

# 2009-2010 MATCH REPORTS

## 2008-2009 Season Summary

2008-2009 was always likely to be a challenging season for us as a team.

Having been promoted from Division 4 the level of snooker was going to be higher. After a poor start, we had a good run of results finding ourselves top of the division by November. With Christmas out of the way, we were looking for a strong start to the second half of the season. However, with Lloyd and Harry leaving we were forced to rejig the team with new signings, Dave and Lawrence, and Kev playing more of a role. We battled through well but the loss of continuity did cost us, although Dave's signing did prove to be an asset in the long run.

At this point Shirley Cons C and Swaythling were out on their own battling for the top two positions (although Swaythling had a poor finish and were beaten into second place by Testwood WM A), but third place was heavily contested, and with us consistently in the top five we were in with a shout. With a poor end to the season we finished sixth.

With all things considered, a very respectable result, and we are looking to have a very strong team to stamp our mark on next season.

## September 14 2009 vs Woolston T & L A Ashlett C- 3 Woolston T & L A- 2

Well, here we go again - the first match of the season away to Woolston T and L.

With their fairly tough line up, and having lost away to them last year the odds of us getting off to a good start were a bit long. Then with me mis-reading their line up and not pairing us up ideally I just made things worse!

With the evening underway Nick and Bernard were called into action first. I must say, Nick's extra practice certainly showed. I thought he made short work of his opponent with good potting he was soon well in front. His opponent did have a little flurry mid-frame, but Nick always looked in control, winning 25-57. Bernard had a fairly close game but pulled it out of the bag winning 33-43, and giving us a 2-0 lead.

Due to me mis-reading their line up Jody was playing, in my opinion, their best player. I didn't see a lot of the frame but as expected Jody put up a good fight. With both players playing well the frame was by far the shortest of the evening and although the score was unrecorded both players scored heavily with Jody losing by a small margin.

Dave started well, giving himself a nice cushion, but did waver mid-frame. After a timely chat from his skipper he looked his old self again, with a return to his potting he took control and won the frame 32-41, giving us a 3-1 lead.

With the match won I must admit if I produced my current form I felt confident of finishing off the evening with a win giving us a 4-1 victory but it wasn't to be as I lost 59-37.

Player of the week is a tricky one and it was a close call between Nick and Jody. However, although Jody lost I thought his effort was exceptional. Well done Jody.

Cheers

Mark

## September 28th 2009 vs Bishopstoke Institute

## **Ashlett C - 3 Bishopstoke - 2**

Well, thats 3 played and 3 wins! Fingers crossed we can keep it going.

First up were Nick & Bernard.

Nick struggled to find his form this week, battling the room temperature and tables that were perhaps a little shy of what we would hope, and a country mile from the match table he is playing most of his snooker on. Although both players scored well, with his opponent being a good little potter and used to the surroundings, Nick lost 55-39. I fully expect Nick to turn the tables on their return visit.

Once again this week Bernard looked to be cueing well. After potting a nice red and black he was unlucky with the run of the ball and was left no option but to play safe. The frame from here on was a bit scrappy with both players showing glimpses of their potting ability, but Bernards opponent had the kinder run of the ball which enabled him to carry a nice lead into the colours. he perhaps should have gone on to win the frame but squandered a couple of chances, and it was nice to see Bernard take full advantage of a chance he was left to pull himself back into the frame and eventually winning by fluking the black to the middle pocket but I would suggest this evened out the luck across the frame, with Bernard winning 55-59.

Up next were Dave and Jody.

Jody looked pretty confident, but struggled to get a good chance. To make things worse his opponent knocked in a couple of long reds with colours to give himself a twenty or so point lead. Jody, still looking confident, did pounce on a chance and made a nice 24 which probably should have been more bringing him right back into the frame. As the frame went on Jody was making all the running but somehow his opponent managed to hang in there, finally bringing it down to the blue, pink and black and then down to the black. With Jody still feeling confident he took on a risky double which he pulled off to win 44-54.

Well, what can I say about Dave's frame? He had one of those frames that we all have from time to time. He fouled well over 30 points, mainly from silly in-offs. The only positive that Dave can perhaps take from the evening is that hopefully his turn in the barrel for this season has come and gone, and from now on winning or losing will be down to him. Dave lost the frame 59-28.

I must admit that after watching Bernard's frame I had already taken a dislike to the the table, and perhaps I have learnt a little lesson. Although I thought it played pretty terribly with a huge kick off the black spot and dead cushions, if you can hold your technique together when the chances arrive you can still score heavily. I should have made more of my chances but with pink and black left I had done enough , and even had a go at a Peter Marchi. Although it was unsuccessful it was nice to have a recorded attempt at something I thought I would never try. I eventually potted the pink conventionally to win 25-45.

Player of the week. I must confess at the end of the evening i had it in my mind that Bernard was my player of the week but i hadn't realised until i went through the match reports how well Jody had played. After much deliberation with breaks of 24 and 18 and having played so well in difficult conditions, my player of the week is Jody.

Well done

Mark

## **October 5th 2009 vs Woolston Social D Ashlett C - 5 Woolston Social D - 0**

A great win for us this week, continuing our winning streak, and giving us our first 5-0 of the season.

Up first this week were Bernard and Dave.

Bernards was a frame of two potters. In a frame like this it is all about who can make the most of their chances, and who gets the slightly better run of the ball. The start of the frame certainly belonged to Bernard. He punished his opponent at every opportunity and accrued a nice lead of about 30. I must admit that, at this point, I was of the opinion that it was a formality. However, just as the beginning of the frame belonged to Bernard, the middle of the frame belonged to his opponent. With a nice break of 25 he was right back in it, and with 2 reds and all the colours left it was all square. At this point both players squandered chances to stamp their authority on the frame, and it did look as if the frame was going to be decided with a scrappy end. After a small bout of safety Bernard pulled out a string of top draw pots to put the frame safe, and continued to finish with a break of 25, clearing from the green and winning the frame 68-37.

Dave was faced with a somewhat difficult opponent and was determined to make it as hard as possible for him to score. Dave managed to pot with almost every chance he got, and played some excellent safety to win the frame 50-19.

With us 2-0 up Nick and Jody were in next.

Nick still looked to be struggling with his game this week and, by his own admission, he felt it was the worst he had played in a league match. Perhaps it is a sign of a much improved and still improving player though, to feel he had played that poorly but still win his frame by a good margin. The score line perhaps indicates that both players had a poor frame, as only 49 points were scored between them, with Nick winning 41-8.

Jody started well and always looked in control. His opponent did knock in the odd good pot, but Jody always managed to keep a comfortable cushion. Jody was playing with so much confidence he even took on a risky Peter Marchi shot. It was unsuccessful but I think it does demonstrate Jody's confidence and the confidence the whole team is feeling with the start to the season that we have enjoyed. Jody went on to win 60-26, after his opponent conceded with the colours left.

I was last up, with us 4-0 in the lead.

My frame was a little strange as my opponent didn't seem in the slightest bit interested in what was going on. In fact, after the way I played I think if he had been concentrating he would have beaten me. When the frame was down to the pink and black I was stunned when he shook my hand with his concession, leaving me winning by 10 with 13 points still available. The final score was 54-44.

Player of the week is Bernard. A very polished performance and held his nerve well on the colours to pull off a very strong win.

Well done

Mark.

## **October 12th 2009 vs Northam B Ashlett C - 0 Northam B - 5**

Our first loss, and a bit of a painful one as we lost 5-0 to Northam B.

In all fairness I would say that this is by far the strongest side we have played, with two of their players making 50 breaks during the evening. Perhaps this is not to be unexpected now we are in Division Two.

It was a bit of a wake up call for us: having played three and won three, it was starting to feel like we were cruising. There is some hope for us when we meet at their's though. With Bernard and Nick just missing out against their opponents it gives us some scope to engineer a couple of wins, and there is always a chance that one of us could pull off an upset in one of the other games -as we know anything is possible during one frame of snooker - to pinch the win.

Cheers

Mark

### **October 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 – No Match**

### **October 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 – vs Botley RBL A Ashlett C- 1 Botley RBL A – 4**

No report for this match as Mark did not play.

### **November 2nd 2009 vs Shirley Cons D Ashlett C - 4 Shirley Cons D - 1**

Back to our winning ways this week with a good 4 -1 win over Shirley Cons D, and with us playing host to Tim Dunkley from the Daily Echo, it was a timely week for us to get back to our good form.

As Tim was there, I unfortunately didn't get to see the frames being played, so this report is going to be a fairly short one!

