

Good morning 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.

Div 3: 4Play (1st), The Youths (2nd) and Ready Steady Bowl (3rd)

Div 2: Supersonic (Division 2 champions), Bank of Valletta (Runners Up), J Grima & Co (3rd place) – just 1 week to go

Div 1: Okmalta.com (1st), Turu's Knights (2nd) and Royal Shock (3rd)

The Composite average for the 4th month is a bit misleading as we have 2 bowlers in the top 3 who only bowled in one competition:

Males: Mauro Anastasi (202.13), Neil Sullivan (198.71) and Peter Mallia (197.24).

Females: Sue Abela (191.06), Sara Xuereb (189.01), and Tiziana Carannante (186.01).

Youths Males U19: Matthew Magro (188.93), Edward Xuereb (186.32) and Kurt Attard (178.30).

Youth Females U19: Sara Xuereb (189.01), Alessia Schembri (183.91) and Raquel Xuereb (176.19).

The only tournament held locally this month was the Gold Cup Tournament which attracted 34 athletes.

After the 12 games Alessia Schembri and Peter Mallia lead the pack and were the only 2 players to bowl a 200+ scratch series. The other 5 females to make top 6 were: Raquel Xuereb, Amanda Cini, Liliana Spiteri, Marthese Cossai and Angele Azzopardi, whilst the boys were: Dwayne Zahra, Edward Xuereb, Luke Burke, David Fenech and Daniel Ricciari.



During the round robin Alessia Schembri won 4 encounters to remain at the top. Raquel Xuereb also had 4 wins to clinch 2nd place, whilst Marthese Cossai won 3 games to snatch the 3rd position.

In the male division Luke Burke had 3 wins, but rolled very high games to finish in 1st place. 2nd place went to Edward Xuereb who had 3 wins, whilst David Fenech clinched the 3rd place available in the step ladder.



Marthese faced Raquel in a very tense game, with the latter winning 161 - 153. The boys' match was low scoring, with Edward beating David 161 - 123.

In the final round, both the underdogs won the first game as the Xuereb siblings, Raquel and Edward managed to beat leaders Alessia Schembri and Luke Burke (180-167) and (237 - 172) respectively. This forced another match. Alessia regained her composure to bowl a 197 game to Raquel's 176, thus defending the title, winning it for the 2nd consecutive year.

On the other lanes, the boys battled it out, but a cruel 4-9 split had Luke bowing down to his opponent Edward, for the match to finish 212-224. Thus Edward won this title for the first time at 13 years of age, with Matthew Magro still holding on to the record of the youngest winner.



The highlight of the month were the Mediterranean Championships, when team Malta composed of Justin Caruana Scicluna, Mauro Anastasi, Sue Abela and Sara Xuereb travelled to Ankara, Turkey.



The first events were the Singles. In the Ladies' Category, Sara Xuereb ended in 6th place, whilst Sue Abela placed 10th. The afternoon saw Malta clinch its first medal, a GOLD, which Justin Caruana Scicluna brought home during the singles, playing an impressive 209 average and leading from the very first game. Mauro finished in 8th place.



Wednesday we had the male and female doubles. Justin and Mauro played a total of 1057 and a 1241 respectively to finish in 8th place. On the women's side, our ladies narrowly missed a medal as they finished in 4th place with Sara bowling a 1066, and Sue a 1047 for a 2113 total.

Thursday we had the mixed doubles and once again Malta missed a medal as Mauro Anastasi and Sara Xuereb placed 5th, playing a total of 2361, whilst Sue Abela and Justin Caruana Scicluna ended in 9th place (2264).

All hopes were placed on the 4 person team, with a lot of Maltese supporters following the live streaming. Malta started on the right track with a brilliant 872 game, which was the highest of the event. Bowling steadily the team pushed hard to clinch a silver medal with a tally of 4697 points.



With these results Justin managed to win a bronze medal in the All Events (4970), and securing a place in the Masters. Sara Xuereb had to content with 4th place, but both Sara and Sue Abela placed with the top 8 to play in the Masters.



The first game we saw Justin Caruana Scicluna facing Vasileios Stefopoulos of Greece. He won the first game 223-199, but then dropped to a 154, to bow down to the Greek.

Meanwhile Sue Abela faced 1st placed All Events ladies Lauriane Célié of France, with the latter ending the winner of both games.

Sara Xuereb played against Greece's Martha Karatzoyla, and the youngster beat her 379-316 to proceed to the quarter finals and securing a medal for Malta.

Sara's next encounter was Lauriane Célié of France. She won the 1st game by 4 pins, and then went on to roll an impressive 249 game to beat the French girl and clinch a place in the finals.

It was another French who had to face Sara at the finals, this time Amandine Jacques. Amandine won both games to end as the Mediterranean Champion, while our Sara succeeded in winning a silver medal at just 16 years of age, ending as the runner up Mediterranean Champion.



Excitedly we announce that next year's Mediterranean Bowling Championships will be played in Malta. The last edition played locally was in 2005, so it's been quite a while.

During May we will have a relatively slow month as the leagues will come to an end, but we will be preparing for three main events: The National Championships, the Malta Open and the AMF World Cup which will all 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/>

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana