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## WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

CHINA, ON TOP AGAIN  
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## THE LEGENDS NEVER DIE

JAN-OVE WALDNER  
WINNER OF THE FIRST ITTF LEGENDS TOUR  
P.8



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The screenshot displays the Dandoy website interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes a search bar, a 'Quick Find' button, and a 'Search dandoy.com' button. Below this, a banner features the text 'Welcome in the world of table tennis' and 'DANDYOY the tabletennis specialist'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Discounts' (showing price ranges from 200€ to 50€), 'Products' (listing various table tennis equipment), 'Special offers' (highlighting specific items like 'Alpha Stick 04' and 'Beta Stick 04'), and 'New Products' (showing the latest arrivals). The right sidebar contains links for 'General Information', 'Contact Us', 'My Account', 'Cart Contents', 'Checkout', 'Language and currency', 'Catalogue', 'Shipping Information', 'Secure payment' (with logos for ogone, PayPal, and others), 'General Information', and 'Dandoy shop'. The bottom of the page features a 'Subscription newsletter' section and a 'Technical info' link.



## THE TORCH IS LIT, LET IT SHINE BRIGHTLY

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**Dear Table Tennis Lovers,**

Welcome to a new magazine, one which visits the four corners of the world.

Read about new players; consider innovations our sport needs and revisit such events as the recent ZEN-NOH World Team Championships in Tokyo, a tournament where China swept the board.

Can anyone compete with the Chinese? Dimitrij Ovtcharov showed in the men's final that it is hard but possible with his outstanding win against Zhang Jike.

When was the last time that Europeans were on the top of the world? It's now some two decades ago in the late 1980s, when the great Swedish men's team dominated the game. Table tennis fans from throughout the world loved that generation and they still love that generation.

Legends never die; never was that fact more endorsed than in Seraing in May when we staged the first edition of the ITTF Legends Tour and the legend of legends emerged victorious. Jan-Ove Waldner, universally regarded as the greatest of all, the man whose stature transcend the boundaries of our sport, emerged victorious; once again the mercurial Swede was number one.

The torch was lit in Seraing; it shone brightly, now let us hope it glows throughout the world.

**Philippe Saive**



# SUMMARY



## THE LEGENDS NEVER DIE (LEGENDS TOUR) P.08

Two decades ago in the splendours of the Indoor Arena in the English city of Birmingham, Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive leapt for joy. He had beaten Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner to win the Men's Singles title at the 1994 European Championships. On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, the tables were turned in Jemeppe-sur-Meuse, a region of the Belgian city of Seraing, situated in province of Liège.



## VLADIMIR SAMSONOV REMAINS AS PRESIDENT

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A plethora activity in the main arena at the ZEN-NOH World Team Championships in Tokyo; there is also intense activity behind the scenes. Notably on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the members of the Athletes Commission were announced. The elected members are: Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus), Jean-Michel Saive...



## CHANGES FOR FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AGREED IN TOKYO P.14

The popularity is undiminished, whether it be for the current ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships which are currently being staged in the Japanese capital city of Tokyo, or one year ago for the Liebherr World Championships in Paris when the individual events were staged. Organising the events is a massive logistical and financial undertaking. At the ITTF Board of Directors Meeting, staged in Tokyo on...



## PRESIDENT ADHAM SHARARA

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David Cameron, the British Prime Minister, answers the questions from members of parliament; at Prime Minister's Question Time, the answers are coherent, perhaps there is an element of wit and more often than not there is a jibe directed towards to opposition. However, he is not replying off the cuff; he has a team of advisors to recommend poignant answers and is privy to the questions...



## THIRD CONSECUTIVE FINAL, DIMITRIJ OVTCHAROV REGAINS GERMAN TITLE

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Crowned European champion some five months earlier, the host nation's Dimitrij Ovtcharov won the Men's Singles title at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour German Open in Magdeburg on the afternoon of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. The no.2 seed, at the final...



## FAIRY TALE ENDS FOR MIU HIRANO, EXPERIENCE COUNTS, GOLD FOR LI FEN

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Experienced counted, there was to be no fairy tale ending for Japan's Miu Hirano in the Women's Singles event at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour Spanish Open in Almeria. In the early evening of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, the 13 year old was beaten by...



## LONG WAIT OVER FOR ENGLAND, PAUL DRINKHALL CROWNED CHAMPION IN SPAIN

**P.28**

Impressive at the London 2012 Olympic Games, where he reached the fourth round of the Men's Singles event, England's Paul Drinkhall struck gold in Almeria on the evening of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Occupying the no.22 seeded position in the draw, he emerged...



## VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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Titles at both World and European Championships but absent from the tournament scene for eight years, Sweden's Peter Karlsson concluded proceedings with a bronze medal to his credit at the Stag 2014 World Veteran Championships in Auckland, New Zealand on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May. He was beaten at the semi-final stage of the Men's Singles 40 to 49 years' category by China's Li Zheng...



## CHINA OPEN

**P.36**

The winner one year ago in Changchun and Suzhou, once again, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, Ma Long showed his liking for ITTF World Tour tournaments staged in his native China. Occupying the no.2 seeded position in the draw, he beat Xu Xin, the no.1 seed, in all Chinese Men's Singles final at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour China Open in Chengdu, to secure his first such title of the year. He secured victory in five games (11-7, 11-9, 8-11, 11-7, 11-4) and thus reversed the decision of...



## KRISTIAN KARLSSON PERFORMS HEROICS, HISTORIC WIN FOR PONTOISE

**P.38**

A first European Champions League Final for Pontoise and the French club faced prestigious opponents; they confronted the Russian club Orenburg, the defending champions and seeking a third consecutive title. It proved to be a defining moment in the career of...



# FULL FRAME







## THIS IS ALSO WHY WE LOVE TABLE TENNIS!

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During the first **ITTF Legends Tour**, the players, here the former world champion, **Jiang Jialiang** trained some lucky kids. Explain their knowledge is also the key of the success of the tour.

# THE LEGENDS NEVER DIE (LEGENDS TOUR)

Two decades ago in the splendours of the Indoor Arena in the English city of Birmingham, Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive leapt for joy. He had beaten Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner to win the Men's Singles title at the 1994 European Championships. On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, the tables were turned in Jemeppe-sur-Meuse, a region of the Belgian city of Seraing, situated in province of Liège.



## THE FINAL

In the final of the inaugural edition of the **ITTF Legends Tour**, **Jan-Ove Waldner** beat **Jean-Michel Saive** in a full distance five games encounter (5-11, 11-9, 11-5, 6-11, 11-8) to arrest the title. Once again the exquisite skills of the man regarded by the majority as the greatest table tennis player who ever lived and by the whole as Sweden the best ever without a shadow of doubt, extolled his skills to the full.

## DREAM FINAL

Furthermore, could there have been a better final, a more fitting climax to the event in Jemeppe-sur-Meuse? The man regarded as the virtuoso of the sport against the host nation's hero, the never-say-die warrior who delights in the amphitheatre of the battle.



## THUMBS UP

In Roman times for the defeated it was thumbs down, if the gladiator had not fought bravely. It was execution. Now, two thousand years later in the Jemeppe-sur-Meuse auditorium, it was not only thumbs up for the two finalists, it was thumbs up for all six legends who had graced the arena. Also, it was thumbs up for **Philippe Saive**, the man whose upbeat marketing and forward thinking promotional brain, had masterminded a concept that, as with and such entrepreneurial activities could fail, but had concluded a resounding success.

## STATE-OF-THE-ART

Staged in state-of-the-art surrounding, as rightly befitted such and occasion, the full house soaked in the atmosphere as six of the most celebrated players from the last 30 years plied their skills. Maybe the speed was not there of teenage days but class never fades.



## Our 6 legends







## PATH TO GOLD

In the opening round, **Jörgen Persson** beat Swedish compatriot, **Mikael Appelgren** (11-7, 11-9, 11-8) before **Jean-Michel Saive** reversed the decision of the 1993 World Championships Men's Singles final. He overcame Frenchman **Jean-Philippe Gatien** (11-9, 11-8, 11-8). Places in the semi-finals booked, the penultimate round saw the Men's Singles finals of the 1989 and 1991 World Championships revisited; the verdict went in favour of the former version. **Jan-Ove Waldner** overcame **Jörgen Persson** in four games (6-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-6), whilst in the opposite half of the draw, the home crowd warmed to the efforts of **Jean-Michel Saive**. He overcame China's **Jiang Jialiang**, the man who was crowned World champion in 1985 and 1987.



## NOT DISHEARTENED

Alas for the home supporters it was to be success for "J-0" over "Jean-Mi" but was the home crowd disheartened? Not at all, all six players are favourites wherever they play and the spectators had been given a rare treat. They had seen the greatest of all play their greatest hero; two men whose contribution to the sport of table tennis is immeasurable.

## HISTORY MADE

The result is now part of history but was that not the key factor with the staging of the event? All six players have their special niche in sporting history but more importantly in Jemeppe-sur-Meuse history was made. The first ever **ITTF Legends Tour** was staged, welcomed by all, a landmark oc.







# THE LEGENDS TOUR 2014

Time went back two decades on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in the Belgian city of Seraing, when Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner beat the host nation's Jean-Michel Saive in the final of the inaugural edition of the ITTF Legends Tour.

In addition **Mikael Appelgren**, **Jörgen Persson**, **Jean-Philippe Gatien** and **Jiang Jialiang** were present, representing an era when the balance of power in the men's game moved from Asia to Europe.

Now as we look back through misty eyes, we realise that it was a special epoch for the sport; for many it was a golden era and that fact was recognised by **Philippe Saive** who has moved from table tennis player to sporting entrepreneur.

He owns his own management company which in addition to table tennis promotes corporate golfing events.

It was his vision that realised the "ITTF Legends Tour"; a splendid initiative that both remembered and respected an era which saw change in the sport of table tennis. It reflects the period of the **Adham Sharara** years as ITTF President, the present millennium has been one of initiative and change.

