Ir-Rebbieħa tal-Platinum Cup huma Ruslana Grima u l-Kowċ tagħha Mark Spiteri

Iż-żewġ rebbieħa tal-Platinum Cup ta' 2022 huma ż-żagħżugħa Ruslana Grima u l-kowċ tagħha Mark Spiteri.

L-aħħar kompetizzjoni tal-Malta Bowling Association għas-sena 2022 kien il-Platinum Cup - kompetizzjoni prestiġjuża li kienet miftuħa lejn il-membri kollha tal-assoċjazzjoni. Ir-rebbieħa ta' din l-edizzjoni tal-Platinum Cup kienu d-duo mit-tim tal-Ewwel Diviżjoni "Boom": iż-żagħżugħa ta' 18-il sena, Ruslana Grima, min-nisa, u Mark Spiteri mill-irġiel, għat-tielet darba fil-karriera tiegħu. Din hija t-tielet darba li Spiteri rebaħ il-Platinum Cup; dan huwa rekord min-naħa tal-irġiel. L-unika persuna oħra li rebħet il-Platinum Cup tlett darbiet hija Sue Abela mill-kategorija tan-nisa.

Wara tnax-il logħba ta' kwalifikazzjoni, l-aqwa tmien bowlers minn kull kategorija għaddew għall-finali (fażi ta' round robin) fejn kull finalist jilgħab logħba waħda diretta kontra kull finalist ieħor. Nofs il-pinfall totali mill-kwalifikazzjoni ingħata għal din il-fażi, punti bonus kienu ngħataw lir-rebbieħ/a ta' kull tlaqqigħ, u r-rebbieħa kienu dawk li spiċċaw din il-fażi bl-iktar punteġġi għoljin wara dawn is-seba' logħbiet.

Il-finalisti mill-kategorija tal-irġiel kienu: Matthew Magro, Kayden Laganà, Chris Fenech, Mark Spiteri, Kenneth Arpa, Dwayne Zahra, Nicholas Muscat, u Miguel Xuereb. Waqt il-fażi ta' kwalifikazzjoni, Matthew Magro kkwalifika fl-ewwel post wara li kiser ir-rekord għall-aqwa serje ta' 12-il logħba fl-istorja tal-assoċjazzjoni. Fl-istess waqt, iż-żagħżugħ Chris Fenech kważi lagħab logħba perfetta ta' 300 wara li rnexxielu jġib l-ewwel 11-il strike minn tnax; fl-aħħar tefgħa, Fenech waqa' 8/10 pins biex spiċċa b'skor brillanti ta' 298.

Mill-kategorija tan-nisa, l-aqwa tmienja kienu: Ruslana Grima, Melissa Swift, Amanda Cini, Cynthia Frendo Duca, Sue Abela, Mia Bugeja, Kathryn Fenech, u Tiziana Carannante. Sfortunatament, Fenech kellha tirtira mill-kompetizzjoni wara l-ewwel fażi, u b'hekk, Donna Vella ħadet postha fil-finali.

Waqt il-finali, Ruslana Grima rnexxielha żżomm l-ewwel post, waqt li Mark Spiteri rnexxielu jaqbeż mir-raba' post għall-ewwel post f'dawn is-seba' logħbiet. Grima u Spiteri t-tnejn rebħu 5/7 mill-logħob diretti tagħhom fil-finali. Grima lagħbet b'punteġġ medju ta' 204.4 waqt li Spiteri lagħab b'punteġġ medju ta' 225.3 biex rebħu din l-edizzjoni tal-Platinum Cup.

Ir-runners-up kienu d-duo ta' Tm Brunswick Sue Abela u Matthew Magro, waqt li Melissa Swift u ż-żagħżugħ Chris Fenech spiċċaw fit-tielet post.

<u>Mark Spiteri and his Pupil Ruslana Grima win this year's Platinum Cup</u>

The two winners of the Platinum Cup were the coach-pupil duo of Mark Spiteri and Ruslana Grima.

The final tournament for the Malta Bowling Association's calendar year, the Platinum Cup, is a singles handicap tournament open to all members of the national association – especially Malta's elite bowlers. This year's winners were Mark Spiteri from the men, for a record 3rd time, and from the women, 18-year-old Ruslana Grima, for her first Platinum Cup title. The only other person to win the Platinum Cup three times in MBA history is Sue Abela in the female category.

After 12 games of qualifying, the top 8 players from each gender category, according to total amalgamated scores, qualified for the round robin finals, in which all players played one game one-on-one against each other finalist. Half the total pinfall from qualifying was carried forward through this stage, bonus points were given to the winners of each direct match-up, and the games scored throughout the round robin finals were then added to this total to determine the Platinum Cup winners for 2022.

The men's finalists were Matthew Magro, Kayden Laganà, Chris Fenech, Mark Spiteri, Kenneth Arpa, Dwayne Zahra, Nicholas Muscat, and Miguel Xuereb. The notable stories from qualifying came from two youths: Matthew Magro, who qualified in 1st place after scoring the greatest sanctioned 12-game series in MBA history, and Chris Fenech, who nearly shot a perfect 300 game. Magro rolled a 2764 series (230.33 average) and Fenech got the first 11 strikes before knocking down 8/10 pins on his final shot to secure his personal best 298 game.

From the female category, the top 8 were: Ruslana Grima, Melissa Swift, Amanda Cini, Cynthia Frendo Duca, Sue Abela, Mia Bugeja, Kathryn Fenech, and Tiziana Carannante. Unfortunately, Fenech had to retire from the tournament after qualifying and was replaced by Donna Vella (the next ranked available player).

During the finals, Ruslana Grima managed to retain her 1st place position from the qualifying round, while Mark Spiteri jumped from 4th to 1st by leapfrogging the three youths initially placed above him. Grima and Spiteri both won 5/7 of their head-to-heads versus their respective competitors. Grima averaged 204.3 while Spiteri averaged 225.3 per game to win this prestigious competition.

The runners-up of this Platinum Cup were the Tm Brunswick duo of Sue Abela and Matthew Magro while Melissa Swift and Chris Fenech finished in 3rd place.