



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission



Table Tennis Australia

# NEWSLETTER

**Nittaku**  
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**Issue 9**  
**February 2008**

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## 2008 Junior Training Camp



From January 14-20 the 2008 National Junior Training Camp was held at the Geelong Table Tennis Association in Victoria. All of the Junior and Youth National Squad members were invited and in the end a total number of 25 players attended as well as 3 elite Chinese players and 5 coaches. The purpose of this camp was to be exposed to an International level of training on a daily basis and to learn some valuable tips from some of the best coaches in Australia. Also, it was an opportunity for the players to get to know the new National Coach, Marcus Gustafson and vice versa.

A usual day at the Training Camp involved waking up at 7am for a morning jog, eating breakfast at 7:15am, training session from 9-12am, lunch at 12, training session from 3-6pm, dinner at 6.30pm, night activities at 8pm and then lights out at 10pm (although you could still hear giggling from the boys area for a while after that!)

Although the camp was very physically demanding, with beach sprints and bounding galore, all of the players fought hard through the pain and realised, with some encouragement from Marcus, just how hard they could push themselves.

It was a privilege to have 2 elite Chinese juniors and 1 elite senior Chinese player at the National Camp. It was very motivating to watch them play and train at such a high level. They were very gener-

ous to train and compete against some of the best Australian boys, and even give some tips to our boys during the multiball sessions.

On the last night of the camp, we were split into groups and had to demonstrate our team work to perform a skit of some type. The judging panel (made up of the 5 coaches and the Geelong President) voted the skit which involved 5 group members impersonating each one of the coaches, as the most entertaining. This skit definitely pointed out some of the habits the coaches may have never realised they had. (Like so!!)

Overall, the camp was a definite success, where each player got some valuable tips from Marcus and the other coaches, and on the whole had a very enjoyable week.

**Ashleigh Stevenson**



**Upcoming Events**

**2008 World Team Championships**  
24 February - 2 March 2008  
Guangzhou, China

**2008 Australian Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament**  
20-24 March 2008  
Houghton, SA

**2008 Oceania Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament**  
5-8 April 2008  
New Caledonia

## Message from the CEO

### Busy Start to the Year

The staff of TTA has hit the ground running in 2008. In the first two months of the year TTA has already conducted many activities.

- The National Junior Camp was attended by 25 players, 8 coaches and the visiting Bayi Club. Many thanks to the Geelong Committee for hard work and for providing the junior players and coaching staff with such a memorable stay.
- The National Coaching Conference was held in Brisbane with 10 coaches from around Australia attending sessions delivered by the Australian Sports Commission and Marcus Gustafsson (National Head Coach).

- The TTA Board of Management met for a Weekend of strategic planning and for a Board meeting. The 2008 – 2011 Strategic Plan for TTA and the sport of table tennis will shortly be available in draft version for comment by any interested persons.
- The qualification of two players for the Paralympics (congratulations Rebecca Julian and Sarah Lazzaro) has meant a lot of behind the scenes work for TTA staff. The Paralympic Preparation Program has also been reviewed.
- The Australian Team is competing at the World Championships in China in February. TTA staff have had to co-ordinate the travel arrangements for players from all over the world, organise new uniforms with Nittaku, co-ordinate with the ITTF regarding their Annual General Meeting and arrange early accommodation and

training.

- The CEO and High Performance Manager made a presentation to the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Institute of Sport for consideration of increased funding for the 2009 – 2013 funding cycle.
- Lastly, the annual audit of the TTA accounts has been conducted. Not such a glamorous activity to write about but a very necessary accountability process.
- Being an Olympic / Paralympic year, 2008 is going to be a busy time for the TTA office!

