



CON B SKITTLES

Match Report Friday 21st October 2011

There must have been something in the water last week because The Persuaders also won their first match of this current season but in slightly better form than us, they won 14 – 0 against The Reptiles. This no doubt raised their morale to play as well this week because they were due to play us on their alley. Thanks to their win they were only 5 points behind us. Those of you who are good at working things out mathematically could no doubt see that we needed a win this week and to score more than 8 points to ensure that we stayed where we were in the table. Would it work out for us? Or would that mean little blighter called the fickle finger of fate scupper us once more?

Playing first for us was Andy M., Andy G. and 'edgehog. All three players began well with 6's, which I think on this alley was reasonable. The pins were falling nicely for us with only a few 5's creeping in, along with a 3. Andy G. seemed to be having a good time especially when on his fifth hand he was successful in getting our one and only spare of the night which happened to be a 10 so well done to him. Alas this only gave him a total of 40 which was not quite enough for him to get the highest score of the night for us. This was to come later in the match. The breakdown for us on this set was a 3, three 5's, five 6's, three 7's, four 8's, a 9 and the 10 spare. The other player totals for this set were 44 and 36 which gave us a set total of a good 120. The Persuaders just seemed to have the edge for this set because between them they hit eight 8's. G. Payne managed to get their first spare of the match on his last hand down of a good 11 which meant that his total was 45 so well done to him. This, however, was not their highest score of the night. This was to come later. The breakdown for them on this set was a 5, three 6's, four 7's, eight 8's, a 9 and the 11 spare. The other player totals for this set were 46 and 44. Their set total was a massive 135. They had won the first set by 15 pins and had the first points on the board. We needed to pull something back and fast.

The second set consisted of Dixie, Steve T. and Doug. All three played a similar match with similar scores being hit. Steady and accurate seemed to be the order of this set and to a certain extent it paid off too. The breakdown for us was a 3, two 5's, three 6's, six 7's, four 8's and two 9's which gave us player totals of 38, 42 and 43 and a set total of 123. The Persuaders looked like they had moved up a notch when A. Latchford hit an excellent 12 spare on his first hand then another 9 spare on his fifth. This gave him their highest score of the match of a huge 49 so well done to him on that. There was though, a low point to the set when one of their players suffered a V/C on his final hand which seemed to upset the proceedings a little. The breakdown for this set was a V/C, six 5's, two 6's, six 7's, two 9's including the 9 spare and the 12 spare. The other two player totals for this set were 31 and 34. Their set total was 114. We had taken this set by 9 pins which reduced the deficit down to just 6 pins. This was looking like it was going to be a fairly close match to say the least.

The third set consisted of Paul, John C. and Neil. This set seemed to crumble before our eyes with a couple of 3's forcing themselves in supported by a 2 and a couple of 4's for good measure. Alas none of our players could get higher than an 8 so the balance seemed to tip away from us a little. The breakdown for this set was a 2, two 3's, two 4's, two 5's, three 6's, six 7's and two 8's. This gave us player totals of 29, 40 and 33 and a set total of just 102. The Persuaders could see that we were now beginning to struggle a little so seemed to turn up the heat a bit. They did manage to hit a 9 and their lowest score for this set was a 4. Their breakdown for this set was a 4, two 5, eight



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6's, two 7's, four 8's and a 9. This gave them player totals of 36, 38 and 43 and a set total of 117. They had won this set by 15 pins which meant that they were now 21 pins in front and had 4 points on the board. This was certainly going to be a very close match indeed.

The final set consisted of Grandad, Grant and Captain Woody. This looked to be a good set with Grandad hitting mainly 7's and 8's but he ended the set with a 9. As a result of this run of luck he managed to get our highest score of the night of 46 so well done to him and without a spare too. The breakdown for this set was a 2, a 5, four 6's, five 7's, six 8's and a 9. The other two player totals were 38 and 39 which gave us a set total of 123. The Persuaders who were still very happy at their performance on the previous set just didn't seem to let off for a moment. None of them hit a spare either which was good for us in one sense, but not so good in another because of the amount of 7's being hit. Their breakdown for this set was two 4's, two 5's, three 6's, six 7's, three 8's and two 9's. This gave them player totals of 42, 40 and 38 which gave them a set total of 120. We had won this set but only by 3 pins. The overall totals for this match were 486 to The Persuaders and just 468 to us. We had lost the match by 18 pins which meant that The Persuaders had won the match 10 points to 4, meaning that according to my calculations they would now be above us in the table and we would now have slipped into the bottom of the table and needing a string of much needed wins and points for the rest of the season if we are to remain in the second division.

Next week we will be in action at The Balmoral against The Breakaways in the second round of the George Davis Cup. It will be very strange though because we will be playing them again on our alley the following week in a regular league match so no doubt this will be very interesting.

That just about wraps it up for now till next week.