

## **MBA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022**

This is the last newsletter for 2022 and I am happy to say that this year was another memorable one, where our athletes continue to put Malta on the map and bring home medals.

### **COMPOSITE AVERAGE AS AT END DECEMBER 2022**

#### **The Top 3 bowlers in each category are:**

**Males:** Matthew Magro (208.31), Kayden Laganà (207.64), and Nicholas Muscat (206.07)

**Females:** Sue Abela (198.18), Cynthia Frendo Duca (194.32), and Melissa Swift (190.68)

#### **Top U21 Youths**

**Males:** Kayden Laganà (207.64), Nicholas Muscat (206.07) and Dwayne Zahra (196.86)

**Females:** Ruslana Grima (176.48), Mia Bugeja (163.85), and Kathryn Fenech (155.76)

#### **Top Senior Bowlers (50+ Years)**

**Males:** Mark Spiteri (204.45), Kenneth Arpa (201.88), and Steve Cassar (196.74)

**Females:** Sue Abela (198.18), Liliana Spiteri (162.15), and Marthese Cossai (156.41)

### **ISBT GOES SENIOR OPEN**



Paul Gray went to participate in the GOES Senior Open. He managed to make the first cut through the turbo game when he rolled a 276 game including 12 pin handicap to proceed to step 1.

A total of 3 games had to be played during step 1, with the top 20 making it through to step 2. Paul rolled a 598 scratch plus 36 handicap to finish in 23<sup>rd</sup> place from 96 players.

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

Malta Bowling Association  
Vista Point, Flt 5, Xemxija Hill,  
Xemxija, SPB9021

**E:** [info@maltabowling.org](mailto:info@maltabowling.org)  
**W:** [www.maltabowling.org](http://www.maltabowling.org)

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## **SELECTION OF EYC AND EMC TEAMS FOR 2023**

The selection criteria for the European Youth Championships and European Men's Championships are now final.

### **EYC 2023**

Boys: Nicholas Muscat, Kayden Lagana', Chris Fenech and Dwayne Zahra.

Girls: Ruslana Grima, Kathryn Fenech, Mia Bugeja and Karlise Bartolo

	Youths	U23			Platinum			Total		
1	Nicholas Muscat	3778	18	209.89	2570	12	214.17	6348	30	211.60
2	Kayden Lagana'	3441	18	191.17	2683	12	223.58	6124	30	204.13
3	Chris Fenech	3395	18	188.61	2570	12	214.17	5965	30	198.83
4	Dwayne Zahra	3372	18	187.33	2582	12	215.17	5954	30	198.47
5	Nicolai Mallia	3409	18	189.39	2446	12	203.83	5855	30	195.17
6	Tomas Caruso	3175	18	176.39	2313	12	192.75	5488	30	182.93
7	Julian Baldacchino	3128	18	173.78	2111	12	175.92	5239	30	174.63
1	Ruslana Grima	3231	18	179.50	2338	12	194.83	5569	30	185.63
2	Kathryn Fenech	3083	18	171.28	1923	12	160.25	5006	30	166.87
3	Mia Bugeja	2856	18	158.67	2058	12	171.50	4914	30	163.80
4	Karlise Bartolo	2815	18	156.39	1795	12	149.58	4610	30	153.67
5	Celianne Micallef	2786	18	154.78	1781	12	148.42	4567	30	152.23

**EMC 2023:** Kayden Lagana', Matthew Magro, Nicholas Muscat, Mark Spiteri, Mauro Anastasi and Kenneth Arpa.

1	Kayden Lagana'	32789	159	206.22
2	Matthew Magro	22451	110	204.10
3	Nicholas Muscat	29943	147	203.69
4	Mark Spiteri	30888	153	201.88
5	Mauro Anastasi	29546	147	200.99
6	Kenneth Arpa	27646	138	200.33
7	Rankin Camilleri	23000	117	196.58
8	Dwayne Zahra	29384	150	195.89
9	Philip Gruppetta	29335	150	195.57
10	Miguel Xuereb	27542	141	195.33

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## HIGH SCORES TO BE LISTED IN THE NATIONAL RECORDS



Matthew Magro broke the National record for 12 game series.

He did this during the Platinum Cup. He rolled a 1408 on day 1, which was his PB and put himself in the book of records for 6 game series, plus 1356 on day 2 for a total of 2764.

Chris Fenech rolled his highest game to date when during the Platinum Cup he bowled an impressive 298 game.

This is only 2 pins away from the perfect game.



Mark Spiteri also wrote himself into the Association's record books when during the Platinum's Round Robin he bowled a 1577. This series is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest series, both in the adults as well as the senior's category.

Games bowled were: 233-192-234-248-221-222-227

Kayden Lagan' entered the Junior MBA records with his 12 game series when he rolled a 2683 during the Platinum Cup.

His scores were 1399 and 1284.  
This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest Junior Series.



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## 2<sup>nd</sup> CONTINENTAL CLASH OF THE TITANS – Final Event

Winners of the final event were Amanda Cini and Philip Gruppetta. Runners Up Sue Abela and Neil Sullivan



The 10<sup>th</sup> edition was the final event, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Clash of the title winners were determined. Ladies' Champion Sue Abela, whilst Cynthia Frendo Duca ended as runner up. Male Champion Nicholas Muscat whilst Neil Sullivan nipped the 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



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## PLATINUM CUP – Extract from Press Release issued by our PRO

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

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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.



### MOC SPORTS AWARDS 19<sup>th</sup> Edition

We had no less than 14 athletes for these awards: Sue Abela, Mauro Anastasi, Kenneth Arpa, Rankin Camilleri, Tiziana Carannante, Cynthia Duca, Kayden Lagana, Matthew Magro, Dennis Mercieca, Nicholas Muscat, Nicolai Mallia, Mark Spiteri, Melissa Swift, and Dwayne Zahra.

We had various awards ranging from Special Recognition to Bronze and Silver, with Sue Abela winning 2 gold awards, one for the year 2020/2021 and another one for 2022.



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## ATLAS YOUTH ATHLETE AWARD (EXTRACT from the PR)



Nicholas Muscat has been awarded the Atlas Youth Athlete of the Month Award for the month of November 2022.

Young bowler Nicholas Muscat, aged 17, won the U23 National Championships and his second personal U23 title. He also helped his team OKMalta.com to win the national league Division 1, for the seventh consecutive time.


In September, Muscat made history as he became the first Maltese to ever make the final of the European Youth Championships (EYC) Masters event after winning two bronze medals individually (All Events) and alongside his national team-mates (Team Event). He earned a silver medal in the Boys' Masters Event – arguably the most prestigious championship with the top 24 bowlers from the entire EYC.

The trophy for the November 2022 Atlas Youth Athlete of the Month, together with the sports apparel voucher, were presented to Nicholas Muscat by Robert Micallef, Chief Commercial Officer of Atlas Insurance. The Malta Sports Journalists Association was represented by President Sandro Micallef and Administrator Stephen Azzopardi.

This award is a joint initiative of the Malta Sports Journalists Association and Atlas Insurance. The adjudicating panel of this award takes note of all the youths' achievements during the month under review and invites local sports associations and federations to send their nominations for consideration if they feel that any of their under-21 athletes have distinguished themselves during that month.

### COMING UP NEXT MONTH

We now have the official dates of the leagues. Very important to note that Division 1 will change its name to Premier League and it will now be played on Monday at 8pm. The day was changed as Eden would like to keep Thursdays off for Corporate Events. Division 2 and the Doubles will continue to be played on their original days: i.e. Tuesdays at 7.45pm for Division 2, and Wednesday at 8pm for Doubles. Premier League will start on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, whilst Division 2 will start on 17<sup>th</sup> of January. The League Applications will be sent some time this week after they are finalised with the changes.



We also had to change the date of the Top 24, since now we have the Premier League on Mondays. The date is now 18<sup>th</sup> January which is a Wednesday. The application form will be sent soon.

That is all for this year. On behalf of the Committee Members I wish you all a Prosperous New Year filled with health, peace, love, happiness and lots of bowling success 😊

**Liliana Spiteri – Secretary General**