

Knockout Cup Final Report

This week saw the final of the Knockout Cup take place at the Gate Inn, Loscoe.

The final was contested by the Jolly Colliers and the Staff of Life. Both teams faced selection problems as both had more players available than could play. Both teams also had plenty of support.

The Staff of Life won the toss and elected to set. They totalled 65 which is a good score on this alley. Incidentally this was the Staff's top leg score of the night. The Colliers started off with 31 from the first five players, but when the sixth player dropped in a three, this left the final four needing 32 to win. The next three scored 24 including a fantastic 9 from C Needham but then the final player scored six leaving the Heanor team just one pin short of tying the first leg.

The second leg also started badly with an opening "quack" and the team managed a total of just 53 which the Staff easily knocked off. However, as it often does in 5 legged games, then came the turning point in the match. The Staff set 62 which included the only stick up of the night – a 14 from A Funnell – however this was answered by the Colliers with the top score of the night – 66 to make the score 4 points to 2. In the next leg the Colliers set 62 but despite needing 18 from the last three Staff players to win the game, they only achieved 17 which led to a tied leg. So the score at this stage was 5-3 to the Staff. This meant that the Colliers had to win the last leg in order to draw overall and take the Final into a Ball A Man play off.

The Staff set off with five 6's and finished the leg with 61. For perhaps the first time in the Final, the Colliers perhaps thought they could see a chink of light, after all they had managed legs of 64, 66 and 62. However it was not meant to be, as they struggled along, with no player scoring above 7, and finishing with just 50. So the final score was Staff of Life 7 v 3 Jolly Colliers.

However it was a great spectator match and credit to both teams for getting to the Final.

The top scorer on the night was the very consistent D Munday of the Colliers who scored 38 with legs of 8,9,8,6 and 7.

Thanks must also go to the hosts, the Gate, who provided a team of stacker uppers and a superb array of food.