



Southern Section Skittles Event

Words by Dean Carpenter

Photos by Alison Bailey

Date: 18th January 2026

During the winter months, members are invited to attend a couple of social gatherings that contain a slightly competitive edge to them. This month, it was the turn of the annual Skittles Event, which was held at The Black Horse, West Tytherley, SP5 1NF.



We had 20 members arrive at 12am ready to start rolling the 3 pink balls down the lane to try and topple the 9 wooden pins at the other end. Everybody had 3 attempts of 3 balls in a round robin style event. The 1st attempt was using their dominant hand; the 2nd attempt was with their other hand whilst the 3rd attempt was undertaken whilst facing the opposite direction and bending over to throw between your legs. Some members have now discovered a new throwing action that they will take forward in future skittles meets and possibly in the Ten Pin Bowling event in February.

There was a lot of skill shown by a few members, who managed to throw the ball down the alley and miss every single skittle. Some even missed after rebounding off the wall at the back. This brought lots of laughs to those watching. After 2 rounds, we all broke for our Basket Meal, which was very welcome and well received before ploughing on with the 3rd round.



As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, there is a competitive element to this event, and medals and prizes were presented to the following:



Highest Scoring Lady – Alison Bailey (Bottle of Rose chosen). This was achieved via a 3 way throw off between herself, Lesley Carpenter and Ann Robertson who all scored 19 points initially.



Highest Scoring Gent – Greg Smith (Bottle of Red chosen) by a margin of 4 shots from his nearest rival, Noel Robertson.



Strongest Lady – Lesley Smith (Packet of Extra Strong Mints given). No throw off required for this. Lesley was well placed at the bottom and holding all the rest up (hence the title of Strongest Lady).

Strongest Gent – James Seller (XL Yorkie Bar given). Again, no throw off required and I'd like to say that he scored just as few as Lesley did.



The final event of the afternoon was a game of Killer. Each person placed a £1 coin in the kitty and was given 3 lives to try and hit the skittles with 1 ball at a time, once again, round robin style. No skittles hit meant a life lost. This came down to a 2 way play off between Myself (Dean) and my lovely wife, Lesley Carpenter. I must say that it was a very partisan crowd, very much in favour of Lesley, with a lot of cheering coming her way whilst a lot of booing came my way. I didn't let the hordes get in my head and managed to throw the winning shot (sorry love).



Everybody had a fun filled afternoon and I would like to thank everyone who attended, along with Chris and Helen, who replaced all the skittles after each throw. Lesley Smith for keeping score and keeping us in order and Alison Bailey for the wonderful photographs.

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Ser No	Name	1st Go	2nd Go	3rd Go	Total	Position	Life 1	Life 2	Life 3	Winner
1	Lesley C	7	6	6	19	✓	X	X	X	—
2	Dean C	7	8	4	19	✓	X	X		
3	Sally T	6	2	7	15	✓	X	X	X	—
4	Chris T	6	7	5	18	✓	X	X	X	—
5	Noel	7	7	7	21	✓	X	X	X	—
6	Ann	7	6	6	19	✓	X	X	X	—
7	Mike S	6	5	6	17	✓	X	X	X	—
8	Lesley S	6	1	4	11 *	✓	X	X	X	—
9	Chris B	6	5	5	16	✓	X	X	X	—
10	Alison B	6	8	5	19	✓	X	X	X	—
11	Greg Smith	8	9	8	25 *	✓	X	X	X	—
12	Eve Smith	6	6	6	18	✓	X	X	X	—
13	Adrian O	4	8	6	18	✓	X	X	X	—
14	John Martin	7	7	6	20	✓	X	X	X	—
15	Ann Martin	5	6	5	16	✓	X	X	X	—
16	Tony Fry	7	5	3	15	✓	X	X	X	—
17	James S	2	7	2	11 *	✓	X	X	X	—
18	Helen S	7	4	6	17	✓	X	X	X	—
19	Gerri	5	7	5	17	✓	—	—	—	—
20	Erica	2	6	8	16	✓	X	X	X	—