

Good morning everyone

It is with a heavy heart that I write this newsletter this month as the Covid 19 virus put a halt to our lives as we used to know it. Bowling, like all other sport in the world felt the brunt of this with both the Mediterranean Bowling Championships as well as the European Bowling Championships being postponed. Locally bowling came to an abrupt full halt, as the bowling centre was amongst those public places which had to close down with training, leagues and competitions being postponed indefinitely until further notice.

Fortunately, I still have a little bit of news to divulge this week, as we had 2 weeks of leagues for all 3 divisions during March.



Div 1 – week 8: okmalta.com (60), Fina (52) and Turu's Knights (50)

Div 2 – week 9: Brutal Legendz (48), Up Your Average (44) and MIA and BOV both on (40)

Div 3 – week 6: The Georges' (40), One For All (32) and Strike Force (30)

## COMPOSITE AVE

Composite average for the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the year is as follows:

**Males:** Justin Caruana Scicluna (215.86), Mauro Anastasi (213.62), and Mark Spiteri (209.37)

**Females:** Sue Abela (202.77), Cynthia Frendo Duca (200.20, and Sara Xuereb (199.05)

## Youths – 19 years:

**Males:** Nicholas Muscat (207.20), Matthew Magro (196.08), and Miguel Xuereb (195.35)

**Females:** Sara Xuereb (199.05) and Kathryn Fenech (133.92)

## ARTHUR'S SENIOR OPEN



Paul Gray went to participate in the Arthur's Senior Open which was held in Osnabrück, just before Malta closed all flights to Germany, and then a week later to all destinations. Paul bowled a 2594 on 12 games, as total with 10 handicap per game, placing 33<sup>rd</sup> from 55. However, his 2474 scratch series placed him in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, which meant he proceeded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. He played a total of 768 on 4 games to finish in in 40<sup>th</sup> position.

The winner was Wim Van der Veen from The Netherlands.

## 13<sup>th</sup> MASTERS TOURNAMENT

The 13th Masters' Tournament, was the last competition played before the bowling centre closed down. Since this event sports only 1 category, all ladies were awarded an 8-pin handicap per game. There were 27 participants trying to make the top 8, so they could then try their luck against the 1-8 seeded best players from last year.

The top 8 who went through were Sara Xuereb and Matthew Magro who were the only 2 to roll above the 1200+, followed by Nicholas Muscat just 5 pins under the 200 average, Mark Muscat, Tiziana Carannante, Rankin Camilleri, Amanda Cini and Joanna Attard.





These 8 athletes joined the seeded 5-8 players (shown above): Sue Abela, Philip Gruppetta, Dennis Mercieca and Cynthia Frendo Duca. Players rolled another 6 games and the 6 to make it through were Philip Gruppetta who rolled the highest series of the day (1293), followed by Sue Abela, Sara Xuereb, Cynthia Duca, Rankin Camilleri and Amanda Cini.

The first 4 seeded players (pictured below): Justin Caruana Scicluna, Mauro Anastasi, Mark Spiteri and Kenneth Arpa then joined the 6 who made it through, playing 5 games.



Sue Abela finished first rolling a scratch 1126 for a total 1166 with handicap. Her scratch series is the senior national record for 5 game series. Mark Spiteri also rolled a fab 1100 which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest 5 game series score. Justin Caruana Scicluna bowled a 1008, followed by Philip Gruppetta 978, and Kenneth Arpa 975. Mauro Anastasi and Rankin Camilleri tied with a 970 series, with Rankin going through the next round due to his higher last game.

These 6 athletes were then divided into 2 groups: 1, 4 and 6 and 2, 3 and 5, to roll one game, with the lowest being eliminated. Group A was composed of Sue Abela, Rankin Camilleri and Philip Gruppetta, whilst Group B was made up of Mark Spiteri, Justin Caruana Scicluna and Kenneth Arpa.

The first to be eliminated were Arpa (205) and Gruppetta (193). On to the 2<sup>nd</sup> match Sue beat Rankin in a close encounter (218 – 212), and Mark winning over Justin (210-200).



The final was between our 2 Senior European Gold Medallists, Sue Abela and Mark Spiteri. The latter persevered to win the game 224-204 to win the Master's Title, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Sue Abela and joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Justin Caruana Scicluna and Rankin Camilleri.

Mark Spiteri and Justin Caruana Scicluna are the only two bowlers to have won this title for 3 years, during its 13-year running.



I doubt I will have some news to relate to you next month, but we keep hopeful Stay safe all of you, and follow the protocol outlined to us by the higher authorities, so that God willing we will resume with our activities in the not so distant future.

Take care

Liliana Spiteri

Malta Tenpin Bowling Association