

MTBA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

Good morning

The Newsletter this month will start with a Statement from the President:

'I would like to clarify that the Secretary of the MTBA had paid her own flight expenses in full when attending the EYC. Even though she had every right to travel as an MTBA official and receive reimbursements, she always chose to pay her flights.'

Now we continue with the news for the month of October which had a lot of varying tournaments and championships and also 3 prestigious medals for Malta. Read on to know more.



DIV I

Points as of week 4: OKMALTA.COM (54), POWERFRUIT (44), Turu's Knights (42)

High bowlers during this month were:

Week 5: Clive Farrugia (678) and Cynthia Frendo Duca (570)

Week 6: Nicholas Muscat (658) and Melissa Swift (545)

Week 7: Nicholas Muscat (693) and Cynthia Frendo Duca (619)

Week 8: Kenneth Arpa (711) and Cynthia Frendo Duca (699)

As per email and additional rules division 1 will be divided in two groups after round 1. Group A will be composed of the top 5 teams, whilst group B will be made up of teams from 6th to 10th place. Teams of Group A will play for the title, whilst the teams for Group B will fight for relegation. There will only be 1 relegation this season. All points and pins will be carried forward, following the same format which was used in division 2 last season.

DIV II

Points as of week 8: Up Your Average (38), Brutal Legendz (38) and Bonnici Group (36)

High bowlers during this month were:

Week 5: Ian Vella (583) and Karlise Bartolo (521)

Week 6: Paul Mallia (561) and Karlise Bartolo (490)

Week 7: Daniel Magro (574) and Karlise Bartolo (517)

Week 8: Andre Xuereb (589) and Marthese Cossai (486)

DIV III

Points as of week 8: Central Bank of Malta (52), Pin Pulse (34) and The Splitpins (30),

High bowlers during this month were:

Week 5: Marco Carabott (505) and Natasha Bianchi (456)

Week 6: Gordon Genovese (443) and Rachel Chircop (460)

Week 7: Matthew Cefai (463) and Mary Galea (427)

Week 8: Milos Kojic (440) and Sandra Xuereb (466)



10th CISK LAGER DOUBLES LEAGUE - 2021

Top 3 teams till week 14: Gillette (92), POWERFRUIT (78) and Generation XYZ (72)

High bowlers during this month were:

Week 12: Rankin Camilleri (704) and Melissa Swift (678)

Week 13: Miguel Xuereb (695) and Amanda Cini (587)

Week 14: Kenneth Arpa (732) and Melissa Swift (660)

COMPOSITE AVERAGE as at end October 2021

Top Bowlers

Males: Nicholas Muscat (209.09), Mauro Anastasi (209.03), and Mark Spiteri (205.59)

Females: Sue Abela (200.07), Alja Bergauer (199.22) and Cynthia Frendo Duca (197.67)

Top U21 Youths

Males: Nicholas Muscat (209.09), Matthew Magro (204.41) and Kayden Lagana' (204.11)

Females: Sara Xuereb (195.66), Ruslana Grima (174.15) and Mia Bugeja (151.00)

Top Senior Bowlers

Males: Mark Spiteri (205.59), Kenneth Arpa (202.36), and Dennis Mercieca (198.52)

Females: Sue Abela (200.07), Liliana Spiteri (164.92) and Josephine Borg (154.04)

HIGH SCORES TO BE LISTED IN MTBA RECORDS



Kenneth Arpa rolled a new Senior Record with his 4-game series played during the Malta Senior Open. The series was a 988 - (269-245-216-258) beating the previous 984 record rolled by Sue Abela.

He also rolled his 4th 300 game, and the 2nd one during this Doubles' Cisk Lager League.

Chris Fenech rolled his PB during the Cisk Lager Doubles' League.

His 701 series put him in the Junior Record Book for series over 675.

His games were 244-224-233



BANK OF VALLETTA NATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year we had 12 participants – 9 males and 3 females.



Sue Abela had no competition whatsoever and rolling scratch 1102, 1174 and 1163 series coupled with a 90 pin handicap (1 pin for each year 50+) easily won her 5th title in a row by more than 500 pins. Liliana Spiteri rolled a 2936 scratch series plus 54 handicap, for a total 2990 and a runner up position, whilst Marthese Cossai rolled a scratch 817, 984 and 946 for a total 2891 pins when coupled with her 144 handicap.



The men's division is always keener and this year scores were lower than normal and none of the seniors managed to cross the 200 scratch average. The top 3 positions were close and kept changing throughout the 3 days. Paul Gray and Mark Spiteri were neck to neck till the 6th frame of game 5, but whilst the former rolled a 158 and 202, Gray rolled a 193 and 234. With his scratch 3500 and 198 handicap he rolled a 3698 total to defend the title by 83 pins. Mark rolled a 3507 scratch plus 108 handicap (3615) to end as runner up, whilst Kenneth Arpa shot a 264 in the last game to creep up to 3rd place with his 3571 scratch and 36 pin handicap.



This is Paul's third title and the 2nd consecutive one and he is now the only male senior to have bagged 3 titles. Sue Abela on the other hand won her 5th consecutive title.



MALTA INTERNATIONAL SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last year's 23rd Senior Malta Open was cancelled due to Covid, but this year it was held successfully although with a lower number of competitors which was 44. Malta had 7 competitors 1 lady and 6 males.

There was only 1 squad which was won by a Maltese competitor and this was Squad 3 which Mark Spiteri won rolling a 1378 series.



After the Qualifying round Mark Spiteri finished in 6th place with a 2805 Total, Sue Abela made it in 18th position with a 2655, whilst Kenneth Arpa nipped the 20th place with a 2635 series. Paul Gray bagged a place through the Desperado.



Dennis Mercieca placed 26th (2473), Josward Xuereb 41st (2145) and David Fenech 43rd (2107)

Final Stage 1 – 20 competitors had to play 4 games, for the top 8 to qualify. Paul Gray missed out rolling a 782. Kenneth rolled an impressive 988 series to nip the first place and break the National Senior Records, whilst Sue placed 4th with an 899 series to both make it through to the Final Stage 2.

Final Stage 2 - It was here that Mark Spiteri joined and rolling another 4 games he missed out by 17 pins with his 921 series. Kenneth placed 2nd with a 944, and Sue bagged the 4th spot with a 938 series.

Final Stage 3 - Sue had to face Herman Wimmer from Germany in her first knockout stage and had to bow out to him 406 – 377. Kenneth faced Lol Ellis from England and easily beat him 486-389.

Final Stage 4 – Kenneth had to face Robert Bruce also from England and although he lost the first game 271-229, he won the 2nd game 248-185 to win the overall 477-456.

Finals. Kenneth had to face 4-time winner Herman Wimmer, who apart from being a brilliant bowler also had a 26 pin cushion over Kenneth due to his 78 years! Wimmer rolled a scratch 225 and with his handicap made it to 253. Kenneth tried his best with a 229 game, but a scratch 169 from Herman was enough for a total 450-426 result. Herman was crowned winner for the 5th time, whereas Kenneth Arpa ended as the runner up. This is the best placing so far by a Maltese bowler in the Malta Senior Open.



YET – 2ND STOP – 25TH SINJOOR BELGIUM



Dwayne Zahra went to compete in the 2nd Stop of the Youth Euro Tour in Belgium.

He participated in Group E-M Junior Boys, where there were 27 Competitors.

He rolled a 1109 and 1137 to finish in 8th Place, missing the cut by 22 pins.

MEDITERRANEAN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 23rd Edition was held in Paris nearly 19 months after its original date. The 2020 edition was cancelled, and then the 2021 edition was postponed from April to October due to Covid. Team Malta was represented by Sue Abela who had participated in all previous editions, and Cynthia Frenedo Duca, Matthew Magro and Kayden Lagana' were first timers. Kayden was also the youngest Maltese to represent us in these championships. This year there were 14 participating countries.



