

= Bobby Peel =

Robert " Bobby " Peel (12 February 1857 ? 12 August 1941) was an English professional cricketer who played first @-@ class cricket for Yorkshire between 1883 and 1897 . Primarily a left @-@ arm spin bowler , Peel was also an effective left @-@ handed batsman who played in the middle order . Between 1884 and 1896 , he was regularly selected to represent England , playing 20 Test matches in which he took 101 wickets . Over the course of his career , he scored 12 @,@ 191 runs and took 1 @,@ 775 wickets in first @-@ class cricket . A match @-@ winning bowler , particularly when conditions favoured his style , Peel generally opened the attack , an orthodox tactic for a spinner at the time , and was highly regarded by critics .

Peel began playing for Yorkshire in 1883 but , after a successful debut , was overshadowed in the team by Edmund Peate and often played only a minor role with the ball . Improvements in his batting and his excellence as a fielder kept him in the team and when Peate was sacked for drunkenness in 1887 , Peel became Yorkshire 's main spinner . He had already played for England , touring Australia with two professional teams , although he did not play a Test in England until 1888 . Over the following years he regularly took over 100 wickets in each season and often played in the prestigious Gentlemen v Players matches . He was generally Yorkshire 's leading bowler ? until the emergence of George Hirst , he generally received little support from other members of the attack ? and often among their leading batsmen . His best season in county cricket came in 1896 , when he recorded the double of 1 @,@ 000 runs and 100 wickets , and made his highest first @-@ class score of 210 . Among his notable feats in Tests , he bowled England to victory after they had followed on in Australia in 1894 ? 95 and took six for 23 in his final Test . The first English cricketer to reach 100 wickets against Australia , in 1894 ? 95 he also became the first player who failed to score in four successive Test innings .

As a player , Peel was very popular and admirers often entertained him socially ; he became well known for liking alcohol . On the morning of the match that England won after following on , Peel was intoxicated and had to be sobered up . In 1897 , he was suspended by Yorkshire for drunkenness during a match . Although it is unclear what exactly happened ? Peel said he slipped when fielding , but Hirst later recalled that he came on the field drunk and when asked to leave , bowled a ball in the wrong direction ? he never played for the county again . Decades later , a widely circulated story suggested that Peel urinated on the pitch before being sent away . Historians consider the story unlikely , and attribute it to a misunderstanding by its reporter . Peel continued to play and coach cricket for most of his life and in later years became associated with Yorkshire once again . Among his other jobs , he became the landlord of a public house and worked in a mill . He died in 1941 at the age of 84 .

= = Early career = =

= = = Yorkshire cricketer = = =

Peel was born in Churwell , a village close to Morley , on 12 February 1857 . He was the son of a miner , and Peel himself worked in the mines for a time . From the age of 16 , he played with increasing frequency for the Churwell cricket team , and by 1882 was part of the Yorkshire Colts . At the time , Ted Peate was the first @-@ choice left @-@ arm spin bowler in the Yorkshire team , and his presence restricted Peel 's opportunities . An injury to Peate allowed Peel to make his first @-@ class debut for Yorkshire against Surrey at Sheffield on 10 July 1882 . Peel took nine wickets in the game , including five for 83 (five wickets taken while conceding 83 runs) in the second innings . Lord Hawke ? who assumed the captaincy of Yorkshire later that season ? subsequently described Peel 's debut as one of the most impressive for Yorkshire .

Peel played regularly alongside Peate between 1883 and 1886 . He had a junior role , and his bowling was used sparingly ; in five seasons he took 163 wickets for Yorkshire , and he only took over 50 first @-@ class wickets in a season once before 1887 . His obituary in Wisden Cricketers '

Almanack in 1942 stated : " Yorkshire were singularly rich in bowling talent , so that [Peel] had to wait several years before attaining real distinction " . Peel retained his place through his ability as a batsman and fielder ; in his history of Yorkshire County Cricket Club , R. S. Holmes judges that Peel was " brilliant " as a fielder and that it was " probably the marked improvement in [his] batting which first secured him a place in the County eleven . " He had occasional success with the ball , for example taking eleven for 87 in the match against Gloucestershire in 1884 ? a match in which Peate did not play . Meanwhile , his batting average gradually improved until it reached the mid @-@ 20s in 1887 . At the time , the Yorkshire team was generally inconsistent .

