

## **October News Letter**

October passed in a blur as once again we had quite a couple of both National and International Events apart from the usual leagues. Sport On the Move also kicked off, and I am happy to say that it was fully booked within a week, with over 40 enthusiastic kids.

Only 3 weeks are left for the Cisk Lager Doubles League. The fight for top place is between My Bet (115), Balbarians (114) and Double Impact (107). Highest average bowlers for this league are Kenneth Arpa and Sue Abela.

The MSV Life Leagues are well under way in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Fina are leading division 1, with Okmalta.com and Turu's Knights.

Strike Me Jabaal are leading division 2 (80), followed closely by Supersonic (78) and Blitzkrieg (76).

The leaders of division three are The Scotsman Pub (48), Ready Steady Bowl (48) and One For All (42)

The top bowlers as per composite average as at end October are: Justin Caruana Scicluna 1<sup>st</sup> (208.30), Mauro Anastasi (205.95) and Mark Spiteri (202.18). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (204.54), Tiziana Carannante follows (195.59) while Melissa Swift is 3<sup>rd</sup> with (189.64).

High Youth Bowlers are: Sara Xuereb (187.57), Alessia Schembri (177.03) and Michaela Briffa (170.71), whilst for the boys we find: Matthew Magro (189.10), Kurt Attard (182.89) and Edward Xuereb (170.71).

### **BANK OF VALLETTA NATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

We started with competitions bang on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October with the 8<sup>th</sup> Senior Championships which were sponsored by Bank of Valletta. This year the championships attracted 13 seniors, 3 ladies and 10 males, all vying to be crowned this year's National Senior Champion and win a free entry to the Seniors' Open which was to be held a week later. This year we changed the format to 12 games, rather than the usual 6 games, and championship was played over two days instead of one day.



In the ladies section Sue Abela literally had no competition at all from the other ladies. On day 1 she led by over 200 pins, and by day 2 she won the title by 413 pins. Josephine Borg who won 6 of the previous 7 editions had to take a step down and settle for 2<sup>nd</sup>, whilst Marthese Cossai clinched the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

The men's category is usually more volatile. First day saw Giancarlo Tolu take the early lead (1265), followed by Mark Spiteri (1223) and Paul Gray (1177).



Day 2 turned out to be very interesting for the men, as Dennis Mercieca who was in 5<sup>th</sup> place and 115 pins under first, started with a brilliant 940 series in 4 games which meant he was only 10 pins away from 1<sup>st</sup> place. Giancarlo who saw his first chance at clinching a championship's title, was not to be deterred though, as he rolled two good 214 games + 7 handicap to finish on 2546, whereas Dennis dropped to a 206 and 177 to settle for the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot (2479). Mark Spiteri bowled 8 pins less than 2<sup>nd</sup> place and had to settle for 3<sup>rd</sup> place (2471).



So this year we have two new champions: Giancarlo Tolu and Sue Abela who can boast of being both the National Champion as well as the Senior National champion, which is also a first for Malta.

### **SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The following week, Eden Superbowl held the 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Malta Open which attracted 72 competitors from various countries with 6 Maltese participants: 1 lady and 6 men. Dennis Mercieca made the cut from the qualifying 12 games and rolling a 300 game, which is the first perfect game for this year. Mark Spiteri and Paul Gray had to play the Desperado to ensure a place for Sunday. Both managed to go through, Mark rolling the highest game (237) and Paul rolling a good 234, which ironically was matched by 2 other players, but Paul placed 2<sup>nd</sup> due to lesser handicap. Sue Abela, who was on a league of her own, rolled a 2735 to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place, thus proceeding to step 3 automatically.



Final Stage 1 – 20 players had to play 4 games with the top 8 making it for next round. Dennis Mercieca played a 920 to place 5th and snatch a place for Step 2, whilst Mark's 871 saw him eliminated by 14 pins. Paul Gray finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place (851).

Final Stage 2 – Dennis could only manage an 826 which meant he could not proceed further in the competition.

Final Stage 3 - It was then Sue's turn to start playing and she had to face Alan Sennevall. Two cruel splits (5-7) and (8-10) saw her being defeated by the Swede (406-428) and had to settle for 6<sup>th</sup> place. Still it was a very good position to finish.



In the end the final was won by Sweden's Kent Sjo.

### **22nd JIC SINJOOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT – BELGIUM**

6 of our youths went to compete in this Youth Competition in Belgium where around 225 bowlers participated in 12 different categories. The athletes were: Matthew Agius, Matthew Magro, Cedric Farrugia, Juliana Bonanno, Sara and Raquel Xuereb. Unfortunately the boys failed to make it for the final steps, with Matthew Magro being unlucky as he was out by just 4 pins.



On the other hand, all three girls made it to the final stages, as Sara topped her category, Raquel finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the U19, whilst Juliana clinched a good 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the U25.

After playing another set of 3 games, Raquel bowled a 1672 to place 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sara bowled a 1789 to place 1<sup>st</sup>, whilst Juliana played a 1652 to place 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in their respective categories.

On to the semi finals, Raquel then had to play 1 game against Sofie Rasmussen of Denmark and lost 189-228. Juliana passed through a similar fate as she had to bowl against Rianne Van Zijp of the Netherlands to lose 193-162.

Sara on the other hand sailed through to the final since she placed first and had to bowl against Beaudine Kriele and she had to bow her head to the French girl 393-404.

With this good play Raquel and Juliana finished in a respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place, whilst Sara ended as the runner up.



## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - VIENNA

Then came the most exciting news when our National Champions Mauro Anastasi and Sue Abela went to participate for the European Championships which was held in Vienna.



Mauro played 195.1 average to place 24th out of 43 participants. Sue Abela on the other hand, moved an extra mile, when first she made it with the top 16, placing 9<sup>th</sup> with a 199.6 average. She then peaked with a brilliant 1755 series and easily made it with the top 8, clinching 5<sup>th</sup> place. Playing another super 905 series in 4 games she managed to place herself with the top 4, and put her mind at rest that a medal was in store for her. In the semi finals she had to play Filippa Persson and lost 188-192 against 244-223. The latter ended as the eventual European Champion.



This meant that Sue Abela clinched a prestigious bronze medal in the European Championships, repeating her success of 2011 when she won another bronze in Finland. This is the best placing so far in the European Championships for Malta.

The upcoming competitions are now the Junior Championships where this year we have 3 categories: U12, U16 and U23. Play will start on 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Internationally we will also have our 2 athletes who will represent us in the AMF World Cup in Hermosillo Mexico: Sue Abela and Justin Caruana Scicluna.

In the meantime continue to follow us on facebook, and our webpage: [www.bowlingmalta.org](http://www.bowlingmalta.org)

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana Spiteri