

## **MBA NEWSLETTER January 2023**

Welcome to the first MBA newsletter for 2023! It is slightly late as I wanted to wait for the European Seniors Championship to be ready, as this only finished on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>.

It is also the first newsletter in many years that is not being written by Liliana. After many years of voluntarily preparing this eagerly awaited newsletter, she rightly felt that it was time to move on. A big thank you goes to Liliana of course, and I hope that soon enough, you will also all be happy with the content and format of the newsletter.

### **Opening Tournament of the year: TOP 24!**

The Top 24 is the traditional season opener and is always hotly contested. This 6 game one day sprint lived up to its tradition as 15 year old NSS student Kayden Lagana' triumphed with a 1275 (212.5 average) total , edging out Seniors National Champion Kenneth Arpa, just 9 pins behind/ Fellow veteran Mark Spiteri came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 17 pins behind Arpa. High game overall was a 259, bowled by Dennis Mercieca.



### **Leagues have restarted!!!**

Both Premier League (ex Div 1) and Division 2 have started. We only have had 2 weeks of bowling, and of course it's a new sport pattern and most bowlers are still getting used to it.

In the Premier League, Team Boom lead on 15 points, closely followed by OkMalta.com on 14 and Team Brunswick on 12.

#### **M.B.A.**

**info@maltabowling.org**

Malta Bowling Association

**www.maltabowling.org**

Vista Point, Flt 5, Xemxija Hill,

Xemxija, SPB9021

0253

**E:**

**W:**

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## High bowlers scratch for the first 2 days of the Premier League.

Day 1: Kayden Lagana' and Sue Abela

Day 2 : Nicolai Mallia and Sue Abela

All 3 players from Team Brunswick



Division 2 saw one team dismantling (Up Your Average, who struggled to field a team last season, but were the top team at the end of the abridged season) have merged with Brutal Legendz in the Premier league and so would have resulted in an odd number of teams and so a bye round; however we have a new team Trust Payments, who have joined, keeping the total teams taking part in this division at 12.

As this will be a full season, the top 2 teams will be eligible for promotion to the Premier League so this season is expected to be very competitive after last year's shortened season.

Emma's Kitchen and Lucky Strike top the league after 2 days with maximum points (16) followed by Strike Force on 15 points.

Best bowlers for first 2 days of Division 2 were:

Day 1 : Marthese Cossai (Vintage) and Mary Vella (One for All) were joint high female bowlers while young Mikhail Mallia was the highest for the males.

Day 2: Celianne Micallef (Emma's Kitchen) and Ian Howard (The Flintstones)

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## Day 1 High bowlers for Division 2



## Day 2 High bowlers for Division 2



## International News for MBA Bowlers

The main highlight for January (and early February which is also why this newsletter is a little late, am sure you will all understand!) was Team Malta Male Senior (50+) participation at the European Seniors Championships in Aalborg Denmark.

The 4 man team was made of Mark Spiteri, Dennis Mercieca, Kenneth Arpa and Joe Cassar, with the latter representing Malta in bowling for the very first time at any level.

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First up were the doubles events. Dennis and Joe played in Squad A as team 1, and Mark and Kenneth played in Squad B as team 2.

Unforgiving lane conditions dominated the event, and this was mostly evident in the doubles as bowlers took some time to find the right area to play, with very limited margins of error.

Still, Mark and Kenneth managed to challenge well for the top places, and in fact finished in a very good 7<sup>th</sup> place just missing the top 4 cut off by just over 70 pins, as a very tough game 4 (341) proved too hard to recover from.

Joe and Dennis found the going harder as Dennis in particular struggled on this first day to find his typical form, and so team 1 ended in 34<sup>th</sup> out of 46 overall.



Men   Doubles		G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	Score	AVG
1	<b>Sweden 1</b> Stefan Westberg Martin Eriksson	223	186	254	201	199	216	1279	213.2
2	<b>Germany 1</b> Uwe Tschanke Frank Stein	171	209	223	211	164	213	1191	196.5
3	<b>France 2</b> Fabrice Couquet Pierre Luc Sanchez	142	195	184	164	248	222	1155	192.5
4	<b>Norway 1</b> Oyvind Hareng Inge Sæviestad	221	215	223	267	190	234	1350	225
5	<b>Sweden 1</b> Mathias Eriksson Joakim Stål	168	267	246	145	216	189	1231	203.2
6	<b>Italy 2</b> Marco Revollo Alessandro Del Carmine	209	173	193	218	225	192	1210	201.7
7	<b>Malta 2</b> Kenneth Arta Mark Scales	225	203	224	158	222	200	1242	207
8	<b>England 2</b> Steve Thorne Colin Gosse	171	228	223	205	182	180	1189	198.2
9	<b>Germany 2</b> Ralf Schillingstief Peter Kussow	184	182	159	180	176	204	1085	180.8
10	<b>Netherlands 2</b> Ben Van Der Boepel Jack Edelaar	198	238	187	180	246	235	1284	214



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Next up was the 4 man team. The lanes on the day stayed of course as unforgiving as the previous day, though the team fought well and managed to place 12<sup>th</sup> out of 23, with Joe Cassar proving to be highest Maltese bowler over the 6 games in this event.