**Bronwyn Marshall**

Chief Executive Officer

## TTA News

- Table Tennis Australia is pleased to announce that its new clothing sponsor for the next 3 years is Nittaku. Nittaku will provide all the uniforms for Australian Teams and all balls for Australian Championships. This is an exciting step forward for Table Tennis within Australia
- Rebecca Julian and Sarah Lazzaro (VIC) have qualified for the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. Find out how Rebecca has qualified for the tournament in her article on page 6.
- The Australian Senior Team will be competing at the 2008 World Team Championships in Guangzhou, China between 24 February

and 2 March 2008. Table Tennis Australia wishes the team the best of luck and am sure they will do Australia proud.

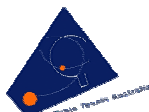
- TTA will be ready to launch its new website in March. Stay tuned for this exciting event.



**Principal Sponsor**

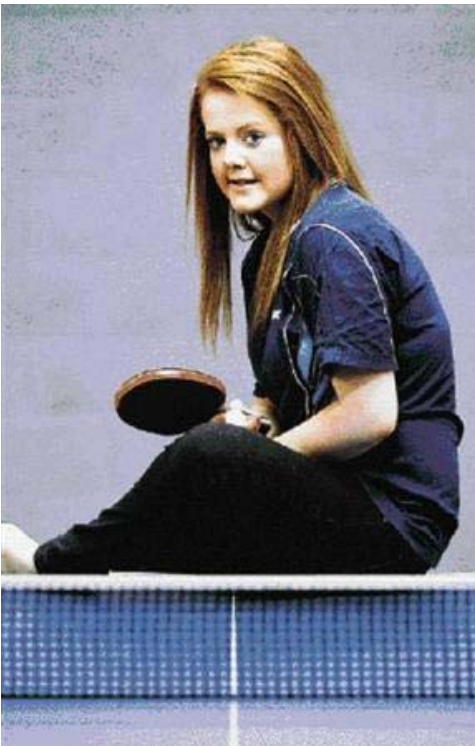
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# Player of the Month - Sarah Lazzaro



This month's Player of the Month is Sarah Lazzaro. Sarah has recently qualified for the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

**NAME:** Sarah Jayne Lazzaro

**NICKNAME:** Sez,

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 15<sup>TH</sup> September, 1993

**BIRTHPLACE:** Mount Gambier, South Australia

**PETS:** Sammy the cockatoo

**CLUB:** Warrnambool Association

**What's the best thing about playing Table Tennis?** Meeting new people from all over the world

**Who's the toughest player you have played against?** Lily Phan

**What sportsperson do you admire and why?** I admire Ian Thorpe for his dedication to swimming and how he gave so much of his life to sport and representing Australia

**Career Goals:** To represent Australia at Beijing for the Para-

lympics in 2008

**Career Highlight:** Arafura Games, winning 8 gold medals in 2007

**What does it take to excel in Table Tennis?** Fighting spirit, determination and practice, practice, and more practice!

**What are your strengths in Table Tennis?** My forehand. Hitting the ball hard.

**Who is your inspiration?** Sophie Delezio

**What do you enjoy do outside of Table Tennis?**

Friends, msn, my space, song writing, taking pictures, swimming.

**Favourite food:** Pasta and salad

**Favourite drink:** Coke

**Favourite TV show:** Home and Away

**Favourite movie:** Ten things I hate about you!



A U S T R A L I A N  
P A R A L Y M P I C  
C O M M I T T E E



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# Bayi Club Visit

## TTA/TTV HOSTS BAYI CLUB OF CHINA – January 15-24, 2008

At the invitation of TTA, one of the world's leading Table Tennis Clubs, the famous Bayi Club of Beijing arrived in Melbourne for a friendly visit.

The Club, which boasts Olympic Silver Medalist Wang Tao as Head Coach, saw fit to sponsor three of its most promising players, Liu Yang, 20 - 2007 China Ping Pong



Liu Yang, Yin Hang, Liu Yanin, Wang Tao

Super Comp Champion; Yin Hang, 12 - 2007 East Asia Hope Cup Singles and Team Champion; and Liu Yanan, 13 - 2007 Northern China Ping Pong Competition Singles R/ up. They proved to be exceptional talents (Liu Yang plays in the China Super League alongside current world No.1 Wang Hao)!

