

## Mark Spiteri & Sue Abela add another National Seniors Championship to their Resumés

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bank of Valletta National Seniors Championship was held by the Malta Bowling Association this past weekend, and after 18 games, Mark Spiteri and Sue Abela have won yet another National Seniors title each.

The regulations behind the BOV National Seniors Championship state that only those registered bowlers who are at least 50 years old are eligible to take part in these championships. Since bowling is not a physically demanding sport, many of the 50+ year-olds who took part in these championships were some of Malta's elite bowlers. All participants were given a handicap based on their age, rather than based on their average as per usual; each bowler was assigned as many handicap points per game as their age subtracted by fifty. Therefore, a 55-year-old would have five handicap points per game while a 50-year-old would have none.

As the tournament favourite from the women, Sue Abela unsurprisingly retained her championship once again amongst the rest of the competition. Abela scored the highest total from all men and women – totaling to 3951 in 18 games, i.e., 213.50 scratch average. With handicap, she averaged 219.50 per game throughout the entire competition to finish nearly a thousand pins over the runner-up Liliana Spiteri who totaled at 3082. Third place was awarded to veteran player Josephine Borg, who had a final score of 3001 (total average of 166.72).

After Day 1, Dennis Mercieca led the pack, however, the eventual runner-up was overtaken by eventual winner Mark Spiteri after the second block of games from three days of play. Spiteri averaged 205.89 (212.89 including handicap) to total at 3832. Spiteri was the only male to average over 200 scratch as Mercieca totalled at 3604 while averaging 194.22 (200.22 including handicap). Third place went to current national champion Kenneth Arpa who finished his tournament with a score of 3567 while averaging 195.17 scratch throughout. This victory resulted in Mark Spiteri winning his third national senior title.



## Bowling: Mark Spiteri u Sue Abela jirbħu t-13-il Edizzjoni tal-BOV National Seniors Championships

It-13-il edizzjoni tal-Bank of Valletta National Seniors Championships ħadu sehem dal-aħħar weekend, u wara 18-il logħba, Mark Spiteri u Sue Abela reġġu rebħu dan it-titlu fil-karrieri prestigjużi tagħhom.

Din il-kompetizzjoni kienet miftuħa lejn il-membri kollha tal-Malta Bowling Association (MBA) li kellhom mill-inqas ta' 50 sena - dan kien ifisser li grupp elite mill-aqwa bowlers f'Malta kienu eliġibbli biex jieħdu sehem. Il-partecipanti kollha ngħataw handicap skont l-età tagħhom - għal kull sena li plejer kellu fuq 50, huma ngħataw punt żejda għal kull logħba li lagħbu. Per eżempju, plejer ta' 55 sena ngħata 5 punti żejda kull logħba bħala l-handicap tiegħu, mentri plejer ieħor ta' 50 sena ma ngħatax handicap.

Bħala l-favorita tat-tournament min-naħa tan-nisa, Sue Abela reġġet kisbet l-ewwel post f'din il-kompetizzjoni. Abela spiċċat bl-ogħla skor fost l-irġiel u n-nisa kollha b'total ta' 3951 f'18-il logħba. Abela kellha logħba medja ta' 213.50 (219.50 bil-handicap) wara tlett ijiem ta' logħob u spiċċat is-serje kollha kważi elf pin fuq ir-runner-up Liliana Spiteri (total ta' 3082).

Dennis Mercieca sab ruħu fl-ewwel post wara l-ewwel ġurnata, però, ir-runner-up eventwali nqabeż minn Mark Spiteri fit-tieni ġurnata; Spiteri baqa' fl-ewwel post minn hemm. Spiteri spiċċa din il-kompetizzjoni b'skor medju ta' 205.89 (212.89 bil-handicap) u rebaħ b'skor finali ta' 3832 wara l-logħob kollu. Huwa kien l-unika raġel biex spiċċa b'puntegġ medju scratch fuq 200 - Mercieca spiċċa b'skor finali ta' 3604 (medja ta' 194.22 scratch). Fit-tielet post spiċċa ċ-champion nazzjonali kurrenti Kenneth Arpa b'skor finali ta' 3567 u medja scratch ta' 195.17. Din ir-rebħa fissret it-tielet darba li Mark Spiteri rebaħ dawn il-kampjonati.

