

## OCTOBER 2020 – BOWLING NEWSLETTER

Although all international events have been cancelled due to the pandemic, locally we continue full speed. Read on for lots of interesting news!

### Cisk Lager Doubles League 2020

#### Week 20 from 25

BOV Asset Management (118), Team Volkswagen (101), Generation XYZ (98), and Swisslion (92)



Div 1 (Week 15 of 18) okmalta.com (109), Total (89), Turu's Knights (83)

Div 2 (Week 12 of 14) Up Your Average (Champions – 78), Brutal Legendz (60), BOV & MIA (58)

Div 3 (Week 10 of 14) Strike Force (64), One 4 All (44), The Georges (44)

#### COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top bowlers as per composite average till end October are: Mauro Anastasi (216.19), Justin Caruana Scicluna (215.62), and Mark Spiteri (211.67). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (203.60), followed closely by Sara Xuereb (203.09) and Cynthia Frendo Duca (199.91).

High U21 Youth Bowlers are: Sara Xuereb (203.09), Ruslana Grima (163.71), and Karlise Bartolo (144.82), whilst for the boys we have: Nicholas Muscat (208.71), Matthew Magro (206.49), and Miguel Xuereb (198.31).

Ladies Senior Bowlers: Sue Abela, Liliana Spiteri and Josephine Borg and the men Mark Spiteri, Dennis Mercieca and Paul Gray.

#### NATIONAL RECORDS

Okmalta.com rolled the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest 4 men team 3 game series during the MAPFRE MSV Life League with a 2783 series. Scores were rolled as follows: Mauro Anastasi (717), Nicholas Muscat (705), Kenneth Arpa (676) and Rankin Camilleri (685). Their 966 game also placed them in the records Mauro (268), Nicholas (233), Kenneth (246) and Rankin (249).



Nicholas Muscat rolled the highest national Record for the U16 male youths when he rolled a 740 during the Doubles Cisk League. His 3 game series was 238-267-235, and also placed the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest of the U19.

Then he went one step further to break the U19 National Record for 6 game series during the Bank of Valletta National Youth Championships, rolling an impressive 1357 series, 5 pins more than the previous record holder Miguel Xuereb. Nicholas's games were 230-208-196-208-248-267.

Nicholas also rolled the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest 12 game score (2705) of the adults' records.



We had two other youths putting themselves in the U19 record list as Dwayne Zahra rolled a 705 series (234-235-236) which is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest youth 3-game series.



A week later we had Miguel Xuereb who rolled a 298 game during the Doubles, this being the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest game of the U19 - Youth Records.

Matthew Magro does no longer count as a youth in the records as he is now 19 years of age. But he went ahead and put himself in the main records anyway, rolling an impressive 1192 series for the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest score for 5 game series. His games were 183-246-290-249-224.



### BRONZE CUP

This month we also had the 7<sup>th</sup> Bronze Cup where we had a record number of players competing since its inception, a total of 44 bowlers: 26 males and 18 females. We were extra diligent due to Covid, moving lanes as a whole group rather than the customary right moves right and left moves left, as well as taking pictures in small groups, rather than a whole large group which were placed on 18 lanes.



All players had to play 4 games to determine who the top 6 will be, with 11 year old Nicolai Mallia rolling his PB 747 for a handicap total 795 and nipping the first place, ahead of Matthew Agius Inglott (759) and Arthur Rizzo (730). The other 3 male players to make it for the round robin were Keith Farrugia (720), George Chircop (678) and Rene Bartolo (672). Alfred Pulis missed out by 2 pins.



In the ladies' division it was 15-year-old Ruslana Grima who lead, also rolling her PB of 697 scratch and 705 with handicap. Following were Special Olympic Players Jessica Farrugia (669), Natasha Bianchi (657), and Angele Azzopardi (654), National Sport School Celianne Micallef (636), and another SO Player Rachel Chircop (627). Sandra Xuereb missed out by a solitary pin.



The Round Robin was played the following day, and with only half the pinfall carried forward, all scores were very close.

Ruslana won 3 games peaking with a 215 and rolled an impressive 888 series yet another Personal Best so far, and the highest 5 game series for the ladies in a Bronze Cup since its launch. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was won by Special Olympic Player Angele Azzopardi who won 4 matches for a total of 1243 points. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was open for 3 players, but in the end, it was Celianne Micallef who at 12 years of age rolled her 5 game PB (742) and had 3 wins to nip the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



In the men's section Nicolai won 3 matches and although he stumbled in the last 2 games, he still managed to bag the first place (1330). Nicolai also rolled his PB in high game, high 4 game series, and high 5 game series. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> spots were close with Matthew Agius Inglott nipping 2<sup>nd</sup> place (1302) by 1 pin ahead of George Chircop (1301). Well done also to George who has only been training for 4 months.



Worth mentioning Mikhail Mallia who at age 7 years was the youngest player, rolling a good 112 average. We also had Katrina Genovese, Miguel Agius and Isaac Yalcin who played their first MTBA competition and most of the youths bowled their PBs which clearly illustrates that their level is improving.

Some notes on the 2020 Bronze Cup Champions: Ruslana Grima won the title with a 176.11 average, topping even the male averages for this year, and registering herself as the highest average recorded for females during a Bronze Cup. Best average before this was a 172 by Alessia Schembri (who had placed 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Raisa Briffa winner rolling a 166 average way back in 2015.

Nicolai Mallia (173.33) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> youngest player to ever win it, just 45 days older than Kayden Lagana'. He also rolled the highest average for winners U18 years.

As stated above both rolled their PB in high game, 4 game series, and 5 game series. Well done to both. Your future is looking good.



### **BANK OF VALLETTA: U12 – MINI JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

It was the 7<sup>th</sup> year since we introduced this category and this year we had 8 competitors: 5 boys and 3 girls with players having to play 4 games on day 1 and 4 games on day 2.

Karlise Bartolo lead the girls' category from day 1, rolling a 599 and 625 series to place first by 259 pins. Charlize Bartolo rolled a 482 and 483 to end up as runner up, whilst the youngest, 10-year old Jade Barbara, rolled a 406 and 420 to clinch the 3<sup>rd</sup> place. All 3 players rolled their Personal Best high game and 4 game series.



Recently crowned Bronze Cup Winner Nicolai Mallia rolled a 628 series to lead on day 1, with Tomas Caruso trailing behind by 62 pins. However, whilst Nicolai dropped to a 570 on day 2, Tomas rolled a 622 and nearly caught up with the former, falling short by 10 pins. New bowler Matthew Bonello who looks to be a promising two-handed lefty, bagged the 3<sup>rd</sup> place with an 895, just two months after starting bowling sessions.



### **FINAL RESULTS WITH AVERAGES:**

**Karlise Bartolo (153), Charlize Bartolo (120), Jade Barbara (103)  
Nicolai Mallia (149), Tomas Caruso (148), Matthew Bonello (111)**

Congratulations to our U12 champions: Nicolai Mallia who won the title for the first time this year and Karlise Bartolo who bagged this honour for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in a row.



#### **BANK OF VALLETTA: U16 – JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This year we had 7 boys and 8 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 a brilliant 1173 series which is her Personal Best topping with a 231 game (another PB) on day 1, then a 1131 on Day 2 for a 2304 total and winning the merited title by 462 pins for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in a row. Karlise Bartolo rolled an 897 and 945 (1842) to clinch the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, whilst 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Celiann Micallef 919 – 789 for a 1708 total. The latter two who are both NSS students also rolled their personal best game and 6 games series.



In the boys' section Nicholas Muscat sailed through with an impressive 1348 series and then went a step further on day 2, rolling a 1357 and breaking the National Youth record for 6 games. He won the title with a massive 245 pin advantage. Kayden Lagana' impressed with a 1202 and 1258 to clinch the 2<sup>nd</sup> place (2460). 3<sup>rd</sup> place was a tussle between Bonnici Group Teammates Chris Fenech and Julian Baldacchino. In the end Fenech bagged the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot by 13 pins.



**FINAL RESULTS WITH AVERAGES:**

**Ruslana Grima (192), Karlise Bartolo (153), Celianne Micallef (142)  
Nicholas Muscat (225), Kayden Lagana' (205), Chris Fenech (170)**



**Congratulations to our U16 champions – Ruslana Grima who won this title for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, and Nicholas Muscat who was crowned the Junior National champion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Both champions also won these championships by the highest average since records were being kept: a 192 by Ruslana and a 225 by Nicholas.**

### **BANK OF VALLETTA: U23 – INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

7 girls and 13 boys participated in this category, all trying to make the round robin. Sara rolled an impressive 2604 series to lead by 300 pins over 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ruslana Grima (2304). The latter was ahead of 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Karlise Bartolo (1842) by 462 pins. The other 3 bowlers to make it with the top 6 for the round robin were, Rachel Chircop (1759), Celianne Micallef (1708) and Mia Bugeja (1674).



