

JANUARY 2018 – BOWLING NEWSLETTER

The first month of the year, and the leagues are now in full swing and we had two tournaments for our Elite bowlers.

MAPFRE MSV LIVE LEAGUES

After 4 weeks play for Div 2, 3 matches for division 1 and 2 matches for division 3, standings are as follows:

Division 3 – Pin Pulse (14), 4Play (12) and Ready Steady Bowl (10)

Division 2 – Supersonic (26), Mean Machine (26) and Bank of Valletta (24)

Division 1 – Okmalta.com (22), Royal Shock (21) and Turu's Knights (18)

COMPOSITE AVERAGE

At this very early stage of the year the top composite average athletes as at end January are: Mauro Anastasi (200.95), Justin Caruana Scicluna (191.81), and Rankin Camilleri (191.57). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (196.92), Tiziana Carannante follows (186.89) while Sara Xuereb clinched 3rd with (184.92).

Top bowlers for the U18 youths are Sara Xuereb (184.92), Raquel Xuereb (183.33) and Alessia Schembri (174.33), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (183.33), Kurt Attard (178.95) and Edward Xuereb (177.44).

TOP 24 BOWLERS FOR 2017

We held this event for the 3rd year in a row. There were a few bowlers from the top 24 who could not play therefore we gave the right to the next in line to take their place, with the last spot clinched by Daniel Grech.

Only 4 athletes managed to roll over a 200 scratch series, but not all of them placed with the top 3 as there was handicap involved in this tournament. Kenneth Arpa managed to nip the first tournament rolling an 876 scratch series. Young Sara Xuereb once again placed herself amongst the best, finishing in 2nd place with a good 213 scratch average added to 12 pins in handicap for a total of 864. Surprising everyone, Sammy Borg, who entered this competition limping with a bad leg clinched the 3rd place.



MEDITERRANEAN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS XXI QUALIFYING

The MBC qualifying tournament was played on last year's pattern used in Slovenia.

Day 1: Sue Abela finished in 1st place (1545) and 73 pins ahead of Cynthia Duca (1472) and Tiziana Carannante just 2 pins less. Mauro led the men's field just 2 pins ahead of Justin Caruana Scicluna, while Rankin's 273 in last game made sure he was well within reach of the top 2.

Day 2: Sue Abela excelled on day 2 with a 1642 series to increase her lead to 313 pins. Tiziana improved to 2nd place, with Cynthia following in 3rd. Justin bowled a good 1629 series to leapfrog Mauro (3243 – 3199), and it was Dennis Mercieca who moved up to third place, rolling a good 1612 for a total of 3156 pins.

Day 3: Sue Abela rolled her best series of the 3 days (1644) and ensured her 21st participation in the MBC without any stress. The 2nd spot was a 3 way tussle between Tiziana, Cynthia and Sara and although the latter was 101 pins under, she persevered with a good 1592 series to clinch the 2nd spot from under Cynthia's nose by 19 pins.

The men's division as usual was more complicated. Mark Spiteri started strongly and by 3rd game he was catching up. However his ensuing games ensured he was out of the race. The tussle was then between Dennis and Mauro, as by the last game there was just 21 pins separating them, while Justin seemed safe in first place. However, bowling is a cruel game which can either pull you up, or slam you down. Dennis could only manage a poor 160, while Mauro with a humongous effort, rolled a good 264 game, to not only beat Dennis, but also managed to beat Justin by 18 pins to end in the first place.

The Maltese contingent will be composed of: Sue Abela who has the absolute record of participating in the Mediterranean Championships for 21 years out of 21, Justin Caruana Scicluna (8th time), Mauro Anastasi and Sara Xuereb both 2nd time. Championships will be held in Ankara from 16th to 22nd 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 – Sportswoman of the Year

Sara Xuereb – U17 Female Athlete of the Year

Mark Spiteri – Sportsman of the Year

Edward Xuereb – U17 Male Athlete of the Year

Small Nations Cup Mixed Team – Team of the Year

Rick Vogelesang – Coach of the year.

On the 31st of January these were down to the top 5 with the following making it through:

Sue Abela – Sportswoman of the Year

Sara Xuereb – U17 Female Athlete of the Year

Edward Xuereb – U17 Male Athlete of the Year

Small Nations Cup Mixed Team – Team of the Year



We wish them all good luck, and we will be following closely on the day, as this will be aired direct on TVM2.

Our next upcoming events are:

- The Presentation Dinner – 16th February
- Malta Sports Awards – 24th February
- Annual General Meeting – 25th February

Our presentation dinner will be held at the Salini Resort on 16th February. As usual we have a scrumptious 5 course meal with a choice of antipasti, soup, and pasta, main course including fish, beef, chicken and falafel as well as a choice of mouth-watering desserts. Price is 30€ with free flowing wine, water and soft drinks and free parking. Kids up to 12 years and Special Olympic athletes will pay 15€. Please do let me know in advance if you are coming and anyone is welcome to bring friends and family.

Please visit our website: www.bowlingmalta.org as this is being updated frequently, while daily news can be found on our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Malta-Tenpin-Bowling-Association-127928316689/photos/?ref=page_internal

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana Spiteri