

June 2019

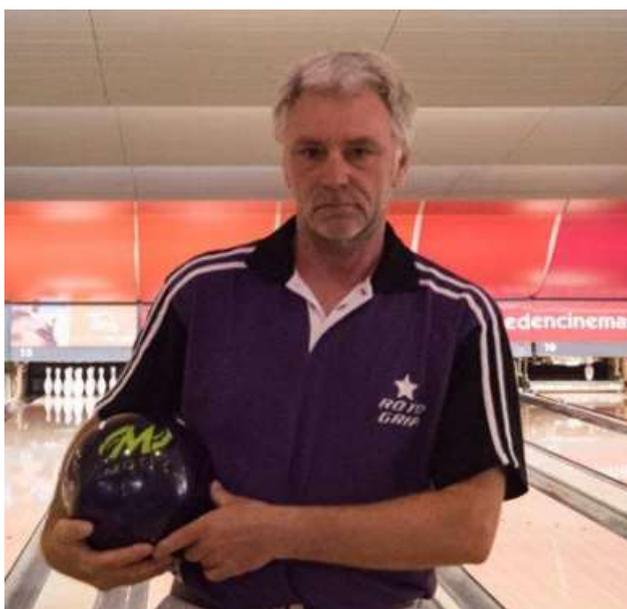


We've had a month's break from the MAPFRE MSV Life National Leagues and only division 1 started the 2nd season last Thursday. After just one week we have 4 teams on 8 points, with Fina leading due to higher pinfall, followed by Bank of Valletta, Turu's Knights and okmalta.com

Please note that division 2 starts tomorrow at 8.30.

The Doubles Cisk Lager continues and after 4 weeks the 3 leaders are: MedSea Shipping Agency (26), Simply VC (22) and Ballbarians (20).

We've had Paul Gray who wrote his name in the records with a 299 game.



Composite Average

Now that half the year is over the top 3 males are: Mauro Anastasi (218.91), Justin Caruana Scicluna (212.84), and Kenneth Arpa (209.91) while Sue Abela tops the ladies (209.93), followed by Cynthia Duca (203.74) and Sara Xuereb (199.42).

Top Youth bowlers (U19) are: Sara Xuereb (199.42), Raquel Xuereb (162.14), and Ruslana Grima (146.75), while for the Boys it is Matthew Magro (201.43), Miguel Xuereb (198.43) and Nicholas Muscat (196.10).

Bank of Valletta National Championships

Bank of Valletta once again sponsored this event, and this year we had 26 participants – 20 males and 6 females.

On day 1 we saw Sue Abela leading the female section just 10 pins ahead of Cynthia Duca and 80 pins over Tiziana Carannante. In the men's section it was Mark Spiteri who took the early lead by 37 pins, followed by young Miguel Xuereb whose 1734 found its way on the list of Junior high scores. Mark Muscat was in 3rd.

There was no change in the ladies' division as Sue still lead, with just 43 pins ahead of Cynthia, and still followed by Tiziana. The same could not be said for the men's category as young Miguel Xuereb shot to 1st place, leapfrogging Spiteri by 12 pins. Mauro shot a 1715 to improve to 3rd place, just 37 pins behind.

Day 3 saw Cynthia trying to catch up with Sue, and she somehow succeeded up to the 4th game. However, Sue then rolled an impressive 232-265-210-211 to bag her 23rd title by 244 pins advantage. Cynthia finished in 2nd place, which was her best position so far, while Tiziana bagged the 3rd place.

Mauro rolled a 234-257-227 during his first 3 games to jump straight in the lead for a good 1740 series. Mark rolled a 1627 to clinch 2nd place. The tussle for 3rd place was between Dennis Mercieca and young Matthew Magro, but in the end, experience prevailed, and Dennis bagged 3rd place by just 6 pins ahead of Matthew.

A good show on day 3 by Steve Cassar who rolled a 1725 to improve from 18th to 9th place, and making him 1 of the 5 bowlers to roll a 1700+ series in these championships. The other athletes were Sue Abela, Mauro Anastasi, Mark Spiteri and Miguel Xuereb.



This is Sue's 23rd title, while Mauro won this coveted title for the 5th time making him the only male to win it for 3 consecutive years, and also wrote history with being the male who won the most National Championship titles.

Sue and Mauro will now represent Malta in the European Championships which will be held during October in Istanbul.



Malta International Open

This year's Malta Open attracted 79 participants from 14 different countries. We had no less than 5 Maltese winning Squads: Justin Caruana Scicluna winning squad 3, Mauro Anastasi winning squad 8, Sara Xuereb winning squad 14, Sue Abela - Squad 15, whilst Cynthia Duca won 2 squads – Squad 7 and squad 11.

There were 11 Maltese who made the 1st cut: Justin's superb 2881 series saw him clinch top place, followed by Cynthia who placed 5th with a brilliant 2765 series (2861). Cynthia in fact bowled the 2nd highest female 6 game record at 1414, just 1 pin below Sue's 1415 record. Mauro and Sue passed for the 2nd step with a 2798 and 2668 (2716), whilst Mark Spiteri, Miguel Xuereb, Sara Xuereb, and Kenneth Arpa made it to step 1 placing 16th, 20th 23rd and 28th respectively. Well done to Miguel Xuereb who broke the 6-game youth record with a 1350, and then broke it again the following day with a 1352. Melissa Swift (288) and Giancarlo Tolu (279) managed to make it through via the Turbo game, whilst young Dwayne Zahra bowled a strong 268 to nip the 1st place in the desperado.



Stage 1:



After playing another 4 games the top twelve would then proceed to Stage 2. Once the 4 games were over, Sara Xuereb rolled a good 936 (904 scratch which was the record for 4 game series before it was broken by Dwayne the next day), and Kenneth Arpa bowled a 905 to be the only Maltese from this step to make it through to the next one.

Stage 2:



Mauro Anasatasi and Sue Abela joined at this stage, where another 4 games were played with 10 making it through. Mauro's 849 was not enough to see him go through another round, however, Sara rolled an 898, Kenneth an 895 and Sue an 882 to pass to stage 3.

Stage 3:



The format was now on best of two games. Unfortunately for Sue, placing 10th in the preceding round meant she had to face the first seed, which was her son Justin. Needless to say this 2 match game was very tense, and even the Maltese supporters stayed quiet, not knowing who to support. In the end Sue managed to beat her son in a low encounter 379 against 389.

Kenneth Arpa faced Nicole Sanders of the Netherlands and had no trouble beating her 366-506. Cynthia had a tough nut to crack facing Christian Haas from Germany, and although the latter bowled a good 482, Cynthia beat him with a 517.

Sara faced Belgium's Giancarlo Ragusa in a very close match. All seemed lost for Sara, but her determination saw her win the encounter by 2 pins (474 – 472).

Thus, all Maltese, except Justin went through the next round.

Stage 4 Quarter Finals: Sue's opponent was Russia's Nikita Koshelev, and although she bowled a good 444, Nikita was on fire with a 505. Sara lost to England's Jack Sanders as he also bowled an amazing 516 to Sara's 420. Therefore, both Sue and Sara's journey ended here.

Kenneth beat Mariana Meteksinova from Bulgaria in a tight match (457 – 485), whilst Cynthia Duca's 474 was enough to beat Lithuania's Aidas Daniunas's 439.



Semi Finals: Cynthia was then the only female standing, with 3 other men. Kenneth struggled against Koshelev and he lost 366 – 462.

Cynthia faced Jack Sanders who was on a striking spree, started with a banging 279. Cynthia fought back to roll an amazing 508 series, with Jack clinching the honours with a 514.



Best placing from the Maltese were Cynthia in 3rd place and Kenneth place in 4th.

The Malta Open was eventually won by Nikita Koshelev from Russia, with Jack Sanders ending as the runner up.

Although the Malta Open Doubles are not sanctioned, and thus the scores do not count for the composite average, however any high scores are approved in the national records. In fact, we had Dwayne Zahra who beat the Youth 4 game series with a brilliant 943 and Cynthia Duca who bowled the highest 4 game ladies' series with a 986, beating Sue's 984 by 2 pins.

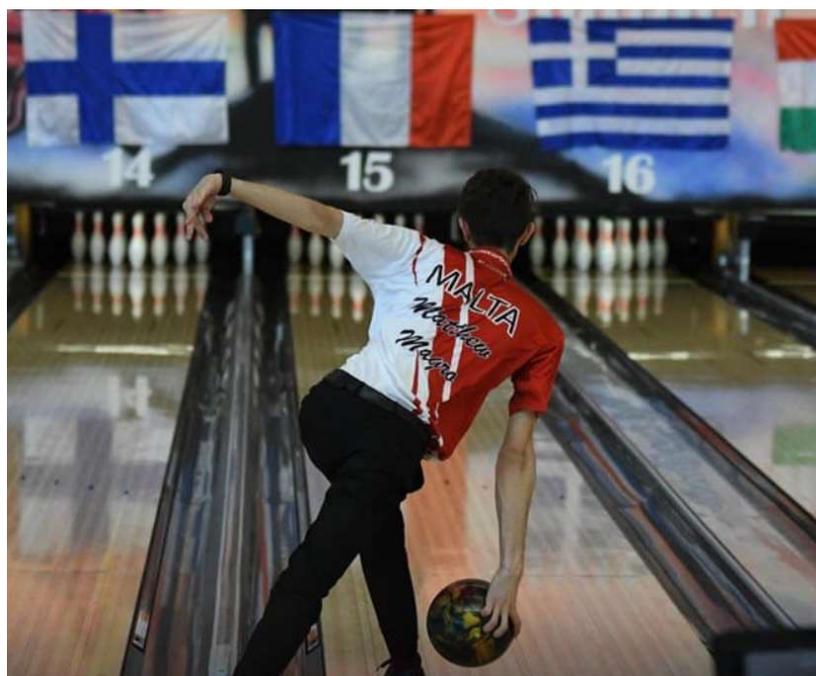


EUROPEAN MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Matthew Magro went solo to compete in the European Men's Championships, where 187 men participated from all over Europe.

Matthew bowled a 1185 in the singles to place 57th.

Then, although he was not part of a team, he bowled the doubles, trios, and team event so his series could count for the all events. His scores were: 1020, 1114 and 1247 peaking with a 277 in the last series. This made his total to 4566 which placed him in the 91st position. Good job from a 17-year old who had the guts to travel alone to face these championships.



THE BALKAN OPEN

Cynthia Duca ventured to Bulgaria to take part in the Balkan Open. There were over 200 competitors participating in this tournament.

Cynthia bowled 6 squads of 5 games each to place in the 16th position thus making it for the next round. Bowling an 832 in the 2nd round she placed 10th place, thus making it through to another round.

During the 3rd step she then bowled an 804 to finish in 15th place, from over 200 competitors.



The tournament also had a team event and a doubles event. Cynthia's team was composed of Nikolay Petrov, Georgi Dimov, Plamen Stanchev, and Boris Panayotov. They managed to place 3rd.



Cynthia then formed a formidable doubles with Mariana Meteksinova, and they succeeded in placing in 2nd place, only bowing down to the Cypriot Team in the final step ladder.



In total Cynthia bowled 49 games for a good 196.96 average.

YOUTH ELITE

Sara Xuereb was declared by the MOC to be a podium player, whereas Edward Xuereb and Matthew Magro were recognised as Elite players. The certificates were awarded this month, together with a grant to be used in tournaments abroad.



The MAPFRE MSV Life Leagues will start next week: Division 1 – 27th June, Division 2 – 3rd July and Division 3 – 15th July.

The following are the draws:

Div 1 – started 27th June

1. Bank of Valletta
2. MIA
3. Blexr.com
4. Royal Shock
5. XS Park Towers
6. Fina
7. Supersonic
8. Turu's Knights
9. Strike Me Jabaal
10. Okmalta.com

Div 2 – will start 2nd July at 8.30

1. The WMDs
2. Brutal Legendz
3. Mean Machine
4. Bonnici Group
5. Greens
6. Central Bank of Malta
7. BOV
8. Supreme
9. 4Play
10. Blitzkrieg

Div 3 – will start 15 July at 8.30

1. Ready Steady Bowl
2. Move It
3. Vintage
4. One 4 All
5. George's
6. Britney Spares
7. Pin Pulse
8. Strike Force

Our next event will be the AMF World Cup which will be played on 6-7-8 July. Then we have the 7th Silver Cup (20 – 21 July) open for male bowlers under 170 average and females under 165 average.

The date for the presentation is on 26th July, and it will be held at The Victoria Hotel, Sliema. Price will be 30€ which is inclusive of drinks.

Also please note that following the successes in the recent EYC editions, the MTBA has agreed to commit to participate again next year. The selection process for the boys' team will be based on a ranking achieved on the following criteria:

- First 12 games during the MAPFRE MSV Life Summer League – Round 1
- First 12 games during the MAPFRE MSV Life Summer League – Round 2
- 12 games Youth National Championships
- 12 games Platinum Cup

The top 4 boys will be Malta's team in next year's edition which will be held in The Netherlands.

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana