

to the best shots captured in the moment by Allied Newspapers' Fournier, Mark Zammit Cordina and Steve Zammit Lupi last year



DARRIN ZAMMIT LUPI
NOVEMBER 15, 2015
A police officer checks his mobile phone outside the Phoenix club in Paceville after 76 people were injured when a gas railing in a crowded stadium gave way in the early hours of the morning.

CHRIS SAINT FOURNIER
AUGUST 18, 2016
Bathers at the popular Tigné Beach resort in Sliema look on at a street block in Tigné as a double over its safety rigged in the media, with pentagon Prime Matt Fenech back in the air. The rig was built to ensure that the view over which it was built posed no threat to its stability.

MATTHEW MIRABELLI
SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
Hibernians and Pembroke Athleta players vie for the ball during their Premier League football match at the National Stadium in Ta' Qali.



MATTHEW MIRABELLI
JANUARY 4, 2016
PFF Dutchman players stretch before a training session at the Hibernians Stadium in Corradine. The Dutch team were in Malta on a training camp.



DARRIN ZAMMIT LUPI
FEBRUARY 21, 2016
Birkirkara's L'Imam Sayid shoots the ball as Moca's Tyrone Farrugia tries to block during their Premier League football match at the National Stadium in Ta' Qali.

Another image by Saint Fournier which reflects what alas seems to be happening on our island is an image of some tourists looking on Sliema construction projects (page 73).

Business and development are important on a small island like ours but not at the expense of environment. What is the use of having a strong economy and then having to go out into the streets wearing anti-pollution masks or taking anti-depressants due to the everyday stress encountered through traffic, noise and general bedlam evident in most of our cities?

Steve Zammit Lupi's capture of a farmer saving his goat after a firework explosion (page 83) demonstrates the bond between human beings and animals. Another image on a similar theme, by Saint Fournier, depicts a woman walking her five dogs on the Sliema promenade. There are also many photographs by Saint Fournier which demonstrate his growth in photojournalism. The evidence of a sharp eye, a good knowledge of composition and creative viewpoint make this rather unsung photographer one of our top photojournalists.

One image which really caught my eye is the one on page 132, which depicts a woman passing by a street painting of Christ. It immediately brings the difficult topic of integration to mind. For me, this capture by Steve Zammit Lupi is one that merits deeper reflection and thought.

On a different tack, Darrin Zammit Lupi's photograph of two girls silhouetted against an eye-catching Maltese sunset is one picture which has not only a story but is superbly aesthetic and artistic. Another image in the same mold is Saint Fournier's picture on page 88. This shows a bird's eye view of three tourists in front of two street performers. The timing and choice of viewpoint is superb. Here is where the skills of trained photographers shine out. A great image is the combination of the right choice of technique, moment, mood, composition and message.

The Sport section carries some marvellous work by Mirabelli, Darrin Zammit Lupi and Saint Fournier. An image by Zammit Cordina (page 191) depicts what sport should be all about. An exhausted runner is helped towards the finish line by a cyclist during the Malta Marathon. Such events are a far cry from the commercially alas sometimes drug-dominated scene of top level sport.

In fact, amateur sport should be much more motivated and nurtured as it is usually not tainted by the destructive "win at all costs" attitude.

I sincerely recommend this publication as it is a very interesting pictorial overview and record of what occurred in Malta in 2016.

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MATTHEW MIRABELLI
APRIL 7, 2016
Chris Kaine, who lost his sister Tania Fenech to cancer, amazes outside Mater Dei Hospital, completing 20 marathons in 20 days to raise funds for beds to be used by the parents of hospitalised children.

MATTHEW MIRABELLI
MAY 29, 2014
A participant is helped over the last obstacle while taking part in The 50th obstacle course race in Paphos. The race, the first of its kind in Malta, covered 15km and included over 20 obstacles.



MARK ZAMMIT CORDINA
FEBRUARY 28, 2016
An exhausted Malta Marathon runner is helped towards the finishing line by a cyclist and a race observer in Sliema.



STEVE ZAMMIT LUPI
SEPTEMBER 18, 2016
A group of horses are taken for a swim at Bahar in Cagħaq.

STEVE ZAMMIT LUPI
OCTOBER 10, 2016
A Muslim woman walks by a street artist's portrayal of Jesus Christ with a sunray over his heart at the Valletta bus terminus.