After initial greetings and reception, the itinerary saw the boys spend 3 days at the National Junior Training Camp, Geelong under the guidance of TTA's National Coach, Marcus Gustafson, and High Performance Manager, Sue Stevenson. Here the boys hit up with the likes of Trent Carter, Xiao Wang, David Powell, Hemming Hu, Tim Nguyen, Edwin Cotter and Keyman Liang. In the words of Trent Carter, 'their standard was unbelievably high. Liu Yang was extremely fast around the court and hit the ball very



Liu Yanin

hard, fast, spinny and controlled. He always chose the correct shot to play. The younger guys were very good for 14 years old - very good feeling and a great short game. A guest

appearance by Miao Miao who hit up with 2 of the boys also proved instructive.

A 'Veterans Challenge' at Phillip Island saw the boys trading blows with some of Australia's leading Vets – Mick Wright, Case De Bondt, Buddy Reid, Ken Cole and Michael Ede. Wang Tao was enticed to take to the courts and showed us his mastery of the power game, interspersed with deft drop shots.

Notwithstanding limited promotion, an 'All Stars Challenge' at Coburg TTC attracted an awesome crowd of spectators. Here Miao Miao, Simon Gerada, Trent & Craig Carter, Danny Semmler and David Powell put on lively performances against 'The Three from Bayi'.

Their Training Program – typically the boys train six and a half days per week! Their days start at 6.30 am with a training run.



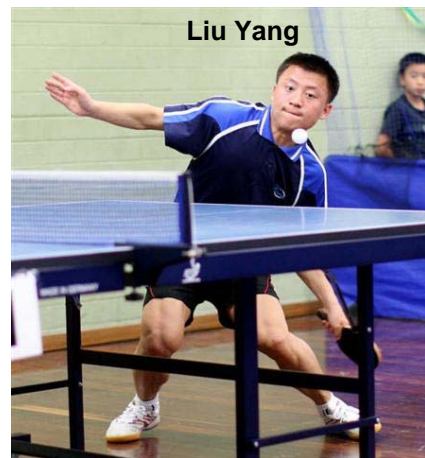
Liu Yang, Liu Yanin, Official, Official, Wang Tao, Yin Hang, Official

This followed by two hours of exercise, 4 hours of on court and a further 2 hours of exercise. WOW!

### A few observations:

They clearly are much more technically advanced and more highly skilled than the best we could put up against them. They did everything asked of them, notwithstanding the diverse groups we took them to. This ranged from feeding multi-ball, to coaching 7 year olds, thru' to 'cleaning up' on Simon, Miao Miao, Trent, David & Co!

We can infer from 'The Coburg Experience' that Table Tennis can be successfully staged as a spectator sport in this country,



Liu Yang

given the right timing, organisation and purpose...

On the social side, the boys have experienced our beaches, wildlife, countryside, shopping precincts, food and family life. They've walked 'The Edge' at the Eureka Tower (88 floors up), ridden 'The Waves' at MSAC and shopped till we dropped!

### A few thank yous:

Sincere thanks to Mark Kilinski, Bruce Carter and Mark Smythe (Geelong, Coburg/MSAC & Croydon) for staging and hosting training and competitive events. Also to Mick & Judith Wright for the 'Veterans Challenge' on Phillip Island. And of course, to Wang Tao, Peter Wang and our wonderful Bayi Boys.

...TTV is pleased to report that the boys were delivered to the airport - safe, on time and within budget! Please come again...

Photos supplied, courtesy of Warren Woolcock



Danny Semmler, David Powell, Simon Gerada, Craig Carter, Trent Carter



# 2007 World Junior Championships

It is good to prepare for tournaments as a team. The World Junior Championship Team which consisted of Kyle Davis, Robbie Frank, Trent Carter, Wade Townsend and reserve David Powell participated in a two week training camp in Melbourne between 14-28 of November. Unfortunately Kyle and Robbie were injured most of the time, but the rest of the team plus additional players such as Jian Fang-Lay, Stephanie Sang, Peri Campbell-Innes, Claire Campbell-Innes, Chamara Fernando, David Zalberg, Alex Swanson, Kane Townsend, Hemming Hu and Bruno Parmentier, former French junior champion, participated.

The first week consisted mainly of tough movement exercises and physicals, while the second week was more about serving and returning.

David Powell swallowed the bitterness of not being selected to be more than a reserve, and participated in the majority of the sessions with a positive attitude.

It takes a high level of commitment to take time off and travel from another town, as Peri, Claire and Alex did, to join a junior camp. So these few need to be congratulated.

Kane and Hemming really showed, with their level as players as well as training

maturity, that they belonged in the group.

The presence of the senior players added an extra level of intensity to the sessions, and all of the players came in with a good attitude to training. However the level of physical fitness needs to be increased to be able to train this way consistently for two weeks, and not only a session here and there.

Next for the World Junior Championships Team was a training camp with former World Champion Stellan Bengtsson. Though a few members of the team might have had their doubts about going to San Diego for preparations with Stellan, it seems like everybody was happy with the outcome of the week there. Personally I found it was very good for both myself and the players to work with such an experienced player/coach, and I hope the players picked up some good advice for the future. The training was a mix of multi balls with Stellan, taking part in the local training group's sessions and individually based training, but also some physicals to stay in shape and avoid more injuries.

The results for the team at the World Junior Championships ([www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com) for more details) didn't match the players' expectations. The goals were set high, long before injuries came in to the picture, and I think everyone has learned that their performance is affected by not being able to prepare properly at this level. The 15<sup>th</sup> place in the boys

teams event was disappointing, after the 10<sup>th</sup> spot last year, but I would estimate that considering this years opponents a similar result would have been 13.

Despite loss after loss the team managed to recharge in a good way, which is a necessary quality to reach high level results.

Mixed doubles is not taken seriously by many (male) players, but was in my opinion one of the key factors to Trent's good results in singles. He truly found his game after partly struggling in some of the team matches, to move on to great victories in his singles group.

Robbie said he and Kyle might have played their best doubles ever in the boys doubles event (and they really played some great table tennis) losing to the Korean pair Sang Eun (winner of singles) / Sik 1-3. I believe they might have won if they would have played a little worse...

Trent played some games of his life during this tournament. Beating the 10<sup>th</sup> seeded Jiang, Turkey 3-0 and Cheng, Hong Kong 3-2 in the group, followed by 4-2 against Kai from Japan, there are extraordinary results. In the round of 16 he lost to top seeded Shichao, China 1-4 after being down 0-3, won the 4<sup>th</sup> and had 10-6 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Kyle came to singles like a new man. After advancing as 2<sup>nd</sup> in the group he lost to Baubet, France after a fantastic match where he was down 0-2, won the following 3 sets and had a match point in the 6<sup>th</sup>. He lost that one and was down 3-9, before coming back to 10 all and losing 10-12. Kyle was unlucky losing this one.

Robbie ended 3<sup>rd</sup> in a difficult group losing to Bottroff, Germany and Lee, Korea, and beating Jackson, USA.

Wade ended 4<sup>th</sup> also in a tough group after losses to Kai, Japan, Silva, Portugal and Leach, USA.

Overall I believe this was a successful event and it has showed what it is going to take to be able to complete at the elite level.

**Marcus Gustafson**  
National Head Coach



R. Frank, W. Townsend, S. Bengtsson, K. Davis and T. Carter



# Julian's Paralympic Journey

2007 took me to some amazing places last year. Table tennis has enabled me to travel, compete at an elite level and meet some terrific people.