The first event was the Singles. In the Ladies' Category, Sue Abela ended in 9th place with a 1154, whilst Cynthia Frenedo Duca rolled 1153 for a 10th position from 25 participants.

In the Men's Category Matthew Magro rolled a 1240 to bag 7th place, whilst Kayden Lagana' rolled a 1137 to finish in 16th place from 28 participants.



Next up were the Doubles. Matthew and Kayden played 2318 to finish in 10th place from 14 teams. On the other hand, our ladies rolled a 2443 to finish in 2nd place from 13 teams thus bagging a silver medal.



Our Mixed Doubles were composed of Sue and Matthew as Team A. They started the morning session and rolling a 2526 they were in 2nd place. Thus, the wait was on to see how the 2nd squad would fare. Team B was made up of Cynthia and Kayden who scored a 2386 and bagged 13th place from 27 teams. It was unfortunate that France and Greece leapfrogged Team A in the standings as they finished in 4th position.

In the 4-person team Malta rolled 4720 to clinch 6th place.



With these results counting for the All Event medals, scores were as follows:

- Sue 4th place – 4804
- Cynthia 10th place – 4664
- Matthew 12th place – 4991
- Kayden 20th place – 4698

With these placings Sue was the only one to bag a place in the Masters. Her first encounter was Italy's Melania Rossi, and though Sue lost the first game 198-215 she more than made up for it in game 2, winning it 231-211 to beat the overall total by 3 pins. This win ensured a medal in the bag.

Sue's 2nd encounter was Georgia Sagona of Greece. Sue bagged the 1st game 194-189. She rolled a good 219 in the 2nd game, but Georgia was on a striking mode and retaliated with a 263 for a 452-413 total to the Greece's lady. Sue thus won a bronze medal to add to her silver in the Ladies' Doubles.



The eventual Mediterranean Champions were Georgia Sagona of Greece and Maxime Dubois of France.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS OF CHAMPIONS

Now comes the most exciting news! Our National Champions Mauro Anastasi and Sue Abela went to participate in the European Championships of Champions which were held in Chania Crete after missing out last year since Championships were cancelled due to Covid.



Mauro rolled a 1639 and 1603 for a total of 3242 to finish in 22nd position from 30 players.



Sue started with a 1583 and a 1662 to clinch 5th place with a 3245 Total. That meant making the top 16 cut. Another 8 games rolling a 1747 saw her improve to 4th to also make the top 8th cut. Another 801 in 4 games saw her retain the 4th place to secure a medal, and a place in the semi-finals.

The semi finals was against Nicole Sanders from The Netherlands. Nicole won the first game 247-197, but Sue bounced back with a 248 against 202 by her opponent forcing a 3rd game. Nicole seemed to flounder, but Sue surged through with a 225 to secure a place in the finals.

During the finals Sue had to face Mika Guldbaek from Denmark. Mirroring the semi-finals, Sue lost the 1st game 188-225. Once again, her determination saw her pull through to win the 2nd game 186-182 and then clinching the 3rd game 182-169 to be crowned the European Championships of Champion. This is the 2nd time that Sue had won such an honour for Malta, her first time being in Israel in the year 1999. Huge well done for always flying Malta's flag so high.

The male champion was Mike Bergmann from The Netherlands.



Our next event during November will be the Platinum Cup on 20-21-22 November. These 12 games are part of the selection criteria for the European Youth Championships.

We have the presentation scheduled for the 12th of November at the Salina Resort - Bahar ic-Caghaq. We will be awarding all competitions from March 2020 till June 2021, as well as 3 leagues, 2 of 2020 and the Winter League of 2021. Kindly book should you wish to attend, because due to Covid restrictions we need to know the numbers well in advance.

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana