

# PRESS KIT



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## Press Release n°1

### Table Tennis: a world class tournament in Lausanne

It's been nearly one year since Lausanne allowed many enthusiastic spectators to see that table tennis was more than a leisure game played casually in one's tongs in the garden or on a beach, but that it could become a truly demanding and very spectacular sport.

Proponents of the small yellow or white ball can rejoice, the world's best table tennis players will once again come to the Vallée de la Jeunesse in Lausanne, on 19 and 20 November to deliver a show that the organizers of the Swiss Table Tennis Open hope will be as fantastic as the first edition last year.

Indeed, after the stunning success of 2010, the organizers of the Swiss Table Tennis Open did not stop there and it is with an even stronger motivation that the second edition of the tournament in Lausanne has been organised.

Several top male and female players in the world have already confirmed their participation. Swedish legend Jörgen Persson (former winner of the World Cup) will be aiming for the top step of the podium. Currently 28th in the world, the Swede prepares to play his seventh Olympic Games in London in July.

On the women's side, four of the twelve best Europeans will be present in Lausanne. Indeed, the Hungarians Krisztina Toth (7th in Europe) and Georgina Pota (12th) will face the Romanians Daniela Dodean (10th) and Elizabeta Samara (9th). The fight for the title in the women's event will be an epic one.

The head of the competition is currently at the European Championships to recruit the seeded players for the tournament. Good news is certainly yet to come ...!  
Book your tickets while they are still available as they were sold out for the final day last year !





## Press Release n°2

### **A wonderful cast of stars for a truly international event**

For the second consecutive year, Lausanne will stage an international table tennis tournament, on 19 and 20 November 2011 at the Vallée de la Jeunesse. The program of the Swiss Table Tennis Open Lausanne (STTOL) has almost been finalised and the draws are of very high quality in both the men's and women's events.

In women's event, the draw will include 16 players + 4 seeded players issued from the 12 best players in Europe. On one side we have the Romanians Daniela Dodean, No. 13 in Europe and Elizabeta Samara, No. 12 in Europe and on the other, the Hungarians Kristina Toth (9th) and Georgina Pota (11th). Used to competing together in the doubles, they will cross rackets this time in the singles event. In addition to them, there will be the gold medallists in women's doubles at the recent European Championships in Gdansk, Ruta Paskauskiene (Lithuania) and Oksana Fadeeva (Russia). In short, a great cast of stars in the women's draw.

In the men's event, the draw will consist of 30 players + 4 top seeds. The organizers have managed, despite the numerous competition that prevail at this time of year to secure the presence of world number 11, the Taiwanese Chuang Chih-Yuan, and number 12, the Korean Oh Sang-Eun, a beautiful "specimen" of 1.86 cm which silences the cliché about the lack of athleticism in table tennis players.

The two Swedish semi-finalists last year in Lausanne will be back in the game: Par Gerrel, 52nd player in the world is already qualified for the Olympic Games in London next year. He will be accompanied by the 45 year old Jörgen Persson, Jimmy Connors of the celluloid ball, still ranked no. 36 in the world, world champion in 1991, first in the world ranking for nearly 12 months between 1991 and 1992, he has participated in six Olympic Games in his career. Finally, some interesting information, the STTOL will also welcome the Karlsson brothers, just 20 years old and despite their modest 159 and 261 places in the world ranking, but who just beat no less than no. 2 and 5 on the world ranking, Wang Hao and Ma Lin, in the men's doubles at the recent Swedish Open !

The playing format for the tournament is very attractive with a group format on Saturday with matches taking place from 09:00 to 19:00. Direct elimination from the quarter-finals on Sunday and the opening matches of the eight seeded players (from 9:15 onwards), with the women's finals at 15h00 and men's finals at 15:45. And no doubt that each player will do his/her best to win every game, since unlike last year, the tournament counts for world ranking points.





