



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 30th January 2009

This week saw us paying away at the Borough Arms pub against The Nutters, who at the time of writing this were residing nicely at joint 2nd place in the table. Last time we played against them at home on our alley, we were very fortunate to have a nice victory of 12 points to 2. We felt that we were in a good position because according to the statistics on the CSL website, they had not won many home matches despite being so high in the table. Could we secure victory once more against them? Or would our hopes be dashed like the world's economy seems be doing at present? Read on and see.

Up first for us was Biker on his usual set being supported by Dixie and 'edgehog. The pins fell steadily but we seemed to be matching The Nutters almost pin by pin with it being level after the first hand. Things began to hot up nicely on the third hand when Dixie hit an excellent 13 spare. This seemed to turn things round almost on a sixpence (who can remember those? – anyone!) Our remaining hands saw a nice range of pins falling from a 3, all the way up to a few 9's. 'edgehog upped the ante a bit further on his final hand when he hit an excellent 10 spare. With Dixie's spare and the couple of 9's he hit our teams' highest score of the night of 51 so well done to him. The others hit 33 and 43. This gave us a set total of 127 which was a very good start to a match in anyone's book. The Nutters, on the other hand, seemed to be a little taken aback with our early spares because they didn't managed to hit anything higher than an 8. Their player totals were 33, 41 and 34 giving them a set total of 108. Those of you quick at maths will no doubt have worked out that at this stage in the game we were now a good 19 pins ahead and had gained two valuable points.

The second set saw Andy M., Grandad and Andy G. in action. Andy M. had a bad time of it because for his first three hands he could not score higher than a 5. This was noted by those present because it did not give us much to work with. He managed to do a little better on his fourth hand when he finally hit an 8 but alas it was short lived when he hit yet another 5 on his fifth hand and to cap it all a 4 on his final hand giving him a very poor score of 32 which was our lowest score of the night so may well be dropped on the next match in a fortnight. Grandad and Andy G. tried to keep the pressure up with a range of scores from another 4 and 5 up to six 6's a 7 and a couple of 8's. Their set totals were 41 and 35 giving us a set total of 108 which equalled that of The Nutters on the first set. The Nutters did slightly better than us, bearing in mind that they were playing on their own alley. They hit a varied range of scores from a 4 all the way up to a couple of 9's. None of them were lucky enough to be blessed with a spare but that did not seem to bother them in the long run. Their player totals were 36, 45 and 41 giving them a set total of 122 which was almost a reverse of the first set. This meant that they had robbed us of 14 pins slashing our current pin lead down to only 5 pins. We now both had two points each and it was still anybody's guess just where this match would go.

To play for us on the third set was Kev, John C. and Vince. This started off well with the lowest hand score being a 7 but John C. hit our third spare of the night when he hit a 13 spare. The pressure kept on with a range of scores from a 4 up to a 9 with some 5's, 6's and 7's for good measure. Our player totals were 39, 42 and 37 giving us a set total of 118. The Nutters again were not quite as lucky because their second player suffered greatly with a 2 on his first hand. Their



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scores climbed slightly with a 3 for their first player on their second hand. The pace then went up a gear when they managed to hit a few 5's, 6's, 7's and 8's. They managed to hit totals of 38, 35 and 42 which gave them an overall set total of 115, thus tipping the balance in our favour by 3 pins and giving us our second two points of the match and bringing our lead nicely up to 8 pins to go into the final set.

The final set rundown consisted of Doug, Dave (his dad) and Captain Woody. This was all set to be a power battle between father and son competing on the same set but alas this was not the case because Doug only managed to hit a 5 on his first hand and Dave could only manage a 3 on his first hand. Not wishing to be outdone Captain Woody also hit a 5 on his first hand which gave us a hand total of a disappointing 13. The pace quickened a little on the second hand when both Doug and Woody hit 8's. Dave could only manage a 7. This was a good hand down never the less. A precedent seemed to have been set because all three players seemed to match each other's scores fairly closely, with plenty of 6's, 7's and 8's being scored. Doug suffered a little on his fifth hand when he too hit a 3 like Dave on his first hand. Their hand totals were 36, 38 and 41. This meant that our set total was a reasonable 115. The Nutters seemed to smell a possible victory because they seemed to play a lot better than they had earlier. They did have a couple of 4's and 5's sneak in which were entwined with a few 6's, 7's and 8's. Their set totals were almost a reverse of ours with them hitting 43, 38 and 35. Their overall set total was 116. Victory for this set was theirs by a single pin. This was not enough to win this match but I am sure they were happy with the four points they won for this match. So you can see that we were successful in our second league match against The Nutters and ten points extra on the overall league points.

What a close match this was! It was nice to have another win under our belts. We do not have a match next week due to the Airways pulling out of the league last year so we will be in action again on our home alley on Friday 13th February when we shall be playing against The Reptiles. So tune in then for the thrills and spills of the match!