



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 31st October 2008

George Davis Cup

Round 2

Having had good fortune on the Front pin match on Wednesday morale was running high. Could we pull it off today bearing in mind we were due to play against the current leaders of the second division The Sweeney? We were playing at the Balmoral hotel for this crucial match. We have had the pleasure of playing on this alley many times in the past so felt that we could possibly have the upper hand as far as the alley was concerned but we shall see.

Up first we had Biker, Swifty and 'edgehog to begin the proceedings for our team. Again for this match we were going to play in the "Away" position, which meant that we could then have something to aim for in this match. Biker played a good steady match being consistent with an 8 and a couple of 7's. He lost a little focus in his fourth hand down where he only hit a 3. Not being prepared to lose face he bounced back with a 5 and a 9. His set total was a good 39. Swifty had a shaky couple of hands but soon got his eye in to score a 9 on his third hand down. It was unfortunate for him then because he seemed not to get his position just right giving him a 4 and two 5's. His final set total was 29 which was a shame, but the saviour of this set for us was 'edgehog. Although he did not score higher than an 8, he still went on to score a good 40. Our set total was 108. The Sweeney, being a second division side seemed to play a tactical game when M. Thorne hit two spares, one of a 13 on his third hand and a 15 on his final hand. His set total was an excellent 52. The striking thing about him was that he was only just old enough to play. If this is how good he is now, just think how good he will be in a couple of year's time! Their set total was 134 which meant that they were a huge 26 pins up after the first set. We needed now to be able to turn this around.

On now to the second set. This time we had Lee, Andy G. and Dixie to breathe life into this match for us. All three of them played a good game, playing almost like for like hands. So much so that Lee and Andy G. both hit good 44's without spares. Dixie, not wanting to follow like a sheep, pulled magic out of the alley when he scored an excellent 48 without a spare. This incidentally was not our teams' highest score. That was to come later in the match. Our set total was an excellent 136. The Sweeney seemed to be on a high after their superb win on the first set and seemed to lose a little focus. They could only hit 43, 42 and 41. This meant that we were victorious on this set by 10 pins slashing their lead almost in half because their set total was only 126. Fortunes seemed to be changing and we were beginning to be on the up.

The third set saw Andy M., John C. and Doug take to the stand. Andy M. began with a steady flow of 7's. He suffered a little on his third hand when he hit a 4. He gathered composure a little on his fourth hand when he hit a 9, but then dipped a little with a 5 then hit a 7. His set total was 39 which, compared to the way he had been playing so far during the season, was fairly reasonable. John C. started off with a disappointing 5 but soon regained composure to hit a fantastic 15 spare on his third hand, which he followed up with a 9, 8 and another 9. His set total was our team's highest



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score of the week of 53 so well done to him. Doug tried his hardest to beat this score by hitting a couple of 8's and four 9's. Alas this was not enough to equal or better John's score because he could only muster a good 52. Even without a spare this was an excellent score. It was thanks to these high scores that our set total was a massive 144. The Sweeney, on the other hand, seemed to run out of gas because they could only muster a top score for this set of 45 by T. Symes. This was very good without a spare, but G. Filer started off slowly until his third hand where he hit a good 14 spare which contributed to his set total of 44. Their third player for this set could only hit a 40. This meant that their set total was only 129. This meant that going into the final set we were a single pin down. This match could go anywhere. We needed to keep it together.

The final set saw Vince, Dave and Captain Woody. Vince seemed to be a little uncomfortable on this alley so did not play as well as he has in other matches. He began with a 3 which he followed with a 4. He managed to gather himself a little when he scored three 7's in a row, but then lost it again when he hit a 5 on his final hand. His set total was a disappointing 33, but all pins counted in this match. Dave played as good as he always does and managed to hit a good 43 without a spare. Captain Woody also played a reasonable match and went on to hit 41. Our set total was a low 117. The Sweeney, who seemed to still be a little winded over having lost most of their profit from the first set, did not seem to pull any punches, except for M. P. Taylor playing consistently with a range of 9's, 8's and a 6. He did manage to score a 9 spare on his fifth hand down. He went on to score a good 49. Their set total was another 129. This meant that they won this set by 12 pins. This ensured that they would then be going onto the next round in this competition.

We did look briefly at a victory, but we blinked and missed it. Ah well, that's how this game can go. One moment a victory is looking very likely, then poof! It's gone.

Keep your eyes on the Cup Matches page on this site for details of our next cup match this will be on Wednesday 26th November, which will be the Semi-final of the Front Pin Competition. So that wraps it up till next week!