In terms of media coverage, the tournament is also progressing. The Swiss German channel Schweizer Sportfernsehen SSF will be present. It will broadcast the semi-finals and finals in their entirety twice in the week following the tournament. In the Romand area, regional television « La Télé » will show all or part of the images of the SSF.

Finally, following the huge success of the 2010 edition which had forced the organizers to turn away spectators on Sunday, some had suggested that the STTOL should be staged in a bigger hall. But first, it is difficult (or impossible) to find an appropriate hall in Lausanne with the same conditions and also the majority of players had reported in 2010 that they had rarely played in an atmosphere as warm, enthusiastic and noisy as that of the Vallée de la Jeunesse.

So come and see how table tennis can « set fire to the lake », but start by booking your tickets: tickets are selling at record speed!





## Information about the tournament

<b>Official name</b>	SwissTable Tennis Open Lausanne
<b>Number of female players</b>	16 + 4 top seeds, exempt from the first round
<b>Number of male players</b>	30 + 4 top seeds, exempt from the first round

### Schedule

The tournament will take place in two phases.

The first phase (Saturday) is organized in the group stage. Among the women, 16 players will compete in four groups. The first of each group qualifies for the next round. In the men's tournament, players are divided into 10 groups of 3 players. The winners of each group advance to the Knock-out stages. The four seeded players (men and women) are included in the tournament from the quarter-finals which start on Sunday. The games will be played best of 7. It takes 11 points to win a game with a 2 point difference.

### Prize Money (men & women)

<b>1st:</b>	6'000 CHF
<b>2nd:</b>	3'000 CHF
<b>3rd:</b>	1'500 CHF
<b>4th:</b>	1'500 CHF
<b>5th-8th:</b>	750 CHF
<b>TOTAL</b>	30'000 CHF

Programme





## **Saturday**

09H00	Start of the 1st round
16H40	End of the group phase of the first round
17H00	Start of the play-offs
19h15	End of the 1st day of competition

## **Sunday**

09H15	Quarter-finals, women
10H00	Quarter-finals, men
13H00	Semi-finals, women
13H45	Semi-finals, men
15H00	Women's finals
15H45	Men's finals
16H30	Awardceremony
17H00	End of tournament

*This programme is subject to change*





## Men players

Surname	First name	Nationality	Ranking ITTF*
OH	Sang-Eun	KOR	13
CHUANG	Chih-Yuan	TPE	14
PERSSON	Jörgen	SWE	41
PROKOPCOV	Dmitrij	CZE	67
LIU	Song	ARG	93
LIVENTSOV	Alexey	RUS	95
LIN	Ju	DOM	101
KARLSSON	Mattias	SWE	167
MARTINEZ	Michel	FRA	188
SZYMANSKI	Filip	POL	219
MADRID	Marcos	MEX	220
RUMGAY	Gavin	ENG	231
PETIOT	Jérémy	FRA	234
KARLSSON	Kristian	SWE	243
GLADYSHEV	Mikhail	RUS	253
DURANSPAHIC	Admir	BIH	273
GOLOVANOV	Stanislav	BUL	274
JENKINS	Ryan	WAL	278
ROGIERS	Benjamin	BEL	299
OUAICHE	Stéphane	FRA	302
BROSSIER	Benjamin	FRA	309
RAMIREZ	José Miguel	GUA	321
LE GUEN	Victorien	FRA	362
HACHARD	Antoine	FRA	406
MERZLIKIN	Taras	RUS	468
LAMBIET	Florent	BEL	650
HOTZ	Christian	SUI	657
JENKINS	Stephen	WAL	760
ALTERMATT	Marc	SUI	857
SCHMID	Elia	SUI	1189
WEBER	Lionel	SUI	1199
YANG	Chengbowen	CHN (Swiss licence)	-
EL HAKIM	Rock	LEB	-
MAYNARD	Tom	ENG	-

\*Ranking on 7th November 2011. ITTF = International Table Tennis Federation.



