



# CON B SKITTLES

## Match Reports Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010

---

This week you are in for a treat because as you can see from the heading there are going to be two reports this time. The reason for this is, as you can no doubt remember from last time, that we were lucky to be playing two matches this week due to a match from 8<sup>th</sup> October having to be re-scheduled. Both of these matches were played at home on our own alley at the Conservative Club. Playing two league matches in one week can certainly be a bit of a nightmare as far as the captain is concerned because many of the players find a mid week match a bit of a bind, even more so when they have to turn out twice in one week. The matches played were crucial to say the least, because we had been suffering a little of late and losing a few matches. Could we turn the tables and be re-born like the Grand Pier at Weston, which opened its doors today (as this report was being typed) to the general public after the tragic fire over two years ago in July 2008 when the pavilion was destroyed.

The match played on Wednesday was against The Persuaders, who at the time of the match, were just above us in the second division table. We have beaten them in the past a few years ago and they have beaten us, so we knew that we had both the skills and the determination to do the deed.

The first set saw Biker back in action supported by Swifty and P. Vincent. Not our usual opening line up but one that began the game well with a few good scores along the way. Unfortunately there were a couple of V/c's but as I have written on more than one occasion in these reports, even the best players get them. Just how the balls can pass through the pack of pins and totally miss everything remains a mystery. The breakdown for us on this set apart from the V/c's was a 1, two 2's, a 3, three 4's, four 5's, two 6's, two 8's, and a 9. This gave us player totals of 19, 25 and 33 and a set total of 77. The Persuaders seemed to have the better deal in being the away team because they knew just what they had to aim for to get what they wanted and that being a win! Their breakdown for this set was a 1, two 3's, two 4's, two 5's, two 6's, four 7's, three 8's, and a 9. This gave them player totals of 41, 29 and 34 which gave them a set total of 104. They had won the first set by a massive 27 pins. Things at this early stage were beginning to look a little rocky. Could we recover?

The second set consisted of Andy M., Doug and Dixie. As this set unfolded it looked a little like it was going to go the same way as the first set because there seemed to be an awful lot of 5's being hit with a few 8's and 9's for good measure. The breakdown for this set was a 3, a 4, six 5's, two 6's, two 7's, three 8's and three 9's. These gave us player totals of 34, 41 and 39 which gave us a set total of 114. The Persuaders looked like they were doing better than us when the scores were being placed on the board as the game progressed because there seemed to be a few more 7's cluttering up the boxes and they didn't hit anything less than a 4. Their breakdown for this set was a 4, four 5's, five 6's, four 7's and four 8's. This gave them player totals of 38, 39 and 37 which surprisingly also gave them a set total of 114. The set was drawn so we both gained a point, but The



# CON B SKITTLES

Persuaders were still winning overall by 27 pins and had three points to our one. Just what could we do to turn this around?

The third set consisted of Steve T., John C. and Kojak. This looked like it was going to be an interesting set because Kojak managed to hit our one and only spare of the night on his third hand down, alas it turned out to only be a 9 spare, but a spare is a spare after all. The breakdown for this set was a 3, three 4's, two 5's, two 6's, six 7's, two 8's and the 9 spare. These gave us player totals of two 34's and a 42 which gave us a set total of 110. The Persuaders did try to keep up the pressure but the balls and pins seemed to have other ideas. Their breakdown for this set was a 2, two 4's, seven 5's, four 6's and four 7's which gave them a set total of 97. We had won this set by a fantastic 13 pins which levelled the game on points but slashed the deficit to just 14 pins. Things were beginning to look up. Could there be a victory in the offering?

The final set consisted of Grandad, Dave and Captain Woody. The lights were certainly coming on for us in this set with a plenitude of 7's and 8's being hit with a few 6's for a bit of flavour. The breakdown for this set was five 6's, eight 7's and five 8's. This gave us player totals of 41, 42 and 43. The 43 turned out to be our highest score of the night by our captain, so well done to him on that and without a spare too! Our set total was 126. The Persuaders then hit us with the news that they were a player short so were forced to put on a low score. Unfortunately for them this was just 29, so they knew that their other two players hit the mark. It looked like they were going to when D. Llewellyn hit a 10 spare on his second hand which was their only one of the night. This gave him their highest score of the night of 45 so well done to him. The complete breakdown for this set including that of the low score was a 1, a 2, a 3, a 4, a 5, four 6's, five 7's, two 8's, a 9 and the 10 spare. This gave them player totals of 35, 45 and the low score of 29. Their set total was 109. We had won the final set by 17 pins which also meant that we had won the match by a mere 3 pins and ended up with 11 points to their 3.

So there you have it, we had come back from the brink, turned the match around and eradicated our recent run of defeats. Could we continue the good fortune for the second match this week? Read on and see.