= = = Test debut = = =

During the English winter of 1884 ? 85 , Peel was included in the team which toured Australia under the management of Alfred Shaw , Arthur Shrewsbury and James Lillywhite . English teams that toured Australia at this time were not composed exclusively of the best cricketers in England . The 1884 ? 85 English team , like most earlier tours , contained only professional cricketers ; less usually , the team contained nine players who , critics judged , would likely have been in a full @-@ strength England side . Much of the cricket was overshadowed by off @-@ field clashes with the Australian team that had toured England in 1884 ; the disputes mainly concerned each team 's share of match receipts . Peel was required to bowl a large number of overs ; in minor matches , mainly played against the odds (where the opposition teams included more players than the English team) , he took 321 wickets at an average of less than five . In first @-@ class matches , he was the leading wicket @-@ taker with 35 wickets , but his average of 19 @.@ 22 was relatively high .

During the tour , Peel made his Test debut and played all five matches . His first Test began on 12 December 1884 . Opening the bowling , took eight wickets in the match ; in the second innings , he took five for 51 on a pitch affected by rain . He was less effective in the remaining games , ending the series with 21 wickets at an average of 21 @.@ 47 , and scored 37 runs at an average of 7 @.@ 40 . He was not selected in the next Test matches played by England , against Australia in 1886 , and missed the next English tour of Australia , in the winter of 1886 ? 87 , again organised by Shaw , Shrewsbury and Lillywhite .

= = Leading bowler = =

= = = Main Yorkshire spinner = = =

In 1886 , Lord Hawke became full @-@ time captain of the Yorkshire team . One of his first actions , with the support of the Yorkshire committee , was to sack Peate early in the 1887 season . At the time , many professional cricketers drank heavily and the Yorkshire team had many players who liked alcohol . Peate had been the chief offender for some years , and while he remained Yorkshire 's leading left @-@ arm spinner , his disruptive influence and disregard for authority was having a negative influence on the team . The historian Mick Pope suggests that Hawke may have felt able to act as he knew that Peel was available as a replacement . With Peate unavailable , Peel began to play a leading role . In the 1887 season , a year in which good weather produced conditions generally in favour of batsmen , he took 85 wickets at an average of 17 @.@ 32 . He also improved his record with the bat , scoring 835 runs at 25 @.@ 30 . According to his Wisden obituary , he recorded at least two match @-@ winning performances that season : against Kent he took five for 14 and scored 43 runs in a low @-@ scoring game ; in the match against Leicestershire he took eleven wickets for 51 . Twice in 1887 , Peel appeared for the professional Players in their prestigious match against the Gentlemen , the first time he had been selected for the team . He played regularly for them until 1897 .

During the winter of 1887 ? 88 , the Melbourne Cricket Club organised another English tour of Australia . The team was mainly composed of amateurs , but Peel was included with three other professionals . At the same time , a rival English team , organised by Shaw , Shrewsbury and

Lillywhite , also toured Australia . The resulting confusion affected the attendances at games and the financial success of both tours . The lack of success for the Australian team in this period lessened the quality of Tests and , amid declining spectator interest , touring teams no longer generated profits . In his history of early international cricket , Malcolm Knox observes that " two England teams were coming when Australian cricket was not strong enough to host one " . Peel took 49 first @-@ class wickets on the tour , finishing second in the bowling averages for the team , and scored 449 runs in first @-@ class matches at an average of 34 @.@ 53 , which placed him second in the batting averages . Although various matches were played by both teams against combined Australian teams , only one official Test match was played on the tour . The best eleven players from both English teams combined to defeat an Australian team which had several leading players missing ; later writers questioned whether the match should have the status of a Test . Peel took nine wickets in the match , including five for 18 in the first innings as Australia were bowled out for 42 runs .

= = = Home Test matches = = =

In 1888 , an unusually rainy summer led to wet pitches which made batting difficult . Peel took 171 first @-@ class wickets , the first time he had passed 100 wickets in a season , at an average of 12 @.@ 22 . He also topped the Yorkshire bowling averages for county matches . His best performance came against Nottinghamshire , when he took eight for 12 in the first innings on the way to fourteen for 33 in the match ; for the Players against the Gentlemen , he took six for 34 . In the season , Peel scored 669 runs at 13 @.@ 38 . That year , an Australian team toured England and Peel was chosen for his first Test matches in England . The Australian team , missing several key players , won the first Test match before England recovered to win the final two games . Playing all three Tests , Peel took 24 wickets at an average of 7 @.@ 54 . In the decisive third Test , he took seven for 31 in the first Australian innings and finished with match figures of eleven for 68 . Wisden noted that Peel " bowled remarkably well " in the second Test ; it stated that , in the third , " the Australians were helpless against Peel " and judged his overall performance " altogether admirable " . Peel 's performance in 1888 resulted in his selection , prior to the 1889 season , as one of Wisden 's " Six Great Bowlers " ; this was the first time Wisden had made the award which in later years became the prestigious Wisden Cricketer of the Year . The citation said : " During his early career [Peel] was contemporary with Peate , and naturally did not get the same chances that have fallen to his lot during the last two years . He has won his way to the very front rank by sheer merit , and bats and fields so well that he would be worth playing in any eleven if he could not get a wicket . "

Yorkshire had a poor season in 1889 , finishing second @-@ from @-@ last in the list of counties ; writing in 1904 , Holmes described this as " the low @-@ water mark of Yorkshire cricket " . The team lost twelve games and won eight , affected by the decline of several leading players . The fielding was poor ; Peel had twelve catches dropped from his bowling in one game . Only Peel had a good season , and Holmes pondered : " Where would Yorkshire have been without Peel ? " He took 130 wickets at an average of 16 @.@ 39 ; with the bat , he scored 991 runs , his best seasonal aggregate to that point , at an average of 22 @.@ 02 . He came top of both the Yorkshire batting and bowling averages and had three times more wickets than any other player . Additionally , he was the only player in the team to score a century in matches against another county ; against Middlesex at Lord 's , he scored 158 runs , his maiden first @-@ class hundred . At the end of the season , Hawke ended the careers of several players ; the Yorkshire president told the committee that the " demon drink " was to blame .

In 1890 , Peel took 171 wickets at an average of 13 @.@ 71 and scored 817 runs at 18 @.@ 56 . He missed several Yorkshire games while playing representative matches , but was comfortably their leading bowler with 91 wickets for the county ? the next best figure was 37 wickets . The Australians toured England again that year , and Peel took six wickets in the first Test at Lord 's . The touring team 's results were poor , which resulted in a loss of prestige for the Test matches . The newly formed County Championship was a rival attraction , and several players were withdrawn from the England team to play for their counties ? Andrew Stoddart , for example , was withdrawn by

Middlesex before the first Test . With Middlesex due to play Yorkshire , Stoddart was also withdrawn from the second Test ; upon finding this out , Lord Hawke withdrew his Yorkshire players from the England XI , including Peel . In the Middlesex ? Yorkshire game , Peel dismissed Stoddart twice . The third Test was rained off completely .

During the 1891 season , Peel took 99 wickets at 17 @. @ 35 and scored 971 runs at 24 @. @ 27 , including his second first @-@ class century , but Yorkshire again performed poorly . This prompted a reorganisation of the club over the following two years . Peel led the Yorkshire batting averages and came second in the bowling . In the winter of 1891 ? 92 , he was included in the touring team to Australia organised by Lord Sheffield and captained by W. G. Grace . He came fourth in the team 's bowling averages with 15 wickets at 18 @. @ 86 and finished fifth in the batting averages with 229 runs at 25 @. @ 44 . He played in all three Test matches , taking six wickets at 21 @. @ 33 , and scoring 134 runs at 26 @. @ 80 . In the third game , he scored 83 , his first Test match fifty , but did not bowl ; The Lancashire cricketer Johnny Briggs bowled Australia out on a rain @-@ damaged pitch but this was England 's only victory as Australia won the series 2 ? 1 .

In first @-@ class matches during 1892 , Peel scored 772 runs at 19 @. @ 79 and took 121 wickets at 16 @. @ 80 . Additionally , in a non @-@ first @-@ class games against Leicestershire , he scored 226 as well as taking five wickets in Leicestershire 's first innings . In the 1893 season , he took slightly more wickets at a lower average (126 at 14 @. @ 51) but his run aggregate fell to 550 runs at 13 @. @ 75 . He was part of a successful Yorkshire team . The county won their first official County Championship title and the team was no longer as dependent on Peel with the ball ? Ted Wainwright took more wickets than he did . The Australians toured England once again , but Peel played in just one of the three Test matches . He did not take a wicket , did little with the bat , and was left out of the team for the second Test . As the Australians had proved poor on the field , Lord Hawke withdrew Peel and Stanley Jackson from the team for the third Test so that they could play for Yorkshire . In 1894 , Peel scored 699 runs at 16 @. @ 25 , failing to score a half @-@ century . With the ball , he took 145 wickets at 13 @. @ 44 . During the season , he was awarded a benefit match at Bradford , which raised £ 2 @, @ 000 . The retirement of George Ulyett that season made Peel the team 's senior professional , an important position at the time .

= = = Australian tour of 1894 ? 95 = = =

During the 1894 season , the Melbourne Cricket Club and the trustees of the Sydney Cricket Ground combined to organise another English tour of Australia . They asked Andrew Stoddart to raise a team , and Peel was chosen . Peel was successful in the opening first @-@ class matches of the tour . He took five wickets in innings against South Australia , Victoria and New South Wales ; after three games , he had taken 23 wickets , and he and Briggs provided the main threat with the ball . Against Victoria , Peel also scored 48 and 65 with the bat . He played a leading role in the first Test , which Wisden described as " probably the most sensational match ever played either in Australia or in England " . Australia scored 586 in their first innings ; England scored 325 and , following @-@ on , scored 437 to leave a target of 177 to win . At the end of the fifth day 's play , Australia had scored 113 for two , and were overwhelming favourites to win .

Until then , Peel had been ineffective in the match . Several of the England team , including Peel , drank heavily in the night thinking the game was lost , but overnight rain drastically changed the nature of the pitch . Peel had not sobered up when play was scheduled to start , although Stoddart had given him a cold shower to speed up the process , and arrived late . As another player was also missing , the start was delayed ; this allowed the pitch to dry further and therefore become more sticky and difficult to bat on . Peel had slept through the overnight storm and was astonished when he saw the state of the pitch , suspecting someone had watered it . He reportedly said : " Gi ' me t 'ball , Mr Stoddart . Ah 'll get t 'buggers out before lunch " . With Briggs , Peel bowled Australia out , taking five wickets to go with the one he took the previous evening to finish with six for 67 . Australia scored 166 and lost by ten runs . One Australian newspaper reported that Peel " found the match rather a trying one , and came in fairly done up " . The English team were praised for fighting back , but the role of the weather was acknowledged , and some critics blamed the Australians for batting

badly in the second innings .

