

JANUARY 2017 – BOWLING NEWSLETTER

After the Christmas break all bowlers were itching to go back down on the lanes, and in fact January started at full blast, with the leagues, and even two tournaments.

MAPFRE MSV LIVE LEAGUES

Whilst 3 weeks had been played in Divisions 1 and 2, the Division 3 Trios League teams have only played 2 as they had to stop for a week due to the Mediterranean Championships.

So far Standings as follows:

Division 3 – Move It (14), The Scotsman Pub (13), The WMD's (11).

Division 2 - Strike Me Jabaal (20), MIA (19), Vintage (18)

Division 1 – Fina (18), Ramis (14), Yobetit (14)

COMPOSITE AVERAGE

At this very early stage of the year the top composite average athletes as at end January are: Justin Caruana Scicluna (213.89), Masaya Oishi (211.67), and Claude Camilleri (202.62), though the last two have not played on the difficult sport pattern of the MBC. In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (203.59), Melissa Swift follows (196.11) while Sara Xuereb clinched 3rd with (195.89).

Top bowlers for the U21 youths are Sara Xuereb (195.89), Raquel Xuereb (177.44) and Michaela Briffa (162), while in the boys' division we have Nicholas Zahra (193.22), Kurt Attard (183.39) and Matthew Magro (180.43).

TOP 24 BOWLERS FOR 2016

We held this event for the 2nd year in a row. While in the previous year this tournament was bowled in April, this year, we had the top bowlers for the whole of 2016. Clayton Zammit, Luke Burke and Giancarlo Tolu, managed a place as we had athletes who could not play.

We had some very good scores and there was a bit of a tussle for the title. In the end, it was Mauro Anastasi who won the first tournament of 2017 bowling a 920 total for a good 230 average. 2nd place was won by Rankin Camilleri (915), while Justin nipped 3rd place (891).



MEDITERRANEAN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS XX QUALIFYING

The MBC pattern was a difficult sports pattern which saw a lot of our athletes struggling on it, coloured with a lot of unusual splits like in the case of Mauro getting a Lilly with all his revs!

Day 1: Sue Abela finished in 1st place just 2 pins ahead of young star Sara Xuereb (1521), with Melissa following (1498). Justin Caruana Scicluna lead from the start with the only 1700+ series of the night (1727), followed by Mark Spiteri (1666) and Dennis Mercieca (1646).

Day 2: Sue Abela excelled on day 2 with a 1662 series which saw her increase her lead on Sara to 90 pins, whereas Melissa retained the 3rd spot but lagged 109 pins behind 2nd place. All top male bowlers dropped their averages on day 2, with Justin rolling the only 1600+ (1609) but obviously more than a 100 pins lower than on day 1, Mauro bowled a 1588 to clinch the 2nd spot, just 3 pins ahead of Spiteri whose 1534 series ensured he dropped to 3rd place. Dennis shot a low 1493 and dropped to 4th. The highlight of the day was a 290 by Philippe Vancell.

Day 3: Although she rolled a low 1513, Sue's advantage of the previous 2 days, persevered and she finished in the top spot with a 195.71 average. The tussle was then between Sara and Melissa, the latter rolling good 229 and 247 games in the 6th and 7th and was only 20 pins away from Sara. Very unusual for the ladies' category as it all boiled down to the last game. Sara opened a spare, but Melissa had a split, so all was even. However Sara managed a good finish from frame 8 onwards to end the game with a 215 to Melissa's 179 with the final score being: Sara (4627) and Melissa (4571).

The men's division was very intense, though for the 2nd spot, as Justin went on relentlessly to once again shoot the highest series of the tournament (1761). The tussle was between Mauro, Mark and Dennis. By game 4 Mauro rolled a 759, Mark an 808 and Dennis an 825. Spiteri then rolled a 232 to continue to gain grounds, and by the 7th game he was 116 pins over Mauro and 189 pins over Dennis. Last game he dropped to a 188, but a 203 from Mauro and a 230 by Dennis was not enough to make him lose the 2nd spot.

One must note that there were only 2 bowlers who managed to finish over the 200 average: Justin (212.38) and Mark Spiteri (203.25).

The Maltese contingent will be composed of: Sue Abela who has the absolute record of participating in the Mediterranean Championships for 20 years out of 20, Justin Caruana Scicluna (7th time), Mark Spiteri (6th) and Sara Xuereb'(1st). Championships will be held in Slovenia from 26th March to 2nd April.



SPORT MALTA AWARDS

This event is held by the Malta Sports Journalists' Association in conjunction with Sport Malta. First each Association nominates its athletes who performed well abroad, and these are then scrutinized by a Selective Committee composed mainly from journalists, where they pick the top 10 athletes of their relative category. From the nominees submitted, the following were selected with the top 10.

Sue Abela and Tiziana Carannante – Sportswoman of the Year

Sara Xuereb – U17 Female Athlete of the Year

Mark Spiteri – Sportsman of the Year

Matthew Magro – U17 Male Athlete of the Year

Sue Abela and Tiziana Carannante – Team of the Year



They will be awarded with a certificate on 6th February, while on 7th February the top 10 will be downsized to top 5. The eventual winners will be known on Saturday 25th February.

Our next upcoming events are:

- Handicap Competition for Juniors and Youths – 11th February at 9.30
- The Presentation Dinner – 17th February
- Malta Sports Awards – 25th February
- Annual General Meeting – 26th February

As stated above, the presentation dinner will be held at the Salini Resort on 17th February. As usual we have a scrumptious 5 course meal with a choice of antipasti, soup, pasta, main course including fish, beef, chicken and pork as well as a choice of mouth-watering desserts. Price is 25€ with free flowing wine, water and soft drinks and free parking. Kids and Special Olympic athletes up to 12 years pay 13€. Please do let me know in advance if you are coming and anyone is welcome to bring friends and family.

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/>

and on our website: www.bowlingmalta.org

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana Spiteri