



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Front Pin Rd 2 Friday 27th January 2012

Skittles is always a strange beast at the best of times. Almost like bad tempered cats, they come and bite you as quick as wink. Some games we expect to win we sometimes lose, games we expect to lose we have a stroke of luck and win. It never seems to be a cut and dried affair. The Front Pin cup is one such event in the skittles season calendar where it can turn on a knife edge and bite. This week sees us in action again against The Breakaways at The Woodspring pub in Worle High Street. This was the third time so far this season we have met them. The first time was also in a Cup Match where we won against them in the George Davis Cup and then the following week on our alley where we beat them again. Was this going to set a precedence for this match? Obviously we knew that we had the potential to beat them, but as I have mentioned earlier, the Front Pin Cup is a nasty beast at the best of times. So, you are no doubt saying to yourselves, just how did we get on in this crucial match? Read on and see...

Playing first set for us was Andy M., Steve T. and 'edgehog. The set didn't quite get off to the start we so desperately needed because both Andy M. and 'edgehog crashed with V/C's. It was only Steve T giving us anything concrete to look forward to so far. We suffered a few more V/C's but we kept on going because all the pins we could get down after the front pin would count if we were to be victorious. The breakdown for us on this set were six V/C's, a 2, two 3's, three 4's, a 5, two 6's and three 8's. The player totals for us were 21, 25 and 15 which gave us a set total of just 61. The Breakaways seemed to settle a little better into the way the Woodspring Alley was running because they not only hit a single V/C, but they also managed to get their highest score of the match of 40 by J. Trenchard, so very well done to him. Their breakdown for this set was a V/C, a 2, a 3, three 4's, a 5, three 6's, two 7's, three 8's and two 9's. The other two player totals for this set were 28 and 34 which gave them a set total of a huge 102. They had won this first set by a massive 41 pins! This being rather a large gap meant that we needed to pull together and climb the mountain that was before us.

The second set consisted of Dixie, Grandad and Grant. Things for us on this set began to flow a little better because we only hit two V/C's. We kept on chipping away at the pins and it seemed to go our way but we just couldn't get close enough to getting any spares, which is what we so desperately needed if we were to make some headway and pull back from what was looking like an out and out disaster and potential defeat. The breakdown for us on this set was two V/C's, a 2, four 3's, a 4, three 5's, a 6, three 7's and three 8's. These gave us player totals of 28, 35 and 21 which gave us a set total of 84. The Breakaways seemed a little too relaxed after their huge first set victory which saw them hit a total of nine V/C's, something that they could well do without. Their breakdown after the V/C's was a 2, a 3, four 6's, a 7, an 8 and a 9. Their player totals for this set were 25, 8 and 20 which gave them a set total of just 53. We had taken this set by 31 pins which reduced our deficit down to just 10 pins. The match was now looking very interesting indeed and was looking like it would come right down to the wire.

The Third set consisted of Kojak, John C. and Andy G. This set gave us our best result of the entire match, as far as pins were concerned, because we managed to get our only two spares of the night. Kojak hit a good 15 spare on his final hand, which catapulted him into the lead as far as high scores were concerned, this gave him an excellent score of 48 so well done to him. John C. also got a



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spare but his was on his third hand but alas it was only a 9 spare. The breakdown for us on this set was two V/C's, a 1, three 2's, a 3, a 4, a 5, a 6, four 7's, three 9's including the 9 spare and the 15 spare. The other player totals for this set were 22 and 25 which gave us a set total of an excellent 95. The Breakaways tried to pull back a little more. It looked like this was going to happen because P. Bruton hit a 9 spare on his first hand and a 10 spare on his final hand. These didn't quite match up to the high score of J. Trenchard in the first set, but he came fairly close with a total of 33. There were, as always, a number of V/C's to spoil their party. Their breakdown was six V/C's, two 1's, three 4's, two 5's, a 6, an 8, two 9's including the 9 spare and the 10 spare. The other player totals for this set were 20 and 13. We had won this set as well. This time it was by 29 pins which meant that we were now in front for the first time in the match by 19 pins. Could we hang onto this lead and secure a nice victory after what was looking very unlikely after the first set.

The final set consisted of Doug, Dave and Captain Woody. All three players had a reasonable set but alas none of them could get any higher than a 9. Fortunately though for them there was only a single V/C hit which was a very nice bonus for them indeed. The breakdown for us on this set was a V/C, a 2, two 3's, two 4's, five 5's, two 6's, four 7's and a 9. Our player totals for this set were 29, 37 and 23 which gave us a set total of 89. The Breakaways fought back as best they could J. Malone hit a good 11 spare on his third hand which gave him a player total of 26 and D. Pigott hit an excellent 13 spare on his final hand to give him a player total of 24. Their breakdown for this set was five V/C's, two 1's, a 3, a 4, a 5, three 6's, two 8's, a 9, the 11 spare and the 13 spare. The other player total for this set was 31 which gave them a set total of 81. We had pulled it off and won this final set by 8 pins.

The final overall totals for this match were 329 to us and 302 to The Breakaways. We had won the match by 27 pins, which was very impressive considering the fact that we were so far behind after the first set and looking down into the jaws of defeat. It looks like the semi final for the Front Pin Cup will be very interesting indeed where we shall either meet the Falcons or The Choppers. This will be published as soon as I have the details.

Next week we will be back in action on a regular league match at The Century Club against The Century A team. So see you all then.