



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 3rd December 2010

It seems like ages ago since I last wrote a match report on the thrills and spills of the Con B Skittles team. We were sidelined last week having been knocked out early on in a couple of cup matches. It was perhaps just as well, especially with some of the icy cold weather we have been having of late. But in saying that on the night of this match, although it was very cold, it was actually drizzling with rain! The wonders of our weather pattern never cease to amaze me. This week we were playing at The Green Baize club against The Rejects. This was the venue that saw us crash out of one of the cup matches a few weeks ago so it held a few bad memories for me. The Rejects, being our opponents, seemed to lift our spirits a little because for one reason or another they were having a bad season so far. They had, at the time of the match, only won about 2 matches all season and were at the very bottom of the table. Could we just pull something amazing out of the bag? Or were we just going to sink like the Titanic when it hit the iceberg? Read on and see...

Playing first set for us was Andy M., Doc and 'edgehog. We managed to hit some consistent high scores which seemed to show that we were there to do a job and that was just what we were going to do. Alas we just couldn't seem to hit any spares but that didn't seem to matter. The breakdown for this set was a 3, two 4's, a 6, four 7's, five 8's and five 9's. This gave us player totals of 49, 37 and 44 which gave us a set total of 130. The Rejects did not want to take our scores lying down and so they seemed to let go with all they had. Many of their scores matched ours and it looked like it was going to be a very close set. Their breakdown was two 4's, a 5, a 6, six 7's, six 8's and two 9's. This gave them player totals of 41, 48, and 38 which gave them a set total of 127. We had won the first set by only 3 pins. Not a huge amount, but at least it was something we could build upon with the added bonus that we had two valuable points on the board.

The second set consisted of Andy Mc, Doug and Cockney Al. Early on in the set it looked like it might slip away from us when a few 5's graced the score board. Things took a dramatic turn when Al managed to get our first spare of the night on his fourth hand of 14. This had the added advantage of him hitting our highest score of the match with 52, so well done to him. It made a change to think that it wasn't Captain Woody who had that accolade this week! The breakdown for us on this set was three 5's, four 6's, two 7's, six 8's, two 9's and the 14 spare. The player totals for the other two players on this set was 42 and 39. The set total for us on this set was a good 133. The Rejects seemed to have been caught on the back foot a little and as a result seemed not to have a very good set. Their breakdown was a 3, three 4's, five 5's, four 6's, two 8's and two 9's. This gave them player totals of 38, 32 and 33 and a set total of just 103. We had secured another set victory. This time by a further 30 pins. We were now 33 pins ahead and had four points on the board. Things were looking very good indeed.

The third set consisted of Paul, John C. and Dixie. I think that the alley temperature must have dropped a little because for us the pins appeared frozen to the diamond and would hardly budge, no matter what we threw at them. We battled on valiantly because we were in profit as far as pins were concerned so we had a little leeway to help our cause. The breakdown for us on this set was a V/C, two 4's, five 5's, three 6's, a 7, two 8's and four 9's. This gave us player totals of 34, 29 and 47 and a set total of 110. The Rejects seemed to sense that something could happen in their



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favour so kept on sending the balls down the alley. They were lucky enough to hit their first spare of the night on their second hand down. Ok it turned out only to be a 9 spare, but a spare is good in any game whether or not the team is home or away. Alas, it was not sufficient for it to be their highest score of the night; this was to come in the final set. Their breakdown of scores for this set was a 3, a 4, two 5's, six 6's, three 7's, four 8's and the 9 spare. This gave them player totals of 35 and two 40's which gave them a set total of 115. They had won the set by 5 pins and had gained two points. We were still in a commanding position being now just 28 pins ahead and just two points in front. This match could still go either way.

The final set consisted of Andy G., Dave and Captain Woody. This set seemed to come alive for us on the third hand when Captain Woody hit an excellent 17 spare. Dave matched him when he too hit a 17 spare but this was on his fifth hand. As I said earlier, the highest score was hit by Al in the second set. But having two of our players hit 17's was truly amazing. The breakdown for us on this set was a 3, a 4, four 5's, three 6's, two 7's, two 8's, three 9's and two 17's. This gave us player totals of 41, 47 and 48 which gave us a set total of 136. The Rejects fought back as best they could. Things looked very promising for them when R. Nicholls hit a 12 and 9 spare on his fourth and fifth hands which gave him their highest score of the night of 54 so well done to him. Their complete breakdown for this set was a 3, two 4's, two 5's, two 6's, two 7's, two 8's, six 9's (including the 9 spare) and the 12 spare. This gave them player totals of 39, 36 and the 54 and a set total of 129. We had won the final set by 7 pins. The final totals were 509 to us and 474 to The Rejects. We had won the match by 35 pins and by 12 points to 2.

So there you have it, another nice victory in the second division. Can it continue so we stay up for another season? Or is it just the lull before the storm?

The draw for the Knock out cup has been announced, so click the link on the web page for all the details.

Next week we are back at home against The Falcons who, at the time of this report, are just below us in the table having only won about six matches all season. Can we secure another victory on this match too? Oh, so many questions, but what about the answers?

Come back next week and see...