



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 24th April 2009

So here it is, the penultimate match of the 2008/2009 skittles season. We are currently floating around position 6 in the table. Our opponents The Fortyniners were currently around equal 4th so we had it all to play for. Last time we played a league match with them we lost 11 points to 3. Could we equal this or better it? Read on and see...

Up first for us was Andy G., Andy M. and Doug. Andy G. began his assault early with an 8 on his first hand. Doug did the same but Andy M. was a little off the target with a 5. He suffered a little more on his third hand when he hit a disappointing 4. Doug also had a few bad hands of only scoring 5's but did make up for it with a good 9 and a 7. Andy M. managed to pull his act together for his final three hands when he managed to hit all 8's. Andy G. seemed to like this alley because he managed to hit in total one 6, two 7's and three 8's. Our player totals were 44, 39 and 39 which gave us a set total of 122 which was very good for a first set. The Fortyniners playing on their own alley should have had the advantage over us. To a certain extent it did show. Their first player played a cracking set by hitting two 7's, two 8's and two 9's. Their second player B. Trunks did not fare so well because he began with a 3, then unfortunately hit a 1 but followed up with a V/C on his fourth hand. He did, however, manage an 8 and a 6 on his final two hands. Their scores for this set including those mentioned above were, a V/C, a 1, a 3, four 6's, four 7's, three 8's and three 9's. Their set totals were 48, 24 and 43 which gave them a set total of just 115. We had scored our first points in this match and quite comfortably too especially as we took a 7 pin lead into the second set.

The second set consisted of Lee, Grandad and Dixie. This was a fairly well matched set overall come the end, but judging by the scores it still could have gone either way. Grandad managed to hit a fantastic 16 spare on his first hand which contributed to him scoring his personal highest score of the season so far of 50 (with one match still to play!) this was not even our highest score of the night either! Dixie, in direct comparison, was not quite so lucky because he could only manage a 4. The scores for us on this set ranged from a 2, a 4, a 5, four 6's, four 7's, four 8's, a 9 and of course the 16 spare. Our set totals were 34, 50 and 43 which gave us an overall total of 127. The Fortyniners seemed to enjoy keeping the pressure on us because P. Sperring managed to score their teams' first spare of the night on his third hand of a 13. This was very good considering the fact that he only a hit a 3 and a 4 for his first two hands. Their scores for this set were two 3's, a 4, two 6's, six 7's, four 8's a 9 and the 13 spare. The set totals for the players were 42, 47 and 37. This gave them an overall set total of 126. Wow, was this a close set. We had gained another two points, so we now had four of them and we were now 8 pins in front. This match seemed to be listing in our favour. Could our good fortune continue for the final two sets?

The third set consisted of Biker, John C., and Woody. This seemed to be a fairly low scoring set as far as individual players were concerned, but they all counted and helped the cause. Woody had an exceptionally good match with him not in his captains position (see last week's report). He managed to hit four 8's a 9 and a 5 which gave him a personal score of 46 which was very good. Our other scores for this set were a 4, two 5's, three 6's, a 7 and three more 8's. The other totals were 37 and 40. These added to Woody's score gave us a nice total of 123. The fortyniners seemed to struggle a little because their scores were a 1, three 4's, two 5's, four 6's two 7's, five 8's and a 9. This gave them player totals of two 35's and a 40 giving them a set total of just 110. We had won



CON B SKITTLES

the third set by 13 pins which meant that we now were 21 pins ahead on the match and had accumulated six points so far on this match which was already 50% more than the last time we met them.

The final set consisted of Swifty, Dave and Vice. Swifty played a nice steady set and managed to make most of his balls count except suffering a V/C on his final hand which was a shame because he was all set to score his highest score of the season so far on this set. Dave began with a 5 but he soon made up for it on his second and fifth hands when he hit a 13 spare and a 14 spare respectively with a couple of 7's and a 9 thrown in to make up the numbers. It was thanks to these spares that he hit our team's highest score of the night of 55 so well done to him. This was only four pins short of the highest score of the season back in November when Woody hit 59. Our set totals were 30, 55 and 36 which gave us a total of 121. The Fortyniners fought as if their lives depended on it because J. Main began the set with a huge 15 spare which assisted greatly in him hitting their teams' highest score also of 55. Not wanting to be outdone, R. Williams hit a good 12 spare on his third hand. Their scores for this set were two 4's, two 5's, two 6's, two 7's, six 8's, two 9's, the 12 spare and the 15 spare. Their player totals were 55, 43 and 39 which gave them a whopping 137. They had taken this set by 16 pins and the final two set points of the match. The final totals were 493 to us and 488 to The Fortyniners. So we had won the match by only 5 pins, but had overturned the points based on the performance last time we met.

As you can see this was a very close match come the end. This puts us in a very good position to go into the final match next week, when we will be playing at home against The Depoteers. Last time we met them we lost 10 points to 4. They are just marginally below us in the table, so we, in effect will have a slight psychological advantage over them based entirely on our current position within the table.

So tune in next week for the final match of this exciting and eventful season. I hope to do a summary report a couple of weeks after the close of the season once I have refreshed my memory of the thrills and many spills of this season. So until that time enjoy some of the nice weather that is just coming into view.