

NEWSLETTER

MALTA UNIVERSITY HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED



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FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

Sigo Gatt is the new Assistant Director of Studies within The Malta University Language School



CEO'S CORNER

Technically this Newsletter covers the period from the beginning of the year to the end of the first quarter although we do include updates to the point just preceding its publishing, that is, in this case, including April.

Group Performance

I am happy to say that everything proceeds as planned with operational and financial performance expected to keep improving on a Group level. This is due to a mix of two things: a) our traditional activities such as accommodation related services and language tuition (amongst others) continuing to consolidate on their previous strong showings and b) the introduction of completely new services and innovative products within already existing business lines.

Training

In this edition of our Newsletter I wish to take some space to highlight the variety of courses provided during this first part of the year and a taste of what is in the pipeline.

First of all this period included the provision of some of our customary training courses on Public Speaking, Residential & Day Care (Intermediate and Advanced Modules), the course for Trade Malta related to SME Internationalisation & Export Readiness and the first four CPE accountancy seminars in our annual programme. The graduation ceremony for the Residential & Day Care Course 2018/19 is scheduled for the 11th June, 2019 at the Residence in Lija.

The Training Section however was also busy introducing new topics in our training portfolio. In the last months, we had delivery of courses on Dementia, Viticulture for Farmers, Sex Education, and Statistics using R. The Section also endeavoured to facilitate the delivery of a very successful Seminar on Cryptoassets and Blockchain in February, 2019. The Section also organised a number of in-house Training Courses including Management of Maltese Cooperatives organised for the Central Cooperatives Fund, STATA for employees of JobsPlus, Ministry for Education and Employment and Economic Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance, and Negotiation, Conciliation and Mediation and Consumer Protection for a third group of MCCA employees.

Preparatory work was also underway to produce upcoming courses on Digital Marketing Strategy, Nutrition for Modern Lifestyles, Fibres, Fabrics & Fashion, Pharmacognosy and Home Wine Making in the coming weeks.

Not bad for a small unit made up of a handful of very hard-working people – Maria, Mary Ann, Alexia, Mario and Michelle. Well done.

2019 BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races

The Races were held in glorious weather on Sunday, 11th March, 2019 on Campus, Tal-Qroqq. With around 560 runners in the various events this 8th Edition of the event was a memorable one with a record number of participants and funds raised. Hospice Malta will be presented with €5,400 raised through the 50% donation from race proceeds, the related crowdfunding campaign and further collections on the day.

MUHC's team of organisers – Johanna, Paul, Louis, Michela and Ray – and the band of volunteers and helpers rose to the occasion once again.



Personally

My kids are currently in the midst of their O level and A level exams. A very important passage of time which will help shape their longer term future. What is undeniable is that they are more single minded and focussed on achieving their goals than I ever was at that stage of my development. It seems today's generation mature earlier these days – though I could be over-generalising here given that there is the real possibility that the “delayed maturity” problem was solely down to me!

We are at the business end of the football season. In spite of the ups and downs the outcome to-date is not to be scoffed at. Lazio are in the Coppa Italia Final once again and within touching distance of the Champions League placings and Leeds United are in the Play Offs lottery after being in the top two (automatic promotion places) for most of the season. So in the next Newsletter I hope to be giving you some positive news. If the subject is avoided altogether you will surmise that it did not go well.

Have been doing a lot of reading since the turn of the year. Besides the three novel series – The Infernal Devices – by Cassandra Clare and the Cormoran Strike crime fiction series by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame) I finally managed to read the books which led to successful representation as movies - Rain Man and Saroo.

The first one was a mid-80s movie starring Dustin Hoffman and a young Tom Cruise featuring as two brothers (only becoming aware of each other in adulthood) with the first being a certified autistic savant and the other a fast living wheeler dealer. Although at times one may bill this as a sort of comedy it is actually quite heart wrenching in the end.

Saroo is the incredible true story of a 5-year-old boy who inadvertently boards a train from a remote village in India and ends up on the dangerous streets of Calcutta after a 2 day non-stop journey. He gets picked up and taken first to a juvenile detention centre and then placed in the care of a home for lost children. He is eventually adopted by an Australian family. Fast forward 30 years or so and using Google Maps on his laptop Saroo manages to locate the station which he remembers from flashes of memory and his village (of which he only remembers the name – wrongly pronounced at that) eventually leading to the reunion with his mother and siblings. Powerful stuff.

Education gave me knowledge and a future, sports made me competitive but books (and movies) continue to fire up my imagination.

Cheers

Joe



MALTA UNIVERSITY SPORTS AND LEISURE

**A celebration of sport and fun
for a good cause at the**

BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races

Sunday 10th March marked the 8th edition of the BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races and once again the event proved to be a huge success with over 550 participants gathering at the University athletics track for this annual event.

This is the fourth year running that BRND WGN has collaborated with the organisers, Malta University Holding Company, as title sponsors, to help the races reach new heights. What makes this event so special, apart from providing an opportunity for University students and staff to integrate with the rest of the community, is the fact that half the proceeds are donated to Hospice Malta. While the final amount is yet to be confirmed, over €5,000 has definitely been raised from this year's event and other related fundraising initiatives organised in line with the event.

The sunshine, as well as numerous forms of live entertainment, helped keep spirits

high as the event kicked off with the five-kilometre race and walk, with close to 300 starters including Murphy from BRND WGN, dressed head to toe in pink.

The race was won by Philip Vella of Mellieha Athletics Club in a time of 16:49. Vella was followed by University student Alain Hauser and Charles Micallef, in what turned out to be a close battle for second and third place.



All smiles after the presentation of awards

Josann Attard Pulis, Starmax athlete and one of Malta's top female marathon runners, went on to take first place in the women's section in a time of 19:40, ahead of University student Emily Caldwell in second place and Celia Zahra in third place.

The 2km race was won by Graziano Geremia of Starmax in a time of 6:12. The young Malta Youth Triathlon Academy athlete, Emilia Vella emerged victorious in the female sector in a time of 7:45.

In the 5km relay, always a favourite among spectators and competitors alike, 24 teams took to the starting line of the University athletics track. Despite being a close fought battle, it was Savio Athletics Club who won the race in a new course record of 16:00, ahead of Team XG boys and one of several participating teams from La Salle Athletics Club. Team XG Girls were the first female team to cross the line and the top three corporate teams also received awards (teams from Outdoor Living Malta, STMicronics and Engel & Völkers Sara Grech respectively).

An 800m fun run was also organised, with over 80 children taking to the starting line in between enjoying the bouncy castle, face painting and other entertainment; making the whole event an ideal Sunday morning out for families.



The start of the 800m children's fun run.

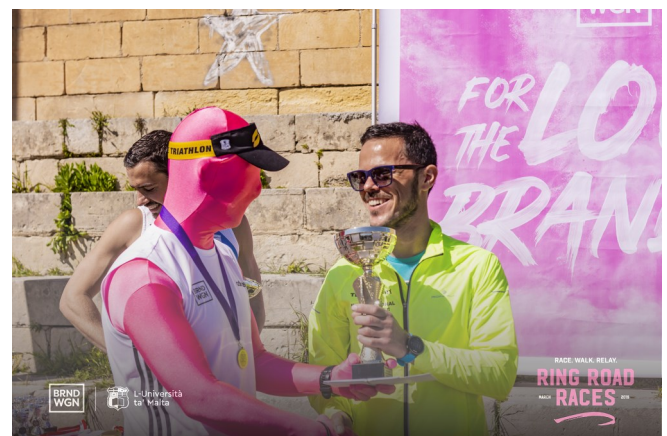
Even though not everyone can make it onto the podium, the event is suited to cater for all and everyone seemed to have a great time. Joe Azzopardi, Group CEO of Malta University Holding Company was very pleased with how everything turned out and commented "I actually remember running around the ring road as a University student back in the 80s. We're extremely proud to have revived this old tradition and to

see how far the BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races have come. Each year we strive to work harder to make the event more fun for all and above all to help raise more funds for Hospice Malta. It's always great watching things come together after months of hard work and we're extremely grateful for all the external support we receive. The 8th edition has definitely been our biggest and most successful event yet and we're already looking forward to planning the next one."

Peter-Jan Grech, CEO and founder of BRND WGN added: "This year's event was a fantastic celebration of sport and fun and we're extremely happy to have been part of this worthy fundraiser once again."

Image captions

All Photo credits: Vince Piscopo



Philip Vella, winner of the 5km Race, receiving his award from BRND WGN's Murphy



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Cryptoassets and Blockchain:

Seminar

Technological Innovation and Legal Challenges

On 21st February 2019, Malta University Consulting organised a four-hour seminar on Cryptoassets and Blockchain. The seminar was organised on behalf of the Department of European and Comparative Law, Faculty of Laws in collaboration with the Centre for Distributed Ledger Technologies and AMSDE (Assoċjazzjoni Maltija Għall-Istudji Tad-Dritt Ewropew) of the University of Malta.

The seminar was delivered by Prof. Michael Schillig from King's College London and addressed the disruptive technologies that are revolutionising the way we do business. It included reference to challenges being faced by financial institutions and regulators given the legal issues these technologies are posing in the realm of financial law in terms of payment systems, securities holding and trading, derivatives, securitization, initial coin offerings and resolution and insolvency. The seminar provided also a foundation in distributed ledgers and crypto-currencies and the respective legal contexts.

This event was very well attended including a number of local renowned legal practitioners and academics.

Update on the INCOME TOURISM Project

As reported in the 35th Issue (April –June) MUHC Newsletter, MUC is participating in a 3-year Erasmus+ KA2 funded project named INCOME TOURISM - an acronym for “Innovative Cooperation Business-HEI Learning Model for Tourism”. This project aims at developing a new learning model to soft skills learning for the tourism industry based on an innovative cooperation learning model. INCOME TOURISM brings academia from five Universities from as many countries, students and industry together for soft skills training adapted to the real, evolving and demanding needs of this industry. Students, in-company tutors from the tourism industry and Higher Education Institutions (HEI) tutors - will have the opportunity to experience the German Dual Model where partner companies collaborate with the HEIs to maximise the outcome of the learning process.

Dr Ing. Alexia Pace Kiomall and Ing. Mario Cachia from MUC recently attended two events in conjunction with this project: the 3rd General Assembly Meeting held at the University of Bergamo, Bergamo, Italy between the 26th and 27th February and the 2nd roundtable discussion - Piloting a Cooperative Learning Model - held on 28th March at the Chamber of Commerce in Valletta.



Bergamo Meeting:

During the Bergamo meeting, the Training Model Development being developed by DHBW Ravensburg was discussed. This Training Model is intended as a tool to assist university tutors in the teaching of soft-skills in the field of Tourism. A discussion ensued on the mobility aspects of this project and the pilot testing of the Dual Model adapted to meet the needs of each participating university. The method

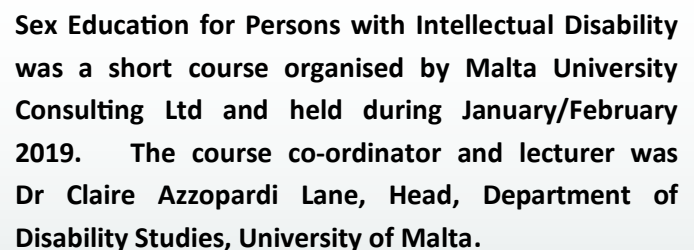
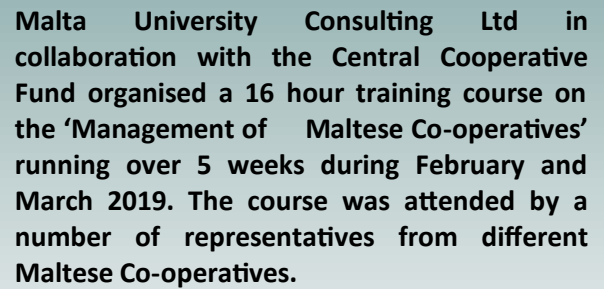
of Monitoring and Evaluation of the pilot training was also discussed.

Valletta Meeting:

The Valletta meeting was attended by representatives of MUC, Malta Business Bureau, Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture (ITTC) of the University of Malta, who are associate partners and representatives from various entities working in the Tourism sector who plan to participate in this project by hosting during the piloting stage, one or more students attending the undergrad course at the ITTC. The discussion focused on the main upcoming activities leading mainly to the pilot testing and subsequent mobility in March 2020.

The main upcoming events of this project are the Steering Committee Meeting and Model Reflection Workshop that will be held in Malta between the 4th and 6th June





March 2019

Annual Field Study Trip by Geography and Planning students from the University of Birmingham




Presentation day: The students at the University Residence on the last day of their visit to Malta




Mr Tano Role, University of Malta, with the students at the Cittadella during a full day visit to Gozo.

UPCOMING COURSES


MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Nutrition for Modern Lifestyles

Wednesday 22nd May & Tuesday 4th June 2019




MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Ethical Fashion – Being a Responsible Consumer

28th May 2019 (3 hours)



Accountancy CPE Seminar -
Corporate Governance and Family
Shareholdings in Maltese Listed
Companies



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

HOME WINE MAKING COURSE

25th & 27th June 2019

Time: 5.30pm to 8.00pm

*plus a 2 hr visit to two adjacent vineyards followed
by homemade wine tasting and finger food*



Venues:

Presentations:

Malta University Residence,
Robert Mifsud Bonnici Street,
Lija

Vineyard visits:

Ghajn Rihana,
Limits of Burmarrad

Tutor:

Carmel Borg

Course fee: €90

wine tasting and finger food included

DIGITAL MARKETING

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
(MAY 2019)



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING



Pharmacognosy and Herbal Products

2nd–26th July 2019
(28 hours)



This course has been
approved by the
National Commission for
Further & Higher Education
as equivalent to Level 6



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

The Art of Public Speaking



More information on : <http://muhc.com.mt/category/consulting/current-courses/>

FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

Sigo Gatt



Sigo Gatt is a new recruit within The Malta University Language School. He is currently working as an Assistant Director of Studies, helping out with the running of the current operation of the school, located at the Malta University Residence in Lija. He is also helping with the migration of the school to our new and bigger premises within the University Campus in Msida. Having experience with implementing new classroom technologies in class, it is one of Sigo's greatest ambitions to turn the language school into a state-of-the-art institution, where teachers make the most of what technology adds to facilitating language acquisition.



Sigo is also a musician, singer, songwriter and performing artist. He won a Music Award at the Malta Music Awards for Best Album Cover for his Album entitled Perfect Existence in 2003 and two of the songs on this album - Vicious Delicious and Perfect Existence were play-listed on the national radio stations and BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting) for the remainder of that year. As a musician and frontman of a local band, he believes that music, theatre, art and technology, amongst others, are excellent tools for targeting language, stimulate discussion and promote Autonomous learning.

In one of his previous positions as Director of Studies at another language school, he successfully introduced and implemented all the necessary upgrades in the Academic Department to get the Language School up to standard and finally become a member of FELTOM. As part of the process he managed and sustained the training of existing teachers through the Introduction of Teacher Observations, trained senior teachers to conduct such observations and designed Level Descriptors and Level Tests based on the Common European Framework of Reference.