

Dear bowlers,

This will be our last newsletter for the year 2016, a year which proved to be quite eventful, and as usual adorned with quite a few medals.

We are now enjoying a small break to relax during the festive season, but even though December basically covered less than 3 weeks, it was full of activities: the end of the MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues, one of the biggest tournaments of the year “The Bank of Valletta Platinum Cup” as well as the Maltese Olympic Committee Awards.

MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues

Division 1 Award Winners

1. Okmalta.com
2. Ramis
3. Fina



High Average	Justin Caruana Scicluna / Sue Abela
Scratch Game:	Rankin Camilleri / Tiziana Carannante
Scratch Series:	Dennis Mercieca / Tiziana Carannante Justin Caruana Scicluna / Sue Abela & Cynthia Duca
Handicap Game:	Duca
Handicap Series:	Justin Caruana Scicluna / Sara Xuereb

Division 2 Award winners

1. J Grima & Co - promoted
2. Bank of Valletta - promoted
3. Strike Me Jabaal

Most Improved: Kurt Attard - (no females improved)
Hi Average: Luke Burke / Stephanie Said
Scratch Game: Matthew Gingell Littlejohn / Liliana Spiteri
Scratch Series: Kyle Burke / Stephanie Said
Handicap Game: Bjorn Tabone / Maryanne Mula
Handicap Series: Paul Mallia / Maryanne Mula

Division 3 Award winners

1. One For All - promoted
2. Atlas Insurance

Most Improved: Dave Parkin / Jenny Eve Jenkins
Hi Average: Neil Bergin / Josephine Borg
Scratch Game: Neil Bergin / Caroline Portelli
Scratch Series: Neil Bergin / Caroline Portelli
Handicap Game: Ivan Distefano / Jenny Eve Jenkins
Handicap Series: Manuel Borg / Milva Borg

COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top composite average athletes for the year 2016 are: Justin Caruana Scicluna 1st (211.85), Mauro Anastasi 2nd (208.45) and Mark Spiteri (207.54) in 3rd. In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (204.95), Tiziana Carannante followed (196.55) while Sara Xuereb clinched 3rd with (193.44).

Top bowlers for the (U21) youths are Sara Xuereb (193.44), Alessia Schembri (168.02) and Raquel Xuereb (164.82), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (187.04), Shaun Montanaro (184.94), and Luke Burke (182.40).

FRANCE YOUTH EUROPEAN RANKING TOURNAMENT

One of our best youth athletes, Matthew Magro competed in the Jeff de Bruges tournament in France where there were no less than 78 players in his category from countries such as Belgium, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, France, Ireland, England and Denmark. Matthew qualified for the semi-finals in 13th place and managed to climb all the way up with

some fantastic bowling to finish in fifth position, missing the finals by a whisker. He played an average of 180.17.

This was the 19th edition of the Jeff de Bruges Tournament, and it was the first time a Maltese participated.



BANK OF VALLETTA PLATINUM CUP

Once again we had a good number of participants, 39 in all, of varied abilities and ages. After the first 12 qualifying games, the top 6 were determined and this year we had no less than 4 youths in the final 12. While Sara Xuereb is no newbie in these finals, this year we also had the other 2 siblings of the Xuereb family: Raquel and Edward as well as Kurt Attard. These were joined by the other 8 athletes to play the round robin: Mauro Anastasi, Justin Caruana Scicluna, Mark Spiteri, Philip Gruppetta, Sue Abela, Tiziana Carannante, Melissa Swift and Cynthia Duca.

After the round robin, the top 3 to make the cut were: Sue Abela, Sara Xuereb and Cynthia Duca for the ladies and Justin Caruana Scicluna, Mark Spiteri and Mauro Anastasi in the men's category.



The ladies game was very close and in the end Cynthia snatched it by 2 pins, whilst Mauro Anastasi beat Mark Spiteri 245 - 202.

The ladies finals saw Sue Abela compete against Cynthia Duca, the former bowling a 218 to beat her opponent's 187 game. On the other hand Justin Caruana Scicluna lost the first game against Mauro Anastasi (160-204), but since he had placed first, he had the luxury of playing another game. This time he did not disappoint as he rolled a 259 to Mauro's 209.

Therefore this year's champions are: Justin Caruana Scicluna and Sue Abela



MALTESE OLYMPICS COMMITTEE SPORTS AWARDS

Our athletes' efforts were paid off on 3rd December, during the MOC Sports Awards which was held at the Corinthia Palace. We had no less than 10 athletes who were chosen for these honours.

Special Awards:

Youths Sara Xuereb, Matthew Magro, Edward Xuereb, Shaun Montanaro, Alessia Schembri and Shadon Psaila all received a special award for their success when participating in international youth competitions in Europe. Mark Spiteri also received a special award for his silver medal in the European Senior Championships.

Silver & Gold Awards

The ladies' doubles, composed of Tiziana Carannante and Sue Abela, as well as Neil Sullivan, won a silver award, for their bronze medals in the Mediterranean Bowling Championships. Sue Abela was also awarded a gold award, recognising her personal medal in the same championships.



Now after a much deserved 3 week back we will meet again for the 2017 MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues which will be starting as follows:

11th January - Division 2, 12th January – Division 1 and 16th January – Division 3. Kindly send in your team's application by 8th January latest.

The first tournament for 2017 will be played on 17th January at 20:00hrs. The TOP 24 athletes derived from the composite average as at end December 2016 will be playing 4 games to establish the top 3. More details will be sent in a separate email as well as a list of the top 24.

On behalf of all MTBA Committee Directors may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a serene festive season, filled with peace, love, and health.

May your holiday season sparkle and shine, with love, health and happiness and lots of wine!



In the meantime continue to follow us on facebook as it is being updated daily, and if you have not liked our page please do so!

<https://www.facebook.com/Malta-Tenpin-Bowling-Association-127928316689/>

Also you can now check our webpage: www.bowlingmalta.org as it is being updated weekly.

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana Spiteri

MTBA