

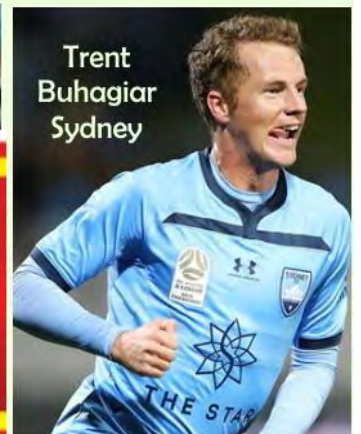
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad
Editor : Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP maltesejournal@gmail.com



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MALTESE OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE



Trent
Buhagiar
Sydney

Our Journal is the Global Voice
of all Maltese Living Abroad



HISTORY OF MALTA



SPORTS
IN MALTA

HONORARY CONSUL FOR MALTA AND EDITOR OF THE MALTESE JOURNAL "THANK YOU"

I would like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation on behalf of myself, my family and the newly one million Maltese and Gozitan diaspora spread in 190 countries for your steadfast dedication and hard work over the past lifetime, not only the 17 years you have served as Honorary Consul of Malta to our community in the State of South Australia with such love, passion and dedication but to your unique service to Global Malta.

Global Malta is indebted to you and your team for your sterling service by bridging our diaspora communities everywhere. Our 'Maltese eNewsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora' which you edit, has increased the much needed awareness in the Maltese Islands, in continental Europe and around the world that country of Malta is not just the population of Maltese in Malta and Gozitans in Gozo, but we are a Global Malta, a global nation with roots and presence everywhere, like any other country around the world.

Thanks to you and your newsletter, Maltese-Canadians have become aware more than ever before of the importance of learning about their compatriots around the world and you have been key to this development and important step.

Frank, thank you so much for your service, your work as a Councillor on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad when I was Director for the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad, for your friendship and your love for our nation, Global Malta. May God bless you, your family and friends and sincerely wish you a very happy retirement.

All the best, Dr Raymond C. XERRI

Consul General of the Republic of Malta to the Commonwealth of Canada



I would like to thank you for all your hard work as honorary consul of South Australia for the last 17 years as well as for your work regarding the Maltese E-Newspaper. We used to read the *Maltese Herald* with great affection when we lived in Australia and now I look forward to reading the e-newspaper.

Saviour Azzopardi
Chairman Glarac
Association - Malta

THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA RECEIVES THE AMBASSADOR FOR JAPAN



The Ambassador for Japan, HE Oe Hiroshi presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Dr George Vella at the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta. Together they discussed the excellent relations that exist between Malta and Japan. This year Malta and Japan celebrate 55 years of diplomatic relations and cooperation, particularly through tourism, they hope to continue to strengthen the friendship and further bring the nation states closer together. Dr. Vella also welcomed the increased dialogue and cooperation between Japan and the European Union and highlighted the important role multi-lateral collaboration has in establishing fruitful and long-lasting regional partnerships.

THE PRESIDENT WELCOMES THE ASSISTANT HIGH COMMISSIONER (UNHCF)



The President of Malta H.E. Dr George Vella discussed migration trends in the Mediterranean region with Assistant High Commissioner (UNHCR) Gillian Triggs. They both agreed that migration requires cooperation between EU member states, but also increased solidarity and dialogue with countries of origin and transit. Assistant High Commissioner Triggs expressed positive views about Malta's search and rescue missions and highlighted that the UNHCR will continue to work closely with local authorities and provide the necessary assistance to address the complex and multi-faceted reality of migration.

THE PRESIDENT RECEIVES THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA



This morning I had the pleasure to receive the newly accredited High Commissioner for Australia, HE Jennifer Cartmill. We both agreed on the importance of sustaining Malta and Australia's strong political, commercial and people to people ties, particularly due to the large Maltese diaspora. I highlighted the importance to maintain close cooperation with the European Union, particularly in **strengthening** the free trade agreement between Australia and the European market. (Photos: DOI

Charles Zammit)

THE PRESIDENT MEETS THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR



The President Dr George Vella met H.E. Walter Haßman, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Malta at Sant'Anton Palace. They held very good discussions on plans related to the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union, post-Covid recovery and regional matters. Developments in the Mediterranean, Middle East and the Western Balkan regions were also raised

THE PRESIDENT HOSTED THE HEAD OF MISSIONS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS



The President Dr George Vella hosted the Head of Missions of the Diplomatic Corps resident in Malta to discuss "The World post Covid-19" at the Verdala Palace. As the international community invests resources in combatting the pandemic, they cannot possibly diminish their commitment to resolving, together and collectively, the other pressing realities that continue to militate against global peace and stability.

THE PRESIDENT MEETS THE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA TO MALTA



His Excellency Jiang Jiang, Ambassador of China to Malta called on THE President of Malta at Sant'Anton Palace earlier this afternoon. They held very interesting exchanges on the excellent relations between the two countries in several spheres and developments in their respective neighbourhoods. They also reiterated a commitment to multilateral and effective responses to the COVID 19

pandemic. Ambassador Jiang Jiang commended Maltese authorities on the exemplary manner in which the pandemic was addressed locally.

MALTA - Gem of the Mediterranean

Why you should study Maltese history

Why is there the George Cross on the flag of Malta, rather than the 'Maltese cross'? Why is the Maltese language so similar to Arabic, yet full of English and Italian words? How come that out of the dozens of islands in the Mediterranean, only Malta and Cyprus are independent nation states?



There is much more to Maltese history than knowing when or where significant events occurred. It is about facts and stories, themes and personal accounts, inquiry and analysis. The richness of the Maltese history is the combined result of an eventful past and its present legacy, and studying it will help you interrogate your most fundamental assumptions about how our contemporary society came to be.

The University of Malta's Faculty of Arts is opening its doors for anyone who is interested in asking and answering the most pertinent questions from a unique perspective. Studying Maltese history at the University of Malta means getting the best education by the most qualified academics in the field, who have inspired many students to go on and forge their successful careers. Because the Diploma of Maltese History in context covers a broad variety of topics, it can supplement many different careers: from teaching to advertising, to museum direction, to fund-raising to real estate, event planning or facilities management.

At a time of information overload, studying history gives you the necessary life skill of reading a variety of materials using critical thinking, analytical skills and the ability to synthesise them.

If the above has caught your interest, you may [apply](#) for the Diploma in Maltese History in context, or [contact](#) the University for additional information <https://www.um.edu.mt/>

Keeping Maltese Communities Connected



French minister promises immigration officials to oversee migrant relocation

Permanent migration strategies need to be found, he says

Jessica Arena

Times of Malta

Photo: Clifton Fenech, DOI

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian promised French immigration officials would be travelling more

frequently to Malta to oversee migrant relocations to France, as part of its commitment to burden-sharing on irregular migration with southern European states.

Le Drian, together with Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo, gave a joint statement to the press after the French minister stopped in Malta after a visit to Beirut on Wednesday evening.

Bartolo said they had discussed security issues in the Mediterranean tied directly to security issues in Europe and that Malta's position between the African continent and Europe made the situation difficult.

"We have had a record number of arrivals this year," Bartolo said.

"The southern European border is currently only protected from human traffickers by one or two Libyan coastguard vessels, however with their cooperation as well as that of the Government of National Accord we have stopped over three thousand people from entering through our southern borders."

Bartolo said the root causes of mass migration needed to be tackled, and this included helping African nations minimise the need for Sahara crossings and assisting the Libyan coast guard with patrols.

Additionally, he noted that relocation of migrants had not been very successful in the Maltese context, as just 15% of people who landed in Malta were relocated to other European nations in 15 years.

Le Drian noted that Malta and France had a similar mindset in implementing policies and better regulating and controlling migration in the southern border.

"We share a similar ideology, that it would be a shame to see the Libyan nation not in control of the Libyan people. We must work to implement a ceasefire and lift embargoes on Libyan oil. We must also work to make sure that the weapons embargo is respected by all parties.

The French minister noted that responsibility and solidarity in terms of migration had a different meaning for countries like Malta, operating so close to the Libyan coast.

"We have to move away from temporary solutions to long term problems and start finding permanent strategies that are incorporated into the EU migration pact," Le Drian said.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Poet of lost faith and intimacy: remembering Doreen Micallef



The National Book Council has recently commemorated Doreen Micallef, naming the National Poetry Contest in her honour and celebrating one of the most distinctive voices of her generation. Her poetics and her mark on Maltese literature are traced here by Rowna Baldacchino “Record the atoms as they fall upon the mind in the order in which they fall, let us trace the pattern, however disconnected and incoherent in appearance, which each sight or incident scores upon the consciousness.” – Virginia Woolf

Doreen Micallef stands out as one of few female writers associated with the Moviment Qawmien Letterarju and, more importantly, as a pioneer of the feminist thought in Maltese literature.

She published three collections of poems: *Fit-Triq tal-Empirew* (1975), *De Profundis* (1979) and *Kyrie* (1980). Her poems originate from a complex personality that carries an excruciating pain, mostly due to the fact that she was born with a physical impairment that conditioned her life significantly. Her body is, more often than not, felt to be a recipient of pain. A pain that she aestheticises in her poems, as she records her own metaphorical inner journey through Limbo, Hell, Purgatory and Heaven, and the hope of a rebirth.

Most of her poems are addressed either to God or to an abstract male figure, never to a woman. Man, it could be said, constituted a primary source of suffering throughout her adult life as she grappled with sentimental relationships and rejection. At times, God and her imagined lover merge into one. She seeks man in God, and God in man; she humanises God and deifies man. Her attitude towards God is not that easy or direct and she is as capable of nurturing love as she is of nurturing anger. Moments of adoration, attraction and love easily transform, all of a sudden, into diametrically opposed feelings. After all, it is God who allows, maybe even causes, her pain.

Nourished by her deep solitude, her poems continually reflect a yearning for dialogue. Paradoxically, however, while Micallef is driven by a strong need to communicate, her message is seemingly inexpressible; she suffers and writes, suffers and writes. In her poems, referential meaning is problematised rather than transmitted, as the actual function of meaning – which calls for permanent contents – is not fulfilled. Her soul is in turmoil, and it is turmoil that ultimately surfaces and settles on the verses, i.e. the external form.

Chaos is the driving force in her poetry, a chaos that will not be moulded into a sense of order. Meaning may seemingly be missing, but there is movement. The reader, it appears, would be at a loss seeking an inner logic, and should rather try to understand the source from where the crude compression of words and the disorganised sentences originate.

Micallef thus engages into a style of writing that is not instrumental to practical communication. There is no grammatical consistency in the sequence of sentences. Words are associated in such a way as to cause a sudden change of meaning. Sentences end abruptly before they are finished. Punctuation vanishes. Moreover, words are spread over the page in such a way as to visually suggest something that is constantly descending without ever taking a definitive form.

Images hang at a distance from each other, and each image breaks the harmony it would have reached had it been associated to another image. There is no obvious logic to the flow of ideas from one thing to the next; just a stream of disconnected statements. In other words, it is a chaos that reflects the inner state of Micallef.



URGENT APPEAL

DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA – SIGGIEWI - MALTA

Due to the covid-19 most of the sponsorships & donations have been severely impacted. The HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE looks after around 130 residents with severe disabilities on 24/7 basis.

So as the co-ordinator of the friends of providence house in Australia. I am sending out a call out to all Maltese/Australian community councils, businesses, social clubs, associations, committees, social groups, families and individuals for financial support !

Donations to be made only at any Commonwealth Branch :

ACCOUNT: Friends of Providence House NSW

BSB: 062 416 A/C: 1019 9448

Please supply donor details !

No fees apply if you make donations to this one and only official account in Australia

You may call Jim Borg on 0418 825 591.

Thanks to the donations already received !



[Dorianne Vassallo](#) started this petition to **[Mackay Regional Council](#)**

The Italian/Maltese migrants of Mackay, their descendants, families and citizens of Mackay and district, ARE CONDUCTING A PEITION TO BE SUBMITTED TO the Mayor and Councillors of Mackay Regional Council to grant approval and provide space for two monuments to acknowledge and honour the contribution made by the Italian and Maltese migrants to this district.

It is envisaged that an Italian Migrant Wall and/or monument be erected at Bluewater Quay and a further specific monument be located at the corner of Wood and Victoria Street, Mackay otherwise known as "the Maltese Corner".

The erection of these monuments would support the aims of the Public Art Strategy 2018-2023 of the Mackay Regional Council, reflect on the richness of the Region's diverse migrant communities while contributing to the development of cohesive communities and enhancement of cultural identity. The endorsement of these projects would help to provide a strong focus of local pride and greatly contribute the historical content of the Mackay district.

APS Summer Festival extended to mid-August



By popular demand, the APS Summer Festival has been extended by four weeks until the 15th August.

The eclectic artistic line-up shall now also feature The Comedy Knights, Alex Bezzina & Band, the Big Band Brothers, and Ray Calleja with Clare Ghigo, Michael Laus, and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. Emerging local talent, the Malta Youth Orchestra and outdoor cinema nights shall complement the programme of events. The cultural and entertainment activities staged along the Valletta Waterfront offer a unique setting for the festival which has re-introduced live public events in Malta. Whilst adhering to the current health and safety

regulations, different genres of music, from classical to rock to jazz, comedy, dance, poetry and visual arts are presented. The outdoor cinema nights treat buffs with drama films on Mondays featuring the likes of Captain Philips, classics such as Pulp Fiction on Tuesdays and musical films on Wednesdays with hits such as Bohemian Rhapsody, Rocketman and A Star is Born. On Sundays, films shot in Malta are celebrated – including Simshar, Midnight Express, The Weeping House of Qala and The Boat, with a bonus of locally-produced short movies like The Eyes of the Artist, Komplici, Magdalene and Ambivalent. The APS Summer Festival is sponsored by the APS Bank, co-produced by the Valletta Cruise Port and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and supported by the Malta Tourism Authority, Studio Seven, Embassy Cinemas and Island Insurance Brokers. For the full schedule of events and booking, you may visit [here](#). *This content was supplied by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra*



Pastor at St Jane Frances de Chantal in Toronto Canada

Fr. Charles M. Grech

On the 5th of November 2016 Fr. Charles Michael Grech ofm embarks on a new mission across the Atlantic heading towards Canada after responding to the needs of the Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception (USA) to be part of the parish as an associate pastor at St Jane Frances de Chantal in Toronto.

In June 2017 he was asked to take the responsibility of Radio Maria Canada as Director. In the same year on 7th July, has been appointed as Parish administrator after the retirement of the pastor.

In October Fr. Charles has been elected to the Council of Priests representing the parishes in Zone 8.

During the Franciscan Chapter of the Immaculate Conception 17th – 22 June 2019 the Minister Provincial Fr. Robert Campagna ofm nominated Fr. Charles to Cardinal Thomas Collins Archbishop of Toronto to appoint him as Pastor with the approved letter dated 29th July 2019.

His Excellency, Most Revered Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary bishop of Toronto, celebrated the installation on the 5th of October 2019.

Fr. Charles says "While thanking Fr. Robert Campagna Minister Provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province (USA), and the definitors for entrusting me with this mission, would also like to thank the Minister Provincial of the Maltese Province Fr. Richard S. Grech for the constant support and encouragement throughout."

Fr. Jimmy Zammit



WELCOME & THANK YOU!! We welcome Fr. Jimmy Zammit ofm, who is back in Toronto for his new assignment at St. Jane Frances Parish. We would like to thank Fr. Jimmy for his ongoing support to our parish, as he is helping out with the Maltese Masses during Fr. Mario's recovery.

Fr Jimmy Zammit, OFM, was born at Toronto Western Hospital on August 11, 1955. He attended St Cecilia Elementary School and St Michael College School for high school here in Toronto.

In 1973 he began his Franciscan novitiate in Gozo, Malta and following novitiate his preparation for the priesthood included studies in Immaculate Conception Seminary, Troy NY, St John Seminary College in Brighton MA and INSERM in Malta. He was ordained in St Anthony Church in Gozo on June 13, 1981. His first assignment was to his home parish in Toronto of St Paul the Apostle (1981 - 1990) where he was associate, then administrator and finally pastor. During this time in Toronto he completed a Master of Theology degree focusing on pastoral counseling at St Michael's College TST. Following Toronto Fr Jimmy

completed an MA programme at IREPM Boston College in Adult Ministry and Spirituality. From 1992 - 1995 he was director of Porziuncola Retreat House in Malta. From 1997 - 2003 he served in the administration of the Franciscan Order in the Rome headquarters. From 2003 until 2012 he was pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Toronto. His appointment as pastor of St Francis of Assisi Parish took effect on June 27, 2012



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MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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**We are proud of all our
 Maltese achievers living in
 Malta and Abroad**

TRADITIONAL MALTESE SPORTS AND OTHER POPULAR SPORTS IN MALTA



**SPORTS
IN
MALTA**

The Maltese most certainly love their sports. There are several traditional Maltese sports that remain as popular today as when they were introduced by the Knights of St John or the British during their occupation. Meanwhile, other popular sports in Malta have more recently become an integral part of local culture. Discover the most iconic Maltese sports.

BOULES (IL-BOĊĊI) The scene has not changed much in centuries. Old men and a growing number of youths and women gather on a level, sand playing field. Concentration is high as two teams of three players roll balls and throw cylinder shapes with impeccable precision to hit their targets. Onlookers watch in anticipation.

The *boċċi* game is one of the most traditional Maltese sports, very

similar to that played during the period of the Knights of St John in Malta, who introduced it. With similar rules and some modifications, it retains unique characteristics that separate it from similar games of boules played in other countries.

Boċċi clubs are prevalent in most of the towns and villages of Malta and the national league sees the participation of more than thirty teams. The Maltese love this traditional sport so much that emigrant communities in Australia, Canada and the United States have *boċċi* clubs of their own.

FOOTBALL Football needs no introduction and has become so popular locally that it is considered the national sport of Malta. Children play football in the school playground, in their local football field or in the street. Most localities have their own team and competition is fierce.

The British introduced football in the mid-19th century as entertainment for soldiers stationed in Malta. The first football association was established in 1863, but it was only in 1909 that the game changed from amateur competition to a league format.

Alas, Maltese football rarely makes it beyond local tournaments, but the Maltese football supporter is not deterred. During international tournaments, most Maltese will support either England or Italy. However, on every World Cup game night, carcades bearing the winning country's flags are sure to blare their way along the coast!

HORSE RACING Horse racing is another huge sport in Malta and a very traditional affair. It was introduced in the 15th century by the Knights of Malta, who loved and encouraged this sport. It still forms an integral part of the *Imnarja* celebrations on 29th June at the original location in Rabat and horse races are held regularly at the race track in Marsa.

Since the *Imnarja* horse race was revived by the British Governor Lord Plumer in 1869, men, boys and horses still gather at Triq it-Tigrija, beneath Saqqajja Hill, in the hope of winning the silk flag (*il-palju*), which is presented at the original 1696 arched podium.

Also since 1869, horses run the 2.8km race-course in Marsa all year round. In the back streets of Marsa, horse enthusiasts keep their horses, exchange race gossip and set out to take their horses to the track for a daily run. This is no part-time sport endeavour.

IL-ĠOSTRA Of all traditional Maltese sports, *il-Ġostra* is unique and dates from the middle ages. *Il-Ġostra* is set up mainly for entertainment during some coastal village feasts but does involve competition, fitness and skill. To the screams and shouts of excited onlookers, participants take turns at running up a greasy pole that is erected over the sea, with a view to gather the flag at the end of the pole. It is mostly fun and games, as most attempts end in a splash after a few steps, but the winner will definitely have something to brag about.

REGATTA Another sport closely related to traditional local celebrations is the *regatta*, a rowing race which dates from the middle ages. The *regatta* races are national events held on 31st March and 8th September, both of which commemorate the end of foreign occupation or invasion.

A number of coastal towns and cities participate in ten races under two different categories. A points system determines the winners in this grandest of traditional Maltese sports.

Spectators gather in large numbers at the water's edge overlooking the Grand Harbour, where the races are held. Modified Maltese working boats such as the "*frejgatina*", "*kajjik*", "*dġhajsa tal-pass*" and "*dġhajsa tal-midalji*" prepare for the race. It will take five hours for the colourful boats to complete all the races along the 1,040-meter course against the backdrop of Fort St Angelo, Birgu.

WATER POLO Water polo just has to have a mention. Although water polo gained popularity only in 1925, Malta already participated in the Olympic Games in 1928 and its popularity kept increasing. The interest in watersports is probably natural for islanders and water polo – an unlikely marriage between football and swimming – just hits the nail on the head for the Maltese.

Just as most towns and villages have a *boċċi* club, most coastal ones have a water polo pitch. Many Maltese families head down to the pitch just to enjoy an evening out by the sea on cool summer nights while others go to watch the toned, tanned players during their practice sessions.

Other water sports popular in Malta include paragliding, windsurfing, kitesurfing, wakeboarding, water skiing and scuba diving.

CLAY PIGEON/SKEET SHOOTING Bird hunting and trapping are considered more traditional, but, with bird hunting restricted to a few weeks per year and moral concerns debating its validity as a sport, many turn to clay pigeon or skeet shooting.

A number of shooting ranges are scattered around the Maltese countryside and the great weather allows practice all year round. The Maltese seem to enjoy firing a gun, but we are thankful that they do not tend to shoot each other (very often).

Motor Sports Motor Sports in Malta is not strictly traditional as it has not been around for centuries, but it certainly will be for as long as motor engines will exist.

What started off as a small group of enthusiasts in the 1950s, by the influence of the British Forces, has led to plans for a race track in Malta within just a few decades. The first Maltese motorsport federation was established in 1976 and the Malta Motorsport Association we know today was established in 2009.

¼ mile races are held regularly at the Ħal Far Race Way and hill climbs at Imtaħleb, (*l/o Rabat*) are also popular. Maltese motor enthusiasts are fanatics indulging in drag racing, hill climbs and sprints, navigational exercises, off-roading and karting, in every kind of vehicle imaginable.

Sports in Malta

Malta sports facilities at the Marsa Sports Club, Ta' Qali and the University Grounds at Tal-Qroqq are plenty. These include the National Football Stadium, the Basketball Pavilion, the Athletic Stadium and Tartan Track and the National Swimming Pool. Facilities are also available for baseball, softball, netball, rugby, archery and several other sports activities. Moreover, Malta has hundreds of private clubs and schools ranging from various martial arts to slacklining and pole dancing!



MALTA HERITAGE FUND

The Malta Heritage Fund is owned by Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna - the Malta Heritage Trust. FWA was founded in 1987 as a self-funded voluntary non-governmental charity committed towards the preservation and management of Malta's historical buildings and environment. This fund is aimed at raising financial

support for FWA's work in the field and to support the daily maintenance cost of its numerous cultural heritage sites and museums including the widely popular Fort Rinella and the Armstrong 100-ton gun, the Saluting Battery, the Lascaris War Rooms, the War H.Q. Tunnels and the Malta at War Museum to name a few. At present FWA requires a daily expenditure of €1,900 to keep its museums and heritage properties regularly open to the public and to the highest standards.

Help this ongoing fundraising campaign by making a donation and spreading the word.

<https://gogetfunding.com/malta-heritage-fund/>



SOCCKER: Trent Buhagiar breaks Phoenix hearts as Sydney FC close in on Premiers' Plate

John Greco Jul 17, 2020

A quickfire double from substitute Trent Buhagiar has handed Sydney FC a 3-1 win over Wellington Phoenix as the Hyundai A-League returned with a bang on Friday night.

The Sky Blues trailed 1-0 just after the hour-mark via a penalty from Reno Piscopo but stormed home in the wet at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

Adam Le Fondre started the fightback, converting a penalty of his own to take his tally for the season to 18 goals and draw level in the Golden Boot race with Melbourne City's Jamie Maclaren.

But it was super-sub Buhagiar who had the biggest impact with two late goals to break Phoenix hearts. Buhagiar scored in the 88th and 90th minutes as he used his pace and composure to notch both goals, with the Sky Blues now needing just one more point from their final five matches to clinch a record fourth Premiership.

And they could do it as early as Tuesday night when they take on Newcastle Jets in Kogarah.

While Phoenix will be disappointed with the result, coach Ufuk Talay won't be too disheartened as his side pushed the home side all the way in an absorbing contest.

Trent Buhagiar (born 27 February 1998) is an Australian professional footballer who plays as a winger for Sydney FC in the A-League. Born in Gosford,^[1] Buhagiar moved to and grew up on the Central Coast of New South Wales, playing junior football for the Umina Eagles.^[2] He attended the International Football School at Kariong. Buhagiar signed a professional deal with the Central Coast Mariners in early 2016.^[2] He first came into the matchday squad for a game against Melbourne City in February 2016.^[1] He scored his maiden goal on 28 December 2016 against Melbourne Victory.^[4] On 4 May 2018, Buhagiar left the Central Coast Mariners. The week after leaving Central Coast Mariners, Buhagiar joined Sydney FC on 10 May 2018.

Buhagiar was born in Australia and is of Maltese descent. Buhagiar was called up to the Australian under-20 side for a training camp in July 2016.



Father Avertan Fenech - Carmelite
The road to sainthood

avertan fenech – road to sainthood

Luigi (Aloysius) Fenech was born in Mosta, Malta on 10 July 1871 to Domenico Fenech and Marija née Attard. He was baptised in Mosta Parish Church.

The first words Luigi learnt at home were 'Jesus' and 'Mary'.

On 29 May 1881 he received his First Holy Communion and soon after he was confirmed by the Bishop Msgr Carmelo Scicluna. From an early age Luigi wanted to become a Carmelite friar and as he grew older he felt the calling to religious life growing stronger. Some years later, his parents sent him for Italian and Latin private lessons with a priest in Naxxar, who contributed towards strengthening Luigi's vocation.

Three years later, on 6 February 1888, he joined the Order of Carmelites at the Valletta Priory where he began his novitiate. He was given another name – Avertan. A year later on 27 February 1889, he made his simple profession in the Oratory of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta.

Soon after he began his studies of philosophy and theology and on 27 February 1892, exactly three years after he took his solemn vows in the Novitiate Chapel of the Carmelite Priory in Valletta.

When Balluta Priory opened in 1882, he moved there together with his colleagues. On 5 July 1896, the Bishop of Gozo Mgr. Giovanni Camilleri OSA ordained him a priest in the Chapel of the Bishop's Palace in Gozo and a few days later he celebrated his first solemn mass in the Carmelite Basilica Sanctuary in Valletta.

His first years as a priest were spent in Balluta Priory, where he used to hear confessions. Those who saw him walking in the street would always be struck by his serious demeanour and composure.

In 1896 he was chosen to be Student Master at Balluta Priory, where his students regarded him as a model of Carmelite spirituality. He was later sent to Mdina Priory, where he became Formator of the Novitiate. Fr. Avertan served also a Provincial Councillor and Vice Prior at Mdina Priory as well as Secretary to the Provincial.

In May 1919, he was chosen to go to Rome to attend the General Chapter, where his manner, words and personality made a strong saintly impression on the other friars attending the Chapter.

The Prior General of the Order, Fr. Elijah Maggennis, was surprised by the humility of this friar and the Provincial of the Carmelites in the United States requested him to write about the true spirit of Carmel and what the religious could do to preserve this spirit. In addition to his meticulous service and sense of duty to the provincial office, Fr. Avertan left writings of simple and profound spirituality.

Shortly after attending a Provincial Chapter at which Fr. Giovanni Azzopardi was chosen to be Prior Provincial, Fr. Avertan suffered an epileptic attack which left him bedridden for eleven-and-a-half years and which he accepted with an open heart.

He died on 1 November 1943. His funeral was held in Mdina Priory, followed by his interment in the Priory crypt. Archbishop Gonzi oversaw the exhumation of his remains in 1968. There is a lot to say about this friar who was a model to his fellow brethren.

On 2 February, 2017 the diocesan process of beatification (and possible subsequent canonisation) of Fr. Avertan Fenech was initiated at the Carmelite Church in Mdina by His Grace the Archbishop of Malta Mgr Charles J. Scicluna.



<https://www.facebook.com/patrickjsammut>



VERSI LIL HINN MINN XTUTNA



Poets Patrick Sammut and Stephen Cachia believe that poetry brings you face to face with reality

IL-PONT - THE BRIDGE

Il-Pont (The Bridge) is an online literary magazine originally published monthly since October 2012. Today it's being published quarterly.

It's main language is Maltese, but poems and other material in other languages - mainly English and Italian - are regularly included too. Il-Pont is intended to bring together writers and readers from all over the world.

Patrick Sammut – Editor

We sincerely thank our readers
for your support and friendship
and for helping us to bridge
our Maltese diaspora
communities everywhere

H

Harbour Cruise: World War II

A guided harbour cruise with the Curator focusing on World War II

Wednesday 12 August
1830 hours*

**meeting point Sliema Ferries*

www.heritagemalta.org Tickets available from Heritage Malta museums, sites & website



old postcards from Malta

The Maltese Olympic Committee is the organisation responsible of sending athletes to the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and other games such as the Games of the Small States of Europe. We help with technical funding to Malta's elite athletes and support them comprehensively with their technical needs such as anti-doping education, functional diagnostic laboratory (scientific) services, gym use, funds for training camps, etc... More information can be found here: www.nocmalta.org

We are looking for athletes with Maltese Passport or who are eligible for a Maltese passport through ancestry who can make it in Team Malta. We are looking mainly at Athletics, Swimming, Sailing, Judo, Table-Tennis, Tennis, Basketball, 3x3 Basketball, Squash and Shooting (indoor & outdoor) for the time being.

Regards, **Daniel Tanti Farrugia** Sports Administrator



Share it with others
send it to us

Meet the chef who swapped Malta's seaside for school dinners in Hackney – Nicole Pisani

Amy Bryant

'Wherever you are in Malta you can jump in the sea and swim,' says the chef Nicole Pisani, who grew up on the archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea, nearly 70 miles south of Sicily and over 200 miles east of north Africa.

She is exaggerating slightly, but having recently visited the country I know what she means; it feels like one long coastline, all bleached limestone fortifications and large flat rocks, on which the locals dry off after plunging into the periwinkle-blue water. Salt crystals form in glinting crusts on the stones.

'I don't know if it was the colours, as salt makes them quite rainbow-ish, but I used to lick the rocks for hours on end,' Pisani tells me. Her family still run restaurants in Sliema, the resort town that faces Malta's historic capital, Valletta, and while growing up she finished every school day by jumping into the sea with her friends, just outside the front door. Salt – 'I often say because my parents left me unattended in the sea!' – has been a key ingredient in her cooking ever since.

As a teenager, Pisani wanted little to do with the family business, but soon she was enrolling in cookery school and working in restaurants around the world. Sydney was a draw for its Asian influences and fusion cuisines, and in London she worked at Anna Hansen's The Modern Pantry.

When I first started at the school, everything had to be golden and in breadcrumbs Chef Nicole Pisani

Then, after years of cheffing and travelling, Pisani arrived at Nopi, Yotam Ottolenghi's Soho restaurant with a Middle Eastern- and Asian-inspired menu, and felt immediately at home. 'We were a group of friends instead of colleagues, and it was family-orientated, which is very Mediterranean.' Nopi, she explains, 'was a moment of stopping'.

So it was a strong impulse that led the then 34-year-old to swap stoves after two years, not to another restaurant ('because I was perfectly happy at Nopi'), but to the kitchen of a state primary school. 'Like most chefs, I think, you come to a point in your life when you start to think it's not sustainable to live like that.'

The long hours and late nights had taken their toll. And then Pisani saw a tweet from Henry Dimbleby, the school-meals campaigner and co-founder of the Leon restaurant chain, on the hunt for a new chef for Gayhurst Community School, which his sons attended in Hackney, east London.

With space at a premium, Pisani set up a firepit 'literally in the middle of the football pitch'

Moving on from Nopi's repertoire of mutton shawarma with pickled watermelon, and pork belly with kimchi, Pisani has spent three and a half years coaxing 500 children to eat whole fillets of hake. 'When I started everything had to be golden and in breadcrumbs,' she says.

In the first year she replaced ready-bought with fresh fillets, and coated them herself with panko breadcrumbs. 'Then we took the crumbs off and called it the naked fish, which made them laugh and the dish seem more approachable.' She now serves hake with an aromatic tomato sauce. 'The journey has taken nearly four years, but it's something we are very proud of.'

In Malta, Pisani never had school meals; children go home for lunch. 'Food was always part of my life, there on the table if I wanted.' Now, in three cookery lessons a week for students in Key Stage 1 (aged five to seven) and 2 (seven to eleven), she introduces them to dishes she enjoyed growing up, and uses her chef's instinct to improvise.

With space at a premium, she set up a firepit 'literally in the middle of the football pitch', around which the older children first toasted s'mores. These days, they turn out salt-crusted whole fish, eating the flesh with their fingers.



Pisani has lived in the UK for years, but still remembers the platter of prawns served so generously at one Maltese restaurant that diners would go for a swim between forkfuls, to take a breather. Her new book, *Salt, Butter, Bones*, from which the recipes below are exclusively extracted, is an ode to the ingredients and dishes she grew up with and now shares – albeit with a little less salt – with eager pupils.

Il-Marc ta' filghodu tal-festa San Gejtanu se jsir

The Feast of St. Gaetan is celebrated in the town of Hamrun in Malta.

Midday Sun Madness in Hamrun



Noel Coward once wrote that only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun. He was probably unaware that the Maltese too indulge in this dubious pleasure in temperatures which can hover around the 35degree mark. The morning band marches associated with village festas are hugely popular in Malta – and none more so than the one held in Hamrun; the biggest, liveliest and sweatiest of them all.

Hamrun is hardly the most endearing of Maltese towns. It started life as an outer suburb of Valletta that developed in the late 18th century but quickly grew into one of the largest towns on the island. Nowadays its population is around 12,000. Its parish church was built in the late 19th century and features what can kindly be called a confusion of styles with Romanesque and faux-gothic features rubbing uncomfortable shoulders with baroque motifs. Nonetheless the church has its highlights – none more impressive than its ceiling paintings; the work of Emvin Cremona, one of the islands' best known 20th century artists.



Hamrun sorely lacks open spaces so fireworks are hardly a feature of the town's feast. Instead Hamrun goes big on bands – with two well supported band clubs, the Saint Cajetan club in red and the Saint Joseph club sporting blue. Both attract a large following and are the protagonists of the town's major event – the Sunday march on the feast day of San Gejtanu.

The band march (or rather the double bill of two band marches) reaches its peak in the hottest part of the day around 2pm when both bands start approaching their respective clubs and the flag waving goes into a complete frenzy. The band clubs'

premises are separated only by about a 100 metres and more taunting and mischief takes place before the bands finally make their way into the clubs. In the past this close proximity sometimes led to tensions and some brawling – but this has now become a thing of the past after stringent agreements were signed by the clubs following some serious incidents in 1987. Nowadays the Hamrun march is a much more family friendly event, and though the thickness of

the crowd can become a bit claustrophobic in a few places, it is nonetheless one of the greatest and most colourful street parties you could wish for. It's a dress down affair too...masses of supporters paint their arms and faces in blue and red and the sweating and the jostling that take place are likely to ruin your Sunday best... Let your hair down, become a Hamruniz for the day and you will not regret it.

SAVIO COLLEGE – DINGLI MALTA

Savio College is a Salesian school led by the Salesians of Don Bosco. This clearly identifies the ethos and spirit that makes Savio College.

A number of people state that the moment they enter the school, they felt that they have entered a home and not just a school. There is a sense of being welcomed, feeling at ease and part of a family. This is not a coincidence, but it is a direct result of the way things are done at the college.

The Salesian way of education is based on ensuring that everyone forming part of the school – students, educators and parents – feel that they are respected and loved by one and all. There is a feeling of optimism and cheerfulness that underlie all that goes on at the school. This is what Don



Bosco meant by friendship and loving kindness.

From a humble beginning in 1968 with merely twelve students, Savio College has over the years managed to build a strong identity grounded on the vision created by Don Bosco in Turin. Don Bosco looked at his work with young people from four different but related aspects. He wanted Salesian entities to embody the role of “school, church, home and playground”, as the emphasis of Don Bosco’s work was always the holistic development of young people.

Don Bosco knew that young people need to learn and develop their abilities but also recognised that the best environment in which to do this, is a safe and homely one. He knew that young people needed space in which to run, make noise and burn up energy but he also recognised their innate potential to grow and deepen their spirituality.

Savio College developed Don Bosco’s spirituality and his system of education. It is not so much the physical aspect of the school, church, home and playground that make Savio College Salesian, but rather it is the pastoral interaction that it carries on a daily basis and purposefully within the College.

Many students, parents and educators, consider Savio College as their second home, developing here a strong sense of identity. For countless youth it is a school of life, offering spaces where joy and optimism are cultivated along with a spirituality that provides meaning to their being, to their sense of purpose and to the relationship with the world.

Throughout the years, the Salesian educative community in Dingli has worked hard to keep faithful and loyal to the spirit of Don Bosco. When the Salesians founded Savio College, their aim was to bring out the best in every child that walks through its doors. They always wished that this school would help young people discern their vocation and in particular to accompany future Salesians of Don Bosco through their initial formation.



TURNING THE TOWER BLUE – A GESTURE OF SUPPORT AND GRATITUDE

Simon Lockyer

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Ghandi

On the 75th anniversary of VE Day, many of us will have reflected on the roles that our ancestors played during the second world war and what VE would have meant to them. After five years of sacrifice and adversity, the prospect of peace must have felt particularly special after such a long period of uncertainty and worry. A day of celebration and relief but probably tinged with a range of contrasting emotions.

Naturally, my thoughts turned to my grandparents. For my paternal grandfather it was not quite the end of his war as he was still engaged in the Pacific Ocean serving in the Royal Navy. For his wife, who had survived losing both her home and her parents in London, the relief was enormous.

My other grandfather was a teacher and his war had been somewhat different. He had joined the Home guard and remained teaching in the small market town of Honiton in Devon. Removed from the immediate horrors, he continued to provide stability and a sense of normality for the children who lived in that area of mid-Devon. However, it was his wife (to be), and my grandmother, for whom it had the greatest significance. She had signed up to the War Department in February 1940 and as a nurse, she was deployed to the Eighth Army in North Africa. For the next three years she saw at first hand the destruction and impact of that conflict as she nursed soldiers and civilians, initially in North Africa and then through the Italian campaign right up to the end of the war. Her impact continued to have echoes for many years to come and was reflected in the letters she received after the war from the soldiers she had treated and nursed.

Nurses are again on the front line and at the forefront of our thoughts as they contend with a different, but no less dangerous foe, Covid-19. Recently I found some of letters amongst my grandmother's personal effects including a letter she received on 2 May 1945. In it, the letter expresses the Nation's gratitude for the service and commitment of soldiers, airmen and sailors (conspicuously no mention of the nurses). Separately, I discovered a card sent from Queen Mary in 1939 which has a particular poignancy. The card has a simple message "It is my constant prayer that God's blessing may be on the merciful work of all nurses throughout the Empire."

Nurses have a role in all our lives, be that as the midwife who brings us into this world through to our old age and sometimes in palliative care. At RHS we often talk about the inherent sense of service that is evident in the stories of our long history and even today, a number of our Year 13 have been quick to respond, seeking to adopt roles in support of everyday services. Given our link with the Royal Navy many of the stories of service are predictably linked to the actions of individuals in the armed forces. However, the role of nurses, healthcare workers and many others and their commitment, bravery and unselfish service to others is a reminder that to serve is not always to be associated with the armed services.

Each week many of us have incorporated into our routines the act of standing on our doorsteps to make some noise and clap to show our support and appreciation for the NHS. In a world where we can often take for granted our freedom and the services provided by others, one product of this pandemic maybe a growing appreciation for the people that care for us, for those who work directly for the benefit of others alongside a greater appreciation of the benefits for articulating our gratitude.

Today as we turn the tower blue in appreciation of today's nurses and midwives, a small gesture in support of their work but I will also take a moment to remember my grandmother and the role she played over 75 years ago. My grandmother rarely spoke of her experiences and whilst she received medals for her actions it is interesting that it is the letters from her patients that speak most clearly about the impact she had and

their gratitude and appreciation for the care she showed others. She returned to the UK in the back of a truck and went on to become a midwife, a role that was in considerable contrast to her experiences in North Africa and Italy, but I know it was one she found immensely rewarding.

VE75 provided an important opportunity to remember a single day, a day that marked the end of conflict and an opportunity to remember and thank those who secured our freedom and peace. The end of Covid-19 is unlikely to be marked on a single day but I hope it will be associated with a similar recognition for those who have served in the support and care of those most in need and will reinvigorate interest and appreciation for the roles that really matter



The Italian navy's training ship Amerigo Vespucci sailed in proximity of the coasts of Malta in what is a scheduled activity within the training campaign for the cadets of the Naval Academy in Livorno. The tall-ship will approach Gozo from the North-West and sailed along the coast to reach the waters facing Valletta around the sunset, when the 106 cadets and the ship's crew took part in the evocative ensign lowering ceremony, as per tradition on the Italian navy's units.

The ship masts were illuminated with the "tricolore", the three colours of the Italian flag. During the night the ship sailed around the island of Malta and she continued with the cadets' training in the high seas, heading towards west of Sicily.

The training campaign for young cadets started at the end of a first, challenging year at the naval academy. This year's campaign saw the Amerigo Vespucci setting off from the port of Livorno and sailing around the archipelago of La Maddalena, through the strait of Messina and, subsequently, the strait of Sicily. This year's campaign is developing in an unusual manner, to respect sanitary norms related to the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, the ship will not be open for public visits during mooring periods.

'AMERIGO VESPUCCI' IN MALTA

This year's training campaign is dedicated to all the Italians who have lived through this period of hardships and for that reason, every opportunity to salute the coastal communities will be seized.

The Amerigo Vespucci and her 'sister' ship Cristoforo Colombo were designed by the Marine Engineer Major Francesco Rotundi, director of the shipyards of Castellammare di Stabia, near Naples in Italy. The ship was launched on 22 February 1931 in the Castellammare di Stabia naval shipyards. Since then, she has always performed her core training activity for the cadets of the Livorno Naval Academy.

From 2014 to 2016, the Vespucci underwent a major overhaul period, aimed at revamping operational effectiveness and upgrading accommodation areas and facilities. Electric power and propulsion systems have been completely upgraded and modernized, with greater emphasis on efficiency and environmental friendliness.

Since her entry into service, the ship has carried out training activities every year (except for the year 1940, due to war events, and the years 1964, 1973 and 1997 when she underwent major overhaul periods), providing training to Naval Academy cadets, but also to on-term volunteers and students of the 'Francesco Morosini' Naval Military School.



Report: Ruth Amaira

The summer of 1565 was one of the most turbulent in Malta's history. In July of that year, the Maltese had been trapped in the vice of the Great Siege, and for both sides – the Knights on the one side and the Ottomans on the other – this was a battle of the minds, with victory or defeat going either way.

History books do not do enough justice to the Maltese who lived and fought for their land in the Great siege of the summer of 1565. However, their courage, valour and agility were crucial to victory in this fight against the Ottomans. A high price was paid. Many lives were lost, and the survivors endured much suffering before they got back on their feet. Historian Mario Coleiro says the Maltese made up the greater part of the Order's defence.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted the convening of annual general meetings of Maltese Associations everywhere. Until the end of July, restrictions were still in force by the health authorities forbidding mass gatherings which prohibited communities from organising their annual general meeting (AGM).

"The Maltese had surprised the Knights" – anniversary of the bloodiest summer

"The Maltese had surprised the Knights, who had initially thought the Maltese would not fight. One has to understand, however, that numerically, the Knights only numbered 900 together with their soldier mercenaries, and the massed defence forces were Maltese who defended their land, as they were aware that if the siege was lost, they would fare badly."

This was a battle of the minds between Grandmaster De Valette and the Ottomans, and it was played out 455 years ago. The Ottoman Empire had just won Fort St Elmo and could bring its fleet up to Marsamxett Harbour where they could beach their vessels, relaunching them at the Marsa Menqa. From there the heavy attacks started on Senglea and Vittoriosa.

"Where we now stand, Valletta did not yet exist, and on this height – the highest point – the Ottoman battery launched a heavy attack on Senglea and Vittoriosa.

The Knights and the Maltese were surrounded on all sides, but De Valette – who had spies among the Ottomans – spread a rumour that help was on the way from Sicily.

"It was the cavalry which came down from Imdina and launched an attack on the Turkish camp in Marsa, and the Turks thought the help from Sicily had arrived and had fallen back when they were close to a victory in Senglea."



Strawberry Condensed Milk Ice Cream

I love ice cream. I made a lot of variations of ice cream all without using an ice cream machine. I still don't see the need for buying one, as I can make so many delicious ice creams without it. Some ice creams I did never get the chance to a photo shoot but hopefully will be able to post more ice cream recipes soon enough.

This ice cream secret ingredient is sweetened condensed milk. With only 2 ingredients, sweetened condensed milk and heavy cream, you can have one of the best ice creams ever, so easy and quick. This is simply the base, to which you can add various ingredients to make more ice cream options. Add vanilla for a simple vanilla ice cream, or add fruit jam, cookies for a bit of texture, chocolate and the list ca go on.

I must ADMIT this strawberry sweetened condensed milk ice cream is my favorite. Love the strawberry flavor and the cookies texture. One of the best no churn ice creams..no doubt of that.

Ingredients

- **Makes about 2 pounds ice cream - 12 servings**
- 1 can (14 oz, 397g) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 1/2 cups (600 ml) heavy cream
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup strawberry jam
- 7 oz (200 g) cookies, ladyfingers- about 12 cookies

Directions

1. In a large bowl whip the heavy cream with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form.
2. Add sweetened condensed milk and vanilla extract and mix for a couple of minutes
3. In a separate bowl break some ladyfingers into small pieces.
4. Add a layer of cream mixture and stir to combine.
5. Add strawberry jam and stir gently just to create some strawberry swirls. Repeat steps until all cream mixture is done.
6. Transfer in one large or 2 smaller covered storage container and place in the freezer. Freeze for at least 4 hours or overnight.



It would have been nice to see Malta's voice represented in this video. Hope you are all well, and Frank, congratulations on your retirement. As long as you don't retire from your labor of love - the Maltese e-Newsletter, you'll continue to please your loyal readership. Both of you keep up the good work. We enjoy your publications. Fred Aquilina Outstanding video and message.

<https://youtu.be/BA7pdABvpnc>



Malta Band Club Mississauga Canada

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met earlier this week to review the current situation on CORONAVIRUS COVID-19.

A unanimous decision was reach among Committee to remain CLOSED till further notice. We all agreed that the risks are too high and wish the fullest protection and safety of our members.

Stay safe and if you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.



MALTESE CENTER – NEW YORK

Friday July 24 Members Only Reopening

Jul 24, 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

The Maltese Center - backyard, 27-20 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NY, USA

Welcome back! Members only. Reservations are on a first come first serve basis. If you arrive without a reservation you may be asked to wait outside if we are at full capacity.

Everyone must follow safety protocols.

Sunday July 26 Members Only

Sun, Jul 26 The Maltese Center – backyard Jul 26, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
The Maltese Center - backyard, 27-20 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NY, USA

Welcome back! Members only. Reservations are on a first come first serve basis. If you arrive without a reservation you may be asked to wait outside if we are at full capacity. Everyone must follow safety protocols.

Alex Borg victorious at world snooker championship qualifiers

Alex Borg is through to the second qualifying round of the World Snooker Championship which is currently being played at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

The Mellicha-born cueist reaced the next round after having the better of Patrick Whelan, of England, 6-4 on Wednesday.

After losing the opening frame, the Malta professional fought back strongly to win the next three frames to head into the interval leading 3-1.

Borg won the opening frame after restart to stretch his advantage to three frames.

Whelan pulled one back but Borg's response produced a run of 80 that increased his advantage to 5-2.

The English player tried to keep the game alive when winning the next two frames to move just one frame behind – 4-5.

But Borg soon recovered his poise seal the win when winning the tenth frame 65-49.

On Friday, Borg will be up against English player Liam Highfield, who is ranked 60th in the world.



ARCHBISHOP AMBROSE AGIUS O.S.B.

(1856 – 1911) a Maltese Archbishop of the Philippines



A member of the Benedictine Order, Agius was appointed the Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines by Pope Pius X in 1904. Agius was delegated to canonically crown the image of Our Lady of La Naval de Manila in 1907. He founded the first Benedictine monastery in Malta, and ordained the first Filipino bishop in the Catholic Church.

Agius was born on September 17, 1856, in the Egyptian city of Alexandria (then under the Ottoman Empire), the second son (third child) of a Maltese merchant named Tancredi Agius and his wife Saveria Sammut.

Agius was baptized as **Tancredi Alfred Agius** at Saint Catherine's Cathedral in Alexandria on November 5, 1856. He returned with his family to Malta during his early years. Agius attended the college operated by the monks of St Augustine's Abbey in Ramsgate Kent, England, where he was an outstanding student. After he had completed his studies in 1872, he felt called to join the monastic community of the abbey. At his first profession of monastic vows, he was given the religious name of **Ambrose**. On October 12, 1873, he professed his perpetual vows and was then sent by

his abbot to Rome to complete his studies in philosophy and theology.

Agius was ordained a priest on October 16, 1881, at Subiaco Abbey. He became greatly immersed in Maltese culture as he traveled extensively in his early years. In May 1881, Agius was instructed by the Holy See to open the first Catholic monastery in Malta. In December 1881, Agius, along with a group of Benedictine monks settled in Nigret, Żurriq.^[4] Under his supervision, a canonical religious community was begun, and a novitiate open to international candidates was set up. It was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. In 1884, the monastery was closed due to Italian-Maltese political turmoil, and Agius returned to Ramsgate to continue his religious mission. In 1893, he was appointed secretary to the Procurator of the Subiaco Congregation by Pope Leo XIII.

On August 24, 1904, Pope Pius X appointed Agius as the Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines.^[1] He was appointed Titular Archbishop of Palmyra on September 3, 1904, and received his episcopal consecration on September 18, 1904, at Sant'Ambrogio della Massima in Rome by the Cardinal Secretary of State Rafael Merry del Val.^[5] Upon his appointment, Agius donated his celebration funds to the impoverished parishioners of the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio.

In the Philippines, Agius canonically crowned the ivory statue of the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of La Naval de Manila on October 5, 1907, representing Pope Pius.

Agius convoked the 1907 Provincial Council of Manila with the other bishops of the nation at Manila Cathedral, re-dedicating the Philippines to the Immaculate Conception, which later became the country's official patroness under the pontificate of Pope Pius XII in September 1942.^[7]

As Filipinos were previously barred from priestly ordinations and officially joining religious orders under Spanish colonial rule, on June 29, 1906, Agius ordained the first Filipino bishop in the Roman Catholic Church, Jorge Barlin y Imperial.

On November 1911, Pope Pius appointed Agius as the new Papal Legate to the United States. While preparing to travel to Rome, he died of an acute attack of peritonitis on December 13, at 55 years of age. On December 15, 1911, Agius was given a solemn Requiem Mass and was buried in the underground crypt of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Manila. The tomb survived the destruction of the cathedral due to bombing during the Battle of Manila in 1945. His remains were set into a smaller casket and moved to a new grave inside the Benedictine Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila.:

Belgium

30 689 km²

11,4 million inhabitants



Maltese in Belgium

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Maltese in Belgium are people from Malta resident in Belgium, whether permanently or temporarily. They include Maltese who have acquired Belgian citizenship, students and workers with International organizations. Before 2003, the Maltese in Belgium were mostly people married to Belgians who had emigrated to the country or Maltese diplomats. In 2003 the employment of Maltese nationals with the European Union (EU) started in earnest in view of Malta's membership of the organisation.

Belgian national statistics show that the number of Maltese in Belgium stood at

252 as of 1 January 2008.^[1] Of these, 159 lived in Brussels, 70 in Flanders and 23 in Wallonia. This represents a significant increase over previous years: in 2005 the number of Maltese in Belgium stood at 133^[2] and at 192 in 2006. A more recent estimate quotes the figure of 400 Maltese in Belgium in 2010. The number of Maltese working with the EU institutions and consultative bodies is of 378 in 2016 (an increase over the 365 in 2013 and 324 in 2010). Of these 291 are permanent. As regards EU agencies, they employ 45 Maltese (increase on 33 in 2013), only one of which is permanent.

Most of the Maltese are in Belgium because of their employment with the EU. It is in fact estimated that of the 324 Maltese employed with the EU in 2010, around 250 worked in Belgium.^[7] This is why they consider themselves to expatriates rather than emigrants as was the case with the Maltese Diaspora in the demographic movements of previous generations. This also explains why most Maltese in Belgium either live in the Brussels-Capital Region or the municipalities bordering this region, in the area in and around the Brussels Ring.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Malta's position in the central Mediterranean has made it an important strategic base for many different powers, and meant that it has been subject to many invasions throughout the ages. A multitude of civilisations have occupied the island, notably the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Turks, Arabs, Knights, French and British.

**WE LOVE
TO HEAR
FROM YOU**