



# CON B SKITTLES

## Match Reports Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009

---

Well here we are once again at the start of another skittles season in the life of the Con B skittles team. First of all an apology to our regular readers for not having last week's report on the site before this week's match. This was due to an administrative error and paperwork not being completed. I hope that this has not detracted too much from your enjoyment of these reports.

Our first match of the season was played on home soil against the Electric Sports, whom we have had trouble in beating on more than one occasion. Was this going to be an early victory? Or just a dismal power cut? Up first saw Biker, Swifty and Andy M. Being our first match of the season and many of us not having thrown a ball or two down the alley since the end of last season we were somewhat stiff and rusty. We soldiered on in true blue fashion. Biker played a fairly consistent set with a mixture of 5's, 6's and 7's to give him a set total of 36. Swifty, still feeling in a little pain and discomfort, battled on valiantly but alas could only muster 16. But with this being the first game of the season it can only get better. It is after all only a game and all pins count. Andy M. did not fare much better especially when he only hit 3's on his fourth and fifth hand. His final set total was a reasonable 34. This gave us an opening set total of only 86. The Electric Sports, on the other hand, played a little better with their lowest pin total for a hand being a few 4's. We thought that it was looking fairly good from our point of view but on the very last hand B. Robbins came from out of the blue and scored the first spare of the match of 14. This gave him a total of 41. The other players hit 37 and 34 respectively. This gave them a set total of 112 and the first points of this game. Things were not looking too hot, especially as we were a massive 26 pins down already.

The second set looked a little more promising. Playing for us on this set we had Dixie, Grandad and Doug. It looked hopeful when Dixie hit a 9 with his first ball and Doug hit an 8. Could they keep it together? Dixie had a slight wobble on his third hand when he only managed a 5 but he did bounce back with a couple of 7's and an 8 to give him a set total of an excellent 44. Grandad was just a little off the mark with a couple of 4's, a 5, 6, 7 and an 8. This gave him a set total of 34. Doug being fired up with hunger cannoned the balls down the alley with mainly 8's and a 9, but he too had a poor third hand when he hit a 5. He did, however, supersize his score to a 45 which as it happened was our joint highest score of the night, so well done to him. Their set total was a good 123. The Electric Sports seemed to run a little light on power because they could not seem to keep up. Their player totals were 32, 38 and 40 which gave them a total of 110. We had won the second set by a good 13 pins which halved the deficit suffered from the first set. We were now just 13 pins behind, but all square on the number of points.

The third set saw Kojak, John C and Andy G take up their positions. Kojak battled in vain against the odds but just could not seem to get his eye in. This was unfortunate under the circumstances especially as we had had a good second set. He could only muster 31. John C fared a little better with 36 but Andy G. kept up the pressure when he scored our teams only spare of 13 which equalled the highest score of the night, set earlier by Doug, of 45. Well done to him too. This gave us a good set total of 112. The Electric Sports began to fight back and it showed too when P. Turnbull had a good run and hit 44 for them. He was supported by the others in the set by them



# CON B SKITTLES

hitting a 39 and a 34. Their set total was a good 117 which was only five pins more than us. This meant that they were now 18 pins in front and now had four points on the board to our miserable 2.

The final set kicked off with A. Newland (Cockney Al), Dave and Captain Woody. All three of them had a poor hand at one time or another in the set with the lowest being a 2 and all of them hitting a 3 during the set. They were not downhearted and had set totals of 35, 36 and 41. This gave them a set total of another 112. The Electric Sports seemed to get a jump start when B. Huxham hit their second spare of the night of 13 on his fifth hand. This ensured that he had hit their team's highest score of the night of 46. He was valiantly supported by A. Taylor and G. Robbins who hit 43 and 42. Their set total was a massive 131 which was a huge 19 pins profit on that set alone. The final overall totals were 433 to us and a whopping 470 to them. They had beaten us once again leaving us crushed and defeated by a 37 pin lead and 12 points to our paltry 2.

