

Newsletter starts a new series!

Timo Boll opens the game



Timo Boll is Europe's undisputed No. 1 and the only player who can really challenge the Chinese at the moment. The lefty is also Butterfly's most outstanding contract player, being celebrated in Japan and China. His success comes from extraordinary talent. His perception ability and fast reaction times are well above average according to a scientific study. Often, he is able to read the ball's stamp and correctly judge the ball's spin. But his talent of movement is also highly evolved. His strokes show an exceptional fluid motion: smooth and very fast. While awaiting the serve his pose is extremely low. It tells you how Timo literally wants to breathe in the ball.

Let's take a look at various match openings presented by Timo Boll in this (page 14) and the following Butterfly News issues. In doing so, we are able to spot the details that are commonly overlooked.

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World Cup of Men in Moscow

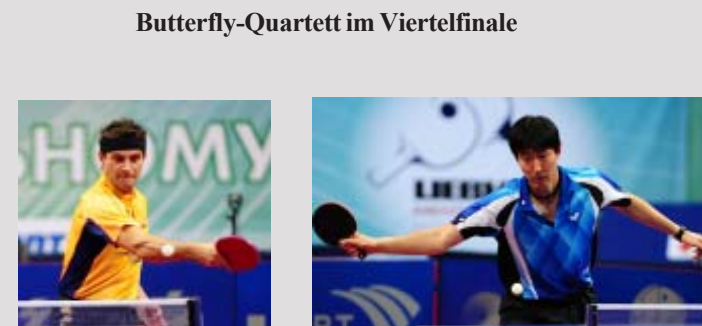
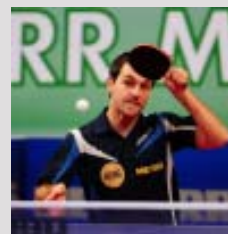
No medals for the Butterflies despite a strong performance of Oh Sang Eun

At the three consecutive World Cups in October the Butterflies are still waiting for their first gold medal. One week after Guo Yue won a silver medal at the women's World Cup in Guangzhou there was no Butterfly partner represented on the podium when the medals were handed out at the men's World Cup in Moscow. The best place was achieved by Oh Sang Eun who got to the semi-finals. The South Korean lost the match for third place against the Chinese number two of the World Ranking List, Ma Long, whom he could beat in the preliminary round. The title of the world trophy with a prize money of 150.000 dollars went to Vladimir Samsonov (White Russia) ahead of Chen Qi (China). The next chance for the Butterflies to win a gold medal is next week at the World Team Cup for men and women in Linz (October 22nd-25th). The best national teams of the world among them China, Germany, South Korea, Japan, the host Austria and Hong Kong will fight in upper Austria for a record prize money of 300.000 dollars.

Together with the number four of the World Ranking List Timo Boll (Germany), European Champion Michael Maze (Denmark), the former semi-finalist of the WC Kalnikos Kreanga and Oh Sang Eun of course, four of ten possible Butterfly players reached the quarterfinals in Moscow but only Oh succeeded to reach the semi-finals, where he was stopped by the left handed player Chen Qi in seven sets. Oh, who was in the semi-finals of a World Cup for the first time looks at his results in Moscow with mixed feelings: "Considering my form, I played a bit up and down. Partially I played on a very high level like in my victories against Ma Long and Kreanga. Then I was hoping for a bit more when I played against Chen Qi and was a bit sad that I didn't move on to the final." The stars of the old continent didn't have any reasons to be happy. European Champion Michael Maze eliminated in the preliminary round the winner of the Korean Open, Jun Mizutani, but in a high class quarterfinal (3:4) against Chen Qi the Dane didn't use his chances to win the match. Maze comments

afterwards: "I played very well but Chen played some excellent balls at the end of the games. I should have been even more focused to be able to win this match. Since the EC in Stuttgart I missed a little bit of the excitement and am a bit up and down."

Timo Boll didn't lack focus. Germany's winner of the World Cup 2002 and 2005 needed two sets against Ma Long in the duel of the two top seeded title aspirants in the round of the last eight before he got used to the speed of the Chinese. After being down 2:0 Boll really got into the match, won the next two sets and was leading 6:4 in the fifth. But Ma Long turned the match around again before he won 4:2. Boll could beat Ma Long last year in the semi-finals in Liege. Timo Boll: "Seen as a whole my form here in Moscow was good, also today against Ma Long. I didn't get the chance for a long time to play against a player of his level. Therefore it took a while before I could adjust my game to his speed. If you are down 2:0 it is very difficult to turn the match around again. Accurately because of this reason this World Cup was very important for me, regardless of the result, to get these comparisons against the Chinese. It was a pity that we as the two top seeded players had such an unfortunate draw that we met so early. With a different constellation this could also have been the final."



Butterfly-Quartett im Viertelfinale

World Cups

In the end Guo Yue managed a golden October for Butterfly



It took until the last day of the finals of the three World Cups in October before Guo Yue could win the first title for Butterfly and took care of a golden finish of the month. The Chinese won a gold medal at the World Team Cup in Linz but the Butterflies were also happy about silver and bronze in upper Austria: In the men's competition South Korea moved on to the final against China with the Tamasu aces Joo Se Hyuk and Oh Sang Eun and in the women's competition Japan won bronze with Sayaka

Hirona, Ai Fukuhara and Kasumi Ishikawa. China could not be beaten in both events and could allow some of their younger players to play instead of the first selection.

It was a World Team Cup with the best eight women and men teams which was reduced to an Asian Championship after the quarterfinals if you don't look at the strongly discussed semi-final entry of the German men's team against Czech Republic. Many discussions not because of brilliant performances but because the Czech top player Petr Korbel was not allowed to play his single and double as planned. Korbel's bat didn't pass the control of the ITTF. This happened for the second time that day and the main umpire Joseph Waizinger (Austria) followed the rules which resulted in disqualification of the player for the whole match. The Czech is known as a very fair sportsman and maintained: "During the bat control I wasn't told that I could not continue with my reserve bat if the main bat is tested negative for the second time but that I could be disqualified." Germany only won 3:2 despite two given points with a lot of effort and was without a chance on the next day when they lost to South Korea 3:1 where Butterfly's defensive artist Joo Se Hyuk presented himself in top form and won the deciding points against Christian Suess and Patrick Baum. The European Champion was missing its star Timo Boll everywhere in the duel against the



second of the WC. The number four of the world ranking list did not include the World Team Cup in his fixtures because of different planning of his training. Just like Germany, Japan and host Austria were not satisfied with their performances in Linz. The hosts with Butterfly duo Werner Schlager (lost to Joo Se Hyuk) and Robert Gardos lost already on the opening day during a live TV coverage of the ORF against South Korea with 3:0. Japan's young and ambitious team around Jun Mizutani had to acknowledge in the round of the last eight that table tennis trees don't grow to heaven when they lost 2:3 to Hong Kong.

Just like the men where China even without their three super stars (Wang Hao, Ma Lin, Wang Liqin) could not be beaten the women could move around easily in Linz without their Butterfly mega star Zhang Yining. Butterfly Guo Yue had a main part in winning the gold medal in the absence of Zhang. In the final against Singapore, who confirmed their position as the strongest challenger of the Chinese, Guo got the second point for a 2:0 lead against Yu Meng Yu and said afterwards: "I had to play well today because my opponent was strong, stronger than I expected. She has an old fashioned technique but is a very talented and promising player."

China kept Hong Kong on a distance in the semi-finals whereas Singapore beat Japan who played with Butterfly player Sayaka Hirano along with Ai Fukuhara and Kasumi Ishikawa.

The Austrian host took a great effort to establish a professional ambience but suffered from a playing system which needs improving and did not include group matches over two days. So the hosts were not represented on Saturday neither with the men nor the women. Also the testing of the bats and the disqualifications will be further discussed after the incident with Petr Korbel. Table tennis does not improve its image in public with situations like in Linz.

RUBI jacket

- Three-in-one system
- Hood integrated inside collar
- Inner fleece jacket can be separated
- Inner pocket, mobile phone pocket, three outside pockets
- Reflecting lining and logos
- Outside: 100% Polyester / inside: 100% Polyamid
- Inner jacket: 100% Micro Fleece
- Size: 3XS - 4XL
- Colour: dark red, red, black

RRP: 129,90 €



At well assorted distributors!

Spiris jacket

A true highlight: eye catching design, most comfortable to wear, casual cut.

- Zipped hoodie
- Embroidered letters and logo (wings) on back
- Two outer pockets
- Inside: Soft shell fleece lining for comfortable wear
- Outside: 100 % Polyester
- Wind-proof
- Size: 3XS - \$XL
- Colour: red / black

RRP: 44,90 €



Warm up fleece

- 100% Micro Fleece
- Anti-Peeling
- Size: 3XS – 4XL
- Colour: grey

RRP: 29,90 €



At well assorted distributors!

