

= Jack Crawford (cricketer) =

John Neville " Jack " Crawford (1 December 1886 ? 2 May 1963) was an English first @-@ class cricketer who played mainly for Surrey and South Australia . An amateur , he played as an all @-@ rounder . As a right @-@ handed batsman , Crawford had a reputation for scoring quickly and hitting powerful shots . He bowled medium @-@ paced off spin and was noted for his accuracy and his ability to make the ball turn sharply from the pitch . Unusually for a first @-@ class cricketer , Crawford wore spectacles while playing .

Crawford established a reputation as an outstanding cricketer while still a schoolboy . He played Test cricket for England before he was 21 years old , and successfully toured Australia with the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in 1907 ? 08 . He played only 12 matches for England , although critics believed he had a great future in the sport and was a potential future England captain . In two successive English seasons , he completed the double of 1 @,@ 000 runs and 100 wickets in first @-@ class games .

A dispute over the composition of a Surrey side chosen to play a high @-@ profile game in 1909 , after several professional players were omitted for disciplinary reasons , led to an increasingly bitter argument between Crawford and the Surrey authorities . Crawford was told he had no future with the club , and moved to Australia . There , he worked as a teacher and continued his cricket career with South Australia . This arrangement had a controversial end , when he clashed with the South Australian Cricket Association over money and moved to New Zealand to play for Otago .

That relationship also ended badly , and he left Otago before being conscripted into the New Zealand armed forces near the end of the First World War . When he was demobilised , he returned to England and made his peace with Surrey . He played a handful of games between 1919 and 1921 but faded out of first @-@ class cricket to pursue a career in industry . In all first @-@ class cricket , Crawford scored 9 @,@ 488 runs at an average of 32 @.@ 60 and took 815 wickets at an average of 20 @.@ 66 . Although he continued to play cricket at a lower level , the remainder of Crawford 's life passed in relative obscurity .

= = Early life and career = =

Jack Crawford was born on 1 December 1886 at Cane Hill , Coulsdon , Surrey , the youngest of three sons to the Rev John Charles Crawford and his wife Alice ; the couple also had three daughters . Crawford senior was the chaplain at the recently opened Cane Hill Asylum , in the grounds of which Crawford was born . He grew up in a cricketing environment . His father and uncle , Frank Crawford , played first @-@ class cricket for Kent ; his brothers Vivian and Reginald were also first @-@ class cricketers . The whole family played cricket and encouraged Crawford from a young age , and from the age of eleven he regularly played with adults .

After attending Glengrove School in Eastbourne , Crawford went to St Winifred 's School in Henley @-@ on @-@ Thames where , in his two years in the cricket team , he scored 2 @,@ 093 runs and took 366 wickets . In 1902 , Crawford moved to Repton School . Reaching the cricket team in his first year , he remained in the eleven until he left the school in 1905 . His impact was considerable . A 1906 report in Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack rated him as one of the best three schoolboy cricketers in the previous 40 years , only matched by A. G. Steel and Stanley Jackson . Cricket historians similarly praised his cricket at Repton . Benny Green notes that his prolific achievements " created ... chaos among schoolboy cricketers . " Gerald Brodribb describes him as " probably the best ever " schoolboy cricketer .

By 1904 , Crawford dominated the Repton team . He scored 759 runs and his 75 wickets were more than the combined total of all the other bowlers in the team . He was particularly effective in the school 's most important fixtures . The report in Wisden described him as possibly the best amateur bowler in England that year : he bowled medium @-@ paced off spin , although he varied the speed of his delivery from slow to fast . Surrey County Cricket Club took an interest in Crawford almost immediately , calling him to a trial in 1903 . Following his achievements in 1904 , he was invite to play for the county . The county club was in the midst of a spell of uncertainty ; several men

captained the team , but only for a handful of matches each . The composition of the side continually changed , and the team performed poorly , causing unrest among supporters accustomed to success . Crawford was just one of many players brought in as an experiment , albeit one of the most successful . He made his first @-@ class debut against Kent . Taking three wickets and top @-@ scoring in Surrey 's first innings with 54 , Crawford did well enough to retain his place for another seven games , and was praised in the press for his performances . Against Gloucestershire , he took seven wickets for 43 runs in the second innings , and a total of ten wickets in the match . In the season as a whole he took 44 first @-@ class wickets at an average of 16 @.@ 93 to top the county 's bowling averages , and scored 229 runs at an average of 16 @.@ 35 .

