



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 13th March 2009

This week saw us back in action after last week off and saw us on the second of the three Friday 13ths of this year. This Friday was a special day in its self because it was Red Nose Day and one of our players was celebrating his birthday. I am not sure who because that information did not reach my ears. This is probably because he thought I would make a comment during the report, he'd be correct, I would! Anyway, back to the story line. This week saw us in competition with The Double Six. Last time we met them on their alley, back in November last year, we secured a victory of 12 points to 2. This week we were on our home alley where anything could happen, and usually does as regular visitors to this site are well aware of.

Up first for us was Biker, Andy M. and 'edgehog. We started off a little on the slow side with a few 3's and 4's littering the scoreboard. A few 6's, 7's and 8's drifted in from somewhere to be shadowed by a 9 from 'edgehog on his third hand. The overall scores on this set for us were not that great either. They were 30, 31 and 42, which gave us a set total of 103. It seemed, at the time, that The Double Six were not playing that well either, at least this was the impression I got during the match. On closer inspection it looked a little on the grim side, especially as they had managed, between them, to hit six 8's, three 7's, three 6's, two 5's and two 4's with a 3 almost propping up the bar. Their set totals were 32, 39 and 43. This gave them a commanding lead at this early stage of the game by 11 pins. This was going to take some beating and seemed as if it was going to be a complete turnaround from our last encounter.

The second set needed to be a good one, so we played Swifty, Vice and Doug. Swifty got off to a promising start with a 6, only to be a little outdone by Doug who hit a 7 on his first hand. Things dipped a little, on the second hand. Soon things came back into the fold on Doug's fifth hand when he scored an excellent 14 spare which was our teams' first spare of the evening. His set total was 48 which also turned out to be our team's highest score of the night so well done to him. Swifty and Vice scored 27 and 37, which gave us a set total of 112. The die had been cast in our favour when The Double Six could only muster a hand total of 12 for their first go on this set. Things went from bad to worse on their third hand when T. Webb suffered a V/C. Just like I said earlier, "anything could happen on our alley and if often did!" Their set totals were 33, 35 and 36 which gave them a set total of just 104. This meant that we had begun to turn the tables a little and pulled back 8 pins from our deficit. This meant that we were now only 3 pins behind and it was all square on the points so far.

The third set saw John C., Vince and Andy G. in action. This turned out to be the closest set of the entire match with good scores being hit all over the board. We guessed that it was likely to be a good set when Andy G hit a 10 spare (our teams second spare of the night) on his first hand. Also this set saw a couple of 5's, a couple of 6's, five 7's, four 8's and a couple of 9's. The player totals were 42, 39 and 47. This gave us an overall set total of 128. The Double Six, not wanting to be outdone, bowled on relentlessly. Their scores reflected this nicely too when they hit a couple of 4's, a couple of 5's, three 6's, five 7's and five 8's. The true power of this set came from S. Morse on his fifth hand when he hit an excellent 16 spare and went on to hit a superb 50, which, as it turned out, was their highest score of the night. The other two scores were 34 and 43. This was just not quite



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enough to secure victory because their overall set total was 127. We had become victorious once more when we needed it most, all be it just by a single pin. We clearly seemed to be in the driving seat especially as after the first set we were 11 pins adrift, but now we were just 2. Could things continue to go our way? Or is this all going to end in tears for us?

The final set saw Grandad, Dave and Captain Woody step up to the plate. It was a fairly evenly paced set whereby there was nothing less than a 5 on the score board for us, but there were three of them! Complementing them was six 6's, two 7's, five 8's and two 9's. These gave us player totals of 39, 39 and 45, which gave us a set total of 123. The Double Six were about to suffer a little because to their dismay they could only muster 11 players instead of the usual 12 which meant that they were forced to play a low score. This is something that not many teams like to do. Their lowest score was 32 so it meant that the final two players needed to up the pace and aim highly if they were going to be able to do anything with this set. Try as they might, they could not seem to find the mark. They hit a few 2's, a 3, three 4's, a couple of 5's, a couple of 6's, five 7's, two 8's and a 9. Alas this was just not enough to gain the advantage because the two that played only scored 33 and 36. This gave them a set total of 101. So as you can see we had won this set by 22 pins and had won the match by 20 pins overall. Once more we had secured a victory over The Double Six, once more with 12 points to 2.

We needed the win, especially as we had suffered a little over the last few matches, but now we were beginning to fight the good fight back for the closing few matches of the season. Next week we are due the play against The Tornadoes at the Bristol hotel. This should also prove to be an interesting match because last time we played them on our alley we won 10 points to 4.

Before I say bye for now, I thought I had better say that the date and venue for the Front Pin final has been announced. The details can be found on the Cup News page of the website.