



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Wednesday 26th November 2008

Front Pin Semi Final

So here we are again on another cup match and it sees us in the position of playing in the Front Pin Semi Final. As you can no doubt remember from the last Front Pin Match, this can be even more unpredictable than normal matches. What starts off looking to be a whitewash can and often does turn into a real pasting by the opponents. For this match we were playing at The Borough Arms pub and our opponents were The Reptiles. Last time we met them on their alley we were slaughtered 12 points to 2. Ok this match was not point dependent only pin total, but deep down there were one or two slight niggles bearing in mind the team used to be in the second division. So how did it go? Read on and see.

The coin was tossed to determine who would play as the Home team and who would play as the Away team. We elected to play as the Away team. Was this a good tactic so we could perhaps gauge what we needed to hit to secure a victory? Or just to lull them into a false sense of security? Up first for us saw Biker, Andy G. and 'edgehog. Biker played a nice steady match being fairly consistent with 7's for three of his hands and having these supported by a couple of 4's and a 5. His final set total was a good 34. For a Front Pin match this was excellent especially as he did not have any balls pass through the pins before hitting the front one and scoring a V/C. Andy G. also played well by hitting mainly 6's with a 5, 7 and a 9 thrown in for good measure. He went on to finish up with an excellent 39. Again, without a V/C in site. 'edgehog, on the other hand, seemed not to put a foot wrong when he started with an 8, following that with a 13 spare, then a 9, dropping a bit then to a 7, having a slight problem with a 3 but finishing off with an 8. His final set total was a superb 48. Now for a Front Pin match, this was phenomenal. Our First Set total was a massive 121. The Reptiles on the other hand seemed as if they had very large gaps between the pins or could not get their aim correct. Between them on their first set they had 6 V/C's which would be enough to put anyone off. They did manage to fair a little better when T. Cattle managed a 5 spare on his first hand and he went on to have a final set total of 29 which is reasonable for a Front Pin match. This was done without any V/C's. Their other player totals were 11 and 20 which meant that their overall first set total was 60. We were 61 pins up at the end of this set which was a good position to be in. But as I said earlier, these games could go either way.

On now to the second set. Kev, Lee and Andy M. took to the alley. Kev took a little while to get his eye in because he had V/C on his first hand. He recovered a little for his second and third hands when he hit 5's slumped again to a V/C in his fourth, back up again to a 5 on his fifth then finished off with an 8. His final total was 23. Lee played a little better with an 8 and a 4 on his first and second hand, but then lost focus to slump to V/C's for his third and fourth hand, climbed back to a 5 on his fifth but then dropped back once more into the jaws of a V/C on his final hand. His final set total was 17. Andy M. did not do much better. He hit a disappointing 1 on his first hand, climbed a little to a 4 on his second, climbed a little further on his third to hit a 6, soared a little higher to an 8 on his fourth, then lost it with a V/C on his fifth to recover with a 7 on his final hand. His set total



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was 23. Our overall set total was a disappointing 66. The Reptiles, on the other hand, seemed to be lost in the swamp of V/C's whereby they hit or should I say had a total of 10. All three of them had a V/C on their first hand. M. Mcgrath managed to pull some magic out of the pot when his other five hands scored valuable points for them. He went on to score a good 27 at the end of his set. K. Merrifield, however, managed a 3 spare on his fifth hand, but alas could only finish with a 14. Commiserations went out to A. Vincent because he had V/C's for most of his hands but re-gained a little composure with an 8 on his fourth hand. Their final set total was 49. So again we were the victors in this set and increased our lead now to a superb 78. Boy oh boy, what was happening?

The third set saw Grandad, John C. and Vice take to the alley. Grandad was a little rusty because he had been away either working or on holiday for the last four matches. It did not take him long to get his eye in after suffering that V/C on his first hand. He went on to hit a couple of 9's and an 8 with a 5 thrown in for good measure, but a V/C sneaked in on his fifth hand. His set total was a good 31. John C., however, could not get near the mark when he hit a 3 on his first hand, followed that with a couple of V/C's, then hit a 2 which he followed with a V/C then a 5 on his final hand. His set total was 10. Vice managed to play his entire hands without getting a V/C. His scores ranged from a 2 to some 5's with an added 6 and 7 for effect. His set total was a good 30. The overall set total for us was a good 71. The Reptiles fought on valiantly. This time they only had 5 V/C's to contend with. The scores that were not V/C's were mainly reasonable ones which ranged from 3's right up to a 9. Their player totals for this set were 17, 23 and 32. Their overall set total was 72. This meant that they had pulled one pin back from us on the overall pin total. Remember what I said earlier about this game could go either way? Well it still could.

Our final set consisted of Doug, Dave and Captain Woody. Doug set the ball rolling for us when he hit a 9 on his first hand. He waivered on his second hand when he hit an 8. He slipped a little further when he hit a 3 on his third hand, but recovered composure for his fourth and fifth hand with a 6 and 7. He came unstuck at the final hand when he too suffered with a V/C. Even the best players tend to get them. His final total was a good 33. Dave played a good steady set with a range of scores from a 3 right up to an 8. Alas he too hit a V/C on his final hand. His final total was 27. Captain Woody kept hitting the mark (forgive the pun!) by making all the balls connect where they needed to. He hit a couple of 8's with a 2, 3, 4 and 5 slipping into the mix. He went on to hit a good 30. This brought our set total up to a good 90. The Reptiles tried to steal the thunder when T. Parker hit an excellent 14 spare on his fourth hand. This did not help him too much because he had previously hit a 1 and a 3 on his first and second hand. His final set total was 29. D. White ensured that all of his hands counted when he hit a couple of 4's with a 6, 7, 8 and a 9 thrown in. His set total was 38. Their final player tried to keep up the pace but alas could only muster a set total of 20. Their overall set total was 87. This meant that we had not only gained back the lost pin from set 3 but had banked another 2 pins to our already huge total.

So there you have it. After a brave match we came out victorious thanks to the efforts of the first set giving us the edge. We now go proudly into the Front Pin Final. Wherever that will be and against whom is unknown at the time of this report. But even so we will come out of it with a cup, either the Winners or the Runner up.

We have another cup match on Friday so tune in after Friday for that report too.