Bernard and Dave got us under way and put us 2-0 up, with Bernard winning 51-38, and Dave winning 62-25.

Jody was in next and put us 3-0 up, winning 46-45 and true to form he took on a [PMS but was unsuccessful on this occasion.](#)

[Nick was very close to putting us 4-0 up but was unlucky to lose on the black, 37-42.](#)

[With the match won I was last to play and with a nice break of 46 and winning 63-24, we ended the evening with a 4 -1 win.](#)

[Cheers](#)

[Mark](#)

### **November 9th 2009 vs Shirley Cons B Ashlett C - 3 Shirley Cons B - 2**

Another good result for us this week, beating Shirley Cons B 3-2 away.

Whoops...didn't quite get around to writing the rest of this weeks report.

Sorry

### **November 23rd 2009 vs Swaythling A Ashlett C - 2 Swaythling A - 3**

After a week off, it was back to business this week, with a disappointing 3-2 loss against Sawythling A - a team we have yet to beat. It was close though, with Jody losing on a respotted black, and Kev also coming very close to winning for us.

With Bernard absent and therefore everyone moving up a slot, Jody was playing at number three. From watching his opponent warm up he looked to be cueing well, but Jody stuck it to him, making good use of his chances. Jody's breaks of 16, 14 and 12 may not have been huge, but if you can consistently score in the teens it doesn't take long to build a healthy score. With Jody making the running it was down to his opponent to keep up. With five reds left Jody was a few in front and he had the better of the remaining reds, carrying a 15 point lead into the colours, although he did play a poor black after the last red which I thought had left the frame at his opponents mercy - with all the colours open I expected him to clear, but he broke down early on the colours. Finally I, and I think most of us, thought it came down to the black, which Jody potted. The marker then called a draw, so it was a respot, and after a bit of a belt around (and probably Jody's poorest PMS attempt), Jody potted a great black, only to follow it in handing the victory to his opponent. Very unlucky to lose 48-41.

Dave, playing at two, had a great start. He perhaps had the better run of the ball, but he made the most of it and at one point had a 20+ point lead. His opponent did come back to show some form on the latter half of the reds. With five reds left Dave's lead was down to 13 points, then with the colours left it was down to 8. Dave pulled out some good pots to reassert his authority and won the frame by 18 points on the pink, with the score 38-55.

As for my frame, it was a long awaited rematch, having played, and lost, to my opponent before. I must admit that, having been cueing well I was hoping to win in some style. I played a very attacking safety shot early on to split the reds, but from then on it just didn't happen. I fluffed a few chances, although I have to say one of the black pockets seemed extremely tight. Neither of us seemed able to find any form, and we sort of cancelled each other out. With things all level going in to the colours, and with them open, it just needed one of us to take the frame by the scruff of the neck. It finally happened on the brown and thankfully it was myself: with three thin cuts (snickage) in a row I potted brown, blue and pink to win 43-55.

Unfortunately I didn't get to see much of Nick's frame, as we were playing at the same time. He did seem to be struggling to get going. I couldn't say whether it was his form or run of the ball, but he was still in with a chance on the colours. With blue, pink and black left he needed a snooker and finally lost 62-36. The score I would say slightly flattering his opponent.

Kev was playing at five and was up against a player we hadn't seen before. Playing last and with the score at 2-2 does put the pressure on, but Kev started well, if a little apprehensively. Having watched my frame and noting that one of the black pockets seemed very tight it was obvious to see that he was very tentative when taking a pot on to that corner. With that on his mind he was perhaps over-compensating and missed out on a couple of chances to convert a few good reds into higher points. This in itself diminished his confidence, with the greatest respect to his opponent he was what I would call a one-pot wonder: he could knock in some great pots but with little or no thought to position, which makes him a difficult opponent because if he misses a colour he is unlikely to leave you on a red. I thought Kev played the better snooker but was unable to pull out a lead, and once on the colours it can go either way. It came down to the black, and finally it looked like Kev was getting a good chance, but the black rolled one too many times, stopping awkwardly close to the white, though still on to the tight black pocket. It looked horrible, and the pocket, living up to its reputation threw the black out, leaving a fairly easy chance which his opponent took, with Kev losing 53-51.

