

= Stephen Newton =

Stephen Cox Newton (21 April 1853 ? 16 August 1916) was an English cricketer who represented , and captained , Somerset County Cricket Club in the late 19th century . During a 14 @-@ year first @-@ class cricket career , he also represented Cambridge University , Middlesex and the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) .

He made his debut in first @-@ class cricket for Cambridge University , where he was awarded his Blue . He then spent nine seasons playing for Somerset , and captained the side for the last five of those seasons . Working as a schoolmaster at Highgate School in London from 1876 ? 1884 , his playing opportunities for the south @-@ western county were limited , and from 1885 he only played first @-@ class cricket at Lord 's cricket ground , representing Middlesex in three matches that season , and appearing for the MCC on nine occasions over six years . He returned to play for Somerset in 1887 and 1890 when they had lost their first @-@ class status . He worked as headmaster of Loudon House School in London for some years from 1888 , and died following an operation in 1916 in Ipswich .

= = Early life = =

Stephen Cox Newton was born on 21 April 1853 in Nailsea , Somerset to Robert Newton and Elizabeth Catherine Cox . He attended Victoria College , Jersey , where he played in the school cricket team for seven summers , from 1866 to 1872 , and topped the batting averages in five of those years (1867 , 1868 , 1869 , 1870 , and 1872) . He also captained the side during his last three years at the school .

On completion of his time at Victoria College , Newton continued his education at Cambridge University , attending Corpus Christi College . He played in the Freshman 's match in 1873 , in which made scores of two and twelve and took two wickets . A report in the Cambridge Independent Press concluded that very few of the players competing showed promise , and that they would " be surprised if more than two will be awarded their Blues " . Accordingly , Newton was not selected for the University team until final year at Cambridge . Despite this , he appeared a number of times during the summer vacation , known at Cambridge as the " long vacation " , for the eponymous Cambridge Long Vacation Club , captaining the team in 1875 .

He played five first @-@ class matches for the university , all in 1876 . His highest score during these matches was the 33 not out that he scored in the second innings of his first @-@ class debut , against an England XI . He was awarded his cricketing Blue , scoring seven runs at number ten during a nine wicket Cambridge victory over Oxford University .

= = Somerset County Cricket Club = =

= = = Pre @-@ first @-@ class years = = =

Newton assisted Somerset from 1876 until 1890 . The county cricket club had only been formally set @-@ up the previous year , and was seeking first @-@ class status . The majority of matches played by Newton for the county between 1876 and 1878 are recorded by CricketArchive as being for the ' Gentlemen of Somerset ' , and are not categorised as first @-@ class cricket , and although those from 1879 onwards are recorded as being for ' Somerset ' , they are generally regarded as remaining a ' second @-@ class ' of cricket .

During these pre @-@ first @-@ class seasons , Newton made a name for himself , and in his official history of the club , Peter Roebuck describes him as one of the talents of the side . He took on the captaincy of the club in 1880 , a season in which he passed 30 runs in five of the recorded seven innings in which he played . His highest score recorded on CricketArchive during these years for Somerset was the 91 which he scored in 1876 against the Gentlemen of Dorset . Team @-@ mate Bill Roe described Newton as a useful batsman who favoured playing balls on his pads . In his

obituary , Newton was described as being " a most excellent field " , particularly strong at cover @-@ point , while Haygarth 's Scores and Biographies characterised him as " a fine and free hitter , and a most excellent field " . He was the county 's top run @-@ scorer in 1877 , accumulating 285 runs at an average of 25 @.@ 90 , and he was also one of their principle bowlers , collecting 21 wickets during the season . He remained near the top of the batting charts for the club the following year , scoring the second @-@ most runs behind Edward Sainsbury , 146 at an average of 18 @.@ 25 . He was used less as a bowler than in the previous year , taking just six wickets . He once again trailed only Sainsbury amongst batsmen in 1880 , scoring 278 runs at an average of 30 @.@ 88 . He was appointed as the club captain for 1881 , though he was not able to play as frequently for the club , and finished the season with 93 runs from five innings at an average of 18 @.@ 3 .

