

Friends of Harry Sotnick House

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DARTS FUNDRAISER 25TH FEB 2022

MATCH REPORT

It was 847 days ago that we had our last fundraising event, such has been the impact of Covid. That too was a darts based evening and so how apt that we've got back to business by running a repeat session.

What a night it was too! We didn't get as many participating as we had hoped, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm or partisan barracking. 18 hardy souls turned up for the challenge and it was great to see so many old "Friends" from the last function, plus a smattering of new faces.

The pub had set out the whole of the far end for us with reserved tables and the food was beginning to come out. We hadn't had chance to get organised before Kev and Dee arrived to get some practice in.....who said this wasn't competitive!.

By start time (7.30) we began the random draw. (We had enough present to create 5 teams of 3. We were awaiting a couple who we knew would arrive late, making 6 teams in total) And the draw worked...no teams had more than 1 "player"... and then it came to give each team a name....don't ask me where some of these came from but we ended up with:-

La Coste....Yes, Kev was dressed, head to toe in La Coste.

Harry's Heroes... very apt

Spartans... Not sure where that came from as they were ferocious warriors.. this was only a darts match

Wonder Women....Well, it was a team of all girls.

Spice Boys.....Were they all on something?

To the point.....Does what it says on the tin.

Round 1: Round the clock. A 4 minute dash around the numbers, scoring as many as possible. What a start too! Spice Boys, off to a flyer, got to 20 with a score of 259. Spartans, Harry's Heroes and Wonder Women all struggled with scores well below 100, and barely past the number 11, so it was looking like a winner was already identifiable. But then La Coste took to the ochie and they too managed to get right round the board and with 287 took the lead. Just as La Coste finished, the final team arrived so without even a chance for a sit down or a swig of something, they were into the game and at 198 were a clear 3rd.

Round 2: Question for a dart: Having seen who had the eye from the previous game, each team had to nominate a player and their team mates had to answer a set of 3 questions. Each correct answer got the player a dart. Then, it was just get as many as you can.. What a turn around. Harry's Heroes topped this game, with To The Point 2nd, and Wonder Women 3rd.

Into the break.

A wonderful selection of fresh sandwiches, tarts, spring rolls and sausages was downed (with some of the lubricating liquid). There was a real hubbub about the place and this was the time to sell the raffle tickets. At £2 a strip and cash prizes they quickly got snapped up. And what a great bunch the locals were. They participated and bought tickets too. In fact, we sold so many we raised the 1st prize from £25 to £40.

So, into the last scoring round and this was where the numbers could get VERY big. 2 minutes per team to score as many odds or evens. If the 1st thrown dart hit an even bed, then only darts falling into an even number bed would count. Tactics were in evidence here. First up, Spice Boys who realised that with 7, 19, 3, 17 all at the bottom, that was where to aim for. And it paid off too as they amassed a total of 323...what would the others do. Spartans took the same approach and came in with a close 319 (where was this form in the 1st leg?), Harry's Heroes were valiant, but couldn't crack the big numbers. Wonder Women too had a good round but it was La Coste who decided to go for the evens and targeted 20s...and it paid off with a score of 402. Last up was To The Point, but their earlier form let

them down with 235. It was this round where the hectoring and banter really came into play...again, who said it wasn't serious..?

But, how were the teams faring at the end of the challenge rounds:

We had a clear leader with La Coste at 710 points, followed by Spice Boys on 607, To the Point on 464, Spartans at 392, Wonder Women 328 and finally Harry's Heroes on 264.

Time for the raffle to be drawn. All cash prizes, and the winner of the £40 first prize was one of the pub's locals....and what a gent, he refused to take it saying that as it "was for a charity, put it back"; and that set the tone for the rest. So, thanks to all those that bought a ticket and who obviously had no intention of keeping any winnings.

We were now at the business end of the competition with the semi-finals and a final to see who took the James Bartlett memorial plate. The semi finals took the form of a single, sudden-death 301 straight in-double out game with the final following the same format, but with 501 as the opening figure.

First up; La Coste (1st) versus Spartans (4th). This wasn't as one-sided as was perhaps expected; it was nip and tuck all the way down to the doubles. It would be fair to say that there was a bit of competitive banter from the non-competing teams aimed at La Coste, but in the end they prevailed.

Spice Boys (2nd) and To the Point (3rd) was equally close and, perhaps, unexpectedly, To the Point edged out Spice Boys with the latter really struggling to get the double they needed. They got down to this point before To the Point but just couldn't find the bed. So, well done To the Point.

And to the final:

It started as a well matched game, with both sides nibbling away at the score, but eventually La Coste found the big numbers and opened up a lead and were down to a double out whilst To the Point were still in the high hundred, but could they find the double out. It all depended on who was at the ochie and sure enough To the Point started to eat into the difference, but as they got closer to the possibility of a 3 dart out, La Coste found the double 8 they needed.

So, congratulations, to La Coste who go away with the bragging rights and custody of the plate until May 27th when we run the quiz night.