## WomenPlayers

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Ranking ITTF*</b>
DODEAN	Daniela	ROM	38
TÒTH	Krisztina	HUN	39
SAMARA	Elizabeta	ROM	40
PÓTA	Georgina	HUN	46
PASKAUSKIENE	Ruta	LIT	73
FADEEVA	Oxsana	RUS	80
MIKHAYLOVA	Polina	RUS	116
WINTER	Sabine	GER	127
BARANOVA	Olga	RUS	240
FÜHRER	Monika	SUI	305
OWEN	Naomi	WAL	413
GOLUBEVA	Anastasiya	RUS	433
ASCHWANDEN	Rahel	SUI	466
MORET	Rachel	SUI	480
ZETSEN	Nicky	NED	540
DIEKER	Suzanne	NED	540
SCHÄRRER	Laura	SUI	560
CAREY	Charlotte	WAL	567
CHARMOT	Ania	FRA	-
SHAN	Xiao Na	SIN	-

\*Raning on 7th November 2011. ITTF = International Table Tennis Federation.



## Top Seeds (men)

### Oh Sang-Eun – South Korea – ITTF world ranking 13

The player from Daegu can count on his precision and his fantastic ability to place the ball which gets him out of many a difficult situation. Winner of the Spanish Open in singles and doubles this year, he is in top form, one year before the Olympics in London. At the age of 34, he hopes to do better than he did in Beijing in 2008 where he stopped at the quarter-finals. Don't miss this player whom makes table tennis so attractive.



"by courtesy of the ITTF"

### Chuang Chih-Yuan – Taiwan – ITTF world ranking 14

Son of two former professional table tennis players of Taipei, Chuang Chih Yuan plays table tennis to the delight of purists. His playing, example of technical ease, balance and anticipation allowed him to reach third place on the world ranking in 2003. Currently in extraordinary form, the Taipei player has won the Pro Tour tournament in Chile in an epic final that saw him make a come back having been down three sets. In Lausanne, he would want to continue this momentum, as a good run-up to the Olympics.



"by courtesy of the ITTF"

### Jorgen Persson – Sweden – ITTF world ranking 41

A legend of table tennis, Jörgen Persson, will honour us with his presence. 45 years old today, the former world No. 1 has spent nearly 30 years at the highest level of the sport. In 1986, it was in Prague that he came on the international scene by becoming, at only 19 years of age, European champion to everyone's surprise. The rest of his career will take him six times to the Olympic Games (current record). A native of Halmstad he shows us that he is still one of the most talented table tennis players on the world circuit.



"by courtesy of the ITTF"

### Dmitrij Prokopcov – Czech Republic – ITTF world ranking 67

Arriving this summer in Brittany to play in the club GV Hennebont, Dmitrij was for a long time the star of the club in the Czech capital, Prague El Nino. At 30, he has brought all his experience to a club that is currently leading in the championship PRO A in France, which is a qualification for a place in the next Champions League. In 2010, the lanky Czech won the bronze medal at the world team championships. He will, no doubt, be a serious contender in the tournament in Lausanne.



"by courtesy of the ITTF"

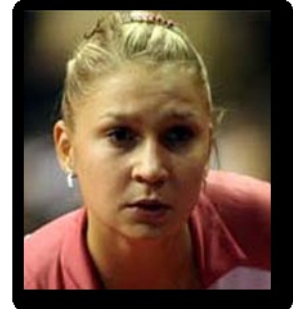




## Top Seeds (women)

### **Daniela Dodean – Romania – ranked no. 7 in Europe**

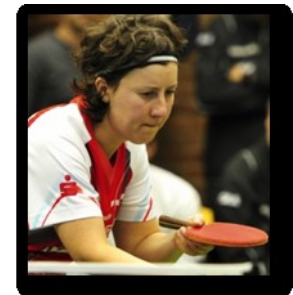
Daniela Dodean (23) is certainly one of the players that attracts the most attention on the world circuit. After many titles in the youth categories at continental level, she has confirmed all the expectations placed in her in 2009 by winning the gold medal twice at the European Championships alongside fellow national Elizabeta Samara. You can be sure that she will ignite the hall at the Vallée de la Jeunesse for her second participation in the Swiss Table Tennis Open Lausanne.



