

Dear bowlers,

This will be our last newsletter for the year 2017, a year which proved to be quite eventful, and successful in the International Arena.

We are now enjoying a well-deserved break from our sport, during the festive season, but even though December basically covered less than 3 weeks, it was full of activities: the end of the MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues, one of the biggest tournaments of the year “The Platinum Cup”, the Jeff De Bruges Youth Tournament in France, as well as the Maltese Olympic Committee Awards.

MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues

All 3 divisions have now played their full schedule with **FINA** reconfirmed as Division 1 Champions, okmalta.com retaining the 2nd spot, while **Turu’s Knights** managed to clinch 3rd place 8 years after another historical 3rd place trophy.



Strike Me Jabaal finally succeeded in winning the 2nd division, and will finally be promoted to Division 1, after 3 seasons placing 3rd place. **Blitzkrieg** placed 2nd, whilst the 3rd spot went to **Supersonic**, the latter being one of the teams with the youngest players, with 3 under 16 years of age, 2 of who are 13 year olds.



The **Scotsman Pub** won Division 3, and hopefully this year we will see them playing in Division 2. **One For All** were also promoted, whilst **Ready Steady Bowl** had to content with 3rd place, and have to stay put in Division 3.



COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top composite average athletes for the year 2017 are: Justin Caruana Scicluna 1st (207.14), Mauro Anastasi 2nd (205.18) and Mark Spiteri (202.64) in 3rd. In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (203.41), Tiziana Carannante followed (193.67) while Melissa Swift clinched 3rd with (188.21).

Top bowlers for the (U21) youths are Sara Xuereb (186.93), Alessia Schembri (174.24) and Raquel Xuereb (169.58), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (188.63), Kurt Attard (184.07), and Edward Xuereb (173.05).

JEFF DE BRUGE YOUTH EUROPEAN RANKING TOURNAMENT

Five of our youth bowlers went to participate in the Jeff De Bruges tournament in France. They were: Raquel and Sara Xuereb, Juliana Bonanno, Matthew Magro and Kurt Attard. All bowlers played 12 games, with only the best 6 game series taken into consideration for qualification to the next step. Raquel finished in 55th place, whilst Juliana in 67th place from 78 bowlers in the Junior Category.



Sara, Matthew and Kurt competed in the Cadet category, where there were 84 participants, with the top 16 qualifying for next round. Sara and Matthew were unlucky as they place in 19th and 17th position respectively, Matthew out by just 8 pins and Sara by 28 pins. Kurt Attard, on the other hand managed to place in 13th place, with a 1228 series to advance to next stage. He then had to play another 4 games to try and make it with the top 3 to advance another step. However his 716 series was not enough for him to proceed, and he finished in 16th position.

5th PLATINUM CUP

Once again we had a good number of participants, 32 in all, of varied averages and ages. After the first 12 qualifying games, it was Kurt Attard who clinched the first place of the top 6, rolling an impressive 1333 series, and breaking the youth records for a 6 game series, for bowlers under 18 years of age. Following him were: Mauro Anastasi, Mark Spiteri, Matthew Magro, Miguel Xuereb and Mark Muscat. In the ladies division, Marthese Cossai took everyone by surprise, rolling a constant 160 scratch average, and coupled by 33 pins handicap per game, she took the leading position. Sue Abela, Cynthia Duca, Raquel Xuereb, Tiziana Carannante and Liliana Spiteri were the other 5 to make it to the Round Robin.



During the round robin stages Mark Spiteri won 3 games, and rolling high scores managed to climb to 1st place. Kurt Attard won 3 games to clinch the 2nd spot, whilst Mauro Anastasi won 4 matches to grab the last spot in the step ladder finals.

The top 3 ladies, on the other hand were: Marthese Cossai (3 wins) who succeeded in retaining the top spot, followed by Sue Abela (2 wins and a draw) and Cynthia Duca (3 wins).



In the semi-finals Kurt beat Mauro (215 vs 182), whilst Sue Abela rolled a good 227 to beat Cynthia's low 156 game.

The ladies' final was a low scoring affair as Sue rolled a 150 and Marthese a 152, but of course the latter had an extra 33 pin handicap so she easily beat her opponent.

In the men's final, Kurt had the daunting task of facing his coach, Mark Spiteri. The game was very close, but in the end experience prevailed over youth and Spiteri won the game 204 vs 191.

Therefore this year's champions are: **Marthese Cossai**, who won her first ever tournament, and **Mark Spiteri**, who is the only **male** player who can boast of winning the Platinum Cup Champion title for 2 years during its five year history.



MALTESE OLYMPICS COMMITTEE SPORTS AWARDS

Our athletes' efforts were paid off on 7th December, during the MOC Sports Awards which was held at the Corinthia Palace. We had no less than 13 athletes who were chosen for these honours, 6 in the adult category and 7 in the Youth Category.

Special Awards:

Youths: Matthew Magro, Edward Xuereb, Kurt Attard, Nicholas Muscat, Ayrton Ciangura, Shadon Psaila and Juliana Bonanno, all received a special award for winning a gold medal in the Norwich Junior Championships.



A Bronze award went to Justin Caruana Scicluna and Mauro Anastasi, for their bronze medal in the Small Nations Cup.



Mark Spiteri got a silver medal for his bronze medal in the Masters during the Mediterranean Championships.



Whilst Gold went to duo Justin Caruana Scicluna and Sue Abela (Gold Mixed Team - Small Nations Cup), and Sara Xuereb (Gold in Singles - Small Nations Cup).



The cherry on the cake arrived when the Platinum Awards were announced! From 5 awards, 3 came to bowling: Sue Abela (who had medals in the Small Nations Cup, Mediterranean Championships, Commonwealth Games, and also won the Malta Open and placed 2nd in the France Senior Open), Tiziana Carannante for her gold and other medals in the Commonwealth Games, and Sara Xuereb for the gold medal when paired with Sue Abela in the Mediterranean Championships.



Now after a much deserved 3 week back we will meet again for the 2018 MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues which will be starting as follows:

9th January – Division 2 (please note it will be played on a Tuesday)

11th January – Division 1

15th January – Division 3

Kindly send in your team's application by 8th January latest.

The first tournament for 2018 will be the **TOP 24 athletes** derived from the composite average as at end December 2017. This will be held on Wednesday 17th January. More details will be sent in a separate email as well as a list of the top 24.

On behalf of all MTBA Committee Directors may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a serene festive season, filled with peace, love, and health



A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

Regards

Liliana