



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Front Pin Final Wednesday 8th April 2009

This was to be a special night for us because it was the long awaited Final of the Front Pin Competition against the current Division three leaders, The Dambusters. Being a Cup match this was to be played on a neutral alley to avoid any possible advantage. This was to be The Cabot 5 Bars on Weston seafront. We, ourselves had not played there for what seemed like ages especially on a league match because the teams we used to play against, The Cabot Rollers and The Cabot Fubars, had long since been promoted into the First Division. I seem to remember a former cup final match on this alley but I regret I cannot remember who it was against or even what the result was. This being in the past and history is not important. What does matter, however, is just how this went. We elected to play as the away team which meant that we could at least monitor just what we needed to do for our cause. Was this the correct choice? Or was it a hindrance? Read on and see...

Up first for us was Grandad, Andy G. and 'edgehog. With this being a Front Pin match getting the scores we needed could prove difficult due to the fact that the pins only counted once the Front Pin had been struck, any pins that had fallen before this Front one were deemed "dead" for that hand and would not count even if the others were annihilated and a spare ensued giving a certain number of pins back again. V/C's were going to be very common in this match. The hand for us began well with Grandad managing to hit 9, Andy G. a 5 and 'edgehog a 3 giving us a hand total of 17. It was not a huge down, but it was slightly better than The Dambusters score. We fought on bravely and the scores were fairly evenly matched including the number of V/C's, we hit five of them on this hand alone! The other scores for us on this hand were a mixture of three 3's, four 4's, three 5's, a 6, a 7 and an 8. Our final player totals for this set were 25, 21 and 20 which gave us an overall total of 66. The Dambusters seemed to hit the same sort of scores except on their second hand they all hit a V/C which we felt would have helped our cause a little. For their players they hit overall six V/C's, a 2, a 3, a 4, a 5, five 6's, two 8's and a 9. Their set totals were 28, 25 and 16. This gave them an overall set total of 69 which was only three pins ahead of us. With this being a Cup match there were no points available for grabs, it was going to be won on the total number of pins. Ok, we were not in a very good opening position, but knowing how this particular game goes it was still going to be wide open until the final ball had been bowled.

The second set consisted of Biker, Doug, and Dixie. Again a good range of pins were counted during this hand which seemed like it was going in our favour. Biker managed to hit an excellent 11 spare on his third hand which was the only one for our team, so well done to him. The V/C's for us were still there, but we only had two of them. The other scores for this hand were a 2, four 3's, two 4's, three 5's, a 7 and four 8's. The player totals were 26, 32 and 29 which gave us a set total of 87 which was a nice improvement on the first set. The Dambusters, on the other hand, seemed to have the edge despite them having three V/C's. Their scores seemed to be a little erratic because they hit a 1, two 3's, a 4, a 5, two 6's, a 7, four 8's and two 9's. The turning point for them came on the fifth hand when S. Hall hit a 10 spare. This was their first of four during the match. Their player totals were 24, 35 and 36 which gave them an overall set total of 95. They had won this set by 8 pins and were now 11 pins up on the game. This seemed to be looking dismal.



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The third set for us consisted of Kev, John C. and Vice. This set was another close affair. Once more we only had two V/C's which was three less than The Dambusters for this set. Our scores for this set seemed to be a good mix that included a 1, two 2's, a 3, two 4's, two 5's, four 6's two 7's and an 8. Our player totals were 27, 34 and 16 giving us an overall set total of 77. As I said earlier The Dambusters suffered five V/ C's on this set, but in direct contrast they also had three spares. A 13 and a 7 on the third and fifth hand by A. Witcome and an excellent 14 spare on the final hand by J. Bartlett. Their set totals were 34, 23 and 23 giving them a total of 80. Once more they had gained pins. They were now 14 pins in front. This is not a huge amount for a Front Pin Match because it could turn full circle; a Front Pin Match is that un-predictable.

The final set consisted of Vince, Dave and Captain Woody. Again we had less V/C's than The Dambusters. We had three, whereas they had four. We managed to up the ante a little on this set but still we seemed to have a couple of weak scores which consisted of a 2, two 3's, a 4, two 5's, a 6, three 7's, four 8's and a 9. These gave us player totals of 23, 25 and 42 which was our teams' highest score of the night. This gave us a set total of 90. The Dambusters seemed, on the outside, to have better scores than us, or at least that was how it seemed at the time, because A. Turner hit a 12 spare on his first hand. Their other scores consisted of a 1, a 2, two 5's, two 6's, two 7's, an 8 and a 9. This gave them player totals of 15, 34 and 35 giving them a set total of 84. We had won this set by 6 pins. Unfortunately this was not enough to secure victory on this crucial match. The overall total was 320 to us and 328 to The Dambusters. They had won the match by a mere 8 pins.

The match was a very close match throughout and it would have been nice to have won it. We will have to wait now until next season to see if we can win it. The Dambusters, on the other hand, are likely to be promoted into the Second Division so we are only likely to play them again in a multi-division cup next season. Unless, however, they have a bad season and come back down.

We only have another three matches left until the season is over. Our next match is back on our Alley on 17th April when we shall be playing against The REA, so tune in after that date for all the thrills and spills of the match.