Bowling: Maltese Youths Excel at the IBF U21 World Championships

21-year-old Matthew Magro was also named the Sportsman of the Tournament after Team Malta's deep run ended.

For the U21 IBF World Championships 2022, taking place at Helsingborg, Sweden, the Malta Bowling Association (MBA) sent up 4 male youths to compete internationally and together they made deep progressions against top competition. Team Malta consisted of Kayden Laganà (14), Matthew Magro (20), Miguel Xuereb (20), and Nicholas Muscat (17).

For each category (singles, doubles, and team), athletes had to play a block of games for qualifying (6 games for singles and doubles, and 10 games for team) to see who from the many athletes should play in the final stages.

Despite strong performances in the singles and doubles, our youths managed to make the qualifying cut onto the final stages for the team event, qualifying in 9th place within the top 16 averaging 214.30 per game. The top 16 were then divided into two groups of 8; match-play ensued among all teams within their respective groups to select the final four teams. Kayden Laganà was closest among the Maltese to making the cut for the Singles event, though he was 5 pins short.

The Maltese youths then won 3/7 direct encounters though this was not enough to qualify within the top two teams of the group, and thus, our youths were knocked out from the tournament. During these direct encounters, Team Malta managed to defeat the national teams of England, Korea, and the home-crowd favourites Sweden (costing them a medal in the process). These three national teams all qualified within the top 5 of this category, though their defeats to Malta were costly as none of them qualified for the semi-finals.

During the awards ceremony, Malta's Matthew Magro was honoured by being voted as the Sportsman of the Tournament for his display during the coveted U21 World Championships. He was given this award for the honourable character and attitude he displayed during these games.

<u>**Bowling: Żgħażagħ Maltin jisbqu fl-IBF U21 World Championships**</u>

Iż-żagħżugħ Malti ta' 21 sena Matthew Magro ġie ppremjat bħala s-Sportiv tal-Kampjonati.

Għal IBF U21 World Championships ta' dis-sena, il-Malta Bowling Association (MBA) għażel lill-aqwa 4 żgħażagħ irġiel fil-pajjiż sabiex jirrappreżentaw lil Malta f'Helsingborg, Svezja. Tim Malta kien jikkonsisti minn Kayden Laganà (14), Matthew Magro (20), Miguel Xuereb (20), u Nicholas Muscat (17).

Għal kull kategorija (singles, doubles u tim), l-atleti kellhom jilgħabu serje ta' logħbiet sabiex jippruvaw jikkwalifikaw għall-istadji finali; l-aqwa plejers wara sitt logħbiet għas-singles u doubles, u wara għaxar logħbiet bħala tim kollettiv.

Minkejja wirjiet b'saħħithom fis-singles u d-doubles, iż-żgħażagħ Maltin irnexxielhom jikkwalifikaw għall-fażi finali fl-avveniment tat-tim. Huma kkwalifikaw fid-disa' post fost l-aqwa 16 wara li lagħbu medja ta' 214.30 fuq 10 logħbiet. L-aqwa 16 imbagħad kienu maqsumin f'żewġ gruppi fejn permezz ta' format mibnija fuq matchplay, l-aqwa żewġ timijiet nazzjonali minn kull grupp għaddew għas-semi finali. Kayden Laganà kien l-eqreb mill-Maltin minn kwalifikazzjoni lejn il-fażi finali tas-Singles, però, ma rnexxielux għal 5 pins.

Tim Malta rebħet 3/7 logħbiet diretti iżda din ma kinitx biżżejjed biex jilgħabu għal midalja. Waqt dan il-matchplay, il-Maltin irnexxielhom jegħlbu l-iskwadri nazzjonali tal-Ingilterra, tal-Korea, u tal-favoriti lokali tal-Isvezja. Dawn it-tliet timijiet nazzjonali kienu kollha kkwalifikaw fost l-aqwa ħames pajjiżi, iżda dawn it-telfiet kontra l-Maltin waqfithom milli jilgħabu għal midalja.

Waqt iċ-ċerimonja tal-premijiet, iż-żgħażugħ Malti Matthew Magro ġie vvutat bħala l-isportiv ta' dawn il-kampjonati prestiġjużi. Magro kien ippremjat b'dan il-premju individwu għal karattru u attitudni li wera waqt dawn il-logħob.