

## SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Unlike the previous month, when there was nothing special to report, this month more than made up for the lack of activity. Read on to see exciting news both in the local and the international arena, which continue to prove what great athletes we have across the board: from our youths through to our senior bowlers.

### COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top bowlers as per composite average are: Justin Caruana Scicluna (215.21) Mauro Anastasi (213.44), and Philip Gruppetta 3<sup>rd</sup> (208.87). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (208.37), Cynthia Frendo Duca (204.69) and Sara Xuereb (198.70).

Youth top bowlers U19 are: Matthew Magro (200.67), Nicholas Muscat (196.20) and Miguel Xuereb (194.45). Sara lead the U21 ladies with a 198.70 average, followed by her sister Raquel (167.25) and Ruslana Grima(143.90).

### DOUBLES CISK LAGER LEAGUE

The Doubles Cisk Lager League is now in its 16<sup>th</sup> week. Top 3 teams are: MedSea Shipping Agency (100), followed closely by Gillette (99), Lucky Strike (78) and Ballbarians (74).

This pattern is creating a field day for our bowlers, and during this month we had 2 bowlers rolling a 300 perfect game. Paul Gray rolled his first 300 game, on 4<sup>th</sup> September to enrol himself as the oldest member to bowl a perfect game at the age of 59. A week later, we had another 300 game this time bowled by Philip Gruppetta. This was also the first time for Philip. His 789 series also placed him on the record list of 3 game series.



We then had Mauro Anastasi and Justin Caruana Scicluna sponsored by Medsea Shipping Agency Ltd., who succeeded in writing their names in the records books, rolling a 554, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> best doubles game. Then they went on to end on a 1493 to break the National Record for a 3 game doubles' series. Record was previously held by Mark Spiteri and Brian Farrugia at 1492, bowled way back in 2007 as Pin Busters. Just 20 days later, they succeeded in breaking their own record, this time bowling 1499, with Justin rolling a 795.



## MAPFRE MSV LIFE NATIONAL LEAGUES



The first round is now over, and next week we will be using a 39 feet pattern.

Results are as follows:

Div 3: Vintage (52), Strike Force (36) and Pin Pulse (34)

Div 2: Brutal Legendz (52), Supreme (50), and Blitzkrieg (48)

Div 1: Fina (60), Turu's Knights (56) and XS Park Towers (56).

## RED ROSE – YOUTH EUROPEAN TOUR

8 of our Youth bowlers went to participate in the Red Rose YTE. Bowlers were, Edward, Sara and Miguel Xuereb, Matthew Magro, Juliana Bonanno, Dwayne Zahra, Nicholas Muscat, and Chris Fenech.



Chris participated in group A rolling a 1021. His best series earned him 8<sup>th</sup> place, but he in fact qualified in 7<sup>th</sup> place, as one of the contestants dropped out. He competed against 23 bowlers.

Edward, Dwayne and Nicholas participated in group B. Edward rolled a 1252 to qualify in 5<sup>th</sup>, whilst Dwayne bowled a 1216 to place 6<sup>th</sup>. Nicholas's 1185 was not enough to make the cut with the top 8 and he had to content with the 11<sup>th</sup> position. This was from a total of 28 players.

Miguel, Sara and Matthew played in group C. Matthew Magro rolled a 1278 yet only managed to place in 10<sup>th</sup> place, Sara Xuereb bowled a 1139 coupled with 48 bonus points for a total of 1187 to place 12<sup>th</sup> and Miguel Xuereb bowled a 1139 to finish in 16<sup>th</sup> place from a total of 38 bowlers.

Juliana was the only player to participate in Group D. Her 1136 scratch and a total of 1184 with bonus points, saw her place in 5<sup>th</sup>, but since there were only 15 bowlers, the cut was the top 3.

All the 5 players who failed to make it for the next round played in the desperado, which particularly lives up to its name since only 1 player goes through. Nicholas rolled a 200 to place 5<sup>th</sup> in Group B. In Group C Sara's 207 placed her 3<sup>rd</sup>, Miguel placed 4<sup>th</sup> with a 206, and Matthew's 192 placed him 6. In Group D Juliana rolled a stupendous 244 + 8 bonus for a 252, yet unfortunately for her Amandine from France beat her to it with a 246+8 (254).

That meant that only Chris, Edward and Dwayne moved on to the knockout stage on best out of 3 games. In Group A, Chris faced Charlie Upton and rolling a brilliant 211 and 209, he snuffed out his opponent's 159 and 148 efforts. In Group B, Dwayne faced George Jagger and lost game 1 – 180-205. He then rolled a good 233, but his opponent managed a 245 to halt Dwayne's walk towards the semi-finals. Edward on the other hand managed to beat Matthew Streak (225-204) and (170-195) to advance to the next step.

