



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 8th April 2011

As this monumental season in Division 2 races to a close I think we can honestly say that it has been a struggle at times. Ok, we managed to win a few of what I would call very tough matches, in others we have been slaughtered in what many could call fairly straight forward run-of-the-mill certainties. But at the end of the day it is, after all, only a game. Some players are really serious about their performance; others just play for a night out with friends. Let's get back to the process of reporting on how the penultimate match of the season panned out. This week we were playing at The Victoria Bowling Club against The Falcons. When we met them towards the end of the first half of the season on our alley we could only gain two points. Could we do any better this time around?

Playing first for us was Andy M., Swifty and 'edgehog. All three of us began well with a couple of 7's and a 9. 7's seemed to be very much the order of the day for this set because between us we managed to hit ten of them. Our fortunes gained a bit of a boost when Andy M hit a 15 spare on his third hand which gave him our teams' highest score of the night of 46. This was not quite as high as that of The Falcons highest score. That was to come on the third hand. The breakdown for us on this set was a 2, a 4, a 5, two 6's, ten 7's, two 9's and the 15 spare. The other player totals for this set were 35 and 45 which gave us a set total of 126. The Falcons, being used to playing on this alley, played a cracking set with two of their players hitting over 50! They also had two spares, one of 13 and the other of 16. Both of these were on their third hand as well. Their breakdown for this set was a 3, a 4, two 6's, six 7's, three 8's, three 9's, the 13 spare and the 16 spare. Their player totals for this set were 52, 35 and 54 which gave them a set total of 141. They had won this set by 15 pins and had the first points on the board.

The second set consisted of Andy Mc., Doc and Doug. This set saw a few scores of 3 cluttering up the score board but we kept on plugging away at it. None of our players on this set managed to get a spare, but by luck neither did The Falcons get one either. The breakdown for us on this set was three 3's, a 4, three 5's, three 6's, two 7's, five 8's and a 9. This gave us player totals of 41, 30 and 38 and a set total of 109. The Falcons seemed not to be getting the scores they had commanded on the first set because none of their players could get anything higher than an 8. The breakdown for them on this set was a 2, a 3, three 4's, two 5's, two 6's, six 7's and three 8's. This gave them player totals of 38, 37 and 30. This gave them a set total of just 105. We had won this set by 4 pins. The Falcons were now 11 pins in front but we were even on points.

The third set consisted of Paul, John C. and Andy G. We were still struggling a little on this set because we could not seem to get anything higher than a few 8's. Both John and Andy played a fairly well matched set and both of them ended up with player totals of 41. The breakdown for us on this set was two 2's, a 5, four 6's, seven 7's and four 8's. The other player total was 32 and our set total was 114. The Falcons could see an opening for them on this set because between them they hit 3 very good spares. A 14 spare by their first man on his first hand and a 13 and 15 spare on the fifth and sixth hands by A. Wiseman. These spares contributed in him getting their highest score of the match of 58 so very well done to him. Their complete breakdown of scores for this set was two 4's, five 6's, three 7's, three 8's, two 9's, the 13 spare, the 14 spare and the 15 spare. As well as the 58 the other player totals for this set were 48 and 37. Their set total was 143. This meant that



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they had won this set by a huge 29 pins and they were now 40 pins in front. We needed to try and pull something remarkable out of the bag on the final set.

The final set consisted of Grandad, Dave and Captain Woody. All three players fought on in the battle that was before us. Things looked like they were going to begin to pick up when Grandad hit a good 10 spare on his fourth hand. Alas from this he could only end up with a score of 42. The breakdown for this set was a 4, two 5's, three 6's, five 7's, five 8's, a 9 and the 10 spare. The other player totals were 40 and 44. Our set total was 126. The Falcons seemed to hold off a little on some of the pressure that they had been putting us under in previous sets because they could only muster a few 8's and 7's. Their breakdown for this set was a 4, a 5, two 6's, five 7's and nine 8's. Their player totals were 43, 41 and 44. Their set total was 128. They had won this final set by just two pins. The overall totals were 517 to them and 475 to us. They had won the match again, 12 points to 2. At least we managed to salvage a couple of points in the process.

Next week we shall be back on our own alley for the final match of the season against The Poachers. It only seems like yesterday since we played them last time on their alley, but that was only due to it originally being postponed from before Christmas due to there being a somewhat heavy fall of snow!