The Second match this week was played against the W.A.F.C. I don't recall having played against them in the past so have no idea exactly what sort of players they were. The only thing I found out was that a couple of their players were friends of a couple of our team which meant that it was going to be a fairly friendly match. This was just what we wanted, after having played already this week.

Playing first for us was Andy M., Steve T. and 'edgehog who was just back from a well deserved holiday. This looked like it was going to be a good match for us because Steve hit our first spare of the night on his first hand of a 10 spare which included a "flopper", (where all the pins were hit by the first ball). The breakdown for this set was two 3's, two 4's, a 6, twelve 7's and the 10 spare. This gave us player totals of 33, 42 and 39 which gave us a set total of 114. The W.A.F.C. seemed to be piling on the pressure a little bit but they could not quite get the spare that they needed. Their breakdown was a 2, a 4, two 5's, four 6's, five 7's, four 8's and a 9. This gave them player totals of 35, 41 and 40 which gave them a set total of 116. They had won the first set by just 2 pins. This looked like it was going to be a close match to say the least.

The second set consisted of Dixie, Andy McM and Doug. The scores for us seemed to be fairly consistent with nothing less than a 3 being hit. Dixie did manage to hit a good 11 spare on his



# CON B SKITTLES

fifth hand but it was not sufficient for him to have our teams' highest score, this was to come in the final set, so more about that later. The breakdown for this set was a 3, three 4's, three 5's, two 6's, four 7's, three 8's, a 9 and the 11 spare. Surprisingly this meant that all three players hit 38 which again gave us a set total of 114. The W.A.F.C. played a steady set and seemed to match our scores quite well because they too hit an 11 spare, but this time it was on M. Edwards' final hand. This didn't give them their highest score either; this was to come a little later in the match. Their breakdown was two 4's, four 5's, three 6's, five 7's, two 8's, a 9 and the 11 spare. As well as the 43 the other player totals were 34 and 40. This gave them a set total of 117. They had won the second set as well. This time by just 3 pins! They were now five pins up on the match and already had four points on the board. This was not looking good. I feared that we needed help, and fast.

The third set consisted of Kojak, John C. and Doc. The set drifted along like a twig in a river under a bridge as if in a game of Pooh sticks with a fairly close matched set of scores, at least until Doc hit a good 12 spare on his fifth hand which gave him a set total of 45 so well done to him, but this was still not our highest score, that was yet to come. The breakdown for this set was a 3, a 4, three 5's, five 6's, a 7, four 8's and the 12 spare. The other player totals for this set was 40 and 31 which added to the 45 gave us a set total of 116. The W.A.F.C. kept up the pressure because they hit three spares on this set. R. Burnell hit two 13 spares, one on his third hand and the other on his fourth hand. These contributed into him hitting their highest score of the match of an excellent 54 so well done to him. The other spare was an 11 spare hit by S. Mason on his final hand, alas, his total was not as impressive, it was only 34. The breakdown for this set was a 2, two 4's, four 5's, four 6's, two 7's, an 8, a 9, and 11 spare and two 13 spares. The other player total for this set was also 34. The set total for The W.A.F.C. was a huge 122. They had won this set by 6 pins. This was not a lot under the circumstances but it meant that they were now 11 pins up and had six valuable points on the board. Things were now looking like a whitewash. Could we recover from it?

The final set consisted of Grandad, Dave and Captain Woody. All three of them played extremely well with the lowest hand being only a 5. Captain Woody seemed to have found the pace and determination he needed when he too hit two spares, one on his first hand of 15 and the other on his third of 12. When these were added to his other hands he had hit our highest score of the night of 53 so well done to him. The complete breakdown for this set was a 5, four 6's, eight 7's, two 8's, a 9, a 12 spare and a 15 spare. The other two player totals were 44 and 40 which when added to the 53 gave us a set total of a massive 137. The W.A.F.C. seemed as if they couldn't believe their eyes and their scores reflected this too. Their breakdown for this final set was a 3, four 4's, two 5's, five 6's, three 7's, two 8's and a 9. This gave them player totals of 40, 34 and 31 which gave them a set total of just 105. We had won the final set by a whopping 32 pins. The overall total was 481 to us and 460 to them. We had won the match by 21 pins overall and had stolen the final set points and the six points for a win which meant that we had won the match 8 points to 6.

We had won the second match this week and had certainly made our mark on this division as contenders.

Due to us being knocked out of the Front Pin and George Davis Cups the other week we do not have a match next week, so we will not now be in action again until November 5<sup>th</sup> when we shall be away at the Boro Club against The Depoteers who at the time of this report were currently in fourth place in the table, so once more it looks like we will have our work cut out.

Till next time...