Edward and Chris proceeded to the semi-finals. Edward's adversary was Dan Harding, the latter managing to win both games to knock Edward out. Chris on the other hand, faced Frank Stephenson and struggled with his first game as he could only manage a 126 to Frank's 181. 2<sup>nd</sup> game he improved to a 180, but Frank rolled a 194.

This meant that Chris and Edward both ended in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their respective A and B categories. Well done to both.



**DIMITRI KARESTOS – THESSALONIKI OPEN**



Cynthia Frendo Duca and Sara Xuereb went to participate in the Karestos Open which was part of the European Bowling Tour 2019. 210 players participated from 6 different countries.

Sara's highest series was a good 1335 scratch series, which placed her in 45<sup>th</sup> position. Cynthia's best was a 1374, added to 48 ladies' handicap for a total of 1422 which placed her in 20<sup>th</sup> place, and earned her a place with the top 36.

On to the next step Frendo Duca played a brilliant 710 series, topping with a 290 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, this being her personal best game. She finished in the top position, to advance to step 2. Another 700 series ensued, this time placing 3<sup>rd</sup>, to proceed to the knockout stages.



Her first opponent was KYRIACOU IRAKLIS, who she beat 446-404 to proceed to the Quarter Finals. This time round she faced PIKOULIS IOANNI, and once again she emerged as the winner 455-419.

On to the semi-finals she had the daunting task of playing against KITSOS KONSTANTINOS MARIOS. She lost the 1<sup>st</sup> game 191 (199) against Marios's 244, but that did not discourage her as she went on to bang a scratch 278 game, to beat her opponent 485-434.

Cynthia then found herself in the finals and having to face MONTSENIGOS ELEYTHERIOS, who had rolled a perfect game during the qualifying rounds. Frendo Duca started with another stupendous 256 scratch game to Eleytherios 236, and then rolled another good 226 to get rid of her last adversary and etch her name as the Dmitri Karestos 2019 Open Champion.



This is the first time that a Maltese lady won a European Bowling Stop, played overseas. Well done Cynthia whose average in this tournament was a brilliant 226.

### BUCHAREST OPEN

Cynthia travelled from Greece straight to Bucharest for the Open held there. This time there were over 167 competitors from 16 different countries. She only played 2 squads as she had a finger injury but she managed to make the top 30 cut, placing 26<sup>th</sup> with a 1157 + 48 hdc for a total of 1205.



She succeeded in passing two steps, playing a 791 in Step 1 to place 7<sup>th</sup>, and an 828 in Step 2 to place 3<sup>rd</sup>. In Step 3, she lost concentration thinking about the plane she was going to miss, and only managed a 728 to fail to proceed. Still she managed to finish in a good 12<sup>th</sup> place, and once again left a good impression with the foreign bowlers.

## WORLD SENIOR BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS – LAS VEGAS

And whilst our Youths were competing in the UK, our Seniors were participating in the World Senior Bowling Championships. The team was composed of Mark Spiteri, Kenneth Arpa, Dennis Mercieca and Steve Cassar. They were selected by the highest average over a number of league games, and specific championships / tournaments.



### DAY 1 – SINGLES EVENT

The first event was the Singles, and since there were 159 competitors these were divided into two squads, Squad A bowling in the morning, and Squad B in the afternoon.

Steve and Mark bowled in Squad A, with the former rolling a 1072, while the latter rolled an impressive 1342 to finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place from Squad A. He then had to wait patiently for Squad B to finish, hoping that he'll retain a position with the top 4. Dennis and Kenneth played in this 2<sup>nd</sup> squad, with Dennis rolling a 1222 and Kenneth a 1141. With Squad B finished, only 1 other athlete surpassed Mark's 1342, and that was the American Lennie Boresch with a 1372. That meant Mark finished in a good 3<sup>rd</sup> position and would then proceed to the semi-finals with the top 4, with a definite medal in the bag.

Mark had to face Lennie, in a one game knock out, and although he bowled a good 223 game, he lost to the USA guy's 246. However, this still meant a historical Bronze medal in a World Championships, the first medal ever to have been won by a Maltese since MTBA's inception in 1975.