Although hampered by injuries during the 1905 season for Repton , his last at the school , Crawford scored 766 runs with a batting average of 85 . In the five matches in which he was fit to bowl he took 55 wickets at an average under 13 . In the August holidays , he returned to play for Surrey . In his second game , he took seven for 90 against Yorkshire and in his third , he scored his maiden first @-@ class century ? 119 not out against Derbyshire ? to become the youngest centurion for the county , a record that was not broken until 2013 . Later , he took eight for 24 against Northamptonshire and scored 142 not out against Leicestershire . At the end of the season , he played in the Hastings Festival , appearing in several representative games for teams representing the South of England and played for the Rest of England against the County Champions Yorkshire . Crawford finished second in Surrey 's batting averages for 1905 ; in all first @-@ class games he scored 543 runs at an average of 33 @.@ 93 and took 47 wickets at an average of 18 @.@ 46 . As the season ended , he was invited by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) to join their tour of South Africa that winter .

= = International cricketer = =

= = = Tour to South Africa = = =

Having finished his school career , Crawford joined the first MCC tour of South Africa in the 1905 ? 06 season . The team was not particularly strong ? before the tour , critics judged it to possess the equivalent strength of a moderate county side . The MCC was criticised by the press in both England and South Africa for omitting many of the strongest players . As the youngest member of the team , Crawford was given the traditional role of writing press reports to be sent back home during the tour . When the team played in Worcester during the tour , the local press carried a report that Crawford planned to remain in South Africa . The 1906 Wisden carried the same story ; in a comment on his success in 1905 , it suggested that it was uncertain for how long he would play , and questioned whether , if he played Test cricket , he would do so for England or South Africa . The cricket historian Nigel Hart queries why Wisden mentioned South Africa ; Crawford 's only known connection came through his uncle , who had left South Africa five years before .

In all first @-@ class matches on the tour , Crawford scored 531 runs at an average of 31 @.@ 23 , coming third in the tour batting averages , and took 34 wickets at an average of 18 @.@ 44 , placing him fifth among the regular bowlers in the team . In the early tour matches , Crawford recorded two five wicket hauls and scored 98 . He made his Test match debut for England against South Africa in the first Test at the age of 19 years and 32 days to become England 's youngest Test cricketer , a record he held until Brian Close made his debut in 1949 . Batting at number six , Crawford scored 44 runs in the first innings and 43 in the second ; he took a wicket with his first delivery , bowling Bert Vogler . He was wicketless in the second innings , and bowled inaccurately as the home side recorded a one @-@ wicket win . Wisden noted that Crawford batted well in both innings . After a month of cricket in between the Tests , during which Crawford scored 212 in a minor game , the English team were suffering from fatigue when the remaining matches were played . In the second Test , Crawford was promoted to open the batting , a position he retained for most of the series . In the final match , he scored 74 , his first Test fifty and the highest score of his Test career . His best bowling also came in the final match , where he took three for 69 .

In the Test series , Crawford scored 281 runs at an average of 31 @. @ 22 and took nine wickets at 35 @. @ 77 . England lost the series 4 ? 1 , finding it difficult to bat against the South African googly bowlers . Wisden 's tour report described Crawford 's batting as one of the few positives for his side . Writing home during the tour , the MCC captain Pelham Warner frequently praised Crawford and the extent of his ability at a young age . The English press even parodied what Crawford 's biographer , Michael Burns , describes as Warner 's " near @-@ obsession " with Crawford . Other critics believed that Crawford should have been more successful as a bowler but was distracted by the matting surfaces used in South Africa ; because he was able to make the ball bounce and turn extravagantly from the surface , he tried to spin the ball too much and lost accuracy as a result .

= = = Surrey cricketer = = =

Returning to England for the 1906 season , Crawford completed the double of 1 @, @ 000 runs and 100 wickets in first @-@ class cricket , the youngest player at the time to accomplish this feat . Against Gloucestershire , he scored 148 and then took seven for 85 and four for 63 with the ball ; he also took ten wickets in his next game . In total , he compiled 1 @, @ 174 runs at an average of 30 @. @ 10 , and took 118 wickets at an average of 20 @. @ 28 . These performances earned him selection for the representative Gentlemen versus Players matches at both Lord 's and The Oval , in which he played for the amateur Gentlemen . At the end of the season , he was chosen as one of Wisden 's Cricketers of the Year . The citation said : " Few cricketers have won equal fame at so early an age " , and noted the unusual ease with which he had moved into first @-@ class cricket . Crawford 's powerful batting and straight hitting were praised , as was his accurate bowling . The report also stated : " That he should have done all this is the more astonishing from the fact that he invariably plays in glasses . No one handicapped in this way has ever been so consistently successful both as batsman and bowler . "