Player of the week this week is a tough one again. I thought Jody played brilliantly at three against a player that we could see was cueing very well, and was very unfortunate to lose. However, I am going to give player of the week to Dave. I thought he made a great start and then saw the frame out with some great potting on the colours.

Well done  
Mark

**November 30th 2009 vs Bitterne RBL A**

## **Ashlett C - 3 Bitterne RBL A - 2**

### **Peter Marchi Knockout Cup Second Round**

No points to be gained for the league this week, but a chance to stay in the Peter Marchi Knockout Cup, and an opportunity to play Bitterne RBL A before our league match against them at home next week. Also without Bernard again this week and only needing to win three of the five frames I was hoping our strength and depth would carry us through, and we certainly proved our worth by winning the three frames we needed against a strong side.

Jody continued his form from last week with consistent scoring. Good safety led to him coming to the table with a pot on more often than not. Following on from last week he scored some good points, finding himself with a 25 point lead. His chances dwindled towards the end of the reds, and from nowhere his opponent found some potting form, closing to within a few points with the colours remaining. It did start to look a little ominous for Jody, but he dug deep and finished well on the higher scoring colours winning 47-35.

Unfortunately for Dave he came up against a player that had either hit some form or perhaps was an out and out potting machine. In Dave's defence I don't think he had much to go at. He soon found himself 40+ points behind and the comeback we hoped for unfortunately didn't materialise. With the colours left Dave's opponent was in the 80's, and at this point Dave's voice was heard echoing around the club - "If I can just make it to 10 I'll concede". Thankfully he got a chance, and having got to 14 he fulfilled his promise and shook his opponents hand, losing 14-93.

Kev looked to be cueing well in our pre-match warm up, and he started the frame well with a couple of nice reds with colours. However, Kev is cursed with an amazing ability to go in off (pot the white), but not the in off that we all recognise, like catching our safety to thick and plummeting the white into the corner pocket; Kev can knock in a great pot, then watch the white go round the table, flick every colour in turn

## **December 14th 2009 vs Brook Social B**

### **Ashlett C - 4 Brook Social B - 1**

Good result this week, with a 4-1 win at Brook Social, making a long night at the one table club all the more worthwhile.

Dave was up first this week. His opponent went off like a steam train - he obviously just wanted to get back to the bar. Showing little or no respect for Dave he literally took on anything and everything. His slightly unusual method of sighting the shot (sighting down the cue with one eye shut like shooting a rifle) certainly worked for him. He knocked in some great pots and was soon 20 or so points in front, leaving Dave little or no chance to reply. In the end Dave did well to hang on and was still in with a shout on the colours, but a timely fluke by his opponent put paid to that, with Dave eventually losing 59-32.

Jody and his opponent sort of cancelled each other out - it was almost like "If you can do it so can I". I must admit the green pocket definitely seemed a bit iffy, with Jody having cleanly blasted the green into it only for it to hit the back of the pocket and bounce back out. With the colours left it was all to play for, finally coming down to the black. I felt sure Jody was going to have a go at a Peter Marchi but the balls didn't fall right. However he did get the first real chance and potted it to win the frame 39-44.

In Bernard's frame both players started a bit tentatively but Bernard's opponent got in first with a good red, but missed a relatively easy black. He did look like he might be dangerous if he got in but a timely break of 25 from Bernard really rocked him back on his heels, and from here on he didn't look like causing Bernard a problem. Although Bernard probably didn't finish as strongly as he would have liked, only scoring a further 18 points but it was more than enough for him to win 31-43.

Having been playing well in practice I was desperate to put in a good performance or at least produce a good break, but the balls just won't fall right at the moment. I split the reds early on and they looked to be nicely spread, but within a few more shots blue, pink and black were safe, leaving us only the baulk colours to play on. Needless to say we both struggled with a very scrappy frame,. Neither of us could pull out a good lead and once on the colours it could have gone either way. The balls were all fairly safe, but were ideally situated

for snookering, and we were literally swapping snookers. Eventually with the pink near the middle pocket it came down to whoever could pot the blue - thankfully it was me. Following it with the pink I won 39-48.

Having been struggling for the last few weeks we were all hoping Nick was going to produce the form he has been showing in practice, and he didn't disappoint. It was almost like he had found the switch marked "POT" on his new cue. No big breaks, but he did knock in some good long pots and with each visit to the table he was potting a red with a high value colour, and was soon well in front. His opponent didn't seem to have anything in his armoury to compete with Nick in this mood. Nick continued to pile on the points winning 20-59.