**Sheri Cioroslan** as part of her last 100 days of the **Adham Sharara** Presidency spoke to **Philippe Saive**.

**A Chat with Philippe Saive, the Promoter of the 2014 ITTF Legends Tour.**

**"All of the table tennis lovers loved that generation of players."**

**ITTF** - *"Congratulations on organizing the 2014 ITTF Legends of Table Tennis Tour. When did you first come up with the concept?"*

**Philippe Saive** - *"Actually, I checked in my archives and found a proposal for a Senior Tour in 2008 already. It means it took some time to be convinced, to be sure, and to get ready."*

**ITTF** - *"I understand that since you're playing days, you have become quite a successful event promoter. Can you share with us how you got started in that direction?"*





**P.S.** - "I started in 2001 to organize first a table tennis show with some famous Belgian comedians, then the official national team matches. At that time, I was still playing! Organizing and playing was a bit crazy. But we were very successful, so continued. Then we became Vice-World Champion with our national team in 2001. And that helped a lot to propose an international event.

The first was a re-match with China, both home and away. The success was even bigger with a full house, live TV coverage and a 3-0 victory over China! It is still, 12 years later, the last defeat of the Chinese team. After that match, but also in continuing with the other activities, we proposed our candidature for a World Cup. That was in 2005. Two more followed - in 2008 and 2013, plus also Euro-Asia and the Europe Top 12. As you can see, we have been quite active in the last years."

**ITTF** - "On the Legends Tour website, you have listed 18 different sponsors/partners. How did that process evolve?"

**P.S.** - "First, we needed to have a good idea and secure the participation of the greatest players. Then we made proposals to many people who could have an interest that our project is great. And then we signed the contracts one-by-one. So simple as this... but also so hard!"

**ITTF** - "The ITTF is listed as an event partner. What has been the role of the ITTF in the Legends Tour?"

**P.S.** - "From the very beginning, I could have, of course, done it alone with the players, like some local promoters are doing. But I felt that it was important for the ITTF to also be involved. So I proposed it to ITTF President Adham Sharara. He immediately expressed his motivation to work together to promote

our sport in this way and to show all the respect and admiration that the table tennis family has for these legends of our sport."

**ITTF** - "At what point did you bring the six great players - Jan-Ove Waldner, Jörgen Persson, Mikael Appelgren, Jean-Michel Saive, Jean-Philippe Gattien and Jiang Jialiang -- into the planning phase? What kind of creative input did they have?"

**P.S.** - "We chose to have a tournament of six players with two quarters, two semis and one final, making five matches for a two hour show. In the very beginning, the idea was to make one event. So we chose the players that we thought the fans would like the most, but, of course, some others will come. All the players were so happy to meet and to compete again. That was really great to see."

**ITTF** - "Since the first event was held earlier this month, how did you feel it went? What is your plan going forward to carry on this nostalgic event?"

**P.S.** - "You can watch the entire live production on [www.ittflegendstour.com](http://www.ittflegendstour.com) to have a better idea.

Concerning our plans, we will try to organize three weeks of tournaments during the next month, one week in South and North America; one in Asia and one in Europe. With all the demand of interest that we have received, it should be possible to make it.

So many people dream of organizing similar types of special events, but they aren't sure how to go about it. What advice and what words of encouragement do you have for them?

If they want to stage an event, we will help them do it. We love our sport and all of the table tennis lovers loved that

generation of players, so it should be possible to go everywhere in the world."

**ITTF** - "You've mentioned ITTF President Adham Sharara and his role in some of the events you've organized. Since he will be concluding his presidency on 1<sup>st</sup> September this year, would you like to share any additional comments about his contributions to our sport?"

**P.S.** - "What I can tell you about him? He is for sure the greatest president that our sport has had. Look at all the improvements that have been made to our sport in the last 15 years, starting with a real Pro Tour, with great show courts and much better visibility of our sport. I was talking with the players participating in the Legends Tour.

It will be difficult to find some videos showing them at their best. Now, by comparison, you can watch every important match in the world. This comes from President Sharara's input.

On my side, I can never express my gratitude enough to him because he gave me a great chance by trusting in my capacity to organize a first, a second, and then a third World Cup. In a way, he has changed my life."

**ITTF LEGENDS TOUR**

[info@ittflegendstour.com](mailto:info@ittflegendstour.com)

# CHANGES FOR FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AGREED IN TOKYO

The popularity is undiminished, whether it be for the current ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships which are currently being staged in the Japanese capital city of Tokyo, or one year ago for the Liebherr World Championships in Paris when the individual events were staged. Organising the events is a massive logistical and financial undertaking. At the ITTF Board of Directors Meeting, staged in Tokyo on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, changes for future World Championships and World Team Championships were agreed.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – NUMBER OF ENTRIES: EFFECTIVE FROM 2015

1. All national associations may enter three men and three women
2. A national association receives one additional place for a player listed in the top 100 and one more for a player named in the top 20 of the World Rankings. Thus if a national association has one player named in the top 100, four places are available, if in addition there is a further player in the top 20, five places are available.
3. In each of the Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles events the number of pairs is limited to two per national association. However, pairs may be formed by players from different national associations, thus a total of four players may be nominated.
4. Players in the doubles events may be different to those who are competing in the singles events.

## 2016 WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS – NUMBER OF ENTRIES

1. The 2016 World Team Championships will be staged in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2. A maximum of 96 entries will be accepted for each of the Men's and Women's events.
3. Hospitality will be provided for two male players and two female players plus one delegate per national association.
4. A total of 48 teams from each of the Men's and Women's events at the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships will be eligible.



5. The number is formed by the leading 44 teams from the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships plus the teams finishing in first and second positions in each of the Third and Fourth Divisions.
6. A further 42 places are available via continental qualification: Africa (7 places), Asia (12 places), Europe (12 places), Latin America (7 places), North America (1 place), Oceania (3 places)
7. One further place in each of the Men's and Women's events is allocated to the host national association if not already qualified
8. The remaining five places or six should the host national association have already qualified as a result of their final position at the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Championships or by continental qualification will be allocated as per ITTF World Team Ranking





## CONTINENTAL REQUIREMENT

1. Only national associations who have taken part with at least one player or one team in the preceding Continental Championships, including qualification events or Continental Games, are eligible to enter teams or players for the World Championships or World Team Championships. The regulation applies separately to each gender.
2. The requirement applies to Continental Championships and Continental Games and takes effect as of 2014 Continental Championships and Continental Games.

## ALLOCATION OF FUTURE ITTF EVENTS

1. The Barbados Table Tennis Association will host the 2014 World Cadet Challenge in the city of Bridgetown; the decision was confirmed following a positive inspection report.
2. Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, will host the 2015 World Team Classic from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January.
3. The South African Table Tennis Board will stage the 2016 World Junior Championships event in Cape Town in December.

## APPOINTMENTS TO ITTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New members of the ITTF Board of Directors with immediate effect are: **Ronald Kramer** (Netherlands), **James Morris** (New Zealand), **Michael Baubin** (United States), **Paul Kyle** (New Zealand) and **Ivo-Goran Munivrana** (Croatia)

## APPOINTMENT TO ITTF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Effective from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, **Bruce Burton** (Canada) fills the vacancy created by the resignation of **Adham Sharara** from the position of ITTF President.

# MOSCOW AND DORTMUND REPEATED, CHINA RETAINS SWAYTHLING CUP

Top seeds and title favourites, China won the Men's Championship Division at the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships in Tokyo on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May. At the final hurdle the trio formed by Ma Long, Zhang Jike and Xu Xin overcame the German outfit of Timo Boll, Dimitrij Ovtcharov and Patrick Franziska in what was a repeat of the last three years' finals. Ma Long beat Timo Boll (11-6, 11-9, 11-9), Dimitrij Ovtcharov levelled by overcoming Zhang Jike (13-11, 11-8, 11-6), before Xu Xin restored the lead by accounting for Patrick Franziska (11-5, 11-2, 11-9). The scene was set for Ma Long to complete the task; he duly obliged, he beat Dimitrij Ovtcharov in three straight games (12-10, 11-5, 11-2).

## PREVIOUS TEAMS

In 2008 in Moscow the verdict went to China by three matches to one; in Dortmund by three matches to nil; in Tokyo. Ma Long and Zhang Jike remained in the Chinese line-up from the outfits that had appeared in the Moscow and Dortmund finals; for German the ever present were Timo Boll and Dimitrij Ovtcharov. In Moscow the German Team had been completed by Christian Suss, in Dortmund it had been Patrick Baum; as for China, Ma Lin had played in Moscow, Wang Hao in Dortmund.

## OPENING CONTEST

First match into the arena saw Ma Long and Timo Boll enter the fray, it was a repeat of Moscow when they had met in the opening contest; on that occasion Timo Boll had recovered from a two games to nil deficit to record a five games win and thus gave Germany the early advantage. In the splendours of the Yoyogi Gymnasium, once again Ma Long won the first two games; the second game being clearly seen by both Jörg Rosskopf, the Head Coach for Germany and Liu Guoliang, the Head Coach for China, as absolutely crucial. At 6-7 in arrears, Timo Boll elected for "Time Out"; at 9-8 ahead Ma Long did the same. The game went to Ma Long who progressed to secure the third and thus prevented a repeat of the Olimpijsky Sports Complex in 2010. It was advantage China.

## DREAM START

Next into the arena came Zhang Jike and Dimitrij Ovtcharov with the German making a dream start in the first games; he won the first six points in a contest between the players who arguably possess the most effective backhand attacking strokes on planet earth. Zhang Jike levelled at 7-all, Jörg Rosskopf called "Time Out"; the momentum was with Zhang Jike, somehow it needed to be arrested. Whether it was a direct effect of the



break or not, the game went the way of Dimitrij Ovtcharov; the advantage with the German, he established a 7-6 lead in the second game. Liu Guoliang called "Time Out". The break worked but not in favour of China, Dimitrij Ovtcharov held a two games to nil lead. A Zhang Jike recovery was anticipated by the 10,000 spectators; it was not to happen; Dimitrij Ovtcharov was confident, Dimitrij Ovtcharov secured the third game. It was parity.







## FIRST LOSS

It was the first ever loss in a singles match at a World Champions for **Zhang Jike**. He won the Men's Singles title at his first attempt at the GAC Group 2011 World Championships in Moscow, he retained the title in Paris last year; whilst in both Moscow and Dortmund at the World Team Championships he was unbeaten. In Men's Singles events, the record reads 14-0; now in Men's Team competitions it is 17-1.

## LEAD REGAINED

Matters level, **Xu Xin** carried too many guns for **Patrick Franziska**; the 21 year old German maintained his poise, his demeanour but once **Xu Xin** had overcome any nerves by winning the opening game, the writing was on the wall. **Xu Xin** won in three straight games; the advantage was once again with China.

## AIR OF EXPECTATION

China ahead but in the **Yoyogi Gymnasium** there was an air of expectation; back into action came the men in form, **Ma Long** and **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**.

**Dimitrij Ovtcharov** may have lost earlier in the tournament to Ukraine's **Oleksandr Didukh** and Japan's **Jun Mizutani** but in the final, like the true professional, he had resigned the defeats to history. He was in form, relishing the challenge. However, **Ma Long** was unbeaten and clearly he now had the complete trust of **Liu Guoliang**; he had been chosen to play in the "quick matches", the first and third encounters.

## FAITH REPAID

The first game went to **Ma Long** after he had saved one game point at 9-10; he then won the second game as the rallies rose the breath-taking heights. Two games to nil ahead, **Ma Long** was increasingly confident; in the third game seized control from the very start, a straight games win was posted. The mission was accomplished; with **Ma Long** superb. At the Closing Ceremony he received the Victor Barna Award in recognition of his efforts, the award is made by the Swaythling Club International for the best player in the tournament.



## TRADITION MAINTAINED

It was for China the 24<sup>th</sup> time they had appeared in a World Championships Men's Team final, it was the 19<sup>th</sup> time they had won; in fact only twice have they not departed with a medal. On debut in 1953 in Bucharest and almost three decades later in Chiba in 1991 they finished in seventh place. In Tokyo, led by **Liu Guoliang**, China not only maintained, they extended the tradition; the trio of **Ma Long**, **Zhang Jike** and **Xu Xin** delivered the goods. Once again China held the Swaythling Cup aloft.



## COOL DUDE BREAKS JAPANESE HEARTS, GERMANY REACHES FINAL

The heat is on in the Yoyogi Gymnasium in Tokyo at the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships but there is one cool dude. Patrick Franziska in the intensity of the cauldron of glory, where temperatures are rising in both degrees centigrade and gradations of tension; kept cool, calm and collected. He shattered Japanese dreams on the afternoon of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May. After Timo Boll had beaten Koki Niwa (16-18, 11-5, 11-4, 14-12) and Japan had levelled with Jun Mizutani overcoming Dimitrij Ovtcharov (11-8, 16-18, 6-11, 11-6, 11-8); Patrick Franziska swayed the momentum of the semi-final Men's Team Championship Division contest inexorably in favour of Germany.

### REVERSED MOMENTUM

He beat Kenta Matsudaira in five games (12-10, 7-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-5) and completely reversed the momentum of the contest. After Jun Mizutani had beaten Dimitrij Ovtcharov, Japan was on a high. After Patrick Franziska had overcome Kenta Matsudaira it was the very opposite emotion. Timo Boll, who had given Germany such a splendid start, ended matters with an attacking display of a rare vintage. He beat Jun Mizutani in three straight games (11-6, 11-5, 11-6). The win meant he inflicted the only defeat in the whole tournament on the 24 year old, who throughout proceedings in Tokyo has been his country's best player.

### DORTMUND

The contest was a repeat of two years earlier when at the Liebherr 2014 World Championships on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March in Dortmund's Westfalenhallen, Germany had recorded a three matches to one win. Both teams had

one change to the line-up of two years earlier; for Japan **Kenta Matsudaira** was preferred to **Seiya Kishikawa**, for Germany **Patrick Franziska** was on duty as opposed to Patrick Baum.

### SAME BUT ORDER REVERSED

However, the first two matches on view were exactly the same; except in the reverse order. In Dortmund **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** and **Jun Mizutani** had met in the opening duel to be followed by **Timo Boll** against **Koki Niwa**. In the Yoyogi Gymnasium the opening encounter saw **Timo Boll** face **Koki Niwa**, with **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** against **Jun Mizutani** being the second contest on view. Notably, in Dortmund both contests had gone the way of the Germany; both in three straight games. In Tokyo, the possibility of a straight games success in the two initial matches was extinguished immediately when the imperturbable **Koki Niwa** won a close opening game against **Timo Boll**.

### A QUESTION OF RHYTHM

It was a game in which neither player found a rhythm, the points were short and brief in a contest involving two players of a somewhat similar style;





both left handed, both with lethal forehand topspin strokes. However when trying to unleash their favoured weapon in the first game, errors had accrued; in the second and third games, **Timo Boll** made few errors, he won both games comfortably but in the fourth game it was a different story. **Koki Niwa** established an 8-4 lead. **Timo Boll** reduced the deficit to one point at 9-8; **Yosuke Kurashima**, the Japanese Men's Team Coach called "Time Out". **Timo Boll** levelled, both players held points to secure the game before eventually the verdict went to the European star; the early advantage was with Germany.

## MUST DELIVER

Into the arena came **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** and **Jun Mizutani**; somewhat surprisingly, earlier in the tournament **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** had suffered defeat against **Oleksandr Didukh** in the first stage of proceedings, when Germany

had confronted Ukraine. The record of **Jun Mizutani** was unblemished; he had been clearly the leader of the Japanese team in Tokyo. Simply, if Japan was to overcome Germany, **Jun Mizutani** had to deliver the goods.

## CRUCIAL GAME

**Jun Mizutani** captured the first game but in the second the early advantage was with **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**; that was until 8-all, the stage at which **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** called "Time Out". Whether the break had any great effect on the outcome is a matter of conjecture but on his fifth attempt to win the game, after on three occasions saving game point, **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** succeeded. It was parity. Similar to both **Timo Boll** and **Koki Niwa**, **Jun Mizutani** is lethal when allowed to execute his forehand top spin early in a rally; throughout the contest **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** directed his attacking strokes towards the body, towards the backhand of his adversary.

## DECIDER

Matters level, **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** secured the third game, the fourth went to **Jun Mizutani**; a deciding fifth game beckoned. At the change of ends, the slight advantage was with **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**, he led 5-4; the level of the contest rose to an all-time high, exhilarating rallies. **Jun Mizutani** won the next four points; he led 8-5. The next two points went to **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**, **Yosuke Kurashima**, the Japanese coach, called "Time Out". **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** levelled but at 10-8, **Jun Mizutani** held two match points. He needed just one; the **Yoyogi Gymnasium** erupted.



## CALM GERMAN

The pressure was now firmly on the shoulders of **Patrick Franziska** and **Kenta Matsudaira**. The first game went to **Patrick Franziska**, in the second **Kenta Matsudaira** established an early advantage but at 7-all it was parity. **Yosuke Kurashima** called "Time Out". A critical moment and the break worked; **Kenta Matsudaira** won the next four points and then secured the third game before, calm and focused, **Patrick Franziska** responded; he won the next game, a deciding fifth game beckoned. **Kenta Matsudaira** made errors retuning the **Patrick Franziska** service, the German led 5-1 at the change of ends. He maintained the advantage but there were signs of a Japanese recovery; at 6-3 **Jörg Rosskopf**, the German National Coach, called "Time Out". **Patrick Franziska** maintained the lead, in what must have been the biggest match of his life he remained calm and focused; furthermore, he gave Germany a vital lead.

## MAJOR BLOW

The recovery made by **Patrick Franziska** was a dagger in the Japanese heart; the faces of those sitting on the Japanese bench told the story. They went through the motions of applauding and encouraging but it was more polite support than belief. Hindsight is wonderful but I cannot understand why during the whole tournament **Masato Shiono** only played one match; **Kenta Matsudaira** has not enjoyed the best of form this year; against European players, in the past year, **Masato Shiono** has proved a handful. Just ask **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**, he will tell you how difficult it is to play **Masato Shiono**.

## PROFESSIONAL

Professional, thoroughly professional an example to all; **Timo Boll** beat **Jun Mizutani** to conclude proceedings, the result of two years earlier but in a different manner had been repeated. Once again Germany had reached the Men's Team final; once again China awaits.





## HONOUR FOR JAPAN, GOLD FOR CHINA, CORBILLON CUP RETAINED

They came in their thousands, more in hope than in expectation; they left with pride. The massed ranks of supporters gave their all, as did their idols, but at the end of the day class told in the Yoyogi Gymnasium on the evening of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May. China beat Japan by three matches to nil in the final of the Women's Team Championship Division at the ZEN-NOH World Team Championships in Tokyo to retain the title regained in Dortmund two years earlier.

### VICTORY PATH

Ding Ning beat Yuka Ishigaki (11-8, 8-11, 11-2, 11-5) to set the Chinese juggernaut rolling. She was followed by Li Xiaoxia who overcame Kasumi Ishikawa (11-8, 11-7, 11-7) with Liu Shiwen defeating Sayaka Hirano (11-4, 11-2, 11-5) to conclude matters.

### FAMILIAR TERRITORY

Four years earlier Ding Ning had suffered heartaches in Moscow when in her first appearance in a Women's Team final at a World Championships she had been beaten by Feng Tianwei; four years later the gold medal contest at the global gathering, whether team or individual, was nothing new. Urged forward by the rhythmical beat of the inflated clappers, Yuka Ishigaki rose to the challenge, the very traditional style defender, when compared with those honed in recent times, posed problems for the 2011 Women's Singles World champion. She won the second game but immediately Ding Ning responded; control was assumed, the grip was never relaxed. China held the lead.

### ADVANTAGE EXTENDED

A thoroughly professional performance; a second followed in a similar fashion from the reigning Olympic and World champion. Li Xiaoxia beat



Kasumi Ishikawa in three straight games; however, great credit must go to the 21 year old Japanese player, who we first saw on the international scene in 2006 at the ITTF Cadet Challenge in Vrsac, Serbia.







## LEADING PLAYER

On the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour, **Kasumi Ishikawa** has experienced both ends of the emotional temperature gauge. In Kuwait she beat China's **Wu Yang**, in Doha one week later she departed in round one beaten by the Czech Republic's **Katerina Penkavova**. In Tokyo at the ZEN-NOH World Championships, she has been Japan's leading player and she had led by example. Against **Li Xiaoxia** she gave her best but her adversary held the aces.

