



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 23rd April 2010

Things are certainly cooking now this season is rapidly drawing to a close. This was our penultimate match of the season and it was vitally important that we came away with at least 8 points to ensure that we remained at the top of the third division, the second place team was very close on our heels. For this match we were playing at the Woodspring Pub in Worle High Street against The Elvers who, at the time of writing this report, were around the midpoint of the table.

The first set saw Andy M. return after a 13 week absence of playing due to a course he had been on for work. He was supported by Doug and 'edgehog. Things did not quite go to plan for Andy as he had not played for so long and not on this particular alley for what seems like two or three years! He took three hands to finally find the point on the alley to stand to make the pins count. But sadly his efforts were not that fruitful because he ended up with the teams lowest score of the night of 34. Doug and 'edgehog on the other hand kept matching each other's scores fairly closely. The breakdown of the scores was a 3, two 5's, four 6's, six 7's, four 8's and a 9. Both Doug and 'edgehog ended up with a good score of 43. These added to Andy's 34 gave us a set total of just 120. The Elvers seemed to sense that things were not quite as they should have been because they were playing better than we were. When the scores were added up it seemed to tell a slightly different story. Their breakdown was four 5's, two 6's, five 7's, six 8's and a 9. These gave them player totals of 43, 38 and another 43. They seemed to have almost duplicated our scores. Sadly, however, they had won the set by just 4 pins and had taken the first points of the match. There was now just 12 points available and we needed two thirds of them to make it count. Was this possible?

The second set consisted of Dixie, Kojak and Andy G. This seemed to be going well as far as pins were concerned because Kojak managed to score our first spare of the evening on his third hand of 15, so well done to him. This seemed to be a turning point for us, especially as a v/c was also scored during this set. Apart from the v/c the breakdown of the scores was a 3, a 4, three 5's, three 6's, four 7's, four 8's, a 9 and the 15 spare. These gave us player totals of 41, 43, and 36 and a set total of 120. The Elvers seemed to falter a little on this set because they could not score anything higher than an 8. Their score breakdown was a 1, a 4, six 5's, two 6's, six 7's, and two 8's. This gave them player totals of 39, 38 and 28 which gave them a set total of just 105. We had won the second set by 15 pins which meant that we were now in a fairly good position, 11 pins up overall on the game and the scores all even. This match could still go either way.

The third set consisted of Kev, John C. and Mike. We needed to keep up the momentum and keep the pins falling and the scores getting higher. All three players kept the pressure up quite nicely. Kev put in a stunning performance to end up with an individual score of 45 without a spare which in itself is a good feat. John hit our second spare of the night on his fourth hand of a 12 so well done to him. Even with this spare he just could not beat Kev. The breakdown of the scores for this set was two 4's, three 5's, four 6's, a 7, four 8's, two 9's and the 12 spare. As well as Kev's score of 45 the others was 41 and 39. These gave us a set total of 125. The Elvers seemed to smell victory on this set because R. Taylor seemed to storm the set with a 15 spare on his first hand and a 14 spare on his third hand. These catapulted him to scoring their highest score for the night of 55 so very well done to him indeed. The complete breakdown of the scores was two 3's, a 4, four 5's, three 7's, five 8's the 14 spare and the 15 spare. The other two players' totals were 40 and 33. The



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set total was 128. They had won the set by 3 pins reducing our lead to just 8 pins. They now had four points and things were beginning to look a little awkward for us to say the least.

The final set was now upon us and we needed something special, and fast! Playing for us on this set was Cockney Al, Dave and Captain Woody. The balls began to roll and the pins began to fall, just like a pack of dominoes in a domino rally. Things really took off when Al hit a good 13 spare on his fourth hand and Dave hit a 15 spare on his fourth hand too. Al boosted his score to big league stuff when he ended up with our teams highest score of 47 so well done to him. The breakdown for this set was a 1, three 5's, four 6's, three 7's, two 8's, two 9's, the 13 spare and the 15 spare. These gave us good player totals of 47, 43 and 42 which gave us a huge 132 set total. The Elvers fought on bravely. R. Chamberlin hit a 14 spare on his third hand which helped him score a player total of 45. The complete breakdown was three 5's, two 6's, seven 7's, five 8's and the 14 spare. Their player totals were 44, 41 and 45 which gave them a set total of 130. We had won the final set by a mere 2 pins. Victory was ours by 10 pins and we had scored the required points to ensure that we stayed at the top of the third division for another week.

What a nail biting finish to this very important match this was. Next week's match will be even more crucial because depending on just how many points the team in the second spot scored this week and scores next week will determine if we end the season as Division 3 champions or runners up. Either way I think that there is a strong chance that we could be playing in the second division next season. Watch this site next week for details and later in the year for updates as and when they are available.

For our final match of the season we will be at home against The Atoms. Last time we met them in December 2009 we were unfortunate to lose 12 points to 2. Can we do better this time round? Pay a visit here next week to find out.