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**LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND** 

# **Thanks** for taking care of all our **Kiwis**

Dear Strollers Committee

We thank you for embracing our fine young men. It is with pride that, from afar, we have gazed at the selection news. On our dark winter mornings we log on to our computers, eager to see if the latest match report has been filed.

Our dreams have become a landscape of rolling English countryside, blue sky and white clouds, village greens, ancient pubs and sunlight flickering through avenues of trees. (By the way, when we wake up we imagine we can hear or have been listening to Warren Zevon. Is this related to the cricket? Can you explain?)

Our knowledge of the geography of Great Britain and France is much improved. We can locate Kempsford, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Fernay-Voltaire, Pontivy and St Vallier-de-Thiey on a map.

To get to Hurley from Central London we know there is a choice between the M4 and M40 (we think you should come off the M40 at junction 4 and take the A4130 before Maidenhead).

We know that one should always wear three jumpers at Great Missenden in April and that it usually rains on the August bank holiday Monday.

We are intrigued by repeated mention of a Brian Taylor. We are not sure how he is connected with your club and/or whether he is an elected officer. Mr Taylor clearly has an important role in terms of pastoral care for our fine young men and for that we are grateful to him

Yours in sport, United Cricket Clubs of Wellington

• The Editor would like to thank PIERS OVENDEN for bringing the above to our attention

### **MY BRILLIANT CAREER** PIERS OVENDEN-**STROLLER No 646**

Debut 2011 Played 93 games Batting 2146 runs @ 41.27 Centuries Fifties 13 Highest score 131 v Cricklade 22.06.14 Bowling 107 wickets @ 17.50 Best bowling 4-26 v Central Brittany at Silfiac 02.08.15

Wicket-keeping 5 victims (4 ct 1 st)

Catches

On our 40th birthday may we remind you of our original team song, penned to the tune of The Laughing Policeman

# We always give them hell! Brodbeck is our captain

HE BATS - and bowls as well. With Beckett at the wicket and Slaughter at first slip, we are the Fleet Street Strollers, and there's no side we can't whip.

Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah!

The Stroller

salutes

Simon

Debut

Played

Batting

Centuries

**Fifties** 

**Highest** 

**Bowling** 

Five wkts

bowling

Catches

**Brodbeck** 

1976

704 games

**7911 runs** 

108\* v Fullerian

All Stars at

22.08.87

25.08.91

127 Wkt-keeping 1 victim (1 ct)

\*For details see inside

Croxley Green

**1088 wickets** @

2 hat tricks

17.04 including

@ 24.72

Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha

ha-ha hah! When the Wizard weaves his magic, he has them in a spin. They've barely time to take their guard before they're sent back in. His name is Stanley Slaughter, He's as broad as he is tall. When he bowls, he gets the wickets, When he bats, he gets sod all.

Oh ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah!

Fiala's greatest virtue is his versatility. He'll go in one, he'll go in two, he'll go in number three. Four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten - it makes no odds at all because the way our Ivor bats he's always out

### First ball

Eeeh ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah!

Nicki Murray is a smasher, she's always bright and gay. She turns the dullest Sunday into a sunny day. She's always bright and cheerful, she's never sad or blue. She's got a friend called **Patrick** and he makes us laugh too.

Aagh ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, haha ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah! Ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha hah!

Now we come to Peter Patston whose case is rather strange. He used to be an opener but now he's seventh change. At least he now bats higher, though it's better not to look.

• He really only keeps his place, 'cos his missus keeps the book

# Ce n'est pas la guerre

### **Jim Hodgson** looks back on the Loire tours

THE STROLLERS first set sail for France in 1997. The unlikely catalyst was a charity game north of the Arctic Circle in Sweden organised by Saumur CC founder, Krishna Lester. Strollers fixer Kimball Bailey heard the game announced on Test Match Special and one thing led to another.

Thoughts that cricket against the French would be a stroll in the park, or L'Ensemble Sportif des Rives du Thouet, the home of Saumur CC, were wide of the mark as we had to wait until 2000 for our first victory.

But what a victory. In a high-scoring game it was left to Kimball to hit the French national opening bowler for six to clinch the win, recording his highest score of 23\* in the process.

This also marked one of the few successes for the nobbling committee as copious amounts of Get27 had been applied to the opposition bowler the previous night.

Since then honours have been even. Highs include Ben Dowell's maiden century, the first by any Stroller in



**STROLLER No 425** Debut Plaved 235 games 3369 runs @ 25.92 Batting **Fifties** 

Highest score 74\* v West Hoathly 15.08.04 304 wickets @ 18.41 **Bowling** 

Best bowling 9-25 v Bledlow 15.09.01 Catches

Saumur, scored in ferocious heat. Lows include a Monsieur Bulot's Holiday incident when, after a lunch of fruits de mer. Stan Slaughter deposited the whelks behind a tree at fine leg. On the banks of the river... stood Jeff Ball, Lee Peng, Ivor Fiala and Kimball Bailey, Saumur 'Village People' of 2008 - it's a long story

Touring isn't all about cricket. Many hours were spent in the restaurants, bars and clubs of Saumur, especially by tour lothario Ivor Fiala most nights ended with enthusiastic singing on the banks of the Loire.