We hope to do better next time we play against them on their alley later in the season.

On now to this week's match which was our first away game of the season at the Working Men's Club against The Reptiles, who finished just below us last season. Playing the first set for us was Clive, Andy M. and 'edgehog. Both Clive and 'edgehog had poor starts when they hit 5's. Clive did not seem to do much better during the hand because he hit another two 5's. He did manage to gather a little pace on his third and fourth hand when he hit a 7 and an 8. His saving grace came with his final hand where he hit our team's first spare of the night when he hit an 11 which gave him a player total of 41. Andy M. played a little better for most of the set with scores ranging from a 5 all the way up to a couple of 8's. His final score too was 41, which was a lot better than his score last week and for many of last season's matches. 'edgehog on the other hand could not seem to get his eye in and suffered a score of 34. Our set total was a reasonable 116. The Reptiles being on their own alley ought to have played well especially as they would usually play on the alley most weeks. It did show that they were on form with scores ranging from an unfortunate 4 all the way up to a few 9's. Their player totals reflected this with a 39, 42 and a 44 giving them a set total of 125. Victory on the first set was theirs and so were the first two points of the match. We were 9 pins down so needed to find some more from somewhere.

The second set consisted of Kev, Grandad and Doug. Kev began slowly with a 6 but was supported well by the others who both hit 8's. The pins soon began to fall well when Grandad and Doug seemed to match each other's scores until Grandad's fifth hand when he hit a fantastic 17 spare after a flopper, (this is where all 9 pins fall with the first ball of the three) with his first ball, this gave him his best score so far of the season and also equalled the highest score of our team this week of 54 so well done to him. Doug tried to match it but just could not get contact. He managed to equal his score of last week of 45. Kev held on to a score of 37. Our set total was an excellent 136. The Reptiles seemed to be lost in the undergrowth because M. Butterworth kept finding the gaps and hit a score of 23. His two team mates tried valiantly to recover but they could only manage 37 and 41 giving them a set total of 101. The second set was ours. We were now level on the points and were 26 pins in front. This match was getting more and more interesting by the second.

The third set consisted of Dixie, John C. and Andy G. This was to be the best set of the entire game. Dixie began well with a couple of 9's but dropped a little when he hit a 7, 5, 4 and a 6 which gave him a set total of 40. John on the other hand played a consistent set with a few 7's and a couple of 9's only to suffer a little on his fourth hand with a 4. His set total was a good 43. Andy G. on the other hand had a poor start with a 4 but soon made up for it with a 15 spare on his second hand which he followed with a 7, 6, and an 8 but finishing up with a 14 spare giving him two spares



## CON B SKITTLES

in this match. All this added together gave us our other highest score of 54. Andy is certainly on fire this season because after two matches he is already on top of the averages. Our set total this time was 137. The Reptiles seemed to be a little surprised by this activity and lost a little focus. They again hit lower scores than they had in the first set. They hit 35, 29 and 39 which only gave them a score of 103. The third set was ours and we were now a huge 60 pins in front. This looked to be going our way but we still had the final set to go.

The final set consisted of Cockney Al, Captain Woody and Dave. Things slipped a little because Al could only manage to score 36 and Captain Woody 35. Dave managed to hold it together with a score of 44 which gave us a set total of 115. The Reptiles seemed to sense a shift in the proceedings with a range of good scores including a couple of 9's. Their player totals were 42, 38 and 39 which gave them a set total of 119. They had pulled back four pins from our profit and stolen the final two set points. The overall scores were 504 to us and 448 to the Reptiles. We had won the match by 56 pins and had placed a valuable 10 points into our total for this season.

Next week we will be back on our own alley against The Depoteers who ended last season only three places below us. So no doubt this match could be interesting too!

The Cup matches have been announced for Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and you will find the details on the Cup Pages on the site.

Till next time, enjoy the current spell of nice weather.