

Bank of Valletta National Championships 2021

This year we had 27 participants – 22 males and 5 females.

On day 1 we saw Sue Abela leading by 118 pins over Melissa Swift. Cynthia Frendo Duca was in 3rd just 9 pins behind Melissa. In the men's section it was Nicholas Muscat who took the lead rolling a 1752 series, which is his PB for an 8 game series, and the 3rd highest youth series in the records. Following were Rankin Camilleri and Mauro Anastasi.

On Day 2 Sue was still leading by 108 pins, however Cynthia improved to 2nd, followed by Sara in 3rd. Nicholas managed to retain the lead, with Mauro closing the gap and narrowing it down to 24 pins. Miguel Xuereb improved from 6th to 3rd place.

Day 3 was very intense in both divisions. In the female division Sue and Cynthia were nearly neck to neck by the 6th game. The 7th and 8th games were low for both, but in the end, experience prevailed and it was Sue who managed to clinch her 25th title, by a mere 27 pins. Cynthia bagged her 3rd runner up position, whilst Sara bagged 3rd place.

The male division was also a thrilling race. Nicholas and Mauro continued to chase each other till the very end. Once again Mauro's experience came to aid, and he managed to pull through defending the champion's title by just 27 pins. The battle for 3rd place was also highly contested. It was a fight between Dennis, Neil and Miguel the latter rolling a brilliant 263 game. Miguel drew with Neil on 4961 pins, but the former had a higher last game, thus nipping the last place on the podium, whilst Dennis Mercieca had to bow out by a solitary pin. This was the first time that we had a youth place with the top 3 in the National Championships and Nicholas's 5055 is the highest average played by a runner up joint with Mark Spiteri way back in 2009.

Both champions defended their title valiantly, with Mauro having 7 titles under his belt, and Sue an amazing 25 titles.