## LIU SHIWEN CONCLUDES MATTERS

The grip on the Corbillon Cup tightening; a very focused **Liu Shiwen** beat **Sayaka Hirano** to bring the action in the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships to a conclusion. **Sayaka Hirano** is a player of high quality and similar in style to **Liu Shiwen** but whatever, she could do, **Liu Shiwen** could do better. **Liu Shiwen** won the first two games; she went ahead 4-1 in the third, **Yazakazu Murikami**, the Japanese coach sitting courtside called "Time Out". It was only a temporary stay of execution; **Liu Shiwen**

duly completed the task in hand. China had won the Women's Team title without surrendering a single individual match in the eight days of action; simply awesome.

## CORBILLON CUP HELD ALOFT

It was for China the 24<sup>th</sup> time in 29 appearances at a World Championships that they had reached the final, it was the 19<sup>th</sup> time they had held the prized Corbillon Cup aloft at the medal ceremony. The first appearance for China at a World Championships was in 1953 when, like the men, they finished in seventh place; they have never finished lower in the Women's Team event. The record is not quite staggering, it is staggering.

## INCREDIBLE RECORD

In 1956, on their second appearance in Tokyo the Women's Team finished in sixth place; then the following year in Stockholm and in 1959 it was bronze.

Two years later in Beijing it was runners up spot before once again in Prague in 1963 it was defeat in the semi-finals. However, since that date, China has always reached the final of the Women's Team event; Tokyo was their 24<sup>th</sup> appearance in a World Championships Women's Team final.





## VLADIMIR SAMSONOV REMAINS AS PRESIDENT

A plethora activity in the main arena at the ZEN-NOH World Team Championships in Tokyo; there is also intense activity behind the scenes. Notably on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the members of the Athletes' Commission were announced. The elected members are: Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus), Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium), Zoran Primorac (Croatia), Krisztina Toth (Hungary) and David Powell (Australia).

### FURTHER MEMBERS

In addition, under the terms of reference, **Wang Liqin** (China) and **Ashu Jain** are appointed by the Athletes' Commission with **Angela Mori** (Peru), **El-Sayed Lashin** (Egypt) and **Yu Kwok See** (Hong Kong) being named by the ITTF Executive Committee. At the ITTF PTT World Championships to held in Beijing September 2014, a new Para Table Tennis representative will be elected.

### NO STRANGERS

Also at the Board of Directors Meeting, the International Table Tennis Federation met with the Japan **Anti-Doping Agency** (JADA) and agreed on further cooperation on promoting the values of sport. "It has been our pleasure working with ITTF and JADA is honoured and appreciative of the recognition of

our partnerships", said **Shin Asakawa**, JADA Chief Executive Officer. "Since table tennis is one of the biggest and popular sports in Japan and across Asia, I would like to ensure that we support the future of the sport."

### CONTINUED CO-OPERATION

Owing to the fact that Tokyo hosting the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the legacy beyond, both JADA and ITTF agreed on further cooperation to enhance the message on protecting the values of sport and the global anti-doping movement.





# IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING : IBRAHIM HAMADTOU

China won the Men's and Women's events at the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships, proceedings concluding in the Japanese city of Tokyo on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The likes of **Ma Long**, **Xu Xin**, **Zhang Jike**, in particular thrilled the crowds with their expertise and athleticism as did **Ding Ning**, **Li Xiaoxia** and **Liu Shiwen**.

However, if there was one person who stole the show, it was 41 year old **Ibrahim Hamadtou**, the man who was true to his motto: nothing is impossible.

## GRIPPED MEDIA ATTENTION

It is a phrase that has gripped media attention; none more so than the CTV National News Channel, Canada.

Recently they interviewed **Adham Sharara**, the ITTF President, who explained how he came to meet **Ibrahim Hamadtou** and how the intrepid sportsman is an inspiration to all, both within and beyond sporting boundaries.

## TRAGIC ACCIDENT

No arms as the result of a tragic accident when ten years old, the initial choice was football which appeared quite logical. It may have been the first selection of sports but it was not the first option.

He tried holding the racket between his armpits but the eventual solution was to grip the racket handle in his mouth.

## AN OPPORTUNITY

Simply the sport he enjoyed playing more than other was table tennis and in Tokyo he was given the opportunity to demonstrate his skills.

He played against some of the very best players in the world.

In Tokyo **Ibrahim Hamadtou** faced Japan's **Jun Mizutani**, the Chinese duo of **Ma Long** and **Wang Hao** in addition to **Vladimir Samsonov** of Belarus.

## INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCE

Simply his performance was staggering; one imagined that playing against **Ibrahim Hamadtou**, players would have to return the ball slowly using no more than a mild backhand push stroke.

Not so, he proved a most adroit practice partner for the stars of the sport; maybe they did not play at full throttle but they certainly moved into second gear as they executed forehand top spin strokes.

## SHOWMAN

Not only did **Ibrahim Hamadtou** return the ball with panache, he proved himself a showman; he returned the ball from half-distance, performed a pirouette and continued the rally.

Equally when serving he underlined the fact he may well have proved to be no mean footballer, the ball resting on his left foot, he flicked the ball in the air with Brazilian artistry to set the rally in motion.

*Nothing is impossible;  
nothing in the life  
of Ibrahim Hamadtou.*

# THIRD CONSECUTIVE FINAL, **DIMITRIJ OVTCHAROV** REGAINS GERMAN TITLE

Crowned European champion some five months earlier, the host nation's **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** won the Men's Singles title at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour German Open in Magdeburg on the afternoon of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. The no.2 seed, at the final hurdle he beat Japan's Jun Mizutani, the no.6 seed, by the minimal two point margin in the deciding game to arrest the title (11-9, 5-11, 9-11, 11-5, 6-11, 11-2, 11-9). It was the third successive year that **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** had appeared in the final of the tournament; he won in 2012 beating colleague, Timo Boll; one year ago he was beaten by China's **Fen Zhendong** in the top place contest.

## FIVE TITLES

Overall **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** has now won five ITTF World Tour Men's Singles titles in eight finals. In addition to his three finals in Germany, he won in India in 2010, before in 2011 emerging successful in both Brazil and Korea. He was the runner up in 2009 in Denmark and in 2010 in Poland.

## GREAT TOURNAMENT

*"This has been a great tournament for me, I have had a lot of tight victories and have played to my ability", said **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**. "I am very happy and I am much more confident now heading into the World Championships."*

## TURNING OF TIDE

Success for **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** in what is a result that signals a turning of the tide. In international competition, **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** beat **Jun Mizutani** in the Under 21 Men's Singles event at the Croatian Open in 2005. However, he then lost the next seven encounters, before succeeding at the Liebherr 2012 World Team Championships in Dortmund and more recently one year ago at the Men's Singles quarter-final stage at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour German Open.

## GREW UP PLAYING JUN MIZUTANI

The record is clearly in the mind of **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** who can recall defeats against **Jun Mizutani** not in World ranking events. *"I grew up playing Mizutani, we started playing against each other when we were 12 years old; when we were younger he beat me about nine times in a row", reminisced **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**. "After the ninth time I figured that I should change my tactics against him and it worked; I have won my last few matches against him."*







## UP AND DOWN

Victory for **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** made it three wins in a row but only just. *"The whole game was up and down, I had a few lapses in concentration and I had to keep on re focusing"*, continued **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**. *"The end of the game was amazing; probably the best finish to a game that I have ever had."*

## GOOD OMEN

A good finish and perhaps the win is a good omen? *"The last time I won the German Open was in 2012 and after that I won bronze at London 2012, so I hope this victory will have the same effect on me"*, concluded **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**. *"This is my first Super Series win, so I am thrilled."*

## SEVENTH WIN

Defeat for **Jun Mizutani** in his seventh ITTF World Tour Men's Singles final; the third time he has been beaten in the gold medal match, the other two occasions both being on home soil in the Japanese city of Kobe. He was the silver medallist in both 2010 and 2011. The three wins came in Korea in 2009, in Hungary one year later; whilst in 2012 he won in both Kuwait and Kobe; in Magdeburg it was a well merited second place, the champion was from the host nation, the champion was **Dimitrij Ovtcharov**.

# FAIRY TALE ENDS FOR **MIU HIRANO**, EXPERIENCE COUNTS, GOLD FOR LI FEN



Experienced counted, there was to be no fairy tale ending for Japan's Miu Hirano in the Women's Singles event at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour Spanish Open in Almeria. In the early evening of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, the 13 year old was beaten by Sweden's Li Fen. Crowned European champion in Shwechat, Austria in October 2013 and the no.4 seed, Li Fen overcame Liu Hirano, the no.19 seed in five games to secure the title (11-4, 6-11, 11-2, 11-3, 12-10).

The result was as logic predicted, the higher ranked player succeeded. Furthermore, Li Fen, now 37 years old and a former member of the Chinese National Team held the aces at the crucial times. Nevertheless the performance of Miu Hirano was remarkable. Few in any would have predicted she would have reached the final.



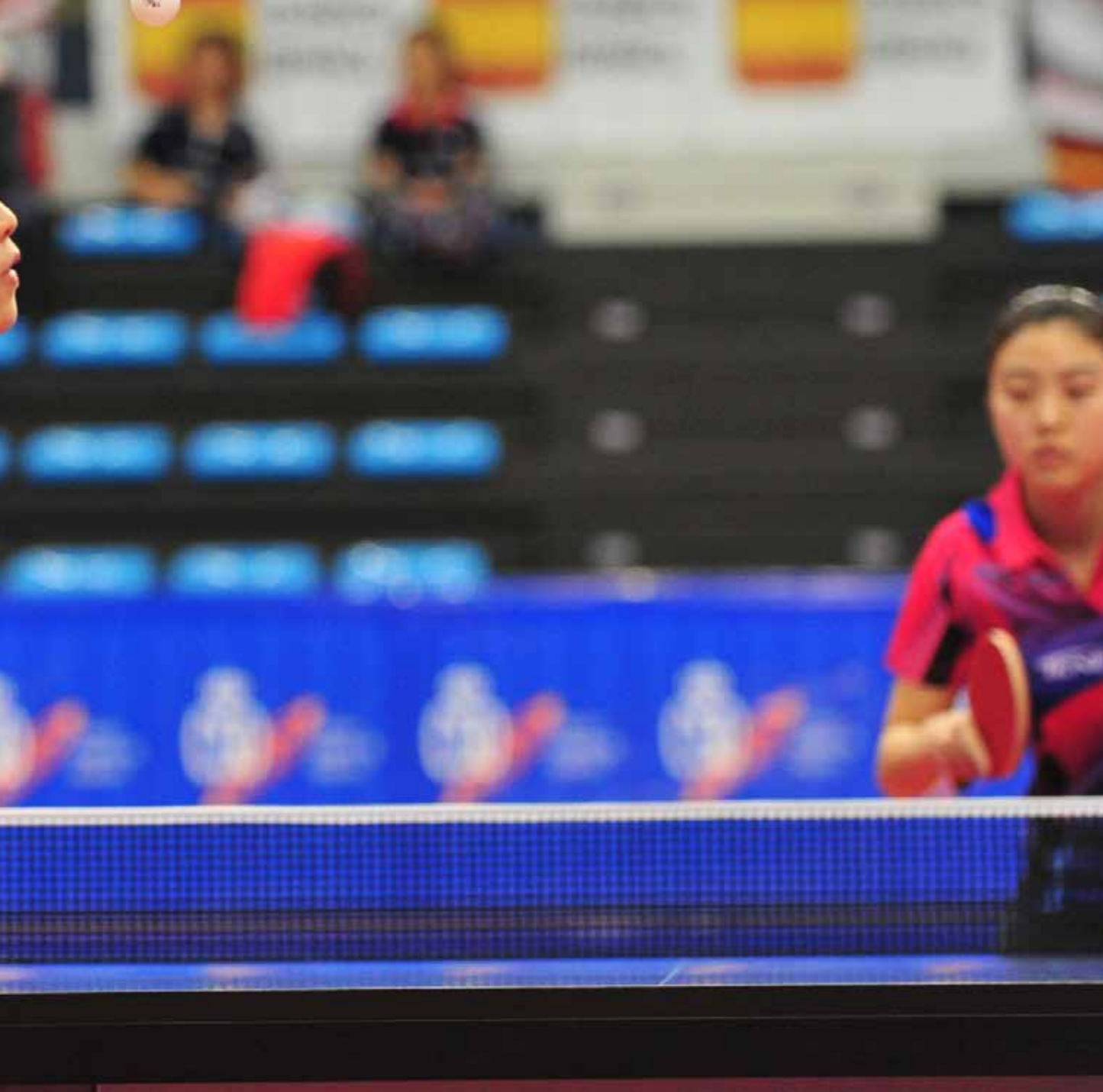
## FIRST FINAL

It was for both players their first ever appearance in an ITTF World Tour Women's Singles final and thus a first title for **Li Fen**. Was it was a victory destined to occur? Earlier in the year when competing on the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour, **Li Fen** had proved a most worthy adversary. The high level of technical skills honed in her native Shandong Province, before joining the Chinese National Team had clearly held her in good stead earlier in the year when competing in Kuwait, Qatar and more recently in Germany.

## TWICE A QUARTER-FINALIST

At the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour Kuwait Open she had been beaten in the second round of the Women's Singles event by China's Wu Yang. In both Qatar and Germany she reached the final. In the former she was beaten by **Wu Yang**'s colleague, **Hu Limei**; in Germany by the host nation's Han Ying. In all instances defeat had been at the hands of most worthy adversaries.





## SECOND SWEDE

Success in Almeria means that **Li Fen** is the 82<sup>nd</sup> player to have won an ITTF World Tour Women's Singles title since the concept started in 1996. She is the second ever Swede to clinch such a crown; the one other is Matilda Ekholm; she emerged successful in Rabat at the GAC Group 2012 ITTF World Tour Moroccan Open. Success for Matilda Ekholm in Rabat; in Almeria the golden girl is Li Fen, European champion, now GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour Spanish Open Women's Singles champion.

# LONG WAIT OVER FOR ENGLAND, **PAUL DRINKHALL** CROWNED CHAMPION IN SPAIN

Impressive at the London 2012 Olympic Games, where he reached the fourth round of the Men's Singles event, England's Paul Drinkhall struck gold in Almeria on the evening of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Occupying the no.22 seeded position in the draw, he emerged the somewhat the surprise winner of the Men's Singles event at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour Spanish Open. At the final hurdle he overcame Japan's Masataka Morizono, the no.5 seed in six games (11-7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, 6-11, 11-8) to claim the title.

## MOTIVATION INCREASES

*«Motivation increases when you open the window in the morning and see the sun shining», said **Paul Drinkhall** who was delighted with the high level of organisation in Almeria. «I will play more international tournaments», he added. «I want to raise my level so in 2016 I can relive the wonderful experience of the London Olympic Games.»*

## SECOND ENGLISHMAN

Success means **Paul Drinkhall** becomes only the second Englishman to win an ITTF World Tour Men's Singles title; the other is **Carl Prean**, he won in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro in 1996, the very first year of the programme. In the final he accounted for Argentina's Liu Song.

## EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Furthermore, **Paul Drinkhall** has a further unique achievement with Carl Prean; they are the only English players to have won both the Cadet Boys' Singles and Junior Boys' Singles titles at the European Youth Championships. **Carl Prean** secured the Cadet Boys' Singles crown in Hollabrunn in 1982 and then followed by claiming the Junior Boys' Singles title in Den Haag in 1985. Two decades later **Paul Drinkhall** secured the Cadet crown in Ostrava in 2005 and the Junior title in Terni in 2008. Examining the records of players who have stood on the top step of the podium in the Cadet Boys' Singles event at the European Youth Championships, there is an alarming number who do not proceed to succeed on the international stage as senior players. **Paul Drinkhall** and **Carl Prean** have both avoided the chasm of mediocrity.

## WATERSHED WIN

Furthermore, could the win in Almeria prove a major watershed for **Paul Drinkhall**? One year ago few outside the most ardent enthusiasts and heard of **Masato Shiono**; in June he won the Men's Singles title on home soil at the GAC Group 2013 ITTF World Tour Japan Open, it changed his life, now the world is his oyster.



## TOKYO BOOST

Additionally, might the success gained by **Paul Drinkhall** in Almeria prove a major blessing for England in their bid to gain promotion to the Championship Division at the forthcoming ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships in Tokyo? Included in the English squad is Liam Pitchford, a quarter-finalist in the Men's Singles event at the GAC Group 2013 ITTF World Tour German Open; two formidable players now lead the country where the sport was born.

## GOOD TEAM

A good team for the ZEN-NOH 2014 World Team Championships and there was a good team in place in Almeria. Throughout **Paul Drinkhall** was advised by England National Coach, **Nicky Jarvis**; both hail from the north east of England and both once played for the celebrated English club, Ormesby, led by **Alan Ransome**, Chair of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Association.





## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

**Paul Drinkhall** has enjoyed success as a member of the Ormesby Club but he cannot match former England no.1, **Nicky Jarvis**. In 1972 **Nicky Jarvis** was a member of the Ormesby team that won the European Club Cup of Champions, the forerunner of the present day European Championships League; the remaining members of the team were **Denis Neale** and **Trevor Taylor**.

## CELEBRATE AGAIN

Ormesby is the only English club ever to win the title; 42 years ago the region celebrated now 42 years later the north east of England can celebrate again, **Paul Drinkhall** is the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour Men's Singles champion.



# PRESIDENT ADHAM SHARARA

David Cameron, the British Prime Minister, answers the questions from members of parliament; at Prime Minister's Question Time, the answers are coherent, perhaps there is an element of wit and more often than not there is a jibe directed towards the opposition.

However, he is not replying off the cuff; he has a team of advisors to recommend poignant answers and is privy to the questions.

At the recent ZEN-HOH World Team Championships in Tokyo, **Adham Sharara** explained that during the period of the event, the number of meetings he must attend, some longer than others, may rise to 90 such gatherings. Does that mean the numbers of questions which must be answered approaches one thousand?

In order to reduce the punishing quantity of meetings and the repetition of questions, **Adham Sharara** suggested that a Forum, perhaps on the lines of the British Prime Minister's Question Time might be an innovation worth considering.

However, one fact is certain whether such an innovation is introduced or not; the ITTF President must be able to think on his feet, answer quickly and lucidly.

Sheri Cioroslan in her review of the concluding 100 days of the **Adham Sharara** era discovered the reasons being able to answer quickly and lucidly has proved a strength of the man who will become Chair of the International Table Tennis Federation on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September and hand over the mantle of office to Thomas Weikert.

## DAY 91 - MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

Interview with ITTF President Adham Sharara

«**I am motivated  
to do the best  
for our sport.**»

**ITTF** - «Your ITTF bio states your profession as Electrical Engineer. According to thesaurus.com, 'electrical' is defined as 'charged; energetic,' and 'engineer' is defined as «person who puts together things.' Over the past 15 years, you have certainly lived up to that billing as ITTF President. You have stirred the ITTF with your dynamic leadership, including even orchestrating your own denouement. So, let us talk about your decision to change your focus, this 100-day finale, and what possible encore performance might develop.»

**Adham Sharara** - «Yes, you are right, my mind does work like an Electrical Engineer. But to be more accurate, I would say more like an Electronics Engineer, which is, in reality, my major at university. I like to think fast, but at the same time I like to be well prepared. I rehearse a lot in my head.



