

Game 1. Played on 27 January 2017 at Queenstown Events Centre, Frankton

The snow capped Remarkables were the back drop for the opening game of the inaugural ALCC tour of New Zealand. The New Zealand Lawyers, together for the first time, talked down their bowling game and general ability during the morning delay caused by the previous day's rain. They were clearly impressed with the touring blazers being sported by several of the Australian contingent.

Although the Queenstown Event Centre No 1 field was recently stripped of its international accreditation, it was a picturesque basin and a very pleasant location to play cricket. Unfortunately whilst the pitch had been covered, the pools of water on the run ups and in field meant the game would not be playable until the afternoon. Thankfully the Queenstown Event Centre has four excellent surfaces and turf wickets, so the captains agreed to relocate the match to an adjacent field equally as picturesque but considerably dryer.

With the wicket reminiscent of a soft English village strip, the Black Caps had no hesitation in sending us in when they won the toss. Procter and de Carvalho (aka Decca) opened the account for Australia. With the grass on the outfield at a length more suitable to a rugby field than a cricket oval, the fielding restrictions in play, and perhaps influenced by the constant stream of passenger jets and helicopters using the neighboring International Airport, Procter decided (uncharacteristically) to go the aerial route before being bowled going for another maximum.

Decca's style and poise proved to be the order of the day. The combination of the slow wicket and outfield meant batsman had to work hard for their runs and despite several good shots being played, the conditions robbed at least two Australians of certain half centuries. Decca was bowled for 29 unselfishly looking to lift the run rate, and Hartford Davis (aka HD, aka Two Dads) was caught for 34. HD's innings was cleverly constructed of text book batting and well taken singles as the New Zealanders struggled to plug the gaps. The bowling talent was considerably better than the New Zealanders predicted and the Australian middle order continued to find it difficult to get balls away at little over 3 an over in the middle stages of the innings. Useful pairings by HD and Selvakumaran (aka Sanj aka Chainsaw), and Sanj and Saeed (aka Raza) combined to take the total from 108 after 28 overs, to a defendable 146 from 35.

As the Sun came gradually out from behind the long white cloud, Keane (aka JK) took the new Kookaburra from the Frankton Road end. JK delivered some exquisite outswing assisted by the cool south westerly breeze coming off Lake Wakatipu. JK went unrewarded for most of his spell as the New Zealand batsman struggled to get bat on ball. Matthews (aka Charlie aka Austin Powers) took them well behind the stumps. At the other end, Docker (aka Docks) was hitting the seam well with the consistent line and length required to make batting difficult on the slow deck. Docks finished with 2 for 19 from 7 overs.

According to Wikipedia, fifty-nine bowlers have taken a wicket with their very first delivery in one of the three formats of international cricket. Tom Horan was the first to do so, on 26 January 1883¹. On the first day of the one hundred and thirty fifth year following that momentous event, HD now takes the total to sixty. I'm not sure what young Tommy Horan's first rock looked like, but it's possible it was also a rank loosener given that Tommy was a batsman who didn't bowl to England in the first innings, and whose spell followed the great Fred Spofforth in the second. JK's toil and Spofforthesque accuracy had yielded a wicket, although probably not as JK would've liked it. HD's figures were 1 for 0 off 0.1, and he took 3 for 8 in a very good spell of handy medium pace.

HD was assisted with Gyles's guile producing 2 for 33 from 6.3 and Procter's uncharacteristically economical 2 for 18 from 5. The bowlers were well supported by all in the field, with the cover and mid-wicket fielders HD and Tinetti (aka Tinman) doing a lot of the work in cutting off singles. That the New Zealanders were restricted from taking too many singles in the middle part of the innings and because the Australians allowed 12 fewer extras, the New Zealanders had run out of balls to get to the target and were all out in the last over for 138.

One nil Australia. Tourists and locals then took advantage of the sunny evening and enjoyed a backyard BBQ and a few beers up the road at The Billiard Room.

¹ After this match, the last of the series originally scheduled, some Australian ladies burned a bail, sealed the ashes in an urn and presented it to the victorious captain of the English team. The urn, together with its embroidered velvet bag, is housed in the Memorial Gallery at Lord's.

Game 2

Played on 28 January 2017 at Cromwell Cricket Club, Cromwell

Snow capped mountains again dominated the formidable horizon for the second game of the tour, held in the pretty town of Cromwell situated one hour's drive from Queenstown. The drive along the Gibbston Valley hugging the banks of the Kawarau River and passing the AJ Hackett bridge was one of the greatest Saturday-morning-drives-to-cricket the tourists had ever experienced. Helped by the cracking weather (22 degrees and bright sunshine) the dull ache of the night before was expunged as the Australian team prepared to close out the series.

The theory was that winning the toss and bowling would allow the day's warmth to quicken up the again dense outfield to make batting easier in the afternoon. Toss duly won; the New Zealanders were invited to bat first.

The slow start by the New Zealand batsmen was again a credit to JK's accuracy. JK finished his 5 over spell with 0 for 15 and would come back to close the innings in equally impressive style, to end his day with the ball (but to continue his day with a few sneaky Irish friends) with figures of 0-28 from 7.

The New Zealanders were 2 for 64 after 18 overs and the Australians felt slightly in front at the drinks break, given the synthetic wicket and the improving outfield. However the New Zealand line up had timed their run well, coming out from the break with intent. The targets identified from the day before would be the scalps of Ashraf, Gresson, Whittington, Sim and Murphy. These were accounted for by Sanj (3 for 14), Tinman (3 for 25), and Docks (2 for 34), all bowling their allotted seven overs. Although Austin Powers had lived up to his tag as "the International Man of Mystery" the night before, his bowling was slightly less mysterious and was targeted by the New Zealanders to end his spell of seven overs with 0 for 64. Austin's cover as a bowler had been well and truly blown.

New Zealand finished the 35 overs for a total of 169, aided to a great extent by the eleventh wicket partnership of 37 runs (thanks to the Australians inviting New Zealand to bring a batsman back to bat 12).

Showing a distinct lack of imagination, Procter opened the Australian innings with a quickfire 12 off 6 to have a go at breaking the back of the impressive New Zealand total during the fielding restrictions. That was not to happen but as it turned out, in hindsight, was a masterstroke because it bought Seb to the crease. In workman like style, Seb got himself in (and retained the strike) by running a series of twos and well timed singles. Soon he could unleash tracer bullet boundaries including the occasional pull shots to clear the boundary and Australia was in the hunt. Ably supported in 50 run partnerships with Raza (14) and Sanj (20), the winning total of 170 was within easy reach. A superb piece of outfielding by Mike Walker for the New Zealanders caught Seb tragically short when running for the second, robbing Seb of his ton to finish with 89. With that, Australia needed 11 runs from the final two and a bit overs to secure the game and the series. Enter Decca. Calm under pressure and confident in his hand, Decca took his time, even shouldering arms to one delivery. The Australians looked on with baited breath (baited, by some, with some of JK's sneaky Irish friends) to watch a nail-biting finish. Needing four runs from the final over, Decca did not mess about on this occasion and struck a well hit pull shot to the long backward square boundary for four. Australia had clinched the first ever lawyers' series against New Zealand, played in good spirit and without an underarm delivery to whinge about.

The Cup was awarded and the players met up at the Gibbston Tavern for post series awards and discussions about two "great games of cricket" between two "great sides." The sides became "greater" as the evening went on. The New Zealanders regained pride by winning a boat race (note for future reference their stand out performers were Alastair Holland and the captain, Scott Donaldson).

Following a tip off from the Cambridge old boy Nick Whittington, a little research uncovered the name of Arthur Todd Holroyd, an English born doctor, lawyer and politician who had come to Australia from the Wellington bar in 1844.

The Holroyd Cup begins. May it continue.

The Holroyd Cup. Australian Lawyers vs New Zealand Lawyers
2017 ALCC tour of New Zealand



HD's Textbook



The Remarkables were an impressive sight screen



The flag filled by the breeze in front of a good looking range

The Holroyd Cup. Australian Lawyers vs New Zealand Lawyers
2017 ALCC tour of New Zealand



BBQ and beers at the back of The Billiards Room



Saturday-morning-drive-to-cricket



Holroyd homeward bound

[More photos on Dropbox](#)