I am a Class 6 disabled athlete with Cerebral Palsy playing and competing to qualify for the Beijing Paralympics. In order to do this I have competed at 6 International tournaments held in Darwin, Hong Kong, Germany, Italy, Korea and Chicago. From competing at these tournaments I have gained 1800 ranking points which currently places me 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world in class 6 women and 8<sup>th</sup> in the world, in the combined



class 6 and 7 women, which will be used for Paralympic qualification. Points to qualify for Beijing had to be obtained only in 2007 and successful players were notified on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

I have taken games from some of the European players ranked above me and I have continued to work hard on my skills and fitness with my coach Alois Rosario in Melbourne. I was successful at the Asian and Oceania Championships in Korea winning a silver medal in Class 6-7 singles and a bronze medal in the Class 6-8 teams.

I was the recipient of an Australian Sports Commissions Australian Government Sport Training Grant and thanks to their help and support I was able to play in Chicago to endeavour to secure

my place at the Beijing Paralympics. I played at the US Open and won a gold medal in the Class 6-7 Singles.

Qualifying for Beijing means everything to me but just being a part of the journey has been an amazing and rewarding experience and has taught me a lot about myself and my abilities on and off the table tennis court. I look forward to representing Australia at the Paralympics in September.

**Rebecca Julian**



# TTA Official of the Year

As Chairman of the Awards Committee for the National Umpires and Referees Committee, I advise that Barbara Tickner from South Australia has been selected as the winner of the 2007 Table Tennis Official of the Year Award.

Barbara is a State Umpire and has been the Secretary of the Table Tennis SA Officiating Committee for at least seven years. In this position Barbara has been the liaison person for SA Clubs / Associations who require Umpires / Referees for their sanctioned tournaments. Not only does Barbara arrange officiators for Clubs / Associations but she has also been very busy herself as an officiator. This year (2007) has been particularly busy with Barbara arranging an Umpire Training Seminar for potential new umpires and assisting myself in the presentation of the course. Barbara this year also coordinated the umpires who officiated

at the 2007 Australian Junior Championships held at Trinity College, Gawler in October 2007. Barbara also officiated at this event umpiring the finals of many of the events. Straight after this event Barbara was officiating at the Australasian Masters Games held in Adelaide. Barbara is also always looking to encourage people to take up umpiring and is responsible for the (sic) introducing several new umpires to the SA ranks. Not only does Barbara perform a challenging job very professionally but is also in excellent spirit.

Other nominees were: Zak Roksandic (nom. by Gold Coast TTA), Bill Sheehan (nom. by Victorian TTUL) and Mick McShane (nom. by Queensland TTUC).

The selection panel was: Maurie Poole (NSW), Maureen Sherman (Tas) and Sue Lang (WA). Many

thanks to them for their prompt responses and careful considerations of the nominations.

Unfortunately, for the first time in three years, no nominations were received for a Junior Official of the Year award. It is proposed that this award will become the Young Official of the Year award, open to nominees up to twenty-five years of age, as from this year. Further information will be forwarded once final details have been finalised.

Wishing all of you the best in 2008

**Dave Delpratt**

# Peri at Bundaberg



Australian Women's team member Peri Campbell-Innes visited Bundaberg for three days at the end of January to assist with the club's annual Junior Come & Try Nights promotion. Her trip, local radio and television advertising, the Come & Try Nights and some other expenses were funded by the Queensland Governments' Sport & Recreation Queensland Club Development Programme. Peri, Bundaberg Development Officer, Dave Delpratt, and one of the club's top juniors, Glen McDonald, visited seven schools over the three days, putting on demon-

strations for many classes or running lunchtime promotions. Peri then attended the first of two Come & Try Nights on the Friday night which was attended by almost fifty juniors, most of whom were new to the club. This is the biggest attendance ever achieved for the first night. Peri also conducted two training sessions with about a dozen of the club's best juniors on the Thursday and Friday afternoons.



In all sessions, Peri was excellent in her presentation, especially at the schools, and has undoubtedly inspired numerous juniors to either take up table tennis or improve

their standard.