Crawford had a reputation by this stage as a batsman who favoured aggressive , powerful shots and his performances drew in crowds . In 1907 , in the space of a few days , he hit deliveries in two different matches through the windows of both the home and the visitors ' dressing rooms at The Oval . Towards the end of the season , he scored 103 runs in 90 minutes against Kent , his only century that year , hitting several deliveries into the crowd ; The Times described the ball in this innings as " soaring away like a bird " . Crawford 's overall batting record was similar to the previous season : he scored 1 @, @ 158 runs at an average of 30 @. @ 47 . With the ball , he took 124 wickets at 16 @. @ 95 , completing his second double . Once again , he was selected in both Gentlemen v Players matches , taking six for 54 in the second , and was chosen to play two of the three Test matches against South Africa . These were his only Test matches in England ; he scored 26 runs in three innings and was wicketless after bowling 29 overs . He missed England 's victory in the second match , the only match in the series not to be a draw , but Wisden 's correspondent believed that the pitch conditions for that game made it a mistake to leave Crawford out . Despite his lack of success in the Tests , Crawford was invited to tour Australia that winter even before the South African series was complete ; he suggested to the press that he might remain in Australia after the tour .

= = = Tour to Australia = = =

The MCC team which toured Australia in 1907 ? 08 , like that which toured South Africa , faced questions about its strength . Because at least four first @-@ choice players chose not to tour , and another was not selected despite strong claims , the team was less representative than usual for an Ashes series . The tourists lost the Tests 4 ? 1 , although Wisden suggested that the series was more competitive than suggested by the results .

Crawford began the tour well , taking seven wickets in the opening first @-@ class match against Western Australia . In the second game , he scored 114 runs in 58 minutes against South Australia , the fastest first @-@ class century scored in Australia until then , followed by bowling figures of five for 40 in the second innings . Crawford contributed little more with bat or ball in the lead @-@ up to

the Test series ; in England , the cricketer Gilbert Jessop wrote an article suggesting that Crawford had become an " unsound " batsman . He scarcely bowled in the first Test , won by Australia , and both the English and Australian press were critical of his bowling . Frederick Fane , the acting @-@ captain of England , seemed to share this view in the second Test , withholding Crawford from the attack for some time . However , Crawford took five for 79 in the first innings helped to restrict Australia on a good batting pitch and took eight wickets in the match as England levelled the series .

Australia won the remaining games to win the series . In the third match , Crawford scored his only half @-@ century of the series , hitting 62 out of England 's 363 to help his team build up a first innings lead . However , Australia scored 506 at the second attempt , during which Crawford bowled nearly 46 overs to take three for 113 . The series was settled in the fourth Test ; Australia recorded a big victory after rain affected the pitch and created difficult batting conditions during England 's first innings . On the first day , Crawford took five for 48 , his best Test figures , as Australia were bowled out for 214 on a very good pitch . Wisden noted Crawford " [mixed] up his pace with remarkable skill " . By this stage of the tour , the press looked on him much more favourably , and he received praise for his performances . However , his heavy workload with the ball affected his health ; he lost a stone in weight during the tour , and before the final Test a Melbourne doctor diagnosed that he had " strained the right side of his heart " and advised that he see a specialist . Crawford played in that game , won by Australia , despite his ill health , with several other players unfit , and the tour manager later wrote that he looked poorly throughout and should not have played . Nevertheless , he bowled 54 overs and took eight wickets in the match .

Wisden considered Crawford 's bowling to be one of the most successful features of the tour and praised his ability to spin the ball , reporting : " It was said of Crawford that even on the most perfect wickets he could at times make the ball break back . " He led the English Test bowling averages with 30 wickets at an average of 24 @.@ 73 . His batting was less productive than expected ; in five Tests , he scored 162 runs at an average of 18 @.@ 00 , batting usually at number eight . In all first @-@ class matches on the tour , he scored 610 runs at 26 @.@ 52 and took 66 wickets at 25 @.@ 19 . Crawford 's contributions enhanced his growing reputation and critics expected his cricket to go from strength to strength . Australian batsman Clem Hill commented : " There are grand cricketers in this game , and then there is Jack Crawford . " The final game in the series turned out to be Crawford 's last Test . In 12 Test matches , he had scored 469 runs at an average of 22 @.@ 33 and took 39 wickets at 29 @.@ 48 .

As the tour neared its completion , the Australian press reported that Crawford planned to remain in Australia , that he had attracted the attention of several " society " women , and had become engaged . Even so , he returned to England when the tour ended . In May 1909 , he published a book about the tour , JN Crawford 's Trip to " Kangaroo " land .

