

Dear bowlers,

This will be our last newsletter for the year 2019, a year which proved to be another eventful year.

### **CISK LAGER DOUBLES LEAGUE**

Winners: MedSea Shipping Agency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gillette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Simply VC and 4<sup>th</sup> Ballbarians



Highest average goes to Justin Caruana Scicluna (224) and Sue Abela (218).



Div 3 – Vintage, The George's and Strike Force.

Div 2 – Blitzkrieg, Supreme and Mean Machine.

Div 1 - Okmalta.com, Fina, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Turu's Knights.

The below are the individual awards won. There is a fault with the scoring system, and some high scores could not be correct. These were checked week by week, but if any of you think that you rolled a higher score please get back to me so I can verify.

#### **DIV 1**

High Average: Justin Caruana Scicluna and Sue Abela

Scratch Game: Philip Gruppetta (299) and Sue Abela (300)

Handicap Game: Matthew Magro (279) and Amanda Cini (283)

Scratch Series: Justin Caruana Scicluna (748) and Sue Abela and Cynthia Frendo Duca (724)

Handicap Series: Dwayne Zahra (717) and Sara Xuereb (710)

## **DIV 2**

High Average: Helenio Grech and Juliana Bonanno

Most Improved: Melvin Galea and Kathryn Fenech

Scratch Game: Benny Hili (268) and Juliana Bonanno (231)

Handicap Game: Kyle Camilleri (277) and Ruslana Grima (233)

Scratch Series: Helenio Grech (658) and Juliana Bonanno (592)

Handicap Series: Chris Fenech (694) and Marthese Cossai (620)

## **Div 3**

High Average: Michaela Briffa and Ian Howard

Most Improved: Natasha Bianchi and George Mangion

Scratch Game: Milos Kojic (211) and Carmen Bajada (224)

Handicap Game: Rene Bartolo (233) and Doris Zammit (232)

Scratch Series: Milos Kojic (542) and Michaela Briffa (507)

Handicap Series: George Mangion (619) and Sandra Xuereb (626)

## **NATIONAL RECORDS**

A new national record for 5 game series was rolled by Justin Caruana Scicluna during the Platinum Cup Round Robin. He played an amazing 1209 series to bear the previous record 1182 previously held by Neil Sullivan and Philip Gruppetta.



## **COMPOSITE AVERAGE**

The top bowlers as per composite average at end December are: Justin Caruana Scicluna (216.67), Mauro Anastasi 2<sup>nd</sup> (213.54) and Mark Spiteri 3<sup>rd</sup> (209.25). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (208.14), Cynthia Frendo Duca (203.52) in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sara Xuereb in 3<sup>rd</sup> (198.12).

Top bowlers for the U19 youths are Sara Xuereb (198.12), Raquel Xuereb (167.33) and Ruslana Grima (144.22), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (201.83), Nicholas Muscat (197.89) and Miguel Xuereb (191.88).

## 7<sup>th</sup> PLATINUM CUP

We had 43 participants in all, of varied averages and ages. After the first 12 qualifying games, it was Dennis Mercieca who clinched the top spot followed by Matthew Magro, Justin Caruana Scicluna, Damian Pisani, Matthew Howard and Mark Spiteri. In the ladies' division, Sue Abela lead after 12 games, followed by Sara Xuereb, Cynthia Duca, Joanna Attard, Melissa Swift and Tiziana Carannante. Noticeable series were the 1428 by Dennis Mercieca on Day 1, a 1345 by Sue Abela, a personal best for Matthew Magro (1338) and a 289 game, 1310 by Justin Caruana Scicluna and a 1301 by Mark Spiteri.



During the round robin Cynthia rolled a good 1062 series and won 4 matches to bag the 1<sup>st</sup> place. Sue won 3 matches to clinch the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, whilst the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot was taken by Tiziana who won 4 matches.