"by courtesy of the ITTF"

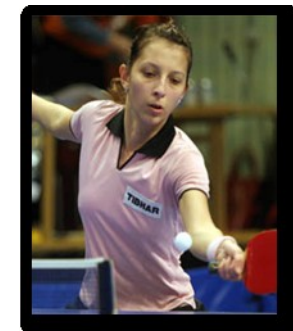
### **Krisztina Tóth – Hungary – ranked no. 8 in Europe**

No less than 7 titles acquired at the European Championships since 1994 in doubles, mixed doubles and team, Krisztina Tóth (37) stands out as an institution in the world of table tennis. The left-hander from Miskolc in Hungary will have to demonstrate in the heart of Lausanne during the tournament all the qualities that enabled her to reach position 13 on the ITTF world ranking.



### **Elizabeta Samara – Romania – ranked no. 9 in Europe**

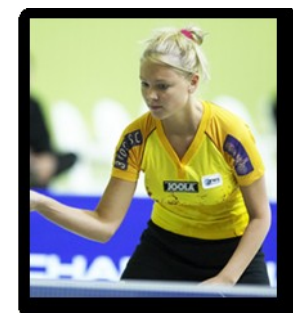
At the age of 22, Elizabeta Samara is now the leading player of the Turkish club Fenerbahce. After many titles as a junior, she won in 2009 the title of European champion in doubles alongside her compatriot Daniela Dodean, also present at the STTOL. The public in Lausanne will appreciate the tactical finesse of the young Romanian player who in 2009 won the Serbia Open in an epic final against the experienced Viktorija Pavlovic.



"by courtesy of the ITTF"

### **Georgina Póta – Hungary – ranked no. 13 in Europe**

Georgina Póta is one of the players who knew how to perfectly manage the transition from junior to professional. In July 2010, when she won the singles final at the U.S. Open, she marked the world stage with her footprint. The young Hungarian excels when the game is against fast attackers. Her position close to the table leaves her opponents minimal time to react.



"by courtesy of the ITTF"





## Swiss Men Players

### **Marc Altermatt – 26yearsold**

World ranking 857.

Plays for Klotten.

Swiss doubles champion with Denis Joset in 2010.

### **Lionel Weber – 15yearsold**

World ranking 1199.

Plays for TTC Rio-Star MuttENZ.

Swissleague champion with the TTC Rio-Star MuttENZ since2004/2005.

SwissU15 singles champion in 2011 , boys doubles and mixed doubles champion.

### **Yang Chengbowen–ChinesewithSwiss licence**

Plays for TTC Rio-Star MuttENZ

Multiple SwissleaguechampoionwithTTC Rio-Star MuttENZ.

### **Christian Hotz - 25 yearsold**

Plays for Wil

World ranking 657

### **Elia Schmid – 15 yearsold**

PlaysTTC Belp

World ranking 1189





## SwissWomenPlayers

### **Monika Führer – 21yearsold**

World ranking305.

Plays for TTC Neuhausen.

Swiss singles champion in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

Swiss doubles champion with Laura Schärrensince 2007.

Swiss mixed doubles champion with Marco Graber in 2008.

Monika Führer played the finals of the ETTU Champions Leaguewith the Austrian club of Linz.

### **Rachel Moret – 21yearsold**

World ranking 466.

Plays for 'Entente Pongiste Isséenne (FRA).

Swiss singles champion in 2009.

Swiss vice-champion in doubles withRahelAschwanden in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Rachel Moretrecentlyreached the quarter-finals of the French first divition, in singles.

### **RahelAschwanden–18yearsold**

World ranking480.

Plays for TTC Wädenswil.

Swiss mixed doubles champion with Denis Joset in 2010.

Swiss doubles Vice-Champion with Rachel Moret in 2008, 2009 and 2010

Swiss U18 champion in 2009 and 2010.

RahelAschwandenreached the round of 16 at the Europeanchampionships in the U18 category in 2010.

### **Laura Schärre – 20yearsold**

World ranking560.

Plays for TTC Neuhausen.

Swissingles vice-champion in 2008 and 2009.

Swiss doubles champion with Monika Führersince 2007.





## Interview with Susanne Gries Director Swiss Table Tennis



### 1. What does the Swiss Table Tennis Open Lausanne mean for table tennis in Switzerland ?

The Swiss Table Tennis Open is both an advertisement and a confirmation. This is an advertisement because with international elite players taking part, this tournament is more interesting for the public and the media than a national event. It is also a confirmation due to the interest it has created (for participants and spectators) that Switzerland can also be part of the international table tennis scene.

### 2. Can you imagine having another ITTF tournament in the future ?

For the time being I will not go as far as that. As an international sport city, Lausanne is the ideal place for organising such an event. First we should try to establish the STTOL firmly on the international calendar and in the Swiss sports arena.

### 3. How is Swiss table tennis doing ?

In Switzerland, table tennis is first and foremost a leisure sport. Compared to other racket sports, many people play table tennis but very few take the extra step of joining a club. At the moment, we are suffering from a lack of young players, specially girls.

### 4. What is missing for a Swiss player to reach world top level ?

Swiss table tennis players do not enjoy an environment that allows them to play sports with professional supervision and training conditions for their development. Today, if a Swiss player wishes to join the international elite, he/she is forced to go abroad to train. Swiss Table Tennis has just put in place a new concept called "Elite Sport" whose implementation should be a first step towards a professional training environment for our talents.

### 5. In your new role as Director of the STT what do you wish to bring to Swiss table tennis ?

First, I hope that under the guidance of Swiss Table Tennis, all players, leisure or elite, receive an environment that supports them so that they can achieve their personal goals. Second, I want to contribute to the development of table tennis in Switzerland and in this context, the STTOL is certainly an important event.





## Interview with Krisztina Tóth



**Name:** Krisztina Tóth  
**Date of birth:** 25 May 1974  
**Nationality:** Hungarian  
**European ranking:** 8th

### 1. What are the strong points of your game ?

My forehand and my fighting spirit! Without forgetting that I rely on high balls that hinder my opponents quite a bit.

### 2. You've been a professional for over 20 years, how has the game evolved over this period of time ?

It has changed enormously! First we played to 21 points and the glues that are now authorised are not the same. These two changes have altered the sport seriously. In the past, we had more time to turn around which meant that there were longer rallies. Today, you have to be quicker and more aggressive at the table. The service and return have become more important. In my opinion, where the women are concerned, defensive players can obtain better results.

### 3. What are your objectives for the future ?

I would like to really prepare well for the Olympic Games in London (my fifth participation in the Games). If my national team qualifies, we will have a good chance to obtain good results. I also play in Germany for the club FSV Kroppach, the aim is to be champions again !!

### 4. Your advice to young players ?

You must prefer the quality of training to the quantity of training. You must also try to train against many different styles of play but also have fun at the same time !!





## Application for accreditation

Surname .....

First name .....

Media .....

Tel no. : .....

Email .....

Photos

TV

Presence

Saturday

Sunday

A press room will be available with Internet access upon presentation of your accreditation.

*Please send this application to Julien Echenard by fax to 021 315 14 19 or by email to [julien.echenard@lausanne.ch](mailto:julien.echenard@lausanne.ch)*







## Sponsors

### TOP SPONSORS



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### MEDIA SPONSORS





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