= = Dispute with Surrey = =

= = = Background = = =

During the 1908 season , Crawford narrowly failed to complete his third double . He scored 1 @,@ 371 runs at an average of 37 @.@ 05 and took 98 wickets at 21 @.@ 48 . His season began with a probable dispute over the Surrey captaincy . H. D. G. Leveson Gower had been appointed captain for 1908 but the combination of an injury and his marriage left him unavailable for four matches near the beginning of the season . Crawford also missed the beginning of the season ; a newspaper article by Albert Trott , a former Australian Test all @-@ rounder now playing for Middlesex , suggested that Crawford withdrew from the team because he was not appointed captain in Leveson Gower 's absence . Instead Harry Bush , who had not played first @-@ class cricket for five years , led the team . Trott was sympathetic to Crawford , stating that the Surrey committee went out of their way " to inflict a most undeserved slight " on Crawford .

In the remainder of the season , Crawford scored 232 against Somerset , his highest first @-@

class score , as well as centuries against Derbyshire and Hampshire . The increased strength and variety of Surrey 's bowling attack restricted his opportunities ; he was used less as a strike bowler and bowled fewer overs than in the previous season . Contemporary reports suggested that his performances tailed off as the season progressed , possibly through tiredness from having played too much cricket , and that he became a less accurate bowler through trying too hard to spin the ball . The Surrey captaincy remained unsettled ; Crawford led the team on several occasions , including Surrey 's final game of the season , when his brother Vivian captained Leicestershire , their opponents .

Crawford , who played as an amateur but was not independently wealthy , received an increased expenses allowance during 1908 , but other financial dealings with the committee were less successful : they paid his laundry bills in 1905 , but refused to do so afterwards ; additionally , they refused his request in 1907 to have part of his expenses paid for matches that he missed , as happened with the wages of professionals . His financial problems were compounded by his inability to find a suitable job , and the Surrey committee threatened that he " ought not to be played on the same terms " unless he " [commenced] to earn his livelihood " .

Crawford 's performances in the 1909 season were less effective than in previous years . He began well , but was later hampered by an injury which prevented him from bowling . His batting average also fell . Surrey experienced disciplinary problems with several of their professional players during the season . The club president , Lord Alverstone , favoured amateurs , arguing that a losing amateur team was preferable to a professional side that won ; several professionals were left out in favour of amateurs . Apart from adversely affecting some players ' careers , this preference had destabilised the team over several seasons . Crawford disagreed with Alverstone , but nevertheless frequently assumed the leadership in the absence of the regular captain Leveson Gower for much of the season . He captained Surrey to a win over the touring Australian team early in 1909 after a strong performance by the professional bowler Tom Rushby . However , his captaincy was strongly criticised in the press , particularly over his management of the bowling . Around this time , Crawford 's form declined . With the bat , he was often dismissed attempting aggressive shots , and he lost his effectiveness as a bowler . As a result , he was not chosen for the Gentlemen and missed selection in the Ashes series . The press continued to criticise his captaincy , despite Surrey 's good results under his leadership . Burns notes : " For a young man with no experience of prolonged failure on the cricket field , this was almost certainly a traumatic time . "

Surrey had other problems at this time . When the team arrived in Chesterfield to play Derbyshire , eight of the professionals were arrested following an incident in the street ; the matter was cleared up and the press suggested that the police had been over @-@ eager . The county subsequently defeated Derbyshire by an innings in early July ; Rushby and his fellow professionals Walter Lees and W. C. Smith were very successful with the ball . Shortly after this , Rushby and Lees were involved in an incident of some kind ? the exact details are unknown . Leveson Gower suspended them , making them unavailable for Surrey 's second match against the Australians . Crawford was asked to lead the team for that game , but with Rushby and Lees omitted , another bowler missing and himself unable to bowl owing to a shoulder injury , he considered the attack too weak . Consequently , he refused the captaincy , and apologised to the Australians for the selection of what he thought a substandard side . In Crawford 's absence , Surrey were led by the professional Tom Hayward ; the match , affected by rain , was drawn .

= = = Correspondence and split = = =

The cricket press noticed the absence of Crawford and the professionals from Surrey 's team over the following games , and noted that Crawford was now playing club cricket . Meanwhile , Alverstone wrote to Crawford that the Surrey committee fully supported Leveson Gower 's decision to omit Rushby and Lees , and told him that Surrey would not select him again unless he apologised to Leveson Gower . Crawford refused , writing to Alverstone : " I do not know who was responsible for the selection of the second eleven sort of team furnished up for such an important match ... There seems to be some impression amongst a few of the Surrey committee that I am some young

professional instead of being a young fellow who has had an experience of cricket that has seldom fallen to the lot of anyone , and my request for an alteration of the team should have had some weight " . In his History of Cricket , Benny Green describes the letter as evidence of a " literate and quietly self @-@ confident young man who will not easily be manipulated . "

Alverstone replied that he " regretted " Crawford 's views ; the committee respected Crawford as a " brilliant amateur with great experience " , but Crawford had not supported his captain ? a prime duty for an amateur . Crawford replied that he had been unaware of the reason for the suspensions of Rushby and Lees ? which Alverstone and the committee disputed ? and would have supported Leveson Gower , but suggested it was unfair to ask him to captain a weak bowling team and then demand he apologise for preferring not to . He also observed that the players omitted from the team against the Australians had since been restored to the county side , making their exclusion harder to understand in the first place .

At this point Leveson Gower withdrew his invitation for Crawford to appear at the Scarborough Festival ; Leveson Gower also prevented Crawford 's selection for the MCC winter tour of South Africa . Crawford 's father wrote to the Surrey committee in support of his son . By the beginning of August 1909 , two weeks after the match against the Australians , the Surrey committee severed their connection with Crawford ; Leveson Gower felt that he had shown the " deepest ingratitude " . Wisden reported : " The committee were much incensed and passed a resolution that Crawford be not again asked to play for the county . " Informed of his expulsion by letter , Crawford replied to the committee a final time : " I fail to see why I should practically be branded as a criminal because , as acting captain , I declined the responsibility of skippering a team which did not include three essential players , an independence which I trust will remain in spite of the awful example made of me to every amateur in the United Kingdom . "

The Surrey committee initially attempted to keep the dispute private , but Crawford sent copies of the letters to the newspapers , explaining in a letter that he wished to end speculation about his absence from the Surrey team . Burns notes that this " [generated] a strong response from the public , mainly unsympathetic to the young amateur " in the letters pages of many newspapers . Many commentators felt that the argument could have been resolved easily had either side made concessions . Green comments that the committee probably either expected Crawford to back down , or were happy to sacrifice him to establish their authority . Another of the players involved , Rushby , left Surrey at the end of the season to play league cricket , but later returned to the team . Crawford 's father made a further attempt to end the dispute between Surrey and his son in 1910 , asking the committee to reverse their decision . Wisden reported that Alverstone declined on the grounds that it would suggest a lack of confidence in the committee , but that if Crawford " came forward in a sportsmanlike way [Alverstone] would be proud to give his personal support to the step proposed . This of course meant that an apology was expected . "

In his History of Cricket , Green contended that the " Surrey committee must be held accountable for a degree of idiocy rarely met with even in the realms of cricket administration " for the way they dealt with Crawford , " one of the world 's most prodigious all @-@ rounders . " Hart observes that Crawford was challenging figures high up in the cricket establishment on the Surrey committee ; he also suggests that Crawford 's actions in his later career , and the complaints made against him by other cricket authorities , reveal a stubbornness in his character and suggest he was not merely a victim of the Surrey committee . The Times speculated that factors other than the dispute may have contributed to Surrey 's decision . Burns believes that Crawford was feeling pressure from several directions : his inability to secure a job , possible frustration at the controlling influence of his father , a desire to be independent , his poor run of form and criticism of his captaincy . Even though , according to Burns , it was an " unwinnable battle " , he suggests simply : " Young Jack was in the mood for a fight . "

At the end of the season , Crawford played his last matches in England for 10 years , appearing for an " England XI " against the Australians and for the Gentlemen of the South . He had previously discussed emigrating to Australia with the Australian Test player Victor Trumper , who had asked Clem Hill to investigate a potential teaching post at St Peter 's College , Adelaide . Originally , assuming that he would be part of the MCC tour to South Africa , he planned to take take up his

position in March 1910 . When the dispute arose , Crawford sent a telegram to inform the college he would take up the post of " Resident Master " early in 1910 , for a salary of £ 160 per year . Burns suggests that this knowledge that he had the offer of work may have prompted him to take a stand against the Surrey committee . In October 1910 he was offered the position of " Ordinary Master " at the college , and £ 50 towards his travel expenses if he departed immediately . He left England by boat two days later , seen off by his family . No cricket figures saw his departure , but there was considerable interest from the press .

= = Later career = =

= = = Cricket in South Australia = = =

At St Peter 's School , Crawford combined his teaching role with supervision of sports , including acting as coach for the cricket team . On several occasions , he had to request leave from the headmaster to play first @-@ class cricket . After arriving in Australia in December 1909 , he was playing district cricket for East Torrens within a week , and played in South Australia 's last three matches in the Sheffield Shield competition ; the team went on to win the trophy for the first time since 1893 ? 94 . Crawford played a large part in this success . There was some controversy over his eligibility to play ; New South Wales initially protested , but there was a precedent for ignoring the requirement of a three @-@ month qualification period , and the New South Wales Cricket Association (NSWCA) Executive Committee accepted this in the case of Crawford , to the displeasure of the full NSWCA . Over four seasons , Crawford played 22 matches for South Australia , scoring 1 @,@ 512 runs at an average of 40 @.@ 86 and taking 120 wickets at 23 @.@ 86 . Green suggests that such a performance would have earned him Test selection if he had been Australian , and Wisden noted that his record in Australia was impressive .

In the 1910 ? 11 Australian season , Crawford scored a half @-@ century in every first @-@ class game he played but was less successful with the ball . His success against the touring South Africans , perhaps helped by his experience facing their googly bowlers on previous occasions , brought him close to selection for the Australian Test team that year . The Australian Board of Control eventually decided that , as he had already appeared for England , they could not choose him ; instead they picked Charlie Kelleway as the all @-@ rounder . Crawford resigned from his position as St Peter 's in March 1911 , suggesting to the press that he might move into farming . He may have considered leaving South Australia , but the Cricket Association appointed him as a clerk at the Adelaide Oval , a position which earned £ 200 per annum , with additional responsibility for coaching and youth scouting . Meanwhile , in England , after unsuccessful attempts by his father to change the mind of the Surrey committee , including a failed bid to secure his own election to the committee , Crawford sent a written apology to Surrey at some time in 1910 . Consequently , the committee passed a motion in March 1911 which ended the ban on Crawford playing for the county .

Press rumours over the following 12 months cast doubt on Crawford 's future , suggestions including a return to England for the 1912 season . Instead , he remained with South Australia in the 1911 ? 12 season . Although less successful generally , he played for a non @-@ representative Australian XI against the MCC touring team which contested the Ashes that season and scored 110 in as many minutes against bowlers including Sydney Barnes , at the time regarded as the greatest bowler in the world . The following season , in which South Australia again won the Shield , Crawford took seven for 31 against Western Australia , including a hat @-@ trick , and scored 163 in 177 minutes against Victoria before taking eight for 66 in their first innings .

In 1913 , Crawford was included in an Australian team which toured North America . The team was organised by Edgar Mayne , a South Australian batsman who tried to secure backing from the Australian Board of Control to make it an official representative team , but the Board refused to do so . In all matches , Crawford scored over 1 @,@ 000 runs and took over 200 wickets , and he was particularly effective as a bowler in the matches designated first @-@ class . He later stated that this

was the best tour he had been on ; more press rumours suggested that he would return to England at the conclusion of the tour , but he returned to Australia with the rest of the team .

= = = Further controversy = = =

In December 1913 , Crawford wrote to the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) asking for a six @-@ month leave of absence and a guaranteed renewal of his contract . The SACA described his letter as " arrogant " before eventually granting his request and offering him a three @-@ year contract worth around £ 300 per year , including coaching fees . In effect , he wanted to double his salary or leave to seek a position in New Zealand . Describing these events , Hart comments : " Crawford 's financial dealings with the SACA reveal him both as mercenary and as an awkward ' cuss ' . The latter aspect of his personality needs to be taken into account lest he be considered merely an establishment victim in his parting with Surrey " . On the field , Crawford was successful in 1913 ? 14 . He took 34 wickets , and against New South Wales he hit 91 in 89 minutes before taking 10 wickets ; against Victoria he took eleven wickets . This latter match was his last for South Australia . Later in 1914 , Crawford toured New Zealand with an Australian team ? assembled without the approval of the Australian Board of Control ? which contained many leading players , under the captaincy of the former Canterbury batsman Arthur Sims . In first @-@ class games on this tour Crawford took 21 wickets and scored a century , but his most notable innings came in a minor match . Against the " XV of South Canterbury " , he scored 354 in five @-@ and @-@ a @-@ quarter hours , striking 14 sixes and 45 fours . He and Victor Trumper shared a partnership of 298 in 69 minutes , and Monty Noble helped him to score 50 runs in 9 minutes as the Australian team scored 922 for nine .