*Many people are surprised that I can make fast decisions, or that I have an answer to a complex problem very fast, or even that all my speeches are ad-lib rather than a prepared written script. The main reason is that since my very young days I learnt to rehearse everything in my head over and over again. So when the time comes to utter the words, they are ready as if they were written in my brain.*

*I also think about solutions to problems over and over in my head. I believe that for every problem there are at least 10 solutions. So, I keep thinking over and over of the best possible solution.*

*I remember as a 10-year old, I was infatuated with a girl in my school (2 years my senior), and I knew that I might just bump into her at the beach. The odds of that happening were one-in-a-million, but I kept rehearsing the possible conversation over and over in my head. Of course, I did not see her that day, but I was ready just in case.*

*This describes well my character as a professional or as a manager. Always be ready, never be caught by surprise and always think of the best solutions. I do come across as a cold and business-like character, and that is true in business, but the opposite in my private life.»*





**ITTF** - «*Maybe 2009 is a good starting point in this discussion. Prior to that election, you were actively seeking to implement a transition strategy. What gave you the desire and motivation to rally, shall we say, for another four years at that point?*»

**A.S.** - «*In 2008 I had already decided that 10 years as ITTF president was enough. 10 is a nice round number. It looks good, it sounds good and it's a decade. This was my ideal exit point.*

*I also sincerely thought that Mr. Yang Shuan would make a better president than me. Why? Because he comes from a very strong table tennis country, and with his open-minded attitude, he could have China help the rest of the world. Just like Canada did in Ice Hockey in the 1960s and 1970s, and like the USA did in Basketball over the last 30 years.*

*Mr. Yang has this mentality and always was ready to put China at the service of the ITTF for the betterment and development of TT across the world. In addition, in 2008 he was also the Sports Director of the Beijing Olympic Games. This is a very important position. He knew all the IFs and their leaders, and of course he was very close to all the IOC staff and leadership. It was a perfect combination and the time was right. Unfortunately, just 3 months before the elections, Mr. Yang indicated that, for professional reasons, he could not run for the ITTF Presidency.*

*By the way, I am very happy that Mr. Yang has since been appointed to an IOC working group for the IOC's Agenda 2020. My goal of involving more TT officials in the IOC is already happening. (I am also a member of the Youth Olympic Games Coordination Committee.)*

*So, after trying in vain to convince Mr. Yang, and in order to ensure that we would have a candidate, I approached a couple of prominent ITTF officials (a woman first, and then a man), but both indicated that they were not ready for that role.*

*I also received unbearable pressure from my peers and supporters to run for another term. So, I did. But, as of that moment, I started to think of my exit strategy and how best to do it while still serving the ITTF the best way I could.»*

**ITTF** - «*Ok. Let's fast-forward to the beginning of 2013. You quietly announced that you would stand for president one last time. Then, it seemed from out of nowhere, came an avalanche of accusations, which, in the end, were all for naught. That scenario must have been really grueling to deal with on top of all of your responsibilities.»*



**A.S.** - «I must say that this was the darkest moment in the history of the ITTF as far as I am concerned.

I know that in other sports, and also in politics in general, especially in some cultures, this type of smear campaign is common. For me, this was the first time that I would face an open and public smear campaign that went far beyond my professional and volunteer responsibilities.

Those that led that campaign and had any part in it should bury their selfish heads in the sand and be ashamed of themselves. The damage caused is absolutely enormous. Copies of accusations were sent to the IOC and to the press. They also attacked my family, my integrity and the integrity of the ITTF.

This was a difficult time not only for me and my family, but also for the ITTF. I became very angry and started to question myself and the validity of 22 years of volunteer dedication to the ITTF (in 2013: 14 as President, four as Deputy and four as Continental VP). I could not understand how anyone, especially TT colleagues, would take such low and despicable action.

But, as always, I thought about it a lot and came to some conclusions and de-

cided to fight back in a systematic and clean way and to prove them wrong. As I always say, «It was a blessing in disguise.» At the end the truth prevailed, and the outcome was a much more united ITTF.

Also, the overwhelming election win in Paris for my team and for me was uplifting and energized me. But, at the same time, I thought it would be best to step aside in due time, and not during an election year to avoid other vultures appearing. So I consulted with many inside the ITTF and we came up with the perfect solution, which was successfully implemented at the Tokyo AGM.

Now I feel good. I feel vindicated. And I am motivated to do the best for our sport. Top-5, man! Top-5!

But I will tell you a secret, well now it won't be a secret anymore, my intention was already not to run in 2013. I had decided this at the London Olympic Games. I saw the ITTF as a solid and successful federation, and I was buoyed by the success in London, so I thought this was the best exit scenario.

Then some ill-intentioned people started rumours of impropriety already in London. I reported them to the EC in September at our meeting in Paris, and

I confronted a couple of the accusers. I thought things would die down after that. But, instead, the vindictive nature of some made matters worse and the accusations escalated. So, with my close supporters, we decided that I had to stay and run one more time, otherwise people may believe the rumours and false accusations.»

**ITTF** - «So, you went to the 2013 AGM and logically had someone other than yourself run the election portion of the meeting? And the wheels started to turn. Maybe you were thinking: in Canada we have had a separate Chair and President going back some 25 years. Was that the genesis of the Chair position?»

**A.S.** - «Actually we asked the Deputy President to chair the entire meeting until the announcement of the results of the election. This was not my idea. It was a complaint received from my opponent, and although that is not ITTF policy, we reluctantly accepted, just to avoid any complaints or protests after the fact.

And yes, you are right, at that moment I thought if this is the perception, then why not create a neutral and permanent position of Chair?

You are also right we have had this successful system in Canada for at least 25



years and it works very well. But not only in Canada. In fact, all successful corporations have this system in place (Apple, Microsoft, banks, etc.). So why not the ITTF?

Here's another secret, I had proposed this system already to Mr. Xu Yinsheng in 1997, but he did not agree with it at the time.

The ITTF is known to be the first to innovate. I guarantee you that in a few years you will see several IFs doing the same thing.»

**ITTF - «At the 2014 AGM, the Chair position was created and you were elected. Thomas Weikert will take over as ITTF President on September 1.»**

**A.S. - «Yes, this is correct. This is a new structure and a big change from previous practice. So I expected much more resistance. I also did not want to force anyone in this direction. I simply sent an e-mail communication to all members explaining the purpose of this new position and my interest in being elected.**

*I also made it clear that I would retire from the presidency (long overdue) on 1 September 2014, which marks exactly 15 years of service as president. (I was elected in August 1999 in Eindhoven.)*

*I was pleasantly surprised that the permanent Chair position was accepted at the AGM with 80% of the votes, and that I was elected with 90% of the votes.*

*Thomas is very capable. He is the president of one of the largest and most successful national federations in the ITTF (Germany). But at the same time he understands the needs of the smaller associations, and he promised to focus on development. He has a very friendly personality and good diplomatic skills. So I think he will be very successful.*

*I have repeated a joke many times, so indulge me one more time: «I always say that a successful president must be tall, have a good head of hair and be handsome. So, Thomas is taller than me, has more hair than me, and... well... 2 out of 3 ain't bad.»»*

**ITTF - «What are your top goals as these last 100 days are counting down?»**

**A.S. - «I am rushing to complete many pending matters, but both Thomas and our CEO have assured me that we should have a smooth and steady transition rather than a dramatic cut-off date. That makes it easier to function during these last months.**

*Regarding my priorities, they are very clear and, in this new function, I will have the time to accomplish them:*

1. Be the Chair of the AGM – I want to make the AGM a better gathering, as president and Chair at the same time this was not possible. But focused just on chairing the assembly, I can make it a much better experience. I am thinking about it now and we shall see in Suzhou.
2. Deliver the P5 Plan and DBI System – The process has started and will be very inclusive. We are receiving a lot of input, and the momentum created in Dubai in January continues to grow. Again, I believe this is a system and plan that will succeed and will bring TT in the top 5 in the world as a sport, and the ITTF also in the top 5 as a federation. I am sure that many federations will copy the ITTF's process once they see its success.
3. Review the Constitution – this is a low priority item, but very important. Somehow it is always relegated to the back burner. I will make sure that we get it done and present a new constitution in two steps at the 2015 AGM and the 2016 AGM.
4. Marketing – I will continue to help the ITTF and TMS to reach their marketing goals.

*The above functions are temporary. No. 1 until 2017, No. 2 for one year, No. 3 for two years, and No. 4 when needed. But this is a good way to continue to serve the ITTF, while giving full range and reign to the new president as of September 2014.»*

**ITTF - «How do you see your future involvement with the ITTF? What other possible «encore performances» might develop over time?»**

**A.S. - «Once I have finished the tasks listed in the previous question, I will remain available for advice, but I will never interfere or impose myself. I hope to be invited to World Championships so that I can watch 84 matches, rather than have 84 meetings.»**

**ITTF - «Thank you very much. It will be interesting to visit with you further about your plans -- past, present and future -- over the next several weeks.»**



# VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Titles at both World and European Championships but absent from the tournament scene for eight years, Sweden's Peter Karlsson concluded proceedings with a bronze medal to his credit at the Stag 2014 World Veteran Championships in Auckland, New Zealand on Saturday 17th May. He was beaten at the semi-final stage of the Men's Singles 40 to 49 years' category by China's Li Zheng (7-11, 11-13, 11-8, 11-6, 11-6). Defeat but for the Swede, who had played alongside the likes of Jan-Ove Waldner and Jörgen Persson in the halcyon days of his country's powers, the experience of competing in the tournament was of a most positive nature and indelibly printed in his mind. There were no negative thoughts.

## LOW EXPECTATIONS

*"Before the tournament started I had low expectations", said Peter Karlsson. "However, before I started playing today, I felt confident and after I had won the first two games in the semi-final I also felt confident; he started to play better, he anticipated my play and I became a little tired."* It has been a very intense schedule for Peter Karlsson in Auckland; he has been in great demand. On the previous day he left the hotel at 6.00am to be present for a television programme at the Trusts Arena one hour later, the venue where the tournament was held. *"That was after I'd not finished playing the previous evening until 10.30pm", added Peter Karlsson. "But that is no excuse; that's nothing to do with why I lost."*

## ENJOYED PLAYING

Peter Karlsson gave great credit to his conqueror and after the match it was not a sad face but a smiling demeanour from the Swede. *"I enjoyed playing again, I felt that I had been missing something; I have really good memories of my time here", added Peter Karlsson. "You want to win but the atmosphere here is so friendly, I think you learn that there is more to life than when you are 25 years old; also Ding Yi lost, maybe he came here thinking he could win but when he lost, he stayed and had a beer with everyone."* The comments made by Peter Karlsson are in the same vein as I have heard time and time again during my stay in Auckland; friendships are not only renewed, they are created and they last for a lifetime.

## ATMOSPHERE

*"There is a tremendous atmosphere, the New Zealand people, the warm welcome; it's the way table tennis people behave", continued Peter Karlsson. "I have met many people here and I have not heard one negative comment, everything has been so relaxed; always at dinner there is a sense of humour; it's just fun."* Everyone has enjoyed the "Kiwi Experience"; there is no doubt about that fact. *"I hope my presence has been beneficial; I was the favourite to win the Men's Singles 40 to 49 years' class but I lost", explained Peter Karlsson. "It made no difference; the reaction from everyone was just the same after a match, whether I won or lost."*



## ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Throughout the whole tournament, Peter Karlsson has been in great demand; always he has been available; the locals in particular have been delighted to welcome a World class table tennis player into their midst. *"I hope I have been able to promote the Stag image; I hope I've brought some knowledge", stressed Peter Karlsson. "I'm very happy in this beautiful country; it's the first time I've been here."*

## SET EXAMPLE

Certainly the knowledge that Peter Karlsson has brought to the Stag 2014 World Veteran Championships has been invaluable but there is more to the visit of the former European Men's Singles champion than just a wealth of information. He shows how a top class sportsman should behave, he has demonstrated how you should behave as a human being; in Auckland Peter Karlsson has set a splendid example. Passion for Sport Furthermore, he has no regrets whatsoever. *"I think that many top players may not consider playing in a World Veteran Championships; it's an opportu-*





nity to win medals but of course top players have already won medals", said **Peter Karlsson**. "At the World Veteran Championships, you meet people with the same passion, the passion for our wonderful sport; everyone is part of a fantastic environment." Once again the concept of the family is strongly stated.

## ALL WINNERS

"There are no losers, we are all winners through sport", concluded **Peter Karlsson**. "Over 1,600 table tennis players have come to Auckland; the organisers and volunteers have put in an immense number of hours, it's been simply fantastic." The Stag 2014 World Veteran Championships is now at an end but the for **Peter Karlsson** the visit to the continent of Oceania continues, he will

stay in New Zealand for a further few days before departing for the Cook Islands to conduct an ITTF Training Camp prior to the inaugural Cook Islands Junior and Cadet Open. He returns to Sweden on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May and he returns with memories that will last a lifetime, memories of Auckland, memories of New Zealand, memories of the Stag 2014 World Veteran Table Tennis Championships.



# CHINA OPEN

The winner one year ago in Changchun and Suzhou, once again, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, Ma Long showed his liking for ITTF World Tour tournaments staged in his native China.

Occupying the no.2 seeded position in the draw, he beat Xu Xin, the no.1 seed, in all Chinese Men's Singles final at the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour China Open in Chengdu, to secure his first such title of the year.

He secured victory in five games (11-7, 11-9, 8-11, 11-7, 11-4) and thus reversed the decision of some five months earlier, when he had been beaten by Xu Xin in seven games in the final of the Men's Singles event at the GAC Group 2013 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals in Dubai.

## GOOD SUPPORT

*"The fans in Chengdu were very good, they really supported me a lot, so I would like to thank them for that", said **Ma Long**. "I won two gold medals in the two events I entered, so I am very happy; it was a perfect event and I did my job here."*

Earlier **Ma Long** had partnered Fan Zhendong to Men's Doubles success beating **Xu Xin** and **Zhang Jike** in the final.

*"Even though my condition here was nearly perfect, I just played one game at a time and hoped that I would win the gold", added **Ma Long**. "I am very happy to win my 17<sup>th</sup> World Tour title, this means a lot; however I still have quite a few wins left if I am going to catch up to Samsonov's record of 23 titles."*







## FOURTH PLACE

**Ma Long** is now in fourth place on the all-time list.

He is one win behind Germany's **Timo Boll** who has won on 18 occasions, three behind compatriot **Ma Lin** who has 20 ITTF World Tour Men's Singles crowns in his possession and four in arrears of another Chinese player, the three times World champion **Wang Liqin**. He is in second place with 21 victories.

## FIFTH IN CHINA

In Chengdu it was a 17<sup>th</sup> win for **Ma Long** in 26 ITTF World Tour Men's Singles final appearances; his fifth in China.

Additional to his two successes in 2013, he won in Suzhou in both 2009 and 2011.

## AMAZING PLAYER

Defeat for **Xu Xin** who was not able to reach the heights scaled in Dubai.

*"I felt that I had too much to do here and I could not focus, which is why I think I lost both finals", reflected Xu Xin. "In saying that it is usual to lose against Ma Long, he is an amazing player."*

It was for Xu Xin his 12<sup>th</sup> appearance in an ITTF World Tour Men's Singles final; of those appearances it was only his fourth defeat.

# KRISTIAN KARLSSON PERFORMS HEROICS, HISTORIC WIN FOR PONTOISE

A first European Champions League Final for Pontoise and the French club faced prestigious opponents; they confronted the Russian club Orenburg, the defending champions and seeking a third consecutive title.

It proved to be a defining moment in the career of **Peter Franz**, the Manager of the Pontoise Team.

Nothing to hide, well known to each other, **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** and **Marcos Freitas** faced each other in the first match of the first match in Pontoise on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May; the former on duty for Orenburg, the latter representing the hosts.

**Dimitrij Ovtcharov** emerged successful but immediately Pontoise levelled matters when **Wang Jian** overcame **Vladimir Samsonov** in three games.

Did that result give added confidence to **Kristian Karlsson**, before starting his match against **Smirnov**?

The Swede beat the Russian three-one and put his team in an ideal position, before the duel between **Marcos Freitas** and **Vladimir Samsonov**. The Portuguese star didn't let the chance go begging, he emerged successful in four games to seal a French success.

It was an unexpected victory and added spice to the return leg in Russia on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

The French Team knew they had a great challenge ahead and they were proved correct.

**Dimitrij Ovtcharov** beat **Wang Jian** in the opening match, before Vladimir Samsonov led two-nil against **Marcos Freitas** and was on the brink of a straight games win. However, **Marcos Freitas** captured the third game following a dramatic rally, before winning the fourth and holding match point in the fifth. The match point was saved and **Vladimir Samsonov**, alias "Mr European Champions League" progressed to win the contest.

Now the pressure was firmly on the shoulders of **Kristian Karlsson**. However, facing **Alexei Smirnov** did not daunt the Swede; he showed his mental strength, he proved a real fighter and won in five games.

It was the contest that realistically determined the result; whatever happened next, match ratio was decidedly in favour of Pontoise; **Dimitrij Ovtcharov** beat **Marcos Freitas** in the concluding contest but it mattered not; the biggest success in the almost 100 years of Pontoise history had been secured.

It was as the Pontoise website described "*an heroic, phenomenal and gigantic victory*"; for **Orenburg**, next year they have a chance to make amends, the team remains the same.







## FINAL

**First Leg - Saturday 17th May**  
**AS Pontoise Cergy 3-1 Fakel**  
**Gazproma Orenburg**

**Marcos Freitas - Dimitrij Ovtcharov**  
 1:3 (11:13, 9:11, 12:10, 6:11)

**Wang Jian Jun - Vladimir Samsonov**  
 3:0 (11:9, 11:8, 11:8)

**Kristian Karlsson - Alexey Smirnov**  
 3:1 (12:10, 5:11, 12:10, 11:8)

**Marcos Freitas - Vladimir Samsonov**  
 3:1 (11:7, 11:8, 10:12, 11:5)

**Second Leg: Friday 30th May**  
**Fakel Gazproma Orenburg 3-1**  
**AS Pontoise Cergy**

**Dimitrij Ovtcharov - Wang Jian Jun**  
 3:2 (11:7, 10:12, 9:11, 11:9, 11:7)

**Vladimir Samsonov - Marcos Freitas**  
 3:2 (11:8, 11:9, 10:12, 11:13, 12:10)

**Alexey Smirnov - Kristian Karlsson**  
 2:3 (10:12, 11:4, 8:11, 11:6, 8:11)

**Dimitrij Ovtcharov - Marcos Freitas**  
 3:1 (11:7, 11:8, 5:11, 11:8)

### Match Ratio

First Leg: AS Pontoise Cergy 10-5  
 Fakel Gazproma Orenburg

Second Leg: Fakel Gazproma  
 Orenburg 11-8 AS Pontoise Cergy

Overall: AS Pontoise Cergy 18-16  
 Fakel Gazproma Orenburg



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# WORLD RANKING LIST - MEN



**XU Xin** (CHN) • No. 1



**MA Long** (CHN) • No. 2



**FAN Zhendong** (CHN) • No. 3



**OVTCHAROV Dimitrij** (GER) • No. 4



**ZHANG Jike** (CHN) • No. 5

RANKING	PREVIOUS	NAME	ASSOC	RANKING PTS.
1	1	<b>XU Xin</b>	CHN	3076
2	2	<b>MA Long</b>	CHN	3051
3	3	<b>FAN Zhendong</b>	CHN	2984
4	4	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij	GER	2838
5	5	ZHANG Jike	CHN	2807
6	6	WANG Hao	CHN	2788
7	8	CHUANG Chih-Yuan	TPE	2735
8	10	MIZUTANI Jun	JPN	2710
9	7	<b>YAN An</b>	CHN	2702
10	9	BOLL Timo	GER	2695
11	11	SAMSONOV Vladimir	BLR	2568
12	14	GAO Ning	SIN	2551
13	12	FREITAS Marcos	POR	2502
14	16	NIWA Koki	JPN	2477
15	13	<b>ZHOU Yu</b>	CHN	2464
		HAO Shuai	CHN	2430
16	19	JOO Saehyuk	KOR	2407
17	15	KIM Minseok	KOR	2406
18	18	CHEN Chien-An	TPE	2396
19	24	TANG Peng	HKG	2393
20	17	MATSUDAIRA Kenta	JPN	2379
21	21	<b>BAUM Patrick</b>	GER	2376
22	20	CHO Eonrae	KOR	2372
23	33	GACINA Andrej	CRO	2371
24	23	APOLONIA Tiago	POR	2356
25	26	SHIONO Masato	JPN	2347
26	27	<b>STEGER Bastian</b>	GER	2342
27	29	GIONIS Panagiotis	GRE	2339
28	28	<b>CRISAN Adrian</b>	ROU	2338
29	37	FRANZISKA Patrick	GER	2306
30	32	GARDOS Robert	AUT	2303
31	22	KISHIKAWA Seiya	JPN	2288
32	25	MAZE Michael	DEN	2280
33	30	JUNG Youngsik	KOR	2264
34	36	TAKAKIWA Taku	JPN	2246
35	31	JIANG Tianyi	HKG	2245
36	69	TSUBOI Gustavo	BRA	2242
37	34	SHIBAEV Alexander	RUS	2230
38	39	ACHANTA Sharath Kamal	IND	2224
		LEE Jungwoo	KOR	2216
39	41	<b>OH Sangeun</b>	KOR	2214
40	46	MATTENET Adrien	FRA	2213
41	40	<b>ZHAN Jian ^</b>	SIN	2212
42	44	CHEN Weixing	AUT	2210
43	42	<b>CHAN Kazuhiro</b>	JPN	2209
44	50	TOKIC Bojan	SLO	2203
45	37	WONG Chun Ting	HKG	2201
		YOSHIDA Kaii	JPN	2200
46	35	GERELL Par	SWE	2196
47	56	MONTEIRO Joao	POR	2193
47	48	FEGERL Stefan	AUT	2193
49	43	TAN Ruiwu	CRO	2178
50	45	KIM Hyok Bong	PRK	2173



