

NOVEMBER 2019 – BOWLING NEWSLETTER

We received some bad news this month as one of our members and an ex committee member passed away on 8th November. Sammy Borg was well known, having coached a considerable number of bowlers and kids during the Sport On the Move sessions. Condolences to his family, and may he rest eternally in peace. We shall always remember his energy towards the sport and his lovely smile.



CISK LAGER DOUBLES LEAGUE

With only the position night to go, and which will be played on 4th December, MedSea Shipping Agency are already confirmed as the winners, and Gillette as the runners up. We have a tussle for the 3rd and 4th spots between 5 teams so we will have to wait for the position night to determine the other 2 places.



Divisions 3 and 2 have come to an end and the below are the confirmed winners.

Div 3 – Vintage, The George's and Strike Force.

Div 2 – Blitzkrieg, Supreme and Mean Machine.

There is still a week to go for division 1 but Okmalta.com have already been confirmed as champions. 2nd Fina, and 3rd Turu's Knights.

COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top bowlers as per composite average at end November are: Justin Caruana Scicluna (216.55), Mauro Anastasi 2nd (213.81) and Mark Spiteri 3rd (209.15). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (208.14), Cynthia Frendo Duca (203.28) in 2nd and Sara Xuereb in 3rd (198.19).

Top bowlers for the U19 youths are Sara Xuereb (198.19), Raquel Xuereb (167.33) and Ruslana Grima (144.22), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (200.80), Nicholas Muscat (197.95) and Miguel Xuereb (191.55).

NATIONAL RECORDS

This month we had 2 bowlers rolling a perfect game. As mentioned further down, Philip Gruppetta rolled his 2nd 300 game, whilst Justin Caruana Scicluna continue to dominate the 300 games' list, rolling his 13th perfect game.



NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – SPONSORED BY BANK OF VALLETTA

This year we had 37 competitors most of who participated in more than 1 category.



BANK OF VALLETTA: U12 – MINI JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was the 6th year since we introduced this category and this year we had 13 competitors: 5 girls and 8 boys.

Karlise Bartolo lead the girls' category from day 1, rolling a 504 and a 552 to place first by 74 pins. Celianne Micallef was in 3rd with a 468 but a better 514 in day 2 saw her clinch the 2nd place. Mia Bugeja was in 4th place with a 399, but she improved to a 534 on day 2 to succeed in bagging the 3rd place. Charlize Bartolo had to settle for 4th and Jade Barbara 5th.



Kayden Lagana also lead the boy's category from the first day, rolling a 668 and a 653 for a total 1321. Nicolai Mallia rolled a 514 and then a 499 in day 2 to retain the 2nd spot, while Kieran Seguna's 461 & 492 earned him the 3rd place.



Congratulations to our U12 champions: Kayden Lagana and Karlise Bartolo who bagged these honours for the 2nd year in a row.

BANK OF VALLETTA: U16 – JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year we had 10 boys and 3 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. Ruslana Grima rolled an 872 and 862 to retain the lead. Kathryn Fenech bowled a 733 on day 1 and then improved to a much higher 899 to retain the 2nd place, while Mia Bugeja rolled a 605 and 747 to place 3rd.



Having won the last 3 editions of the U16 championships, Edward Xuereb faced a bigger challenge this year, having up and coming Nicholas Muscat and Dwayne Zahra breathing down his neck. Edward lead day 1 with a 1184 series, but then dropped to a 1089 to have to settle for 2nd place. Dwayne Zahra bowled a 1102 and a 1126 to place 3rd, while Nicholas Muscat improved on his 1168 of Day 1, to a 1238 on day 2 to clinch the title with a 200.50 average, the highest recorded in the past 12 years since we started to retain the averages.



Congratulations to our U16 champions – Ruslana Grima who won this title for the 2nd consecutive year, and Nicholas Muscat who was crowned the Junior National champion for the 1st time.

BANK OF VALLETTA: U23 – INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

8 girls and 12 boys participated in this category, all trying to make the round robin. Sara had no problem leading the girls as she sailed through by over 300 pins advantage. Raquel and Juliana

finished in 2nd and 3rd place with just a 3-pin difference, while Ruslana, Kathryn and Rachel nipped the other 3 available spots.



The boys' section is usually more intense, and this year was no exception. Kurt Attard improved by nearly a 100 pins on day 2 to climb from 9 to 6th place, Dwayne rolled 24 pins better to climb to 5th, while Dylan Santillo literally rose from the dead and from the bottom place climbed to 4th place with his 1236 series. The top 3 boys were Nicholas Muscat, who improved from 3rd to 1st place leading by a solitary pin on Matthew Magro's 2405 whilst Edward's 1184 and 1089 was enough to keep him in 3rd place.