It was here that we were out-beared by co-tourists Montagu Toller CC, who knew the second verse to Running Bear, with actions.

C'est la vie.

SCORECARD: Back page

**MY BRILLIANT CAREER** 

### ODE TO THE STROLLERS OF OLD

### **Danny John** waxes lyrical

Start of the season, blimey it was cold. Those double jumper days made us look fat and old. But as April became May and then flaming June, The puddings turned hard so we could all bat in tune.

Except the ball would zip and dart pretty quick off the seam So that any long innings would run quickly out of steam. We too, though, had our tricks hidden well up our sleeves As Brodbeck and Patston brought the oppo to their knees.

So here's to our victories and to the pubs in a hurry To celebrate with pints in our hands and Stan's face in a curry

### **DANNY JOHN**

**STROLLER No 62** Debut 275 games Played Batting 5460 runs @ 23.53 Centuries 104\* v DES at Highest score Croxley Green 15.09.90 **Bowling** 332 wickets @ 18.00 including 1 hat trick

Five wkts 7-23 v Blackfordby 29.08.87 Best bowling

Catches 128 Wicket-keeping 10 victims (9 ct 1 st)

All statistics used in these pages were taken from official club sources to the end of 2015. They do not take account any games played so far this season. We're good, but not that good.

# Strollers, my Strollers...pla

# Three shifts a week – as long as I coul

### Peter Hanlon explains why he is so glad to have met the Lord of the Rota

I CAME to the Strollers in the traditional way, via journalism. Now, still not 50 and wondering what to do with the rest of my working life, I can at least reflect upon this coming together as a highlight of 30 years in a dying job.

London was bleak in January 1994. The charms that had seemingly awaited me around every corner (or at least behind every pub door) had waned apace with my bank balance. My faith in the legend that Aussie journos were highly regarded in Fleet Street was wavering. I was living in a bedsit. The need for work was becoming desperate.

Shivering in a north London phone booth I put my case for casual sub-editing work to the features editor of The Times, a

fellow the more coarse among my countrymen might call "a typical stuck-up Pommy %\$#@!" He informed me that when chaps such as myself sought employment his practice was to subject them to a spelling test.

**Fumbling with frozen fingers** for more 10p pieces, I stammered through "embarrassed" and "harassed" but tripped up on "beleaguered" (in hindsight, all three were fair summations of my state at the time). He thanked me through what I imagined were thin lips, told me to try again "when you've become a little more accustomed to the language", and rang off.

I felt cold. And a little used. My next call, to the Daily Express sports desk, threw a blanket



'My three captains': Peter with Messrs Patston, Taylor and Brodbeck

around crestfallen shoulders and a piping mug of tea into numb hands.

"Do you play cricket?" asked Lord of the Rota Simon Brodbeck. "Um, yes."

"Bat or bowl?"

"Right, you'll get three shifts a week if you can play every Sunday. If you start taking Sunday shifts somewhere else, you'll be out." I obeyed, and to this day count

MY BRILLIANT CAREER **PETER HANLON** STROLLER No 355

Debut 1994 Played 24 games **Batting** 1017 runs @ 53.53 Centuries

103\* v Sheepscombe 19.06.94 Highest score **Bowling** Did not bowl

**Fifties** 

Catches Wicket-keeping 14 victims (10ct, 4st)

myself blessed to have found not just a professional foundation that would lead to two stints over

several years living in the city I'd always longed to experience, but also a cricket club like no other, and friends for life. I grew up at a time when little colonial boys begged to stay up

for just one more over to gaze

agog at pictures beamed live from

**Cotswolds tours (no French** tour back then, dammit), where the Strollers' special brand of conviviality left a mark as profound as the corrugations of the Sutton-

#### fantasy lands called Trent Bridge, Headingley and Lord's. I dreamed of playing cricket in England, where the colours were so rich and everyone wore long sweaters. The Strollers brought that dream

No matter where we played, cricket on village greens was intoxicating. From Windsor to Henley, Hurley to Warley, to the middle of Royal Ascot racecourse where above the pavilion door sat a team photo with the Queen Mum front and centre. On grounds nestled in woods on London's outskirts, where one milky evening in the field I counted four Concordes pass overhead, sweeping in to land, one after the other.

On the Three Counties and on-the-Hill outfield.

# **Cricket? What cricket?**

## John Smyth recalls nights of curry and camaraderie

COMPARISONS are odious. Official. How come AB De Villiers reached a century in 31 balls, and I took a season and 12 innings in 1992 to score 95 in total? And why did I spend 17 years with the Strollers trying to improve?

You've guessed it. It wasn't just for the cricket. After all, a spring fixture at Coldharbour, Surrey, once involved sweeping snow from the pitch. There, in the woodland setting, you could hear the call of the Stroller batsmen, one to another: One run? Could be? Not sure. No-o-o-o! Oh, ?\$%\*!

While fielding, a selfless Stroller would surrender the chance to take a catch and shout to his nearest team-mate: "Yours!"

Yes, it was camaraderie that helped draw you to the Strollers. Plus the after-match

curry. On occasions like these, a tired Stroller might slump into his biryani. Or another would confuse the butter dish with an ashtray.

I recall supper at Slippery Sam's curry house, in Nottingham, after a Three Counties tour match, Peter Hayter, a brilliant student of cricket, covered his head with a white-linen serviette and announced to all that he was the Invisible Man.

Luckily for the Strollers, he was always a visible presence on the field.



Now you see him... Peter Hayter bowls 'em over

#### MY BRILLIANT CAREER **JOHN SMYTH** STROLLER No 149

1982

Debut

Played	151 games
Batting	933 runs @ 10.85
Fifties	1
Highest score	63 v Weekenders at Croxley Green 30.05.93
Bowling	1 wicket @ 83.00
Best bowling	1-36 v Abbots Ann at
	Croxley Green 05.08.90
Catches	32

Wicket-keeping 25 victims (17 ct 8 st)

### **MY BRILLIANT CAREER PETER HAYTER STROLLER No 162**

Debut	1983
Played	98 games
Batting	1534 runs @ 19.42
Fifties	7
Highest score	97 v Knowl Hill
_	06.07.86
Bowling	199 wickets @ 15.86
Five wkts	12

Best bowling 8-26 v Oxton 25.08.85

Wicket-keeping 1 victim (1 ct)

# BLACK BLACK

# Peter Patston relives the shame of contributing to the club's worst total

DO YOU ever wonder what the all-time great openers might have said to each other as they walked out to bat? What words of comfort or exhortation might Hobbs have said to Sutcliffe, Boycott to Edrich, Greenidge to Haynes, Hayden to Langer?

How about: "If you need me, I'll be at the other end."

That was how Peter Hayter cheered me up when we sallied forth to start proceedings against Blackfordby, an old Leicestershire mining village, on the first leg of our Three Counties tour

A fitting start, perhaps, to what became the Strollers' most ignominious innings as we chalked up the lowest score in the club's history.

There were mitigating circumstances. Drink had been taken.

It being a British August bank holiday weekend, Saturday morning had dawned wet and windswept, added to which an M1 pile-up seriously impeded many of our party's progress north.

A few of us, however, arrived in good time and made for the Bluebell Inn, as was our wont, and proceeded to lunch voluminously. After all, with the rain cascading in torrents and half the team missing, play seemed unlikely and there was the prospect of an afternoon lock-in.

As luck would have it, come the scheduled start time of 2.30, the deluge abruptly ceased and the hosts, without a care for the state of their pitch down the road, suggested a start in 20 minutes. They generously dispensed with the toss and invited those of us assembled Strollers to start batting, leaving the latecomers to slot in down the order.

So after four or five pints of fortifying Marston's Pedigree each, Hayter and I were "volunteered" by skipper Steve Pryer to set us off.

Simon Brodbeck, as sober as ever, padded up at number three and Pryer himself took the number four berth, leaving a couple of others present, who might have been Pat Stoddart and Stan Slaughter, to share umpiring duties.

"I'll face," I told Hayter for some reason that now escapes me. "OK," he replied, before adding his most quotable of quotes. And indeed, he was at the other end, but, alas, only for a couple of deliveries, after I had steered the first ball adroitly through the slips for a single, as was my wont.

Peter, shaping up for a more expansive shot, as was his wont, was bowled all ends up.

The rest of the top order fared little better. As the stragglers finally began to turn up, a sorry pattern unfolded. They parked in one corner of the field, having emerged from the frying pan of the M1, only to be plunged into the fire of our innings. It was a question of a lightning change, a rapid march out to the wicket - then an equally hasty dismissal and dejected traipse back.

Chris Meade, our then star batsman who was approaching the form of his life, found himself in the unaccustomed lowly position of number eight. Having come in when the score was six for six, he quickly added a single but then could only watch as two more ducks were recorded at the other end.

He remained phegmatic and essen-

#### MY BRILLIANT CAREER PETER PATSTON STROLLER No 1\*

Debut 1976 Played 612 games 3900 runs @ 10.32 Fifties 84\* v Blackfordby at Croxley Green 02.06.90 Highest score

720 wickets @ 19.38 **Bowling** including 2 hat tricks Best bowling

7-18 v Fullerian All Stars at Croxley Green 22.08.87

Catches

\* An honorary position shared with Simon Brodbeck, on account of their eina the only two members of the first Strollers team still playing. Strictly speaking Peter is No 10 and Simon No 2

tially practical in the face of the tribulations, however, simply telling Kimball Bailey who joined him at seven for eight: "I think we could be in a spot of trouble here,"

Along with Maggie's note in the scorebook of "sticky" to describe the pitch condition, it must rank as the understatement of the season.

We were stuffed for the princely sum

To our credit, we easily won the aptly named beer match that followed. To Peter Hayter's credit, he entertained us handsomely with his mellifluous baritone until much later

• FOR THE RECORD: We played Blackfordby 16 times between 1979 and 1993, winning 12, losing three and in 1991 achieving one of only two ties ever recorded by the Strollers

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that evening.

# Oh what a lovely Waugh! **Hamish McDougall** witnesses

# an engaging legal tussle

IN 2010 Murray Waugh scored 151 at Hurley, before being given out LBW by your correspondent, one run short of what was then the Strollers' record

Just as remarkable was the response by a local homeowner to having his property peppered by Waugh sixes over the square leg boundary. The local constabulary were called, and when they arrived in a paddy wagon, Murray looked to be in trouble.

The Strollers' defence rested on Lord Denning's famous judgment: "In summertime village cricket is the delight of all." Thankfully it was not required, as a member of the Hurley XI was himself a police officer and dissuaded his colleagues from pursuing the matter.

The same officer turned out to be a fine batsman, and would have led Hurley to an unlikely victory had he not retired to attend a late shift (there were rumours Tricia Taylor had placed a 999 call reporting widespread crime in nearby towns.) Hurley fell just short in the run chase. The Strollers fought the law and the Waugh won, one run short of a record.

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### MY BRILLIANT CAREER **HAMISH McDOUGALL STROLLER No 593**

Debut 2007 163 games Plaved **Batting** 4187 runs @ 33.5 Centuries **Fifties** 23 136 v Mynthurst Highest score 08.05.11 **Bowling** 25 wickets @

3-7 v Peper Harrow

24.04.10 Catches Wicket-keeping 136 victims (78 ct 58 st)

Best bowling

# ayers share their memories

# d play on Sundays

website the photo on the home page puts me back on the hill at Sheepscombe, where I was lucky one long ago June afternoon to make a few.

Moreover, I felt like I belonged in the company of Brodbeck, Patston and Taylor, Strollers stalwarts and fine men all. A photograph taken outside the Butchers Arms with "my three captains" on that glorious summer evening is a treasured item.

It was at Sheepscombe that I saw Kevin Andrews and Ben Mangham take the field having downed (without the use of glasses or other receptacles) a bottle of Burgundy while donning their whites.

On a similar theme the memory of Ron Fullalove, shambling in to bowl before spluttering through the next over at fine leg seemingly on the brink of expiration, stands as a reminder that it's awfully easy to overdo it on tour, and some skerrick of temperance can

be an asset as powerful as a crisp cover drive.

I've never known temperance to be the Strollers way, and with a 40th birthday to celebrate am sure I'm missing one hell of a party. Journalism is not what it was, but I'm happily assured by Brian and Tricia that antipodeans still enjoy a reputation as solid Strollers.

Perhaps it's time to return the favour. In January, Brian Taylor (69, LHB, LO) played two games for Birregurra CC, becoming the oldest debutant in the Colac district association's history. He seemed to enjoy himself, and the locals were chuffed to have him on board.

A seed was planted. Wouldn't a Strollers tour Down Under be something, we burbled into our Villa Maria, with a game against Birregurra the showpiece.

**Tell Mangham and Andrews** they're most welcome, but we do like to use glasses over here.

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Sheepscombe '94: Hanlon looks on as Mangham and Andrews limber up

# My family and other cricketers

## Sam Brodbeck clears a pathway down the foggy ruins of time

THE early memories are foggy.

Along one side of the Old Merchant Taylors' ground at Croxley Green, where the Strollers once played home games, there is a gentle slope. Maggie and Peter's children - Emily, Amanda, Maddy – and Sophie and I would spend the endless time when our dads were away fielding, rolling down the bank to the boundary's edge.

A couple of years later I begin to pick out the legends of the game: Peter wheeling away at one end, Evan swearing, Ivor arriving with exotic women, Ron Fullalove with a fag and bowls of chips, Brian Taylor's grumpy elegance, and my dad's stop-start run-up.

By 2000 I'm in the team but I barely have the strength to hit the

Mike Morgan joins soon after and, in echoes of England captain Nasser Hussain, brings a steel to the side. The New Strollers – led by the likes of Jim Hodgson, Tom Wood and T20 forefather Marc Friday seem much more keen on winning.

The modern era is dominated by the Kiwis, who by 2015 manage to usurp the Australians as the pre-eminent Stroller tribe. Chief among these is James Timperley, the closest we have to a Bradman.

Now I find 16 years have passed since my debut. I've been playing for the Strollers for more than half my life, and the first game of the season, tea at Stanton-by-Dale and the annual dinner are how I keep track of time.

By the Strollers' 80th birthday, in 2056, I'll be hanging up my whites.

with sister Sophie and father Simon in 1991 and, above, this year's model

#### **MY BRILLIANT CAREER** SAM BRODBECK **STROLLER No 513**

2000 **Played** 149 games 3286 runs @ 28.09 Batting Centuries **Fifties** 

Highest score 113\* v Sunbury 03.09.06 **Bowling** 24 wickets @ 34.88 Best bowling

3-29 v Sunbury 03.09.06 Wicket-keeping 2 victims (2 ct)

But, if all goes to plan, the children and grandchildren of Strollers past will still be raising Quizzical Eyebrows every summer Sunday at vil-

lage greens across the country.

# JAY A CROBY



N FLAST STREET STROUGES MATCH

M. PATSTON

HARDLY surprisingly, no one was in the mood for a team photo after the Blackfordby debacle but spirits had improved a bit by the next day, when this shot was taken at Oxton, although Kimball Bailey and John Swannick were nowhere to be seen, having left the tour to be replaced by **Barry Miller and John** 

Booth. The full line-up

is (from the left, back row) Danny John, Peter Hayter, Steve Pryer, Chris Meade,

Ivor Fiala, Peter Patston and Patrick Stoddart; (front row) Simon Brodbeck,

Barry Miller, club president Max Brodbeck (Simon's father), scorer Maggie Patston, Stan Slaughter and John Booth. Naturally, Blackfordby took great pride in their achievement and asked for a framed copy of the scorecard (above) to hang in the public bar of the Bluebell Inn - where all our woes began!

# This game breaks the Aussie rules

### Evan Samuel sums up the essential ethos of the Strollers

THE STROLLERS have always been inclusive. Aussies, Kiwis, South Africans, Bangladeshis, Indians... even Yorkshiremen.

Of course, the entry requirements have been strict: a heartbeat, an ability to wear white trousers (and matching socks -Dear God, who do you think you are? David Gower?), a keen eye for a fine tea and what used to be called clubability in the bar afterwards; don't be a prat.

Being able to actually play cricket is a welcome bonus.

For most Antipodeans the entire ethos of the Strollers is a breath of fresh air - or a slap in the face with a wet mackerel, depending on temperament.

Until I came to the UK, every game of cricket I had ever played had been for league points: every run, every wicket contributed to the team's position at the end of the season and was fought for as a matter of life and death.

To be taken off after four quick wickets to give everyone a game (thank you, Ivor) can come as something of a surprise.

But never have so many Aussies and Kiwis been so happy to be allowed to play their own game without fear.

How else could we have seen the infamous, eponymous "marcfriday", the head-up, cross-batted paean to village cricket (ideally to the first ball) created by one of our finest openers? Six or out, the backyard game writ large.

Long may it continue. Stroll

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French leave: Evan in Saumur. Beside him is the tour lapin, but that's another story...

### MY BRILLIANT CAREER **EVAN SAMUEL** STROLLER No 274

Debut 1990 151 games Played Batting 3295 runs @ 29.42 Centuries **Fifties** 

Highest score 149 v Pearson TV at Chessington 01.06.97 160 wickets @ 18.31 **Bowling** Five wkts

Best bowling 7-55 v Stanton-by-Catches

Wicket-keeping 3 victims (3 ct)

# Six of the best — to no avail

### **Stan Slaughter** talks us through a glaring injustice

IN THE early days of the Strollers, victories were hard to come by. But I remember one against a team called Deando, in my second season.

It was quite a convincing win and as I walked off the field with Simon, Maggie, our wonderful scorer, called out: 'Stan, you got six for 12.'

I thought this was rather good but not so old Grumpy. That's that then. We are not playing them again," he said.

### **MY BRILLIANT CAREER** STAN SLAUGHTER **STROLLER No 35**

Debut 1977 Played 294 games 490 runs @ 4.54 Highest score 28 v West Herts 3rds at Watford 21.07.91 266 wickets @ 23.92 **Bowling** Five wkts 6-12 v Deando at

Best bowling

Catches "Why not?' I asked,

Ewell 23.07.78

thinking I wouldn't mind playing them every week. Well, if you can get six for 12, they must be rubbish," came the reply.



Robbed: Stan sleeps it off

And so it proved... Deando were never heard of again.

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# he Strover Stats Station

We present our 40-year record... plus a few other fascinating figures that you won't find on the website - yet!

View from the scorer's hot seat...

# IND IF I SIT THIS ONE OUT!

Maggie Patston lays down her famous coloured pencils to tell a more personal tale

1977 saw the start of my cricket scoring career. I was told that I would be fine at keeping score. It was obvious. After all, "You read maths at university."

I did enjoy scoring, finding it more interesting as I had to watch the game in its entirety. Looking up quirky rules to satisfy the statsmad Strollers added a new dimension to my understanding of what was going on.

In 1979 Peter suggested I consider colour coding the bowlers. That sounded good. The new set of gaudy pencils was first used on 1 July that year – and it worked. It was even a few years before I started getting special requests from our bowlers. Our style-icon, Ben Mangham, NEEDED to be green.

It went along swimmingly for a few years. But then there was motherhood and I presumed my scoring days were finished. Emily was born in November 1982. "She'll be old enough for the Strollers to help look after her when the new season starts in May so please will you do the scoring?" "But I'll still be feeding her" I retorted. "No problem", was the reply. "You can use the Strollers' dressing room at the tea interval." Somehow I agreed.

I remember vividly that first match at Old Parkonians with their West Ham supporters' scarves and Blowing Bubbles theme song. Emily slept for the whole of the opposition's innings. Tea was a rushed affair in the changing room and then she spent





With back turned looking down the years: Maggie displays a novice enthusiasm for the scorer's task at Tatsfield in 1978, but adopts a more sedate approach at Stanton-by-Dale some 20 years later

most of our innings being wheeled around the pitch by a succession of Strollers. "Sorted. This is easy" I was told. "You'll be able to do this every week."

There are memories of her being carried around fields, clubhouses and pubs for the rest of the season. The next year at Old Parkonians she toddled out from the Strollers' dressing room withvarious parts of Barry Miller's kit arranged jauntily on her head.

And so I did continue scoring and the Strollers continued to be a source of friendship, education and guidance for our young family.

Mark Fenn spent a sunny after-

noon teaching Amanda to count. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 21, 22, etc. "But what about 11 to 19?" I asked. Mark had thought it fun to leave these out and, of course, Amanda believed him rather than her parents.

Their toys were a success. Madeleine's Magnadoodle was requested on many occasions by Terry Scragg and Evan Samuel. "Have you brought it this week? Can we borrow it again?'

Their taste buds developed. From Emily's first sip of beer before her first birthday, courtesy of Ivor, through many packed teas, to quaffing champagne at the Oval

on the club's 30th anniversary. "Mum, did you know the Lows bring peanut butter with jam sandwiches for their kids? Can't we have that too?"

And then there was the care lavished on them while I was scoring. Thank you, Kimball, for extracting Emily as she hung upside down from the swing chains at Valley End. Thank you, Strollers, for stemming the flow of blood at Hurley after a particularly bad fall. "Sshh, don't disturb your mum. She's scoring. We'll get Dad in off the pitch.'

They thrived, we survived and the club went strolling on.

#### Fleet Street Strollers results 1976-2015 Abandoned 41 Wickets Number Runs Runs Wickets against **159,208** 170,083 7,574 How we did against our favourite opposition Drawn **9** West Chiltington 36 29 13 15 12 Peppard The Times 2 Farnham Royal 28 25 24 22 21 19 17 16 16 16 Valley End Saumui Sutton-on-the-Hill Seal St Lawrence 1 Old Talbotians **Blackfordby** Old Parkonians Pinkneys Green Riviera

### **Batting: Fastest to slowest in the all-time top order**

Our star line-up, with the number of innings it took each player to reach...

1000 runs		H McDougall	51 52	B Taylor	74 80	J Hodgson	157	
J Addis	18	J Hodgson		H McDougall		P Patston	289	
S Ferrick	20	T Salvesen	52	SR Brodbeck		4000 runs		
P Hanlon	24	M Shattock	55	S Brodbeck	97		0.4	
		C Meade	58	<u>J</u> Hodgson	100	J Timperley	84	
J Timperley	24	D John	64	D John	103	M Friday	132	
D Rogers	25	W Crocker	64	W Crocker	109	T Wood	136	
T Scragg	28	J Low	78	S McKenzie	110	H McDougall	144	
J Mawson	31	J Swannick	80	C Meade	113	S Brodbeck	174	
N Whittaker	32	T Rice	84	M Morgan	130	C Meade	179	
T Wood	32	S Pryer	92	J Low	158	D John	201	
E Samuel	34	T Garbett	96	P Patston	215		201	
M Friday	34	A Macaulay	110		210	5000 runs		
B Taylor	37	B Miller	136	3000 runs		J Timperley	103	
P Campbell	38	P Patston	146	J Timperley	57	T Wood	173	
M Fenn	41			J Addis	64			
P Ovenden	42	I Fiala	173	M Friday	95	C Meade	219	
J Rice	43	2000 runs		T Wood	100	S Brodbeck	222	
			44			D John	241	
M Morgan	43	J Timperley	41	H McDougall	103	6000 runs		
P Howard	44	J Addis	43	E Samuel	114			
S Brodbeck	45	M Fenn	65	SR Brodbeck	127	J Timperley	125	
P Hayter	49	T Wood	66	B Taylor	130	S Brodbeck	280	
SR Brodbeck	50	P Ovenden	66	S Brodbeck	134	7000 runs		
J Rigby	51	E Samuel	67	C Meade	147			
S McKenzie	51	M Friday	69	D John	150	S Brodbeck	339	
Rowling: How quickly our attack made their mark								

### **Bowling: How quickly our attack made their mark**

In order of merit, with the number of overs it took to pass the milestones of...

	,						_
100 wickets		T Rice	527	300 wickets		600 wickets	
W Crocker	387	J Hodgson E Samuel	534 548	A Macaulay	1219	P Patston S Brodbeck	2724 2966
R Littlejohn B Miller	424 431	P Patston R Fullalove	612 641	S Brodbeck P Patston	1395 1455	700 wickets	2300
S Brodbeck P Ovenden	435 447	200 wickets	•	J Hodgson D John	1639 1647	P Patston	3180
S McKenzie	449	W Crocker	793	400 wickets	1047	S Brodbeck 800 wickets	3457
P Hayter T Salvesen	449 464	A Macaulay T Wood	797 884	P Patston	1797	S Brodbeck	3899
A Macaulay	469	S Brodbeck	900	S Brodbeck	1863	900 wickets	
T Wood D Cave	484 488	D Cave P Patston	984 1060	500 wickets		S Brodbeck	4312
S Slaughter	491	D John	1078	P Patston	2254	1000 wickets	-
D John	523	J Hodgson	1093	S Brodbeck	2425	S Brodbeck	4658

### Captains' Log 1976-2015: How our leaders rate

of the 33 players to have led the Strollers, the following did it to times of more									
Name	Matches	Won	% success	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Aband		
P Howard	14	10	71%	3			1		
J Hodgson	13	.8	62%	3	2				
T Wood	31	19	61%	9	3				
J Addis	10	6	60%	2	2				
J Timperley	67	40	60%	15	.7	1	4		
M Morgan	152	89	59%	43	16		4		
P Ovenden	32	16	50%	11	3		2		
B Taylor	23	11	48%	3	9				
P Hayter	15	6	40%	6	2		1		
E Samuel	48	19	40%	18	7		4		
T Garbett	16	6	38%	10					
S Slaughter	55	20	36%	17	17		1		
T Rice	33	12	36%	9	11		1		
S Brodbeck	122	43	<b>35</b> %	46	29	1	3		
S Pryer	59	20	34%	23	13		3		
D John	78	26	33%	27	21		4		
N Morgan	12	4	33%	2	6				
P Patston	153	50	33%	57	40		6		
l Fiala	61	19	31%	15	24		3		
S McKenzie	22	5	23%	5	12				

### SCOREBOARD ROUND-UP Details of a select few Strollers matches mentioned on other pages

MATCH 36 Deando v Northcliffe Strollers at Kingston, Surrey, on Sunday, July 23, 1978

R Low b Notton 20 P Patston \*S Brodbeck †K Fisher J McShane & b Notton Byford b Notton lbw b Jones L Hookings 3 23 c Notton b Byford D John H Whittow P Stoddar S Slaughter B Miller not out not out Extras (b 3, lb 1, w 1, nb 2) Total (9 wkts dec, 37 overs)
129
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-42, 3-53, 4-59, 5-78, 6-95, 7-97,
8-120, 9-120, Bowling: Notton 17-4-51-4, Jones 18-3-57-3, Byford 2-0-14-1

Deando Cossburn Jones Powell Knight c Brodheck b Miller c Patston b Miller c Fisher b Slaughter b Miller c Low b Slaughter Byford Atkinson c & b Slaughter c Miller b Patston st Fisher b Slaughter McKenzie c Hookings b Slaughter Connor st Fisher b Slaughter

Total (all out, 33.1 overs) 40 Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-25, 3-30, 4-30, 5-30, 6-30, 7-30, 8-38, 9-38, 10-40. Bowling: Miller 14-9-8-3, Whittow 4-0-16-0, Slaughter 12.1-0-12-6, Patston 3-2-2-1 Strollers won by 89 runs

MATCH 276 Blackfordby v Fleet Street

c Brown b Crawshaw

P Patston

b Crawshaw c Moore b Brearley P Hayter S Brodbeck \*S Pryer c Crawshaw b Brearley D John c Sharpe b Brearley I Fiala Tyson b Crawshaw S Slaughter c Tyson b Crawshaw C Meade Brown b Brearley <sup>†</sup>J Swannick b Crawshaw c Brown b Brearley P Stoddarf not out Total (all out, 11.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1–1, 2–2, 3–2, 4–2, 5–5, 6–6, 7–7, 8–7, 9–7, 10–8 Bowling: P Crawshaw 6-3-4-5; P Brearley 5.1-3-4-5

Blackfordby c Stoddart b Havter c Swannick b Brodbeck Clarke Edwards Moore not out Total (for 2 wkts, 6 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8 Bowling: Hayter 3-2-2-1; John 1-0-5-0; Blackfordby won by 8 wickets

MATCH 353 Windsor Victoria v Fleet Street

Strollers, on Sunday, September 23, 1990 E Adham b Brodbeck Mobley b Samuel Scofield c Whittaker b Brodbeck Hunt lhw b Samuel O'Brien b Brodbeck Newport Roberts b Samuel c Ward b Slaughter c Whittaker b Slaughter Bridgeman Newman McCord c Smyth b Ward T Adham not out Extras (b 4. lb 6. w 3) Total (all out, 27.2 overs) Bowling: Samuel 12-6-14-4, Austin 6-0-18-0, Brodbeck 7-2-12-3, Slaughter 2.2-0-6-2, Ward **Fleet Street Strollers** 

P Patston B Taylor c Mobley b Newman c T Adham b Newman <sup>†</sup>N Whittaker D Buckland Extras (b 3, lb 2, w 6) Total (2 wkts, 24.4 overs)
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-39
Did not bat: J Smyth, C Ward, S Brodbeck, \*I Fiala, E Samuel, S Slaughter, H Austin Bowling: McCord 7-2-21-0, Newman 11-2 30-2, E Adham 4-1-5-0, O'Brien 1.4-0-11-0, T Adham 1-0-6-0 Strollers won by 8 wickets

MATCH 450 Sheepscombe v Fleet Street

Fleet Street : †J Swannick b Campbell not out b Campbell not out S Brodbeck S Minett P Hanlon 13 Total (2 wkts, 42 overs) Did not bat: K Andrews. N Morgan. I Fiala Did not bat: A Andrews, in wordari, i Friard, S McKenzie, \*B Taylor, P Patston, B Mangham Bowling: Clayton 9-1-25-0, Campbell 8-1-27-2, Risley-Prichard 8-1-23-0, Warner 7-2-28-0, Banks 5-0-44-0, Sharp 3-0-37-0, Skinner 2-0-15-0 **Sheepscombe**P Risley-Prichard c Andrews b Mangham J Skinner b Andrews

c Brodbeck b Andrews S Dermody b Patston T Gould 39 b Andrews M Delhanty c Hanlon h Andrews M Campbell not out M Sharpe not out 78 Total (for 8 wkts, 42 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-37, 3-94, 4-120, 5-122, 6-157, 7-158, 8-173 Bowling: Andrews 12-0-63-6, Mangham 10-3-24-1, Patston 13-1-43-1, McKenzie 4-0-23-0, Minett 3-0-7-0 Match drawn

MATCH 664 Saumur v Fleet Street Strollers, played at Saumur, on Saturday, July 20, 2002

Lester c Hodgson b Leach Bruce not out Crook b Dowell not out Stepher 10. b9. lb 5) Total (3 wkts, 40 overs) Fal of wickets: 1-36, 2-87, 3-122 Bowling: Salvesen 8-0-47-0, Hodgson 8-1-21-0, Leach 8-1-16-1, Furlan 8-1-36-1, Macaulay 4-0-22-0, Dowell 4-0-36-1

C Hall c Anon b Egerton 15 R Hall c & b Lester T Salvesen c & b Gordor \*B Dowell 129 not out J Hodason retired hurt c Crook b Fraser J Leach not out Total (5 wkts, 32.4 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-10, 3-11, 4-129, 5-175 Did not bat: <sup>†</sup>T Garbett, D Meilton, A Macaulay, D Furlan Bowling: Gordon 8-4-20-1, Egerton 8-1-28-2, Fraser 6.4-0-44-1, Bruce 3-0-24-0, Fillerateau 1-0-20-0, Lester 5-0-29-1, Crook Strollers won by 6 wickets (12 a side)

MATCH 897 Hurley v Fleet Street Strollers

c & b Masters R Jones M Waugh 13 88 10 151 30 14 7 Ibw b Simon J Mawson \*T Wood c Anon b Walton c Anon b Walton 27 17 J Low †H McDougall b Adams 24 25 16 c Anon b Simon 194 Allsopp xtras (nb 4 Exitas (in 4, w 10, 40) Total (6 wkts, 40 overs)
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-81, 3-95, 4-112, 5-197, 6-257. Did not bat: C Locke, A Blyth, D Cave Bowling: Masters 8-0-55-1, Simon 8-0-57-2, Adams 8-0-44-1, Walton 7-0-49-2, Hooper 5-0-34-280 0, Hinnell 2-0-18-0, Cudworth 2-0-19-0

Hurley Hinnell Snr b McDougall 10 58 101 14 2 14 11 10 13 b Allsopp Cudworth retired Hampton Simon b Allsopp c Mawson b Allsopp Hooper b Wood c Wood b Allsopp Hinnell Jnr run out not out b Wood Adams Masters Walton Simon run out Total (all out, 34.3 overs)

Bowling: Cave 8-0-58-0, McDougall 8-1-17-1, Shattock 4.3-0-39-0, Wood 4-0-44-2, Blyth 6-1-251 Strollers won by 29 runs