

The two super league teams will face each other one more time in the first encounter of this season during the John Bugeja Tribute Matches. Coach Lorenzo Robba led to the Paolities against Coach Silvan Gauci's girls

Paola Volley took the lead immediately over Silvan Gauci's girls to set the score 3-1 in the beginning of the set. An attempt by Fleur de Lys was done to shorten the distance but Paola clinched another point. Fleur de Lys managed to equalise the score at 4-4, but Paola gained a 3 point lead over their opponents with Services of Alison Borg and the spikes of Daniela Bonnici. A spike by Viki Sebok was an another attempt to shorten the gap, but Paola gained back the possession of the ball. A spike out by Daniela Bonnici gave another opportunity to Fleur de Lys to start reducing the points. A spike by Catherine Attard, resulted the gap reduction of 2 points. After a long rally, a tip by Thais Gatt prevailed and the distance between the teams was by 1 point. A spike by Daniela Bonnici again increased the distance between the two team to 2 points. It looked that Fleur de Lys needed to boost themselves. At 13-9 in favour of Paola, coach Gauci requested the first time out but it was ineffective as the players in black continued to put pressure on the Gauci's girls. At 15-9 under Coach Gauci did two substitutions by putting in Sarah El Gasi and Francesca Paola Sarcina instead of Maria Costa and Maria Caruana Demicoli respectively. A spike by Isabel Grech stopped the momentum of the Paolities. Sarah El Gasi aced a very nice service in position 5 and, a tip by Isabel Grech reduced the gap to 4 points. During a long rally, a spike by Viki Sebok allowed her teammates to regain possession of the ball. Coach Robba had to call a time out at 17-15, as Fleur de Lys were breathing on the back of Robba's players. The time out was fruitful as an along the line spike by Alison Borg, took her teammates to a lead by 3 points. The shift of points from one side to another started as both teams were not ready to give up easily. Viki Sebok again spiked a diagonal spike from position 2 to reduce the gap by one point. Sebok again aced a service on Delicia Farrugia. A long rally was started again, but the Paolities managed to win that rally. At 21-19 Paola gave a golden opportunity to Fleur de Lys to reduce the gap and the latter players managed to equalize the score at 21-21. In a moment of commotion, Fleur de Lys got a two point lead over the opponents which then was equalize at 23-23. This time was the turn of Coach Gauci to take the second time out. Both teams were giving their best and at 24-24, the tension and pressure were high. Both teams were covering well but a spike by Isabel Grech placed her teammates in the lead and subsequently a spike by Viki Sebok gave the girls in white the set at 26-24.

As the second set kicked in, Silvan's girls took immediately the lead with a spike by Francesca Paola Sarcina, but Paola equalized quickly. A to and forth situation was building up but Fleur de Lys managed to get a 4 point lead. The atmosphere was getting a bit heated but after an interruption of 16 mins due to technical problems, the game continued and Silvan Gauci's girls were focused and continued their march and took the lead to 22-7. The Paolities attempts to clinch points were neutralized with good covering and attacks. The set ended 25-9 in favour of Fleur de Lys and the Paolities were now back to the drawing board to invent a comeback.

For the third set, the Fleur de Lys players were fired up and took the lead immediately but the Paolities started to show signs of fighting back. With score 4-2 in favour of Fleur de Lys and Paola with the right serve, Fleur de Lys gained again another point. This action was immediately replied by Paola. A see saw of points started to flow, from one side to another, seeing both sides fighting for every ball. Paola after a long rally managed to reduce the distance to 1 point. Another long rally took place but this time, it was Thais Gatt, who earned the point for her team mates with a spike. Fleur de Lys continued to gain point after point until the score was 10-6 in their favour, but a tip by Daniela Bonnici stopped the momentum

of the girls in white. Gauci's girls took control of the game, and at 12-7 in their favour Coach Robba had to call the first time out of the set. The timing of the time out was right and Alison Borg with a diagonal spike placed her team one step close to their opponents. Another point for the Paolities, but a service out from their side, placed gain Fleur de Lys into advantage again. Another spike by Alison Borg was important for her teammates to shorten the distance between the two team. At 15-11 in favour of Fleur de Lys, the girls in black start to build confidence by winning points, and at 15-14 coach Gauci was forced to call for his time out of the set. The focus of Alison Borg was impeccable and managed to ace a service immediately after the time out to equalize the score. This point gave confidence to the Paolities which then took the lead, but Fleur de Lys reply was quick and equalized the score back. Paola took the lead again but after a long rally and a decisive block by Thais Gatt, Fleur de Lys equalized again. A spike from two by Sarah Spiteri again placed Paola ahead, which then was equalized by Thais Gatt. Paola took the lead but this time it was Francesca Paola Saricina's turn to equalize the score. Paola for the third time took the lead but Viki Sebok managed to equalize the score. It was no Fleur de Lys turn to take the lead at 21-20 forcing Coach Robba to take the second time out. Of the set. Fleur de Lys were not caught unprepared this time and continued to clinch points over their opponents. A series of mistakes allowed Fleur de Lys to be at 24-20 and Isabel Grech spike from the middle gave the win of the set to Silvan Gauci's girls at 25-20

The final Score was Paola vs Fleur de Lys :- 0 – 3(24 – 26 ; 9 – 25 ; 20 – 25)

Referee of the match was Mr. Luca Randazzo