<b>France</b>											
	<a href="#">Pierre Luc Sanchez</a>	214	215	183	231	187	188	<b>1218</b>	203		
<b>10</b>	<a href="#">Frederic Cosquer</a>	184	195	158	194	162	221	<b>1114</b>	185.7		
	<a href="#">Patrick Berthomiere</a>	157	173	201	196	171	190	<b>1088</b>	181.3		
	<a href="#">Eric Chauveau</a>	190	180	147	184	169	181	<b>1051</b>	175.2		
		<b>745</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>4471</b>	186.3		
<b>Israel</b>											
	<a href="#">Abed Eladif Mahamid</a>	147	201	234	190	218	187	<b>1177</b>	196.2		
<b>11</b>	<a href="#">Felixfely Nassi</a>	188	164	185	203	191	191	<b>1122</b>	187		
	<a href="#">Joseph Nioravsky</a>	159	222	192	157	172	200	<b>1102</b>	183.7		
	<a href="#">Doron Ben Ami</a>	183	147	196	186	192	165	<b>1069</b>	178.2		
		<b>677</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>4470</b>	186.2		
<b>Malta</b>											
	<a href="#">Joseph Cassar</a>	178	199	191	227	164	188	<b>1147</b>	191.2		
<b>12</b>	<a href="#">Kenneth Arpa</a>	212	178	167	205	166	205	<b>1133</b>	188.8		
	<a href="#">Mark Spiteri</a>	187	204	204	167	177	167	<b>1106</b>	184.3		
	<a href="#">Dennis Mercieca</a>	159	167	171	225	175	146	<b>1043</b>	173.8		
		<b>736</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>4429</b>	184.5		

The last event was of course the singles, and with Mark Spiteri currently lying in the top 24 of the all events, the scores here would also mean a possible slot for the Masters qualifying rounds.

Mark was in form, but as luck would have it, a couple of cruel splits in the last game saw him miss the top 4 cut by just 27 pins, as he bowled a 1247 for a 207.8 average. This did mean however that he was through to the Masters in 12<sup>th</sup> place with an overall 199.7 average over the 18 games.

Dennis finally found his form to finish with a strong 197 average and end in 18<sup>th</sup> place, with Kenneth in 35<sup>th</sup> (190.7) and Joe struggled most on the day with a 184.7 average to end in 54<sup>th</sup> place, out of 92 players.

All event places for the other 3 were Kenneth in 34<sup>th</sup> (190.4), Joe 47<sup>th</sup> (184.9) and Dennis 58<sup>th</sup> (182.6).

## Masters

So now. All Maltese eyes both in Denmark as well as in Malta were on Mark, and we go the benefit of commentary in Maltese as Dennis live streamed so we could all enjoy the banter and get a better taste of the event, as Kenneth Joe and Dennis provided much needed comic relief in some tense situations.

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As mentioned, Mark qualified for Step 1 in the Masters where he had to face Italian Alberto Petracca.



Game 1 went to Mark 234 to 199, and this triggered a ball change for the Italian who started game 2 with a series of strikes to finish 233-174, and level it at 1-1. Mark then dug in to deliver some great shots in game 3, as Alberto struggled to bowl 168, as opposed to Mark's 225.

Step 2 saw Mark needing to face a Frenchman, Pierre Luc Sanchez. Game 1 went to Mark in a close 189-176. Both players struggled to strike regularly in game 2 but Mark nipped it by 1 pin 193-192. The last frame saw mark getting a strike in the first shot that gave him the edge as long as he got all 10 pins in his next 2 throws, which he did by shooting 8 and then covering the last 2 pins in the last frame to ensure he moves to Step 3 and Top 8 on the next day.



Step 3 saw Mark having to face Norway's Oyvind Harang, and this saw Mark's run come to an end as he lost 216-182 and 192-177. This still meant Mark finished in the top 8 in the Masters, a very good performance from the established veteran !

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## Update from the US

Matthew Magro started off 2023 in style as the team of SCAD university in Atlanta finished a respectable third place during the 2023 Southern Shootout at the start of January.



## **Coming up in February!**

Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February 9:30-12:30. Venue TBC

Mediterranean Bowling Championships Qualifiers 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February.

***Please remember to settle your MBA memberships if you still have not done so, and for those in the coaching squads, confirm your March schedule with coaches, as well as settle fees by the 25<sup>th</sup>!***

*David Fenech.*

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