



# CON B SKITTLES

## Match Report Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009

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This week saw us back in action on our own alley after yet another vacant night last week. Our opponents were The Reptiles, who at the time of this report were floundering at position 9 in the table. This was only three places below us. When we met them last year, we were slaughtered 12 points to 2 so we needed to pull some serious action out of the bag. As it was Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, (which happens to be the first of three this year, go on I dare you to check it out!) anything could happen, as you well know.

Up first this week saw Lee, Andy G. and 'edgehog in the zone. It seemed to lack a little umph, because there seemed to be just a few too many 5's and 7's cluttering up the scoreboard with a couple of 6's and an 8, 6 and a 1 thrown in for company. This resulted in player totals of 30, 36 and 36, which meant that we had a good initial score of 102. The Reptiles, on the other hand, seemed to be suffering just as much as us when they hit a range of scores from a 3 all the way up to a couple of 7's with some 4's, 5's and 6's to even out the scores a little. Their player totals were 28, 31 and 36, giving them a set total of 95. Fortunately, for us this meant that we had secured a first set victory all be it only with 7 pins, but it meant that we now had something to build on to move us forward in this battle and we had two valuable points in the bag.

The second set consisted of Grandad, Vice and Doug. Could we keep the momentum going? Alternatively, would this turn out to be a damp squib? Once more, the pins were not being as friendly as they ought to be because again 4's and 5's seemed to be the way this set was going. A few 7's and 8's broke up the set a little for us, but it looked like things were going to turn around nicely for us when Doug hit our teams first spare of the evening but alas it did not come to anything major because he could only muster a 9 spare. Our set totals were 34, 30 and 38. This meant that for our second set we had scored, once again, 102. Could a plan be forming? Or was it pure coincidence? The Reptiles saw a gap in the market and went for it, all guns blazing. They too had a range of scores from a 4 up to a couple of 8's with some 5's and 6's for a little flavour. This was nicely topped up by K. Merrifield when he hit their teams only spare of the night which was a 13 (uncanny or what bearing in mind the date!). This gave him The Reptiles highest score for the evening of 42. His supporting team players hit 37 and 41. Their set total was a massive 120, which was 18 pins more than us, robbing us of the 7-pin lead we had already accumulated. They were also now even on the points too but were 11 pins in front overall.

The third set consisted of Kev, John C. and Dixie. This, as it happened, turned out to be the best set of the night with some good scores from us. Kev played the best for our side when he began with a 9 but on his fourth hand down hit a 13 spare. He went on to score our



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teams' highest score of 47 so well done to him. The other two peppered the set with a range of scores from 6's, 7's and 8's. They scored 38 and 40. Thanks to Kev's score, our set total was a good 125. The Reptiles seemed to be a little nervous on this set because they seemed to have a covering of 6's and 7's with a couple of 8's which got broken up with a couple of 5's. Their set totals were 36, 37 and 40, which meant that their set total was a disappointing 113. It was thanks to this that the tables had turned a little in our favour and stolen back the deficit from the second set, which meant that we were now only a single pin behind on the match. It was now all to play for on the final set.

To play for us this time was Vince, Dave and Captain Woody. By the time this was played the alley must have cooled slightly because the pins would not budge from the diamond where scores of 4's, 5's 6's, 7's, 8's and 9's prevailed. The player totals were 34, 40 and 36 giving us a set total of 110. The Reptiles seemed to put more cash in the meter whereby they hit eight 7's, four 5's with a couple of 6's and 8's. Their set totals were 39, 39 and 43. This gave them a set total of 121 and the final points available on the match. They had almost done the double on us by yet another victory over us and had won 10 points to 4.

Next week we shall be away at the Devonshire Road Social Club where our opponents will be The Persuaders. Last time we met them on our alley they flattened us 14 points to 0. Can we secure victory on this, the return match? Tune in next week and see.