Round Robin Girls

Mirroring last year, the top 3 girls making it to the round robin had quite a big lead on the other 4-6 placed girls, and it was evident that they would pass through to the next stage. Sara was the only one to win all her games, peaking with a 277 in game 5 to retain the lead by 431 points. All the other contestants won 2 games each, with Juliana placing 2nd, and Raquel clinching 3rd place. Ruslana, Kathryn and Rachel retained the 4th, 5th and 6th place respectively.

Round Robin Boys

The boys' round robin is always nail-biting and having to wait till the last frame to actually see who will pull through. Apart from Nicholas who won 4 encounters, rolling high games to finish with 2424 points, all the others had to fight to find a place in the step ladders. Matthew had a low 162 game, but his previous advantage saw him through with a 2208. The tussle was then between Edward and Dwayne. The latter rolled a 201 but lost, whilst Edward rolled a 196 to win the 5th game and clinch the last remaining spot in the step ladders.

Step Ladder

Juliana faced Raquel, the latter winning the 215-158, whilst Edward beat Matthew 225-190. The match for the title was between sisters Sara and Raquel, the latter easily winning the game 206-169.



Edward was still hyped by his win against Matthew and he rolled an amazing 267 game in the final against Nicholas Muscat, who could only manage a 202. Luckily for him, being the first seeded bowler, meant he had to be beaten twice. This last game was a nail-biting affair, with both bowlers opening a frame to continue the tussle head to head. Edward needed a xx9 to win the game, but although he got the double, his last shot was an 8 for a 235-game tie. A 9, 10th frame roll off ensued – something which the Eden spectators hadn't seen in such championships. Edward's pocket left a 7-10 split. Then a brilliant shot by Nicky left an 8-10 split! Everyone was rooted in the spot, and hearts could actually be heard beating 😊. Edward shot a 9/8 for a total of 27 pins, whilst Nicholas rolled a turkey for a total of 39 pins to win the U23 title.



This was Sara's 7th consecutive win, and she has beaten Amanda Cini's previous 6 years record (although they were not consecutive). On the other hand Nicholas wrote history with being the youngest to ever win the U23 title at 14 years of age, and the only male to win the U16 and U23 of the same year. Incidentally his mum Riann had won the 1997 U23 championships.

IRISH JUNIOR OPEN

Kayden Lagana and Philip Gruppetta went to participate in the Irish Junior Open. This competition was open till up to 24 years of age.



Kayden competed in the U12 section, whilst Philip in the U24 category. After their first round of 6 games, Kayden started with a brilliant 234 for a total of 1166 pins to nip the first position of his category, leading by 90 pins from 18 participants. Philip Gruppetta rolled a 1196 to end in 13th place from 18 places, but he also made the cut as the top 16 went through to the next step.

The highlight of the above round was when Philip rolled a perfect 300 game, to inscribe his name with the other 4 bowlers who rolled a perfect game during international participation overseas. These were Justin Caruana Scicluna, Neil Sullivan, Brian Farrugia and Mark Spiteri. Philip is the only Maltese bowler so far to roll a perfect game in a Youth Open. This 300 game, as well as Kayden's 234, were the highest games scored in their respective category, for which they received a voucher.



Step 1 consisted of 3 games, with only the top 4 making it through to the next round. Philip rolled a good 625, but that only placed him in 12th. Kayden on the other hand rolled a 559 to retain the top spot which booked him a place in the round robin finals.

Our young star won all his three matches, therefore apart from his pinfall he gained another 65 in bonus points for a total of 2351 to emerge as the winner of the U12 category in the Irish Open, just a week after placing as runner up in the Sinjoor Belgium YET stop.



GIBRALTAR OPEN

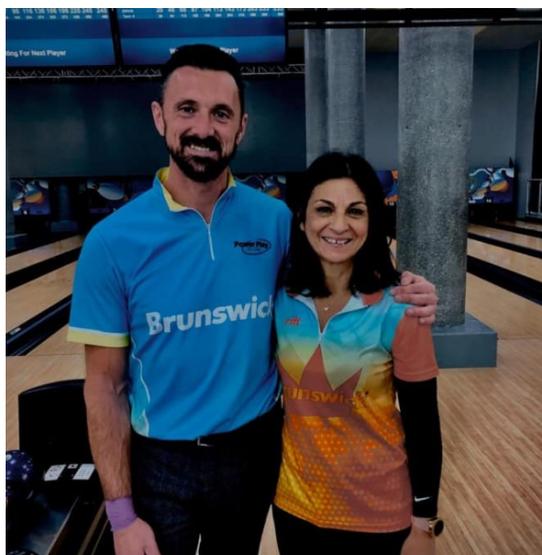
Sue Abela went to participate in the Gibraltar Open 2019. This tournament has 3 categories, The Open, The Senior as well as the Mixed Doubles Category.

Sue played a 1177 and a 1095 in the Singles Open event, and the higher series placed her in 5th place overall and she was also the highest scoring female.



Her 1222 series in the Female Seniors' Category placed her in the top place, and Sue won this category from a total of 15 bowlers.

She was then matched with Rob Thurlby forming a magnificent duo, and their 2500 score combined was the best out of 24 doubles' teams, thus winning the Mixed Doubles Category.



JEFF DE BRUGES – FRANCE YOUTH EUROPEAN RANKING TOURNAMENT

Ten of our youth bowlers went to participate in the Jeff De Bruges tournament in France. They were Edward, Sara and Miguel Xuereb, Matthew Magro, Dylan Santillo, Dwayne Zahra, Chris and Kathryn Fenech, Nicholas Muscat and Kurt Attard. All bowlers played 12 games, with only the best 6 game series taken into consideration for qualification to the next step.

Chris Fenech played in the Minime category, his highest series (1004) placing him in 7th place out of 21 players, just missing out on the top 6 cut.

In the Cadet division there were 66 players. Kathryn Fenech rolled an 890 to place 63rd, Dwayne's 1081 placed him 43rd, Nicholas Muscat bowled a 1109 to place 36th, whilst Edward Xuereb played a 1197 to finish in 12th position to nip a place in next round – Top 16.

In the Junior Division we had Dylan Santillo (1018 – 63rd), Kurt Attard (1081 - 50th), Sara Xuereb (1096 - 36th), and Matthew Magro (1199 – 22nd). Miguel Xuereb rolled a 1242 to nip a place with the top 16th in 14th place. This was from a total of 66 players.



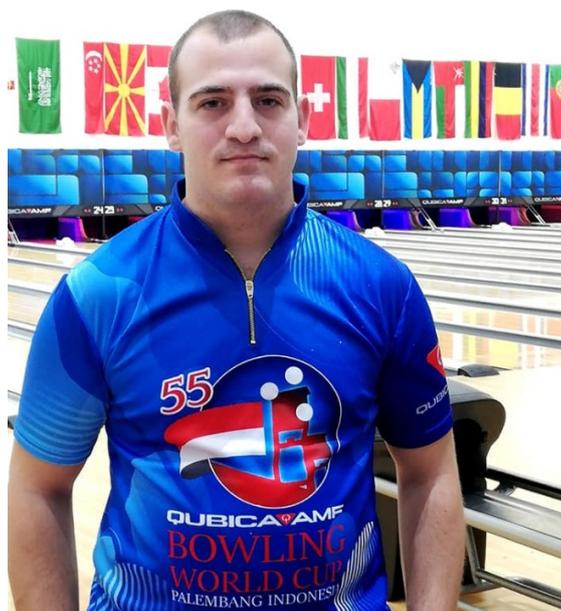
Edward and Miguel then proceeded to the next stage playing 4 games to make the top 3. Edward played a 729 to finish in 11th place, whilst Miguel bowled a 757 to finish in 13th place. Well done to both.

AMF WORLD CUP – INDONESIA

Tiziana Carannante and Philip Gruppetta went to represent Malta in the AMF World Cup in Indonesia. This year we had 60 female participants and 73 males. After the 6 games of 4 blocks for a total of 24 games, Tiziana Carannante rolled 4128 pins to place 43rd. Philip Gruppetta rolled a 4831 to manage to bag a place with the top 24, to be the first bowler in the last three decades to make it. In the past we had Ronnie Vella who had managed 21st place in 1986 as well as Frank Montebello who in 1978 placed 23rd, but this was from a total of 43 bowlers.



Philip then went on to roll a 1161 to place 20th overall from 73 men. Well done Philip.



MOC SPORTS AWARDS

We have had confirmation that the following nominations have been accepted, and all 7 will make it through to the finals this Saturday.

Athletes: Sue Abela, Mauro Anastasi, Cynthia Frendo Duca, Mark Spiteri, and Sara Xuereb.

Youths: Kayden Lagana and Dwayne Zahra.



Presentation will be aired live on 7th December after the 8 o'clock news.

This weekend we have the Platinum Cup where 43 bowlers will be participating. The morning squads should start at 9.30 and the 2nd squad at 12.30. **We will be collecting food items to donate them to the food bank, so it would be great if you were to bring some food items to be collected for the food bank please.**

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana