

## August 2020 Newsletter

Although this month we had a two week break for the MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues, it was still a busy month as the Cisk Doubles League continued without a stop, and we also held the Bank of Valletta National Championships, as well as the Silver Cup Handicap Tournament.



Results as follows:

Div 1 – Week 6: okmalta.com (41), Total (39), Swisslion (32)

Div 2 – Week 4: Up Your Average (28), MIA I (28), Bonnici Group (22)

Div 3 – Week 4: Strike Force (24), One 4 All (22), Move It and Pin Pulse (18)

### DOUBLES CISK LEAGUE

The Doubles Cisk League continues and after 11 weeks of play the top 4 teams are: BOV Asset Management (68), Team Volkswagen (26), Swisslion (56), Generation XYZ (51). BOV Asset Management still need to face the bye team, however.

### RECORDS

Swisslion doubles team put themselves on the record list rolling a 1468 series on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 during the doubles Cisk League. Sara Xuereb rolled a 689 series, whereas Neil Sullivan rolled a 779 series.

Neil's series also was his personal best, his previous PB being a 759 rolled in 2014.



Kayden Lagana who incidentally is another Swisslion player although this time round in the MAPFRE MSV Life League division 1, wrote himself in the Junior Averages Records for youth players to bowl over 675 in a 3-game series with his 679 total, a brilliant 236, 253 and 190 which is his Personal Best so far.



### **Composite Average**

Now that half the year is over the top 3 males are: Mauro Anastasi (215.96), Justin Caruana Scicluna (215.86), and Mark Spiteri (210.37) while Sue Abela tops the ladies (202.95), followed by Sara Xuereb (201.85) and Cynthia Duca (198.02).

Top Youth bowlers (up to 19 years) are: Sara Xuereb (201.85), Ruslana Grima (152.45) and Kathryn Fenech (140.01), while for the Boys it is Nicholas Muscat (204.90), Matthew Magro (203.49) and Miguel Xuereb (194.65).

Top Senior bowlers are Mark Spiteri, Paul Gray and Dennis Mercieca for the males and Sue Abela, Liliana Spiteri and Josephine Borg for the females.

### **Bank of Valletta National Championships**

This year we had 29 participants – 23 males and 6 females.

On day 1 we saw Sue Abela leading by 59 pins till the 5<sup>th</sup> game, before an unfortunate incident left her with a badly cut 4<sup>th</sup> finger. By the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> game it was Sara Xuereb who finished in the lead (1578) with a 52-pin advantage over Sue, and Melissa Swift in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 1465. In the men's section it was Mauro Anastasi who took the early lead by 8 pins (1673), followed by youth bowler Matthew Magro (1665) and Rankin Camilleri in 3<sup>rd</sup> (1619)

There was no change in the ladies' division with Sara still leading by 38 pins, followed by Sue (3115) and Melissa (3027). The same could not be said for the men's category and although Mauro retained the lead rolling an impressive 1831 series, Dennis Mercieca's (1778) placed him in 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Matthew Magro still trailing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Sara continued to lead on day 3, with Sue in hot pursuit. They chased each other till the 7<sup>th</sup> game with Sara still in the lead by 12 pins. Unlucky for the bowlers but lucky for the spectators they had to play the 8<sup>th</sup> game on the same pair of lanes. All eyes were on the ladies, and it was the 11<sup>th</sup> frame which determined the winner, with Sue succeeding to surpass Sara by 4 pins. Sara nipped the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, whilst Cynthia Frendo Duca bagged the 3<sup>rd</sup> place (4488). The men's section was also a photo finish, but the struggle was for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, as Mauro sped on with an impressive 1747 series peaking in game 7 by rolling a 278 and could have won the title without playing the 8<sup>th</sup> game. The place of runner up was highly fought by Rankin Camilleri who by the 7<sup>th</sup> game was 11 pins ahead of Mark Spiteri, who in turn was 3 pins ahead of Dennis Mercieca. In the end Rankin retained the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot, with Dennis winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Mauro succeeded in winning by a massive 283 pins.



This is Sue's 24<sup>th</sup> title and the last two in a row, while Mauro won this coveted title for the 6<sup>th</sup> time and 4 titles consecutively, with both athletes having the highest number of national titles to their name.



## SILVER CUP

This year's edition saw 28 entries, 15 males and 13 females. Kathryn Fenech lead the girls' division on day 1 with an 872 scratch and 992 with handicap, followed closely by Ruslana Grima (939 – 987) and Josephine Borg (866-962). The other 3 to make the top 6 were Rachel Chircop, Jessica Farrugia and Mia Bugeja.

Melvin Galea was the only male to roll over a 193 average, and his 1160 series put him on top of the tables, with Sam Bugeja clinching the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot with a 949 scratch (1099 with handicap) and the youngest player Nicolai Mallia in 3<sup>rd</sup> (975-1095). Nicholas Falzon and Matthew Muscat placed 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively, whilst we had a tie for 6<sup>th</sup> place (1081) by Kyle Camilleri and George Camilleri. Rule stated that whoever bowled the highest last game would get through, and it was Kyle's 210 game which saved his day as he grabbed the last position for the round robin.

## ROUND ROBIN

Veteran player Josephine Borg bowled a scratch 896 series and won 4 matches to lead the ladies by over 100 points, whilst Special Olympic Bowler Rachel Chircop rolled a 745 scratch and also won 4 matches to nip the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. The fight for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place was between Ruslana Grima, Jessica Farrugia and birthday girl Kathryn Fenech. Special Olympic athlete Jessica prevailed, and she went through to the next round.

Nicholas Falzon won 4 encounters and his 1557 put him in the lead by just 2 points ahead of Kyle Camilleri, whose first game was an impressive 287 scratch, which gave him the boost to nudge him out of the 6<sup>th</sup> place and into the step ladder. The last spot was grabbed by Melvin Galea who won 3 matches.



## STEP LADDER

Two Special Olympic players faced each other in the Girls' section with Jessica beating Rachel 166-142 including handicap. In the male division both players had zero handicap with Kyle rolling a good 217 to Melvin's 159 game.



## FINALS

The ladies' finals ended on a single match, as the leader Josephine succeeded in beating Jessica in the first game (181-164). However, the males had to go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, as Kyle, who was the underdog, beat Special Olympic player Nicholas (159-146) in game 1. 2<sup>nd</sup> game saw a more confident Kyle rolling a good 202 game to easily beat his opponent's 155 efforts.

Thus, this year's champions are Josephine Borg with a 160.58 scratch average and Kyle Camilleri (188.74) scratch average. Both players won this title for the first time.



The Selection criteria for the Seniors to represent Malta in the Senior World Championships for 2021 are as follows:

- 18 games Senior National Championships
- 12 games Platinum Cup

The selection criteria for the youth boys' team for EYC 2021 will be as follows:

- 12 games Youth National Championships
- 12 games Platinum Cup

## CALENDAR

- BANK OF VALLETTA NATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – 26-27-28 Sep
- BRONZE CUP – 10-11 Oct
- BANK OF VALLETTA NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS – 31 Oct, 1 & 2 Nov (**PROVISIONAL**)
- WINTER TOURNAMENT – 12 Nov
- PLATINUM CUP – 28-29-30 Nov
- END OF YEAR TOURNAMENT – 10 Dec
- MBC QUALIFICATION – 30-31 Jan, 1 Feb

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana