



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 28th November 2008

Knock Out Cup – Round 1

This week was a hectic one to say the least because we had to contend with not one but two cup matches. This match was the first round for the Knock out Cup. Our opponents were The Dambusters who usually play at the White Hart Pub. Whenever we play them it is always a good friendly affair with loads of banter and ribbing taking place between us. The matches we have played in the past have all had a very unpredictable outcome. Sometimes we win other times we lose. So this was anybody's game. The venue for this match was the Weston AFC club; it used to be the old Westland's Sports and Social Club. It was played on the new alley AFC2. Many of our players, who play in other leagues, had played there before, others had not. We found out at the beginning of the match that The Dambusters had also played a Semi Final match for the Front Pin Competition on Wednesday. They too won their match so we now know that we shall meet them again in the Final of the Front Pin. Just where this will be, or when, we don't know yet, but it will be sometime in the early months of next year so keep your eyes peeled on the Cup News page on the site. So on with the report.

For this match we again elected to play second trying to follow the good fortune of the match on Wednesday. Playing for us on the first set we had Biker, Andy M. and 'edgehog. We began slowly by matching The Dambusters scores, all be it in a slightly different order, but we were level after the first hand. Biker kept up a good pace throughout this match especially as for this one all the pins counted and the final result would be calculated on the overall pin totals. No points would be available to bring us higher or drop us down the table. Biker ended up with a reasonable 36. Andy M. did not do quite as well because he only managed to muster an overall score of 30. 'edgehog, on the other hand, who was still fired up from his excellent score on Wednesday, managed to hit a 12 spare on his third hand which he swiftly followed up with a 9, 7 and an 8. His set total was a fantastic 50. This contributed nicely to our set total of 116. The Dambusters kept the pressure on when C. Taylor hit an excellent 13 spare on his fifth hand down, but alas it was wasted when he only hit a 2 on his final hand. His final set total was 39. His team members supported him well by hitting a 32 and a 38 both of which were scored without a spare. Their set total was 109. This meant that we had held them off and were currently only 7 pins ahead. We still had a long way to go if we were to survive.

The second set saw Andy G., Grandad and Doug storm into action. Andy G. kept a good feel for the process for the beginning of his set by scoring a 6 and a couple of 8's. It turned a little sour on his fourth hand when he could only hit a 3, but pulled back on the reins and finished up with two 7's. His set total was an excellent 39. Grandad, on the other hand, played as if his life depended on getting a good score. He started off a little slowly with a couple of 6's, an 8 and a 4, but hammered down a 9 spare on his fifth hand then broke the mould with a 13 spare. His set total was an excellent 46. Doug tried to compete but could not find all the right places. He hit a couple of 7's and 9's which he supported with a 6 and a 4. His set total was 42, which gave us a set total of 127. The Dambusters kept dropping the bombs down the alley with J. Bartlett hitting mainly 7's but spoiling



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the run on his fifth hand by scoring a 5. His set total was a good 40. His team mates hit a further 72 between them which was made up with a 32 and another 40. Their set total was 112. This meant that we again had pulled a few more pins on the game to now give us a nice lead of 22 pins to enter the third set with.

The Gauntlet had been well and truly thrown to the ground on this next set when we played Vince, John C. and Vice. We needed to keep the pressure up on this set. Vince, John and Vice began well with an 8, 6 and a 9. Vince lost a little momentum because he later hit a couple a 4's, a 3, 5 and a 6. His set total was 30. John played better with a set total of 37. This was made up of a couple of 6's, a couple of 8's and a 7 but lost a little concentration on his final hand where he slumped to a 2. Vice dipped a little on his second hand when he hit a 4, but he soon gained his composure to hit a 6 and a couple of 7's and finished with an 8. His set total was 41 which meant that our set total was 108. The Dambusters seemed to refuel their bombers when M. Dewey and R. Barton both hit 15 spares on their first hand. This gave them a hand total of 36 which was excellent. They all dipped a little on their second hand when they all hit 5's. This was short lived, however, when M. Dewey hit a 14 spare on his fourth hand and A. Witcome hit a 15 spare on his fourth hand too. What an upset this was proving to be on this set. All three of them then finished the set with M. Dewey hitting a couple of 6's. So too did R. Barton. A. Witcome went one better with a couple of 8's. Their set totals were 51, 47 and 47 which gave them a huge set total of 145. This gave them a whopping 37 pins profit on the set completely wiping out our current lead of 22. The Dambusters now had the upper hand going into the fourth and final set with 15 pins in the lead. It's like I said for the Front Pin match, things can turn full circle at a moments notice and often does.

We were going to have to try harder for this final set because unfortunately we were a player short which meant that we had to use a low score. We had had two scores of 30 for this match so far and Captain Woody had to decide just whose score he should use. He decided on Vince's because it had the better range of hand scores. For this set we could then only play Dave and Captain Woody. Both of them played similar hands where they matched fairly evenly with a range of 4's and 7's between them with a 6 or two thrown in for good measure. On their final hand Dave finished with an 8 which gave him a set total of 38. Captain Woody fought bravely and hit a 10 spare. His set total was a good 41 and our set total was 109. The Dambusters kept their bombardment of the defences. S. Dewey fired ahead with a couple of 8's, a 6, 7 and a 3 but hit a 10 spare on his fourth hand. His set total was a good 42. J. Gilmore thundered on with four 7's and a couple of 6's and went on to hit a total of 40. A. Turner would not let go of the battle where he hit a 9, then a 6. He followed with an 8. He smashed on with a 15 spare on his fourth hand, to finish with a 6 and a 7. His set total was 51. Their set total was a good 133. This meant that they had pulled another 24 pins ahead giving them a final lead of a huge 39 pins.

So there you have it. What started off looking like a victory for us turned out to be a nightmare loss. We are now out of the Knockout Cup for another year and only looking forward to the Front Pin Final where we can hope for victory.