In March 1914 , the Otago Cricket Association (OCA) offered Crawford a three @-@ year contract worth £ 350 per year , and a share in the management of a sports store , to play for them . Briefly returning to Adelaide after the tour , he resigned from his South Australia contract before moving to Dunedin in June 1914 . The South Australian Cricket Association were widely criticised for failing to retain Crawford ; in their defence , the committee publicly stated that Crawford had been offered an increased deal and had promised to turn down any offers made to him in New Zealand , but went back on his word . Later historians ? Nigel Hart in his biography of Crawford , and Chris Harte in his A History of Australian Cricket (1993) ? condemned Crawford as arrogant and mercenary for his behaviour towards South Australia . Harte also suggests that Crawford left Australia with many debts . Burns , however , suggests that Crawford may have wanted to maximise his earnings to support his upcoming marriage , and notes that his South Australian team @-@ mates held no grudges and even organised a farewell presentation . Once in his new position , Crawford immediately organised a Colts team which produced several future Otago players . While qualifying to play for Otago , he played club cricket in Dunedin , scoring 559 runs and taking 88 wickets . During the 1914 ? 15 season he appeared in four first @-@ class games for Otago , in which he scored 337 runs and took 30 wickets . He briefly returned to Australia in 1915 to marry Anita Schmidt in Melbourne in April . Schmidt ? from Adelaide and described in the society press as a " beauty " ? and Crawford met in 1912 when the former was 18 years old and became well @-@ known as a couple at fashionable events in Adelaide . Burns suggests that the wedding took place in Melbourne rather than Adelaide because Crawford may have been avoiding his creditors . Two days after the wedding , the couple returned to New Zealand .

Crawford 's wages caused the OCA some financial difficulty and were the cause of extended negotiations in 1915 . Part of the settlement involved Crawford receiving a lower salary in return for freedom to offer his services to other clubs on a freelance basis . As a consequence , he represented different teams throughout the season in local cricket . He was also paid to coach at Otago Boys High School . There were other difficulties ; the association complained about the lateness of Crawford 's report on the Otago team , and were unhappy that he also coached golf . Crawford in turn told the association that several Otago players were late for practice . After further complaints about Crawford 's coaching in 1916 , the OCA decided to terminate his contract . Crawford initially offered to continue for less money ? £ 245 . The OCA bargained , suggesting a

payment of £ 200 , whereupon Crawford insisted that he should be paid £ 300 . The OCA then proposed to terminate his contract immediately for a payment of £ 150 but he refused . He was eventually paid £ 200 in June to leave Otago . That November , with the First World War into its third year , New Zealand brought in conscription . Crawford was called up in July 1917 , and was posted to a training camp near Wellington in late 1917 . During this time , he played twice for Wellington 's cricket team in first @-@ class matches during early 1918 . When given weekend passes , he visited his wife who was left alone in Dunedin . He travelled to England prior to a posting to the Western Front , although he arrived too late to join the fighting . He was part of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade but it is unclear what his rank was . The Repton School War Register states that he was a rifleman but New Zealand press accounts named him as a quartermaster sergeant . According to a 1992 article in Wisden Cricket Monthly by Jim Sullivan , Crawford was demoted while he was in the army . The reasons are unknown , but Burns speculates that his " independent and obstinate nature " made it difficult for him to accept military discipline . While Crawford was in the army , his wife moved to Adelaide . According to Anita , the marriage became unhappy in 1916 and Crawford left her in November of that year . She claimed that he had not supported her financially from that point . When the war ended , she returned to live in Australia with her parents . Her subsequent career as a dress designer and fashion buyer necessitated a move to London , where Crawford was living , in 1921 but the couple never reconciled . They were divorced , with some publicity in Australia , in 1923 ; in court , she gave evidence that he had an affair with a " third party " . She went on to remarry and to have a successful career as a designer and orchestral conductor .

= = = Return to England = = =

After the First World War , Crawford returned to live in England , and was demobilised from the New Zealand Army in April 1919 . Looking for work , he wrote to Surrey offering to play for them if they found him some employment in turn , but the committee , while writing that they would be pleased if he played for the county again , could not " see [their] way to find him employment " . Crawford may have been contemplating playing professional cricket ? unheard of for a former Public School cricketer ? but instead found work at Repton , his old school . It is unclear what his position at Repton was at this time ; he seems to have had no official cricketing role and it is possible he worked as a teacher simply to maintain his amateur status . In any case , Crawford only remained at Repton until the end of the academic year ; his short stay may have been the result of poor results by the cricket team . However , Burns suggests : " Another indication that the school was not entirely happy to be associated with the Surrey rebel , whose baggage also included an indifferent war record , was that when the Old Boys cricket team , the Repton Pilgrims , was formed in 1921 , Crawford was alone among the school 's former distinguished players not to be made a member . He was not invited to join the club until 1952 . "

Having settled his disagreement with Surrey , Crawford resumed his English first @-@ class cricket career in 1919 . After appearing for the Gentlemen against the Players , Crawford returned to play for Surrey against the Australian Imperial Forces . He scored 144 not out , which was later described by Wisden as the innings of his life . Surrey were 26 for five in reply to the tourists ' innings of 436 when Crawford came in to bat . Neville Cardus reported : " [Crawford] fell upon the advancing Australian attack , and by driving seldom equalled , threw it back . " He more than doubled his score after the ninth wicket had fallen , hitting 73 out of the last 80 runs scored in 35 minutes to take Surrey past the target required to avoid the follow @-@ on . Among his other successes , he scored 92 against Yorkshire . Playing against Kent , he hit 48 not out as Jack Hobbs and he scored 96 in 32 minutes ; this partnership took Surrey to victory as they chased an apparently impossible chase in the short time remaining in the match .

In total , Crawford played in eight games in 1919 , scoring 488 runs and taking 20 wickets . Wisden commented that his batting was as good as it had ever been , but his bowling lacked spin and accuracy . He played only four more times in first @-@ class cricket . Part of the explanation was that he joined Dunlop Rubber as a manager at one of its mills in Rochdale . He played as an amateur for Rochdale Cricket Club in 1920 , but by 1921 he had left the club ? the Manchester

Guardian speculated that he had returned to Surrey . He returned to live with his family in Merton Park , and played for the local cricket club . Of his first @-@ class matches , one was for Surrey against the Australian touring team of 1921 and the others were for teams representing the Gentlemen . In his entire first @-@ class career , Crawford scored 9 @, @ 488 runs at an average of 32 @. @ 60 and took 815 wickets at 20 @. @ 66 .

From the mid @-@ 1920s until his retirement in 1952 , Crawford worked for the importers Elders and Fyffes . He played cricket and hockey for the firm until the Second World War , but kept a far lower profile than in his earlier cricketing life . He married his second wife , Hilda May Beman , in December 1925 , but he never had children . He maintained a loose connection with cricket ; he appeared at a birthday dinner for Pelham Warner , at a centenary celebration for the Free Foresters Cricket Club and in a radio broadcast for Jack Hobbs 's 80th birthday . Crawford had a stroke in early 1962 and remained ill for the rest of the year ; he died , aged 76 , in a Surrey hospital on 2 May 1963 .

= = Style and technique = =

Crawford 's obituary in The Times described him as one of the best young players to play cricket in England and said : " Although he invariably played in glasses , he was a most attractive player to watch , an aggressive hitter of the ball and a dangerous medium @-@ paced bowler " . Wisden described him as a " hard @-@ hitting batsman " , and said he played mainly from the front foot . He had an orthodox batting technique , moved his feet well to get to the ball , and played very straight . Herbie Collins , who played with Crawford in Australia , described one of his innings as " a hurricane innings , full of classical shots charged with dynamite . "

As a bowler , Crawford 's technique was also orthodox , although he was unusual in using his second and third fingers to spin the ball ? most bowlers used their first and second . His bowling pace varied from fast to medium , and he spun the ball so much that his fingers snapped audibly as he released it . An accurate bowler , it was difficult for batsmen to score runs against him . Crawford could swing the ball away from the bat , but his most effective delivery was his off break : Clem Hill stated that Crawford could make the ball turn several inches , despite the hard pitches prevalent in Australia when he played there . John Arlott described him as " the schoolboy genius who turned on Australian pitches where no one else deviated from straight " . In 1937 , Herbie Collins wrote , at a time when Wally Hammond was considered to be the world 's leading all @-@ rounder , that " people who have seen both men consider [Crawford] a better all @-@ rounder " .

Commenting on the interruption of Crawford 's career by his dispute with Surrey , Neville Cardus wrote : " His break with Surrey must be regarded as a sad deprivation of fame and pleasure to himself , and a grievous loss to the annals of English cricket . It is as certain as anything in a man 's life can be confidently postulated , that had he continued to play in English county cricket ... he would have taken his place amongst the select company of England 's captains . " The Times commented : " It was one of the great disappointments of English cricket in the first quarter of this century that his outstanding promise was never fully realized . " Hart observes that Crawford 's on @-@ field successes were many up to 1909 but after that , his career effectively stalled during his absence from English cricket . Hart notes Crawford 's " capacity to get on the scoreboard and up establishment noses . He could turn games around and agreements over , antagonise the powerful , endear himself to the young and those young enough at heart to care to characterise great personal performances as ' heroic ' " . He concludes that Crawford spent the last 40 years of his life " in comparative sporting obscurity " . No @-@ one on the Surrey committee ever expressed regret at what had happened , and Leveson Gower did not mention the affair in his autobiography .