

= Abe Waddington =

Abraham " Abe " Waddington , sometimes known as Abram Waddington (4 February 1893 ? 28 October 1959) , was a professional cricketer for Yorkshire , who played in two Test matches for England , both against Australia in 1920 ? 21 . Between 1919 and 1927 Waddington made 255 appearances for Yorkshire , and in all first @-@ class cricket played 266 matches . In these games , he took a total of 852 wickets with his left arm fast @-@ medium bowling . Capable of making the ball swing , Waddington was admired for the aesthetic quality of his bowling action . He was a hostile bowler who sometimes sledged opposing batsmen and questioned umpires ' decisions , behaviour which was unusual during his playing days .

Waddington first played for Yorkshire after the First World War , when the team had been weakened by injuries and retirements . He made an immediate impression in 1919 , his first season ; he took 100 wickets and was largely responsible for Yorkshire 's victory in the County Championship that year . After a similarly successful season in 1920 , he was selected for the 1920 ? 21 Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) tour of Australia , during which he appeared in two of the five Tests . However , the England team were outclassed ; used in an unfamiliar tactical role , Waddington took just one wicket and never played for England again . He continued to be effective for Yorkshire , particularly against the weaker counties , but was often inconsistent . His reputation as an uncompromising opponent was cemented when he was found guilty of dissent and inciting the crowd in a game against Middlesex . A succession of injuries reduced his effectiveness and he retired from first @-@ class cricket in 1927 . He continued to play league cricket and worked for the family business , a fat @-@ refining firm , but maintained his connection with Yorkshire cricket .

In the early 1920s , Waddington played several football matches for Halifax Town as a goalkeeper , and after his retirement from cricket enjoyed some success as an amateur golfer . He was in trouble with the police on more than one occasion and after the Second World War was charged with defrauding his wartime employers , the Ministry of Food ; he was found not guilty . He died in 1959 at the age of 66 .

= = Early life = =

Abraham Waddington was born in Clayton , Bradford , on 4 February 1893 , the eldest of three brothers . His family owned a fat @-@ refining business managed by his father , Sam . When he left school , Waddington joined the family firm as a lorry driver , occasionally working in the refinery . He began playing cricket for Crossley Hall in the West Bradford League at the age of 11 ; as a teenager he played in the Bradford League for Lidget Green and then Laisterdyke , gaining a local reputation as a fast @-@ medium bowler . He helped Laisterdyke win the League championship in 1913 , before moving to Wakefield for the 1914 season , where he took 98 wickets at an average of 12 @.@ 00 . He played for Yorkshire Second XI in August 1914 , alongside future First XI teammates Herbert Sutcliffe and Cec Tyson , but the outbreak of the First World War prevented him making any further appearances for the county .

When war was declared , Waddington volunteered for Lord Kitchener 's New Army , joining the Bradford Pals battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment . On 1 July 1916 , during the first day of the Battle of the Somme , Waddington was wounded by shrapnel at Serre , and took shelter in a crater in no man 's land with other wounded soldiers . One of these was the Yorkshire cricketer Major Booth , who was mortally wounded . Waddington comforted Booth while the cricketer died in his arms , an experience which haunted Waddington for the rest of his life . After recovering , Waddington transferred to the Royal Flying Corps .

= = First @-@ class cricketer = =

= = = County debut = = =

Yorkshire 's bowling attack was severely depleted when cricket resumed in 1919 owing to a combination of retirements and deaths in the war . Additionally , George Hirst was past his best , meaning that Yorkshire needed to recruit new fast bowlers . In May and June , the team struggled to dismiss opposing sides on hard pitches ; their results were poor and when two important matches were lost in June , Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack suggested that " things looked very black " .

At this point in the season the Yorkshire cricketers Roy Kilner and Arthur Dolphin , who like Waddington had also been wounded at the Somme , recommended him to the Yorkshire committee , probably after seeing him take part in cricket matches in the army . Having returned to play for Laisterdyke in the Bradford League , Waddington was called into the Yorkshire side at the beginning of July for the County Championship match against Derbyshire . On his first @-@ class debut , he took four for 26 (four wickets for 26 runs) in 26 overs , and after missing the next match , he followed up with nine wickets against Essex in his second game , taking his first five wicket haul in the second innings of that match . From Waddington 's debut , Yorkshire 's results improved and the team won the Championship . Wisden judged that Waddington 's contribution was crucial : " Without him Yorkshire would certainly not have won the Championship " . He and Wilfred Rhodes formed an effective bowling partnership and , according to Wisden , " Rhodes and Waddington , with E. R. Wilson , for a few weeks , and [Emmott] Robinson to help them , carried the eleven from success to success " . It described Waddington as bowling " left @-@ hand , medium pace inclining to fast " , with a " delivery that seems part of himself ? free from any suggestion of labour or undue effort " ; it noted that he always bowled a good length and made the ball bounce sharply after pitching . The writer judged Waddington 's first season had been one of " exceptional promise " and predicted that Waddington would go on to " great things " . In the official history of Yorkshire County Cricket Club , Derek Hodgson suggests that Waddington 's versatility brought him success , as did the line which he bowled to the batsmen . He finished with 100 wickets at an average of 18 @.@ 74 , with eight five @-@ wicket returns . Waddington was only the sixth bowler in first @-@ class cricket history to reach 100 wickets in his debut year .

Yorkshire fell to fourth in the Championship in 1920 ; most of the bowling responsibility fell once more on Waddington and Rhodes , and the other bowlers provided little support . Despite a good start to the season , the team faded in the latter part of the year . Wisden suggested that " in the circumstances [Rhodes and Waddington] did wonders , Waddington having some irresistible days against the weaker counties . " He took 141 wickets in the season at an average of 16 @.@ 79 . His best figures came in the two matches against Northamptonshire : in the first game he took 11 wickets , and in the second took 13 wickets for 48 runs , including seven for 18 in the first innings , and a hat @-@ trick . Waddington 's season concluded with his selection for the professional " Players " teams in the prestigious Gentlemen v Players match at the Scarborough Festival . He was one of four players from Yorkshire chosen to tour Australia that winter with the MCC . Hodgson suggests that he was chosen as " the discovery of the first post @-@ war period " .

= = = Test selection and leading bowler = = =

The 1920 ? 21 MCC tour to Australia was unsuccessful for the tourists . Captained by J. W. H. T. Douglas , the team was overwhelmed by Australia , losing all five Test matches . Wisden stated that the " chief cause of failure was the bowling " . The MCC had been reluctant to tour so soon after the war , and critics had predicted the bowling would be weak in Australian conditions , where the pitches were generally hard and good for batting .

At the beginning of November , before the first @-@ class matches began , Waddington was operated on for abscesses , and missed the first five games . He played only one first @-@ class match before the first Test , but took wickets in several minor matches . Selected for the first Test , he took the first wicket to fall in the game , that of Charlie Macartney , but failed to take another wicket in the match while conceding 88 runs , hampered by a leg injury in the later stages . He did not play another Test until the fourth , where he bowled five overs for 31 runs . Waddington ended the tour with seven wickets at an average of 46 @.@ 71 ; his single Test wicket was at a cost of 119 runs . The tour was a frustrating experience for Waddington , who found the heat difficult to deal

with ; he was also unhappy that most of his appearances came in the non @-@ first @-@ class country matches , many against opponents fielding more than eleven players to make a more even fight . Throughout the tour , the press criticised Douglas for the way he used bowlers . Although Yorkshire used Waddington in short bursts with the objective of taking wickets , Douglas used him to bowl long defensive spells with the prime objective of run @-@ saving , a task to which Waddington was unsuited . Considered a failure ? Wisden later described his tour as " a sad disappointment " ? Waddington did not play for England again and was never seriously considered for a recall . He did have one batting success on the tour , scoring his maiden first @-@ class fifty against an " Australian XI " .

In the 1921 season , Waddington took 105 wickets at an average of 18 @.@ 94 . The introduction of the pace bowler George Macaulay into the team gave him more support , but according to a later edition of Wisden , Waddington 's form was poor that year . The almanack 's review of the 1921 season suggested that , when at full strength , Yorkshire had the best bowling attack in the championship , but the team finished third . Both Waddington and Yorkshire were more successful the following year : the county won the first of four successive championships , and Waddington took 133 wickets at an average of 16 @.@ 08 . He was often effective in the most important matches . Wisden suggested that " Yorkshire were very good at every point , but their main strength lay in the excellence and variety of their bowling ... [Waddington] was , on occasions , more successful against strong sides than he had ever been before . He had days of astonishing success and once , at least , bowled with a bewildering swerve [i. e. swing bowling] that recalled George Hirst at his best . " Among his best performances were figures of eight for 34 against Northamptonshire (the best of his career) , seven wickets for six runs in a Sussex total of 20 and eight for 35 against Hampshire . His season ended with festival games at Eastbourne , where he represented the North against the South and played for a team of ex @-@ Royal Air Force servicemen .

= = = Injury and controversy = = =

Waddington was less effective in 1923 , and despite a good bowling average , he was inconsistent . In July , he slipped on wet grass when he was about to bowl against Leicestershire at Fartown Ground , Huddersfield ; the subsequent shoulder injury effectively ended his season , apart from one match against Lancashire in which he bowled just six overs . In September , the injury required an operation to repair a torn ligament . The injury affected the remainder of his career and his bowling was never as effective . In total , before his injury , he took 65 wickets at 18 @.@ 23 in 1923 . That season , he recorded his best figures with the bat ; after never having a first @-@ class batting average better than 12 in an English season , he scored 317 runs at 24 @.@ 38 , including his first fifty in England .

On his return in 1924 , Waddington bowled little in his first matches , but was used more in Yorkshire 's defeat by Middlesex at Lord 's where he bowled 42 overs to take three for 116 . Several Yorkshire players were absent , playing representative matches , but the game had consequences later in the season . In the return match at Sheffield in July , the Yorkshire players seemed determined to have revenge but could only secure a draw . Critics thought that the Yorkshire bowlers appealed excessively to the umpires , and the Middlesex players were barracked by the crowd . The journalist Alfred Pullin described the match as " a sorry exhibition of ill feeling and bad manners . "

The umpires reported Waddington to the cricket committee of the MCC for inciting the crowd through his appeals and gestures of displeasure when batsmen were not given out . Waddington maintained his innocence but the MCC supported the umpires , finding him guilty of dissent , and the Yorkshire president Lord Hawke persuaded him to write a letter of apology to the MCC secretary . After the game , Middlesex threatened to cancel their future matches against Yorkshire ; rumours circulated that the Yorkshire captain Geoffrey Wilson had offered to resign and that Waddington would be dropped . Later in 1924 , Yorkshire had another controversial match , this time against Surrey , where there were disputes on the field , but no official complaint was made . The editor of

Wisden suggested that a handful of players were the root cause of Yorkshire 's problem ; Geoffrey Wilson resigned at the end of the season , and these events probably cost Macaulay a place in the England Test team . The Yorkshire cricketer and journalist Bill Bowes later recalled a story in circulation that Waddington had deliberately tripped and injured the Middlesex player J. W. Hearne around this period , although he did not specify if it was during the 1924 Sheffield match . Waddington ended the season with 69 wickets at an average of 21 @. @ 55 , but appeared less effective than before his injury .

= = = Decline = = =

Waddington took more than 100 wickets in a season for the final time in 1925 . Although his form was mixed , he achieved some good performances . Wisden attributed Yorkshire 's championship victory to their bowlers and suggested that " Waddington enjoyed a well @-@ merited success " . In total , he took 109 wickets at an average of 20 @. @ 24 . In 1926 both he and the other bowlers were less successful as Yorkshire slipped to second . Wisden noticed a decline in his bowling , but expected him to recover his form . He took 78 wickets at an average of 23 @. @ 30 , and scored his highest aggregate with the bat in a season , making 525 runs with two fifties . In the English winter of 1926 ? 27 , he travelled to India and worked as a cricket coach .

Waddington 's bowling declined further in 1927 , to the point where Wisden suggested his record was poor and his " work was only occasionally worthy of his reputation " . The effectiveness of the other bowlers was similarly reduced , and combined with a cautious , safety @-@ first approach , Yorkshire had a mixed season and finished third . Waddington took 45 wickets at 32 @. @ 02 , and conceded a high number of runs on many occasions . However , in what was his last season , he scored his only first @-@ class century , an innings of 114 against Worcestershire . His final first @-@ class appearance was for the North against the South at the Folkestone Festival , where he bowled 16 overs without taking a wicket . At the end of the season , Waddington was offered a new contract despite his decline in bowling and continuing problems from his injured shoulder . He turned it down , ending his county cricket career . In all first @-@ class matches , Waddington took 852 wickets at an average of 19 @. @ 75 and scored 2 @, @ 527 runs at an average of 12 @. @ 89 with four fifties as well as the century . The following season , Yorkshire awarded him a testimonial of £ 1 @, @ 000 .

= = Style and personality = =

Waddington bowled with control , maintaining a good length while his action made the ball swing away from the batsman . For variation , he delivered an off @-@ cutter and when he bowled , the ball seemed to increase its speed after bouncing . He often bowled around the wicket . His curved run @-@ up began from the on side of the wicket , and he ran behind the umpire . He then released the ball from the corner of the bowling crease , creating a sharp angle for the batsman to face , sometimes using short deliveries with a ring of leg side fielders . Waddington modelled his bowling on that of George Hirst , a fellow left @-@ arm paceman who also acted as a coach and mentor to him in his early career , but Derek Hodgson notes that the two men were very different in personality : Waddington was far more quick @-@ tempered than Hirst . Waddington 's bowling action was noted for its excellence and perfection . Neville Cardus , the journalist and cricket writer , described it as " gloriously rhythmical " , and " so lovely that one simply cannot deny he is a good bowler . " But too often , Cardus suggested , he was " ever raising hopes that real greatness will come from him , only to disappoint again and again " .

Although Waddington scored a first @-@ class century in his final season , he did not live up to his batting potential despite a good style . A lower @-@ order batsman , he was inclined to be dismissed through playing irresponsible shots . Herbert Sutcliffe believed that , had he not been a bowler , Waddington may have developed into a leading batsman ; he wrote that Waddington " had as delightful a batting style as he had a bowling style . " But Sutcliffe suggested that Waddington did not possess the required patience : " He used to hit up a brilliant 30 or 40 before making a perfectly

silly shot " .

Waddington resented the class divisions in English cricket , his feelings fuelled by experiences of officers in the war and possibly his tour to Australia in 1920 ? 21 . He fully embraced Yorkshire 's hard @-@ edged competitiveness in the early 1920s : he questioned the decisions of umpires and sledged opposing batsmen , both of which were unusual at the time . His Times obituary noted that some disagreements came because Waddington played to win and was an enthusiastic appealer , although he was unlikely to win many appeals for leg before wicket because of the angle at which he bowled . Anthony Woodhouse , the cricket historian , describes Waddington as a " wild and irresponsible ... quick @-@ tempered individual " . But there was another side to his personality ; he was a good talker and liked to wear smart clothes , including monogrammed silk shirts . Sutcliffe , a close friend and team @-@ mate of Waddington , called him " a genial fellow in the dressing room ; a man with a rare personality , proof of which is shown by the fact that whenever there was a discussion of any kind in the dressing room , Abe generally ruled it , to all intents and purposes , the chairman . " The cricket writer Jim Kilburn wrote that " at his best , [Waddington] was a magnificently hostile bowler with one of the most beautiful actions ever seen in cricket , and his pace and break @-@ back were a problem for the greatest of batsmen " . The historian Leslie Duckworth summed him up : " Yes , a man of temper , Waddington , but a fine cricketer . "

= = Later life = =

When Waddington retired from first @-@ class cricket , he took over the family business . He played as a professional in the Birmingham League in 1928 , and for Accrington in 1929 and 1930 . He maintained friendships with several members of the Yorkshire team and was a pallbearer at Kilner 's funeral in 1928 . In 1954 ? 55 , the Yorkshire player and England captain Len Hutton invited Waddington to accompany the members of the MCC team to Australia . En route by sea , the team visited the grave of Hedley Verity , the Yorkshire bowler who was killed in Italy in the Second World War and buried there . Including his visit as a player , Waddington made five trips to Australia .

Waddington had success in other sports , especially as an amateur football goalkeeper . He was with Bradford City in the 1920 ? 21 football season , but did not play a match for them . For the 1921 ? 22 season , he played for Halifax Town , making seven appearances in the Football League . He was a good enough golfer to represent Yorkshire , to partner Henry Cotton , and to play in the qualifying rounds of the Open Championship in 1935 and 1939 . Sutcliffe wrote that leading golfers told him that had Waddington not been a cricketer , he had the talent to have succeeded as a golfer , although he was prone to carelessness in his play . One Bradford golf club banned him after he poured a glass of beer over the captain , who Waddington believed had used inappropriate language in front of a woman . A motorcycling enthusiast , he regularly attended the Isle of Man TT , although his love of fast cars brought him trouble from the police at times . After one incident in 1938 , he was fined £ 5 for assaulting a policeman and using obscene language after being asked to dip his headlights . In 1950 , he was fined and banned from driving for a year after being found drunk while attempting to start up his car . In mitigation , his lawyer claimed he was suffering from " overwork , worry and insomnia . "

At the start of the Second World War , Waddington was appointed chairman of the North Eastern Division Advisory Committee for the Control of Oils and Fats and became an agent of the Ministry of Food . His responsibilities included arranging for the storage of fats . When the war concluded , he was charged with conspiracy to defraud the Ministry of Food when it was discovered that a letter detailing amounts of money had been altered . The prosecution alleged that between 1943 and 1944 , Waddington and the manager of another fat storage firm shared £ 1 @, @ 600 between them which should have gone to the latter 's company when the price paid by the Ministry for storage increased . Waddington denied all knowledge ; his brother Priestley , another director at the family firm , said that he made the arrangements to pay a portion of the increased fees to Waddington 's co @-@ defendant without the knowledge of Waddington . Waddington was acquitted when a judge ruled that there was no way that it could be proven that he had known of the alteration to the letter , or that he was in any way responsible .

Waddington was married twice . In 1925 , he married Mabel Fawell ; none of his Yorkshire team @-@ mates were aware that he was getting married . In 1952 , he married Doris Garforth ; on this occasion , many of his former cricketing colleagues attended . After a long illness , Waddington died in a Scarborough nursing home on 28 October 1959 aged 66 . He was cremated in Bradford .