



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 3rd September 2010

Well the wait is finally over. We are here at the start of the 2010 – 2011 season and tensions are running high after our momentous victory at the end of last season, one that saw us catapulted into the limelight as Division 3 champions, after so many years in the lower divisions. Are we going to cut it in the second division amongst the “bigger” boys? Or, are we going to be the underdogs and get quickly demoted back down into the depths of despair and beyond? Only time will tell with many matches still to be played.

For our first week back we were fortunate enough to be drawn on our home alley, but our opponents were The Wanderers, who were so gallantly promoted up to Division 2 at the start of last season and ended up finishing just outside of the promotion slot for Division 1. They are good, but in saying that we have beaten them in the past so there is always hope. That being said, we were at home, and this often puts the kybosh on some matches. So what happened I hear you saying? Well read on and see...

Playing first for our side was Andy M., Grandad and 'edgehog. It all began fairly well with us all hitting sixes and a 7. All was looking good until we got to the third hand when Andy had a bad hand and could only hit a 1. This sent a slight ripple to the others who also had a slightly bad hand with a 4 and a 5 being hit. It looked like we were going to take a dive. Grandad pulled something out of the bag and cannoned down our first spare of the night, a good 17 spare. We were back in contention. The breakdown of our scores for this set were a 1, a 4, two 5's, three 6's, seven 7's, two 8's and the 17 spare. This gave us player totals of 37, 47 and 39 which amounted to a set total of a good 123. Although Grandads score was impressive for our first match of the season, this was not our highest score. This was to come later in the match. The Wanderers desperately wanted to gain the upper hand on this match. Their scores to a certain respect did reflect this in as much as the pins hit down were fairly consistent. Things did begin to look a little shaky when C. Cox hit their first spare of the night. Alas it did not go quite the way he planned because it only gave him a 9 spare. Some you win some you lose. Their breakdown for this set was a 3, three 5's, six 6's, six 7's, an 8 and the 9 spare. These gave them player totals of 41, 40 and 32 which gave them a set total of just 113. We had taken the first set by 10 pins and had a nice two points on the board in this inaugural game in Division 3.

The second set saw Kojak, Cockney Al and D.S. Pearce in action. It began well with some very close scores until the second hand when Doug romped through with an impressive 12 spare, our second of the night. This gave him a set total of 42 which was only 5 behind that of Grandad. It looks like this could be an interesting season with a few high scores coming through. We shall wait and see what happens during the coming matches of this season. The breakdown of our scores on this set was a 3, a 4, seven 5's, a 6, three 7's, two 8's, two 9's and the 12 spare. These gave us player totals of 36, 37 and 42 and a set total of 115. The wanderers not wanting to lose momentum put on a couple of their better players but they were soon looking a little rocky when they hit a couple of lower than average scores. Their pins for this set were a 2, a 3, a 4, a 5, four 6's, six 7's and four 8's. This gave them player totals of 37, 36 and 39 which gave them a set total of 112. We had taken the second set too. This time only by 3 pins, but at least it all counts towards the final scores at the end



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of the night. We had now got a fantastic 4 points on the board and 13 pins in front. Just how was this going to end?

The third set consisted of M. Coleman, John C. and Dixie. Could they keep up the momentum and pressure of this onslaught? The pressure began to show during this set for us when a couple of our players hit very disappointing 1's. They ploughed on valiantly and managed to hit some better scores as the time went on. Their breakdown was two 1's, three 5's, three 6's, four 7's, four 8's and a 9. These gave us player totals of 32, 38 and 41 with a set total of just 111. The Wanderers now like hungry wolves went for the kill with a clutch of 8's quickly appearing on the board. None of their players could quite get a spare, but this did not seem to faze them at all. They just kept up the pressure. Their scores were a 4, six 6's, three 7's, six 8's and a 9 which gave them player totals of 42, 43 and 39. Their set total was a good 124. They had stolen not only the third set from us, but also the 13 pins we were in front to level the match at this stage on equal pins. They only had two points so we were winning as far as the points were concerned. It was going to go all the way to the wire. The outcome of this match was balancing very precariously on a knife edge with the bricks stacked slightly in The Wanderers favour. So how did it all end? Read on and see...

The final set saw Andy G., Dave Pearce and Captain Woody take their places. The first balls were bowled and it looked very promising. The second hand was bowled and the balanced tipped away from us, but it was soon back on our side with the third hand. It was still anyone's match. The tensions began to mount on both sides until The Wanderers hit a 13 spare on their fourth hand which looked very much like they would grasp the reins and gallop off into the sunset. It was beginning to look like it was all over for us until Dave jettisoned a desperate few balls down the alley and hit a good 15 spare. This gave him our team's highest score of the night of an excellent 50 so very well done to him. The breakdown for our team was a 4, a 5, three 6's, three 7's, five 8's and the all important 15 spare. The Wanderers on the other hand hit a 4, two 5's, three 6's, seven 7's, two 8's, a 9 and a 13 spare by D. Johnston which gave him their highest score of the night of 45 so well done to him. The player totals for our side was 37, 50 and 42 which gave us a set total of 129. The player totals for The Wanderers was 42, 45 and 39 which gave them a set total of 126.

The final totals were 478 to us and 475 to The Wanderers. We had won the set and match by a mere 3 pins, thus winning our first match, not only in Division 2 but the first match of the season. What a nail biting finish to this match. This I think goes to prove that we do have a right to be playing here in Division 2. Can we keep up our good fortune? Or was this just a fluke? Who knows! Only time will tell.

Next week we shall be playing away at the White Hart against The Box Tops who finished last season just below The Wanderers. How will we do this time? Drop back next week and see.