

MARK SPITERI retains Silver medal in ESBC

Mark Spiteri repeated his feat from 2015 by retaining the Silver medal during the European Seniors Bowling Championships (ESBC) held in Copenhagen. The 2016 edition of these championships attracted 892 top senior bowlers from 24 countries competing in what has become the largest international bowling event in Europe.

Mark showed his form with a good start in the Singles event where he hammered in a good series of 1332 to finish in 4th place amongst 178 bowlers, missing out on a bronze for merely 11 pins. Next up was the Doubles event where he paired with Paul Baldacchino to place 22nd out of 121 teams. Another strong performance came in the Trios event where Mark was paired with Paul Baldacchino and Giancarlo Tolu. The team was close to the medal zone but eventually settled for 7th place from 206 teams. It is worth pointing out that the team from Malta registered a high game of 681 which is a new national record for the senior category.



Mark's overall performance in the Singles, Doubles and Trios events meant that he qualified in 4th place for the coveted Masters event which is the 'blue riband' event of the Championships, reserved for the top 6 bowlers overall. The Masters is played on a 'Round Robin' basis between the top 6 bowlers of the championships, with all pins carried forward from the preceding 18 games and bonus points awarded for wins and high scores.

Mark lost his first 2 encounters which included the eventual winner Michael Wittendorff of Denmark. From then on, Mark played brilliantly to climb from 4th to 2nd place after consecutive wins against Paul Morris of England, Peter Broekmans from the Netherlands and Esa Nieminen of Finland. Mark registered a high game of 266 which gave him the momentum to overtake two opponents and claim the silver medal. Thus Mark repeated last year's performance ending up as the runner up in the European Senior Championships.

The next edition will be held in Dublin in 2017.