England won the second Test ; after both teams ' first innings were low @-@ scoring , Peel , appearing at number six , batted for 150 minutes in the second innings to score 53 without hitting any fours . Stoddart 's 173 set Australia a big target , and Peel took four for 77 to bowl England to a 94 @-@ run win . Australia won the third Test by 382 runs ; Peel took four wickets in the game , but was dismissed in both innings without scoring . It is possible that around this time , Peel was threatened by Stoddart with expulsion from the tour owing to his drinking . Australia won the fourth Test to level the series at 2 ? 2 . In very favourable bowling conditions , Peel took three for 74 but Australia totalled 284 . England were bowled out twice to give Australia an innings victory , and Peel suffered his second consecutive pair (i.e. failing to score in either innings) . He was the first player to score four successive ducks in Test cricket , a succession of failures not repeated until 1936 , and this remained the record number of successive ducks until 1985 .

Amid great public interest ? the game was advertised as " the match of the century " ? and great tension , the decisive final Test match was played . Peel took four wickets in Australia 's first innings , then scored 73 runs in the first innings , sharing a 162 @-@ run partnership with Archie MacLaren . In Australia 's second innings , Peel took three more wickets to return match figures of seven for 203 in 94 overs . Jack Brown scored a century to guide England towards a target of 297 , and Peel eventually hit the winning runs . Peel ended the series with 27 wickets at 26 @.@ 70 , second in the averages behind Tom Richardson , and 168 runs at 18 @.@ 67 , placing him sixth in the batting averages . David Frith suggests that this series was vital in establishing the importance of Test cricket , and that the interest felt in both England and Australia , and the coverage by the press , set up the pattern and expectations of future Test series . In all first @-@ class games , Peel scored 421 runs at 21 @.@ 05 , to be eighth in the averages , and took 57 wickets at 25 @.@ 28 , placing him third in the averages behind Richardson and Briggs , although the latter had fewer wickets .

= = = Final seasons = = =

Returning to England for the 1895 season , Peel took 180 wickets , the most he took in any season , at an average of 14 @.@ 97 . This included the best figures of his career when he took nine for 22 against Somerset ; in total he took fifteen wickets in that match , and Wisden described this performance as " causing a sensation " . He led the Yorkshire bowling averages , and George Hirst became his regular partner opening the bowling . Both men took over 130 wickets for Yorkshire that season and the pair established an effective bowling partnership until the end of Peel 's career . With the bat in 1895 , Peel scored 847 runs at 17 @.@ 28 . In 1896 , Peel performed the double of 1 @,@ 000 runs and 100 wickets for the only time in his first @-@ class career . In a dry summer which favoured batsmen , his wickets came at a higher average : he took 128 at 17 @.@ 50 , but he scored 1 @,@ 206 runs at 30 @.@ 15 , his best batting aggregate and average in an English season . He came third in the Yorkshire batting averages , and often succeeded in scoring runs when the team were under pressure . Against Warwickshire , he scored 210 not out , the highest first @-@ class innings of his career , and one of four centuries in the innings , out of a Yorkshire total of 887 . A contemporary critic described Peel 's innings as the best ever played by a left @-@ hander . He shared a partnership of 292 for the eighth wicket with Lord Hawke . As of 2014 , this remains Yorkshire 's highest partnership for that wicket , and the fifth @-@ highest eighth @-@ wicket partnership recorded in first @-@ class cricket . He also took a hat @-@ trick against Kent .

The Australians played three Tests in England in 1896 , but Peel only played in the final one . Before the match , several English professionals ? not including Peel ? threatened to strike , but the dispute was settled . Then , before the third day of the game , the pitch was mysteriously watered , becoming very difficult for batting . Australia only needed a small total , but Peel believed that he could bowl them out . He took six of the last seven Australian wickets at a cost of 23 runs to bowl England to victory ; in recognition of this achievement , Stanley Jackson , a team @-@ mate in this game , gave him a gold watch @-@ chain ornament . He was less successful with the bat , scoring a pair once again . This was his final Test match . In total , Peel played 20 Tests , scoring 427 runs at an average of 14 @.@ 72 and taking 101 wickets at 16 @.@ 98 .

