



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report 21st November 2008

This week's match saw us visiting The Walnut Tree pub to play against the Electric Sports. Last Season it saw us playing them at what used to be called The Orchard but now it is an excellent rock venue called "The Rock Gardens". They were lurking towards the bottom of the third division and one of their players said to me that they have not won many matches on their alley which sounded slightly familiar with regards to our home alley. Could it just be that we might just pull it off, just like we did last week against The Tornados? Well what followed turned out to be an interesting match to say the least.

Up first for us saw a slight change in the usual players who go first, due to some having to get back into town or working the early shift the following day. To play this set were Dixie, Kev and 'edgehog. All three of them began steady and had a hand total of 23. The Electric Sports also hit a 23 down. Things began to change a little when 'edgehog hit a good 13 spare on his second hand. Dixie almost followed suit with an 11 spare on his third. Things tailed off a little at the mid way point. But it came together on their final hands where they each hit 8's. Dixie's final set total was a good 45 and 'edgehog's was a fantastic 47. Kev played a steady game and managed a respectable 34. Our final set total was an excellent 126. The Electric Sports, on the other hand, were not quite as lucky because none of them managed a spare. G. Robbins tried hard to salvage some points for them by ending up with a score of 42. Their set total was 112. This meant that we were 14 pins up at the end of the first set and had two welcome points on the board.

On now to the second set. This time it saw Doug, Lee and Dave take the stand. It was strange having Dave and Doug play in this set but they had travelled back up the Motorway just for the match because they were on holiday at the time. (See there's dedication to the game for you!) Doug set the alley alight when he too scored a 13 spare on his second hand, then went on to hit another spare of 12 on his fourth hand to finish up with a couple of 8's. His final set total was a fantastic 56 which was our team's highest score of the night. Lee played steady scoring mainly 7's but interspersed these with a 3, 4 and a 9. His final total was a good 37. Dave pulling up the anchor for this set scored mainly 8's with a 5 and a 7 thrown in for good measure. His final total was a good 44. Our Set total was an excellent 137. The Electric sports tried hard to keep the pace with M. Baines hitting mainly 7's to hit a good 43. Their turning point came when M. Lightfoot threw a lightning final hand of a 16 spare to go on to hit a personal score of 52. Their final total for this set was 132 this was only 5 pins behind us. So again we were the victors and managed to steal another 2 points and increase our lead to 19 pins. Could this current good fortune continue?

The third set saw Biker, John C and Andy M. take to the alley. Biker played a good set by not hitting anything below a 5 and following it nicely with a 6 and a couple of 7's and 8's. He went on to score 41. John C. faired slightly better scoring a couple of 7's and three 8's. He too did not hit anything below a 5 and as a result his set total was a good 43. Andy M did not play much better starting off with a couple of 6's and having three 8's but these were split with a 5 too. His final set total was also 41. This meant that the set total was a reasonable 125. The pressure mounted when T. Allen of the Electric Sports hit a 14 spare on his second hand but this was mainly a makeup from



CON B SKITTLES

his first hand where he unfortunately only scored a 3. His final set total was only a 40. B. Alden, on the other hand, kept a steady flow of balls down the alley and went on to score a good 46. P. Wintle complemented their scores with a 41 set total. This meant that the Electric Sports won the set by 2 pins and thus gaining two points into the bargain. So going into the final set we were now 17 pins ahead with four points in our pot to two for The Electric Sports.

The final set could have gone either way when we were a player short which meant we had to play a low score. Alas this was the 34 that had been scored by Kev on the first set and the Electric Sports partially knew what they need to do for them to be in contention and win this match from under our noses. To keep the game alive we played Vice and Captain Woody. The pins fell thick and fast. Captain Woody hit a range of pins and triumphed on his fifth hand when he hit a good 13 spare and topped it off with a 9 on his final hand. Vice played extremely well throughout the set and topped off a great set with a 14 spare on his final hand. Both Vice and Captain Woody hit 49 and this added to the 34 already on the board ensured we had hit a set total of 132. The Electric Sports supporting a full complement of players went for gold. They were hitting between 6's, 7's and 8's for the entire set. A. Taylor upset the balance a little when he hit a 13 spare on his fifth hand. His final set total was a good 48. The other two for them both hit 41. Their final set total was 130. Victory was ours in the closing minutes of the match by a mere two pins on the set. This pulled back the loss from the third set. The overall pin total was 520 to us and 501 to them. We had a good win by 19 pins and 12 points to our credit.

What a fantastic win for us this week, and yes it meant that The Electric Sports had suffered another loss on their own alley.

Next Week we have two cup matches so next weeks report will probably go over two pages. So see you next week.