

KWADRU NRU 19

IL-GOSTRA

IL-KELMA GOSTRA TFISSER LOGHOB B'KOMPETIZZJONI; IL-KAVALLIERI TA' SAN GWANN UKOLL KELLHOM IL-GOSTRA TAGHDOM F'XI FESTI. IL-GOSTRA LI NITKELMU FUQHA DAZ-ZMIEN, HIJA IL-KOMPETIZZJONI FUQ IL-BAHAR, FEJN WIEHED JIPPROVA JAQBAD IL-BANDIERA LI TKUN IMWAHHLA F'TARF TA' ARBLU MIDLUK BIX-XAHAM, HIEREG MINN FUQ BAGA JEW BICCA OHRA TAL-BAHAR. DIN IL-LOGHBA TAS-SAJF ISSIR F'XI BAJJA, BHAL MARSAXLOKK, BALLUTA, SPINOLA, BIRZEBBUGA, U OHRAJN, L-AKTAR FIL-FESTI TITULARI TAL-ORIB. MINBARRA IT-TIGRIJIET TAD-DGHAJES, DIN KIENET L-UNIKU SPORTS TAL-BAHAR LI KIEN ISIR FL-ANTIK, F'XI OKKAZJONI POPOLARI.

PAINTING No. 19

THE GREASY POLE

APART FROM BOAT RACES, THE GREASY POLE WAS THE ONLY OTHER SUMMER SPORT AT SEA, IN THE PAST. THE COMPETITIVE SPORT CONSISTS OF A POLE COVERED WITH GREASE, HORIZONTALLY DISPOSED OVER THE SEA, SUPPORTED ON A BARGE AT ITS BASE. THE OUTER END CARRIES A FLAG. COMPETITORS ATTEMPT TO RECOVER THE FLAG BY WALKING ALONG THE SLIPPERY POLE. IF THE GAME TAKES TOO LONG, COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO WIPE OFF GREASE, MAKING THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE FLAG. THE GREASY POLE 'GOSTRA' IS STILL ORGANISED FOR ENTERTAINMENT ON TITULAR FEASTDAYS OF SEASIDE TOWNS AND VILLAGES, AS AT MARSAXLOKK, BALLUTA, SPINOLA, BIRZEBBUGA, ETC..

THEY USED TO BE VERY POPULAR IN THE PAST BUT NOW THEY ARE ONLY ORGANISED ON FEASTDAYS OF SEASIDE TOWNS AND VILLAGES.