Dates

10. Novembre - 11. Novembre 2009

Europe-Asia All Star Series, Istanbul/
Turkey

25. Novembre - 29. Novembre 2009

Pro Tour: Polish Open, Warschau

01. December - 2. December 2009

Europe Super Cup, St. Petersburg/
Russia

19. December - 20. December 2009

Volkswagen 2009 Tournament of
Champions, Changcha/China

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ITTF World Ranking

Mens - Octobre 2009

1	WANG Hao CHN	16	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE
2	MA Long CHN	17	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE
3	MA Lin CHN	18	RYU Seung Min KOR
4	BOLL Timo GER	19	ZHANG Jike CHN
5	WANG Liqin CHN	20	LI Ching HKG
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	PERSSON Jörgen, SWE
7	HAO Shuai CHN	22	JIANG Tianyi HKG
8	MAZE Michael DEN	23	CHEN Weixing, AUT
9	Chen Qi CHN	24	YOSHIDA Kai JAP
10	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	24	PRIMORAC Zoran, HRV
11	OH Sang Eun KOR	26	GAO Ning SIN
12	MITZUTANI Jun JPN	27	SÜSS Christian GER
13	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	28	TANG Peng HKG
14	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij GER	29	KO Lai Chak HKG
15	CHEUNG Yuk HKG	30	BAUM Patrick GER



ITTF World Ranking

Women - Octobre 2009

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

Ruwen Filus, Germany

I don't wait for the mistakes of the others; I try to win my points actively



Butterfly player Ruwen Filus is quite tall: 1.85 meters. His size allows him to cover the whole table easily which is necessary because he is a defender. The 21 year old German is one of the greatest defensive talents on the world stage. At the moment he is ranked 133 on the world ranking list but that can change soon. The defender, who is playing in the Bundesliga for TG Hanau, has proved his abilities at the European Championships in Stuttgart in an impressive manner when he sensationally reached the quarterfinals. His defensive game

is very modern. He plays with Feint Long II on his backhand and Bryce on his forehand and a fast Timo Boll Spark blade which hints already at his aggressive game. He permanently twiddles the bat and plays a topspin with his backhand and forehand from all positions, blocks also with his long pimples and has very explosive legs. That makes it confusing for the opponent and the spectator never gets bored. That way the self-confident Ruwen became a favourite player of the spectators in Stuttgart and was honoured with ovations.

Ruwen, you are a defender and belong to the disappearing minority of professionals who practice this playing system successfully. At the European Championships in Stuttgart you sensationally managed to advance to the quarterfinals. How did you become a defender?

When I was nine or ten years old I changed to defence. I started plying when I was five. The first years I played offensively but I always had the tendency to move further away from the table. Then my former regional coaches Sabine Boetcher and Frank Schoenemeyer said: „Why don't you try defence“. They gave me a defensive bat and it worked well right from the beginning. I made good progress and ended up close to the top in a national trials tournament. I really enjoyed playing like that and therefore I stayed with it.

You started playing table tennis when you were five. Who took you there?

My brothers and sisters played a little bit and are still doing it. My mother took me to the training and because I always needed to be occupied as a child I played a lot with balls. Then the coach said suddenly: „Try it at the table!“ That worked well. It was that easy.

What exactly is the meaning of defence? You are playing a very offensive and aggressive orientated defence. You always try to take the initiative with the forehand and are not only standing far behind the table like your Greek defensive colleague Panagiotis Gionis.

That is true. I don't like just standing back. I try to use every chance to attack. It doesn't matter if I have to open up at the table with a forehand or backhand topspin or counter loop from half distance. Anyway it is important that my opponent doesn't look through my game. That is the only way to win my points. I try to use my pimples even more for the block. Then it will be even more difficult for my opponents to work me out. Many opponents have difficulties with that and my game builds up on that.

Ruwen, you were successful very early: 2003 European Cadet Champion, 2006 third at the European Junior Champions and a lot of additional titles and medals with the team on European and World Championships. This year you won the title in the U21 at the German Open and got through to the quarterfinals at your first senior European Championships. Is the year 2009 your break through on senior level?

I think I have now reached the senior level. Last year in the Bundesliga I beat quite a few good players but also lost a lot of games very closely otherwise my final statistic wouldn't have been negative. For me the advance to the quarterfinals in Stuttgart is the break through. I would never have expected this result beforehand.

The defensive game is not only today but also since some time before a playing system for outsiders and exotics. There are just three defenders represented in the top 50 of the world ranking list: the South Korean Vice World Champion from 2003 Joo Se Hyuk (10), the Austrian Chen Weixing (23) and the Greek Panagiotis Gionis (39). You are now 21 years old and you surely have concrete targets. Do you think that you can get to the top of the world with your playing system and stay there?

I am convinced of that. I don't wait for the mistakes of the others but try to win my points actively. My way of playing has got a future. If I continue to improve and get better then I will be able to stand a chance against every player in the world. Definitely.

Here somebody is talking with a lot of self-confidence and big targets. Did your result of the EC contribute to that?

Yes, of course, the EC was good for me. Especially in the second and third round I won very close sets. That motivated me and gave me self-confidence.

It is said that defenders must have especially good nerves.

Yees...(he hesitates) I lost a lot of close games in the final set last season. That is also depending on the form of the day and on your head.

Do you have an idol?

Of course Timo, not from his way of playing but concerning his success. He really is an idol for everybody. It is very difficult to repeat that what he has achieved.

Is there anything in table tennis what annoys you or what you would change or stop?

If I think of the spectators many things are already very or even too complicated. I am thinking about the service rules or the racket controls. These rules have to be handled more consequently or they should be abolished. In any case the game must be easier for the spectator to understand.

Your first target is to become a member of the national team. What is your dream?

My dream is the Olympic Games 2012 in London. But I know how difficult it is to realize this dream. Boll, Ovtcharov and Suess are a very successful trio. It is surely very difficult to become a member of a team like that.

Table tennis basics with Richard Prause Part IV - the grip during the serve

*Why it makes sense to let go off
the blade handle during forehand serve*



The German national coach Richard Prause is starting with a new series on practical aspects: Table Tennis Inside. He will try to give some useful tips which are easy to learn for all those players who are interested to improve their game. The former German national player has been working for the German Table Tennis Association as a national coach for ten years. Since 2004 he has been head coach of the men's team. Timo Boll is not only one of his players but he has also a close relationship to Germany's

and Europe's number 1. In the fourth part of the new series Richard points out the important factors of how to hold the blade during serve. Have fun with Richard Prause and his advice. If you have any questions or wishes, please send us a mail. We are looking forward to it.

What is the significance of the serve in general?

The serve is of fundamental significance. It is the only stroke an opponent cannot influence. Anywhere else, you have to react to your opponent's balls. Another important part is that you can practice the serve on your own. Normally for every other stroke technique another player is required to gain feedback. Admittedly, the serve isn't practiced that much, even though it can have a huge impact on one's play. This applies to top classes as well as middle and lower classes. The latter often underestimate its effects.

What aspects of a serve are important?

