

With 6 weeks away from the start of season of 2017-18, 10 teams in the senior women category are involved in the John Bugeja Tribute Matches. The aim of these matches are to help the teams prepare themselves for the season in a tournament of friendly matches

The teams participating in these matches , Balzan Flyers Crosscraft (Super League Champions and Fr. Tony Parnis Cup winners 2016-17), Fleur de Lys (Super Cup Winners (2016-17), Sliema Wanderers (1st Division Champions 2016-17), Balzan Flyers 2, Birkirkara Volleyball Club, Kavallieri Volley, Mgarr Volley, Paola Volley, Swieqi Phoenix, and Zabbar St Patrick's (a new forming club)

The teams were split into 2 groups of 5 and they will play a round robin against each other in each group. The winner of each group will play against the runner up of each group and the winners of these semi finals will play against each other in the final of this friendly tournament.

The first game was the derby between Balzan Flyers Crosscraft and Balzan Flyers 2. The reigning champions started with a good pace with their main attackers Zane Malasevksa and Dominika Dworniczak getting points after points but there were moments in which the collective effort of the players of Balzan Flyers 2 made the task for Malasevksa and Dworniczak a bit difficult. Though within the same club the teams tried their best to win but the experience of Balzan Flyers Crosscraft was sufficient to take the win. The final score read Balzan Flyers Crosscraft - Balzan Flyers 2 :- 3 -0 with set scores(25-13, 25-14, 25-13). Referee for the game was Mr. Mark Soler

Second Encounter was between Fleur de Lys and Kavallieri Volley. This was the first encounter between these two teams for this season. Fleur de Lys Volley have an addition to their team who is Ms. Ilaria Polato an ex Kavallieri Player. The Fleur de Lys team coach by Mr. Silvan Gauci started on a good note attacking their adversaries with a good arsenal of spikes and services. The players in black (Kavallieri Volley) tried to respond back but with some good blocks and some solid defence but these were not sufficient. With Kavallieri, one saw back the return of Ms. Gisela Orsini in the local scene after a number of years of absentism. Despite their effort, Kavallieri did not manage to clinched enough points to trouble the girls of Coach Gauci. The final score was Fleur de Lys - Kavallieri :- 3 - 0 with set scores (25-13 ; 25-8 ; 25-12)

Third Encounter of the Weekend was between Mgarr Volley and Birkirkara Volleyball Club. Both teams are very familiar to each other as they have met a number times in the previous seasons. In the first set it showed that Birkirkara took the lead from the first new points and made Mgarr volley throughout the whole set. At the end of the first set. Mgarr managed to take the lead and win the set by 27-25. Second and Third set saw both teams clinching for points and trying to reduce the mistakes but in end Mgarr Volley prevailed over the Birkirkara players to have their first win of the season. The final score was Mgarr Volley - Birkirkara : 3-0 (27-25;25-20;25-18). Referee of the game was Mr. Nemanja Kostic

Last game of the weekend saw the young ones of Swieqi Phoenix battling against the Veteran ones of Paola Volley. This game represented experience against enthusiasm by the young ones. The experience by the Paola Volleyball players played an important role especially in the first two sets because they won the sets with 25-20 and 25-15 putting

pressure on the young ones to make mistakes. Between the second and third set Coach Zammit Munro motivated the players in order to go out and give their best. This speech together with the confidence from the players of Paola allowed the players of Swieqi Phoenix to win a set by 26-24. Coach Lorenza Robba of the Paolities was not happy with the outcome of the 3rd set and in between sets he placed his team back in the correct mindset and the result was the forth set was won by his Players 25-16. The final Score was Paola Volley vs Swieqi Phoenix : 3-1 (25-20; 25-15;24-26;25-16)