In January 1897 , the Australian Fred Spofforth claimed in a letter to the Sporting Life that Peel occasionally threw the ball , an accusation he also levelled at Tom McKibbin , an Australian bowler . Spofforth wrote that Peel " has no need to resort to throwing . I acknowledge that he does not often take to it , still , it is well known to cricketers that at times he does ' shy ' [throw] . " Peel denied this and claimed that leading umpires would support him .

= = Dismissal by Yorkshire = =

In the 1897 season , Peel was suspended by Yorkshire for drunkenness . Alcohol was popular with many professional cricketers , and the careers of several Yorkshire players in this period , including Peate , had been ended for this reason . Peel was always known to be a heavy drinker , but his behaviour had been tolerated . His fame , brought about by his performances , made the problem worse . Derek Hodgson , in the official Yorkshire club history , writes : " A cheerful , gregarious man , [Peel] took to hospitality and entertaining with alacrity and moved in such society , particularly in London , that when one of the foremost journalists of the day asked to see him he was fobbed off by a man who announced himself as ' Peel 's secretary ' , adding : ' He does not like interviews and has little to say . He sent me to take his place . ' " Hodgson observes : " It is not impossible , of course , that Bobby was either shy , or ' indisposed ' at that particular moment " , and suggests that Peel 's downfall , like Peate 's before him , was because he " was too often the toast of the town " .

In 1897 , Peel had played regularly until July with some success . He scored 115 against Leicestershire , and took eight for 53 against Kent . He then suffered an injury in a match against Lancashire that caused him to miss around a month of cricket . He returned to the Yorkshire team to play Middlesex at Sheffield on 16 August . In Middlesex 's first innings , Peel took five for 71 , but on the third day , he appeared on the field drunk . Later that day , the Yorkshire committee met and resolved to suspend Peel for the remainder of the season for " presenting himself on the field in a state of intoxication " . According to Anthony Woodhouse , in his history of Yorkshire County Cricket Club , this was not Peel 's first such offence . Contemporary accounts give no indication of trouble on the field involving Peel , but the influential Lord Hawke may have encouraged the press to remain silent . The decision to suspend Peel was made public on 19 August , the following day .

There are several conflicting versions of what happened on the field in the Middlesex game . On the morning of 19 August , replying to suggestions that he was drunk , Peel spoke to a newspaper reporter and stated : " Before I went on the ground at Sheffield ? I don 't blush to say it ? I had two small glasses of gin and water . At luncheon time I had nothing " . Peel said that he opened the bowling with Stanley Jackson and was eventually rested without a word being said to him . He stated that he later slipped twice while fielding , but the cause was that the spikes on his boots were broken . That evening , when he went to collect his wages at the end of the game , the Yorkshire secretary , Joseph Wolstenholme , informed him of the suspension on the grounds that his play was " unsatisfactory " , and when pressed by Peel for an explanation , he told him : " You have had a glass too much " .

The cricket writer A. A. Thompson relates a different story told to him fifty years later by Hirst , who was playing in the match . According to this account , Hirst was having breakfast when Peel came in drunk . Anxious that Peel would be seen , and worried about bringing the team into disrepute , Hirst forced Peel to return to bed and went to the ground , where he told Lord Hawke that Peel had been taken ill in the night and would not be able to play . Hawke promised to see Peel that evening and took the twelfth man onto the field . According to Thompson , when Hirst went onto the field , he saw " with dawning dismay that there were not eleven fieldsmen present but twelve . There , his face red , his cap awry , the ball in his hand , stood Peel " . Peel was even more drunk than at breakfast , and Hawke ordered him from the field . Peel replied that he was fine , and according to Hirst bowled a ball to demonstrate his fitness , but in his confusion did so in the wrong direction . Peel was then led from the field . After falling asleep in the hotel , he was advised by Hirst to apologise to Lord Hawke , but refused , claiming that he was indispensable to the team and would be recalled .