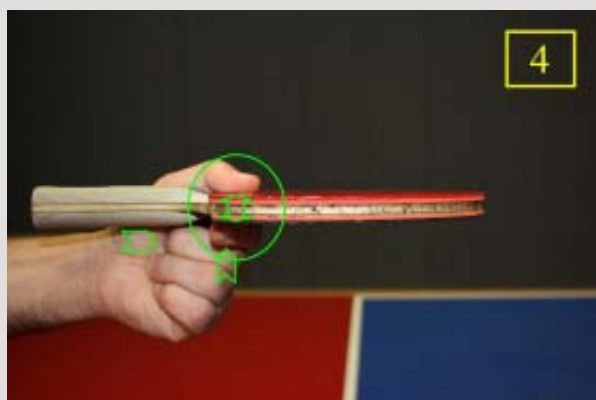
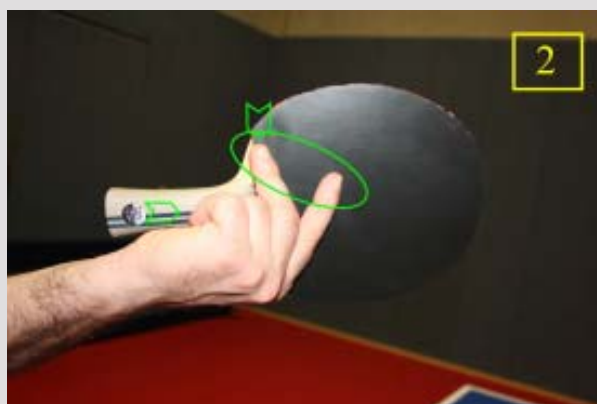
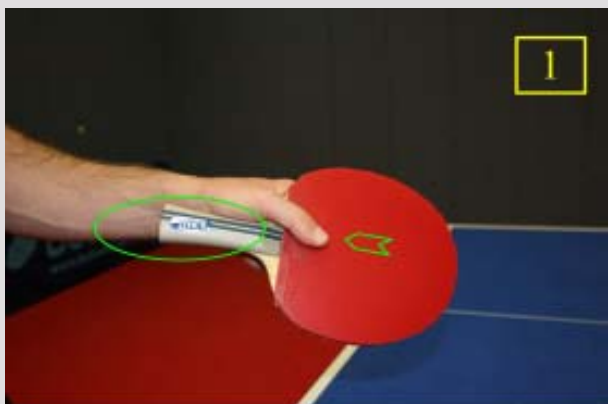
One deciding aspect is the grip during serve. The blade needs to have maximum mobility. Therefore I have to change the grip especially for the serve to achieve an ideal flexibility of the wrist. In addition, another aspect is the body's position in front of the table during the serve. For example, forehand-oriented offensive players - like a majority of players - should position themselves so that they can utilize their strongest stroke after the serve. The third aspect is how to throw the ball upwards and how high to throw it. The serve is a very creative stroke only limited by one's disinterest to evolve it. Actually, it's a great thing to see where creative improvements of your serve can take you, if you deal with it further. Everybody can enhance their serve if they want to.

How should the grip during the forehand serve look?

Grip the the blade between thumb and index finger thus locking its position and creating two important pressure points. **Pictures 1-5** show you how. That way you can move your wrist freely and quickly. This quickness and flexibility enables you to put more rotation on the ball and to vary your serve better. If you compare **pictures 2, 3 and 5** you can see that the position of the middle finger can differ:

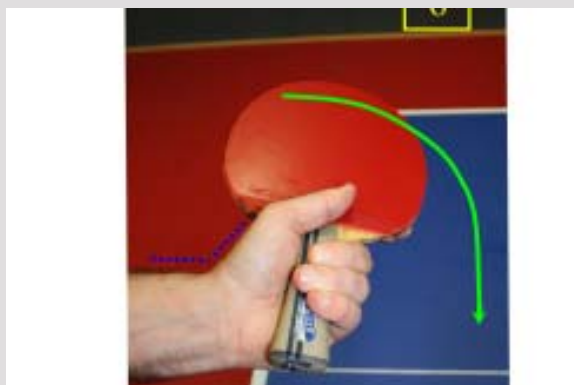
1. **Picture 2:** together with index finger on the blade close to the lower edge,
2. **Picture 4:** bent like ring and index finger below the handle (index finger on the blade moves further down)
3. **Picture 5:** middle finger presses the handle

You cannot tell which one of the three grip variations works best, as each is individual and can be seen in the top classes.



What's the advantage of this kind of forehand serve grip?

It is shown in **pictures 6-9**. You can see the regular forehand grip in **pictures 5 and 6**. In **picture 6** the wrist is angled upwards and the blade is ready to swing forwards. **Picture 7** demonstrates the end of this follow-through. What's important to recognize is that the end of the blade handle hits the forearm. Take a look at **pictures 8 and 9**. Here, the same motion with the forehand serve grip is illustrated. At the end of the swing the blade handle lies on top of the forearm. The range of the blade's motion is significantly wider and you can reach a greater speed with the blade. Both enables you to put more spin on the ball during serve than the regular grip. This advantage is detailed in **picture 10**.

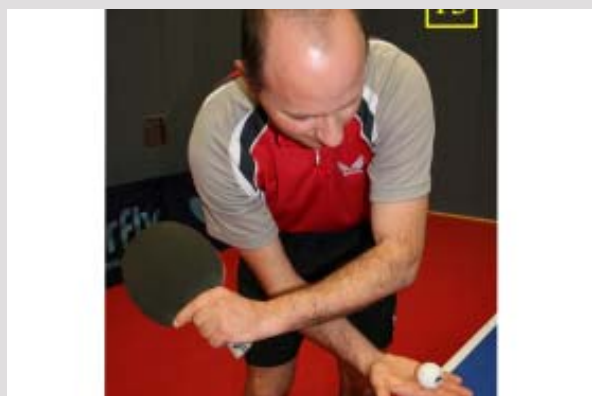


Did the European players copy the forehand serve grip from the penhold grip of the Asian players?

