



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 10th September 2010

Still being in shock after last week's momentous victory over The Wanderers we knew that we had to keep the pressure up this week. We just could not afford to rest on our laurels because the team we were up against this week had been in the second division for a few seasons and were hardened players and knew just what they had to do in order to succeed. They were The Box Tops whose home alley was at The White Hart pub. We had played on that alley many times before so many of us felt that we should do well. The only slight problem with that was the fact that we do have a few new players on our team for this season and they were all set to play this week. I won't keep you in suspense any longer so read on and see how we got on...

Up first for us was the first of the new bunch A. McMillian (whose first name is also Andy – this will get confusing as we now have three Andy's on the team!), P. Vincent (the second newcomer) and 'edgehog. Andy McM. took a short while before he managed to get his eye in but soon got up to speed with his attack of the pins. P. Vincent was not quite as lucky but he did manage to have a fairly constant range of scores. 'edgehog on the other hand played a calm and collected set and hit a good range of opening scores. The breakdown of the scores for us was a 4, a 5, five 6's, six 7's, three 8's and two 9's. These scores gave us player totals of 43, 37 and 43 and a set total of 123. The Box Tops began a little on the reserved side as far as some of the scores were concerned, especially when one of their players hit an unfortunate 2 on his fifth hand. This might have been a slight ploy to give us false hope especially as we were the newbies in this division. Their pins were a 2, a 5, two 6's, five 7's, six 8's and two 9's. These gave them player totals of 35, 43 and 47 and a set total of 125. They had won the first set of the match but only by two pins. It was fairly close so it could go either way.

The second set consisted of Andy M. Dixie and Doug. This was a fairly close fought set but it looked like it was all going to fall apart when one of the Box Tops hit a 14 spare on his second hand, (more about that in a while). All the players on our side seemed to be matching as the balls were bowled and the pins fell. We hit five 6's, ten 7's, an 8 and two 9's which gave all us player totals of 42 and a set total of 126! The Box Tops, as I have already mentioned, hit a 14 spare on their second hand which made things look like they would romp home with a resounding victory on this set. Just how wrong was this assumption? They hit a 2, three 5's, two 6's, seven 7's, two 8's, two 9's and the 14 spare. These gave them player totals of 44, 45 and 37 which surprisingly gave them a set total of 126 as well. We had drawn the set and we had a single point on the board as opposed to The Box Tops now having 3 points but they were winning the match still by a mere 2 pins. This was looking to be very close indeed.

The third set consisted of M. Coleman, John C, and another new player M. Davies (Doc). This set seemed to lose a little momentum due to the pins not wanting to fall for us and the balls not wanting to make contact. You could say it was almost like trying to communicate with Extra Terrestrial beings! None of our players lost their focus and still kept plugging away. The fortunes for us began to take a slight upturn when Doc hit our first spare of the night a 12 spare on his third hand (not a bad effort for his first outing with the team). Our scores for this set was three 3's, two 4's, two 5's, four 6's, a 7, three 8's and the 12 spare. These gave us player totals of 34, 33 and 40 which



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gave us a set total of 107. The Box Tops could see we were in a slight bit of trouble and upped their game a bit when R. Coombs hit a 16 spare on his first hand and A. Lightfoot hit a 12 spare on his third hand. Neither of these spares gave these players their teams' highest score of the match, this was to come in the final set. The breakdown of scores on this set was two 5's, two 6's, five 7's, six 8's, the 12 spare and the 16 spare. These gave them player totals of 45, 54 and 40 which gave them a set total of a whopping 139. They had won the set by 32 pins and now had 5 points on the board to our 1. This was beginning to look very bad for us. We needed help and fast if we were to save face and get some more points under our belts.

The final set consisted of Cockney Al, Dave and Captain Woody. This set erupted into life due to a total of 6 spares being hit amongst the two teams, three for us and three for them. The first of ours came from Dave in his second hand but alas it only amounted to a 9 spare. The other two for us were scored by Woody on his fourth and final hands where he hit a 10 spare and a 12 spare. It was thanks to these that he hit our teams' highest score of the night of 55 so very well done to him indeed for that. The breakdown for the set for us was two 6's, five 7's, four 8's, five 9's (including the 9 spare), the 10 spare and the 12 spare. Our player totals were 44, 47 and 55 which gave us a set total of a very welcome 146. The Box Tops seemed to have got very fired up for this final set and came out all guns blazing. Their first man W. Farr set the alley alight with a 15 spare on his first hand then went on to hit a 13 spare on his fifth hand which gave him their highest score of the night of 56. A. Gibbs, not wanting to be out done, hit a 12 spare, also on his fifth hand. Their team breakdown for the set was a 5, three 6's, four 7's, two 8's, five 9's, a 12 spare, a 13 spare and the 15 spare. These gave them player totals of 56, 47 and 49 which amounted to a set total of 152. The final totals were 542 to them and 502 to us. They had won the final set by 6 pins which meant that they had won the match overall by a massive 40 pins in total and had cleaned up on the points by an amassing 13 out of the possible 14 available.

So there you have it, a crushing defeat! We knew that things could be tough in division 2, but not quite this tough. But this is only the second match of the season. We have plenty more to come and also a few cup matches in the offering.

Next week we shall be back on our own alley against The Hornets who ended last season about the middle of the table. So see you next week.

The Cup match draws have been made and the details are listed on the Cup Match page of the site.