A different , widely circulated story suggests that Peel urinated on the pitch before being dismissed by Hawke . Woodhouse , writing in 1989 , suggested that " it is difficult to ascertain the truth behind

this long @-@ standing tale " , while Hodgson observes : " I have never been convinced of this account because it has always seemed to be so much out of character for a cricketer of that time when so much stress was placed upon behaving ' like a gentleman ' even in one 's cups . " Mick Pope writes : " The more recent accusation that Peel urinated on the pitch remains unjust , unproven and such a myth ... that it should have no place in any study of Bobby Peel , the cricketer . " The story originated in a cricket publication , Cricket Quarterly , in 1968 . The historian Rowland Bowen , in an article called " Fresh Light on the Dismissal of R Peel in 1897 " , claimed that an " aged Yorkshireman of 85 " told him that Peel had urinated and that this was a common practice then . Subsequent research by the historian Irving Rosewater established that Bowen 's information came to him second @-@ hand . The 85 @-@ year @-@ old had not used the word " urinated " but had actually said " pissed at the wicket " , meaning that Peel was drunk (" pissed " being slang for drunk) on the pitch (" at the wicket ") . Rosewater suggests that this was merely repetition of the already known story , not the new information claimed by Bowen . Rosewater self @-@ published his findings in a book called An Unjust Slur on Bobby Peel in 1997 .

Peel , having concluded that the suspension would end his Yorkshire career , signed a contract to play for Accrington Cricket Club . He told a newspaper that he regarded his suspension as unfair , that he had been given no opportunity to explain , and that he had taken the appointment with Accrington to provide for himself and his family . In 1900 , he told Cricket magazine that , before his suspension , he had been bedridden for three weeks as a result of an injury he suffered while batting , that he played against Middlesex with some success and was then suspended without any explanation . He later said of the incident : " [Lord Hawke] put his arm around me and escorted me off the field and out of Yorkshire cricket . What a gentleman " . The journalist Harry Pearson suggests that this was " either very gracious , or exceedingly sarcastic . " Hawke later described Peel 's sacking as " the most decisive action of my whole career ... It had to be done for the sake of discipline and the good of cricket . Nothing ever gave me so much pain . " At the time , Hawke believed these events cost Yorkshire the County Championship , but the team had only two more games to play in that season 's competition , and it was mathematically impossible for them to win . Hirst told Thompson that Hawke was always sorry that Peel had to be sacked , and that whenever the pair met afterwards , they remained friends and that neither bore the other any animosity . Although Peel considered himself indispensable , the following year he was replaced by Wilfred Rhodes , who remained in the team until 1930 and took 4 @-@ 184 first @-@ class wickets . Peel remained popular with the people of Morley in the aftermath of his dismissal , and they supported him rather than believing the reports .

= = Later life = =

Peel made two further first @-@ class appearances in 1897 after his suspension by Yorkshire . He played in two end @-@ of @-@ season festival games at Hastings , first for the North against the South and then for the Players against the Gentlemen , but did little with bat or ball . In all first @-@ class games that year he took 72 wickets at 19 @-@ 51 and scored 566 runs at 22 @-@ 64 . His only other appearances in first @-@ class cricket came in 1899 , when he played for A. J. Webbe 's XI against Oxford University and for an England XI against the touring Australians . He ended his first @-@ class career with 12 @-@ 191 first @-@ class runs at an average of 19 @-@ 44 and 1 @-@ 775 wickets at 16 @-@ 20 .

In 1898 , Peel played for Accrington . His signing was widely reported in the press . Before this , most professionals in league cricket were neither famous names nor particularly good cricketers . According to Pearson , in his survey of club cricket in the north of England , Peel was the first international cricketer to play in a league . He took 80 wickets that season , but only received a third of his salary ; the committee withheld the rest because of unspecified problems during the season . His contract was not renewed and he instead became the professional at Morley . Pearson suggests that Peel 's signing showed the clubs that big @-@ name signings could bring benefits . Peel also accepted a position as a coach at Essex in 1899 , and remained there until at least 1904 . The press suggested that he would qualify for Essex , but he never played for that team . He later became the

landlord of a public house in Churwell . In 1923 he resumed his connection with Yorkshire when he undertook a coaching and scouting programme for the county , in association with George Hirst , organised by the Yorkshire Evening News . Peel remained close to the Yorkshire players . When the four Yorkshire members of the English team that toured Australia in 1932 ? 33 departed from Leeds , Peel was present and gave each of them a white rose ? the symbol of Yorkshire . He attended the funeral of Roy Kilner in 1928 , and was one of many Yorkshire cricketers to attend the memorial service for Lord Hawke in 1938 . Peel continued to play cricket and coach locally into his seventies . In his later years , he worked in a woollen mill in Morley .

Peel was married in 1878 ; he and his wife , Annie Louise , were married for over fifty years and had four children , one of whom was killed in the First World War . Peel 's wife died in 1933 . Peel lived until 1941 , when he died at the house of his daughter . Among those who attended his funeral were Hirst and Rhodes .

= = Technique and personality = =

Wisden said that as a bowler , Peel had a " fine length , easy action and splendid command of spin " , which meant that he " was often a match @-@ winner " . Peel consistently bowled a good length and varied the flight of the ball to deceive batsmen . He also bowled a quicker ball which , in contrast to his usual delivery , travelled in a straight line instead of turning . On a pitch affected by rain , batsmen found him very difficult to face , and he was very successful in these conditions . When bowling on pitches where the ball came more slowly off the surface , Peel often bowled faster ; this pace made it difficult for batsmen to score runs against him even when conditions were in their favour . After he delivered the ball , the spin he imparted often made it curve in the air before it reached the batsman . According to Woodhouse , when bowling , " Peel brought his arm behind his back with a peculiar flourish @-@ like action and then ' whipped the ball down ' " . He generally opened the bowling , including when he played for England . At the time , it was general practice to open the bowling with a fast bowler and a left @-@ arm spinner .

Peel was the first English bowler to take 100 Test wickets against Australia . At a time when international matches were relatively rare , his 20 Test matches were a considerable achievement , and it was unusual for a player to tour Australia as often as he did : he went there four times . His main rival as a spinner and for a place in the England team was Johnny Briggs ; Peel bowled faster , which made him harder to hit . Archie MacLaren , who captained England from the late 1890s and was a team @-@ mate and captain of Briggs , described Peel as " the cleverest bowler of my time " . MacLaren stated that Peel thoroughly understood tactics and could spot weaknesses in a batsman 's technique . He concluded : " I place Peel first on my list of great left @-@ handed bowlers on account of his wonderful judgement , his diabolical cleverness and his great natural ability . " When Rhodes took over the role of left @-@ arm spin bowler in the Yorkshire team , there was some debate over who out of Peate , Peel and Rhodes was the best left @-@ arm spinner to play for Yorkshire . Historians regard Peel as part of a long @-@ lasting chain of successful Yorkshire left @-@ arm spinners , preceded by Peate and succeeded by Rhodes .

Wisden described Peel as a " punishing left @-@ handed batsman " . Batting in the middle order , he was often effective when other batsmen had failed . For England , he most often batted at number six . Wisden also called him " a capital fieldsman , especially at cover @-@ point " .

During his playing days , Peel was famous and well @-@ respected ? the actor Henry Ainley claimed that the highlight of his life was carrying Peel 's bag . According to the historian David Frith , Peel was not a considerate husband . Frith also suggests that he was sometimes involved in embarrassing situations ; for example , when Ranjitsinhji invited him on a hunting trip , " Peel blasted eight barrels at a hare , removing its legs , an ear and much else before chasing the remnants of the animal into a neighbouring property , still firing away , until all life was extinguished " . Frith believes that Peel had a " perverse " character , exemplified by Lord Hawke 's comment that he showed no pleasure at his many successes . Pearson suggests that some of Peel 's problems may have been connected to depression , but Frith records that he mellowed in later life .