

One of the few times Balzan Flyers Crosscraft and Birkirkara met. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft were being coached by Silvio Camilleri and captain by Dominika Dworniczak while Birkirkara was coached and captained by Stefan Decelis and Juliette Vella respectively.

Balzan Flyers Crosscraft took the lead with the services of Dominika Dworniczak together with the spikes of Getrude Zarb. In the first part of the set, Birkirkara were looking a bit stiff in defence and this resulted in helping Balzan Flyers Crosscraft to increase the gap to 7 points. Birkirkara slowly started to show change in their game but still the players did not have the same confidence as the previous games. Temporarily, Birkirkara regain the possession of the ball but a spike from 2 by Cinzia Fenech secured a point to her teammates. The gap has now increased to 8 points in favour of the pink ones. A service widely out by Cinzia Fenech gave the opportunity for the Birkikara players to start clinched some points temporarily. Still stiff in court, the players of Decelis needed to find a way to organize their ideas. The players in pink were looking confident and at 17-3 in their favour, Coach Decelis requested the first time out. The time out was fruitful as the serving player Agata Bartlomiejczyk lost her concentration while serving. This was not enough for Birkirkara as these burnt the given opportunity. The march towards the 25<sup>th</sup> point continued in favour the Camilleri girls as Birkirkara continued to struggle. A spike by Jolanda Paolini gave another opportunity to the Decelis girls. The gap was reduced by another point but a spike by Dominika Dworniczak bounced off the net to fall into Birkikrara court. 2 steady services by Bekki Craus increased the further the gap but the third service was widely missed. The set was won by Balzan Flyers Crosscraft at 25-7.

Second set kicked in with Birkirkara serving and these players managed to take the lead immediately. Such lead was consolidated by an ace service by Jolanda Paolini. The third service was slightly missed by the Paolini and gave the opportunity to their opponents to win points. An opportunity missed by the ladies in pink. There was some shifting of points from one side to another but Birkrikara managed also increase their lead to 3 points ahead of Balzan Flyers Crosscraft. A decisive block by Raycine Cassar continued to increase the lead of the Decelis girls. A spike by Agatha Bartlomiejczyk started the chase from Balzan Flyers Crosscraft to reduce the gap. An aced service by Cinzia Fenech placed the pink ones one point under and a spike by Gertrude Zarb was enough to equalize the score. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft did not manage to take the lead. Compared to the first set Birkirkara players were better placed in court. A spike out by Dominika Dworniczak and an ace service by Raycine Cassar increased the gap to 2 points. With two mistakes by Birkirkara players, Balzan Flyers Crosscraft equalized the score and an ace service by Gertrude Zarb placed her teammates ahead of their adversaries. A miscommunication between the Birkirkara players helped Balzan Flyers Crosscraft to increase their gap. Coach Decelis requested the first time out when the score was 12-9 in favour of Balzan Flyers Crosscraft. Each set is a different story and in fact the second has nothing to do with the previous one. After a long rally between the two teams, Birkirkara emerged victorious in the rally by a spike of Jolanda Paolini. A missed opportunity by Louise Vella placed her opponents one step closer to her team. The same player won a point for her teammates. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft lost another opportunity to increase further the gap by losing the service. When the score was 15-12 in favour of Balzan Flyers, a spike by Stanislava Vukicevic initiated their march to equalize the score. At 15-15. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft players changed gear and quickly increased the gap to 7 points, where Coach Decelis requested the second time out of the set. The set was then won at 25-15 by Balzan Flyers Crosscraft.

The third set was on its way and after the equalizing the score at 1-1, Birkirkara took the lead and Balzan Flyers Crosscraft immediately equalized. There was a swing off points from both sides but 5-5, a spike by

Dominika Dworniczak put her team ahead of their opponents. The set went in favour to Balzan Flyers Crosscraft and they have reached 15-8 when Birkirkara regained possession of the ball. At 17-9 in favour of Balzan Flyers Crosscraft, the players of Birkirkara were in shock and were not able to react. Balzan Flyers Crosscraft increased their march and the gap was now 11 points in favour of the ladies in pink. At 21-9, Coach Decelis called for a time out to regroup his players. A spike out by the Agata Bartlomiejczyk gave an opportunity to Birkirkara to win the 10<sup>th</sup> point but this opportunity was quickly burned by the latter. The set finished at 25-12 in favour of Balzan Flyers Crosscraft.

The final score was Birkirkara vs Balzan Flyers Crosscraft :- 0 – 3 (7 – 25 ; 15 – 25 ; 12 – 25)

Referee of the Match was Darren Bugeja

