

The Stroller



Fleet Street Strollers Cricket Club Newsletter • No 3 • March 6, 2015 • Getting better all the time

CLUB AWARDS SPECIAL: EVERYONE A WINNER

P2: Bowler of the Year Simon Brodbeck reveals the secrets of his amazing longevity – despite Sam turling him off the front page ‘cos he was the splash last year’

MAKE MINE A DOUBLE!

25 years on – it's ‘annus wozzabilis’

By PIERS OVENDEN
Financial Enforcer

IT IS SOME 900 miles from Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire to St Vallier-de-Thy in the Alpes Maritimes. In Warren Crocker terms they are an equally impressive 555 runs and 60 wickets apart, requiring 35 pit stops at cricketing venues en route.

It was 25 years since a Stroller last did the season's double of 500 runs and 50 wickets. The feat had been achieved only three times before in club history, appropriately enough by the founding fathers, Simon Brodbeck, in 1987 and 1988, and Peter Patston in 1989.

That last *annus mirabilis* of 1989 was the year Margaret Thatcher introduced the poll tax in Scotland, Allan Border's men reclaimed the Ashes with a resounding 4-0 series win... and Peter scored 670 runs and took 67 wickets.

Hamish McDougall, current holder of the Strollers' Chair in Modern History, ruminated over the parallels of 1989 and 2014: “Hmm, a Tory-led government, the Scottish question, Australia emphatically reclaiming the Ashes and a Stroller completing the double. Coincidence? Socio-economic cycle? Parenthesis?”

High on the list of enabling causality in Wozza's case was the support of Theresa and Lachlan. With a great deal of patience, resilience and goodwill would they wave him off in the green Vauxhall on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The Strollers are grateful to them.

Returns of 4-27 at Roehampton, 3-11 at Marlow Park, 3-5 vs The Times, 3-14 at Peppard, 3-31 at Tadworth, a masterful 4-18 on a batsman's pitch at Valley End and 3-19 at Follies Farm, allied to a string of scores in the 30s, usually not out,

PLAYER OF THE YEAR								
Fleet Street Strollers Bowling Averages (100+ wkts) 1976-2014								
Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	5-Wkt	BB	Av
Warren Crocker	144	1045	223	256	3288	9	8-28	12.84
Richard Littlejohn	62	629.3	155	142	1967	9	8-9	13.85
Barry Miller	178	672.4	140	149	2277	7	8-30	15.28
Peter Hayter	98	1034.5	246	199	3157	12	8-26	15.86
Tom Salvesen	64	494.1	85	106	1732	6	7-31	16.34

kept the Strollers' juggernaut moving forward. A heroic microcosm of Crocker's *annus wozzabilis* came at Hornsey where his figures of 12.3-5-23-6 helped dismiss our hosts for 138. His batting, to the tune of 32 not out, got the Strollers over the line with three wickets to spare.

On the Three Counties Tour, Warren made his best-ever score of 84 not out at Wall and averted disaster for the

team in the process. Peter Patston was lavish in his praise for the man who went on to emulate his feat from his own halcyon days of yore, and the first to point out the uncanny coincidence of achieving the self-same PB – an undefeated 84.

A reliable, sometimes spectacular, catcher in the outfield, Warren also got the opportunity to showcase his slip-catching at Mayfield as Andrew



Picture: DAL CROCKER

Double delight: Warren and Lachlan at Stanton by Dale

Thomas and Aidan Selby cranked up the pace.

As the season entered its final month Warren needed 10 more runs and one more wicket to do the double. He took the wicket on a golden afternoon at Hurley. And he finally got the opportunity with the bat at Follies Farm.

For doing the double, for taking the most wickets, for playing the most matches and for his unstinting support on and off the field – indeed, not for nothing – is Warren Crocker the undisputed winner of the Max Brodbeck Trophy as the Fleet Street Strollers Player of the Year 2014.

Just one more winning score

PLAYERS' PLAYER

THE Reg Cooper Award for Players' Player is richly deserved by Jono Addis this year. His appearance on the teamsheet is usually a guarantee of runs, as his average of 68 on top of the Strollers' all-time list shows. Of current players to have scored 1,000 runs, only James Timperley at 67 comes close.

Jono's teammates are impressed by his endless search for perfection. Interviewed at Sutton last year, Timperley admitted: “I'm smitten. And a little frustrated. I've been sat here in these pads for two hours now and it's a hot day.” Beside him Sam Brodbeck was reassessing his obsession with batting at number four.

Jono doesn't shy away from setting an example to young aspiring cricketers, being only too eager to show promising colts it can be a tough world out there. He is never happier than when feasting on youthful long hops



Jono: an eye for perfection

and half volleys on the way to another personal milestone.

He deploys the same intensity to his daily video blogs, whether it's nailing a stack of pancakes to a garden fence or sculpting *Star Wars* figures out of Spam. “You have to feel the burn,” Jono gasped between gulps of tabasco sauce. This year the Strollers are very much looking forward to Scoring Runs Day.

ALASTAIR MACAULAY

STROLLER/FIELDER OF THE YEAR

Bloody but unbowed

SAM BRODBECK is to be lauded for his impeccable technique, picking up the 2014 Fielder of the Year and the Chairman's Award for Stroller of the Year.

From a young age, cricketers are encouraged to get their head in line with the ball. Brodbeck followed the coaching manual to the letter as he fielded on the boundary in the match at Coldharbour.

Impeded by bright sunlight, Sam followed a flat hit to right beneath his eye line, cushioning the blow using the soft, fleshy part of his cheek.

The resulting blood loss was of concern to teammates, but luckily Dr David Kelsey was on hand to staunch the flow, while father Simon spirited him off to hospital.

“He's always had a good eye,” said Chairman Kimball Bailey, “and it's good to see he didn't lose it on this occasion.”

Less bloody was a Brodbeck runoff against the Beamers at Alexandra Palace. His pick up, throw and direct hit from side on had the New Zea-



Sam: an eye for protection

landers reminiscing about Chris Harris running out David Boon at the 1992 Cricket World Cup.

Also impressive was a sharp run-out at Pinkneys Green, drawing comparisons to the birds of prey circling the playing field, searching for vermin to swoop upon. “He's a lucky buzzard,” said one teammate.

Perhaps the clincher was donning the keeper's gloves at Peper Harow. Before even taking the field, Sam asked it be recorded that he did not let a single bye go past. As the match report duly noted, it is nice to see a young journalist get a bye-line.

HAMISH MCDUGALL

Our man for all seasons

BATSMAN OF THE YEAR

EVEN Don Bradman had off years, but the cricketing world is still waiting for James Timperley to stumble. They may have a long wait. The first half of the season and a poor run of scores had the critics' tongues wagging. Had the gloss finally come off the golden Kiwi? Fans had nothing to fear. Their beloved JT came roaring back as the pitches dried up, leaving him a shade under 600 runs at 54 and with his hands back on the Batman of the Year award.

Stathounds will note that Jono Addis had the better average (83) in 2014 and just pips Timpers to best average of any Stroller with more than 1,000 runs.

Worryingly for his disciples, James is due to wed in 2015. Folklore says the Don was bowled for 0 in his last game in England because he had tears in his eyes. Could upcoming nuptials provide JT with a ready-made excuse for a less than stellar 2015? You read it here first...

SAM BRODBECK

THE TIMPERLEY YEARS 2007-2014

Year	Mch	Inn	NO	Runs	HS	100s	50s	Av
2007	17	17	4	787	136*	1	5	60.54
2008	21	20	6	995	113*	2	9	71.07
2009	24	23	6	1430	125*	4	10	84.12
2010	15	15	3	547	148*	2	1	45.58
2011	8	8	2	204	88		1	34.00
2012	DID NOT PLAY OWING TO KNEE INJURY							
2013	18	18	8	1009	135	2	9	100.90
2014	15	14	3	596	134*	1	5	54.18
Total	118	115	32	5568	148*	12	40	67.08



JT: high achiever

Another Stair performance

TOURIST OF THE YEAR

ALASTAIR MACAULAY: king of spin tormentor of young batsmen, long-distance runner, master of the spreadsheet and Strollers Tourist of the Year.

Reflecting on Stair's golden year of data inputting in 2014, one misty-eyed Stroller said he had never seen the Riviera tour accounts totted up with such skill and flair.

Other tourists said they particularly enjoyed seeing him wrestle with the dinner orders, especially such mysteries as who asked for the extra five plates of venison and identifying the culprits behind the purchase of 12 extra bottles of red. Then there is the task of informing the hotel managers that, no, half the party will not require breakfast, thank you – and Jim Hodgson is unlikely to require a bed.

One expected landmark failed to materialise in 2014. After years of herding cats to get enough tourists up to the Three Counties tour, Macaulay rewarded himself with the captaincy at Sutton on the Hill. Unfortunately, the weather gods had other ideas.



Alastair: a head for figures

So this year it emerged that he has made a plan should rain intervene again. Sources said locations had been scouted for a consolatory seven-course meal (the spreadsheets, imagine the spreadsheets!)

It is fitting that Stair's half-marathon should take place at Hampton Court, a previous owner of which knew a thing or two about fine dining.

LAURIE ALLSOPP

Nothing to write home about

DUCK OF THE YEAR

BRIAN TAYLOR approached the wicket with his usual languid, catlike elegance, defended the last ball of Warren Crocker's over, watched his Stanton partner Walid thump 20 off the next over from Tom Salvesen, kept out his second ball from Warren and hit the third smartly into the safe hands of George Calvocoressi.

Although this was greeted with joy by the fielding Strollers there was also consternation. For this was a man with an unbeaten 113 and an average approaching 30 for the Strollers, not to mention his Goweresque presence at the wicket.

Was it simply a good ball from Warren that did for him or were other factors at play? Were Tom Wood's usual words of encouragement to score quickly in the back of his mind? Was he still purring with admiration at Walid's extraordinary innings? Had his mind wandered to all things linen on noticing the debonair Calvocoressi at silly mid-off? Only Brian knew.



Taylor: elegance personified

As he left the field and entered the changing room to audible despair what he didn't know was that Walid would shortly lighten his mood as his pyrotechnic efforts were enough to retain the Dave Tranter Cup for Stanton, and that a few months hence he would be clearing a small space on the mantelpiece in Enfield Street to accommodate another cup, for Duck of the Year. Perhaps he could put a curate's egg in it?

JIM HODGSON

THE STROLLERS 2014: NOTABLE STATISTICS

Played 38, won 27, lost 8, drawn 0, abandoned 3. Runs scored 6,419, wickets taken 319. Appearance milestones passed: Peter Patston 600, Kimball Bailey 200, Jeff Ball 100. Top score: Lloyd Belton 138* v Tadworth. Best bowling: Warren Crocker 6-23 v Hornsey.

Personal bests: Jeff Ball 62, George Calvocoressi 35*, Warren Crocker 84*, Paul Dorrans 30* & 4-43, Piers Ovenden 131 & 3-4, Julian Read 4-19, Aidan Selby 47 & 4-20, Richie Stubbs 2-11, Stephen Tjasink 18*.

Source: Maggie Patston