

KENNETH ARPA WINS THE 10TH MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tournament was open to all bowling members and is the only one which is played in one category, i.e. males and females together. We had 12 hopefuls participating in the qualifying round to make the top 8 and proceed to Step 1. Since this event sports only 1 category, all ladies were awarded an 8 pin handicap per game. After playing 6 games the following were the ones to make top 8: Sara Xuereb who took the early lead, followed by Kurt Attard who rolled the best scratch series (1159), Daniel Grech, Mark Muscat, Joanna Attard, Matthew Magro, Philip Gruppetta and Sammy Borg.

The 8 bowlers from the qualifying then joined the best 5-8 seeded bowlers from 2016's composite average. Bowlers were: Dennis Mercieca, Sue Abela, Rankin Camilleri and Neil Sullivan. From these 12 bowlers only 4 actually made it to the next round. These were Sue Abela who rolled a 1192 series + 48 pins handicap for a total of 1240, Rankin Camilleri (1196), Sara Xuereb - 1119 (1071 + 48) and Dennis Mercieca 1107, who notched the 4th available spot just 4 pins ahead of Joanna Attard who failed to make the cut.

Step 2 consisted of 4 games to determine the top 6 who will go on to Quarter Finals, with the four bowlers who qualified from Step 1: Sue, Rankin, Sara and Dennis and the 1-4 top seeded players from 2016: Justin Caruana Scicluna, Mauro Anastasi, Mark Spiteri and Kenneth Arpa. The tough pattern kept the scores very low and only Sue Abela managed to bowl over 200 average (836 + 32). The other 5 to make it through were: Sara Xuereb, Kenneth Arpa, Mauro Anastasi, Dennis Mercieca and Justin Caruana Scicluna.

The 6 were then divided into two groups seeded: 1, 3 and 5 and 2, 4 and 6. Group A consisted of Sue, Kenneth and Dennis, whereas Group B was made up of Sara, Mauro and Justin. Mauro and Dennis were both eliminated after the first game as they bowled a 144 and 189 respectively. Sue and Sara were then eliminated in round 2 (161 and 165).

The final saw last year's champion Justin and Kenneth battle it out in a very low scoring game. The game was exciting for all the wrong reasons as both players had an array of splits and washouts. In the end it was Arpa who clinched the 10th title, making it his 2nd in these championships.



Previous Winners	
2008	Brian Farrugia
2009	Kenneth Arpa
2010	Mark Spiteri
2011	Sue Abela
2012	Justin Caruana Scicluna
2013	Mauro Anastasi
2014	Mark Spiteri
2015	Justin Caruana Scicluna
2016	Justin Caruana Scicluna
2017	Kenneth Arpa