Player of the week this week again is a slightly tricky one. Bernard made a nice break of 25, and Nick produced the form that we have all seen from him in practice. However, I am going to give it to Nick. I thought he played consistently well throughout his frame and dealt with the way the table played better than any of us.

Well done

Mark

## **January 18 2010 vs Woolston T & L A Ashlett C - 3 Woolston T & L A - 2**

Our second match of the year saw us finally secure a win against Woolston WM A.

First up were Bernard and Dave. With Bernard up against a tough opponent this week continuing his good cueing and getting a decent start were imperative. With his first visit he delivered on both. With a mid twenties break he got his good start and from then on he never looked back. His opponent was kind enough to dish up some nice chances and Bernard constantly took them, returning them with interest, although Bernard might be a little disappointed not to have converted one of them into a 40 break. His opponent did put some points on the board with a couple of reds left, but with the colours left to my mind the frame was over. Bernard went on to win 69-33.

Dave's frame was a bit scrappy from the start, with neither player able to get in. Some good safety was played and Dave managed to play the better of it. With the odd flurry he built up a lead of about 20, which he carried through to the colours. Both players struggled on the lower scoring colours but Dave eventually potted the brown to leave his opponent needing a snooker. After a couple of attempts he left Dave in quite a difficult one, which Dave failed to hit, but it was to no avail. With Dave potting blue and pink a few shots later he won the frame 69-32.

Jody was back to playing his usual adversary when we play Woolston, and having never lost to him I was fairly confident Jody was going to give us our third win of the night. Unfortunately Jody's opponent hadn't read the script. In what I can only describe as a demolition job, he was obviously in no mood for safety - if there wasn't an obvious pot on he made one up and they were constantly finding their way into the pockets. Jody did what he could but on this particular night his opponent had all the answers and Jody lost 31-65.

Nick felt that having been cueing well at lunchtime, if the balls fell right he might be able to carry his practice form into his frame, but it was not to be. Struggling with his cueing, I could only suggest that perhaps he might be able to cue straighter if he brings a banana next time! From start to finish it was pretty scrappy and there wasn't much between them. Although in my opinion Nick would beat this opponent 99 times from 100 unfortunately this was obviously the 1 in that 100. With blue pink and black left Nick was a few in front until his opponent fluked the blue - this was the moment I first realised Nick could lose this frame. Eventually it came down to the black and unfortunately my worst fears were confirmed with Nick losing 43-46.

My frame began fairly well and after a few visits (and with the help of a couple of stray-ish shots from my opponent ending with in offs) I found myself 20 or so in front. I did gift my opponent a great chance with reds and colours waiting, but once again he played what I thought was a straightforward pink in a peculiar way and missed it, leaving me in to extend my lead. Once down to the colours I needed yellow and green to

leave him needing snookers, which I potted within a few visits. He played on with attempts to snooker me, but the balls weren't ideally situated and I went on to win 64-28.

Player of the week this week is Bernard. He played consistently well during his frame and built some good breaks, from memory only missing 2 pots through out the whole frame.

Cheers

Mark

### **January 25 2010 vs Eastleigh WM A Ashlett C- 5 Eastleigh WM A - 0**

What a night, with us all coming away victorious. A 5-0 win against Eastleigh WM A.

Myself and Dave got us off to a good start, with both of us winning fairly easily.

Bernard made it 3 wins from 3 with another good performance.

Nick was the real hero of the week; playing with an injured shoulder he managed to keep himself together setting up the chance for Jody to complete the white wash. KFC on the way home was now firmly in Jody's hands. With us all dreaming of that magical secret blend of eleven herbs and spices he completed the 5-0 win, and even KFC did us a favour by actually having some chicken left!

To top it off we had a great evening with the Eastleigh lads.

No player of the week as I think we all deserve a pat on the back. Fingers crossed for a repeat performance at the next game.

Cheers

Mark

### **February 1 2010 vs Bishopstoke Institute Ashlett C- 1 Bishopstoke Institute - 4**

Following our 5-0 win last week, and with the margins that we all won by, you would think we were invincible. So, you would think that this week's match, playing a side that we beat fairly easily 3-2 away in our last meeting, would be a doddle. But just to prove how fickle snooker is we found ourselves on the wrong end of a 4-1 hiding.

