

June 2017

Ok so we have a break from the MAPFRE MSV Life National Leagues but that does not mean we were idle.

The Doubles Cisk Lager continues and after 4 weeks the 3 leaders are: Bell Caffe tied with Double Impact on 24 points, followed by Ballbarians (22). We already had some high scores, with a 797 by Mauro Anastasi in week 3, as well as a 538 game by Mauro (270) and Mark Muscat (268) of team Ozone.



Composite Average

Now that half the year is over we only have 5 players whose average is over 200... 4 males: Justin Caruana Scicluna (208.9), Rankin Camilleri (205.10), Mauro Anastasi (204.38) and Mark Spiteri (201.04) while Sue Abela is the only lady to do so (203.71). Tiziana Carannante follows (196.27), while in 3rd place there is Melissa Swift (189.22)

Top Youth bowlers (U21) are: Sara Xuereb 188.16), Alessia Schembri (178.78) and Raquel Xuereb (170.58), while for the Boys it is Matthew Magro (187.18), Kurt Attard (182.91) and Edward Xuereb (172.01).

Bank of Valletta National Championships

This year's edition was sponsored by Bank of Valletta and we had 22 competitors vying for this coveted title, 15 men and 7 women.

On day 1 we saw Cynthia Duca leading the female section just 9 pins ahead of Sue Abela, while Tiziana Carannante was in 3rd place. In the men's section it was Mauro Anastasi who took the early lead, followed by Neil Sullivan who lagged behind by exactly a 100 pins, and Rankin Camilleri 17 pins under 2nd place. Only Mauro managed to roll a series over 1600 on the day (1651).

Day 2 saw some changes. Rolling the highest ladies series of the day (1626), Sue Abela leapt to 1st place with an advantage of 69 pins over Tiziana, who improved to 2nd, while Cynthia dropped to 3rd place, just 20 pins below the latter. Although he dropped to a 1551 series, Mauro still retained the lead, followed by Special Olympics star Philip Gruppetta who was 85 pins behind. Neil dropped to 3rd place, 101 pins away from Mauro and just 26 pins from 2nd. Only 2 bowlers managed a 200+ series: Sue Abela (1626) and Dennis Mercieca (1640), the latter leapfrogging from 9th to 4th place.

Day 3 was the most exciting of all as we had quite a few bowlers bowling over the 1600 series. The only lady to do so was the formidable Sue Abela who rolled a 1646 series, with only 2 games below 200, to not only retain the top spot and claim back the championships title, but also increase the lead by a massive 253 pins. The tussle was actually who would clinch 2nd place, as Tiziana and Cynthia, both lefties, and incidentally playing on the same lanes, continued the photo finish, with Tiziana clinching the 2nd spot by 6 pins. Cynthia finished in the 3^d place.

There were 6 men, who played well over 1600, with the highest coming from Neil Sullivan (1696). We also had some very good games from this series: 278 by Mauro, 277 by Kenneth and a 276 by Rankin. The best part came in game 6, when we saw a massive game by Mauro and Neil, who were mirroring each other's shots, with Mauro rolling his 278, and Neil a 257, both fuelled by adrenalin. Philip Gruppetta still managed to keep close as he also rolled a good 237. However it all turned sour for him in games 7 and 8 when he could only manage a 152 and 138 to plummet from 2nd to 7th place. The last game was also very keen, as Mauro found himself in some trouble as he couldn't double up, while Neil was gaining on him. However the gap was too wide, with Sullivan having to content with 2nd place. Dennis rolled his best game (254) to clinch the 3rd place. Mauro on the other hand deservedly won the title by an advantage of 89 pins.



This is Sue's 22nd title, and Mauro's 3rd one, making him the only male bowler to clinch 3 titles in the last decade. Our two champions will be participating in the European Championships which will be played in Vienna from the 23-29 October.



Malta International Open

This year's Malta Open attracted 88 participants out of which were 6 of our Youth Bowlers. The top 3 youths won a ball each and these were Sara Xuereb (2334), Matthew Magro (2305) and Raquel Xuereb (2217).



Mirroring last year, there were 10 Maltese who made the first cut: Super Sue Abela rolled a 2798 to clinch the top spot, thus ensuring a place in Step 3. Mark Spiteri bowled a 2694 to finish in 8th place, thus securing a place in the 2nd Step, while the others ended in the following positions:

13th Philip Gruppetta – 2661, 15th Rankin Camilleri – 2653, 22nd Mark Muscat – 2617, 23rd Justin Caruana Scicluna – 2611, 27th Kenneth Arpa – 2578 and 28th Mauro Anastasi – 2756, the latter two clinching a spot by 3 and 1 pin respectively! Melissa Swift grabbed the last spot through the Desperado.

Stage 1: After playing another 4 games the top twelve would then proceed to Stage 2. Once the 4 games were over, Rankin and Justin both rolled a 930 series to clinch the 3rd and 4th place respectively, Melissa bowled a 918 to finish in (6th), while Philip grabbed the last spot (873). Mark Muscat, Mauro, Neil and Kenneth failed to make it through to Stage 2.



Stage 2: Mark Spiteri rolled his Personal Best 4 game series (951) to finish in the 2nd spot, followed by Justin (950), while Rankin bowled an 859 to secure the last place and proceed to Stage 3.



Stage 3: Unfortunately having Mark and Justin finishing in 2nd and 3rd place meant they had to face each other, and ironically since Rankin clinched the last spot he had to play against Sue! All of us spectators were completely gobsmacked as we wanted to see all 4 go through. Now two will eliminate the other two ☹️. Sue beat Rankin 466 – 411. Justin and Mark’s game was much closer. The former opened the 10th frame and Mark needed to strike out to win. Unfortunately in the 11th frame the 10pin stood anchored to the pin deck, which meant Justin sailed through by 6 pins (432-438).

Quarter Finals: Format was on a best out of two games. At first Justin and Sue were called to play against each other, but after a closer look at the rules it meant that Sue had to face Gary Skyes while Justin had to bowl against last year’s champion Aidas Daniunas. The latter won in 2 low scoring matches 387-352, thus Justin was eliminated. The same could not be said for super Sue as she sailed through with a solid 525, 2 game series, to trash her opponent by over a 100 pins.



Sue then had to play favourite Julien Sermand of France. Again this did not faze her as she once more shot a 512 to beat Julien’s 428 effort. This meant she was now in the finals.

Here she had to face last year’s winner – Aidas Daniunas. Although she dropped a bit her game, she was still superior to her opponent as she won 447 – 385 to be crowned this year’s Malta Open Champion. Sue had already won this honour twice, in 1998 and 2002, however at the time Ladies played in a separate division. Now that both genders are combined it is much tougher. However, she did it with ease, to end as the only lady to ever win such a tournament.



AMF World Cup Qualifying Tournament

This year's qualification was based on 16 games, 8 played on Sunday 25th June, and 8 on Thursday 29th. Only two bowlers rolled a 1700+ series on the day: Justin Caruana Scicluna (1724) and Sue Abela (1705) and they obviously lead the pack. On the other hand there were 4 bowlers bowling 1600+: Rankin (1663), Tiziana Carannante (1638), Paul Gray (1627), and Mark Spiteri (1617).

Day 2, Justin continued his dominance over the males. Only Rankin was offering resistance, but by then Justin had amassed a total of 147 pins advantage and added to that the 61 pins from Day 1 for a total of 208 pins, so it was easy for him to retain the lead. On the other hand the ladies division was very close, as Sue dropped 200 pins from day 1. By the last game, Tiziana had crept silently and was just 37 pins away from Sue. Temperatures rose at the bowling as supporters from both sides made more noise than the players themselves, as by the 5th frame Tiziana was gaining more ground. However, Sue remained composed and managed to win this tournament by 19 pins.



This year's champions will be representing Malta in the AMF World Cup which will be held in Hermosillo, Mexico in November.

The MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues will start next week: Division 1 – 6th July, Division 2 – 5th July and Division 3 – 10th July. If you haven't handed in your application, please do so, as Eden Superbowl staff needs to prepare the line-ups. Draws will be held this Monday, during a committee meeting.

Our next event will be the 5th Silver Cup and this year this will be open to all our members just as long that males are under 170 average and females under 165 average. Kindly book your place as soon as possible to determine if we require 2 squads or 1.

The date for the presentation is also set. This season it will be held on 4th August at the Victoria Hotel – Sliema.... More details to follow soon.

In the meantime continue to visit our website <http://www.bowlingmalta.org/> and like our news on Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Malta-Tenpin-Bowling-Association-127928316689/>

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana