

The game featured the reigning champions Balzan Flyers Crosscraft against Mgarr Volley. Both teams have a baggage of experience of their own but Mgarr have a tough challenge ahead. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft are coached by Silvio Camilleri while Mgarr Volley were coached by Marvic Micallef. Captain Zane Malasevka and Captain Estelle Gatt Barbieri lead their teams respectively to the game.

After a small shifts of points from one side to another, Balzan Flyers Crosscraft took the lead by 5 points. The Mgarr players were find it difficult to take points from the reigning Champions especially having Zane Malasevka and Dominica Dworniczak in their top forms. The Mgarr players were positioned well in court but the strength of the Latvian one was impressive from the first point. With 8 point lead the ladies in pink increased their advantage to 12-3 at which Coach Micallef requested the first time out. Unfortunately the time out was ineffective as Cinzia Fenech aced a point in between position 5 & 6 in the opponents' court. Mgarr regained the ball possession temporary but with a tip from Agata Bartlomiejczyk and the pink ones continued to increase their distance. The pressure on the Mgarr payers was being felt especially when they know it was hard to recover 10 points. Two mistakes in a row by the players from Balzan, gave some push in favour of the players in white. The players in white managed to give a good performance in a long rally which ended in favour of Coach Camilleri's players. With ten point difference between the two teams, Coach Micallef requested the second time out in order to motivate his players to give their best. For the second time, the time out was ineffective and Becky Craus kept her focus and aced 3 services in a row. There was a tentative reaction by Mgarr, and tried to steal a point by surprise but the players from Balzan managed to keep the ball possession. A mistake on service, gave Mgarr players, the opportunity to start to gain some points. The set ended 25-11 in favour of the Balzan Players.

With a set under Mgarr started more aggressive but it was a matter of time for Dominica Dworniczak to spike the ball and take the lead. A point by Ilaine Terrible equalized the score, after which Mgarr eventually, took the lead. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft reaction was quick to equalize the score and surprisingly Mgarr once again took the lead. There was another shift of points until Balzan Flyers Crosscraft managed to equalize and take the lead at 4-3. Confidently the ladies in pink took the lead to 4 points, but the ladies in white fought back in order to reduce the gap between the two teams to 1 point. Due to a small break by the referee, as he was not feeling well. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft regained ball possession and took the lead to 6 points immediately. At this time, 15-8, Coach Micallef called out for a time which resulted into 3 points gain in favour of Micallef's girls. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft managed to regain ball possession to increase the distance between the two teams by another point. A series of mistakes by Balzan Flyers Crosscraft allowed the Mgarr players to come close and the distance between the two was of 2 points. Unfortunately, a recovered ball by Shana Farrugia was not placed over the net and this allowed Balzan Flyers Crosscraft to increase the gap again to 4 points. At 14-19 under Coach Micallef requested the second time out. The second time out was ineffective and Balzan Flyers Crosscraft players continued to increase their lead until the score was 24-14. At this point, Mgarr attempted to start gaining points again. A diagonal spike by Cinzia Fenech allowed her team mates to close the set at 25-15.

The third set was an uphill start for the players in white. In fact, they took the advantage to 4 -1 and started to administer this advantage over the players in pink. A point by Analisa Abela continued to increase the advantage for her team to 7 -2. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft players managed to gain control of the game and with the services of Agata Bartlomiejczyk, managed to equalize the score at 7 -7. At this point Coach Micallef was forced to called out for the first time out. A shift of points from one side to

another started until Balzan Flyers Crosscraft took the lead by 2 points. Mgarr players managed to equalize the score at 11-11. At 12-12 Mgarr took the lead but it did not take long for Balzan Flyers Crosscraft to equalize and take the lead again. Shifting of points started again from one side to another, until the score was 17-14 and Coach Micallef had to request for the second and last time out of the set. At 20-14 Mgarr players started to clinch points from their opponents but the effort was not enough to equalize the score. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft continued to increase their lead with spikes by Zane Malasevka and the tips by Louise Vella. Mgarr managed to clinch a point from Balzan Flyers Crosscraft but a spike by Becky Craus gave Balzan the set victory at 25-18

The final score was Mgarr Volley vs Balzan Flyers Crosscraft :- 0 – 3(11 – 25 ; 15 – 25; 18 – 25)

Referee of the match was Mr. Aimen Fantazi

