

The Stroller

Fleet Street Strollers Cricket Club Newsletter • No 5 • March 3, 2017 • One page only again after bumper 40th anniversary issue ...



... AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT: Have you ordered your pictures from *the* social event of 2016 yet? For details go to: fsscc.org.uk, LATEST NEWS, What A Picture

JT leads countrymen to record 500 totals



The 500 Club: Messrs Timperley, Selby, McDougall, Addis and Oliver scored half the Strollers' record total of 7,302 runs in 2016

FIVE GO ON A RUN SPREE

By **SAM BROBECK**
Telegraph Correspondent

"NO MORE boom and bust," said Gordon Brown confidently, a few years before the sub-prime crisis smashed the global economy.

Strollers anoraks may have felt much the same hubris before 2016.

The script dictated that James Timperley and Jono Addis would battle it out for the highest individual score, total and average. The rest would limp to a few hundred runs in a good summer blessed with fast outfields.

This was the way of things. And none predicted the coming tidal wave. For in 2016, no fewer than five Strollers surged past the 500-run mark.

Between them, James Timperley, Aidan Selby, Hamish McDougall,

FAB FIVE – FAR FROM AVERAGE

Fleet Street Strollers leading run makers in 2016

Name	Innings	NO	Total runs	Top score	50s	100s	Average
J Timperley	16	6	995	141*	6	4	99.50
A Selby	15	2	846	128	5	3	65.08
H McDougall	17	3	710	101*	5	1	50.71
J Addis	9	1	580	105	5	1	72.50
G Oliver	13	7	560	101	4	1	93.33

Jono Addis and Glen Oliver, accounted for half of the Strollers' entire output for the season – scoring 3,691 out of 7,302 runs, which itself was a record aggregate, eclipsing the 6,829 set in 2010.

A mammoth 10 centuries between them had the club's peerless archivist, Madam President Maggie Patston, scrabbling among her many pencils

to update the statistics. The eagle-eyed may note a common thread among our run-hungry titans. All bar none learnt their trade where toilets flush anti-clockwise.

The Stroller understands the club's board is preparing for a Doomsday scenario where Theresa May implements a Donald Trump-style travel ban on Antipodeans.

Chairman Kimball Bailey is said to have called a crisis meeting of the youth development committee, while Treasurer Tom Wood has signed off the construction of the long-awaited multi-million-pound Chris Read Training Academy.

A local man, a Mr. Brian Taylor, has been randomly selected from an utterly unbiased ballot to break soil at the East Midlands site.

Sources say Stroller families are being encouraged to produce English-born offspring with bribes of cut-rate subs.

This newspaper can confirm the authenticity of Warren Crocker's sons Lachlan and Zachary's British passports. It is expected the club will call on the boys to take up their rightful places in the first XI on their 12th birthdays, irrespective of which continent their parents reside in.

NEW ZEALAND TOUR ANNOUNCED

At last Strollers head for their spiritual home

From **HAMISH MCDUGALL** and **PIERS OVENDEN**

Strollers Special Envoys in Wellington

FOLLOWING years of speculation, the Strollers hierarchy has announced a New Zealand tour in February 2018. The visit will proceed despite rumours that New Zealand Civil Defence found the country structurally unsound after recent earthquakes and evacuated the population to South West London.

"That's just fake news," countered a mysterious Strollers insider. "Everyone knows the UK doesn't accept refugees."

The tour decision was made after years of meticulous research of earthquake-related news events and travel supplements endlessly referring to hobbits, orcs, wizards and eagles.

Scores of New Zealand lawyers in the Strollers ranks, many of whom are named Kelvin, also lobbied hard for the tour to proceed, as did independent wine professionals working their way through the New World pinot noir range at Majestic.

It is believed Sir Richard Hadlee's success with Nottinghamshire CCC in the 1980s was also a deciding factor.

As a precaution, the Strollers dispatched Piers Ovenden and Hamish McDougall to reconnoitre the Shaky Isles a year early, and both have given the thumbs up.

Ovenden said: "You may think that since we last saw you we have been sitting on our arses watching cricket, working



Familiar stance: Pies and Hamish prepare for battle against Martinborough Wine Makers at Kelburn Park in February

on our tans and brushing sand off our feet. But it's been a lot more workman-like than that. We've also been playing cricket, drinking beer and constantly applying sun screen to our faces."

February has been identified as the optimum touring time, given that it will allow the Strollers to roast on the Wairarapa vine, hoop balls round corners at a muggy Kelburn Park, throw themselves in the harbour as part of post-match rehab and adjourn for a few snags on the barbie and a bottle of craft beer, or something stronger, as the sun sets over the Karori Hills.

It also coincides with the visit of the England cricket team, who will bring an assortment of red-headed Kiwis, grumpy northerners and South Africans to take on Kane Williamson's Black Caps.

McDougall said: "There is no point coming away for Christmas to the Land of the Long Grey Scudding Cloud and sitting in the shadow of the Vance stand, leeward to a gritty northerly, as the West Indies or Pakistan take their turn flaying Tim Southee round the Basin."

He also confirmed they have arranged for the wind and rain to come a year early: "It is a matter of forward planning and self-sacrifice," he said.

The biggest self-sacrifice for the Strollers next February may be missing beloved sports teams playing on murky Bath, Nottingham or Tottenham sports grounds. However, Ovenden and McDougall believe the jandal will be on the other foot when the tourists arrive, blinking like moles emerging from holes on the Great and Little Missenden outfield.

And the seafood is good too, or as the locals say here: "Tu meke kaimoana, eh."

Stair turns in a star performance

JIM LAKER, Shane Warne, Muttiah Muralitharan, Peter Patston... and now another name enters the annals of spin-bowling history.

Step forward Alastair Macaulay, after a stellar 2016 when he took 54 wickets at an average of 19.91, becoming only the fourth Stroller to capture more than 50 scalps in a season.

Stair attributed his success to an intense winter regime. Apparently, in order to strengthen his spinning finger he embarked on a selfless regime based on the manipulation of drinking vessels of various shapes and sizes, often for hours at a time.

The programme peaked with high-altitude training involving heavy-duty tankards on top of the West Stand at White Hart Lane.

"It was gruelling," admitted Macaulay between sips, "but it paid off. During the season, I found I was turning it [the ball] sideways."

Strollers technical guru Mike Morgan said: "It was a fantastic achievement. At times, Stair made Aaron Walder look like Robert Croft. Which is no mean feat.

"He has long been a master of flight and guile. Now, by adding turn to his repertoire, he is the finished article. No longer will his victims be dismissed as mere Frenchmen or children."

Unabashed by his record, Macaulay said: "I only hope the next generation of tweakers, the Laurie Allsopps and Tom Colbecks, will learn from my experience. Remember, with great



Super Macaulay: 300th appearance at Harpsden in April

spinning power comes great responsibility," he added enigmatically.

Stair's rise up the Strollers bowling hierarchy was no overnight sensation. Since his debut in 1993 he has made sure but steady progress. His first "Michelle" (Pfeiffer – geddit?) came in 1996 and his previous best season's total of 37 in 2008.

In 2015 he topped the list of Strollers' seasonal wicket takers for the first time, with 32. But his 2016 haul put all these earlier performances in the shade.

His total of 54 is the ninth highest in a season by a Stroller. Only Warren Crocker, Simon

Brodbeck and Peter Patston have taken more in a summer. On hearing the news, Patston interrupted yet another half-marathon to announce his retirement from running in order to refocus on his bowling.

"Don't get me wrong," he said, "jogging in drizzle for four hours can be very wonderful and deeply moving. But it's nothing compared to bowling a well-set Aussie through the gate on some far-flung village green that is forever England in a dry September.

"Besides, the New Zealand tour's coming up and I'd like to see the ball turn the other way for a change."

BOWLER'S DOZEN

Fleet Street Strollers – Top 12 wicket hauls in a season

68	Peter Patston	1988
67	Peter Patston	1989
65	Simon Brodbeck	1987
62	Simon Brodbeck	2013
61	Simon Brodbeck	1989
60	Simon Brodbeck	1988
60	Warren Crocker	2014
56	Peter Patston	1990
54	Alastair Macaulay	2016
48	Simon Brodbeck	1986
47	Peter Patston	1991
45	Peter Hayter	1985