

## **VALLETTA REACH NATIONAL CUP FINAL**

**Category : Local Volleyball**

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Valletta secured a place in the Fr. T. Parnis National Volleyball Cup final after beating non-league Birkirkara in three straight sets.

Elsewhere Flyers Depiro II consolidated their top position in the Ladies Second Division with another fine win against Paola U/18, while Birkirkara also obtained another three points after a 3-0 win over Mellieha Bullets.

### Men National Cup

Valletta Mapei – Birkirkara VC 3-0 (25-14, 25-20, 25-21)

Valletta qualified to the final of the Fr. T. Parnis National Cup after a straightforward win against non-league Birkirkara VC.

In fact the latter was formed to take part in the National Cup and they found themselves fighting it out against the best team on the island.

The first set was soon over, with Valletta Mapei being superior in every aspect of the game, and Birkirkara finding it rather difficult to keep up with the tempo.

Silvan Gauci's move to use Ryan Borg as setter gave its results in the other two sets, with Birkirkara being close to their more quoted opponents in a number of circumstances.

However, Robert Balzan and friends were too strong for Birkirkara, and as such Valletta qualified without any real difficulties to the final of this competition, where they will meet Defenders Aloysians in a best out of three match series.

Referees: Frankie Tanti, Alexandra Meier

### Women 2nd Div:

Birkirkara VC – Mellieha Bullets 3-0 (25-8, 25-9, 25-8)

Birkirkara VC obtained a rather comfortable win against Mellieha Bullets, with the latter still searching to win the first set of the season.

On their part, Birkirkara took to this match with the right frame of mind, and from the word go they attacked their opponents through their services, with Mellieha finding it very difficult to build any counterattacks.

Birkirkara have now moved to within one point of Paola U/18, which are lying in second place, with Birkirkara also having a game in hand.

Referees: Alexander Spiteri

Flyers Depiro II – Paola Hibs U/18 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-13)

Flyers Depiro II consolidated their place at the top of the Ladies' 2nd Division with a fine win against second place Paola Hibs U/18.

The latter started the first set in top form, with Lara Caruana's services helping them go 4-0 up. However the score was soon levelled at 7-7, with Flyers showing a great fighting spirit. The latter managed to forge ahead mid way through the second set, and with Mariette Saliba playing well, they soon closed the first one in their favour.

Hibs recovered well, and in the second set managed to stay close to their opponents until Cinzia Fenech used her services to obtain some needed points.

The story was much the same in the third and final set, with Paola Hibs U/18 staying in front until 13-12 up, and then suffering immensely to counterattack on Fenech's services.

Depiro's aggressiveness, especially at the net, gave them the necessary momentum to wrap up this match, with Paola U/18 lacking the necessary experience to fight it out in similar situations.

However, the latter can still have their say in the playoffs which will be played at the end of the regular season.

Referees: Tony Sammut, Anatoly Gatt

Juniors:

Mini Volley Girls: Southend - Paola 0-2

Standings: Paola 21, Flyers 19, Playvolley 13, Southend 8, Fleur De Lys 6