

Dear bowlers,

This will be our last newsletter for the year 2018, a year which proved to be another eventful year.

We are now enjoying a well-deserved break from our sport, during the festive season, but even though December basically covered just 2 weeks, it was full of activities: the end of the MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues, one of the biggest tournaments of the year “The Platinum Cup”, the Jeff De Bruges Youth Tournament in France, the Goes ISBT stop, as well as the Maltese Olympic Committee Awards.

MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues

All 3 divisions have now played their full schedule with okmalta.com clinching the title of division 1 tied with same pins as Fina but better pinfall. Runners up were Fina, while 3rd place was confirmed by Turu’s Knights.



Winners of division 2 were Supreme, whilst Mean Machine placed 2nd, and Brutal Legendz in 3rd.



Division 3 champions are Strike Force, with The WMDs placing 2nd and Ready Steady Bowl in 3rd.



Below are the individual award winners. These are not according to the results as the system is not working them out correctly. They were checked week by week and although this was done with care, they are not fool proof, so if anyone has a higher game or series please let me know so it can be double checked. This is valid for all 3 divisions.

DIV 1

High Average: Neil Sullivan and Sue Abela

Scratch Game: Joe Cassar (300) and Sue Abela (275)

Handicap Game: James Vassallo (293) and Joanna Attard (267)

Scratch Series: Mauro Anastasi (756) and Sue Abela (684)

Handicap Series: Joe Cassar (747) and Joanna Attard (649)

DIV 2

High Average: Paul Gray and Juliana Bonanno

Most Improved: Kayden Lagana and Marisa Polidano

Scratch Game: Paul Gray (288) and Caroline Portelli (217)

Handicap Game: Anthony Paris (262) and Kathryn Fenech (224)

Scratch Series: Paul Gray (766) and Juliana Bonanno (506)

Handicap Series: Rebuen Scerri (709) and Marthese Cossai (587).

Div 3

High Average: Melvin Galea and Tessa Bonnici

Most Improved: Melvin Galea and Tessa Bonnici

Scratch Game: Antoine Brimmer (212) and Jenny Eve Jenkins (215)

Handicap Game: Manwel Borg (242) and Tessa Bonnici (236)

Scratch Series: Antoine Brimmer (568) and Tessa Bonnici (531)

Handicap Series: Twanny Borg (605) and Carmen Bajada (613)

COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top composite average athletes for the year 2018 are as follows: Mauro Anastasi 1st (209), Neil Sullivan (208), Justin Caruana Scicluna and Mark Spiteri both with 206. In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (201), Sara Xuereb in 2nd (191) and Tiziana Carannante (187).

Top bowlers for the (U21) youths are Sara Xuereb in 2nd (191), Alessia Schembri (180) and Raquel Xuereb (171), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (193), Edward Xuereb (186), Miguel Xuereb and Kurt Attard both on 179.

6th PLATINUM CUP

Once again we had a good number of participants, 44 in all, of varied averages and ages. After the first 12 qualifying games, it was Mauro Anastasi who clinched the top spot followed by Matthew Magro, Mark Spiteri, Kayden Lagana, Philip Gruppetta and Miguel Xuereb. In the ladies division, Sue Abela lead after 12 games, followed by Amanda Cini, Sara Xuereb, Marthese Cossai, Tiziana Carannante and Cynthia Duca.



During the round robin one cannot help but mention Kayden Lagana, who at the tender age of 11 managed to make it with the top 6! Good also to note that we had 4 under 18 youths in the finals.

In the ladies division Sara won 4 matches to finish in the lead, followed by Amanda and Sue who both won 2 games to nip the 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Tiziana finished in 4th place followed by Cynthia and Marthese.

The male division was also hotly contested with Mauro nipping the top spot by 2 points after winning 4 games, Philip claimed the 2nd place, while 3rd post went to Mark Spiteri. These were followed by Matthew, Miguel and Kayden.



In the semi-finals Philip beat Mark (219 vs 213), whilst Sue beat Amanda (199 vs 187).

The finals were intense with screaming coming from all sides of the bowling, mainly the 2 males, the ladies' supporters and also the open bowlers on lanes 6-3.

Sue beat Sara during the first game (212-202) and Philip beat Mauro (205-201). Since the losers were the first seeded bowlers of the round robin they forced the 2nd game on their opponents and this time they did not miss. Sara beat Sue 233-207, whilst Mauro won over Philip 210-199.

Therefore this year's champions are our reigning National Champions: Mauro Anastasi, who won this tournament for the first time, and Sara Xuereb who nipped this tournament twice in its 6 year history.



JEFF DE BRUGE YOUTH EUROPEAN RANKING TOURNAMENT

Eight of our youth bowlers went to participate in the Jeff De Bruges tournament in France. They were: Edward, Sara and Miguel Xuereb, Juliana Bonanno, Matthew Magro, Dylan Santillo, Dwayne Zahra and Kurt Attard. All bowlers played 12 games, with only the best 6 game series taken into consideration for qualification to the next step.



Dwayne Zahra finished in a good 2nd position from 24 bowlers in the Minime Division.

In the Cadet Division Matthew Magro finished in 5th place, and Edward and Miguel Xuereb each bowled a 1135 to finish in 22nd and 23rd place respectively from 62 bowlers.

In the Junior Division Sara Xuereb finished in 34th place, Kurt in 39th, Juliana Bonnanno in 66th and Dylan Santillo 75th from 77 players.

Dwayne and Matthew then proceeded to the next stage playing 4 games to make the top 3. Dwayne played a 706 to finish in 6th place, whilst Matthew Magro bowled a 724 to finish in 11th place. Well done to both.



GOES SENIOR OPEN

One of our Senior Bowlers, namely Paul Gray went to participate in the GOES Senior Open in The Netherlands.

Paul Gray finished in the 30th position from 75 bowlers, narrowly missing the cut due to the high age handicap: the highest being 38 handicap per game!



MALTESE OLYMPICS COMMITTEE SPORTS AWARDS

Our athletes' efforts were paid off on 7th December, during the MOC Sports Awards which was held at the Corinthia Palace.

The Mediterranean Championships 4 person team was honoured by a Silver Award for placing 2nd in the team event. The team was composed by Sue, Sara, Mauro and Justin.





A Bronze Award was awarded to Sue Abela for winning a bronze medal in the European Championships 2017, as well as winning the Malta Open 2018.



Sara Xuereb won a Silver Award for placing 2nd in the Mediterranean Championships Masters, and for winning a Bronze Medal in the European Youth Championships. Josward collected the award on Sara's behalf as she was away playing in the YET France.



The highest award went to Justin Caruana Scicluna who was awarded a Gold Award for winning Gold in the Singles event and a Bronze in the Masters event during the Mediterranean Championships.



It is with great honour to mention that Melissa Anastasi was inducted in the Hall of Fame. She had won quite a view international honours in team events, as well as a couple of individual ones. Well done Melissa.



During this month most of our members were generous with donations of food which we then gave to the Food Bank. I would like to thank all those who donated during leagues, the Platinum Cup as well as the last day of Sport On the Move. A special thanks goes to Maryanne Fenech who came up with the idea and helped me collect the food, and James Bugeja who was kind enough to take all the bags to the Food Bank. Thanks also to Eden Superbowl who stored the food for us for over a week.



Now after a much deserved 3 week back we will meet again for the 2019 MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues which will be starting as follows:

10th January – Div 1,

15th January – Div 2

14th January - Div 3

Kindly send in your team's application by 2nd January for division 1, and 6th January for divisions 2 and 3.

The first tournament for 2019 will be the TOP 24 athletes derived from the composite average as at end December 2018. This will be held on Wednesday 16th January. An email has already been sent to the top 35 athletes, to cater for any refusals.

During January we will also be holding the Mediterranean Championships qualifications on 26, 27, 28 January. The Calendar has been uploaded on our Facebook page should anyone wish to check it.

That is all for this year. 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.



I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana