



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 17th September 2010

After last week's crushing defeat against The Box Tops we knew that we needed to get a grip on reality. Playing in the Second Division was (and is) going to be tough. We seem to be holding our own so far and not disappearing without trace. So all things being equal we must be doing something right at least to be scoring some points.

This week we were back home on our own alley against The Hornets. This looked like it was going to be a tough match for us because three of our regular players were away on a few days holiday so we had to rely on a couple of the newer players signed on for this season. So how did it all go? Read on and see...

Playing for us on the first set was Andy M., P. Vincent and 'edgehog. All three of us began a little on the slow side with us hitting a 3, 4 and a 2. Was this how the match was going to go? Andy managed to get his eye in and hit an average of 7.8 for his last five hands, which for him was not bad. Things began to look really nice when P. Vincent hit the first of our teams' two spares on his fifth hand of 14 which was excellent. Alas it didn't catapult his score into the lead, but it certainly did help with the overall totals on the match. The breakdown for us was a 2, a 3, three 4's, a 5, two 7's, seven 8's, a 9 and the 14 spare. The player totals were 42, 39 and 41 which gave us a set total of 122. The Hornets were buzzing round like odious wasps looking for the kill. They were trying to up the ante and give us a run for our money. On the face of it all, this looked extremely likely with a mix of 6's, 7's and 8's. Looking at the figures singly it looked like they could do the deed and steal it from us. It looked very likely when K. Mager hit a good 11 spare on his third hand which was the first of their three hit during the match. Their range of scores were, a 1, a 2, two 4's, two 5's, four 6's, four 7's, three 8's and the 11 spare. Their player totals were 28, 41 and 39 which gave them a set total of 108. We had scored an all important victory on the first set by an amazing 14 pins and the first points of the match. This certainly put us in a very good position.

The second set consisted of Granddad, Steve T., and Doug. It was very nice to see Steve back in action with us again after having most of last season off due to work and health issues. Great to have you back on board. The set was a little on the low side as far as pins were concerned, but as I have said in these reports over many matches, every pin that gets hit down during the course of the matches are all important. The range of scores for us on this set were, a 2, three 3's, two 4's, two 5's, two 6's, four 7's, two 8's and a 9. This gave us player totals of 35, 23 and 41 which unfortunately gave us a set total of just 99. The Hornets then seemed to come alive in more ways than one with fairly consistent scores being hit. It looked like things could again be falling away from us when M. Baker hit their second spare of the night in his fourth hand. This did not quite go the way he had planned because he only ended up with a 9 spare due to the ball going right through the pack and missing every pin. And boy oh boy, do I know how that feels! Their range of scores was a 4, four 5's, four 6's, four 7's, an 8, and three 9's including the 9 spare. Their player totals were 42, 38 and 36 which gave them a set total of 116. They had won the second set by 17 pins which now meant that we were both even on the points with two each, but they were winning the match by just 3 pins. It was still looking to be in our grasp.



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The third set consisted of M. Coleman, N. Ashbee, and Doc. It was also a pleasure to see Neil play again, because of work commitments last season he was not always able to get to the matches. Again this set started off fairly low key for us and it stayed on that plain a little while. But all three players did make the balls count with no V/C's at all, which again is always a bonus. The breakdown for us was a 3, two 4's, two 5's, six 6's, six 7's, and an 8. These gave us player totals of two 36's and a 35 which gave us a set total of 107. The Hornets, still on a high from the second set, kept the pressure on with a few 9's adorning the score board. Their breakdown was two 3's, a 4, three 5's, a 6, five 7's, two 8's and the three 9's. This gave them player totals of 41, 40 and 37 which gave them a set total of 118. They had scored a victory again over us, this time by another 11 pins, which meant that they were now in a very good position with four points on the board and winning the match by 14 pins. We needed desperately to get some better luck on our side for the final set.

Playing for us on this final set was Cockney Al, Dave and Captain Woody. Both Al and Dave began a little on the low side but Mark held it together to hit a perfect 9. Things picked up for us rather nicely on the third hand when Dave hit our second spare of the night, this time a fantastic 16 spare, then finishing off his hands with perfect 9's. This escalated him to scoring our highest score of the night of 52 so very well done to him. The complete breakdown for this set for us was two 4's, four 5's, two 6's, two 7's, three 8's, four 9's and the 16 spare. These gave us player totals of 32, 52 and 46 which gave us a set total of 130. The Hornets not wanting to be outdone tried their hardest to make the pins count. It looked like this was going to happen especially on the fifth hand down when they scored their final spare of the night. This time it was a 12 spare by P. Davidson which also gave them their highest score of the night of 47 so well done to him. Their breakdown was a 3, five 5's, five 6's, three 7's, two 8's, a 9 and the 12 spare. These gave them player totals of 34, 35 and 47 which gave them a set total of just 116. We had won the final set by 14 pins which meant that we had in fact drawn the match overall with us both hitting 458 pins in total. We also shared the points too which amounted to 7 each.

Not a bad effort at all in my opinion. This should certainly give us a little more credibility in the second division. Next week will be a slightly different kettle of fish as far as playing will be concerned, because we are back again on our own alley, but playing as the Away team due to the fact that we are playing against The Wookers who also play on the Conservative Club alley. It should be an interesting match to say the least. So, tune in next week to see what happens.