

Another prelude of what the Super League was going to offer was, the confront between Kavallieri Volley vs Sliema Wanderers. Kavallieri were coached by Maria Atatrd and Captain by Whitney Mintoff while Sliema were coached by Melissa Cheviron and captained by Linda Margetiakova.

Kavallieri took the lead by one point with the service of Celaine Muscat but it was a matter of time for Sliema to equalize the score and take the lead. A shifting of points started and both teams took the lead in turns. Both teams were showing good volleyball rallies but Kavallieri managed to get a 3 point lead over the Sliema. Sliema with spikes of Melissa Cheviron managed to close the gap and equalize the score at 10-10. Kavallieri took again the lead at 11-10 but the lead was neutralised again. The Wanderers now took the lead and built a gap to 2 points. A diagonal spike by Giselle Orsini stopped the Wanderers's momentum. Trying to equalize the score, Kavallieri missed the opportunity with a spike out. It was the turn of Laura Ferrier to give the lead to the ladies in black and at 15-14 under, Coach Cheviron called for the first time out of the set. After the time out, the rally ended in favour of the blue ones. Both sides were giving away points to their opponents. The shifting of points and consequently the leadership continued for either sides. With 2 points under Mikaela Galea regained the right serve for her teammates. A diagonal spike by Laura Ferrier stopped the initiative of the blue ones to equalize the score. Sliema players managed to equalize the score at 20-20 and with the service of Antonella Spiteri these took the lead, forcing Kavallieri coach Attard to request the first time out at 20-21. A long rally, in which saw both sides putting their best, Sliema won it. Another long rally took place, with both sides pushing to the limits both in the attack and in defence. The rally was won by Sliema thanks to a spike by Melissa Cheviron and forced Coach Attard to call for the second time out. An attacking fault by Sliema Wanderers at 24-20 gave the opportunity to Kavallieri to clinch 3 consecutive points. Melissa Cherivon did not allow her opponents to equalize the score and with a spike from 4, she allowed her team teammates to win the rally and consequently the set at 25-23

Sliema, immediately continued with their progression and won the first point but the ladies in black quickly equalize and took the lead with the services of Celaine Muscat, who aced 2 consecutive services. The momentum was broke a spike by Melissa Cheviron. After a long rally, a spike by Mikaela Galea equalize the score for her teammates. Cheviron aced a service and took her teammates to a lead of 2 points. This lead did not last much, as the score was equal at 5-5 and this time, it was Kavallieri who took the lead to 8-5, forcing Coach Cheviron to request the first time of the set. The ladies in black remained focused and continued their march by clinching more points. Gisella Orsini aced a service and a spike by Yana Vella continued to help their squad to have a gap of 8 points. A tip by Mikaela Galea stopped the momentum temporary, but a block out by the blue ones gave again the ball possession to the ladies in black. Sliema Wanderers were find it difficult to keep with the pace of the knights and their arsenal of attacks. It was the turn of Laura Ferrier to land a spike from position 4 and gain another point. Things looked clear, that even when the players in black lost a point, they replied quickly to regain possession of the ball. Within the team of blues something happened, as these allowed continuous bombardment from their opponents and were not able to react. A spike along the line by Melissa Cheviron was another short attempt to reduce the gap, which was 11 points in favour of the knights. Kavallieri were looking sharp in defence but a spike by Cheviron managed to break through and gain a point for her squad. Another two points in favour of the blues gave some form of hope to recover the distance but this was not enough. A shift of points started and a block by Antonella Spiteri gave her teammates another point. The gap now was reduced to 7 points but Sliema player Adriana Finichiaro failed widely her service. The

ladies in black were closer to the end of the set but these were not consistent to win the set and allowed their opponents to win 2 points in a row. Eventually ,the set was won by Kavallieri by 25-18.

From the beginning of the third set, it looked like that Sliema wanted to take control again of the game, but Kavallieri managed to take a three point lead putting Sliema in a chasing position. After a mistake by the ladies in black, the Sliema players burned the opportunity to start their march to reach their opponents. A spike by Yana Vella, which ended slightly out, gave another opportunity to the ladies in blue to reduce the gap. A time out called, due to an injury sustained to Mikaela Galea, gave the opportunity for Sliema players to regroup and therefore equalize the score at 4-4. The knights were completely disoriented and these were now in the chasing position. At 4-6 under Coach Attard called for their first time out of the set. The march for points continued and the gap increased but the players in blues gave their opponents, chances to recover some points. A shift points occurred but still Sliema were ahead. It took a spike from Melissa Cheviron to increase further the gap between the two teams. The knights were doing their outmost to break through but did not managed until a spike by Ruth Lupi reduced to the gap by 1 point. A spike by Melissa was the reply for the previous lost point. The experience of Cheviron was coming timely and another point was obtained for the Sliema players. A decisive block by Cheviron over Ruth Lupi increased the gap. A point earned by Gisella Orsini allowed the ladies in black, to start regrouping their ideas but Melissa Cheviron replied back with a spike of her own. Linda Margetiakova aced a service to increase the gap. The ladies in black started to react and were climbing back point after point. Gisella Orsini spiked from 4 diagonally to reduce the gap to 3 points. Another tentative by Gisella to make points went slight out. This time Melissa Cheviron aced a point to put her teammates at 18-13. Sliema Wanderers were looking more organized and with the score of 20-14 in their favour, Coach Attard was forced to call for the second time out. A spike by the Frenchie Laura Ferrier went widely out. Fortunately, this was repaid by Adriana Finichiaro, who missed her service attempt. Another long rally which ended in favour of the Sliema girls took place. The girls in blues were looking confident and in control over their opponents. A spike by Mikaela Galea gave the opportunity to go for the set point. A tip by Linda Margetiakova made her teammates win 25-15.

The 4th set started with points shifting from one side to the other but both teams were looking tired especially when one sees the mistakes that were being committed. A back court spike by Melissa Cheviron equalize the score for Sliema. The lead for Kavallieri was obtained by a spike from Laura Ferrier. Another points for the knights but these were able to triplicate as they blocked out Mikaela Galea. Kavallieri regained confidence in their play and increased their lead to 4 points .Sliema looked in crisis and Coach Cheviron requested the first time out. The time out serve temporarily for Sliema to regain possession but the knights were on fire. A positive reaction from Sliema was becoming visible. Kavallieri continued their march but after gaining 2 points, Melissa Cheviron stopped their momentum. The players in blue, were now appearing disoriented once again. Kavallieri did not manage to capitalize and gave Sliema players the opportunity to start building points. In fact, Sliema won 3 consecutive points. A spike widely out by the blue ones, gave a breather to the ladies in black. Yana Vella aced a serviced over Mikaela Galea and another service to put the knights in an advantage of 7 points. At 12-19 Coach Cheviron requested the second time out. The time out did not affect the focus of the knights but in the subsequent rally, Mikael Galea spiked a ball to gain a point and allow her teammates a fresh start. A miscommunication between the ladies in black allowed Sliema to clinched 3 points in a row. With 21-17 in favour of the knights, Coach Attard requested the first time out. The focus of the knights started to go down but somehow these managed to get another point in their favour. The experience of Melissa

Chevion helped to reduce the gap to 3 points. The gap was now reduced to 1 point in favour of the knights and somehow, these managed to increase the gap to 2 points. A sharp spike by Melissa Chevion again reduced the gap. The same Chevion burnt the opportunity to equalize. After a long rally, the knights came victorious to win the set 25-22

The 5th set was underway and the most resilient one will win. Kavallieri took the lead by point and after a long rally, Kavallieri increased the gap to two points. It took a defensive fault and ace service by Adriana Finachiaro to equalize the score. The lead was taken by Sliema Wanderers but a spike by Yana Vella was enough to equalize the score. Kavallieri took the lead but an attack fault by Laure Ferrier and the score was equal at 5-5. It was Sliema's turn to take the lead but a spike by Laura Ferrier equalized the score again. A tip by Linda Margetiekova placed again her teammates in advantage and a spike by Melissa Chevion increased the game to 2points. Another spike by Melissa Chevion placed her team at 9-6. The ladies in black, were shocked and another point was conquered by Sliema thanks to another spike from Melissa Chevion. Laura Ferrier was refusing to lose and forced a spike which unfortunately ended slightly out. Another spike by Melissa Chevion to gain another point for the wanderers. A tip by Laura Ferrier allowed temporarily the knights to regain possession of the ball. The knights has lost confidence while on the other Sliema were looking sharp. In the end, Sliema wanderers won the set 15-7.

The final score of the match Kavallieri vs Sliema :- 2 – 3 (23 – 25 ; 25 – 18 15 – 25 ; 25 - 22; 7 - 15)

Referee of the Match Nello Calleja

