



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 9th January 2009

First of all let me start by wishing all the readers of this report a Happy New Year and hope that you all had a good Christmas. It seems like ages since the last match we played before Christmas and now the weather outside is bloomin cold to say the least. Anyway, enough of my ramblings lets get on with the show.

Our first match this year saw us playing against The Depoteers whose alley is the Boro Sports and Social Club. We first played against them last year in a cup match which we won back then. I seem to remember that they came down from Division 2 so we knew that we were up against some good players. At the time of writing this they were currently below us in the table. This gave us a little hope to build upon.

Up first for us saw a welcome return to a match for Swifty, who had been absent for a few matches through not being very well. He was supported by Dixie and our ever faithful 'edgehog. Swifty, being off form a little, played a steady set but alas he suffered a V/C on his fifth hand and sadly only managed to score 15. In my opinion every little helps because it is a team game. Dixie on the other hand seemed to be fired up for the New Year and proved this by playing well throughout the set. The icing on his New Year Cake came on his third hand when he managed to hit a 10 spare. He later followed this with a couple of 9's split up with a 6. His final set total was an excellent 47 but this was not our highest score, this came later in the match. 'edgehog played well with a range of scores starting from 5 up to a few 6's and 8's. His set total was a good 39. Our overall set total was 101. The Depoteers played a steady match with scores ranging from a 2 up to a 9. None of their players hit a spare on this set and they went onto have a set total of 106. Alas they won this set by 5 pins so you can see just how close this was. This meant that they had started off the match with two points to their credit and we had none. Not a good start to the match, but we pressed on regardless.

The second set saw Biker, Andy G. and Doug in the zone. Biker started off really well when he managed to hit a good 11 spare on his first hand. Alas this slipped a little on his second hand when he hit a 5. He recovered a little in his third, fourth and fifth hands where he hit a couple of 8's separated by a 7. His final hand dropped a little to another 5. His set total was an excellent 44. Andy G. kept a level head and just kept hitting the pins down steadily. His set total was a good 43 without a spare. Doug, on the other hand, was chomping at the bit and wanted to "get at 'em" so to speak. He started off well with an 8 but seemed to try too hard on his second and third hand whereby he only managed a couple of 5's. He calmed down a little on his fourth hand when he managed to score an excellent 13 spare then finished up with a couple of 9's. His set total was an excellent 49 which turned out to be our teams' highest score of the night. Our set total was a fantastic 136. The Depoteers kept the pace up by almost matching the scores of each other with a mixture of 6's, 7's and 8's with a 9 thrown in for good measure. P. Bentley deserves a mention here because he hit a fantastic 16 spare on his first hand and went on to have a set total of 52. His team mates hit 40 and 43. Their overall set total was 135 which was only a single pin less than us. This



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meant that we both had two points each and the Depoteers were now only 4 pins ahead. Still this was going to be a close match. Could we be victorious?

The third set consisted of Kev, Lee and Andy M. The scores for this set were a little low compared to others in this match. Things seemed to go from bad to worse when Andy M. hit a 1 on his fifth hand and Kev unfortunately suffered with a V/C on his final hand which was our second in this match. This seemed to be a rare thing on a regular match. Alas Kev only managed a set total of 26. Lee only managed 38 and Andy M. managed 36. The set total was a poor 99. Oops! The Depoteers saw the doorway of opportunity swing wide open for them and boy did they go for it in a big way. Ok, they did not seem to have huge scores but were consistent with scores ranging from a few 4's, 5's, 6's, 7's, 8's and a 9. None of them hit a spare on this hand though, which was lucky for us. Their player totals were 46, and two 34's. Their overall set total was 114 which meant that they had won the third set by a margin of 15 pins which meant that their profit overall was now 19 pins and they now had four points under their belts to go into the final set with.

The final set consisted of Grandad, Dave and Captain Woody. The scales seemed to tip in our favour for this set with reasonable scores being hit by us. These ranged from a lowest score of a 4 and rising nicely through the ranks encompassing some 5's, 6's, 7's, 8's and 9's. Again none of our players hit a spare in this set but the player totals were 39, 46 and 40. Our overall set total was our second best highest of the game of 125. The Depoteers unfortunately did not have a full team which meant that they had to play a low score which for them was 29. The other two players fought valiantly between themselves by hitting a range of 5's, 6's, 7's and 8's. Their player totals were 42, 39 and their low score of 29. This meant that their set total was 110. The tables had been turned. We had recovered the 15 pins we lost in the last set and gained another two points. Unfortunately this was not enough to ensure a match victory because the overall pin totals were 461 to us and 465 to The Depoteers. This meant that we had only suffered a minimalistic loss of only 4 pins but we had gained four points – at least that was something!

We do not have a match next week which means that our next match will be in a couple of weeks when we will be playing on our home alley against The Nalgo which kicks off the start of the second half of the season. So tune in then for the report.