

English Version of article in Kurier, <https://kurier.at/meinung/gastkommentar/keir-starmer-siegreich-und-uncool/402926441>

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Until recently few outside London SW 1 had really taken much notice of Keir Starmer, Labour leader and now UK Prime Minister. But named after the founder of the Labour Party, the Scotsman Keir Hardie it was clear he was predestined to do great things. Starmer was a Crown Prosecutor and a Sir. He is shy of being called Sir it sounds too upper class. In the election campaign he repeated his father was an ordinary tool maker but few bought into that. Media reports claim his Dad owned the factory and so for most he was just another politician, former lefty lawyer and therefore out of touch.

Starmer is on the boring side. During a party speech the Labour leader was covered in glitter by a protester trying to liven him up a bit. But Starmer remained stubbornly authentic and so we will all have to get used to it. On election night the internet was down in the Starmer house, to which he was heard to note, that's a bit frustrating. His understatements could become real highlights in the coming years.

Starmer is a man with a mission. He took over a divided and demoralised Party after a crushing electoral defeat in 2019. He ruthlessly turned that around, throwing out those on the left who had frightened voters. The Conservatives helped his cause bickering amongst themselves and indulging in one scandal after another.

As Starmer laconically proclaimed after his victory "We did it". But what does he do now? Government ministers were announced within hours and the luckless Rwanda plan to deport asylum seekers shelved at what cost is as yet unknown. Several task forces and expert groups have been set up to tackle the crisis ridden country.

Things could only get better and for a few days it seemed that under Labour football would finally come home. Starmer was in Berlin to watch first-hand how it didn't. At least he was spared fulfilling his expensive promise of a national holiday should the Lions win.

Starmer jetted off to Washington for the NATO summit. His bilateral meeting with President Biden ran longer than expected. Starmer was visibly flattered and several leaders whose own political futures look uncertain crowded round him wanting to know the secret of his success. What did he say, that he is simply uncool?

The Starmer family have a cat. The Starmer kids however want a dog. I suppose they see it as a consolation for having to live in No 10. Larry is not interested in Rwanda, he has no housing problem, has a permanent job, police protection and gets free food and medical care. But Larry likes a boring routine, most cats do. Sir Keir could fit the bill but a dog?

