

NOVEMBER 2016 – BOWLING NEWSLETTER

November was once again a busy month in tournaments.

This month saw the end of the Cisk Lager Doubles League. Due to some stoppages, the last week and the position night had to be played on the same day. However only those that were in the run for the top 4 places had to play this position night. Playing week 23, everything remained the same as the match Ala Turca vs Quicklets Letting Specialists ended in a 4-4, whilst okmalta.com and Double Impact both won 6 points from their encounters. The Position Round entailed Ala Turca playing against Quicklets Letting Specialists, and Okmalta.com against Double Impact. Ala Turca lost game 1 by 10 pins and although they won 6-2, it was not enough as they lost the league to Quicklets Letting Specialist by 1 point. On the other hand Double Impact had no trouble winning all 8 points from okmalta.com to grab the 3rd place.



Highest bowlers for this league were: Kenneth Arpa (215.04) and Sue Abela (211.80).

The MSV Life Leagues are nearing the end, with 3 weeks to go for Division 1, one week for Division 2, and two weeks for Division 3.

Standings are as follows:

Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
1 st - Okmalta.com (106)	1 st - Strike Me Jabaal (94)	1 st – One 4 All (78)
2 nd – Ramis (100)	2 nd – J Grima (94)	2 nd – Atlas Insurance (70)
3 rd – Fina (78)	3 rd – Bank of Valletta (92)	3 rd – The Scotsman Pub (59)

COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top bowlers as per composite average at end November are: Justin Caruana Scicluna 1st (211.24), Mauro Anastasi 2nd (208.74) and Kenneth Arpa 3rd (207.24). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (204.77), Tiziana Carannante follows (196.53) while Sara Xuereb is 3rd with (193.18).

Top bowlers for the youths are Sara Xuereb (193), Alessia Schembri (168), and Raquel Xuereb (164), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (187.57), Shaun Montanaro (184.94) and Luke Burke (181.94).

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year we had a record number of 42 competitors some of who participated in more than 1 category. It was a pleasure seeing such a big group.



U12 – MINI JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This was the 3rd time the association held these championships for the growing number of young bowlers interested in our sport and this year we had no less than 12 competitors, 4 girls and 8 boys. All our youngsters had to play 4 games on day 1 and another 4 games on day 2. From day 1 Edward Xuereb took the early lead and after the 1st day he was leading by 98 pins, and by the 2nd day he had amassed a lead of 274 pins. This was Edward's 2nd title as Mini Junior Camp, having won this honour also in 2014.

The tussle was for the 2nd and 3rd place as Nicholas Muscat was leading by just 8 pins on day 1, but then Shadon Psaila nipped the runner up position by 2 pins on day 2, with Nicholas finishing in 3rd place.

In the girls' category it was Ruslana Grima who led all the way and won the title, whilst Kathryn Fenech finished in 2nd place, and Sarah Cassar clinched the 3rd spot.



U16 – JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year we had 18 boys and 4 girls competing for the Junior Championships and all players had to play 12 games, 6 games on day 1 and 6 games on day 2. This year Sara Xuereb had no tangible competition as the other 3 competitors have only been bowling for a couple of months and she easily won the title for the 3rd time in a row. 2nd place went to the U12 Champion Ruslana Grima, whilst her sister Noleen Grima nipped the 3rd place.

The boys' category was a keen race between last year's U16 champion Matthew Magro and Edward Xuereb. The latter ended day 1 with a 1156 series, to lead the boys' category by 59 pins. Matthew Magro rolled a 1097 series and was in 2nd place, whilst Kurt Attard bowled a 964 series for 3rd place. Nothing changed on day 2, as Edward Xuereb managed to retain the top position to win the U16 championships with a 186 average. The youngster is surely following in his sister's footsteps and like Sara he was crowned U16 champion at just 12 years of age. Matthew Magro had to settle for 2nd place with a 178 average, while Kurt Attard trailed in 3rd with a 159 average.



U23 – INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

6 girls and 10 boys participated in this category, all trying to make the round robin. While the girls had no problem making it through as there were only 6 competitors, it was a different matter altogether in the boys' category! Day 1 saw Philip Gruppetta take the early lead with a 1188 series, with Edward Xuereb hot on heels, and Matthew Magro, Jurgen Harrington, Cedric Farrugia and Matthew Agius occupying the top 6 places. Day 2 saw no changes in the top 3 spots, while Jurgen had to relinquish his post to Luke Burke.

Round Robin Girls

Donna Vella lost all encounters, to finish in 6th place, Juliana Bonanno and Alessia Schembri both won 2 games to finish in 5th and 4th place respectively. Michaela Briffa won 4 matches to place 3rd, as did Raquel and Sara to clinch the other two spots for the step ladder.

Round Robin Boys

Once again the boys were all on even footing and all 6 could make it with the top 3. Philip lost 3 of his matches, but the cushion he had amassed during the previous 2 series ensured he remained in the 1st position. The young Xuereb astounded everyone by winning 4 of his matches, to finish in the 2nd position, while 3rd spot went to Matthew Magro who won 3 matches.

Step Ladder

Raquel faced Michaela in a high scoring match, the former winning 225-201. On the other hand the boys' game ended with Matthew Magro beating Edward Xuereb 190-145. Both winners then had to face Sara and Philip who had to be beaten twice. Raquel won the first game against her sister Sara 195-166, while Magro won against Philip 196-150. Being the underdogs they both had to beat the leaders in a 2nd match. However the reigning champs were not willing to let go of their 3 year reign and they fought to win the game: Sara beating Raquel 215-158, and Philip winning over Matthew 192-156. Both champions have been undefeated for the 4th consecutive year.



SMALL NATIONS CUP SELECTION TOURNAMENT

For the first time, bowling has finally been introduced to the Small Nations Games and we held the qualifying tournament earlier this month.

Justin took to this tournament like a fish takes to water and rolled a whirlwind 5345 series to beat the national record which was a 5294 bowled by none other than his mum Sue Abela way back in 2007. Mauro succeeded in winning the second spot with a 5121 series. The ladies' section was won by Sue Abela 5076, whilst Sara Xuereb won her 2nd sport in the International Arena bowling a brilliant 5007 series. These 4 athletes have won the right to represent Malta in San Marino next March.



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

These championships are supposed to be held bi-annually, however this time round they were organised after 3 years. The wait seemed to fuel our bowlers as this was the best ever performance from the whole team.



The first and most exciting news arrived right after the ladies' singles, when Tiziana Carannante wrote history in the MTBA story by winning the first ever gold in these championships, bowling a magnificent 1325 series, and putting herself on the national records' list for 6 games. As if that was not enough,

Sue Abela clinched the 3rd spot to continue with another first: our two ladies each clinching a medal in the same event.



The men also bowled well with Kenneth bowling a 1253 to finish in the 7th position, while Dennis bowled just 10 pins less to finish in the 10 position.

More good news ensued the next day as our formidable ladies' duo, Carannante and Abela, clinched a silver medal in the ladies doubles', beating Australia by 5 pins. This was our 2nd silver in these championships for the ladies' doubles as Sue and her sister Melissa had also won a same colour medal 10 years earlier. This time round though, they bowled the highest series (2552).



Kenneth and Dennis also bowled well and were unlucky to finish in 4th position. Still this was the best performance in the men's doubles in the commonwealth history.

The next event was the mixed doubles, and our hearts stopped beating when Tiziana and Dennis who had bowled a brilliant 2667 series, had to settle for 4th place, whilst the other duo; Sue and Kenneth placed in 7th place.

In the 4 person team, Malta finished in the 8th position, but with the brilliant effort of all our team, Malta placed 2nd as a team in the all events to clinch another medal, whilst Tiziana Carannante nipped the 3rd place and won a brilliant glass trophy. Also this meant we had ALL four athletes in the Masters.



In the Master's Round Robin stage, Sue and Tiziana ended in the 6th and 7th place respectively. However it was Dennis who stole the show and held us glued to the messenger chat for LIVE MTBA events. Up to the 10th game he had been leading the group, but two low 160 + games so him tumble to the 5th position, whilst Kenneth finished in the 7th position. This was definitely a very good show by all 4 athletes.

MOC AWARDS

Last week we also received news that we have no less than 9 bowlers who were accepted for an MOC award. (These do not include the results of the Commonwealth as it was till end of October).

The bowlers are:

Individuals: Mark Spiteri, Neil Sullivan and Sue Abela

Team: MCC Ladies Doubles' Team 2016 (Sue and Tiziana)

Youths: Sara Xuereb, Matthew Magro, Alessia Schembri, Shaun Montanaro, Shadon Psaila and Edward Xuereb.

We wish the all good luck, but all will be receiving an award as that is how it goes with the Maltese Olympic Committee.

Coming next, in fact this weekend is the Bank of Valletta Platinum Cup. So far squad A is full and there but there are still places available in squad B. Applications close this evening.



MOC Sports Awards 2016



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<https://www.facebook.com/Malta-Tenpin-Bowling-Association-127928316689/>

www.bowlingmalta.org

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana