



MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION INFORMATION BULLETIN

MALTA JUNIOR OPEN 2022



After a forced absence of two years, due to COVID, the fourth edition of this tournament has recently been held at the Royal Malta Golf Club. The format of the competition was medal stroke play with the winner declared as that having the best gross aggregate score over 54 holes.

The conditions, for the competition, took care of gender equality by making sure that both the best under-18 boy and the best under-18 girl were equally awarded. The tournament, endorsed by The R&A towards the World Amateur Golf Ranking points system, this year invited an additional category enabling players between 18 and 21 years of age to compete for their own award.

The latter attracted participation from 7 boys whilst the main tournament, for the under-18, had another 44 participants out of which 18 were girls and 26 boys. 24 players registered with a handicap index of 5 or better. The best girl was Maxime Holletschek with a handicap of +2.4 whilst the best registered boy was Jeremy Hulsesey with a handicap of +4.0. Unfortunately, Jeremy had to retire after the first round due to a back injury. Only 9 players had a handicap of 10 or over whilst 7 players in the field were junior members at Royal Malta.



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The three days were played under mostly blue skies but were characterized by gusting winds which increased in strength as the tournament progressed. In fact, out of 151 scores over the three days, only two were to level par for the course or better. These were from Kinga Kusmierska (one under par) and Deivydas Razinskas (level par) – both on the first day.

With his level par score on the first day, Deivydas led the under-18 boys by two strokes. His four over par on the second day was sufficient to extend his lead by five strokes from Gianbattista Perilli and to eventually win the category with an aggregate of +12 over three days – four better than Gianbattista and five better than Ian Kepper who clinched third place due to his four over par on the third day.

In the under-18 girls, Kinga could not repeat her first day feat and her six over par on the second day dropped her to second place three shots behind Maxime Holletschek who carded in two equal scores of one over par for the first two days of the tournament. These two girls had no other challenger for the first place and fought it out on the last day. Maxime's three over par to Kinga's two over par gave the win to Maxime for an aggregate of five over par for the tournament – two strokes ahead of Kinga. With a score of 24 over par, third place went to Nina Hoelzenbein.



In the under 21 boys, Ferruccio Saglimbene consistent scores of +1, +1 and +2 guaranteed him first place over Vertti Perala who carded 9 over for the tournament.

Owen Thomas placed third with 20 over on a third day countback from Ben Walker.

Three additional prizes were awarded for the best net score from a girl player,

from a boy player and from an RMGC player.

With the limit of one prize per player, these went to Laura Hatty, Zhetang (Hugo) Zhang and Anna Zonova respectively.





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In a parallel subsidiary competition, that was open for the birdie players of the RMGC Junior Academy members, three boys participated in a Stableford competition over three days and with a course handicap of 36. These were Conor Barry, Luca Cristina and Konstantin Russ. The competition between these three boys remained close after two days, but Konstantin's HOLE IN ONE on the 6th hole on the third for a massive six Stableford points leapfrogged him over his colleagues. Konstantin played six better than his handicap over the three days; Conor placed second at level handicap and Luca placed third with five over.

On behalf of the RMGC Captain and Irwin Gratil who managed the Organising Committee, I extend our appreciation to the sponsors and to all those who helped to make this tournament a wonderful success.

William Beck
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