

BOWLING NEWS APRIL 2017

Good afternoon all,

The MTBA continued with its busy schedule during April, where we had both local and international events.

The MSV Life leagues are well underway and results are as follows:

DIV 3: Atlas Insurance, The Scotsman Pub and Pin Pulse. While whatever happens, Atlas and TSP are the ones who will be relegated, we still need to wait for the position round to see who will actually place 1, 2 and 3.

DIV 2: MIA, Strike Me Jabaal and Brutal Legendz (3 weeks to go).

DIV 1: Fina, Okmalta.com and Ramis (5 weeks to go).

Composite average for the 4th month of the year is as follows:

Males: Rankin Camilleri (204.71), Justin Caruana Scicluna (204.54) and Mauro Anastasi (203.43).

Females: Sue Abela (199.45), Tiziana Carannante (193.94) and Melissa Swift (189.93).

Youths Males: Matthew Magro (187.70), Kurt Attard (183.51) and Edward Xuereb (172.71).

Youth Females: Sara Xuereb (189.20), Alessia Schembri (180.19) and Raquel Xuereb (169.11).

The only tournament held locally this month was the **Gold Cup Tournament** which attracted 37 athletes.



Week 1 saw Alessia Schembri excel, bowling the best series even better than the men. Her 1251 scratch series was her personal best in 6 games and coupled with the 30 handicap on 6 games she was leading the girls by a massive 207 pins. The other 5 were Liliana Spiteri, Jenny Swift, Marthese Cossai, Juliana Bonanno and Jessica Schembri. Leading the males on day 1 was Daniel Magro (1155+78), Mario Ellul, Hubert Camilleri, Nicholas Muscat who rolled his PB game (251), Kurt Attard and Daniel Ricciari.

Week 2 saw a couple of differences as Michaela Briffa improved to make it with the top 6, chucking out Marthese Cossai. On the other hand in the Men's category Kurt Attard finished in the first position, whilst Matthew Muscat took his son Nicholas' place. Shadon Psaila meanwhile rolled the only 1200+ series for week 2 and made a huge comeback from 14th to 6th place, eliminating Hubert Camilleri in the process.



During the round robin the top 3 females remained the same, as Alessia Schembri and Jenny Swift both won 4 encounters, while Liliana Spiteri won 2 games to make it for the step ladder. In the males section Mario Ellul jumped to the lead winning 3 games as well as 10 points for a draw, Kurt Attard won 2 matches but rolled high games to finish in 2nd, whilst the youngest of the 6, Shadon Psaila won 3 games and drew with Mario Ellul to nip the 3rd spot for the step ladders.



Liliana Spiteri faced Jenny Swift, the latter winning the game 180-157, while Shadon Psaila also lost against Kurt Attard 193-244.

In the final round Mario Ellul rolled a 220 game to beat Kurt's 182 effort, thus it was over for the men. On the other hand Jenny Swift won the first game against Alessia Schembri 153-196. This meant that since Alessia was the first placed lady, she had to be beaten twice, thus they had to play another game. Jenny rolled a 180 but Alessia striked out from frame 4 onwards to finish with a high 247 game, it being her personal best game so far, and this coupled with a 5 pin handicap amounted to 252.



Thus we have 2 brand new winners: **Alessia Schembri** who bowled a total of 192.32 average and **Mario Ellul** 178.61 average. A special mention should go to Shadon Psaila who was the youngest bowler to ever place in the top 3 at just 12 years of age and bowling a 171.5 average.

On the same weekend of the Gold Cup, the three students of the National Sport School, namely Sara Xuereb, Edward Xuereb and Matthew Magro went to participate in the European Youth Championships which was held in Finland.



The first event was the doubles, and although Sara was paired with another Sarah: an Austrian girl, their scores were only valid for the Masters Qualification. Our Sara rolled a 1160 series. On the other hand our boys finished in the 32nd position from 45 teams, with Matthew bowling a 1123, and Edward a 1028 series.

Next came the team event, and our 3 bowlers were coupled with other players just for their scores to add to their All Events total. Matthew bowled a 1091, Edward a 1056, and Sara a 1173.

Everyone had their hopes on the singles and Matthew Magro started exceptionally well, rolling a 268 in game 2 and was within distance of a medal. Although he finished with a 1250 series, the exceptional high scores of the others, placed him in the

21st position from 92 players, which is of course a very good placing. Edward on the other hand seemed overwhelmed and he could only manage an 899 series which is much lower than his average, to place in the penultimate position. Sara also could not manage to bowl her average for a total of 1052 to place in the 32nd position from 52.

The total meant that in the All Events our athletes finished in the following positions:

Matthew Magro: 46th, and Edward Xuereb 82nd from 94 competitors, whereas Sara finished in 17th place to play in the Masters with the top 24.

Sara faced Bianca Brommer from the Netherlands for a best out of 3 encounter, and although she won the 1st game, she lost the other two, and did not advance to a better position.



All in all this was a great learning experience for these youths and I'm sure they have learned a lot.



Once again, the Maltese Olympic Committee have chosen 5 athletes to benefit from the YEAS scheme. These athletes are:

1. Raquel Xuereb
2. Sara Xuereb
3. Edward Xuereb
4. Kurt Attard
5. Matthew Magro

Unfortunately only Raquel could attend for the certificate as Sara, Edward and Matthew were in Finland for the European Championships, whilst Kurt had a course he could not miss.



All 4 athletes who participated in the Small Nations Cup and Sue Abela, Sara Xuereb and Mark Spiteri from the Mediterranean Championships were given a special award for winning medals at such high level competitions. Only Mark and Mauro could attend.



During May we will have a relatively slow month as the leagues will come to an end, but we will be preparing for two huge events: The National Championships and the Malta Open which will both be played in June.

In the meantime visit our website: www.bowlingmalta.org and continue to follow us on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/Malta-Tenpin-Bowling-Association-127928316689/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Regards

Liliana Spiteri