



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 27th February 2009

Wow, it's that time of the week again when my fingers are being scraped to the bone to bring you the next thrilling instalment of the ups and more often than not, downs of the Con B Skittles team. Well, this week was no exception. We were due to play against The Dambusters for the third time this season. The last time we played against them was in a cup match in which they literally wiped the floor with us. The time before that they did the same! I am beginning to see a slight pattern emerging here. So let's get on with the show.

Last week, if you can remember, Andy M. played so badly he felt (before he even turned up for this match) that he was a prime candidate for being dropped which would not have been a bad idea based on his current season performance. The gods must have been smiling or had wind, because he was bestowed the position of being up first for the first set and was supported by Lee and 'edeghog. The set began fairly well with 6's and 7's being the order of the day from most of the players. A couple of 4's got in through a gap in the fence with a 5 and 8 tagging on for the ride. There were no major high scores being placed on the score board for this set, but all pins counted. The players ended up with 38, 34 and 39 giving us a set total of 111, which I don't deem that bad under the grand scheme of things. The Dambusters, on the other hand, seemed to play balls all over the alley to score a range of numbers from a 4 all the way up to a 9. There were a few 5's 6's, 7's and 8's in there to make up numbers. It was not until the final balls were bowled that we found out the true extent of the damage we sustained. Their player totals were 37, 38 and 42 which gave them a huge set total of 117, giving them a six pin lead on the game, so they managed to pinch the first two points. We now needed to play catch-up.

Up next on the second set we saw Grandad, Doug and Dixie take to the alley. Things began badly when both Grandad and Doug hit 4's. Dixie supported them by hitting an 8 to keep the game very much alive. The second hand saw a change in pace when Doug and Dixie both hit 8's. Grandad was not quite as lucky with a 6. Tension was mounting when on the third hand Grandad and Dixie could only muster 5 each. Doug held the set together when he hit an 8. Things went a little off track on the fourth hand when Doug unfortunately hit a 4. Grandad and Dixie hit a 7 and 5. The fifth and sixth hands turned out to be the best at this point in the match when Grandad hit a 9 followed by an 8, Doug hit a 7 followed by a 6, but Dixie surprised us all when he hit a 7 followed by our first spare of the night, a superb 15. The player totals were 39, 37 and 48 which turned out to be our teams' highest score of the night. Our set total was 124. The Dambusters tried hard to return the pressure. Once more their scores were all over the place with a plenitude of 5's, 6's 7's and 8's. S. Hall tried in vain to turn the heat up further when he managed to score their first spare of the night of 13. Their set totals were 42, 36 and 40, which gave them an overall total of 118. This was just not enough to pull further ahead; instead they had relinquished all be it grudgingly, their lead of six pins to make the game totally level both in points and pins. Once more this game could swing either way.

The third set consisted of Kev, John C. and Andy G. Things began to crumble a little with a range of low to mid-range scores of 4's, 5's and 6's. On the fourth hand they all seemed to find the mark and all managed to hit 7's. Things dipped a little on the fifth hand when the mid-range scores crept back into the mix. On the final hand John managed to hit a good 13 spare and Andy G.



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complemented it nicely with an 8. Their set totals were 31, 42 and 39 which gave them an overall set total of 112. The Dambusters began to see cracks appearing and went for them, all balls blazing, S. Dewey played a blinding set when he hit a 14 spare on his second hand and a 15 spare on his third hand. His final set total was a massive 54 which turned out to be their highest score of the night, so well done to him. R. Barton, on the other hand, played a consistent match with scores ranging from a 5 all the way up to a 9. His set total was a good 44. The third player on the set for them hit a 38. This meant that their overall set total was a giant 136. They had rolled the gigantic marble down the slope and were now a huge 24 pins ahead and had a four point credit. This was beginning to look like the last two encounters with The Dambusters. BAD!

The final set saw A. Newland make a return to a match after a short absence when he hit a fantastic 52 on his first match before Christmas. He was supported by Dave and Captain Woody. The set got off to a tremendous start with some good scores being placed on the board. A. Newland almost had a clean sweep on this set when he hit 3 good 9's, two 6's and a 7. He went on to hit a set total of 46. Dave kept a good pace up when he hit a couple of 7's and 8's but seemed to lose a little focus on his fifth and sixth hand whereby he hit a 3 and 6. His set total was a good 39. Captain Woody played better than he did last week because he managed to hit a 13 spare on his second hand and followed those up with three 7's. These were flanked either side by a 6 and a 3. This gave him a set total of 43. Our set total was an excellent 128. The Dambusters, who now seemed to be on a roller coaster ride to victory kept up the pressure with seven 6's, two 7's, two 8's, two 4's and a 5. This was added to quite nicely with a good 13 spare by C. Sandford. Their set totals were 37, 41 and 37. This gave them a set total of 115, which, unfortunately for them, was just not enough to win the final set. We managed to pull back 13 pins from them but this was just not enough to rob them of the game. We ended up with four most welcome points and had slashed their profit to a mere 11 pins.

As you can see, yet another loss against this team! Surely we can secure a much needed victory next time we meet them which will be sometime in April on the Front Pin Final. The date and venue is still to be arranged, but it will appear on the Cup News page as soon as it is known.

We do not have a game next week because we have yet another vacant night, so we will not be in action again until Friday 13th March (Red Nose Day), when we shall be playing once more at home. Our opponents will be The Double Six. So until then enjoy the beginning of spring and enjoy the many Daffodils that are beginning to burst forth their blooms. Far far nicer than that awful snow!