

Friends of Harry Sotnick House

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Darts Social 1st November 2019:

Match Report

The Friends took a step into the unknown on Friday 1st November, by running a fundraiser well away from the Home and using a sport that few play...darts... as the basis of a social event.

What were we worried about? We didn't know how many would turn up; We didn't know how many would play; We didn't know if the format would be successful and we didn't know what the atmosphere would be like in the pub.

The landlord had kindly offered to supply sandwiches free of charge if we could get more than 25 so there was a bit of pressure there too.

After all the nerves, it turned out to be the most successful event we have ever run on a number of fronts. We had the biggest turn out ever and we raised the most funds from a single event to date. So, how did it go?

At the peak we had 40 supporters in the pub and we raised more than £370... a fantastic return.

Players started to arrive at 7 for a 7.30 start, and you could tell who had their competitive head on from those that opted to practice as soon as they could. Kev was at the oche from the moment he arrived...well after he had got his pint...and he had his game face on.

We had 30 volunteers willing to play and everyone was happy to participate in a "lucky dip" to determine how each team would be made up. With 10 teams of 3, we had team names that reflected the participants and ranged from the "PJ Girls" to "Brass Monkeys" and "Rag Tag and Bobtail" to the "Jammie Dodgers". Volunteer captains were agreed and the fun started.

Game 1 was a straight "round the clock" with each team having 4 minutes to get from as far away from 1 as it could; Doubles and trebles all counted so we were getting some high scores. There was a lot of laughter as darts bounced off the wall, the blackboard and the rubber ring and there were more than a few near-misses for the scorer as darts were launched whilst the target number was being pointed out on the board.

Game 2 combined general knowledge and darts. Each team had to nominate a "thrower" whilst the other two team members had to answer three questions; each correct answer gave the player a dart....not every team ended up with three darts.

Half time was next and we all tucked into the sandwiches that were supplied by the pub whilst glasses were refreshed. Scores were added up and we had 3 teams that were head and shoulders above the rest: In 3rd place were the “Anythings” with 197; 2nd were the “Rose between two thorns” (Interesting name as it consisted of three blokes, including Kev) with 220, but out in front were “Brass Monkeys” on 287.

Round 3 was again a round where everyone played a single hand of 3 darts, but the scoring was dependant on what the first dart from the first player had landed in. If they landed in an even number, then all nine darts from the team would only count if they hit an even number. This was supposedly a quick-fire round and was, but what an impact it had on the run-totals of each team. This saw the biggest three-dart score of the evening with 100 and as we reached the end, the final totals were:

MJL - 61; Terrible three - 83; Jammie Dodgers - 100; PJ Girls - 103; Hannah’s Angels - 126; Experts - 176; Rag, Tag and Bobtail - 212; Anythings - 274; Brass Monkeys - 349 and Rose between two thorns - 352. So, only 3 points in it.

The final, played as a single round of 301 for the James Bartlett Memorial Plate, was therefore between “Brass Monkeys” and “Rose between two thorns”. With Kev having “bigged it up” well before the event, it is fair to say there was a lot of support for the Brass Monkeys.

And it was SO CLOSE.... “Rose between two thorns” eventually came out of top, only after getting down to double-1.

Well done to Kev, Roger and Dave (their picture is on view in Reception) and we hope that they will reunite to defend their title at some point in the future.

It really was an evening full of humour, banter, laughter and fun. A big thank-you to everyone who came along and made it what it was and to the staff of the Fawcett Inn who embraced us as if we had been regulars for years.

Fair to say, I think we will be doing it again!