We kept to our normal format and put Dave and Bernard in first.

Bernard's opponent showed his intentions early on by splitting the reds, and I did think this might backfire, following Bernard's form from the last few weeks. It wasn't to be. With Bernard's form faltering he seemed unable to get into the match. On the other hand, his opponent was making good headway and was soon 20 or so points in front. With the reds gone Bernard needed snookers. There was perhaps a little glimmer as his opponent's potting deserted him, with him missing a couple of easy chances to put the frame well beyond Bernard's reach. The glimmer was soon extinguished with Bernard losing 27-58.

Dave started well, hoping to capitalise on last week's form. He did start well enjoying a 20 or so point lead. As Dave had the better of the first third of the frame, things turned around, with Dave's opponent making the best of the remaining reds, they were neck and neck going into the colours. With Dave's confidence still not quite up to par, he was perhaps a little on the cautious side, turning down a couple of difficult chances but at

the end of the day you have to play it as you see it. One by one the colours were being potted by Dave's opponent with Dave eventually losing on the pink 37-45.

Jody started well opening up a 20 point lead, but with a break of 20 quickly followed up by a 16, his opponent took control of the frame. With the reds gone and his opponent potting the yellow Jody found himself 25 points behind with 25 on. Jody stuck with it, picking off all the colours, the highlight being a great pink, followed by a black to force a re-spot. With Jody losing the toss all our eyes were on Jody's opponent, as we were all fairly sure if he put Jody in he would have a go at a Peter Marchi, but it wasn't to be - he opted to play first. After a couple of safety shots from each player Jody was left with a fairly difficult mid-range pot to the corner. He executed the potting side of the shot beautifully with the black going in without touching the sides, but with a bit of unwanted stun the white made it's way into the middle pocket gifting the win to his opponent, Jody losing 52-59.

Nick's frame saw both players struggling, with a war of attrition ensuing. With reds disappearing with no colours to follow, it wasn't a high scoring frame. Though Nick was in front for 99% of the frame he was unable to build a lead that gave him any control going into the colours. With his opponent potting the blue, Nick found himself a few behind and, just for a minute, it looked like once again it wasn't going to be Nicks night but with a good pink and black he gave us our 1st win of the evening 44-41.

Having had a lovely break in my warm-up I thought it would be my night, but on the night I wasn't quite on it enough to pull it out of the bag. The few chances I got I didn't make the most of. I did feel a little unlucky on a couple of occasions, going in off when getting out of a snooker and screwing the white into the middle pocket when potting a red. Other than that I found I was coming to the table in trouble more often than not, and I was pretty much out of it with the colours left. My opponent finished in style with some great potting, finishing with a fluke on the pink which just about summed our night up, with me losing 31-64.

Player of the week has to go to Nick for pulling out our only win of the night but Jody certainly kept him honest playing well to pull it back to a re-spot and was unlucky not to win.

Well done  
Mark

## **February 15 2010 vs Northam B**

### **Ashlett C - 4 Northam B- 1**

Having lost 5-0 to this team last time we played, and with two of their players making 50+ breaks, we felt the only way to come away with something was to swap our order around - so we played Nick at number one, and dropped everyone else down a place. I must admit, at the start of the evening I thought we would be doing well to leave with a couple of points, but never in my wildest dreams did I think the evening would unfold the way it did.

Nick, up first, started well, keeping it very tight and potted a couple of nice reds with colours, and gave himself a good 20 point lead. At this point, with a tight bunch of reds around the pink spot, I expected his opponent to play an attacking safety to scatter the reds - but it didn't happen, perhaps through respect for the way Nick was potting. Still keeping things tight, Nick kept his head. With the colours left and them all open it was anyone's frame. They both played some good safety. Nick played the first loose one, leaving his opponent a fairly easy yellow, with a natural angle to get to the green. To our, and I think Nick's, surprise, he missed it allowing us all to breathe again. Eventually Nick's opponent did get in, potting yellow and green, but once again he stumbled, snookering himself on the brown. Another safety battle ensued which ended with a bit of a loose one from Nick, but in fairness his opponent had got away with a couple, leaving Nick nothing. Unfortunatley for Nick his opponent then potted blue and pink to win 46-36.

Bernard was in next. Playing one of the players who had a 50+ break against us last time, we were pretty sure it was going to be a tough match, but Bernard made by far the better start, enjoying a 20 or so lead after a few shots. With his opponent not making much of a couple of chances, he wasn't showing the form we expected. With half the reds gone Bernard still had a good lead, but was starting to miss out on some chances - in his own words "I've forgotten how to pot!". Eventually Bernard's opponent did get a bit of a look

in, and it looked like he might close the gap, but he attempted a fairly risky roll up behind the black to put Bernard in a snooker, but left it short by a good inch, handing Bernard seven points, and with Bernard making him play again, effectively putting himself in a snooker. Once on the colours Bernard had a commanding lead, with his opponent needing snookers. With blue, pink and black left I must say that on at least a couple of occasions he came within a roll of the white of putting Bernard in serious trouble, but Bernard kept his head down going on to win 27-48.

Continuing with the pattern of the evening Jody made the better start, and I must say, after watching his first two or three shots, his rolls-royce cue action seemed to be working well. Throughout the frame Jody played some lovely, delicately controlled shots. I didn't see him play one power shot. He went on to win 30-42.

My frame began well. And I will keep you all in suspense as to the details, but, suffice to say, I won 48-33.

Like the rest of us Dave got off to a good start. With most of the reds gone he had a good lead, finally taking the last red with a black to put himself 28 in front with 27 on. His opponent did put up a bit of a fight, but there was never any doubt in the end result with Dave winning 36-62.

Player of the week this week is a bit of a first. With all of us winning apart from Nick, it was the sacrifice of playing Nick at number one, with the rest of us dropping a place, which in my opinion is what set up the victory. I thought Nick played a great frame and was unlucky not to win, so Nick you are my player of the week.

Cheers

Mark

## **February 22 2010 vs Botley RBL A**

### **Ashlett C - 3 Botley RBL A- 2**

With Botley RBL A running away at the top of the division and having lost at their club 4-1, we knew we were once again in for a tough evening, but with us constantly pulling good results out of the bag against good opposition and losing against lesser teams, the evening was well poised.

Some highlights of the evening.

Dave came up against probably the strongest No. 3 in the division and although he made a promising start he couldn't hold off his opponent, who in quick succession knocked in a 33 and a couple of 20's to put the frame safe, with Dave losing 18-77.

Bernard had a tough frame, but finished with brown, then a blue that he must have been really pleased with to send the white up and down to finish nicely on the pink, which he knocked in to win 54-41.

Jody had a terrible time against probably the strongest No. 4 in our division, with his opponent having more than his share of the run of the ball - with a couple of flukes in a break of 30. After that it was rare that Jody came to the table not in a snooker, finally losing 14-80.

Nick, in his very own style, and still concentrating heavily on his cueing, played and potted some very nice balls, and unusually finished his frame before Jody. Nick won 60-27.

With the score level and myself left playing one of the best No.1's (and the highest break holder), along with the pressure of my opponent only being 13, I did rather feel I needed a miracle and from somewhere I got one. The balls were very open and I was constantly coming to the table with an easy starter, which I was converting into high teens or mid twenties breaks, soon finding myself 50 in front: although the balls were still well situated for my opponent to come back at me, but I put the frame safe with my next chance winning 89-24.

Player of the week and this week I am going along with Nick, who kindly nominated me for a bit of a demolition job on their No. 1 and giving us a great victory over the team at the top of the table.

Cheers  
Mark

## **March 1 2010 vs Shirley Cons D**

### **Ashlett C - 3 Shirley Cons D- 2**

#### **Match report this week curtesy of Nick**

The evening started off optimistically, with the KFC being bandied about in the trip across to our favourite venue. Because of the size of Badge's car (not a euphamism!), it was decided that highest score won a front seat for the way back.

On arrival we found that we were not up the "cold" end of the snooker hall but rather the nearer "warm" end, which we thought great until we started playing on the tables. They were not - shall we say - in peak condition.

First on were Mark and Dave. Straight away, Mark appeared to be struggling with his cueing and whilst he, under normal circumstances, would have dispatched his opponent fairly comfortably, continued to have issues with his line of aim. This caused him to lose a little faith and the head started to drop as he struggled to understand why he was cueing so poorly. This was all the more painful for him because we had been discussing another big break from him on the way over (and he keeps getting them on the practice table). Eventually he succumbed to a player who on this occasion just potted marginally better, losing 53-30.

Dave, meanwhile, was having a nightmare. He was playing the same opponent he had comfortably beaten at home but either the guy had been practicing 24 hours a day since that event, or the Gods had just decided that he wouldn't miss, after 10 minutes of play found himself about 40 points behind as his opponent made breaks of 23 and 20. Dave felt sufficiently confident to predict around this time that he would definitely be in the back seat on the drive back home and his prediction came true as his opponent continued to leave nothing and score heavily without Dave being able to pick up even the smallest of crumbs and losing the frame 81-12.

At two down with two played, Nick and Jody were up next. Jody was up to a good standard right away, potting well and playing some good snooker. His opponent wasn't phased by this and played some good snooker too. With pink and black left, Jody was fourteen points up but his opponent managed to leave the pink tight against the black which was literally hanging over the top right hand pocket. This caused some nail biting moments as both players played some clever shots to try and force the other into fouling the black into the pocket. The eventual victor was Jody as he forced several mistakes from his opponent to forge far enough ahead to claim the frame 35-62.

Nick's frame was, shall we say, not the usual "edge of your seat" nailbiter! Nick was struggling for form as his shoulder continued to cause him great discomfort, whilst his opponent was one of those we all hate to play, being not a brilliant potter but rather suffering from "compulsive safety disorder." The balls were soon in positions that prevented any likelihood of a decent break and neither player disappointed. A few reds and colours pulled Nick ahead and thankfully managed to stay that way to the bitter end, winning 43-12.

Bernard was on last and was up against a player who was definitely on good potting form. Almost immediately, he ran up a few points, putting him a decent break ahead of Bernard, leaving Bernard to try to take advantage as and when he could. Some bouts of good safety (from both players surprisingly) and good potting and the game moved on with Bernard still following up from behind, although gradually and sensibly pulling back whenever the opportunity arose. Down to the colours and it was anyone's game. Now Bernie's opponent started to falter, making a few unexpected errors which, in fairness, Bernard managed to capitalise on with some good pots to drag himself back into contention until, after potting a brilliant blue and obtaining

good position on the pink, he proceeded to miss it! This allowed his opponent to pot the pink bringing it all down to the black. Bernard was faced with a difficult cut on the black which required a rest shot, never a good omen, as even Bernard will admit. However, he thought long and hard and decided against the Hollywood shot and played a good safety, which his opponent attempted to pot, foolishly. This ran out and Bernard was able to take on a relatively easy black to clinch the frame.....and the match 48-54.

Player of the week? Bernard.

Front seats on the way back? Badge and Bernard (but only because Badge was driving anyway!)

Nick

## **March 22 2010 vs Swaythling A Ashlett C- 2 Swaythling A - 3**

What a bizarre, but enjoyable evening, playing Swaythling A who are currently third from bottom, but who we have yet to beat in three attempts. We were hoping that onight would be the night!

With Bernard unavailable due to work commitments we carefully sorted out our order with myself at 1, Jodt at 2, Dave third, Laurie fourth and Nick at five, thinking that this would stand us in good stead. When our opponents arrived we watched in horror as they spent a few minutes sorting out their order by drawing straws. Myself and Simon (Swaythling's skipper) had a chuckle when I announced the order of play by calling for their randomly selected numbered player. It obviously worked for them as, once again. they came away victorious.

Dave, back from a two game break, looked to be playing well in warm up so we put him alongside Jody. With Dave's frame lasting nearly an hour and with neither player able to get going, it wasn't the return we were looking for, with Dave losing 29-39. In a double whammy Jody also lost 39-52, leaving us two down with three to play.

Cue Laurie, showing us how not to play the game technically, but in his own inimitable way, showed us how to play the game, scything his way through his opponent, to give us our first victory of the evening, winning 55-11.

With Swaythling's strange way of ordering their players Nick was drawn against a player who was, in my opinion, one of their top two players. Nick held his own, and it came down to the last few colours. Nick was probably a bit disappointed not to win, going down 49-69.

With us at 3-1 down it was my turn to play. With a good start and a bit of good fortune I won the frame 60-18.

Player of the weelk has to be Laurie. He has played for the last 2 matches and hasn't put a foor wrong.

Well done

Mark