle of possible placement. The same is valid for the placement of the ball during a rally.

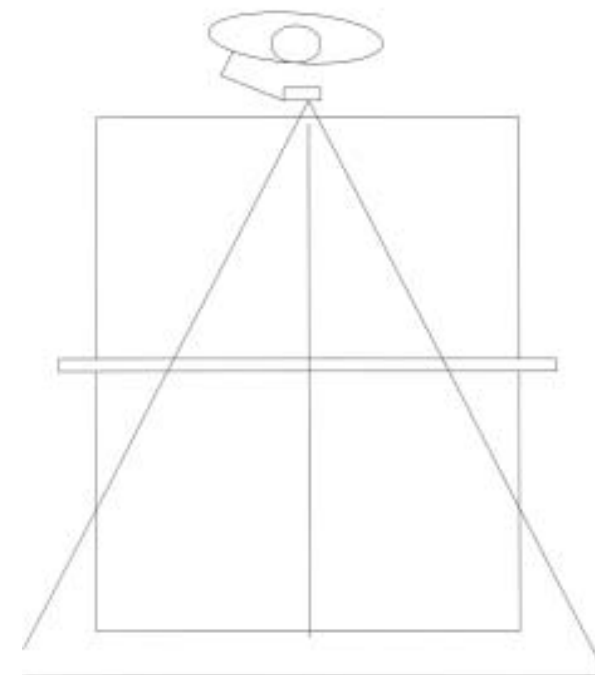
The three illustrations 2a), 2b) and 2c) show how differently the ball can be placed depending on the position of the player to the table. Obviously there are a lot more different positions, which can be used depending on certain strategies.



2a possible angle from the middle of the backhand side



2b possible angle from the middle of the forehand side



2c possible angle from the middle of the table

14 Technique Tips

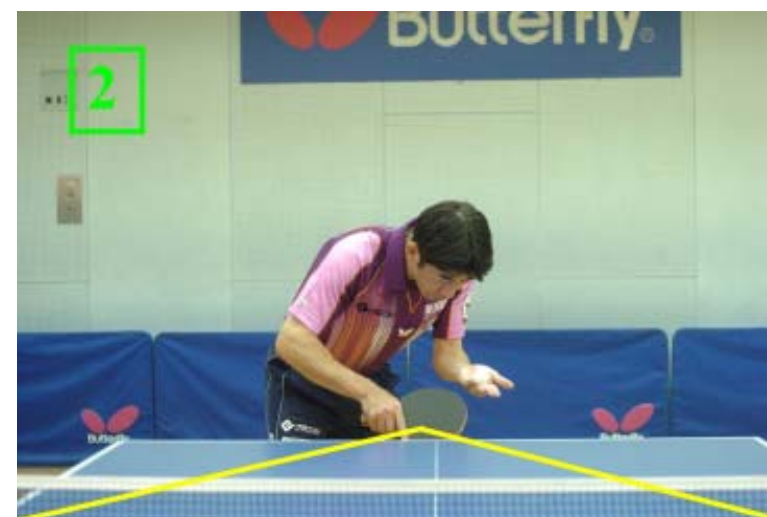
1. Which of my serves achieve the optimal effect with which placement?
Example: With a half-long sidespin serve to the middle of the table I can put in most spin.

2. Which placement does my opponent like least?

Example: My opponent prefers to receive the serve with the backhand and even moves over to the forehand side with his backhand. Consequently a short serve to the forehand side is dangerous for him. If he tries to return that with the backhand too the backhand side is wide open.

3. Is my opponent right – or left handed?

Example: A left handed player tries to cover his weak far forehand by moving closer to the middle of the table for the return of the serve. In that case more serves to the far backhand (long as well as short) may be very effective because that will leave his forehand open. Moving your own service position to the middle of the table might also be a good idea. Alternatively you may also serve from your own deep backhand side with your forehand. Then an extreme placement to the far forehand is possible which then opens up the backhand side of the opponent. The same applies the other way round as we can see on picture 1. The left handed player Timo Boll is serving against the right handed player Jan – Ove Waldner. Waldner is taking up a backhand position a bit closer to the middle of the table for better cover of his forehand side. That provides Timo with better possibilities to serve to the far backhand side. The defender Koji Matsushita is using the typical position for defenders in the middle of the table (picture 2). This gives him a large angle on the one hand and on the other hand he is ready for an attacking stroke of his opponent on both sides.



These tactical evaluations about the service position happen automatically with top players. Despite that they are used very consciously in close game situations. In opposite to old times when the server had five serves, he has now only got two. So he has to think carefully about that what he wants to do. Also against new opponents, against whom you have not played before it is necessary to try several different positions. The same service from different positions may have very different effects.

1. Gathering of concentration through an optimal starting position

Obviously the player was very concentrated before and he has thought about his serve before he went to the optimal serving position. But now the technical part of the execution of the serve starts.

He takes the ball and moves into position. Normally all players move the centre of their body weight lower down and bend their knees a lot independently if they are serving with their backhand or forehand. The ball is placed from a more or less tensed opened hand into a certain position. It can be observed that many players hold the ball just above the height of the table. Before the player is throwing up the ball he stands still for a few seconds to achieve the best concentration possible for the next serve. He is only interested in the ball which he fixes with high concentration with his eyes. Only in this state of very high concentration the player can achieve an optimal movement for the serves he has anticipated before. This concentration ritual can also be useful to overcome possible insecurity or even fear.

This ritual pause before the serve is well known in modern top table tennis and has to be studied and learnt early. Timo Boll demonstrates this last pause before the serve nicely on picture 3. This can last for one, two or three seconds – that is different from player to player – but this last thinking phase is

absolutely necessary for a good serve. On picture 4 Timo Boll shows us where in the hand the ball is lying and where the bat is: slightly above the height of the table and very close to the hand with the ball. Picture 3 shows us clearly in which way Timo is looking at the ball.



(This series is going to be continued in the next issue.)

Schimmelpfenning elected as curator



During a club meeting of the trainer academy of Cologne Dirk Schimmelpfenning was elected a curator as a representative of the summer sports. The winter sports are represented by Juergen Wolf, one of the directors of the German skiing association and leader of the „German school for coaches“.

„I am glad for the vote of confidence from the colleagues of the summer sports“, says the sports

director of the German Table Tennis Association (DTTB), Schimmelpfenning. „The project of offensive coaches interests me a lot. I welcome the idea that we can get started together with other sports associations.“ This project is supposed to improve the quality of coaches in top sport and junior sport.

Apart from the club meeting of the academy a so called „Best Practice Workshop“ with all the coordinators of the German sport associations took place. Some of the coordinators (one of the DTTB included) presented their models and concepts of the education of coaches.

Werner Schlager and Butterfly a support a school in Aachen

Many students of the School Aretzstrasse in Aachen were looking forward to this day. Nobody less than Werner Schlager came for a visit. This project was initiated by Bernd-Ulrich Gross who has been involved in table tennis for many years and is a member of staff at this school. „Table tennis is the second favourite sport after football at our school. Almost a quarter of 400 students are playing regularly during breaks, extra curricular activities or in training groups. There are regular ranking tournaments, school championships and other tournaments like the „Milk Cup“ or „Youngsters train for Olympia“ where the students participate“, says the man from the Rhine area. This is one more reason for Butterfly to support this exemplary work. Hideyuki Kamizuru, manager of Butterfly Europe, says: „This engagement of a school is exceptional. Table tennis is an ideal sport to compensate for a difficult school day which we can see in the satisfied students and the special offers at the school in Aachen. In the future we will surely extend our offer to schools and support similar projects.“

The model in Aachen shows that table tennis can attract children and youngsters and can make them enthusiastic about it. Star guest Werner Schlager could only confirm this: „It is amazing what Bernd-Ulrich Gross has built up here. The students enjoyed playing and perhaps one or the other will join a club a little later. That was a very successful day for the school and the table tennis sport.“

Further information: www.ghs-aretzstrasse.de



An exceptional project at the school Aretzstrasse: table tennis during breaks in tournaments and on school tables.

www.butterfly-world.com

DTTB makes important decision for the future



DTTB-Präsident Thomas Weikert
(Foto: Dr. Stephan Roscher)

The main committee of the German Table Tennis Association (DTTB) has made two important decisions for the future of table tennis during their meeting on the 2nd of December 2007 in Frankfurt to make table tennis more attractive and get more TV coverage. Instead of teams with four players and altogether ten possible matches played on two tables there will be teams of three playing with a modified Olympic modus in

the German Table Tennis League (DTTL).

All matches of the highest German league will be played on one table with proper centre court atmosphere. In opposite to the Olympic system all five matches will be played: two singles, one double and two more singles. Like in the Olympics none of the players is allowed to play more than two matches in the DTTL. The delegates made one more decision specifically to suit the demands of TV: on a trial basis for one year all matches will be played with best of three sets instead of best of five. One condition for this is a live report from one of the fixtures when league games are taking place. All matches are televised on a

nation wide channel. „We are aware of our chances but also our risks with this decision“, says DTTB President Thomas Weikert. „Our side has fulfilled the demands for live TV coverage. We do hope that our plans will be realized in the end.“

The table tennis sport has been neglected in the media and these fundamental rule changes are the basis to gain more media attention. Christoph Reuhl, chairman of the league committee of the DTTL says:“ We have now shown TV that we are flexible and prepared to take a risk when it’s worth it.“ Also Norbert Mai, manager of TTV Goennern and member of the league committee, is convinced: „The target is a calculated time for about two hours for a league match in case of live coverage. This is a guarantee of two hours table tennis on top level in opposite to matches which last one hour or three and a half hour depending on an easy or close result.“

One of the initiators of these changes is Benno Neumueller. He wants to bring back the Olympic traditional sport of table tennis on German TV and via www.DTTL.tv on the internet. „The decisions made by the committee are a milestone for the table tennis sport. But they are only the first steps on a long way for the DTTB, the clubs of the DTTL and contenthouse. We will do everything in our power to see that table tennis receives the attention of the media which this very attractive sport deserves.“