Of course. The Asian penhold grip, especially the Chinese variant, where the bent middle, ring and little finger lay like a fan against the backhand side of the blade, allows an extreme use of the wrist and a wider range of the blade's motion. That's why the Chinese have always been serve specialists. See **pictures 11 and 12**.

Is there a special grip for backhand serves?

It is not as distinct a grip as during a forehand serve where you let go of the handle. But many top players prefer the backhand grip which we already talked about. The blade tilts to the inside. See **picture 13**. Index finger and thumb stabilize the blade, the other three fingers remain loosely on the handle. You can achieve a very fast motion and lots of rotation with this grip because the wrist gains mobility. See **pictures 14 and 15**. Furthermore, you can extend the stroke's path by lifting the elbow thus changing tempo and spin. In recent history, by the way, German national player Dimitrij Ovtcharov made it to the top of the world-class using his dangerous backhand serve.



New Series!

Timo Boll's game opening



Timo Boll is Europe's undisputed No. 1 and the only player who can really challenge the Chinese at the moment. The lefty is also Butterfly's most outstanding contract player, being celebrated in Japan and China. His success comes from extraordinary talent. His perception ability and fast reaction times are well above average according to a scientific study. Often, he is able to read the ball's stamp and correctly judge the ball's spin. But his talent of movement is also highly evolved. His strokes show an exceptional fluid motion: smooth and very fast. While awaiting the serve his pose is extremely low. It tells you how Timo literally wants to breathe in the ball.

He will go down in the history of the table tennis sport as one of the very big ones that is sure now already. But perhaps he will succeed in winning one or the other world championship or Olympic title.

In this and the following Butterfly News Issues we will look at different game openings which Timo presents us impressively. There we can see details which we otherwise easily miss.

Part 1: Forehand topspin from the backhand side

14 Technique tips

Pictures 1-5 – service: Timo is standing sideways to the table (picture 1). He throws the ball up to the height of his head and fixes it with his eyes. He has the typical grip for a forehand serve. The index finger is pushed long forward down the bat and the other fingers are spread like a fan. The ball has reached its highest point and is falling down (picture 2). Timo has the bat almost straight vertical. The wrist is in a neutral position. Now Timo pulls the bat by angling the wrist and pulling his forearm backwards and up (picture 3) to move it speedily (picture 4) forwards and down. This is an extremely difficult movement which demands maximum exercise and fine coordination. Picture 4 shows very clearly how Timo moves into the serve, lowers his body forwards and down to the point where he is making contact with the ball. The left back foot leaves the floor completely and the bodyweight is fully on the forward right leg (see also picture 5). The position of the bat (pictures 3,4) hints at a side-backspin ball. The moment of making contact with the ball can't be seen on the picture so we can only have a guess. Also the length of the service can't be seen but we can assume that it is short or medium long.



15 Technique tips

Pictures 6-10 transition: If we look at the pictures one by one we see that Timo is turning towards the table to get ready for his first stroke. The forward leg is the turning point of the movement (pictures 6,7) whereas the left leg has found the new stroke position on picture 8 with the whole body weight. Now Timo can move the right leg backwards (picture 9) to jump parallel backwards to get into the position for the next stroke. On picture 10 we see this position. It is equally interesting when we follow these five pictures how Timo picks up his normal grip of the bat again. This also needs a lot of practice because it must happen very speedily.



16 Technique tips

Pictures 11-15 – stroke execution: On picture 11 Timo starts the stroke. He pushes off from his right foot – the left has been lifted already – and jumps around to the backhand side (picture 12). He starts moving his bat downwards. Picture 13 shows the end of the starting movement and Timo has reached the position for the stroke. The legs are very far apart from each other and the bodyweight is more on the left leg. The upper body is turned backwards at the hip. Timo has taken the bat down to the level of his knee. He is looking at the ball coming towards him. On Picture 14 he is just about to hit the ball. Here the whole dynamic of Timo’s topspin technique becomes obvious. His straight upwards movement hints at a ball with back or side-backspin. Altogether it is noticeable how much Timo bends his legs. Picture 15 shows a bent foot and extremely bent right knee, which absorbs the whole power of the stroke. The position of the bat at the end of the backswing tells us that Timo loops the ball from his backhand diagonally back to the backhand of his opponent.

