



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report 14th November 2008

This week's match saw us back on our home alley after what seemed to be ages due to cup matches and vacant nights. Our opponents were the Tornadoes from the Bristol House, who at the time of this match were lurking near the bottom of the third division having only won one league match so far this season. Bearing in mind just how unpredictable our alley can be could they just sneak in a win? Or would the tornado turn into just a gentle breeze? Read on and see...

Being the home side we were playing first on the set. For this set Biker, Andy M. and 'edgehog saw the light of day. Biker began well with a couple of hands of 7's, but dropped a little for his third and fourth hands where he scored 4's. Not wanting to be downhearted he gathered composure and managed to finish off with another couple of 7's. His final set total was 36. Andy M. just could not find the mark, especially as he had taken the radical decision to have his head shaved for the BBC "Children in Need" appeal; (at the time of writing this he had raised nearly £400!) He began with a 5, then a 4, but managed to get his eye in for a couple of hands where he hit 7's but then dropped to a 4 then only hit a 1. His final set total was a disappointing 28. 'edgehog managed to score a mixture of 5's and 7's which gave him a set total of 34. This was a rather disappointing start to the match because our set total was a mere 98, which was not quite on par with the match last week. The Tornadoes on the other hand did not seem to do much better except that throughout the set there was either one or two pins up first for us and some for them to keep the scores fairly level until the final set when it all went wrong. Their set totals were 35, 38 and 33 which meant that their set total was 106. This meant that they had robbed us of the first match points and were 8 pins up on the game.

The second set saw Doug, Andy G. and Dave. Doug played a steady game but did not manage to wow us with any fantastic scores except a good 9 on his final hand. His set total was a good 40. Again Andy G. could not seem to find the right spot and he too could only hit a range of 5's and 6's with an 8 thrown in for good measure. His set total was 36. Dave on the other hand was still suffering a little with his illness from last week so was a little off his usual pace and he could only hit a range of 4's, a 5, a 6 and a couple of 7's. His set total was 33. Fortunately thanks to Doug's 40 our set total was 109. The Tornadoes tried to hold us to a fairly close match as far as hand totals were concerned. It began to look a little rough to say the least on their third hand when M. Doble hit a good 14 spare and went on to hit a personal total of 50 which was their teams highest score of the night so well done to him. This looked very much like it could be curtains for us on this set but S. Smith had a couple of bad hands of a 2 and a 1 which meant that he could only score a set total of 28. Their other player on the set managed a 30. This meant that their set total was 108. Yes! We had won the set, but only just, by one pin. Now the points were level and we were only now 7 pins down on the match. Just where was this going to go?

On now to the third set. This saw a new player for the team playing his first match for us an A. Newland. He was supported by John C. and Dixie. This turned out to be the best set of the match for us. All three of the players managed to hit reasonable scores throughout the set so much so that A. Newland hit a fantastic 18 spare on his fifth hand which gave him a set total of 52 which in fact



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turned out to be our teams highest score of the night. John C. played really well and hit a good 17 spare on his third hand down which meant that his set total was a good 48. It was then up to Dixie to step up to the plate and also try to get a spare. Alas this was not to be realised but he came very close on a couple of hands where he managed to hit a couple of 9's. His set total was 46. Our final set total was a fantastic 146. The Tornadoes could not seem to match this onslaught. They tried very hard though. Their individual totals were 39, 30 and 42. This meant that their overall set total was 111. This meant that on this set alone we had profited by a fantastic 35 pins and a further 2 points, which meant that we had taken control of the match to the tune of 28 pins ahead. What a roller coaster ride this was turning out to be. What could happen in the final set of this match?

The final set saw Vince, Vice and Captain Woody take to the alley. Vince seemed a little of the pace at the start where he hit a 2 on his first hand. Vice also began slowly with a 4. Captain Woody saved the day when he hit a fantastic 13 spare. The pace began to gather when all three of them seemed to match pin for pin with a range of 6's and 7's. The set totals were 36 for Vince, 35 for Vice and a good 45 for Captain Woody. Our set total was a reasonable 116. The Tornadoes tried to crank up the fans when they scored a range of 7's, 8's and 9's between them. On the score board these looked fairly impressive with individual totals of 42, 43 and 36. Their set total was a good 121. This meant that they had stolen the final set from under our noses by 5 pins. The overall match totals were 469 to us and 446 to The Tornadoes. This meant that they mustered 4 points from the match and another loss on their card. We, on the other hand, managed to gain 10 most valuable points. We also won the match by an excellent 23 pins. Are we now back on to winning ways once again? We will just have to wait and see.

Next week we are playing at the Walnut Tree Pub on an alley we have not played on for a couple of seasons. This could mean that the match is gonna be interesting to say the least. Call back next week for the report.

The Cup matches have been announced and the details of venues and opponents are listed on the Cup match page on the site.