2019 World Bowling Seniors Championships - Men's & Women's																			
Men's Country	SINGLES			DOUBLES			TEAM OF 4			ALL-EVENTS			MASTERS			Total			Total Medals
	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	
1. USA	1			1			1					1			1	3	2		5
2. SWEDEN					1	1			1				1			1	1	2	4
3. NORWAY			1			1				1						1	2		3
4. FINLAND							1			1			1	1		3	1		4
5. CANADA		1														1			1
6. GERMANY									1									1	1
7. MALTA			1															1	1



## DAY 2 – DOUBLES EVENT

Team 1 was composed of Steve and Kenneth, whilst Team 2 was made up of Dennis and Mark. Steve and Kenneth rolled a 2160 series (180 ave) to end in the 60<sup>th</sup> position.



Dennis and Mark bowled a good 2459 (204.92 average), peaking with a 484 in game 3 and leading squad A up to game 4. However, a low 5<sup>th</sup> game saw them place in 13<sup>th</sup> position, which is still a good placing out of 79 world teams.



## DAY 3 – 4 MEN TEAM EVENT

All 4 men then participated in the team event. They had 2 good games, a 923 in game 2, which puts them in the record books for the highest Senior team game, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> for Team Malta in all categories. Their 4<sup>th</sup> game, was also a good 823, and until then they were only 50 pins away from 4<sup>th</sup> place. However, 2 low games in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> placed them in a respectable 14<sup>th</sup> place from 38 teams.



## ALL EVENTS

The below were the scores played during the all events.

12<sup>th</sup> Mark Spiteri – Singles 1342, Doubles 1268, Team 1200, Total 3810 – 211.67 Average

34<sup>th</sup> Dennis Mercieca – Singles 1222, Doubles 1191, Team 1206, Total 3619 – 201.06 Average

74<sup>th</sup> Kenneth Arpa – Singles 1141, Doubles 1082, Team 1238, Total 3461 – 192.28 Average

124<sup>th</sup> Steve Cassar – Singles 1072, Doubles 1078, Team 1104, Total 3254 – 180.78 Average

## MASTERS

Mark's 12<sup>th</sup> placing meant he would be playing in the Masters – best out of 3 knockout stage. His first opponent was Norway's Ingar Gabrielsen. Ingar won the first game 259 – 224, but then Mark managed to nip the 2<sup>nd</sup> game 203 – 199 to force a

decider. Mark played another good 223, but Inga was on a striking mode, rolling a 267 to win the encounter. Still this was another first for Malta's men, playing in the Top 24 in a World Championships.



This was the 2nd time Malta participated with a Senior Team in a World Championships and the improvement was across the board.

### **10<sup>th</sup> SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – SPONSORED BY BANK OF VALLETTA**

This year, the championships, which were once again sponsored by Bank of Valletta, attracted 16 seniors, 4 ladies and 12 males. Apart from being crowned this year's National Senior Champion, the top 4 males and the top lady would win a place to represent Malta in the first European Senior Championships in Vienna during January 2020.



In the ladies' section Sue Abela literally had no competition at all from the other ladies, and to keep herself motivated she aimed to keep at par with the men. And she succeeded as she finished on a brilliant 3715 scratch series, just 2 pins away from the Male Champion. The fight for the ladies was who would clinch the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. Liliana lead on day 1, but Josephine Borg, who had 16 pins age handicap per game, succeeded in leapfrogging Liliana during the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. In the end Liliana and Josephine tied on a 3175 total, with Liliana clinching 2<sup>nd</sup> place due to a highest last game.



In the males' category the competition was more intense. Dennis Mercieca lead on day 1, 49 pins ahead of Kenneth, with Giancarlo placing 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dennis retained the lead in game 2, putting a gap of 146 pins between him and Mark Spiteri, who shot to 2<sup>nd</sup> place from 4<sup>th</sup>. Kenneth went down to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 39 pins below.

Dennis rolled a not so good 1144 series on day 3, but the lead he had from the previous 2 days, saw him clinch the title with 95 pins to spare. Mark hung on to 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Kenneth retained the 3<sup>rd</sup> position.



The 4<sup>th</sup> scratch position, which would determine who would join the team for the European Senior Championships in January 2020 was a battle between Giancarlo Tolu and Joe Cassar. In the end it was Giancarlo who prevailed by 44 pins over Joe.

Sue Abela, now has a 3 out of 3 wins in these championships, whereas Dennis Mercieca won this title for the first time in the 4 years he has been participating.



Now we look forward to October we continue with our activities. First up is the Senior Open from 2-6 October. If any Seniors would like to book, please contact Mike Gatt.

A week later we have the Bronze Cup to be played on 12-13 October. This is open to bowlers who have up to 155 average for ladies, and up to 160 average for men. If you had not applied yet kindly do so, as places are filling fast.

Later on during the month, our National Champions: Mauro Anastasi and Sue Abela will be participating in the European Championships which are being held in in Ankara, Turkey.

I wish you all a good day!

Regards

Liliana