= = = First @-@ class cricket = = =

Somerset gained first @-@ class status in 1882 , and retained it for four seasons . Newton was the club captain for the first three of these seasons , becoming the county 's first official captain . He did not , however , appear in Somerset 's first three matches : as a schoolmaster in London , he only played for the county in late @-@ July and August . In his first match as a first @-@ class cricket captain , he top @-@ scored in both innings , with 57 and 67 , as Somerset lost to MCC by one wicket . He then made 80 in the side 's next match , a victory over Hampshire . He fared less well in the remainder of the 1882 season , failing to reach a half @-@ century in any of his other three matches . Newton 's batting average of 34 @.@ 44 from his five first @-@ class matches in 1882 was the highest he achieved during his first @-@ class career , and both his total number of runs scored (310) and his number of half @-@ centuries (3) during the season were also career highs .

Newton suffered a slow start to his 1883 campaign , failing to pass 10 runs in his first five innings . His improvements improved in his next three matches , highlighted by a half @-@ century against Gloucestershire , scored during a 135 run partnership with Edward Sainsbury . His batting average for the season was almost half that of the previous year , and despite playing two additional innings he scored two less half @-@ centuries than in 1882 . In his first match for Somerset in 1884 , Newton claimed his only wickets in first @-@ class cricket . Bowling with a style that is not recorded on CricketArchive or Cricinfo , he claimed the wickets of Hampshire 's Arthur Richards and HH Armstrong , both batsmen being caught off his bowling . Newton utilised himself as a bowler only after using every other member of the side , with the exception of wicket @-@ keeper Francis Terry . In his next match , Newton avoided a pair against Lancashire by top @-@ scoring in Somerset 's second innings with 62 . That score was to be the last half @-@ century of Newton 's season , and his last in first @-@ class cricket for Somerset . He added two further scores above 30 against Kent , scoring 46 and 31 , He played three less innings than in the previous season , but surpassed his total runs from that season , and improved his average to 24 @.@ 22 . In his three years of first @-@ class cricket for Somerset , he scored no centuries , five half @-@ centuries , and averaged 24 @.@ 56 with the bat , higher than he finished with any other first @-@ class cricket side .

= = Playing at Lord 's = =

From the 1885 season , all of Newton 's first @-@ class appearances were made for either Middlesex or the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) at Lord 's cricket ground in St John 's Wood , London . Having been a member of the MCC since 1878 , Newton made his debut for the club in first @-@ class competition against Nottinghamshire in May 1885 . He appeared for the club five times during 1885 . In contrast to his time at Somerset , he did not restrict himself to playing only during late @-@ July and August . Playing for the side against Lancashire , Newton made his highest total in first @-@ class cricket , scoring 86 in the second @-@ innings of the match . This score was the only half @-@ century that Newton scored for a side other than Somerset . Newton appeared three times for Middlesex during 1885 , for whom he qualified under the residential criterion . He averaged 5 @.@ 33 for the county with the bat , and did not appear again after 1885 .

He appeared once for the MCC in first @-@ class cricket in each of the 1887 , 1888 , 1889 and 1890 seasons , after which he did not play first @-@ class cricket again . His final first @-@ class match was in May 1890 when he scored 1 and 21 during a seven wicket loss to Lancashire .

= = Later playing days = =

Newton returned to play three further matches for Somerset in 1887 and 1890 , when they did not hold first @-@ class status . He opened the innings for the county twice in 1887 , passing 20 on three out of four occasions . During Somerset 's successful 1890 season , when they remained unbeaten against other county opposition , Newton batted at number four , scoring 3 and 0 , his final recorded appearance for Somerset . CricketArchive records one further appearance for Newton , playing in Felixstowe for the MCC against Suffolk in 1905 , aged 52 . Opening the batting , he scored 87 to help his side to a nine wicket victory .

= = Teaching and later life = =

On graduating Newton worked as a schoolmaster at Highgate School in Highgate , London from 1876 ? 1884 and from 1888 he was headmaster of Loudon House School in St John 's Wood , London . He died on 16 August 1916 in a nursing home in Ipswich , Suffolk after an operation .