



# MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2025)

Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 18:30 hours

### Agenda:

- Reading and approval of minutes of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Receiving the Accounts for Year ended December 2025
- Motions to amend the Statute
- Tournaments' Report
- President's Statement
- Matters arising
- Receiving the resignation of the existing Executive Council
- Election of the new Executive Council Members for the years 2026-2030
- Closure of Meeting

### Introduction:

Dr Sihon Gauci Gonzalez (Head Legal & Regulatory Affairs AIMS); Mr Paul Stoner (RMGC Chairman); Mr Irwin Gratil (RMGC Captain); Mrs Stephanie Sciberras (RMGC Lady Captain) and the members present were welcome to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mr Nicholas Beck (MGA General Secretary); Mr Christopher Bergedahl (MGA Treasurer elect); Mr Timothy Cleasby (RMGC Vice-Captain) and Mr Richard Waterhouse.

### 1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 [both circulated in advance] were taken as read and approved.

### 2. Resolutions

The three resolutions to amend the Statute were approved unanimously.

### 3. Financial Statements

The accounts for the financial year ended December 2025 were presented to the meeting.

VCA were thanked for their professional audit and were approved as the appointed auditors for the year ending 2026 should the income of the Association exceed an amount which would require the pertinent audit.



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### 4. Tournament's Report

The Tournament's Report for the year 2025 (circulated in advance) was taken as read.

### 5. President's Statement

The President's Statement for the year 2025 was presented by Mr William Beck. At the end of his statement, the MGA President, on behalf of the Executive Committee, thanked Mr Kenneth Micallef, the immediate past treasurer, and offered a memento for his services to the MGA.

### 6. Executive Council for 2026-2030

Mr William Beck, Mr Nicholas Beck, Mr Christopher Bergedahl, Mrs Doreen Balzan and Mr Andy Borg stood uncontested and were therefore automatically elected as President, General Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Directors for the quadrennial.

There being no further MGA matters, the meeting was called to an end at 19:15 hours.

William Beck  
*President*

Nicholas Beck  
*Secretary*

*These are draft minutes which need to be approved at the next Annual General Meeting.*



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 starting at 18.30 hours

Alex Mangion Suite - Royal Malta Golf Club – Marsa

12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear members

We advise that the final agenda for the Annual General Meeting will be as follows:

- Reading and approval of minutes of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Receiving the Accounts for Year ended December 2025
- Motions to amend the Statute
- Tournaments' Report
- President's Statement
- Matters arising
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#### READING OF DOCUMENTS

To expedite matters on the night, we are attaching the minutes of the AGM held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and the Tournaments' Report with this communication. The documents will not be read but amendments and questions will still be considered.

#### ELECTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (2022-2026)

At the close of business on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, the following nominations had been received:

For the post of President:	William Beck
For the post of General Secretary:	Nicholas Beck
For the post of Treasurer:	Christopher Bergedahl
For the post of Executive Member:	Doreen Balzan
For the post of Executive Member:	Andrew Borg

As no other nominations were received, the above-mentioned persons are duly elected to the respective posts.



The resolutions to amend the statute are included at the end of this document. No amendments were received but the MGA notifies that resolution 1 has been withdrawn.

Yours in golf

William Beck  
*President*

Nicholas Beck  
*General Secretary*

**RESOLUTION # 1**

~~Under articles 1.1 and 1.4 replace the words Malta Golf Association with Malta Golf.~~

**WITHDRAWN**

**RESOLUTION # 2**

Add new article 7.7 as follows:

To assist with the work of the Association, the elected Executive Council members may co-opt an additional member of their trust to the Executive Council at any time during the four-year term. Such an officer will hold office until the end of the term when elections are held.

**RESOLUTION # 3**

Under article 5.3 add the words "and 7.7" as well as "of a minimum" to read:

Save as provided by paragraphs 7.4 and 7.7, the Executive Council shall be composed of a minimum of three members nominated to the post of President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively plus two other directors.

**RESOLUTION # 4**

Replace article 7.5 with the following:

7.5 In the event of any of the above posts becoming vacant then:

7.5.1 With less than six months left to the next due date of a General Meeting, one of the other Executive Council members shall be assigned to take over any related duties until not later than the next General Meeting when elections will take place to fill in the vacant post.

7.5.1.1 The President, General Secretary and Treasurer cannot hold dual roles within the Association.

7.5.2 With more than six months left to the next due date of a General Meeting, the Executive Council will call an Extraordinary General Meeting so that the vacant post can be filled.

7.5.3 If such a casual election becomes necessary, then the term of office of the newly elected member shall terminate at the same time as the other Executive Council members.

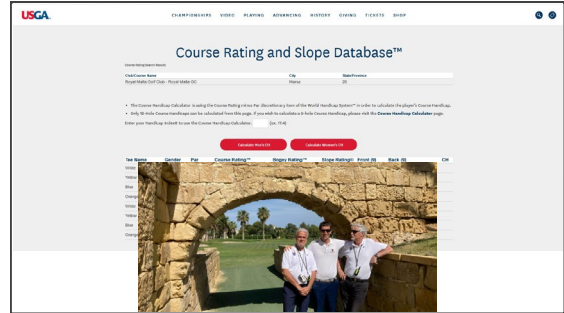
## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2025)



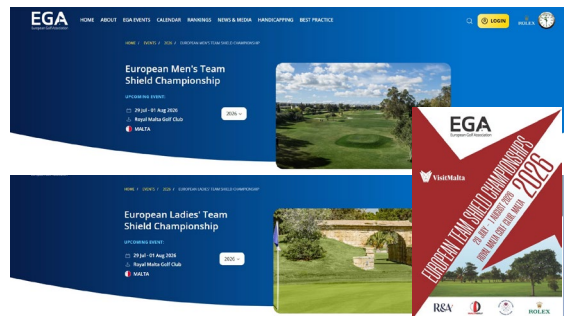
During 2025, the MGA Executive met six times with no extreme issues needing our attention. The main topics for discussion were international and national competitions, development programmes and course rating.



Perhaps the recurring and hardest topic for everyone to digest, since 2020, has been the handicap allowances in stroke play and match play rounds. A detailed paper on why the MGA has directed the application of the recommendations as they appear in Appendix C was published some months ago. The paper also explains that these allowances are susceptible to change given the availability of solid data from past results. We have requested The R&A to look into such local data and revert with a recommendation of what they would consider fair allowances for our membership. We must stress that these allowances must not be manipulated by any individual or committee either at association or club level. The fact that the matter has been taken to The R&A for their evaluation and direction is a clear indication of the importance that the Rules of Handicapping are not to be meddled with.



As Royal Malta completed its two-year renovation programme which included the full reconstruction of all 18 greens, it became necessary for the course to be re-rated to ensure that the course's difficulty is accurately reflected in line with the WHS. Through the assistance of the EGA this was achieved in May when Richard Cau, former Chairman of the European Golf Association's Handicapping and Course Rating Committee, visited the course with Mario Catella and Piero D'Aloisio – his colleagues from the Italian Golf Federation.

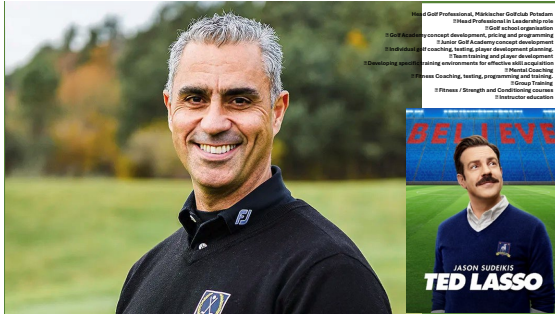


Interactions with the EGA have been largely positive. Under the hosting of Royal Malta, the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Team Shield (men's and ladies) will be held here in July – the first international tournament that will be held here under the auspices of a European organisation. This is not a mean feat but working together with the RMGC and the members, we are confident that we will embrace all the players and that we will have a successful championship.