Following further schools visits by Dave and Glen in the second week and a second successful Come & Try Night, well over fifty juniors have nominated for the club's Term 1 Junior season, with almost twenty new players. This is easily the highest number of nominations ever received for one season.

**Dave Delpratt**



# Henzell's Thoughts



## Table tennis: Individual or team sport?

This is a reoccurring question in Australian table tennis and an ongoing source of disagreement. On one side there are those who argue that a player is almost always by his/herself out on the table, must look out for their own good and make sure that he or she gives themselves the greatest chance to succeed. On the other there are those who argue that the better players should be sharing their (always hard earned) skills and expertise with their younger and/or weaker counterparts for 'the common good'. If not voluntarily, then by regulation.

Why do our higher end athletes put such considerable time, money and effort into improving their table tennis? For money? Fame? A sense of personal achievement? I'm sure there are as many answers to this question as there are players. I think we can assume that our Australian high performance (HP) players are playing more for personal achievement and enjoyment than for money or fame. In some ways Australian players have it good. We receive a generous spot allocation to (often) once in a lifetime events like the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. TTA provides funding for teams to

travel to different parts of the World to compete.

What are the goals of our HP program and what is being expected of our HP players to receive the perks? Establishing Australia as a world table tennis force is a stated goal of the program and HP players are being expected to aim towards this. HP players are expected to participate in an inclusive environment where commitment and contribution to the betterment of Australia's HP program is paramount. That means the individual player loses some control of his/her own training and preparation and will inevitably mean that he/she will at times be required to do things that benefit someone else more than themselves.

These expectations have many implications. To reach a competitive international level we are talking about at least 10 years of constant application, sacrifice of social and professional advancement and hard work. Training in the vicinity of 20-25 dedicated hours per week is a minimum. Will HP players be willing to put this enormous amount of effort in for personal achievement or to 'just' gain a place in a team that's going away? Probably not. Certainly not in sufficient numbers for TTA to reach our ambitious goals. Until HP players have feasible opportunities to become semi or full time professionals in Australia (few are willing to commit to 10 years in Europe or Asia) our world rankings and international performances will almost certainly slide backwards.

Give players the right conditions and they will prosper whether they are in China or in Australia. I believe our high goals are justified and aiming lower would be succumbing to a grey HP future for Australia. However without ena-

bling our HP players to put considerable time and effort into their table tennis, our goals will remain far out of reach. Finding sponsorship and money to, for example set up a semi-professional league in Australia, is no easy task. However I feel that this needs to be widely identified and accepted as a necessity for moving our HP program forwards.

High performance really is an area where enough is never enough. History has shown that even world leading table tennis nations that become complacent about constantly evolving their high performance setup become obsolete. I think ours is certainly moving in the right direction and that progress is being made.

To alter my original question – should our HP table tennis be an individual or a team sport? I think our best, possibly only, way of significantly improving our HP level is by working together much more than in recent years. Sharing our expertise and limited resources in a team environment, working through the many obstacles and difficulties that arise from that approach. With that said, without increasing the financial opportunities available to those making the sacrifices, we aren't going to get far. It has to be a give and take situation between athletes and administrators which will not work unless there is mutual trust and will to compromise. If we can get both parts to work, the sky really is the limit.

**William Henzell**

# Volunteer of the Month

February's Volunteer of the Month is Brett Sonnet from Victoria.

Brett Sonnett has devoted many years to encouraging young people to participate in table tennis and to achieve their best. His

coaching and encouragement have helped produce a string of national junior champions from the Dandenong Association in Victoria. He has served as Public Officer and Board Member with the Dandenong Association and as a Board Mem-

ber of Table Tennis Victoria. He has also assisted with Victorian junior teams as a coach. Brett is currently starting to taste success as a player on the Veteran Circuit.





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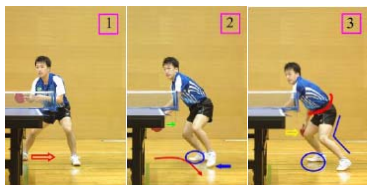
# Coaching Corner

The forehand smash is the „King-stroke“ in table tennis. The one, who doesn't like it, doesn't like anything in table tennis says Werner Schlager in Tips & Tricks about the forehand smash in this Butterfly News Issue. Indeed the forehand smash is the hardest and fastest stroke. Especially when it is executed with the forehand it demonstrates the whole fascination of the table tennis sport: extreme speed, athleticism and a high risk. The one, who can smash hard and with control, enjoys a lot of respect from his team mates and opponents. Naturally the topspin has taken over as the main attacking stroke but in many situations you can't do without the smash. Against high balls, too high backspin balls too slow topspins and flips but also as a risky weapon against fast spins or counter balls you must and can smash.

If you manage the complex movement of a forehand smash you have reached a remarkable level from the technical point of view in table tennis already. Looking at the lower leagues you can see most technical mistakes especially with the forehand smash – mainly because of a deficit in physical ability and coordination.

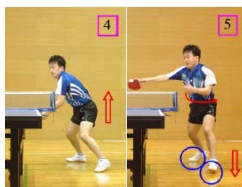
The Japanese top player Toshio Tasaki (best world ranking placement: no.22) demonstrates in this picture series the forehand smash from the backhand side against a low counter hit or spin ball. The height of the approaching ball plays an important role for the smash, because the player has to adjust his stroke to the height where he wants to hit the ball. The movement of the stroke is similar with low (a few centimetres above the net) and half high (shoulder – to head height) approaching balls. The movement changes drastically against very high defensive balls. We will take a look at that in the next Butterfly News.

Picture 1-3 show the preparation of the movement. From the basic backhand position Toshio initiates the movement with an explosive take off from the right foot to a parallel jump with both legs so that he gets to the sideways position. While jumping he makes a half twist to get from the frontal backhand position (in view of the base line of the table) to a sideways position. This lightning fast jump is the presupposition for the success of the stroke. The smash is not only played against relatively slow pushes but also against faster rallies like a counter or spin ball. Therefore the fast jump is extremely important. The same accounts for forehand loops from the backhand side. While jumping round Toshio takes the left shoulder and left hip forwards.



He is landing on the right back leg to take the body weight (picture 2). The left front foot is not on the ground yet. By doing this he shifts his body weight to the back leg. At the same time he twists his hips and upper body backwards (picture 3) and lowers his

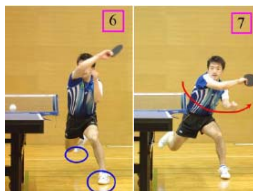
body weight further by bending his knee. Through this he creates even more pressure on his back right leg and achieves the optimal tension in the muscles of his upper body, especially the stomach and back muscles which produce the rotation of the upper body at the hip. In the meantime Toshio has moved his bat backwards and down.



Pictures 4, 5 show the main phase of the stroke. From the low down position Toshio is now clearly straightening his body. The body weight is still on his back foot (picture 4).

Then he twists round with his upper body (Picture 5). Simultaneously the body weight is moved forward to the point of contact with the ball. He jumps forward and his feet are barely touching the ground. The stroke arm moves very fast from back and down towards the point of contact with the ball, where it is nearly stretched (but not completely).

The bat angle is more or less closed depending on the approaching ball.



Pictures 6, 7 show the finish of the movement and show clearly how much power and speed has been used during the smash. A look at his legs tells us how much the body weight has been shifted. Like in the javelin Toshio has caught his whole body weight by a jump on to the left leg (picture 6). This impulse of an explosive shift of body weight from the back to the forward leg is of great importance for the power of the stroke.

Obviously the speed of the arm movement and the use of the wrist (if applied) also play an important role but without the legs the smash is never really hard. A third factor becomes clear on picture 7: the rotation of the upper body. It is worth while to compare picture 3 with picture 7. The backwards orientated upper body at the beginning of the movement is speedily rotated forwards towards the ball. This rotational movement is supported by the semi-circle like movement of the stroke arm.

The drawing from a sideways perspective stresses again the three most important components of the forehand smash, which have all got to be coordinated at the moment when making contact with the ball and reach their maximum concerning speed:

1. extreme shifting of body weight from the back to the

front leg

2. simultaneous rotation of the upper body at the hip
3. extremely long semi-circle movement of the stroke arm

On pictures F1 and F2 Toshio shows us typical mistakes. Both pictures show the end of the smash. Especially at the end of a technical stroke movement you can

see the main mistakes easily.

On picture F1 we see three main mistakes:

- a nearly parallel position of the legs
- a stroke movement, which ends above the head
- a hardly bent left knee

That indicates

- that, the player hasn't shifted his body weight not at all or only very little,
- that, the speed of the stroke arm was too low and the distance of the stroke was too short and
- that, the stroke movement wasn't directed forwards but to the side.

On picture F2 it is clear

- that the player nearly without rotation of the upper body

- that the timing was wrong at the moment of contact with the ball, because

the body weight is not on the left forward foot

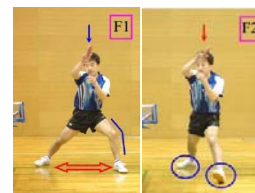
- that like in F1 the bat is in height of the head

From that you can conclude that the player knows how to smash but can't

coordinate the movement at the moment of making contact with the ball (timing).

Altogether the forward impulse is not big enough. This becomes clear by looking at

the back leg, which is still on the ground and the front one is hardly bent.



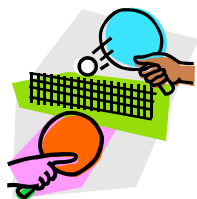
Adopted from the Butterfly World website.



# PICTURES



## Around the World News



### Table Tennis Australia

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#### Olympic and World Championships Facts

China had to wait the end of the twentieth century to surpass Hungary's haul of men's singles titles at World Championships.

Hungarian players have ten gold medals to their credit but when Liu Guoliang won in 1999, China became the most successful.

It was China's eleventh and in 2001, 2005 and 2007 they added three more successes. Wang Liqin won in those years.

#### No Titles for South Korea

South Korean players have succeeded at the Olympic Games on two occasions. Yoo Nam Kyu won in 1988 and Ryu Seung Min (picture) in 2004 but neither has ever won the world title. From Asia, it is only Japanese and Chinese players who have been crowned men's singles world champions.

#### In Favour of Europe

Europe leads the race regarding men's singles titles. Chinese players have won on thirteen occasions and Japanese players nine. Asia has a total of 20 men's singles victories but trails Europe which has twenty six golds.

#### China vs. Asia

In 1987 the men's singles final was Europe versus Asia when Jan-Ove Waldner lost to Jiang Jialiang. It is one of only three men's singles finals that have played between a **player from Europe** and a Chinese.

The others are in 1959 when Rong Guotuan beat Ferenc Sudo and in 1973 when Xi Enting won against Kjell Johansson. The Japanese have won the majority of finals against Europeans: four victories to one loss; the one European success being in Nagoya when Stellan Bengtsson beat Shigeo Itoh.

#### Revenge

On three occasions players have lost in a final against a compatriot and have then won on the next occasion they have met. In 1991 Jörgen Persson gained revenge over Jan-Ove Waldner against whom he had lost in 1989.

Similarly in 1959, Ichiro Ogimura won the title against Toshiaki Tanaka and in 1932 Victor Barna won his first victory beating Miklos Szabados. In the preceding world championships both Ichiro Ogimura and Victor Barna had lost to their colleagues.

#### Left Handers

Also, the chances of becoming the Men's Singles World Champion are heavily in favour of right handers; in fact only three left handers have won the title: Stellan Bengtsson (1971), Seiji Ono (1979) and Jean-Philippe Gatien (1983).

