

Good afternoon all,

October passed in a blur as once again we had quite a couple of both National and International Events apart from the usual leagues. Now we shall be preparing for the month of the dead J

With only the position night left the winners of the Cisk Doubles League have already been determined, with MedSea Shipping Agency clinching the title as they are 14 points ahead. 2nd place is also set for Gillette Fusion 5 as they are ahead of 3rd by 10 points. There could still be changes from 3rd through to 5th place though currently Bell Caffè are in 3rd (108), but we shall have to wait a fortnight as there will be no play next week.

High scores continue to be played with Mauro Anastasi rolling his 2nd 300 game during the 21st week. Another Youth record was broken by Matthew Magro as he superseded his own PB by rolling a 753, whilst Sue Abela and Matthew also rolled the 2nd highest 3 game series ever recorded (1490). The best so far was a 1492 rolled by Mark Spiteri and Brian Farrugia as team Pin Busters way back in 2007! Another 1490 had been rolled by Mark Spiteri and Ray Falzon Reale in 2013 as team Ramis.

The highest average bowlers for this week so far are Mauro Anastasi 224.82 and Sara Xuereb 211.16.



The MSV Life Leagues are well under way in the 2nd round. Okmalta.com are leading division 1 (80), while Fina and Turu's Knights both have 76 points, with Fina enjoying a better position due to higher pinfall.

Supreme lead Division 2 (77), followed by Brutal Legendz (68) and MIA and Mean Machine both (63). This is up till week 13.

After week 12 the leaders of division three are The WMDs (60), Vintage (53) and Strike Force (50).

The top bowlers as per composite average as at end October are: Mauro Anastasi (209.18), Neil Sullivan (208.13) and Justin Caruana Scicluna (206.41). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (201.74), followed by Sara Xuereb (190.48) and Joanna Attard (187.04).

High U21 Youth Bowlers are: Sara Xuereb (190.48), Alessia Schembri (180.76) and Raquel Xuereb (173.38), whilst for the boys we find: Matthew Magro (191.96), Edward Xuereb (184.79) and Kurt Attard (177.70).

SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eden Superbowl held the 21st Senior Malta Open which attracted 85 competitors from various countries with 7 Maltese participants: 1 lady and 6 men. After the full squads and the desperado only Sue Abela managed to make it through. Not only that, but her 2918 series, placed her in 2nd place which meant she had an automatic place in Stage 3.



Final Stage 3 – Sue had to play against Steven Jeeves of England, who was a striking machine on the day, and although Sue bowled a 462 on 2 games, Steven rolled a 524 to proceed to the next step. In the end Steven was beaten by Herman Wimmer of Germany who succeeded in winning this year's edition.

BRONZE CUP

This month we also had the 5th Bronze Cup where we had a record of 41 bowlers, most of who were youngsters and Special Olympic Bowlers. We had 14 females and 27 males competing.



After playing 4 games to determine who the top 6 will be, it was Reuben Scerri who lead the men's section (822). Kayden Lagana finished in 2nd place (750), followed by Ian Formosa (721), Damian Pisani (699), Chris Borg (685) and the surprise of the tournament Aidan Zammit (650).

In the ladies division Tiffany Camilleri and Jessica Farrugia clinched the top 2 spots with a 674 score each, followed by Kathryn Fenech (648), Miriana Pace (628), Angele Azzopardi (627) and Natasha Bianchi (619).



The Round Robin was played the following day, and with only half the pinfall carried forward, all scores were very close.

Tiffany won 4 of her 5 encounters, bowling an 816 scratch series, and with 17 handicap per game, easily clinched the top spot. Kathryn placed 2nd with a 713 + 21 hdc per game, and winning 3 encounters. 3rd place went to Jessica who bowled a 707 + 15 pins hdcp and 2 winnings. Miriana placed 4th, Natasha 5th and Angele 6th.

In the men's section the top 3 spots were very close. In the end it was young Kayden Lagana who managed to win the honours by 1 point, bowling an 839, winning 4 matches and a total of 60 pins handicap. Ian Formosa, who bowled the best scratch series (903) coupled by 30 pins handicap and 3 wins, had to settle for 2nd place. Reuben Scerri, who had lead all the way, stumbled in game 5 and could only clinch 3rd place just 9 pins away from the top.

Thus this year's Bronze Cup Champions are: Tiffany Camilleri who won her first title, and Kayden Lagana who is not only the youngest bowler to win the Bronze Cup, but he is also the only bowler who won both the Silver Cup and the Bronze Cup during the same year.



UKRAINE SENIOR OPEN

Sammy Borg tried his luck in the Ukraine Senior Open. He was unlucky missing the cut by one placing, bowling a 1230, 1191, 1217 and 1236. Still he placed in 25th place from a total of 59 players.



23rd JIC SINJOOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT – BELGIUM

4 of our youths went to compete in this Youth Competition in Belgium. The athletes were: Matthew Magro, Edward Xuereb, Kurt Attard and Philip Gruppetta.

Unfortunately none of the boys made it through the cut. Edward participated in Category D, playing a 164.25 ave to finish in 22nd place from 34 bowlers.

Kurt and Matthew bowled in Category E, with Kurt playing a 174.16 average to place 25th, while Matthew bowled a 186 average to finishing 15th place from 35 bowlers.

Philip Gruppetta bowled in Category F and rolling a 191.66 ave, finished in 8th place from 23 bowlers.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – LANGEN -GERMANY

Then came the most exciting news when our National Champions Mauro Anastasi and Sara Xuereb went to participate for the European Championships.



Sara started a bit low (1453), and although she fought on day 2 and improved her series by nearly a 100 pins (1545) she failed to make top 16 by 72 pins. Still placing 19th from 37 bowlers augurs well for the young athlete.

Mauro on the other hand bowled an amazing 1864 series, in block 1 to finish in 2nd place. Another good 1720 series placed him in 4th position with a 3584 total to proceed with the top 16. This was the first time a Maltese male bowler made the top 16 cut, since its introduction in 2014, after abolishing the dual pattern, when the cut was top 8.

Unfortunately Mauro had a thumb injury which hindered him playing his best on the 3rd day, and although he bowled a 1495 series he lost the top 8, and placed 11th. Still this was the best ever placing for any local male bowler from 1992, since we started having over 20 European Countries participating. **Well done Mauro.**



The eventual European Champions are Bodo Konieczny from Germany and Mai Ginge Jensen from Denmark.

The upcoming competitions are now the Bank of Valletta Junior Championships where this year we have 3 categories: U12, U16 and U23. Play will be on 3rd, 10th and 11th November. We have 39 youths participating.

Internationally we will also have our 2 athletes who will represent us in the AMF World Cup in Las Vegas: Sue Abela and Mauro Anastasi who won the right to represent Malta as they were the top average bowlers for 2018. Good luck to both.

In the meantime continue to follow us on facebook, and our webpage: www.bowlingmalta.org

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana Spiteri