



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 14th October 2011

Over the past few weeks since the start of the season, things have just not gone our way as far as winning matches are concerned. We have, however, been fortunate enough to gain points in every league match. Ok, it may have only been 2 points on most of them and 3 last week, but we are fortunate enough to be in double figures this week. At the time of writing this report there is just one team below us. So on saying this potentially the only way is up. We shouldn't get much lower!

This week we were back on our own alley playing against The Hornets who, at the time of this report, were sitting quite nicely in equal third place in the table. Based on this scenario we knew that we had it all to play for. Would we suffer defeat? Or could we squash the mighty hornets?

Playing first for us was Andy M., Clive and Doug. The set began badly for Andy M. because after his first three hands his total was only 9! This was not a good start. Fortunately Doug managed to fare a little better by hitting a couple of 7's, 8's and 9's. It was due to this score that he managed a total of 48 which was not a bad effort. This was going to be a contender for our highest score of the match. But it was to be beaten later on. The complete breakdown for us on this set was a 2, a 3, three 4's, two 5's, two 6's, four 7's, two 8's and three 9's. Both Andy M. and Clive hit 31 each. Our set total was a reasonable 110. The Hornets on the other hand, looked as if they were doing better than us because their first hand down totalled 22. The pressure was kept up and it looked like they would steal this from us. The breakdown for them on this set was a 2, two 3's, a 4, three 5's, five 6's, two 7's and four 8's. This gave them player totals of 30, 38 and 35 and a set total of 103. We had managed to win this first set by 7 pins and had now got what seemed to be our regular two points per match. This was looking good.

The second set consisted of Kojak, Grant and Andy G. The set had a little shaky start but soon began to get better. There was a little wobble when a V/C crept in on the third hand but the true turning point for us on this set was when Kojak hit an excellent 14 spare on his final hand to give him a score of 43, so well done to him. Alas, this was not enough for the highest score of the night. This was still to come. The breakdown for us on this set was the V/C, a 3, a 4, three 5's, three 6's, three 7's, five 8's and the 14 spare. This gave us player totals of 43, 39 and 33 and a set total of 115. The Hornets looked as if they had the edge on us during the set but looking closer at the scores they were mainly hitting 6's. I suppose that it looked impressive because they didn't suffer a V/C but they did have a 2 and a 3 creeping in just to keep things buzzing. Their breakdown for this set was a 2, a 3, a 5, nine 6's, three 7's and three 8's which gave them player totals of two 34's and a 41 which gave them a set total of 109. We had won the second set by 6 pins which meant that we were now in front by 13 pins and had increased our points total to 4. This certainly was looking to be an interesting match.

The third set consisted of Swifty, John C. and Dixie. The bubble of good fortune burst! None of our players on this set could hit higher than a 7. This looked like the match could potentially end in tears. But like the true professionals that we are, we carried on regardless. Anything could happen. The breakdown for us on this set was three 4's, nine 5's, four 6's and two 7's. This gave us player totals of 30, 36 and 29. The set total was just 95. The Hornets seemed to sense that there



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now could be a victory for them and seemed to come alive. N. Allen really put the cat among the pigeons on his third hand when he hit an excellent 15 spare. This gave him the added bonus of giving them their highest score of the night of 49 so very well done to him. Their breakdown for this set was a 4, two 5's, seven 6's, three 7's, three 8's, a 9 and the 15 spare. This gave them player totals of 37, 49 and 39 which gave them a set total of 125. They had taken the third set in style by 30 pins. This meant that they were now in a commanding lead as far as pins were concerned because they were in front by 17 pins. We now had a lot of work on our hands and from where I was sitting at the time, the outlook seemed a little on the bleak side.

The final set consisted of Pete, Dave and Captain Woody. The set began fairly well with a hand total of 22. A few more like that and there was a slim chance of pulling it off. Things began to look a little more promising when Captain Woody hit a spare on his third hand, but alas it turned out only to be a 9. Dave tried his luck on his fourth hand when he hit an excellent 13 spare. This ensured that he had equalled his son Doug's score of 48 from the first set, so well done to him on that. The tension was raised a little further when Captain Woody hit another spare on his final hand, which was our final one of the set. This time it was an impressive 15 spare which gave him an excellent total of 51 and our highest score of the match, so well done too to him. The other player total for this set was 37 which gave us a fantastic set total of 136. The Hornets seemed to be a little phased by this change of events which meant that they seemed to lose a little focus. So much so, that many of their scores were a little on the low side. Their breakdown for this set was two 3's, three 4's, two 5's, four 6's, three 7's, three 8's and a 9. Their player totals were 37, 30 and 39 which gave them a set total of just 106. We had won the final set by 30 pins!

The final totals for this match were 456 to us and 443 to The Hornets. We had won our first match of the season by just 13 pins and had added a nice 12 points to our overall seasonal total. Despite this fantastic score and looking at the other teams in our division, this win will not take us up the table, but at least it means that we are still in with a fighting chance to remain in division 2 for another season.

Next week we will be playing again at The Green Baize Club against The Persuaders, who are the only team below us. It would be very nice to win this match too, but as many of you can already see the matches we expect not to do well in, bear fruit and we fall flat on our faces in others we expect to do better in.

The next cup match draw has taken place and details of venue and opponent can be found on the Cup Match page of the website.

That just about wraps things up for another week in the life of The Con B skittles team. See you all again next week.