The boys' section was as usual intense as 15-year-old Nicholas sailed through with a 2705 series, placing himself 2<sup>nd</sup> in the records of 12 game total right behind his coach Mark Spiteri. 12-year-old NSS student, Kayden Lagana placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 2460 series, and Matthew Magro (2436) placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. The other players making the round robin were Reuben Scerri (2328), Kyle Camilleri (2326) and Miguel Xuereb (2273).



### **Round Robin Girls**

Sara rolled a good 1036 total in 5 games and won all her encounters to retain the 1<sup>st</sup> place by a massive 463 pins. Ruslana Grima rolled a 793 and won 3 of her encounters to place 2<sup>nd</sup> 222 pins clear from 3<sup>rd</sup>. The youngest of the top 23, NSS student Karlise Bartolo bowled a good 812 total and won 2 matches to clinch the third place for the step ladder. Mia Bugeja succeeded in winning 3 encounters to climb from 6<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place, with 5<sup>th</sup> place going to SO player Rachel Chircop, and 6<sup>th</sup> to Celianne Micallef another NSS student.



### Round Robin Boys

There is never a certainty during the men's round robin as this is usually always so volatile with sky high scores. This year was no different as Matthew Magro rolled an impressive 1192 series bagging the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest spot in the records and winning all his encounters to shoot from 3<sup>rd</sup> straight into first position. Nicholas Muscat rolled a good 1094 but only won 2 matches to drop to second, while Kayden Lagana' surged through in the 5<sup>th</sup> game to nip the last spot in the step ladder with a 971 series and 1 win. Miguel Xuereb's 1029 and 2 wins was not enough, and he was out by 11 pins finishing in 4<sup>th</sup>, with Kyle Camilleri in 5<sup>th</sup> and Reuben Scerri in 6<sup>th</sup> place.



### Step Ladder

Ruslana faced Karlise in a neck to neck game with the former nipping the win by a solitary pin (156-155). Kayden rolled a 202 and succeeded in beating Nicholas who could only manage a tense 171 game.

Ruslana then had to face Sara and lost 172 – 203, whilst Kayden faced Matthew with the latter winning 217-202

### FINAL RESULTS WITH AVERAGES:

Sara Xuereb (213), Ruslana Grima (180), Karlise Bartolo (156)  
Matthew Magro (213), Kayden Lagana' (201), Nicholas Muscat (220)



This was Sara's 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive win, and Matthew's 1<sup>st</sup> U23 title after having placed 2<sup>nd</sup> for 3 times. Sara won it with a 213.5 average, whereas Matthew won it by 213.61.



**WELL DONE TO ALL OUR YOUTH CHAMPIONS!**

### **ATLAS YOUTH OF THE MONTH**

We are proud to announce that once again one of our athletes was chosen for the Atlas Youth of the Month for September 2020. Below is an extract of the Press Release issued by the sponsors Atlas Insurance.



*Young Tenpin bowler Kayden Lagana has been awarded the September 2020 Atlas Youth Athlete of the month award. During the period of evaluation Lagana registered impressive results at the MTBA National League (4 men team) as well as the Doubles' League.*

*Kayden Lagana's first tangible achievement was when he became the youngest Maltese player to bowl in the highest division of the MTBA National League.*

*A 600+ series is an aim for all Tenpin bowlers and such a score was registred by Lagana when he managed to bowl an amazing 6 series over the 600. His greatest achievement was when he rolled a 680 in the Doubles League, exceeding his personal best which he had bowled in August by 1 pin, and therefore placing himself in the Youth records up to 18 years*

*for series over 675. Kayden Lagana has in fact become the youngest ever Maltese Tenpin bowler to roll a 675+ series at 12 years and 10 months of age.*

*Following this success Lagana kept up his momentum and went on to score a 637 series placing him as the highest Tenpin bowler of Division 1 for that week, surpassing the more renowned local bowlers like Mauro Anastasi, Mark Spiteri, Matthew Magro, amongst others.*

*This was the ninth award being awarded to a local youth athlete in the series of this joint initiative by Atlas Insurance and the Malta Sports Journalists Association to recognize the efforts by young sports athletes and thus encouraging them to continue to train harder in their respective sports disciplines.*

**We will then have the Platinum Cup on 28, 29, 30 November and I remind you that these games will be added to the selection criteria for both the European Youth Championships and the World Senior Championships for 2021.**

**I wish you all a good day!**

**Regards**

**Liliana**