



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 25th March 2011

If last week's match was anything to go by there is certainly no real way in which to predict just how a match will turn out. We definitely need all the points we can get each week now for the final three matches of the season to ensure that we retain our well earned place in the second division. This week we were back at home playing against The Gatecrashers. Last time we played against them on their alley we won by 11 points to 3. They were fairly close to the top of the second division which told us that they had been slightly more successful than us by winning a few more matches. We would definitely have our work cut out.

Playing first set for us was Andy M., Swifty and 'edgehog. None of us seemed to be able to play as well as we have done in previous matches. Still, we kept on trying. We thought that things might have picked up when Andy M. hit a reasonable 12 spare on his fourth hand but could only reach a total score of 36 due to a 1 being hit on his final hand. Oh, such is life! The breakdown for us on this set was a V/c, a 1, a 2, four 4's, three 5's, two 6's, five 7's and the 12 spare. The other player totals were 22 and 35 which gave us a set total of just 93. The Gatecrashers did do slightly better than us, especially because their lowest hand was a couple of 4's. Ok, they could not get a spare, but they did get a 9. Their breakdown for this set was two 4's, two 5's, five 6's, five 7's, three 8's and the 9. Their player totals were 39, 34 and 43 which gave them a set total of 116. They had won the first set by 23 pins. Not a very good start to say the least because it meant that we needed to find a way to catch up if we were going to get anywhere in this match.

The second set consisted of P. Vincent, Andy G. and Dixie. This as it turned out happened to be our best set as far as overall scores were concerned and it saw Dixie hit our highest score of the match and it was done without a spare and nothing higher than an 8! In fact we could only manage a single spare on the entire match and we have already had that. The breakdown for us on this set was a 3, a 4, three 5's, five 6's, three 7's and five 8's. The player totals for this set were 40, 32 and of course the high score of 41 from Dixie, so well done to him. The Gatecrashers by comparison had their worse set of the entire match with a V/c being hit on a players' second hand and a couple of 2's and some 3's adorning the board. Their complete breakdown for this set was a V/c, two 2's, three 3's, two 4's, two 5's, two 6's, three 7's, two 8's and a 9. This gave them player totals of two 30's and a 29. Their set total was just 89. We had won the set by 24 pins which meant that we were now in the lead by a single pin and the match so far was tied at two points each.

The third set consisted of Kojak, John C. and Doc. Once more we seemed to keep finding the gaps between the pins thus meaning that our totals were not very high, which in itself was a shame, because most of the balls seemed to be well on target. The breakdown for us on this set was a 1, two 3's, two 4's, six 5's, two 6's, a 7, three 8's and a 9. Our player totals were 32, 29 and 36 which gave us a set total of 97. The Gatecrashers could see that we were struggling so they upped the pressure a little. So much so, that P. Lippett hit an excellent 13 spare on his fifth hand to give them their highest score of the match of 49 so well done to him. Their breakdown for this set was three 5's, four 6's, six 7's, three 8's, a 9 and the 13 spare. Their other two player totals were 38 and 40 which gave them a set total of 127. They had won the set by 30 pins which meant that we were now 29 pins behind. The Gatecrashers were also in front as far as the points were concerned too.



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The final set consisted of Neil, Andy Mc. and Captain Woody. Our fortunes did seem to come back a little on this set with a few reasonable scores being hit but a slight slipup on the fifth hand by all three players dented the otherwise good run, where we collectively hit a hand total of just 9! Even seasoned players have problems. The complete breakdown for this set was a 1, a 3, two 5's, six 6's, five 7's, two 8's and a 9. The player totals for this set was 37, 40 and 33 which gave us a set total of 110. The Gatecrashers looked very much in control of the situation but when they put their player names on the board for the set we were dumbstruck to see that they were a player short so had to play a low score. This turned out to be the 29 they hit in the second set. Because of this it meant that the other two players had to play just that little bit better to save face. Their breakdown for this set, including the low score, was a 2, a 3, a 4, four 5's, three 6's, six 7's and two 8's. Their other two player totals for this set were 41 and 35. Their set total was 105. We had won this set by just 5 pins. The overall match totals for game were 413 to us and 437 to them. They had won the match by 24 pins and had gained 10 points out of the available 14.

Even though we could only gain four points from this match, it means that the teams below us need to get a better grab of the available points if they want to get us back down into the relegation zone.

Next week we will be back at home again against The Rejects. The other times we have played them this season, in the league match on their alley and in the Knock Out cup, they have beaten us despite the fact that at the time of this report were in the bottom position of the table. Life is cruel sometimes. Come back next week and see how the match went.