In the male category, Justin rolled an impressive 1209 series, to write a new national record on 5 game series. He was also the only player to win all 5 matches to jump to the top spot with 174 points to spare. Matthew Magro rolled a good 1044 and won 4 matches, to nip 2<sup>nd</sup> place, whilst Dennis Mercieca rolled a 959 and won 3 matches to bag the last vacant spot in the step ladders.



During the semi-finals Tiziana beat Sue by 5 pins to proceed to the finals (188-183), whilst Matthew won over Dennis (171-234).

During the finals. Tiziana beat Cynthia in game 1 by 4 pins (173-177), whilst Matthew was on fire rolling a superb 276 to Justin's 228. With both the underdogs beating the 1<sup>st</sup> seeded, they forced another match, which Cynthia won this time round (186-169). The males' match was a superb affair, with both rolling strike after strike. Justin managed to finish his 10<sup>th</sup> frame with a XX8, whilst Matthew could only manage a X9/ for a stupendous 256-245 match.

Cynthia won this tournament for the first time with a 201.58 average, whilst Justin won it for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time with a brilliant 223.47 average, which is the highest average in a Platinum Cup since its inception 7 years ago.



## **GOES SENIOR OPEN – THE NETHERLANDS**

One of our Senior Bowlers, namely Paul Gray went to participate in the GOES Senior Open in The Netherlands. Paul Gray finished in the 41<sup>st</sup> position from 99 bowlers, rolling a 1241 scratch series.



## **MALTESE OLYMPICS COMMITTEE SPORTS AWARDS**

Our athletes' efforts were paid off on 7<sup>th</sup> December, during the MOC Sports Awards which was held at the Corinthia Palace. In total we had 7 awards, 2 Special, 2 silver and 3 gold.



The Awards were awarded as follows:

Special Award – Kayden Lagana and Dwayne Zahra



Silver Award – Mauro Anastasi and Mark Spiteri



Gold Award – Sue Abela, Sara Xuereb and Cynthia Frendo Duca.



### **MIDALJA GHALL-QADI TAR-REPUBBLIKA**

The Special Olympics contingent which participated in the Abu Dhabi World Games were awarded a medal for their service to the Republic. Bowling was part of the games with the contingent being Philip Gruppetta, Peter Mallia, Amanda Cini, Jessica Farrugia lead by Rick Voogesang for the Unified team, and Miriana Pace, Natasha Bianchi, Mark Serge, Nicholas Falzon lead by Giancarlo Tolu for the Special Olympics Team.



Now after a much deserved 3 week back we will meet again for the 2020 MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues which will be starting as follows:

- 9<sup>th</sup> January – Div 1
- 14<sup>th</sup> January – Div 2
- 27<sup>th</sup> January - Div 3

We have also amended some of the rules, and a separate email was sent with the rules attached. These will be found on our webpage [www.bowlingmalta.org](http://www.bowlingmalta.org)

Kindly send in your team's application by 3<sup>rd</sup> January for division 1, 6<sup>th</sup> January for Div 2, and 16<sup>th</sup> January for division 3.

The first tournament for 2020 will be the TOP 24 athletes derived from the composite average as at end December 2019. This will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. An email will be sent to the top 35 athletes, to cater for any refusals. Bowlers should have played at least 100 games to be eligible.

During January we will also be holding the Mediterranean Championships qualifications on 18, 19, 20 January. The Calendar has been uploaded on our Facebook page should anyone wish to check it.

In the International Arena, we will have the Senior Team going for the first Senior European Championships in Vienna. Our team will be composed of Mark Spiteri, Kenneth Arpa, Dennis Mercieca, Giancarlo Tolu and Sue Abela. We wish them all good luck.

The Youth Team to represent Malta in the Youth European Championships has also been determined right after the Platinum Cup. Matthew Magro and Nicholas Muscat bagged a place with ease. However, it was a tussle for the last two places between Edward Xuereb, Dwayne Zahra and Miguel Xuereb. Dwayne secured his place halfway through the last game of the Platinum Cup, whereas Edward nipped the last place, at the very last frame, when he had to spare to ensure the spot, beating his cousin Miguel by 6 pins.

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.

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana