

Cricket Peru

South American Championship 2013: Buenos Aires

The record books will show that we didn't win a game, but those who were there will know just how close we came and how beautifully things were poised for the final (well, third/fourth play off) on Sunday, before the chance for glory was cruelly snatched away from us because of a waterlogged Astroturf wicket on a blazing hot Sunday afternoon.

A tour which saw many highlights and lowlights and has to do down as one of the finest in the much discussed Peruvian cricketing annals.

On the pitch, success was limited, off the pitch we bossed it and I think it makes sense to lay bare this elite squad of international athletes rather than think about the cricket itself in detail, which we never did for too long once the games had finished.

I'd like those of you who will be available for selection in Rio de Janeiro in October to think about what you could add to the following list of reprobates.

Player 1 :	Harry Hildebrand
Nickname	The Concept / El lechero
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get away with telling an Argentinian's wife that she loves fellatio (an unfortunate mix up between the Peruvian and Argentinian meaning of the slang 'lechera' - it could have happened to anyone)• Flirt outrageously with wives, girlfriends, daughters and even one Italian pensioner.• Shout "yours" whenever the ball comes near him• Give at least 10 impromptu speeches a day.
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turn down the offer of a tic tac, no matter how long and arduous the search to find it might be.• Go unnoticed in any social environment
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some quality conceptual sessions off the pitch• On the pitch, the hips have gone, the eyes have gone, but Concept's captaincy, careful man-management (with the exception of Spry and Middleton who have every right to feel p*ssed off), humour and inspirational banter constantly raised our game.

Player 2:	Tony Sandford
Nickname	The Finger
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have on the shortest hot pants in any restaurant / bar visited
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter into a game of 'spot' of an evening • Be asked to umpire the final by Argentina
Tour highlight / lowlight	Pinning down (not literally, although those hands could throttle a rhino) Brasil's captain at a key stage in their run chase

Player 3:	Nick Barsby
Nickname	Pay Roll
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a poo in every venue he visits • Admit to some willy shrinkage during the course of the tour
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the innings off to a flyer
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowled us into the game with a class opening spell against Brazil. • Harry's right hand man and roomie throughout, although just how far the pay roll stretches is still subject to some speculation

Player 4 :	Scott Stevenson
Nickname	Ringer / Big Fella / 'Robert Louis'
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave his wife and family in Little Gadstone to pursue his international cricketing career further in Brazil and Lima.
Least likely to	Be mistaken for a Peruvian - at 6'7" and whiter than the proverbial sheet
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Played a blinder from start to finish. • Bowled well against Chile and turned the screw on Brazil. • A top class 12th man up there with the best in the business, let alone Spry and Nomi • also a great man to look at a cemetery with.

Player 5 :	Miles Buesst
Nickname	Lord Buesst/ Scott's Mate / Fella
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To get punched by an Australian member of the Chilean team (or pretty much any member of the public really) • Get things moving once a platform has been laid.
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give constant praise • Lower the average age of a nightclub
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runs against Brazil, looked dangerous with the bat throughout. • Wound up Aussies to the best of his ability ("great fellaring fella"). • All told, a difficult tour for the big man who was not used to being this far down the posh bloke pecking order (sorry Miles you just couldn't compete those guys from Brazil).

Player 6 :	Ian Roughton
Nickname	The Body
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a fag and/or drink in hand • Change a game with his bowling. • End a game with his bowling.
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say "I think we've had enough to drink lads" • Arrive with more than a change of underwear and 200 Lucky Lights
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His hat trick, removed 3 of Chile's best batsman with 2 top class full tosses and an unplayable half volley. • Chipped in with runs against Chile, Brazil and was looking very dangerous against Argentina before a brilliant catch sent him packing. • Tour founder of the Name Your Last Poo With A Film Title game (Shaft, Black Hawk Down, Free Willy ...the fun never seems to end)

Player 7 :	Alex James
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Nickname	Officer and a gentleman / Poshest bloke no.3
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give everything to the cause against Argentina • Block an attempted run out by using his face • Briefly be in the good books (when he tells his wife he's spent a \$150 on her present) • Quickly return to the bad books when she sees an ill-fitting green leather jacket
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say "I think the Malvinas belong to you guys"
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very valuable runs against Argentina. • Must feel disappointed not to have been the poshest bloke at the tournament. • Excellent progress made in his attempt to forget his military past, roommate Nomi had no ill-treatment to report.

Player 8 :	Hans De Witt
Nickname	Super Hans / the ambassador
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a bit of class to proceedings. • Adversely affect team performance with his generosity at the bar.
Least likely to	Opt for the cheapest wine on the list.
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made it out of his hotel bed, a big improvement on Santiago. • Some great forehand smashes down the ground and some swipes to cow, but it was in the bar where this European playboy came into his own.

Player 9:	Matt Spry
Nickname	HEREFORD / gypo
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix his drinks: beer and wine (Hereford of course), cider and sherry ('shider'), it doesn't matter to this guy - a consummate professional on tour • Drink into the early hours with Ukranian contestants from WipeOut who don't speak any English
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get much of a bat or a bowl • Make it back to Lima alive

Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Harry said ‘looking at the amount of booze the Peruvian team put away this afternoon brings a tear of pride to the eye.’ Argentina need to look no further than this man when it came to working out who’d done the damage on their beer fridge. A devastating early psychological blow. • His batting and bowling against Argentina suggested he may have been greatly underestimated by the skipper. • Turning down a beer at the Sunday breakfast presentation was a real low, we’d come to think better of you. • A good shout for man of the tour.
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Player 10 :	Nomi
Nickname	The cat
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn a death in the family into an opportunity for a cricket tour
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the warm up
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proud member of the vomiters contingent on tour • Very good keeping performance against Argentina

Player 11 :	Rob Middleton
Nickname	The new Jonny Lucas / Batsman 10 / working remotely
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be found wandering around the outfield looking confused
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Harry a Christmas card
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have eaten at least 500 grams of raw salmon on Saturday night, that’s top sushi eating in anyone’s book. • Despite looking unmoved by proceedings, the inside word was that his face doesn’t give much away and that he actually had an awesome time.

Player 12 :	Steve Hallet
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Nickname	Taxi!
Most likely to	Sleep rough in the team hotel.
Least likely to	Get a refund for his two and a half hour taxi ride from Kenny.
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't mention the taxi. • Kept excellently in the second game and his hard hitting made him a top addition to the batting line up.

Player 13 :	Nick Jones
Nickname	Drapes/Drapist
Most likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste his time talking to Argentinian hotties. • Need some time behind the iron curtain. • Regret asking for a top up on his meths and tonic.
Least likely to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live up to his performance in Santiago, on or off the pitch.
Tour highlight / lowlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great header to clear the Peruvian lines from the first ball of tournament. • Runs against Chile. • (low) Getting hit for six by Feathers off first ball of the last over against Brazil/ (high) taking game to the last ball in the same over. • Failing to trouble the scorers off the pitch. Unproductive partnership with Barsby – both at the wicket and on the pull.

The future

If the thought of Rio in October itself was not enough to get you on the plane, what more could a Peruvian cricketer need as motivation than the chance to do battle for the spork / thermos that is the Amistad Cup.

With Lima due to host the SAC Easter 2014 these are exciting times for Cricket Peru. A logistics study is currently being undertaken as to whether the Peruvian games could in fact be relocated to the Dominican Republic in search of the kind of fast, bouncy tracks that suit our game.

I look forward to seeing you all there.