



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 15th October 2010

After suffering a few defeats after our tremendous start against the Wanderers we now know that it is going to be very tough in the second division. This week's match was not going to be any different because we were playing against The Century A Team on their alley at the Century Club in Worle. We have played on the alley in the past, going back at least two maybe three years, when the Century B team were in our division before gaining a promotion or two.

The main things to note about the alley is that it is a very long alley, so much so that you almost need a pair of binoculars to see the pins at the other end and that you have to step down into it. This as you can probably gather can be a little unnerving to say the least, but it is all good fun.

Playing for us on the first set was Andy M., P. Vincent and Dixie. Most of the balls made the contact that they needed, others were not so lucky. However, on this match all the pins counted, unlike the front pin match the other week. Most of the hands for our team were above 6 which is good, but there were a couple of lower scores these being a 3 and a 4 but I will not embarrass the player here because we are a team. The complete breakdown across the board for us including the two mentioned above were a 3, a 4, a 5, five 6's, eight 7's and two 8's. This gave us player totals of 38, 40 and 36 giving us a set total of 114. The Century A team seemed to be almost a large family because playing for them was five Jones's! Oh and there was a Smith in amongst them too. You could say it was almost like keeping up with the Jones's! I digress; let's get back to the action. Their first three players seemed a little uncomfortable on their alley and their scores seemed to reflect this. Ok, they did get a few 7's but they also had more 3's and 4's too. Their breakdown was three 3's, two 4's, two 5's, three 6's, six 7's and two 8's. Their player totals were 32, 40 and 31 which gave them a set total of 103. We had been victorious on this first set by 11 pins. It was a good feeling to have gained the first points of the match on the first set and had lived up to the club name of The Century Club, by hitting a Century on the first set. Could the good fortune continue?

The second set consisted of Grandad, Steve T. and Doug. This was not as good a set as that of the first one because there was a few more scores of the lower persuasion but Steve did manage to hit a 9 on his final hand which was good. The breakdown of pins for us on this set was a 2, a 4, five 5's, three 6's, two 7's, three 8's and the 9. This gave us player totals of 31, 37 and 40 giving us a set total of 108. The Century A team began to attack where they could with two of their players hitting 9's on their fourth hand. Their turning point on this set came in the fifth hand of M. Bucknole (yes, not a Jones!) when he hit a good 11 spare. This gave him a set total of 43 which as it happened was not their highest score of the night; this was to come on the final set. Their breakdown for this set was two 3's, a 4, four 5's, a 6, four 7's, an 8, two 9's and the 11 spare. I have already mentioned the 43 so the other player totals were 33 and 36 which gave them a set total of 112. They had won the second set by 4 pins which meant that they had now levelled the scores, but we were hanging on with a lead of just 7 pins. Were we going to be lucky? Or was it all going to go horribly wrong?

The third set consisted of Mike, John C. and Doc. We hoped that this set would be fruitful for us, but Mike was having a few problems with his hands and couldn't get the grip on the balls that he needed. He was in a lot of discomfort but carried on like a true professional that he is. The scores



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for us on this set were a little on the low side, but they all count and we could hopefully pull a little back on the final set. The breakdown was two 1's, three 3's, four 4's, two 5's, a 6, two 7's, two 8's and a 9. These gave us player totals of 22, 36 and 28. This gave us a set total of just 86. The Century A could smell a possible victory here but did not really make it known. They just kept on bowling the balls down the alley with moderate accuracy. J. Jones hit a good 10 spare on his third hand which helped him end up with a score of 42. The breakdown for them was a 3, a 5, eight 6's, four 7's, two 8's, a 9 and the 10 spare. The player totals for this set as well as the 42 was 38 and 39. Their set total was 119. They had won the third set by 33 pins which meant that they were now 26 pins in front and had 4 points on the board. We needed to get something going and fast for the final set. We hope that Mike's hands improve for him soon so he can get back to his former level of fitness.

The final set consisted of Kojak, Dave and Captain Woody. This set for us began a little on the low side but soon picked up. The most surprising thing was that neither team hit a spare on this set, yet a couple of the scores ended up to be the highest of the match, both for us and them. The breakdown for us was a 3, three 4's, three 5's, three 6's, three 7's, three 8's and two 9's. This gave us player totals of 29, 45 and 37. The 45 was our highest score of the night scored by Dave, so very well done to him. The set total for us was a respectable 111. The Century A seemed to have all the good hits this time because they all started with 7's and seemed almost to match each other where they could. Their breakdown for this set was a 4, a 5, six 6's, four 7's, two 8's and a 9. This gave them player totals of 39, 35 and 45. As you can see they also hit a 45 which as it happened was their highest score of the match too. This was scored by B. Hewitt, so well done to him. Their set total was 119. They had won the final set by 8 pins which meant that they had won the match overall by 34 pins and 12 points to 2.

A rather disappointing result come the end especially as it began so well. But as many of you already know a victory or defeat can occur with the blink of an eye.

Next week we have two matches to play at home, one on Wednesday and the other on Friday. The Wednesday match is the revised fixture that should have been played on 8th October on our alley against The Persuaders and the Friday match against WAFC. So the report next time might well be a combined one to take these two matches into account.

So see you next time.