RANKING	PREVIOUS	NAME	ASSOC	RANKING PTS.
51	47	SMIRNOV Alexey	RUS	2170
52	54	LEBESSON Emmanuel	FRA	2168
52	49	MENGEL Steffen	GER	2168
54	50	LEE Sangsu	KOR	2164
55	66	LUNDQVIST Jens	SWE	2163
56	59	PITCHFORD Liam	ENG	2157
57	52	JEONG Sangeun	KOR	2154
58	116	BOBOCICA Mihai	ITA	2153
58	77	WANG Zengyi	POL	2153
60	80	MORIZONO Masataka	JPN	2142
61	55	LI Hu ^	SIN	2137
61	61	HABESOHN Daniel	AUT	2137
63	57	LIN Gaoyuan	CHN	2136
64	100	KOU Lei	UKR	2132
60		LIU Yi	CHN	2129
65	76	CHIANG Hung-Chieh	TPE	2126
66	73	ASSAR Omar	EGY	2122
66	62	FILUS Ruwen	GER	2122
68	63	LIANG Jingkun	CHN	2119
69	53	SKACHKOV Kirill	RUS	2117
70	64	KIM Junhoon	KOR	2116
71	65	SUSS Christian	GER	2115
72	67	LI Ahmet ^	TUR	2114
73	89	GORAK Daniel	POL	2113
74	82	PROKOPCOV Dmitrij	CZE	2110
75	68	WANG Eugene ^	CAN	2108
76		KREANGA Kalinikos	GRE	2107
77	71	LIVENTSOV Alexey	RUS	2101
78	93	CALDERANO Hugo	BRA	2096
79	74	VANG Bora	TUR	2093
80	83	MURAMATSU Yuto	JPN	2092
81	70	GAUZY Simon	FRA	2088
82	144	DRINKHALL Paul	ENG	2085
83	89	MATSUMOTO Cazuo	BRA	2083
84	58	ALAMIYAN Noshad	IRI	2078
85	72	HE Zhiwen	ESP	2077
86	95	PATTANTYUS Adam	HUN	2075
87	81	MATSUDAIRA Kenji	JPN	2067
88	78	CHEUNG Yuk	HKG	2064
88	75	YANG Zi	SIN	2064
90	78	MACHADO Carlos	ESP	2061
91	84	ELOI Damien	FRA	2057
92	85	SEO Hyundeok	KOR	2050
93		KIM Nam Chol	PRK	2049
87		SHANG Kun	CHN	2044
94	97	KARLSSON Kristian	SWE	2043
95		PRIMORAC Zoran	CRO	2040
96	86	VLASOV Grigory	RUS	2038
97	140	KOSIBA Daniel	HUN	2033
98	92	WANG Yang ^	SVK	2022
99	87	LEUNG Chu Yan	HKG	2021
100	94	ROBINOT Quentin	FRA	2017

## Top 3

Player was active in the previous month

Player had no activity in the previous month

No activity within the last 4 months

The first list where their Starting Points have become final, having attained 5 Significant Wins

^ Indicates the player is not eligible to represent the Association in World Title events

^^ Indicates the player is not eligible to represent the Association in World Title, Continental Title and International Team events.

# WORLD RANKING LIST - WOMEN



**LIU SHIWEN** (CHN) • No. 1



**DING Ning** (CHN) • No. 2



**LI Xiaoxia** (CHN) • No. 3



**CHEN Meng** (CHN) • No. 4



**ZHU Yuling** (CHN) • No. 5

RANKING	PREVIOUS	NAME	ASSOC	RANKING PTS.
1	1	<b>LIU Shiwen</b>	CHN	3241
2	2	<b>DING Ning</b>	CHN	3183
3	3	<b>LI Xiaoxia</b>	CHN	3131
4	4	CHEN Meng	CHN	2922
5	5	ZHU Yuling	CHN	2920
5	7	FENG Tianwei	SIN	2920
7	6	WU Yang	CHN	2888
8	8	SEO Hyowon	KOR	2766
9	10	LIU Jia	AUT	2747
10	9	ISHIKAWA Kasumi	JPN	2745
		FUKUHARA Ai	JPN	2706
11	13	LI Jiao	NED	2697
12	18	YU Mengyu	SIN	2695
13	14	LEE Ho Ching	HKG	2690
14	12	HAN Ying ^	GER	2662
15	11	PAVLOVICH Viktoria	BLR	2650
16	22	HIRANO Sayaka	JPN	2634
17	27	LI Fen ^	SWE	2633
		SHEN Yanfei	ESP	2624
18	16	HU Limei	CHN	2623
19	19	SHAN Xiaona ^	GER	2608
20	23	RI Myong Sun	PRK	2607
21	17	JIANG Huajun	HKG	2590
22	20	JEON Jihee ^	KOR	2589
23	26	SAMARA Elizabeta	ROU	2586
24	21	YANG Haeun	KOR	2578
25	25	DOO Hoi Kem	HKG	2565
	24	WEN Jia	CHN	2562
26	28	HU Melek	TUR	2551
26		<b>LIU Fei</b>	<b>CHN</b>	<b>2551</b>
28	38	ISHIGAKI Yuka	JPN	2544
29	15	SEOK Hajung	KOR	2538
30	37	YU Fu ^	POR	2535
31	33	NG Wing Nam	HKG	2534
32	30	CHENG I-Ching	TPE	2517
33	49	HIRANO Miu	JPN	2516
34	46	IVANCAN Irene	GER	2505
35	29	MORIZONO Misaki	JPN	2504
36	32	WU Jiaduo	GER	2499
36	31	LIU Gaoyang	CHN	2499
38	41	POLCANOVA Sofia ^	AUT	2495
39	34	ZHAO Yan	CHN	2492
40	43	PESOTSKA Margaryta	UKR	2490
41	53	MONTEIRO DODEAN Daniela	ROU	2486
42	40	SOLJA Petrissa	GER	2480
43	36	LI Xue ^	FRA	2472
	39	GU Yuting	CHN	2464
44	51	SILBEREISEN Kristin	GER	2455
	44	LI Xiaodan	CHN	2445
45	42	LEE I-Chen	TPE	2445
46	35	POTA Georgina	HUN	2440
47		RI Mi Gyong	PRK	2437
48	44	LIN Ye ^	SIN	2436
49	56	WAKAMIYA Misako	JPN	2429
50	47	VACENOVSKA Iveta	CZE	2409
51	48	HUANG Yi-Hua	TPE	2408
52		TIE Yana	HKG	2399
53	59	SZOCS Bernadette	ROU	2394



RANKING	PREVIOUS	NAME	ASSOC	RANKING PTS.
54	69	PARTYKA Natalia	POL	2386
55	52	HAMAMOTO Yui	JPN	2385
56	79	WINTER Sabine	GER	2381
57	54	CHEN Szu-Yu	TPE	2378
58	50	LI Jie	NED	2372
59	57	ZHOU Yihan ^	SIN	2367
59	61	PARK Youngsook	KOR	2367
61	59	BARTHEL Zhenqi	GER	2361
62	58	SOLJA Amelie ^	AUT	2360
63		KIM Jong	PRK	2359
64	72	BILENKO Tetyana	UKR	2349
65	63	ITO Mima	JPN	2347
66	62	YOO Eunhong	KOR	2345
67	55	EKHOLM Matilda	SWE	2344
67		ZHANG Lily	USA	2344
69	64	LIU Xi	CHN	2342
70	73	NI Xialian	LUX	2341
71	71	NONAKA Yuki	JPN	2337
72	65	PARK Seonghye	KOR	2330
73	67	MU Zi	CHN	2323
74	73	YANG Xiaoxin ^^	MON	2322
		CHOI Moonyoung	KOR	2322
75	66	LEE Eunhee	KOR	2319
75	100	EERLAND Britt	NED	2319
	70	GU Ruochen	CHN	2315
77	68	MATSUZAWA Marina	JPN	2310
78	75	KATO Miyu	JPN	2300
79		TIAN Yuan	CRO	2296
80	76	LOVAS Petra	HUN	2294
		WANG Xuan	CHN	2292
81	82	STRBIKOVA Renata	CZE	2292
82	87	GRZYBOWSKA Katarzyna	POL	2279
83	77	POSTOACA Camelia	ROU	2277
		TIKHOMIROVA Anna	RUS	2271
		SHENG Dandan	CHN	2268
84		PASKAUSKIENE Ruta	LTU	2261
85	92	MIKHAILOVA Polina	RUS	2256
86	83	KOMWONG Nanthana	THA	2251
		FUKUOKA Haruna	JPN	2249
		CHEN Xingtong	CHN	2246
87	81	HSING Ariel	USA	2240
		ZHANG Qiang	CHN	2240
87	113	MADARASZ Dora	HUN	2240
		MITTELHAM Nina	GER	2237
89	85	ZHOU Xintong	CHN	2224
90	78	MATSUDAIRA Shiho	JPN	2221
91	86	TASHIRO Saki	JPN	2216
92	80	NOSKOVA Yana	RUS	2213
92		KIM Hye Song	PRK	2213
92	84	LI Qiangbing	AUT	2213
95	105	MAEDA Miyu	JPN	2212
96		USHIJIMA Seira	JPN	2210
97	90	DVORAK Galia	ESP	2204
	88	RAMIREZ Sara	ESP	2204
98	97	BALAZOVA Barbora	SVK	2202
	89	WANG Manyu	CHN	2202
99		HAYATA Hina	JPN	2195
100	90	PERGEL Szandra	HUN	2193

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Player was active in the previous month

Player had no activity in the previous month

No activity within the last 4 months

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