As in previous years, in November, we attended the EGA's AGM which was held just

## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2025)

outside Amsterdam where Malta once again facilitated the meeting of the Emerging Golf Nations.



The success of our national team players at the European Team Shield is something that we have been striving towards since the start of these championships. In these last editions, we have noticed a decline in performance and in an effort to shore up the players, the MGA has sought the services of Nicholas Zaher. Zaher has already made good inroads with our players. His main remit is to get the players working as a team. He is our Ted Lasso, and we are confident in his ability to instil a sense of belief, commitment and discipline in the players.

15.09.2025	01.11.2025	15.12.2025	01.02.2026
	03.11	18.12	
19.09	03.11		
16.09	07.11		
	05.11		
	07.11	16.12	

	Received report on time
	Received report late
	Did not receive report

Nicholas comes highly recommended from our friend Martin Westphal. Martin was the first coach that had come to Malta to work with our national team players. I and, I think, a number of players who had the privilege to work with Martin still remember his words from 20 years ago. He had suggested that to become successful “one needs to bleed”. Many took his words literally in that one needed to put in

hours upon hours of practice until one’s hands started to bleed or blister. What Martin was saying was that players needed to be committed to the process and work hard for success. The table shows the responses we have had from the players vs the regular reporting that have been asked from them. We are pleased to note that most have started to realise the importance of being committed with amber and red starting to change to green.



Another friend of Maltese golf is Richard Heath. Richard has been commissioned by The R&A to help us (and Cyprus) with our development plans in line with our strategy. His 22-page comprehensive report analyses us brilliantly and serves for the incoming Executive to try and put in place a road map for golf in Malta the forefront of which remains to introduce a younger generation to play the game.



Towards the latter, and with the financial assistance of the MOC and The R&A, we were visited twice by Nick Horrocks last year. In the first visit Nick took the golf to schools

## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2025)

programme to 51 students reading for a Physical Education diploma at the respective institute with the University of Malta. This was followed by similar sessions at the Mediterranean College of Sports and with teachers from four private schools. All three sessions were positively charged with the attendees embracing the concept behind the programme.



In his second visit, Nick then visited the private schools at their environment and did multiple sessions with their young students. As in other similar sessions from previous years, everyone enjoyed the games and the feedback is that they would like the programme to develop further. Our problem is that we lack the manual resource to follow up these visits on a regular basis and maintain the momentum. Again, this is something that needs to be addressed as soon as possible in the next quadrennial.

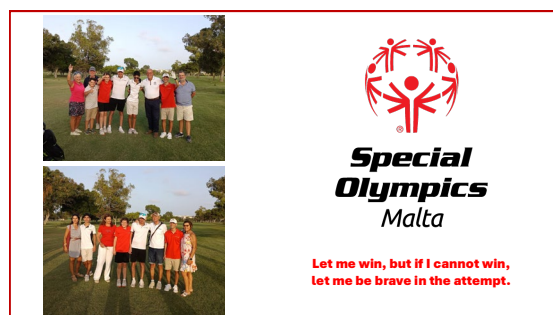


Nick Horrock's assistance has gone beyond this. Through his expertise and through his company's junior development books, we have managed to put together the development levels towards young golfers following the

Sport Career Development Programme. Golf's learning outcomes were approved by the Ministry of Education. This allows young golfers to start focusing from Year 7 (typically age 11–12) on their sport-specific training and core fitness instead of Art, Design & Technology, Home Economics, and Music.

Golfway's learning structures are now also part of the RMGC's Junior Academy weekly training curriculum and we congratulate Diane Suke for her sterling work here and for developing, together with her husband, a super mobile application enabling junior academy players and their parents to access the training resources and keep track of their early steps in golf.

Our young golfers continue to afford us some aspiration for better things in the future. There are currently nine young players frequenting club competitions and all will be part of the forthcoming Malta Junior Open.



The RMGC professional (Henning) has been a major influence on these children's path in golf. His work with the Special Olympics' athletes is something that we continue to appreciate and support.

In summer, we joined these athletes to play in a fun unified event. These players view of life is simply awesome and their motto is inspirational to all who get the opportunity to be involved.

## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2025)



Filippa and Laurens Schulze Doering, also part of the Junior Academy for many years, are having a positive experience with their golf and academic studies in the USA.



Soon we will have Noah, Elliana and Serena also similarly involved having all committed to different colleges in the USA. We wish them all well.

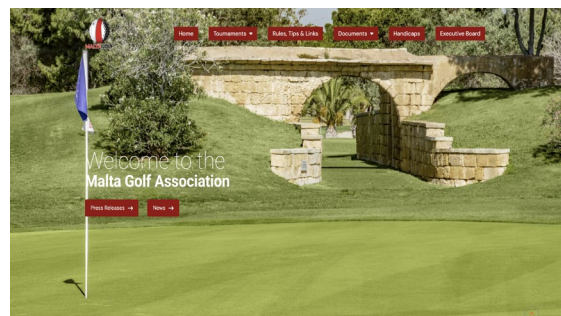
Our work towards good governance has not gone unnoticed. Having completed the compliance requirements, the MGA was officially registered with the Authority for Integrity in Maltese Sports – the second association to be so credited.



We are appreciative of Sport Malta and the Maltese Olympic Committee for their assistance towards international participation. Unfortunately, the reality is that the funds are simply not sufficient for us to embark on ambitious projects and we have to be particularly careful as to how these are managed and distributed.



The R&A have been particularly encouraging towards our work and has highlighted this by their very first ever official visit to our country. Mr Hugo Mills – Director of Golf Development for Canada, Europe and Latin America together with Ms Zoe Thacker – Manager Golf Development Europe – spent a whirlwind 48 hours in the country and returned to the home of golf with “memories that will stay with them for a long time and looking forward to continue working together in the future”.

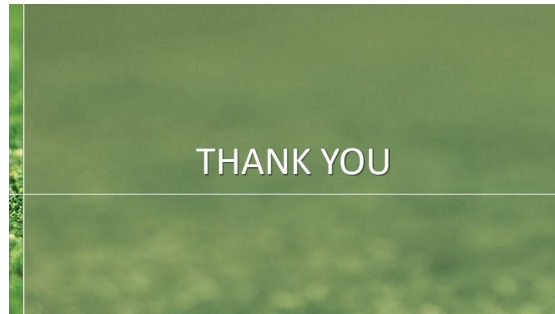


And finally, we are pleased to announce that our website is being updated and within a few days' time you should soon be able to access a new [www.maltagolf.org](http://www.maltagolf.org).

## **PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2025)**

On behalf of the outgoing Executive Council members that have served the MGA for this fifth quadrennial in its history, I offer our thanks to our sponsors, to the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Captain, Lady Captain, the committees and management team at the RMGC. Thank you everyone for all your support to our work.

On a personal level, my heartfelt thanks go to Nicholas, Kenneth, Doreen and Andy. It has been a pleasure to work alongside with you through these last four years.



## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2025)



With the assistance of Royal Malta, we hosted three events locally, The MGA Shield, the Generation Cup and the Malta Junior Open.



**MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION SHIELD - 19<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

**WOMEN:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> MARIA WOODWARD  
 2<sup>nd</sup> SUSAN WIREW  
 3<sup>rd</sup> GUAN MINGQI

**MEN:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> RAYAN HUSNI BEY  
 2<sup>nd</sup> FREDRIK JOHANSSON  
 3<sup>rd</sup> ALDRIC GAUDINOT  
 NANNAN  
 4<sup>th</sup> TONI WESTERHOLM  
 5<sup>th</sup> ALEXANDRE LEMIRE  
 6<sup>th</sup> SAM AZZOPARDI  
 7<sup>th</sup> NICK LAFERLA  
 8<sup>th</sup> ANDRIS BERGMAN  
 9<sup>th</sup> STEVEN PATERSON

99 men and 21 women entered to compete in the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Shield – a two-day Stableford competition. With an aggregate score of 78 points, Maria Woodward retained the women’s title, which she won last year, and engraved her name for the fourth time on the Shield. With 81 points, Rayan claimed the men’s leaderboard two points ahead of second placed Fredrik Johansson. The other headline for the weekend was Andrew Borg’s gross 64 for the course on the first day of the competition achieved through 13 straight pars and 5 birdies – a record on the new greens.



**MGA GENERATION CUP**  
 1<sup>st</sup>: Jason Li & Yang Yang  
 2<sup>nd</sup>: Alex & Dorien Mece  
 3<sup>rd</sup>: Alex Vagimov & Finley Gratil

**SUBSIDIARY**  
 1<sup>st</sup>: Cai & Victor Denaro  
 2<sup>nd</sup>: Oliver & Niklas Forsberg  
 3<sup>rd</sup>: Arthur Kötter Glasper & Sandip Tamang

After having missed last season’s calendar, the MGA’s Generation Cup was again up for grabs in March when eighteen teams entered the

main tournament over 18 holes of play in a Texas Scramble net medal format and another eight teams played in the subsidiary competition over eight holes.

Meant for very young Junior Academy players accompanied by an adult, the subsidiary competition was won by the previous edition’s winners, Cai Denaro and his grandfather Victor. With a net 61, the main competition was won by Jason Li and Yang Yang a shot clear from Dorien & Alex Mece and Finley Gratil with his adopted ‘son’ Aleksander Vagimov.



The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Malta Junior Open surpassed all expectations. 101 young players travelled from 15 different countries to join another 5 local members to participate in the event

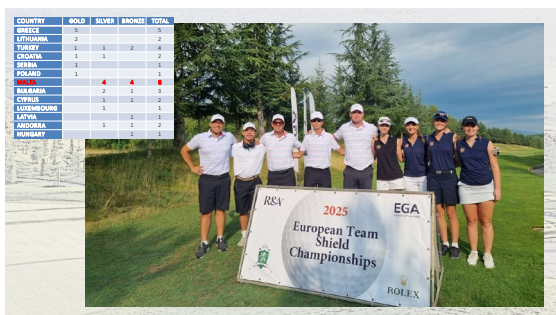
The under-21 girls’ category was won by Fatima Gul Kus from Turkey whilst Yves Koller from Switzerland the won the under-21 boys. Maria Kauder from Germany led the under-18 girls for all the three days whilst Konstanty Luczak from Poland made sure that no one would be able to contend for the under-18 boys category when he posted a 5 under par score on the first day. The under-16 girls’ category was claimed Ngoc Mai Nguyen from Germany whilst Colin Barmann also from Germany claimed it for the boys.

According to the terms of the competition, Maria Kauder and Konstanty Luczak were declared winners of the Malta Junior Open 2025.

## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2025)



The other prize on offer was for the best net score from a local player. This was claimed by Hugo Zhang Zhetang. Parallel to this event, a subsidiary competition for the RMGC's Junior Academy Eagle players was held. Playing off a course handicap of 27 Jason Li dominated with scores of 46, 39 and 41 points. Alex Mece and Laurent Sukys placed second and third respectively.



The eleventh edition of the European Team Shield Championship was held at the Pravets Golf Club in Bulgaria. This year's edition attracted nine women and eleven men teams. Malta was represented by Elliana Buhagiar, Laya Cristina, Serena Falzon Sant Manduca, Filippa Schulze Doering, Andrew Borg, Ruud Critien, Mark Ganado and Laurens Schulze Doering. The contingent was joined by Noah Gratil.

In the qualifying stroke play round on the first day of the tournament, the women placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall and the men 4<sup>th</sup> enabling both teams to proceed to the match play knock rounds with the women facing the host country and the men facing Greece.

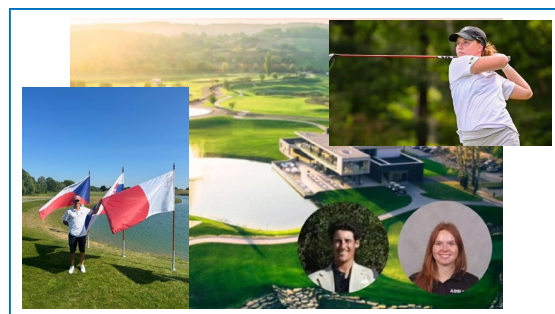
The women prevailed but then lost to Luxembourg in the semi-final round. This

meant that they faced the Estonian girls to compete for the bronze medal. The Estonian team managed to secure a comfortable win over our girls and thus took the bronze medal with the Malta girls thus finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

It was a sense of déjà vu for the men losing again to the Greek boys on the first play-off hole and thus becoming unable to play for a podium place and ended up having to settle for sixth place overall.

The main placings for the tournament were Luxembourg in first place for the women followed by Turkey and Estonia. Greece won the men's tournament followed by Andorra and Turkey.

Whilst the Greek men's team has continued to prevail in this tournament, other countries – including Malta – have remained static except perhaps Andorra which have gone from non-representation three years ago to bronze last year and silver this year.



As last year, Oliver Stuart and Filippa Schulze Doering participated in the Hungarian Amateur Open. With scores of +2; +3 and -2 Oliver placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 72 players. This result from Oliver – particularly that of the third round – was the best returned from our men players during the summer months. Despite this, Oliver's fourth placing was eleven shots behind the winner of the tournament.

The Hungarian was the first European tournament for Filippa for a whole year. With scores of 82, 82, 81 for an aggregate of 29 over par, she finished 7<sup>th</sup> place out of 16 players in

## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2025)

the women's list – thirteen shots behind the leader.

In early August, she then participated in the prestigious Dutch Amateur where 39 female and 105 male players entered. No practice round was afforded to the competitors in this 72-hole competition with a cut applied after 36 holes allowing only the best 50% to go through to the final rounds. Filippa unfortunately missed the cut.



Under his personal initiative, Andrew Borg started the year by participating in the Legends Tour. With a score of +3 over three rounds, he missed the cut which was set for the best 20 scores and ties. He then formally competed in three competitions between May and June. In the Cyprus Open, Andrew finished tied 6<sup>th</sup> with an aggregate score of +13 (8 shots behind the leader). His compensation was that he had the best net score from all other players.

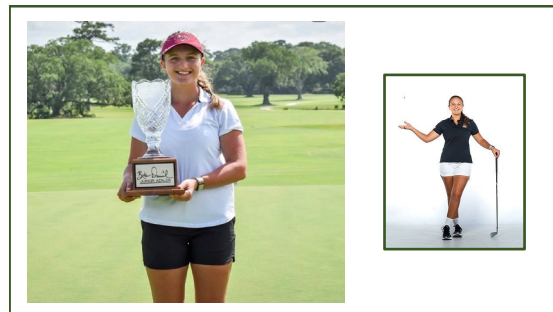
In the prestigious European Mid-Amateur Andy placed tied 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 90 players (10<sup>th</sup> for the 40+ category). His aggregate score of +11 over three days was sixteen shots behind the leader. His game improved for the European Seniors where he placed tied 16<sup>th</sup> out of 93 players. His +8 over three days – seven of which were accumulated in the second day – was only seven shots off the lead.

Laurens Schulze Doering kicked off his season by taking part in the First Coast Amateur in Jacksonville under harsh weather conditions. With a score of +11 over three rounds, Laurens finished 58<sup>th</sup> out of 100 players.



During the summer months, he participated in only two individual competitions over the summer. The qualifying round of the Scottish Amateur was his first European golf competition after his graduation from college. It was not the result he was hoping for. He struggled with the high winds and the rough and ended up two shots behind the cut line equivalent to a 65<sup>th</sup> place out of 107 players.

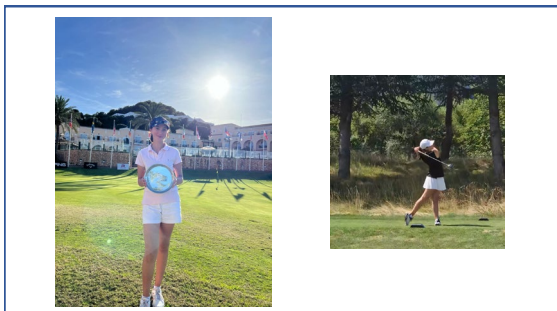
Less than a month later, he again missed the cut in the prestigious European Amateur placing 118<sup>th</sup> place out of 144 players after two rounds of golf.



Elliana Buhagiar played in several tournaments but could only be supported financially for two. In the 2025 Glencoe Invitational played in Alberta Canada, she disappointed with a missed cut after two days of the competition which placed her tied 46<sup>th</sup> out of 50 players.

In the influential R&A Under 16 girls, with an aggregate score of +14, she placed tied 48<sup>th</sup> out of 80 players. In summer, she played in the European Ladies Championships and in the Italian Women's Internation. She found both competitions hard and failed to make the cut.

## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2025)

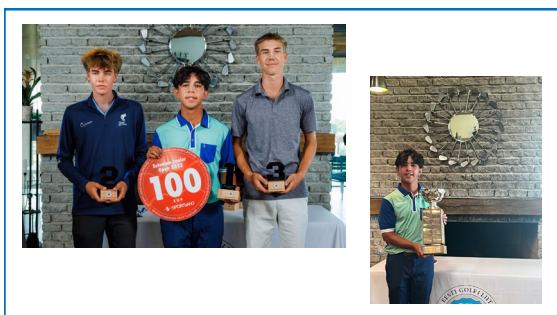


Serena Falzon Sant Manduca, like her compatriot played in several competitions but was funded for only three. Serena came out of school having just completed important exams to compete in the German International Girls Amateur championships – one of the top six annual tournaments for U18 girls. Serena finished tied 39<sup>th</sup> out of 88 players.

In the English Girls Open Serena improved her game and with two level par rounds out of the four she played, she finished tied 31<sup>st</sup> out of 140 participants.

With scores of -2, +4 and +2, Serena matched Oliver's positive round in the Hungarian when she played in the Scottish Girls Under 18. She finished tied 15<sup>th</sup> out of 124 players missing a top eight position by a mere two shots.

Personal circumstances prevented Mark Ganado from entering any tournaments overseas. Despite this lack of competition, he was a very positive contributor to the national team performance in the European Team Shield Championships. Partnered with Ruud Critien, the pair won all their three foursome matches.



Although, still not officially Maltese, the MGA supported Noah to travel to the ETSC enabling him to understand the tournament's atmosphere.

Through his own family's financial commitment, Noah played in a handful of competitions during the summer months. He achieved success at the Estonian Junior Open where he dominated the under-18 field with an even-par total (71, 73, 72). Noah had won the U16 category on the same course two years ago.



Gozo and another 23 small islands get together once every two years to participate in a multi-sport event organised by The International Island Games. For the first time, it was possible for a local golfer to represent the country, and this fell on the shoulders of Danijel Bogdanovic.

This was Danijel's first experience on a link course. High winds prevailed over the four days of the competition held at the Orkney Golf Club with Danijel securing 52nd place out of 66 golfers.

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