



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Wednesday 29th October 2008

Front Pin Round 2

Well here we are, the first of our cup matches of this season. As you can see it is round 2 of the Front Pin Competition. We were lucky enough to have a bye into this round which was rather nice to say the least, but it meant that we potentially would have our work cut out as some of the weaker teams could possibly have already been knocked out in round one. But Front pin being what it is, the game could (and usually does) go either way. This match was not going to be any different. Our opponents for this match were The Depoteers. I cannot recall ever playing against them before so I did not have any idea of their style or players. So you may be asking well what did happen? How did we do? Read on and see.

We elected to play as the away team for this match, forcing them to play first. This meant that we could at least see what we needed to achieve to be lucky, to give us focus, especially because we had a vacant date last week so were a little rusty. Up first for us was Andy M., Andy G. and 'edgehog. Being a match where the front pin must be hit first before any other pins counted meant that accuracy was everything, giving not much margin for error. Zero scores for a hand are common. Andy M began well with an 8 which was as you can see is an excellent start. This good fortune did not last because for his next two hands scored zero or a v/c as it is recorded on the card. He got it back together for his fourth and fifth hand by scoring 7 and 8 but lost it for the final hand. His set total was 26, which was a respectable score for this competition. Andy G and 'edgehog were not so lucky but they only got one v/c each and they both got into double figures of 17 and 18 respectively. Our set total was a reasonable 61. The Depoteers, on the other hand, were not so lucky because between them they hit 8 v/c's. D. Sharp gave us a bit of a scare when he hit a 7 for his second and third hand to follow up with a 9 on his fourth. Alas this was not to be taken any further because he hit two v/c's for his final two hands. His total was a good 27. His team mates on the set scored 17 each. This meant that they too scored 61. The result at the end of set 1 was all square. Just where was this going to end up...

Up next for us was Biker, Lee, and Vince. Biker began well making his first four hands count but then crashed and burned on his final two hands with v/c's. His final set total was 20 which was good. Lee on the other hand could not get his eye in during his six hands with the exception of his second where he managed to hit an excellent 8, the other hands were all v/c's, but this is just how this game goes. Vince kept a cool head for his first five hands by at least scoring something, but lost his focus on his final hand to score his only v/c of the night. He ended up with a good 28. This meant that our set total was a 56, which again was respectable for this competition. The Depoteers, on the other hand, did not fare as well. They only managed a collective 8 pins on their first two hands and this was scored by the same person. Things for them got slightly better on the third hand where D. Smith hit a good 7 to get him going on the score board, P. Davison on the other hand managed to score their teams only spare of the night with a 5, but then alas crumbled to v/c's for the final three hands. Their teams scores for this set were 17, 10 and 13 which gave them a good 40. As you can see victory for this set was ours by a whopping 16 pins. This game could go either way, so we were not going to get complacent. We had a match to play.



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On now to the third set. Wow, was this a cool set or what. Our team successfully completed this one without a v/c which as far as I am aware is almost unheard of for our team. The victors for this set were Kev, John C and Neil. Kev and John like playing on the same set because they try to beat each other like the true sportsmen they are. They tried to match each other's score but this just did not quite go to plan when Kev hit a 3 on his fifth hand and John hit a good 7. Neil played a good steady game to support Kev and John. The individual scores for this set was 28, 31 and 27, which meant that our overall set total was a fantastic 86. The Depoteers, however, were not so lucky. They could not seem to see the wood for the trees as they hit 7 v/c's among them. P. Povey began to chip away with his score of 8 on his third hand and a 7 on his final hand. Unfortunately this was not quite enough to rock the boat because he only managed a score of 16. His team mates, on the other hand hit 17 and 21 giving them a set total of 54. This meant that we had secured a further 32 pins to our lead to give us a huge 48 pins profit to take us into the final set. Again, this still could go either way.

On now to the final set. This saw Doug, Dave and Captain Woody back in the running. Doug began like a rocket to score our teams only spare of the night with a fantastic 11, so well done to him. He followed this with a 9 on his second hand. This boy was on fire. Alas he had a slight wobble on his fourth and fifth hand where he could only muster a 3 and a v/c. He picked up the pace again on his final hand to hit a good 7. His final set total was an excellent 35 which was our teams highest score of the night. Dave and Captain Woody did not have the same good fortune when they only scored 24 and 32 respectively. With Doug's 35 it meant our set total was a fantastic 91. The Depoteers unfortunately did not have a twelfth man so they were forced to play a low score. This meant that they only had 10 pins to their credit to make count for the final total. They had their work cut out for them. They tried valiantly with B. Gregory and P. Richards going head to head virtually matching their scores until the third hand when B. Gregory suffered with a v/c and P. Richards hit a 4. Not wanting to let the team down, they pulled themselves out of the mud to hit back with a 6 and 8 respectively. This helped their cause greatly and they went on to hit a 31 and a good 40, which was their teams highest score. This was managed without a spare and without a v/c. Alas it was not enough to damage our lead because they could only muster an 81. This meant that we gained another 10 valuable pins in this "pins total only" match. We won overall with a huge 58 pins profit which on this game is excellent. So well done to all who played so well.

So, there you have it. Victory was ours in this crucial match after suffering crippling defeats on the last two league matches. We need to keep focused on the George Davis Cup match to be played on Friday at The Balmoral against the second division team, The Sweeney. Can we pull it off? See next week for the report.